

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Summer 2010

[www.nydistrictIV.org](http://www.nydistrictIV.org)



## Director's Message

**W**hatever happened to the “lazy, hazy days of summer”? Although we have experienced the dry, hot, humid days that are representative of this season, the clubs and this district have *not* been lazy. There have been so many activities and so many enjoyable events, that this director has not had a moment to really become lazy and/or bored. First, let me again congratulate the Ballston Spa House & Garden Club on their 55th Anniversary and the Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club on their 60th Anniversary. How proud I was to be able to attend both luncheons and

bring best wishes from District IV and the State Federation. Clubs within District IV have had many interesting, educational, and fun programs this summer. I encourage you to check this edition of *The Garden Gate* for the articles submitted by the clubs. By sharing these program ideas and supporting each other's club activities, all of the district members form a solid bond and benefit immensely. The District trip to the Mount and the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Massachusetts was a huge success and further solidified this bond. We had a fun and educational day while enjoying each other's company. Find some of the pictures from this event on page 6 of this issue. On the District level, the Board and invited guests met at my home for the Summer District IV Board Meeting. It was approved that this District will pay for the domain names for each club so that, combined with state-financed web hosting, free web sites are now available to each of our clubs. In addition, District IV has purchased an insurance policy. As of this writing, we are in the process of negotiating a special low rate for each of the member clubs to purchase policies under the District's umbrella. Club presidents will meet with our insurance agent to work out the details. We are really excited to be able to offer this. Plans are currently in the works for an incredible Fall District Meeting and Luncheon to be held at the Queensbury Hotel on October 5. Members of the Carillon Garden Club are hosting this event, and they have been working very hard to make it an informative and enjoyable day. Please make every effort to attend. Here you will have direct input into the business of the District and will meet and enjoy the camaraderie of your peers. Enjoy summer's end.

*Pat Wania, FGCNYS District IV 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

### Web Sites Go Live!

What a year it has been for the District IV web site. After getting off to a smooth start in 2009, we were notified by Garden Central over the winter that their support of over 700 garden club web sites throughout the country would be ending as of March 31, 2010. This announcement meant that we had only about sixty days to find an alternate way to create and maintain our web sites or risk losing them completely.

Several of us began searching the Internet to locate a suitable replacement host and luckily discovered the web site services of Intuit.com. After comparing the packages offered by Intuit with several others, it was agreed to proceed with Intuit's Platinum package. FGCNYS generously offered to purchase the package, which provides an unlimited number of individual web sites, enabling each of the more than 300 clubs in the state the opportunity to create and maintain a separate site, all linked together under the umbrella of the FGCNYS site. Barbara Campbell has done an outstanding job of creating the new FGCNYS.com site and will process requests for domain names from individual clubs within the Districts of New York State.

At the July District IV Board of Directors meeting, it was decided that the District will pay the domain name fees for all clubs in the District. This decision means that individual clubs can have a unique web site at no cost. As of this writing, District IV has purchased domain names for eight of the nine clubs in the District and club web masters are well on their way to creating their web sites. Look forward to visiting these web sites at the addresses listed on page 6.

*Deborah Hoffman, Web Master*

### District Meeting Protocol

The following protocol should be adhered to at District Meetings:

- When given orally, all reports should be addressed to "Madam Director" (not "Madam President").
- If you wish to ask a committee chairman a question, it goes through the Director first. For example: "Madam Director, I would like to ask Jane Gardener a question." Likewise, if you would like to ask a question or make a comment during an ongoing discussion, wait until the Director recognizes you.
- If the State President is present at a district meeting, do not address her. Address the District Director only. The Director is the chairman of the meeting while the State President is a guest.

*Pam Foehser, Parliamentarian*

### Youth

Early September is the time to approach teachers to offer various contests to their students. Many of the deadlines for these contests are January 1. This is not necessarily the best time for teachers. I have found if they offer it to the students to do on their own time it tends to be received better. Any organization, club, or individual may enter as long as they are sponsored by a garden club.

Sculpture, a new contest being offered, uses recycled items. Photos are sent for judging. This sounds like a fun, educational project for anyone in grades 4-8. The deadline for State is January 1.

The Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl poster contest is due to State by January 20. The art teachers give out supplies and have the kids do this on their own time. This is for grades 1-5.

"Field of Daffodils" is the theme for this year's poetry contest. This is open to anyone in grades K-9. The Lake George Club had great success with over 80 entries. They offered an ice cream cone, donated by Ben & Jerry's, to anyone that submitted a poem. I will let everyone know the deadline as soon as the information is available. Winning entries are published in a booklet.

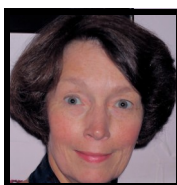
A "Native Plant Patch" is still available to Girl Scout Troops for \$1.75 each. These can be ordered online.

More detailed information on all contests is available on the national web site: [gardenclub.org/youth](http://gardenclub.org/youth). If you have any questions please call me at 587-3085 or email [bmillington2@verizon.net](mailto: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 the next few issues of The Garden Gate, we will feature profiles of those in our ranks who really go above and beyond to make this a fabulous organization for the benefit of all: club presidents. We begin with two: Catherine Caine, president of the Glenville Hills Garden Club, and Barb Millington, president of the Ballston Spa House & Garden Club.*



**Catherine Caine** is currently the president of the Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County. Catherine and her husband moved to the Hamlet of Charlton in 2000 and she became a member of the club the next year. She had an interest in gardening but had had little opportu-

nity to pursue it, having moved many times, and very little knowledge about plants. The club members and the club's programs have been enormously helpful. When she is not gardening she is a runner, a quilter, a wannabe gourmet cook, and an enthusiastic traveler. She and her husband are the parents of two nice adults and the grandparents of three perfect little girls.

Thanks to the efforts of previous officers the club is well organized and active. The club is always looking for new members and striving for increased participation by present members. The members, many of whom have been involved with the club for years, are proud of their community beautification projects and are happy to be able to send local students to Camp Colby each year.



**Barb Millington**, president of the Ballston Spa House & Garden Club, and her husband have lived in the area for 42 years. Since they built their house she has always had perennial gardens. Some plants she still has come from her mother's and grandmother's gardens.

Although Barb doesn't live in Ballston Spa she was eager to join the club when asked by a friend. She has enjoyed helping the club beautify the village and has been able to help get the youth involved. She enjoys painting, murder mysteries (fictional), entertaining, and making Halloween costumes for her four grandchildren.

The BSH&GC is an active group of all ages. Everyone has something to offer. The club is striving to meet the interests of all of its members and is always looking for new ones to join. A new garden has been started this spring to honor those touched by breast cancer. This is one of many that the club has started over the years.

### **Glenville Hills Welcomes Dave Burdick**

The Glenville Hills Garden Club, together with the Charlton Garden Club, is pleased to welcome Dave Burdick to their first meeting of the year. Dave is a daffodil expert who also has a passion for ferns and for integrating them into garden design.

He is a graduate of Horticulture from the University of Connecticut who worked in a nursery for several years before taking a job at the Berkshire Botanical Garden laying sidewalks. There he was introduced to daffodils and was hooked. He is now a lecturer at the gardens in their Horticulture Certificate Program and the proprietor of Holiday Farm in Dalton, Massachusetts.

The meeting is open to everyone and is free of

charge. It will be held on Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Ballston Town Hall on Charlton Road (County Road 51) just west of Goode Street. Light refreshments will be served after the lecture. For more information please call Catherine Caine at 384-3948.

*Catherine Caine, President*

### **Lake George Community Garden Club**

In Lake George the spring gardening season was beautiful. Prolific bushes of forsythia and lilacs were followed by the sassy and brilliant poppies, better than ever!

The club's focus in May was preparations for the June Plant Sale. Both Perennial Planters and club "regulars" concentrated on digging and potting plants from many gardens. With proceeds over \$1,000, the sale was a great success. Also in May Kerry Mendez visited and presented her PowerPoint show "Make Me Beautiful, Please." June and July found members visiting private and commercial gardens as they set out for field trips. At member Pat Carpenter's garden a tea was held to welcome the public and offer memberships. A plant swap was a clever enticement which many people enjoyed. At Sue Heusner's home, on a western ridge near Bolton Landing, members were treated to her terraced garden which was glorious with its abundance of lavender, lilies, and other low maintenance plants. The club's June meeting was on the east shore of Lake George at Wiawaka Holiday House. What a pleasure to tour this lovely old estate once owned by the Trasks. In July members enjoyed a Very Special Salad Luncheon; this year it was held at Jeanne Lamb's home on the banks of the Hudson River. A gorgeous site, a spectacular setting, and a superb place to share friendship.

*Nancy Cathers, Correspondent*

### **Indian Lake Garden Club**

Indian Lake Garden Club members are now enjoying the fruits of their summer labors. Assisted by volunteers, the club planted 39 flower barrels to beautify the Town of Indian Lake. Barrel tenders adopted two barrels each to maintain during the summer, often watering daily during hot, dry weather. The results of their efforts are evidenced in this photo of one of four barrels located at the Scenic Overview on Route 30,



south of town.

In June members enjoyed a field trip to the Root Glen at Hamilton College in Clinton. The gardens and grounds and woodland walkways there are beautiful. A leisurely lunch at a local café completed a most enjoyable day.

The club enjoyed putting together their float for the town's Fourth of July parade, for which they were awarded First Place.

*Pat Leonard, President*

### Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club

The Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club has had a wonderful variety of programs since the start of the "new year" in April. Members attended a very informative meeting about the NCSPCA which is desperately trying to raise capital to expand into new quarters for the cats and dogs under their care. This is a locally funded organization so is of particular interest to the club.

In May, members learned about the importance of balancing energy in our homes (and gardens) through a talk about Feng Shui. In June the program was "Living with Osteoporosis" at which members practiced some exercises designed to help in the home and in the garden. The club had a colorful "Art in Bloom" program in July. It is always such fun to see how creative members are! At their most recent meeting, an authority on celluloid explained that there is indeed a relationship between a billiard ball and "new skin."

A new club activity involves all members and is turning out to be very popular. In turn, a member presents a "Grow and Show" in which she shares with the group something she has done in her garden or with houseplants, a garden book she has read, or any other garden experience she might have enjoyed. The club's latest effort to be more visible in the community was to participate in the Elizabethtown Days town-wide yard sale. It was hot but festive (and brought in a bit of cash). Club members are looking forward to their annual Luncheon-Fashion Show which this year celebrates the club's 60th anniversary!

*Martha Honeywell, President*

### Schuylerville Garden Club

The Schuylerville Garden Club members have been busy this summer. They created floral arrangements for the high school graduation and planted and maintained flowers in the planters throughout the village.

The theme of the club's annual flower show, which was held in July at the Town Hall, was "Schuylerville in Bloom." Once again, members and guest designers outdid themselves with a showcase of horticulture to the petites.

In August members participated in the Turning Point Parade, a summer tour of the gardens of Thelma

Hack in Fort Edward, and four members participated in the annual Cardboard Boat Race on the Hudson River.

*Pam Foehser, President*

### Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

Members of the Ballston Spa House & Garden Club held their 4th annual Patriotic Tree Planting on May 1 at Veteran's Memorial Park in Ballston Spa. The planting honored military, fire-



fighters, police, emergency corps, and civilian heroes. Two lovely evergreen trees, donated by Plant a Tree LLC in Ballston Lake, were dedicated by Ballston Spa mayor John Romano. Refreshments

were served after the ceremony at the Ballston Spa Public Library.

The club's May meeting featured Stacy Simmons of Brookside Nursery who demonstrated how to choose plants for and design different styles of container gardens. On May 22, club members Barb Millington, Maureen Mariani, and Pam Relyea planted flower boxes at Brookside Museum. The boxes were made by a local Girl Scout, and the flowers were donated by local merchants.

In June, the meeting was held as part of the kick-off event for the club's Pink Garden on the grounds of the Ballston Spa Public Library. The garden was designed by Kerry Mendez and honors family and friends whose lives have been affected by breast cancer. Club members cleaned beds and planted flowers along with members of a local Girl Scout troop. A bake sale and three raffles were held, which benefitted Susan G. Komen for the Cure, funded next year's Camp Colby scholarship, and boosted the club's treasury. The club is planning a dedication ceremony of the garden on Saturday, September 25 at 11 a.m. The names of those honored will be engraved on a trellis plaque. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

Club members held a garage sale at the home of member Judy Esposito to raise funds for the club's treasury. The sale was part of Ballston Spa's village-wide garage sale weekend. Judy Esposito also hosted a high tea at her home on a lovely sunny afternoon. Wonderful sandwiches and desserts were made and enjoyed by members. Club members were also very fortunate to be able to take an informal tour of neighbor Kerry Mendez's beautiful gardens.

*Pam Relyea, Correspondent*

### Carillon Garden Club

The Carillon Garden Club had their first plant sale in June and attracted many customers and prospective new members. The plant sale provided an opportunity for club members to reach out to the community on a first-hand basis to show that the club is an active group and has a mission to provide civic improvement. Fellowship, education, and a profit were added benefits. Also in June members traveled to Yaddo Gardens in Saratoga Springs and learned about the beautiful estate and gardens.

July found the club communing with nature on the shores of Paradox Lake at a member's home. The setting was inspiring and relaxing, and the day provided an opportunity to bond.

Committees have been very busy planning for the club's Annual Card & Game Party on September 16 as well as the Fall District IV Meeting and Luncheon, which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. The club hopes both events will attract many garden club members from District IV.

*Betty Rettig, President*

## Late Blight—On Tomatoes and Potatoes

### Can it affect your crop?

In 2009 many home gardeners lost part, or all, of their crop to late blight as their plants turned to black slime before their eyes. *Phytophthora infestans*, a fungus-like pathogen, spread at lightning speed encouraged by an unusually wet summer.



Gardeners are asking: Can it happen again this year? The answer unfortunately is "Yes," but its effects can be greatly minimized if gardeners are aware of the problem and move quickly to eliminate affected plants.

Optimum conditions for late blight include high humidity and leaf wetness, whether from rainfall, dew, fog, or watering. If you are watering your plants, be sure to water the soil not the foliage. Gardeners should inspect their plants every few

days looking for blight on the leaves and stems, especially on the lower part of the plant which stays wet longest. If you find any, remove the entire plant, bag it, and leave it in the sun for a few days to kill plants and pathogen and then dispose of it in the trash.

Tell your neighbors to check their plants and also tell the local cooperative extension office which is keeping records. Late blight on tomatoes has been found in Albany and Schenectady counties this year, but at time of writing, there is no potato blight in New York State.

Other plants in the tomato family can also be affected, including wild flowers like hairy and bittersweet nightshades, petunias, and tomatillos.

If you are prepared to use a fungicide to control late blight, be aware that it is most effective if sprayed as a preventative, once the blight is visible it may be too late.

For more information on late blight check the Cornell web site.  
[http://nysipm.cornell.edu/scouting/late\\_blight\\_resources/default.asp](http://nysipm.cornell.edu/scouting/late_blight_resources/default.asp)

*Photographs by Meg McGrath, used with permission.*



*Liz Gee, Herb and Vegetable Garden Chair*

**District IV Bus Trip to The Mount and Berkshire Botanical Garden in Massachusetts**

On June 21, 2010, 64 garden club members enjoyed tours of the gardens at The Mount and Berkshire Botanical Garden.

**District IV Calendar of Events**

- Sept. 13-15* FGCNYS Fall Conference, Otesaga Inn, Cooperstown, NY.
- September 15* Dave Burdick of the Berkshire Botanical Garden, fern & daffodil specialist, Ballston Town Hall, 323 Charlton Rd. All welcome. Glenville Hills GC.
- September 16* Card & Game Party and Luncheon. Reservations necessary. Hague Community Building, Rt. 8, Hague. Carillon GC.
- September 21* Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association monthly breakfast hosted by Ballston Spa House & GC.
- September 25* Pink Garden dedication ceremony. Pat Wania will be speaking. Everyone is welcome. A lilac was donated by the District IV past & present presidents. 11 am at the Ballston Spa Public Library. Ballston Spa House & GC.
- October 5* District IV Fall Meeting and Luncheon, "Summer's Rewards." The speaker will be Meg Southerland, proprietor of Gardenworks, Salem, NY. Queensbury Hotel, Queensbury, NY. Hosted by Carillon GC.
- October 27* District IV Board Meeting, Senior Center, Lake George.

**District IV Clubs**

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club  
[www.BSHGC.org](http://www.BSHGC.org)

Carillon Garden Club  
[www.TiconderogaGardenClub.org](http://www.TiconderogaGardenClub.org)

Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club  
[www.ETOWNWESTPORTGARDENCLUB.ORG](http://www.ETOWNWESTPORTGARDENCLUB.ORG)

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County  
[www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org](http://www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org)

Heritage Garden Club

[www.heritagegardenclub.org](http://www.heritagegardenclub.org)

Indian Lake Garden Club

[www.indianlakegardenclub.org](http://www.indianlakegardenclub.org)

Katrina Trask Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

[www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org](http://www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org)

Schuylerville Garden Club

[www.schuylervillegardenclub.org](http://www.schuylervillegardenclub.org)