

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Fall 2013

www.nydistrictIV.org



Director's Message

When you feel that first crisp breeze, you know that summer is gone and fall is in the air. I believe every season has its upside, but autumn has a particular beauty to it. I revel in the season's unique ability to turn the world into one big canvas with nature's paintbrush. The canopy of red, gold, and orange leaves is enchanting. I love the change that occurs around us and the smell of warm apple cider, pumpkin pie, and cinnamon that permeates the air!

Since the summer issue of *The Garden Gate* was published, the District IV board, club members, and your director have been extremely busy. The members of District IV have worked diligently creating and maintaining community beds, barrels, and boxes, planting a beautiful bounty of spring- and summer-time blooms. They awakened their communities and brought happiness to those within!

I recently attended the FGCNYS Fall Meeting in Corning, New York, where I proudly submitted a report of our District's activities and a photo-board with pictures of members performing various club activities. The board would never fit all the photos I received, and I hope you are all as proud as this Director of the meaningful work, community service, environmentally conscious projects, and social opportunities we are able to come together and experience!

I want to extend a very special thank you to the Schuylerville Garden Club for hosting the Fall Meeting and Luncheon on October 1! Their hard work and attention to detail made it an extraordinary event. All who attended had an opportunity learn about the District IV Committees, meet their chairmen, and gain an understanding about how we can work better together. We all enjoyed the luncheon, design program, and the opportunity to come together.

Over the past six months it has been this Director's pleasure to represent you at the local district and state level. District IV is small, but you as members and member clubs have brought us honor and distinction. I thank all of you for all you have done.

—Laurene Tompkins, Director

The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Laurene Tompkins, Director
Marjorie King-Martin, Second Assistant Director
Judy Esposito, Recording Secretary
Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Millington, Treasurer

District News

Youth Contests

Let's see if we can get some entries for the National Garden Clubs youth contests. Try offering a prize of some sort to encourage entries, such as a pizza party for the class with the most entries or ice-cream cones for those entering. Usually these come from a local business's donation. Suggest to the teachers to allow the students to prepare their contest entries on their own time. If the information is given to teachers, they will usually distribute it. Some teachers will provide poster-board for the poster contest, which is a help.

The poetry contest for 2014 is for kindergarten through ninth grade. The theme is "Good Stewards of Our Planet." There is also a sculpture contest for grades four through eight to encourage youth to keep our planet green. Finally, the Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl poster contest is open to grades one through five.

All information is posted on the National Garden Clubs web site under "Youth Contest" at www.gardenclub.org. If you have any questions, please contact me at bmillington@nycap.rr.com or 587-3085. I hope we have many entries for District IV.

—Barb Millington, District (and FGCSNY) Youth Chairman

District Awards

*District IV Spring Meeting
October 1, 2013*



Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Carillon Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Youth Campership
Yearbook

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

Contribution to Conservancy Group
Environmental Education
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Horticulturist of the Year
Sue Fero

Heritage Garden Club

Protection of Birds and Butterflies
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Indian Lake Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Youth Scholarship

Lake George Community Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Schuylerville Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Yearbook
Youth Campership

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

The celebration for the opening of the new Gordon Creek Elementary School in the Village of Ballston Spa found organizers looking for a ribbon to cut to commemorate the event, and they looked to the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club for help. Club president Barb Millington provided a great 30 foot long purple and gold (school colors) ribbon for the organizers and kids to cut to open the school. Event organizers were extremely thankful to the assistance from the club for this important community event.

The fall club meetings find members watching, learning, and creating interesting craft items. September brings leaf harvest vases with votive candles; October's demonstration is "papercrete," which is made from cement and shredded paper and then molded into a garden stepping stone; November is the ever popular mini-boxwood trees in a cup. All of these items will be made en masse following the December 5 holiday meal. Club members will enjoy a delicious potluck menu and then make items to sell at the Brookside Museum Holiday Shoppe on December 14 and 15. This will be the second year that the club participates in this fundraiser, which was a success last year. The boxwood trees will also be available by pre-order. They are great gifts for the holidays, last a long time, and look very festive! Pricing and deadlines for ordering will be sent to club presidents in early December.

Club members will find time during the holiday season to make wreaths for various public buildings within the village of Ballston Spa for the second year. Last year, the club donated wreaths to the Village Office, Public Library, Post Office, and American Legion Hall.

—Pam Relyea, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

As the fall leaves begin to turn color and drop to the ground, summer activities are but a memory. For the members of the Carillon Garden Club another summer has flown by with club activities and family visits. They've watched their gardens flourish and also seen them suffer under the hot sun, intense rain, and even drought conditions. Nature teaches us to be strong and flexible.

Club programs in June and July focused on preparing for a flower show but due to numerous setbacks the club felt it wise to postpone the show until another time. The club was very pleased to have judges Steve Brown and Pat Wania present programs and workshops to help members get their creative energy flowing.

In August the club held their Annual Card and Game Party. It is always fun preparing for a special gathering. The talented members worked very well to-

gether and were rewarded with a very successful fund raiser.

On October 17 the club will welcome author and expert gardener JoAnn Gardner. Her program, "Making the Cottage Garden of Your Dreams," should be informative for all. She will present a slide show of two gardens and how they were shaped over decades of care. All member of District IV are welcome to attend. The club meets at the Hague Community Center on Route 8 in Hague (just 1/8 mile west/south from the intersection of Rt. 9N). The program will start about 11:30. Please bring your own lunch. Goodies and beverages are provided. Call president, Betty Rettig (585-7247) if you need more information.

Additional plans for the fall season include making floral arrangements with seniors at the local adult care facilities, Christmas wreath workshops, and a variety of Christmas activities in December. Before we know it we'll be caring for our poinsettias!

—Betty Rettig, President

Glenville Hills Garden Club

The Galway Post Office gardens are in peak form this year. It takes time to grow a garden. During the spring of 2008, members of the club's beautification committee met to make plans for their first major community project, a complete renovation and redesign of plantings at the post office. During the past five years, club members have dug, planted, mulched, watered, weeded, pruned, and deadheaded annuals, perennials, and shrubs to create a space that can be enjoyed by the community from April through October.

This year the border on the south side of the building was alive in shifting shades of yellow and blue, peach and pink and purple. In spring came the daffodils, followed by day lilies, catmint, coneflowers, coreopsis, geraniums, veronica, and phlox all summer long, and now in autumn, sedum and asters.

A sign installed this spring next to the entryway reads "Gardens Courtesy of the Glenville Hills Garden Club." It sits amongst bright pink petunias, a rose-colored Knockout rose, and a mauve hydrangea paniculata. A weeping crab apple tree on the front lawn is under planted with heuchera.

Just about every time members tend the garden, postal patrons stop to admire the flowers, to say thank you, to ask for the name of a particular plant and where it can be obtained. It's fair to say this is one of the most photographed gardens in the community.



This year the club has taken on another beautification project, the renovation and redesign of the circle garden in front of the Joseph Henry Elementary School. The first phase, the removal of overgrown shrubs and plants, was finished before Memorial Day. Late August, during phase two, the entire area was spaded and weeded prior to planting four flowering shrubs. The work was completed just a few days before the opening of school. Principal Michelle McDougall expressed appreciation to club members, "The [circle] looks beautiful and has been noticed by so many adults and children."

Club members look forward to adding annuals and perennials in the spring. It will take time to grow the school garden and to create a beautiful space, which the children and their parents and teachers can enjoy.

—Arlene Rhodes, President

Heritage Garden Club

July began with the club's annual barbeque for the residents of Woodlawn Commons. Hot dogs and hamburgers were grilled and served by club members to more than sixty seniors. This is one of the ways that HGC gives back to the facility where the club holds its monthly meetings.



Club members turned out in force this August to participate in all phases of preparation for the Saratoga 150 Floral Fete. Martha Van Patten and Lee Nelson served on the planning committee and many others created evergreen and floral garlands. The photo shows members decorating a wheel of one of the many carriages. It was a fantastic day of

cooperation, labor, and friendship.

Blooms, blooms, blooms! The club's three gardens in the community have never looked better thanks to the grant the club received from the Arthur Z. Solomon Charitable Trust. The Visitor Center Memorial Garden added many new perennials, the Saratoga Hospital Garden added a new section of hosta, and the Gideon Putnam Burying Ground Garden came alive with colorful annuals.

At the October meeting, Laurene Tompkins visited to discuss her vision for the future of District IV and to install the club's new officers. Members also met a local middle school student who attended the DEC's Camp Colby for one week this summer. The club administered his campership with funding from the Arthur Z. Solomon Trust. According to his father, he had the time of his life!

—Elizabeth Rossi, Co-President

Indian Lake Garden Club

September was a busy month for Indian Lake club members. The club started with its annual Plant Exchange and Sale to provide an opportunity for local gardeners to exchange their perennials. Members then decorated the town for the Antiques Weekend and the Great Adirondacks Moose Festival. The photograph shows one of the three town welcome signs.



On September 26 members will celebrate their tenth anniversary with a screening at the Indian Lake Theater of the DisneyNature® film *Wings of Life*, narrated by Meryl Streep. This production presents a stunning celebration of life, showcasing the unsung heroes of plants, the great pollinators: butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees and bats.

In October members will visit the Wild Center in Tupper Lake to take in their screening of *Flight of the Butterflies*.

—Pat Leonard, President

Lake George Community Garden Club

Each year, for National Garden Week, the Lake George club donates money to each of five local libraries to purchase related books. The club also provides information from the National Garden Club as well as posters for the libraries to display.



This year the club held its annual summer Salad and Dessert Luncheon at a member's home in Cleverdale, on Lake George. Members brought recipes to exchange. The luncheon is always a popular event. And, in August, members were treated to a "surprise" garden tour. They visited the gardens at the Diamond Point non-denominational church located on Rt. 9N. Members of the congregation there have extensive gardens and have added hardscape points of interest along the English Creek.



Also in August, the Perennial Planters group visited the Dalton Farm in Middle Grove, NY. Members toured their beautiful hosta gardens and then were treated to a workshop creating some garden art: cement molds of large hosta leaves.

—Nancy Boericke, Correspondent



Schuylerville Garden Club Standard Flower Show

July 13 & 14, 2013



“Big Red Spring”

A design showing water

Tricolor Award: Laurene Tompkins



“And They’re Off”



“Winner’s Cup”

A miniature traditional mass design
Petite Award: Mary Seymour

Schuylerville Garden Club was a proud participant in the Saratoga 150 Festival celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Saratoga Race Course. Naturally this year’s flower show had a horsey theme, and members rummaged in their attics for race track memorabilia. The Horticulture Division (above center) was staged in an “oval.” A pond in the center was complete with canoes in last year’s winners’ colors.



“Call to the Post”

A vibrant design

Designer’s Choice & Award of Design Excellence:

Liz Gee



“Picnic in the Park”

A creative design using picnic items

Blue Ribbon:

Kathy Turcotte

Section B
“The Schuylerville”
challenged members to grow 3 different kinds of lettuce—singly and in combinations. Karen Estill was awarded the Lettuce Cup for Class 8—a combination planter of 3 or more heads of lettuce.



Class 4: Troughs
Grower’s Choice & Award of Horticultural Excellence: Sue Fero
(Right)



Section A
“The Whitney”
Class 1:
Combination Planters
(Left)

Schuylerville Garden Club

Members of Schuylerville Garden Club were busy during the summer preparing for the Fall District IV Meeting and Luncheon. The club hoped for a large attendance to enjoy a beautiful day at beautiful Lake George, and a short business meeting, yummy lunch, and fantastic floral designer to keep us inspired (and awake) during the afternoon.

Nine SGC members participated in the Floral Fete in Saratoga—what an awesome event. Working with thousands of flowers at a time creating the carriage decorations was exciting, to say the least.

This fall, meetings will include “The Joy of Bonsai” and a hands-on workshop using ingenuity to create decorations using boxwood. Outside activities will include decorating wreaths and filling containers with greens to make the villages look festive for the winter season. SGC will decorate a tree for the Festival of Trees at the Town Hall in Schuylerville December 8 and 9, and will hold their annual sing-a-long with seniors at Morgan’s Run.

As 2013 comes to an end, members will enjoy a Christmas luncheon with games and gift exchange. The agenda for that day’s meeting is to discuss SGC’s accomplishments over the past year and *have fun!*

—Kathy Turcotte, President

Heritage GC Officers Installed

On October 14, District Director Laurene Tompkins had the privilege of installing the following officers of the Heritage Garden Club:



(Left to right) Treasurer Anne Hunscher, Corresponding Secretary Ellen Brown, Recording Secretary Judy Eastwood, Second Vice President Ann Schechner, First Vice President Betsey Sutton, Co-President Elizabeth Rossie
(missing: Co-President Brenda Morris)

District IV Calendar of Events

November 7	Heritage Garden Club Annual Card Party at Gideon Putnam Hotel
November 12	FGCNYS Winter Board Meeting, State Office Complex, Guilderland
December 14–15	Ballston Spa House & Garden Club fundraiser at Brookside Museum

District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

www.BSHGC.org

Carillon Garden Club

www.facebook.com/carillongc

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org

Heritage Garden Club

www.heritagegardenclub.org

Indian Lake Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Schuylerville Garden Club

www.schuylervillegardenclub.org