

The Digest

THIRD DISTRICT FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS, INC.



MAY 2026

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From the Director



It was gratifying to see so many members at our annual Spring District meeting on April 16 as we kicked off our 2026 Garden Club year with excitement and enthusiasm. Attendance was the highest in many years, with 100 members from all 14 clubs in District 3 participating. Gathering once again as a District, and seeing old friends, familiar faces, and new club presidents brought a sense of renewed energy and rebirth.

As May arrives, our gardens truly begin to come to alive. The longer days and warmer temperatures invite us back outside to dig, plant, and enjoy the beauty we have been eagerly

anticipating. It is also one of the most rewarding times of the year where the results of our plantings start to show.

This year is a perfect time to try something new in your garden especially with our country celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I encourage you to design and display gardens that reflect the spirit of America—past, present, and future. For example; gardens using patriotic themes such as red, white, and blue flowers and incorporating flags or other symbolic elements inspired by the ideals of liberty and independence.

May is also a perfect time to try something new in your garden—perhaps a different variety, a new layout, or a pollinator friendly addition. Take pictures of your club's activities, issue press releases, and assign a publicity chair to update your social media platforms. You will find that a little effort will pay large dividends.

With appreciation for all you do,

Gary Barrack, District III Director

CLUBS IN DISTRICT III

District Three Clubs, by County

Albany: Blue Creek, Guilderland, Helderview

Columbia: Germantown

Dutchess: Tioronda

Greene-Schoharie: Athens Community, Clematis, Schoharie Valley

Rensselaer: Greenbush

Schenectady: The Garden Explorers

Ulster: Community Garden Club of Marlborough, New Paltz, Saugerties Society of Little Gardens, Shawangunk



Upcoming Dates to Remember

June 14–16, 2025: FGCNYS State Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY

October 15, 2025: Fall District Meeting at Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY. Details to follow in the August issue of the Digest.



We enjoyed our April board meeting and lunch at Red's Restaurant in Coxsackie.

Highlights from the Spring District Meeting

by Karin Janson, Editor, *The Digest*

Thank you to all who attended our Spring District Meeting on April 16 “Spring Into America 250.” And a special thank you goes to First Assistant Director Linda Levitt for her coordination in making this meeting so successful.

The Blue Creek, Guilderland, and Helderville Garden Clubs get a round of applause for coordinating the 50/50 raffle. We also featured awesome raffle baskets that were provided by all the clubs in our district with the Community Garden Club of Marlborough, the New Paltz Garden Club, and the Saugerties Society of Little Gardens handling ticket sales. Lovely table arrangements were provided by the Shawangunk Garden Club.

Our presenter, Denise Doring VanBuren, Honorary President General of the National Society of the DAR, gave a very interesting program about how important the Hudson River Valley was for the American Revolution.

We had our largest attendance since the pandemic. All together, 100 members attended with all 14 clubs in attendance, too.



The Journey of the Peony— From Asia to American Gardens

By Linda Levitt, Horticulture Chair

There are few flowers that carry the timeless elegance and cultural significance of the peony. It is known for its lush, layered blooms and captivating fragrance.

The peony is not native to the United States. It originated in Asia, particularly China, where it has been cultivated for over 2,000

years. It was known as the “king of flowers.” It symbolized wealth, honor, and prosperity in the Chinese culture. The peony also held an important place in traditional medicine.

The plant’s migration westward began gradually through trade routes and cultural exchange. By the 18th century, European botanists and explorers had taken an interest in the peony and introduced it into botanical gardens across the continent.

In the early 19th century, peonies made their way to the United States. It was introduced by collectors, immigrants, and horticulturists eager to cultivate exotic and beautiful species. Initially only grown in private estates and botanical gardens, peonies quickly gained popularity due to their hardiness, longevity, and stunning blooms. They had a unique ability to thrive in a variety of climates – especially the Northeastern United States. They became a staple in American gardens.

The peony cultivation in the United States expanded significantly beginning in the late 1800’s. American growers began developing new hybrids, improving bloom size, color variation, and resilience. Peony societies were established, and the flower became a symbol of elegance in both home gardens and public landscapes.

Today, the peony remains a beloved perennial across the United States, cherished for its beauty and historical roots.



YEARBOOKS

By Barbara Campbell, Yearbook Award Chair

Yearbooks are due to me this year by June 30, 2026. Include two copies. I’d like to see 100% participation. **Please end to:**

Barbara Campbell,
14 Deerpath Dr, New Paltz, NY 12561

The following has been sent by Nancy Kalieta, state chairman:

If you need information on how to go about preparing Yearbooks for judging, visit the **FGCNYS web site**.

Yearbooks will not be returned to the clubs. If you use a binder, please just include a photo of the cover and send only the pages. It is an unnecessary mailing expense to mail the binder.

I will return all the score sheets to the club presidents to help you in preparing for future yearbooks.

The presidents/directors of FGCNYS, CAR-SGC, and NGC have remained the same.



Bluebirds are Amazing!

By Maureen Mc.Namara, Guilderland Garden Club



Quick Facts About Bluebirds

- Can see an insect 100 feet away.
- Flies 45 mph if necessary.
- Sings up to 500 songs an hour (if unpaired, no mate).
- Mates “socially” for life, but not sexually.
- Cooperative breeding—other females assists with babies.
- Symbolic of happiness, joy, and good fortune. Bluebird of Happiness Day: September 24.
- Doesn’t usually come to feeders to eat seeds.
- NY population increased and stable due to nest boxes and nest trails.

To Attract Bluebirds

- Offer fresh water such as bird baths.
- Supply soft fruit like apples and raisins that are chopped up.
- Protect from predators. Examples are house sparrows.
- Plant shrubs that yield berries like dogwoods, holly, elderberry, etc.
- Put up nesting boxes.
- Maintain pesticide-free gardens.

For more info about Bluebirds visit: nabluebirdsociety.org






Announcing DEC Scholarship Winner from District 3

By Gary Barrack

A resident of Beacon, NY has been awarded the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Scholarship to attend one of its summer camps. Each year FGCNYS offers one scholarship to an individual from each District to attend a one-week NYS Environmental camp during the summer. This year’s selectee from District 3 is Shannon Colandrea, a Beacon High School student who is interested in becoming an environmental scientist. She was recruited by Tioronda Garden Club member Emily Murnane, who sponsors the “Green Teen” program for the club in conjunction with the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Congratulations Shannon!

SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY

Five Caterpillars Most Gardeners Kill on Sight.
All Five Are Innocent.

7' 6'		BOOKING RECORD - INMATE #1 CHARGES: Destroying tomato foliage. 4 inches. Terrifying. ACTUAL IDENTITY: Five-Lined Sphinx Moth. Hummingbird-sized night pollinator. Irreplaceable.
5'		BOOKING RECORD - INMATE #2 CHARGES: Stripping parsley to bare stalks. ACTUAL IDENTITY: Black Swallowtail butterfly. One plant = 5-8 adults. The parsley costs \$2.
4' 3'		BOOKING RECORD - INMATE #3 CHARGES: Building ugly silk tents in cherry trees. ACTUAL IDENTITY: Primary food source for 60+ bird species feeding nestlings. Remove the tent = remove the baby food.
2'		BOOKING RECORD - INMATE #4 CHARGES: Spiny. Alarming. Eating the passionflower vine. ACTUAL IDENTITY: Gulf Fritillary butterfly. Spines are soft and harmless. Vine regrows in one week.
1' 0'		BOOKING RECORD - INMATE #5 CHARGES: Crossing the road. Being fuzzy. Looking like a pest. ACTUAL IDENTITY: Isabella Tiger Moth. Survives winter by freezing solid. Eats weeds. Threatens nothing.

**The garden that protects the larva gets the butterfly.
The one that kills it gets neither.**

Save the Date!



Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Annual Convention

June 14–16, 2026

Crowne Plaza Albany—The Desmond Hotel
660 Albany Shaker Rd, Albany, NY 12211

'SOWING THE SEEDS OF GROWTH'

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Kim Eiman, Founder, EcoBeneficial

"The Pollinator Victory Garden: Winning the War on Pollinator Decline"

Botanical Arts: Pin Workshop

Pre-registration required and additional cost

Joseph Bruchac, Storyteller, Author, Citizen of the Nulhegan Abenaki Nation

DonnaLee Newsome, Wild Ones

"Welcoming Native Plants to your Garden"

Susan Strauss, Floral Designer

"Vintage to Vibrant"

Tour of Schuyler Mansion Historic Site and Ten Broeck Mansion

Pre-registration required and additional cost.
Includes a boxed lunch.

Dear FGCNYS Members,

I'm excited to tell you that registration for the 2026 FGCNYS Annual Convention is now open! The Convention Committee has prepared an exciting, fun-filled program.

For those arriving early, we have an optional tour of two historic mansions and gardens in the Albany area. Both properties are lovely and you'll be able to enjoy a boxed lunch with your garden club friends at one of the sites. Space is limited so be sure to register early for this trip.

We also have speakers on a variety of topics as well as a floral designer. In addition, there will be a hands-on floral jewelry workshop. You'll walk away with a lovely pin to wear to your next garden club meeting!

We've also recognized that expenses have gone up since our last convention. We've negotiated with the hotel to keep the same room rate as last year. Even better, we have decided to have hotel registration go through the FGCNYS office this year so that you won't pay the state and county taxes on your room. This option is only available if you register through the office at the same time that you register for the convention. Rooms reserved directly with the hotel will not

get the same rate and will have to pay the state and local taxes. Deadline for the hotel registration is May 22nd. Please check out the registration packet for more details. You can find it on our website **HERE**.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the convention. Register early!

Beth Walker
President, FGCNYS



NEWS FROM FGCNYS

By Beth Walker, President, FGCNYS

Just as our bulbs and plants are now beginning to emerge from the still cold ground and tantalize with the promise of spring color and growth, so too are the garden clubs of New York emerging from a very long, very cold winter and moving into meetings, flower shows, field trips, civic beatification projects, etc. Clubs and individual members continue to meet by Zoom or on conference calls to plan celebratory gardens for the semi quincennial events taking place in our communities at the many historical sites that we support.

Planning is almost finalized for our State Convention in June and will begin soon for our Symposium in October. The fourth session of our Flower Show School will take place Voorheesville, NY (outside Albany) on October 5-8.

FGCNYS has approached Cornell University to see if they would like to collaborate on a citizen science pilot program. The focus would be on environmental monitoring using honey bee colonies. Possible areas of investigation might include microplastics, pesticide residues, PFAS compounds, or heavy metal could be measured and tracked through pollen or hive debris. We are now waiting to hear from Cornell University to see if they are interested in this joint effort.

We are moving forward with the background work to present an FGCNYS pollinator/wildlife certification program to our members. Members and clubs have expressed strong support for this program and we hope to roll out the primary information in June.

In Loving Memory: Marie Muller for 59 Years of Dedicated and Exemplary Service

By Agnes Rapolì, Schoharie Valley Garden Club



2026 is a milestone year for Schoharie Valley Garden Club (SVGC) in many ways. Not only is our club celebrating 79 years of service to Schoharie County and America's 250 birthday Jubilee, it is also the year we say goodbye to our dear friend, mentor, and most senior and august member of SVGC club, Marie Muller.

In the midst of her very busy life, Marie joined SVGC in 1967 as a young woman of 32 with two small children. And, despite the demands of family and motherhood, she was a steadfast and unwavering member of the club for the last 59 years. Marie's career with SVGC and Federated Garden Clubs of NYS is long and storied. She served in numerous positions, most notably as SVG Club President for several terms at which time she was fondly known as "Head Weed" by her beloved son. Up until her passing, Marie held the office of club Treasurer, meticulously managing the Schoharie Valley Garden Club club's fiscal solvency. Long ago she served as 3rd District Director for two terms, with responsibility for 37 clubs. At the District level she also served for six years as County Chair, overseeing club activities

for Greene and Schoharie Counties. Additionally, she sat on the Board of Directors for many years, was District Chair of Ways and Means, and Book of Recognition Chair – so many years that we have lost count!

While a member of SVGC, Marie volunteered her home for many meetings and social events. Club members fondly remember when she opened her gardens for a formal garden 'Tea' and had at least two different garden tours, where she happily showcased not only her gardens but also her beautiful china, linens, and silver to the delight of all participants! She was so very generous with her knowledge and time, and graciously shared her wealth of experience to collaborate and navigate the success of many SVGC and 3rd District programs and activities.

In 2017, at our 70th Anniversary Luncheon, the club presented Marie with a Certificate of Gratitude for 50 years of service—an outstanding accomplishment! This year we joined her for her 91st birthday just before her passing in March. We regret we are unable to present Marie further honors for this final achievement. Instead, with this memorial testimony we pay tribute to Marie for her love, loyalty, and tireless dedication to gardening and garden club. No one can fill Marie's shoes. We will miss her very much.

ATHENS COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTY

by *Steven Mann, President*

The Athens, NY Community Garden Club received its tax exemption in 1996. However, the club predates that by many years. The club was founded 1941. It became part of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State in 1973. In recent years, the club roster has run 45–55 members.

The club has nearly 20 standing committees that operate throughout the calendar year. Some plan events, programs, fundraising, and beautification projects in the town and village of Athens, NY. Each year the club produces a yearbook which includes a listing of members, policies, events/meetings, programs, and workshops. Experts on various topics related to horticulture, the environment, gardening, and other topics, provide educational opportunities for members to participate in. The experts can be local farmers/growers, Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension, and bird authorities to name just a sampling.

Beautification efforts include the North and South Gardens at the entries to the village of Athens, the Veterans' Memorial on South Washington Street, the flower box at the entrance to Rainey Field on Route 385, and in recent years, the entrance to the Athens Post Office. At holiday time, members make fresh green swags to decorate sites in the village. They are enjoyed during the annual Victorian Stroll.

Dues is currently set at \$25 a person and runs the calendar year. If you are new to Athens or the surrounding area, a membership is a great way to meet your neighbors and become involved. The address to join is ACGC, PO Box 233, Athens, NY 12015.

COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB OF MARLBOROUGH-ON-HUDSON

ULSTER COUNTY

by *Linda Fogarty*

The Community Garden Club of Marlborough on Hudson is looking forward to a busy gardening season. Our speaker in March showed us how to start plants with container gardening, using gallon plastic containers to plant seeds and put outdoors, even in the cold.

April was our installation of new officers:

From right to left: Gary Barrack, who led the installation; Diane Berniker, President; Lucy Carcaramo, VP; Jean DiNapoli, Recording Secretary; Linda Fogarty, Treasurer. Missing is Sandy Gaudio, Corresponding Secretary, who will be installed in May.

Looking ahead, our May meeting will include tidying up the gardens at Desmond House, where we hold our meetings. We will also be planting some red, white, and blue flowers for the coming celebration of our country's 250th birthday!

June is our membership luncheon. Also, in June we will be sponsoring a plant sale on the 7th at Crawford House, home of the Newburgh Historical Society. If you're in the area, please stop by.



GUILDERLAND GARDEN CLUB

ALBANY COUNTY

by *Merril-Lee Lenegar*

On April 16, five members of the club attended the Spring Meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State at Anthony's Banquet Hall.

The officers for 2026–2027 are Co-Presidents Maureen McNamara and Linda Zell; Merril-Lee Lenegar, Publicity; Judi Golombiski, Membership; and Kris Vogt, Treasurer.

On April 20 and 21, members of the Club hosted breakfast for the Flower Show at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Donna Mohr and Susan Cole attended the show from our Club.

Our program year began in April. We have interesting and informative programs planned.

In April we heard from Carol Henry, Master Gardner Program Coordinator, on Native Perennials and Ground Covers.

At our May 11 meeting heard from Owner/Photographer-Naturelogues Scott Stoner on “The Harrowing Lives of Birds.” His presentation focused on some of the strategies used by birds to successfully make their way in an often hostile environment.

The June meeting will be held at Gade Farm for club members only. Amy Costello will speak about the seven different types of hydrangeas and how to get them to bloom. On June 20, members will provide garden and house tours at the Mynderse-Frederick House as part of the “NYS Path Through History.”

On July 2, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Colonial Medicinal Garden which has been established at the historic Schoolcraft House on Western Avenue, Guilderland.

In July, we will take a field trip to Rogerland in Arlington, Vermont to visit an historic 1830s farmhouse, unique gardens, ponds, waterfalls, fountains, and unusual trees, shrubs and flowers.

The August meeting topic is Food Waste presented by Will Landauu, Resiliency Educator and Karen Roberts Mort, Resource Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension. We will learn about how food waste affects our environment and what we can do about it.

Also, on August 18–23, the Club is a sponsor during the Altamont Fair. Members enter plants, floral designs, art work, and craft competitions. Members also maintain an information table to educate the public about plants and horticulture and to recruit new members.

Members have begun spring clean-up of the gardens and replanting at the Mynderse-Frederick House to restore areas that were damaged during the work that was done on the house. Garden work is also being done at the Schoolcraft House.



FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

by *Linda Miller*

On April 20 and 21, the FGCNYS held their spring Flower Show School at the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. The class was attended by students who will graduate as future flower show judges. Thank you to all who participated. A special thank you to the members of the Guilderland Garden Club and the Helderview Garden Club for hosting breakfast for the school participants and instructors. Pictured left to right are: Carol English, Instructor; Jane Madis, Horticulture Chairperson; Linda Miller, Past-President Guilderland Garden Club; Kim Thompson, Local Flower Show School Chairperson; Gail Berti, FGCNYS Second Vice President and Design Chairperson; and Maureen McNamara, Co-President Guilderland Club.

GERMANTOWN GARDEN CLUB

COLUMBIA COUNTY

by Irene Clum, Columbia County Chairman

The Germantown Garden Club is “Celebrating Our Past” this year.

Our March and April Garden Club meetings were very informative and entertaining. Town Historian Tom Shannon visited in March and we learned a lot about the Palatines and the Palatine Parsonage, which is the oldest building in our town. It was interesting to hear that the parsonage had several different locations.

Food historian Sara Everson spoke to us in April about historic produce. We saw that the kitchen produce in New York’s 18th century differed from what is common today. She was very entertaining to listen to.

The Spring District 3 meeting in April was well attended by our members. The buffet lunch at Anthony’s was very good. Our own Linda Levitt set this up—good job Linda!

The second week of May was a very busy one for us. We had our regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12. Our speaker was Diane VanKempen whose program was called “Garden Tools: Hints, Upgrades and Adaptations.” Just in time for planting season!

Saturday, May 16 was our annual plant sale at Palatine Park. The sale, which included a tag and bake sale, ran from 8 am to 1 pm. The weather was beautiful and lots of people stopped by. This is a major fundraiser for the club.

For our Spring luncheon, we are returning to Red’s Restaurant in Cossack on June 17. Linda Levitt is the chair for this event. Red’s is a great restaurant, and we have the advantage of ordering off the menu and getting separate checks for our meals.

Barbara Campbell is returning for our July 14 meeting. As always, she will be demonstrating designs for our upcoming flower show which will be held on August 22 and 23. We hope you can join us.



Top Left: Germantown Historian Tom Shannon gave an interesting and detailed account of the Palatines in the history of Germantown.



Top Right: The club had a lively & informative presentation from food historian Sara Everson.

Bottom Right: Our annual plant sale is a big fundraiser for the club. Pictured: L to R: Joyce Vale, Plant Sale Coordinator, and Karen Warchol, member volunteer.



NEW PALTZ GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Lynda Corey, President

The New Paltz Garden Club began its 80th year in March 2026 with a potluck dinner to welcome back its 29 active members to the new season. During April, four of our members attended District Three's Spring Conference. There we actively sold raffles for the baskets that each garden club generously donated; ours looked great! At our regular meeting in April, Beth Walker, president of the FGCNYS, gave a presentation on Pollinators, Wildlife, and Native Plants to our members and the residents of Woodland Pond. Beth and the residents left with a potted pansy as a token of our appreciation. Our upcoming May events include: our annual Plant Sale and the planting of the two community gardens we maintain. Our goal is to color them with red, white, and blue annuals to commemorate America's Semiquincentennial.

Above Right: Four of our members at the Spring Meeting of District Three.

Bottom Right: Our raffle basket for the meeting looked great!



SCHOHARIE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

GREENE-SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

by Anne Bielawski

Spring is here—yay! Here is what the Schoharie Valley Garden Club has going on.

April—a field trip to Gade Farm in Guilderland. Toured greenhouses and farm store and learned about the history of this family farm.

Participated in Schoharie Antique Festival—our garden club had a table of small flower arrangements, jewelry, garden items, etc. to sell. One of our annual fundraisers.

May—a field trip to Landis Arboretum in Esperance for a lecture on waste management.

June—will participate in Schoharie Library's Quilt and Flower Show. Arrangements will "match up" with local quilts.

July—will participate in Schoharie's Lily Festival, July 11th, in the Lily Park. Will sell plants, garden items, jewelry, etc.



Members at the Spring District Meeting in April. Nine members attended.

SHAWANGUNK GARDEN CLUB

ULSTER COUNTY

by Sophia Browne

Our year of 2025 ended with our club's various chores. This included decorating the Terwilliger House Museum at the Ellenville Public Library and creating and donating centerpieces and gifts for the senior holiday dinners.

Our Christmas meeting took place at the home of Haze Gal in Cragmoor. An ugly sweater contest was our new challenge. Food was provided by each member. Nice ending to a wonderful year.

The club members were very happy with our March gathering. Catching up with the latest info and the 2026 yearbook was fun. A hint of our future events! Dawn Boswell and Niki Fade are our leaders this year.

Our April Meeting was open to the public. April was also the month for the District Spring Luncheon in Leeds. We had quite a few members who attended for the 250-year celebration. April is also our month for visiting our favorite Arboretum in Montgomery. On Arbor Day we planted a tree at Ellenville's tennis courts with the help of the village.

May was our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale at the Hunt Building, Saturday, May 9th. Of course, it rained all day. Our remaining plants are now in our village planters. We are very satisfied that our planters are complete and ready for Memorial Day.

Our June Meeting at Lippman Park is our Plant Exchange and Pizza Party. Guess which one is the most popular?! June is also the month for our Annual Club Luncheon in Kerhonkson. We are always ready for delicious meals.



Above Top: District Meeting: Frances Peters, Sophia Browne, Niki Fade, Denise Bertolacci, June Carlsen, Michele Blawell, Marilyn Rogerson, and Sue Harris. **Above Middle:** Arbor Day: Sylvia Russo, Lillian Green, Marilyn Rogerson, Sharon Whispell, Sue Harris, Gay Van Demark and Ellenville village helpers. **Above Bottom:** Arboretum: Haze Gal, Dawn Boswell, Lillian Green, Sue Harris, Marilyn Rogerson, Pat MacGregor, Gay Van Demark, Sophia Browne, Sylvia Russo.

Left Top: Mother's Day: Marilyn Rogerson, Gay Van Demark, Sue Harris, Ingrid Newson, Valerie Sherry, Pat Foster. **Left Bottom:** Planters: Lillian Green, Brenda Decker, Valerie Sherry, Sue Harris, Marilyn Rogerson.

TIORONDA GARDEN CLUB

DUTCHESS COUNTY

by Gary Barrack, Dutchess County Chairman

The Tioronda Garden Club opened its 2026 Garden Club year at its March meeting with the installation of new officers for the 2026–2028 term.

Events for the year include a city-wide Patriotic Garden Contest in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Gardens using patriotic plant colors, and incorporating flags, or other symbolic elements inspired by the ideals of liberty and independence will be judged by club officials in June and certificates awarded to the top 3 entries. Our 45 hanging flower baskets and 15 large potted containers on Main St. will also reflect a patriotic theme for the occasion.

The club welcomed 3 new members for the 2026 Garden Club year bringing total membership to 67.

The club celebrates its 97th Anniversary of “Beautifying Beacon since 1929” on May 15.



Top Left: Installation of new Officers for 2026–2028. Left to right: Cynthia Marsh, Treasurer; Susan Lambert, Corresponding Secretary; Denise DeVore, 2nd Vice President; Susan Girola, Recording Secretary; and Gary Barrack, President. Not shown is Kathleen Pucher, 1st Vice President.

Bottom Left: Laura Donahue Bell from Mountain Laurel Florist in Beacon presented “The Art of Floral Design and Arranging.” After her presentation, she decided to join our club. Welcome Laura!



Clubs' Calendar 2026

June 14–16

FGCNYS Annual Convention
Desmond Hotel, Crowne Plaza Albany
660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY

August 22–23

Germantown Garden Club Flower Show
Kellner Activity Building
Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

October 15

District III Fall Meeting
Pegasus Restaurant
10885 State Road 9W, Coxsackie, NY

October 18–20

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs' Fall Conference
Holiday Inn Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH

December 4–5

Germantown Garden Club Christmas Market
Kellner Activity Building
Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY

National Garden Week

June 7–13, 2026 is National Garden Week. This week is an excellent opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of this effort.

We are encouraged to plant red, white, and blue plantings to celebrate our country's heritage. These plantings will be bright and cheerful and will make gardening areas look festive.

If you want to have pictures of your patriotic garden appear in CAR's next issue of the Review, send to Jan Warhaauer, jwarshauer@aol.com. Include the name of your club, the city and the state.



The Digest Online is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month before each issue (January, April, July, and October).

Please send news of your club's activities, events, and plans—it's a great way to share what you are doing with other clubs. Unlike print newsletters, there is no prohibitive cost factor for using color, so send in your photos. Articles on various gardening and flower arranging topics are especially welcome. Please note that the February issue does not include Club News.

Material for *The Digest* should be sent to Karin Janson via email at kjanson@aol.com.

To access *The Digest*, go to the State website—fgcnys.com—select District III on the home page and then select Digest Online.

