

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Fall 2014

www.nydistrictIV.org



Director's Message

Fall to me means the Earth is preparing for the long sleep of winter, waiting to come alive again in the spring. It also means beautiful colors in nature, wonderful smells of “comfort foods,” and the sound of fallen leaves that rustle under my feet.

As I write this I am freshly returned from the FGCNYS Fall Conference which was held at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront in Geneva, New York. For those who have not attended a FGCNYS Conference, I strongly urge you to participate in the future!

I attended a wonderful workshop entitled “I’m Peeking at You,” presented by NGC Master Judge Jeanne Nelson. This was very exciting because it provided information and ideas for the newly anticipated NGC Flower Show Photography section that is currently being created to be included and judged in future flower shows! This is a wonderful way to encourage participation from those more creative with a camera than with oasis! Now those beautiful shots you have taken may be presented and shared with other enthusiasts! Jeanne covered the 10 Top Photography Composition Rules. For anyone interested in a copy of the hand-out, please let me know!

I also had a chance to sit in on a Horticulture Program for Tri-Refresher and Judges Council that was open to conference registrants. The presenter, Tim Boebel did a wonderful presentation on Highlighting Hydrangeas. The specimens he brought to pass were simply exquisite! The color and size was not to be believed! Tim specifically designed the program for those growing hydrangeas in the north, discussed popular varieties, and gave information on how to get them to continually bloom. His book, *Hydrangeas in the North, Getting Blooms in the Colder Climates*, was available for sale afterward.

The design program, “Renewables: Renew, Refresh, Rethink,” was a not-so-serious presentation by 7th District Judges Council that challenged the judges to create designs from items found in their basements. It was entertaining as well as educational! And the final design program, “Purely for Pleasure,” awakened my senses with autumn color and design ideas!

While it appears it was all fun and games, let it be known there was plenty of work to do! In addition to the FGCNYS Semi-Annual Business Meeting and the Board of Directors Meeting, I participated in the Nominating Committee Meeting. While we must wait to reveal the new slate of officers, I am proud to announce that our own District IV Carillon Garden Club member Patricia Wania will become President elect on December 15! I am thrilled for what this means for the Federated Garden Clubs and especially District IV! Please plan on supporting Pat and attending her installation at the FGCNYS Annual Spring Meeting, held March 16–18, 2015. Details to be announced!

—Laurene Tompkins, District IV Director

The Garden Gate

Sue VanOmmeren, Editor
svanommeren@gmail.com
(518) 882–5387

Published Quarterly

Next Deadline: January 1, 2015

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

School has started and it's time to encourage the students to take part in the youth sponsored contests.

One that has been reopened is for New York State only, the poetry contest. District IV member Patricia Frazier (Schuylerville Garden Club) has named the topic for it. "Nature's Wonders" is open to all school-age students, K–12. It will be due to me by February 14, 2015. It would be nice to see a large participation from the District. Your club president has the rules. It can be your own child or grandchild, not necessarily through a school.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest is due by January 23.

The Sculpture Contest, using recycled materials, is due by January 23, and the National Poetry Contest is due by January 15.

The High School scholarship has not been applied for by anyone in New York in the last few years. It is \$1,000 and is open to any 9–12 students. If they are not seniors the money is held in escrow.

The Distinguished Service Project has an award for a civic project making a significant improvement for public benefit.

The complete information can be found on the gardenclub.org web site under Youth Contest.

Please note that if any pictures of minors are to be published there is a consent form that needs to be signed by the parent for the child. This is for the protection of you and the club.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me: 587–3085 or bmillington@nycap.rr.com.

I am looking forward to some excellent poems and posters!

—Barb Millington, FGCNYS Youth Chairman

National Garden Club Awards

Certificate of Appreciation
Award #7: Special Achievement
 Galway Post Office Gardens
 Glenville Hills Garden Club



Certificate of Participation in the 2012–2013 School Gardens Project
“Protect Our Friends the Pollinators”
 Lake George Community Garden Club
 and Lake George Elementary School

Award #5-B: Club Standard Flower Show Achievement Award
“And They’re Off”
 Schuylerville Garden Club
 (comes with a purple ribbon)

District IV Awards*Fall Meeting**October 14, 2014***Ballston Spa House and Garden Club**

Contributions to Nature Conservancy and
Arbor Day Foundation
Membership Retention
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Carillon Garden Club

Contribution to Lake George Conservancy
Protection of Butterflies
Yearbook
Youth Campership

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

Contributions to Conservancy Groups
Environmental Education
Protection of Birds and Butterflies
Yearbook
Youth Campership

Heritage Garden Club

Membership Retention
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Lake George Community Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Greatest Number of New Members
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Schuylerville Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy
Yearbook
Youth Campership
Youth Scholarship

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Awards**Increased Membership**

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club
Carillon Garden Club
Glenville Hills Garden Club
Lake George Community Garden Club

50 Year Anniversary Certificate

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Club Recognition Certificate

Carillon Garden Club
Schuylerville Garden Club

1st Place Standard Flower Show Citation #22b. ii

“And They’re Off”
Schuylerville Garden Club

World Gardening Citation

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club
Carillon Garden Club
Glenville Hills Garden Club
Heritage Garden Club

**2nd Place 19A ai. Schedule Citation
Standard Flower Show, medium club**

“And They’re Off”
Schuylerville Garden Club

**World Gardening Citation:
Largest Contribution by Club**

Glenville Hills Garden Club

Honorable Mention Class 2 20–29 Members Yearbook

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

State Life Membership

Fran Burnett
Glenville Hills Garden Club

2nd Place Class 4 45–69 Members Yearbook

Carillon Garden Club

2nd Place Class 5 70–99 Members Yearbook

Lake George Community Garden Club

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Club members are saddened by the passing of Barbara Welch. Barbara was a member of the club for seven years. She was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Ballston Spa, the Ballston Spa Country Club, and the Northeastern Women's Golf Association. She was a warm and friendly person who participated in many club activities and events. She will be greatly missed.

The club's September meeting was highlighted by a creative and inspiring presentation on drying flowers given by club member Barbara Fasake. Barb discussed and demonstrated many different ways to preserve fresh flowers including wiring, air drying, glycerin, and pressing.



She also shared her experiments with "stamping" leaves onto black paper, and clear coating dried flowers to create mementos. Also at the meeting, club members were pleased to meet the winner of its "Name the Garden" contest, Renate Knapp of Ballston Spa. Club members have been working since last fall to renovate the area behind the Ballston Spa Public Library. The garden was finished in early summer, and



the club solicited suggestions from the public for an appropriate name for the garden. The name chosen was "Garden of Learning." The winner received a gift certificate to Brookside Nursery in Ballston Spa and two lovely garden-themed books.

The Ballston Spa House and Garden Club was pleased and proud to honor long-term members Mary Ortoleva (57 years), Diane Lang (47 years), and Martha Knuth (18 years) at a luncheon on September 19 at the

Lake Ridge Restaurant in Round Lake. Also honored was Brookside Nursery owner Stacy Simmons, who has donated her services and products many, many times over the years toward club projects.

The October monthly meeting will feature a presentation by member Barb Millington, who will demonstrate the use of pumpkins and gourds within floral arrangements in containers and bird feeders. The November meeting will feature another presentation by Barb, who will demonstrate how to make canvas coasters upon which a garden-themed design is stenciled. The December monthly meeting will serve as the club holiday party at the home of club member Janelle Coffey.

On November 1, the club will participate in the Malta Community Center Arts, Crafts, and Gifts Fair. Club members will display for sale a table full of holiday crafts handmade by the members including note cards, mini-boxwood trees, refrigerator magnets, coasters, and much more. All proceeds from the sale are to be used toward the many worthy community projects in which the club is involved.

On December 4, club members will make fresh evergreen swags to donate and display on Ballston Spa public buildings during the holiday season. In addition, club members will decorate a float for the village holiday parade on December 5.

—Pam Relyea,
Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

The Carillon Garden Club received a \$2,000 grant from International Paper to create a pollinator garden in Ticonderoga. This garden provides education to the community and a Brownie Troop on the types of plants that attract pollinators and the pollinators that will come to the garden. The Brownie Troop participated as a community service project. Some of the plants that are in the garden are Echinacea, Butterfly Bush, Phlox, and Monarda. Signs will be placed by each plant describing the plant and the pollinator they attract. The garden is located at the entrance to the Bicentennial Park in Ticonderoga. The garden at this location needed an overhaul and planting. The pollinator garden has greatly improved the entrance to the park.

In August the club enjoyed an educational and fun program and workshop presented by Pam Hebert, Pat Wania, and Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine. They demonstrated tubular designs and creative designs. They provided flowers and some containers and the club was able

to make their own very beautiful and creative designs.

In October the club will have a very engaging program presented by Charlie Nardozi. The program is on "Season Extending and Planting in Fall." Mr. Nardozi is the host of "In the Garden" on WCAX (Vermont) and Vermont Garden Journal on Vermont Public Radio. He is a very engaging speaker and is knowledgeable on many topics.

The club is looking forward to their wreath project in November. Club members take orders from the community and then have two intensive days of decorating and delivering wreaths. This year members are going to try a slightly different technique for decorating some of the wreaths. Instead of bows, they will have draped ribbon secured with berries.

In December, the club provides refreshments and Christmas displays for Holiday Magic in conjunction with the Champlain Valley Choral concert. Members make beautiful Christmas displays and bring collections, such as Santas, which beautify the room where the refreshments are served after the concert.

—*Jackie Viestenz,*
Correspondent

Glenville Hills Garden Club

This summer it wasn't just weeding and watering and planting and transplanting that kept members busy in their gardens. It was a time for selecting, collecting, and pressing flower blossoms to be used at a club workshop in February when member Sharyn Kalinkewicz will provide instruction and assistance in decorating note cards, book marks, and sundry items.

This summer was also a time to enjoy the succession of bloom up close with cameras in hand. Members photographed flowers and shrubs in their gardens throughout the season and have chosen favorite shots to share at the club's January meeting. Using these photos, Margie Prasek will create and present the program, "Garden Images."

Lastly, this summer was a time to grow *Ismene* or spider lilies. At the June picnic, club members were presented with more than 100 bulbs from a burgeoning supply cultivated by a former club member. Potted or planted in the ground, the bulbs came to life with healthy green foliage and multiple fragrant, white, lacy blossoms. A grand gardening adventure enjoyed by all! May there be equal success in storing the bulbs for planting again next year.

Summer weather has continued, but the calen-

dar says autumn is here. At the club's September meeting, Larry Woolbright, biology professor at Siena College, gave a presentation on native plants, using examples of perennial plants and shrubs in his own garden. He defined what constitutes a native plant, why native plants are good choices for home gardens, how and where they should be planted, and where they can be purchased. An excellent program!

Fall cleanup day has been scheduled by beautification committee chairman, Sue VanOmmeren. Members will work together in the flower beds at the post office, school, and food pantry. The club's youth committee, led by Amy David and Darby Neahr, will soon move on with the next step of the marigold project at the elementary school circle garden. The first graders must wait for a hard frost before they collect marigold seeds to save for planting next spring.

With home and community gardens put to bed, members will have many opportunities for creative activities indoors. There will be a flower arranging workshop led by Liz Gee in October, construction of holiday wreaths for seniors, the decoration of the Village gazebo with handcrafted evergreen garlands in November, and the Wreaths across America ceremonies in early December.

—*Arlene Rhodes,*
President

Heritage Garden Club

As with most of the garden clubs, quite a few of the activities of the Heritage Garden Club are associated with fund-raising events. In May a group of members planted annuals at one of the mansions on North Broadway to earn money for the club. In June the club had a *very* successful plant sale with plants coming from members' gardens.

The club has the pleasure of using some of its funds for the benefit and pleasure of the residents of Woodlawn Commons, the location of the club's monthly meetings. In the summer, members hosted their popular barbeque for the residents. In October the club will have a Garden Therapy program for them, and, later in the month, the annual Harvest Tea, much anticipated by the residents. In December members will help the residents decorate miniature holiday trees for their rooms.

A group of students from Spa Catholic high school performed their community service last summer at the Visitor Center Memorial Garden, which

is cared for by a group of Heritage Garden Club members. The students spread mulch on the entire garden under the supervision of club member Marianne Gold.



The three gardens cared for by club members are looking very good and show the TLC lavished on them this summer. The club's program chairman has done a fine job lining up interesting programs for this fall: a program on methods of transforming yards so that native bees can thrive there, a program on Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George, and an opportunity for creativity

and fun. In December the club will have its annual holiday party and members will bring items for those less fortunate in the community.

The club's most *important* fund-raiser is their annual Luncheon-Card Party. This will be held on November 5, 2014, at 12:00 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel. There will be a table of attractive and enticing crafts for people to peruse and purchase. Maybe for an early start to holiday shopping?

Over and above all of these activities has been the planning and preparation for the District IV Fall Meeting on October 14, 2014, hosted by the Heritage Garden Club members.

—*Martha Van Patten,*
Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club

This year has been one of really great programs for the Lake George Community Garden Club, and August was no exception. Practically all members joined in preparing for the club's Victorian Tea at the Manor house of Cannon Point, which was sensational!

The year was 1909 and the Stebbin sisters had just built their mansion on Millionaires' Row. The sisters held a tea for their new Lake George friends. Members of club dressed for the occasion, right down to gloved finger tips. Tea sandwiches and sweets were served and tea poured from silver pots into china cups. Beside each place setting were small "tussie mussies": beautiful nosegays in doilies. Tea was followed with a talk by Sue McLane on "The Saratoga Season in the

Victorian Era." See photos on page 8.

On August 6 the Perennial Planters (which all club members are a part of) toured two private gardens in Glens Falls. The first garden, located at 25 Chester Street, presented a wide variety of vibrant colorful perennials beautifully arranged. The second garden, located at 13 Garfield Street, was a very, very small city garden with every inch beautifully landscaped.



—*Nancy Boericke,*
Correspondent

Schuylerville Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club members found time to enjoy socializing this summer, attending area flower shows and garden tours both public and private. After working so diligently on their successful flower show, "Mother Nature's Wardrobe," members needed some R&R. Several members enjoyed an overnight retreat at Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George. This was so relaxing that some have already made reservations for next year!

The club's August trip to St. Ambrose Church Gardens in Latham was rained out so they had only a business and discussion meeting that day and rescheduled the trip for the September meeting. Father Barratt has created a beautiful hidden English-style garden in only two years.

In October members will work with National Park Service employees and volunteers to replace the walkway around the herb garden at the Schuyler House. Schuylerville Garden Club planned and built the herb garden in 1995, and members are hoping to celebrate twenty years of success with this community project next summer.

This year SGC is working on a new project: bringing Revolutionary War soldiers back to the streets of the village. The club has just begun work on this year-long project and will make plans during the fall and start the construction in the winter and early spring, with completion by Memorial Day.

—*Kathy Turcotte,*
President



Schuylerville Garden Club's Standard Flower Show: July 12 & 13, 2014



Mother Nature's Wardrobe



Above: "Preppy"
A design incorporating neckwear
Blue Ribbon: Diane Swartwout

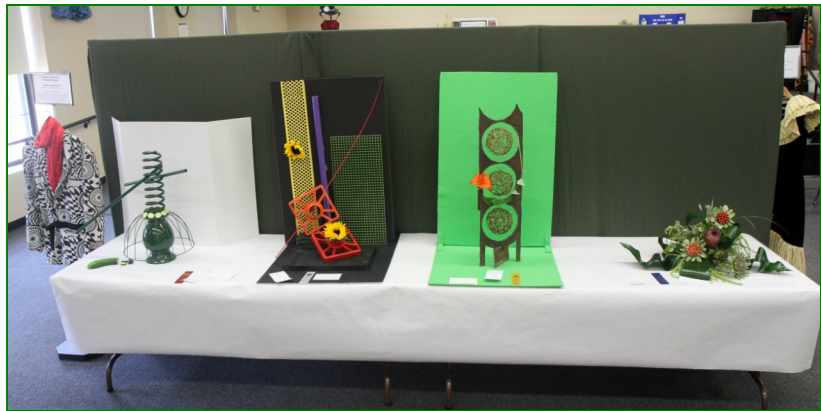


Above: "Lace"
A design incorporating lace
Blue Ribbon: Marilyn Park

This year SGC held a competition to choose the theme. The committee chose the fashion and sewing theme proposed by Sharlene Pendrak. She was also able to borrow the many dresses that were used in staging from the local theater group. The growing challenge (shown above) was coleus. It was very popular with members and the public and it filled most of the foyer.



Left:
"Ballerina"
A small hanging design
Petite Award:
Mary Hert



Right: Class 6
"Illusion"
An abstract creative design



Left:
Grower's Choice &
Award of Horticultural Excellence:
Rosmarinus officinalis
Sharlene Pendrak



Right: "Bias Cut"
Tricolor & Award of Design Excellence:
Liz Gee



Above: Class 3 "Terrariums"
Grower's Choice Award:
Leona Brownell

Lake George Community Garden Club Victorian Tea



District IV Calendar of Events

November 5 Heritage Garden Club Annual Card Party, Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs

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

Lake George Community Garden Club

www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Schuylerville Garden Club

www.schuylervillegardenclub.org