

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Fall 2010

www.nydistrictIV.org



Director's Message

As I travel throughout District IV, I am amazed by the beautiful, brilliant colors of fall. Autumn has arrived in all its glory. While we are awestruck by these vibrant hues and comforted by the cooler temperatures, this season brings with it the end of most gardening in the Northeast. It is time to put our gardens to bed. However, it is also the season for planning and planting those beautiful flowers we hope to see next spring. I encourage you to check out the web site www.bloominbucks.com before ordering bulbs, perennials, and garden supplies. Brent and Becky's Bulbs has a huge selection and guarantees their products. If you mention FGCNYS, a percentage of your sales will

go to the State to help finance the 2012 National Convention.

The District is also planning for the future. At our Fall District Meeting, the following slate of officers was voted in for the 2011–2013 term: Pat Leonard, Director; Meri Reese, First Assistant; Marjorie King-Martin, Second Assistant; Mary Leonard, Recording Secretary; Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary; and Sue VanOmmeren, Treasurer. How fortunate we are to have such a highly qualified and enthusiastic Executive Board. My congratulations and best wishes to all of these women.

Thanks to the Carillon Garden Club and Chairman, Vivian DenBleyker, for being such wonderful hostesses for our Fall District Meeting and Luncheon. They did a fantastic job of planning and implementing all aspects of this event. Due to their efforts, it was a huge success. All who attended enjoyed the business meeting, delicious luncheon, and informative program conducted in a wonderful venue.

As I previewed this edition of the *Garden Gate*, I was again impressed with all of the personal attention given to the presidents and the clubs' activities. Thanks to Patricia Frazier, District photographer, whose pictures of the presidents, along with their short profiles, add to our enjoyment of each issue. Hats off to Sue VanOmmeren, editor, whose ideas and professional handling of the magazine have made it informative and motivating. I encourage all of you to read it from cover to cover.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I realize how very important each of you is to your clubs, the District, and your communities. Through your programs, projects, and community assistance you exemplify the best in volunteerism. You make this a better world and I appreciate your efforts. Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes to you and your families.

Patricia Wania, Director

The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Patricia Wania, Director

Pat Leonard, First Assistant Director

Meri Rees, Second Assistant Director

Mary Leonard, Recording Secretary

Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary

Sue VanOmmeren, Treasurer

Garden Therapy

I'm happy to report that three garden clubs in District IV have done garden therapy projects this past year.

The Ballston Spa House and Garden Club went to Maplewood Manor last fall and helped residents clean mini pumpkins to hold flower arrangements. This fall the club plans to return to make pictures using dried leaves and other plant materials.

The Carillon Garden Club involved residents of Heritage Common Adult Home in a garden therapy project filling window boxes with soil and colorful annuals. The residents had fun being outdoors, digging in the soil, and planting geraniums, begonias, dusty miller, and dracena for the others to enjoy.



The Heritage Garden Club did two projects with the residents of Woodlawn Commons. In the fall a group created autumn arrangements in Mason jars using plant materials from members' gardens including grasses, herbs, hydrangea, dahlias, and hosta leaves to take back to their apartments. In the spring they planted nasturtium and marigold seeds which were later added with annuals to a planter placed outside the dining area.

The satisfaction of these therapeutic projects can be seen by the gratitude and joy of the participants.

Heather Cushing, Garden Therapy Chairman

Youth

Do the children in your community know who Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl are? Today, many young people have never heard of them. The poster contest is a perfect way to introduce these important characters. This is open to students from grades 1 to 5. It is also a great idea for Scouts. The deadline to the State is January 20, 2011. I would need them by January 14.

A fun contest for grades 4 through 8 is Youth Sculpture. This contest is to encourage youth to keep our planet green. Using recycled items, students can use their imaginations to create a "sculpture." Photos are used for judging. This is due to the State by January 1, 2011.

The Poetry/Prose contest, "Water of the Earth," is a State award. It includes a group project. Four or more students each draw a plan for an ideal nature trail. The entries are due by April 10, 2011, to the State.

I hope your club will try to get the youth of your community to participate. What better way to introduce them to garden clubs. If you would like more complete information please call or e-mail me at 518-587-3085 or bmillington2@verizon.net.

Barb Millington, Youth Chairman

Presidents' Profiles

Editor's Note: *District IV thrives because of all the wonderful and dedicated people who work so hard for their clubs, their communities, and the greater garden club organization. In this issue we feature two more of those in our ranks who really go above and beyond to make this a fabulous organization for the benefit of all. Meet club presidents Pam Foehser and Pat Leonard.*

Pam Foehser is currently the president of the Schuylerville Garden Club. She is a past member of the Little Garden Club of Kingston, and is the president-elect of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. Pam has long been active in both Districts III and IV, serving in many different capacities, including a term as District III's director. Most recently, Pam served as a vice president of FGCNYS. Pam will be installed as President of FGCNYS in March.

Pam has a BPS degree in counseling specializing in the developmentally disabled. She was a social worker and advocate for the developmentally disabled and children for 25 years. A crime victims advocate, Pam has received awards from many government agencies for her volunteer work with children. She has served on the Federal Child Safety Committee representing New York State.

Pam lives in Schuylerville with her husband, Charles. Daughter Heather works for Saratoga Bridge, while son CA works for the Saratoga County Clerk. Pam enjoys spending time with her two granddaughters, Kelsey and Kimberly.

Pat Leonard graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science degree in general business/education and received a teacher's certificate from the University of the State of New York.

Desiring to see the world, she took a secretarial job with the federal government in Washington, D.C. About a year later she was assigned to Munich, Germany, for two and a half years. After returning from Europe, she worked in Denver, Colorado, for a year, pursuing her interest in skiing. She then returned east to Cambridge, Massachusetts. After fourteen years in Cambridge, she relocated to Clifton Park, New York, to work at the General Electric Company and to be closer to her mother's home in Indian Lake in the Adirondacks.



After retirement, Pat moved to Indian Lake and is now able to pursue her interest in gardening. She is a founding member of the Indian Lake Garden Club and has served as president of the club since 2006. Pat has also served as Recording Secretary for District IV and, most recently, as First Assistant Director. Pat will assume the role of District Director in the spring.

Glenville Hills Garden Club

The Glenville Hills Garden Club spent most of the summer relaxing and pulling weeds. Members enjoyed a progressive lunch and toured members' gardens in mid-July. This is the sixth year the club has done the tour, and it is always an enjoyable day and a chance to learn from one another's gardens.

Their first meeting in the fall was to hear Dave Burdick speak on ferns and daffodils. This was a joint meeting with a local club and was an opportunity to meet other gardeners in our community. Dave is a gifted horticulturist and a very entertaining and informative speaker. Later in September members also enjoyed a trip to Gardenworks in Salem for a workshop and picnic lunch.



The October meeting will feature a brief presentation by the students the club sponsored at Camp Colby. This is a very rewarding chance to hear what the students did at camp and what they learned there. Club members feel that the camperships are one of the best things they do. The funding is raised at their annual Memorial Day Pie and Plant Sale and the club receives two additional camperships from a grant through a local trust.

The Galway Post Office looks wonderful thanks to the club's Galway Beautification Committee. The club has received many compliments for their work on the beds.

Members are all looking forward to a busy fall and winter season and have several interesting programs planned.

Catherine Caine, President

Heritage Garden Club

Members of the Heritage Garden Club had a busy spring and summer caring for three "community" gardens.

The largest garden is the Memorial Garden dedicated to deceased members of the club. The garden was established in 1997 and is located behind the Visitors Center on Broadway and Congress Street. This beautiful

historic building is a true gem, and the garden is one of the best-kept secrets in town. The picnic benches and tables in the patio area provide a quiet respite from the hustle and bustle of Broadway. Since this is such a large garden, volunteers are there for two hours each Tuesday to maintain it. The garden has been mentioned in two recent publications: Janet Loughrey's *Saratoga in Bloom* and the August 2010 issue of *Adirondack Life*.

The club's "historic" garden is the Meditation Garden at the Gideon Putnam Burial Ground on South Franklin Street. Members maintain a perennial garden in one corner of the cemetery, and a small garden surrounding the New York state historic marker was planted to enhance and call attention to that special designation. The club purchased two cast iron urns for flowers which are located at the entrance to the burial ground.

The club's newest garden is the Garden of Hope at the Mollie Wilmot Radiation Oncology Center at Saratoga Hospital. This quiet spot for patients was started by a young man as a Scouting project, and the club was asked to maintain it. Perennials, annuals, herbs, and recently planted lilies can be found in this peaceful setting.

Members and friends of the Heritage Garden Club do all the work at these gardens. The flowers for the Visitor Center and Gideon Putnam gardens are provided by the club along with donations from local greenhouses and members of the community. The plantings for the hospital garden are provided by the Mollie Wilmot Center.

Club members also hosted a barbeque for the residents of Woodlawn Commons, which was thoroughly enjoyed by residents and members alike. This fall members will be doing garden therapy project and hosting a harvest tea for the residents. On November 1 there will be a Luncheon Card/Game Party at the Gideon Putnam to which all members of District IV are invited.

Sue Chatfield and Ele Madsen, Co-presidents

Indian Lake Garden Club



Club members had a busy September planning and setting up fall decorations for the First Great Adirondack Moose Festival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Some of the club's creative and talented mem-

bers designed and made a large moose with a painting of an Adirondack lake scene on it for display at the small park in the town center. Another member added a scarecrow. The display was complemented with hay bales, corn stalks, chrysanthemums, and pumpkins. The three town welcome signs were also decorated. The decorations will be in place until the frost gets to them! Members have covered the flowers twice so far and hope to keep going until the October 12th weekend.

Pat Leonard, President

Katrina Trask Garden Club

Over the summer, the club maintained plantings at the Saratoga Springs Senior Center and at the Kirby Road senior apartment complex where the club holds its meetings.

Members of the club began the year with an enjoyable virtual tour of historic Congress Park at their September meeting. Jamie Parillo, Director of the Historical Society, traced the evolution of the park from the early 1800s to the present time. The program was enhanced by slides of photos from the Bolster collections, some of which had not been shown before. Little-known details about the statuary and gardens and forgotten Victorian recreational activities enjoyed by long-ago visitors were an interesting part of the program.

A program on winter birds and their care will be presented in October. Donations to the EOC Food Pantry will also be collected at this meeting. A hands-on holiday centerpieces workshop will be held in November. Christmas toys for children will be collected at this meeting. Katrina Trask Garden Club will cap the 2010 year with their annual Christmas luncheon at Longfellow's.

Remigia Foy, President

Lake George Community Garden Club

The club tried a new project for membership recruitment this spring. A tea was planned which included a tour of Pat Carpenter's mountainside garden. The invitation was announced in the local newspaper. Many local folks enjoyed meeting the club's members. A plant exchange was an added attraction which pleased the many guests. It was noted that two of the club's new members are gentlemen.

In July the club's annual Salad Luncheon was at Jeanne Lamb's property at Lake Luzerne on the banks of the beautiful Hudson River. All enjoyed having this casual picnic time to chat with the new members. Several of the club's Master Gardeners were present to help find solutions to gardening problems.

Of course summer brings out the blooms, and several members opened their gardens for tours to prove it! Thanks to Sue Heusner for inviting members to see her terraced garden, to Debbie Hoffman for sharing her

lakeside gardens, and to David Martin for showing his historic farm on Ridge Road in Queensbury. When programming for your club you might like to consider these for field trips.

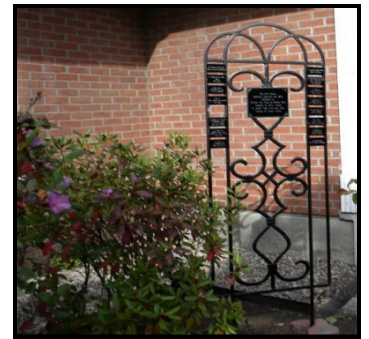
Another program that Lake George members enjoyed was hosta growers "par excellence" Meg and Jim Dalton. They present a fantastic PowerPoint and also make their property available for a remarkable field trip. It seems as though the choices of hostas are amazing and unlimited.

Debbie Hoffman, President
Nancy Cathers, Correspondent

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Club members held the dedication ceremony for its "Plant It Pink" garden on Saturday, September 25, on the garden site at the Ballston Spa Public Library. Featured speakers at the dedication included Lynette M. Stark, Executive Director of the Northeastern New York Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure; John Romano, Village of Ballston Spa Mayor; and Patricia Wania, District IV Director.

Throughout the summer, club members and local gardening author Kerry Mendez, who designed the garden, continued to maintain the garden and added plants as they were purchased by club members in honor of a loved one or friend whose life has been affected by breast cancer. A permanent garden trellis with the names of those honored was installed at the dedication ceremony. The club is seeking new donations to assist in the purchase of additional plants for fall and spring plantings. Any District IV garden club or club member may donate funds in honor of a loved one or friend whose life has been affected by breast cancer. Additional names will be added to the trellis as new donations are received. Please contact Ballston Spa club members Pamela Relyea at 309-3501 or Barb Millington at 587-3085 to purchase a plant.



In addition, the Ballston Spa club is registered as a team on the Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure (SGKPPC) web site. Donations can be made to Susan G. Komen by the public on behalf of the "Plant It Pink" garden at: <http://www.passionatelypink.org>, click on "Find a Team," and enter the team name Ballston Spa.

"Plant It Pink" is an initiative sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. which supports the mission of Susan G. Komen for the Cure to save lives and end breast cancer forever. The club has submitted an application to National Garden Clubs for its Pink Glove award which will be given out at the 2011 NGC spring conference to

be held in Washington, D.C. The club has also prepared a book of evidence for a State award for Civic Achievement.

The club's September meeting was held at Meadowlark Farm in South Glens Falls. Owner and landscape designer Kathy Brown was a very engaging and informative tour guide. She accompanied club members to the various gardens on her property, and spoke at length about designing a four season garden. Plants and vegetables from her gardens were available for sale at very reasonable prices. Kathy was a wonderful host!

On September 21, members of the club hosted the monthly breakfast for the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association (BSBPA) at the Medbery Inn, owned and operated by club member Dolores Taisey. The club is a participating member of the BSBPA. Club members provided many tasty breakfast items and enjoyed meeting and chatting with members of the BSBPA. President Barb Millington gave a short speech highlighting some of the club's current activities.

The October meeting will be part of its annual garden therapy visit to Maplewood Manor Nursing Home in Ballston Spa. Club members will guide and assist residents in making a floral or garden-themed craft.

Pam Relyea, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

The summer months were filled with gardening activities for members of the Carillon Garden Club. Besides tending their own gardens, beautification projects sponsored by the club in Ticonderoga and Hague were maintained by some of the members to make the towns look well groomed and welcoming. In addition, Enhancement Awards were given by the club to businesses and residences in Ti and Hague for their beautification efforts with the hope that more individuals will be inspired each year to take pride in and help create a look that is welcoming and festive for both visitors and residents. Approximately 25 certificates were awarded on the basis of curb appeal in several categories: perennial and annual gardens, spots of color in containers and landscaped yards. Recipients of the awards were pleased that their efforts were recognized.

The club's Annual Card and Game Party was held in September providing an opportunity for many to practice their floral arranging skills while making the table decorations. The profit realized from the party funds activities for



Winter Sowing

By the time you read this, it will be winter—the time for reading catalogues and dreaming of planting. It will also be the time for winter sowing.

Winter sowing is the technique nature devised for planting seeds in the fall and leaving them outside until conditions are right for germination and growth.

I expect you have tried planting seeds inside to get a jump start on the season? The timing of these plantings is quite critical to avoid “leggy” seedlings and some homes just do not have sufficient light for success. Then, before the seedlings can be planted outdoors, they have to be hardened off.

There is no guesswork in winter sowing as the seeds germinate when conditions are right and, as the seedlings are outside all the time, they are already acclimatized.

Here is what you do: Start saving suitable containers—salad greens boxes are ideal. They are transparent to let the sunlight through, and they are quite deep, so the seedlings have room to grow tall. You could use soda bottles—cut and covered in plastic wrap, 5 gallon water bottles or Chinese food containers or anything similar you have on hand. A good time to plant is after the holidays when you are ready for new projects.

Cut slits in the lid for ventilation and in the bottom for drainage. Put a paper towel in the bottom of your container and some seed starter soil mix. Label each container using permanent marker. Add water and seeds and additional soil if needed.

You can plant any seeds that need stratification (cold before germinating) or seeds that self sow or seeds that can be directly sown early in the season. Some examples are Joe Pye weed, butterfly weed, phlox, rudbeckia, calendula, lettuce, squash, tomatoes, and eggplant.

Put your containers outside in a place where they won't be disturbed by the snow plow or kids building forts, and you are all set.

Check out this web site for more information (you can also get free seeds here): www.wintersown.org/.

Liz Gee, Herb and Vegetable Garden Chair

area youth. Last year's earnings were used to sponsor a program at the elementary school on Birds of Prey as well as a summer program of environmental importance. Both programs reached more than 100 children each. In the past, proceeds from this fundraiser have sent one child to the DEC camp.

Club members have also been busy with the recently held District IV Fall Luncheon at the Queensbury Hotel. Approximately 85 attended the meeting, luncheon, and demonstration by Meg Southerland. Months of planning all came together well under the leadership of Vivian DenBleyker, chairman. The Carillon Garden Club wants to thank all the clubs for participating in a wonderful display of floral designs.



They were all outstanding! Thank you too for contributing raffle baskets and items for the apple-themed ways and means table. Have you ever seen so many apple items?! All profits go to support the work of District IV.



Carillon Garden Club members will remain busy this fall as they begin their campaign to sell holiday wreaths, learn floral design techniques, and work happily together.

Betty Rettig, President

Awards

Congratulations to all the clubs for all their hard work. The following awards were given at the October District meeting:

Yearbook: Ballston Spa House & Garden Club, Carillon Garden Club, Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club, Glenville Hills Garden Club, Heritage Garden Club, Lake George Community Garden Club, Schuylerville Garden Club

Support of Nature Conservancy: Ballston Spa House & Garden Club, Carillon Garden Club, Glenville Hills Garden Club, Schuylerville Garden Club, Indian Lake Garden Club

Highest Percentage Serving on the District Board: Carillon Garden Club

Youth Campership: Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club, Glenville Hills Garden Club, Heritage Garden Club, Schuylerville Garden Club

Youth Scholarship: Heritage Garden Club, Lake George Community Garden Club, Indian Lake Garden Club

Youth Education: Schuylerville Garden Club

Membership Retention: Glenville Hills Garden Club, Katrina Trask Garden Club, Lake George Community Garden Club

Greatest Number of New Members: Schuylerville Garden Club

The Ballston Spa House & Garden Club has applied to National Garden Clubs for the **Pink Glove Award** for their new pink garden.

Jackie Viestenz, Awards Chairman

District IV Calendar of Events

Oct 31-Nov 2 Central Atlantic Region Fall Conference, Tarrytown Marriott, Tarrytown, NY

November 1 Luncheon Card/Game Party at Gideon Putnam, Saratoga Springs. Heritage Garden Club

December 3 Greens Tea Luncheon and Sale, UCC Parish Hall, Elizabethtown. Elizabethtown-Westport GC

District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

www.BSHGC.org

Carillon Garden Club

www.TiconderogaGardenClub.org

Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club

www.etownwestportgardenclub.org

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org

Heritage Garden Club

www.heritagegardenclub.org

Indian Lake Garden Club

www.indianlakegardenclub.org

Katrina Trask Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Schuylerville Garden Club

www.schuylervillegardenclub.org