

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Spring 2011

www.nydistrictIV.org



Director's Message

I am very pleased to be writing my first Director's Message as the 2011–2013 District IV Director. District IV members can be proud that two of their own were installed as Federated Garden Clubs of New York State officers for 2011–2013: Pam Foehser, President (Schuylerville) and Pat Wania, 2nd Vice President (Carillon). The district is also well represented on the Board of Directors as committee chairmen: Book of Recognition: Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine (Schuylerville), Calendars: Mary Leonard (Indian Lake), Finance Advisory: Jackie Viestenz (Carillon), and Historian: Pat Wania (Carillon). Pat Wania was chairman of the conference and was ably assisted

by committee chairmen: Heather Cushing (vendors), Barb Millington and Laurene Tompkins (registration gift, invitation, and program cover), Jackie Viestenz and Sue VanOmmeren (tri-fold registration form and program), Rose Marie Viscardi (hospitality), and Diane Swartout (directors' benefit drawing). We are fortunate to have such talented members.

The Heritage Garden Club has been busy planning our Spring Meeting and Luncheon. We thank them for their efforts and look forward to an enjoyable day. District IV, along with Districts V and VI, is sponsoring Course III of Flower Show School in Oriskany, June 7 and 8, with the test on June 9. All are invited to attend, even if not taking the test to obtain judge status. There is much a garden club member can learn from these courses. The highlight for 2011 is the district-sponsored bus trip to visit the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) 10th World Flower Show at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, June 16 and 17—a “once-in-a-lifetime” experience. In March and April I had the pleasure of installing 2011–2013 officers for Schuylerville Garden Club, Lake George Community Garden Club, Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club, and Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County. We wish the very best to their new officers and board members.

After such a difficult winter we can soon look forward to seeing the daffodils our clubs planted in cooperation with Renee Blaschke's (NGC Past President) “Golden Days” project, which promoted planting daffodils throughout the country. Best wishes to all our District IV clubs for an enjoyable and successful 2011. I hope to see you at our spring and fall meetings.

—*Patricia Leonard, Director*

The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Patricia Leonard, Director
Marjorie King-Martin, Second Assistant Director
Mary Leonard, Recording Secretary
Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary
Sue VanOmmeren, Treasurer



Pam Foehser of the Schuylerville Garden Club was installed as the 2011–2013 FGCNYS President by Elaine DiPietro, 2009–2011 President, at the Gideon Putnam, March 30. Congratulations, Pam!

Time to File E-postcards

The deadline for clubs to file Form 990-N (the “e-postcard”) with the IRS is July 15. This is an easy task, though it must be done online. Go to IRS.gov. There is no penalty for failure to file, however if a club does not file for three consecutive years, they will automatically lose their tax-exempt status.

Please call Sue VanOmmeren, District IV Treasurer, if you have any questions or problems.

Lake George Community Garden Club

In February, Charlanne McDonough gave a presentation to members of LGCGC on growing grasses. Can you believe how far we’ve come in appreciating these spiky wonders and their value in the landscape? They’re no longer just for the southern states, but mulching requirements are important, especially this past winter!

Despite the persistent snowfalls, members are preparing for the club’s annual plant sale, which will be in Shepard Park, Lake George, on Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The plants are all grown locally in members’ gardens (zones 4–5). Club members pass along growing tips on each plant. On June 1, 2011, the club will hold its second annual Membership Tea at Eileen Ruel’s home and garden on Ridge Road, Queensbury. It is open to the public of the Lake George area so

come and bring a gardening friend. This is the time of year the club begins accepting applications for a campership to Camp Colby, which they offer every year to a student from Lake George HS, Bolton Central School, or BOCES. The club also offers a scholarship to a local student for college-level studies in Horticulture, Conservation, Ecology, or Botany. The youth project is a spring poetry/prose contest for students in Warren and Washington counties with the theme “Earth Beneath My Feet” in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. The Ben and Jerry’s Scoop Shop in Lake George has agreed to provide gift certificates to students entering the contest.

The Lake George club is excited about their new “buddy” system: Each “buddy” who does not have e-mail, now has a friend who does, and the friend will pass club and District IV information on to her.

—Nancy Boericke, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

The Carillon Garden Club is ready for spring— isn’t everyone? Despite the long winter and the lingering snow, springtime is emerging. Hearty daffodils peeked out just before the “big” storm in March and the annual spring pruning will be done soon in the gardens the club maintains around Ticonderoga and Hague.

This club is very proud to have Pat Wania as one of its members. Her dedication, knowledge, and leadership abilities as immediate past District IV Director, the recent FGCNYS spring conference chairman, and newly elected 2nd Vice President of FGCNYS are to be admired. As a club member she is not going to be allowed to be idle as she has agreed to be the club’s flower show chairman. Carillon GC thanks you, Pat, for all you’ve done and will continue to do for the club, district, and state organization.

The club’s regular meeting in March was a happy reunion for members after a two-month hiatus. Members enjoyed a talk on the monitoring of Eastern Bluebirds in our area by Kathy Linker, a member of the NYS Bluebird Society and the Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club. Bluebirds are a welcome sign of spring and are making a comeback, thanks to those who help provide nesting boxes and monitor their use. To learn more go to www.NYSBS.org. Also in March, club members enjoyed a St. Patrick’s Tea at a local nursing home. Member Cathie Burdick played lively Irish tunes on the piano while other green-clad club members served special goodies to the residents. Everyone enjoyed a happy afternoon.

On Thursday, May 19, the club will host a luncheon and special floral design program to which all are invited. Joan Reilly, a floral designer from Albany, will be sharing her talents at the Hague Community

Center, Route 8, in Hague. Lunch will be at noon and the program will start at 1 p.m. Please call Mary Carman at (518) 585-4494 to make a reservation by May 15. The cost for lunch and program is \$10.00.

The club will also be getting ready soon for their plant sale on Saturday, May 21, at the Ticonderoga Methodist Church on Rt. 9N. Perennials and annuals will be available. On the same day, The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga will also be having their annual plant sale, so, coming to Ti will be well worth the trip. Both plant sales will be from 10 to 2 p.m.

Committees will continue to meet to plan a flower show (scheduled for early October), community-wide annual plantings and perennial maintenance, and other events that keep members active, learning from one another and giving back to the communities. An exciting and full year has just begun.

—Betty Rettig, President

Indian Lake Garden Club

ILGC's 2011 season opened in March with their traditional end-of-winter(!?) potluck. The group was small because "snow birds" had not yet returned to the Adirondacks. In April members will view a video program, "Foolproof Flower Gardens," produced by Better Homes & Gardens and rented from NGC's Member Services. The club's civic beautification projects will continue when the snow melts and garden work can begin. Last fall members expanded the Post Office garden to



Indian Lake Post Office garden

include the front of the building. The club is eager to see the completed results.

—Pat Leonard, President

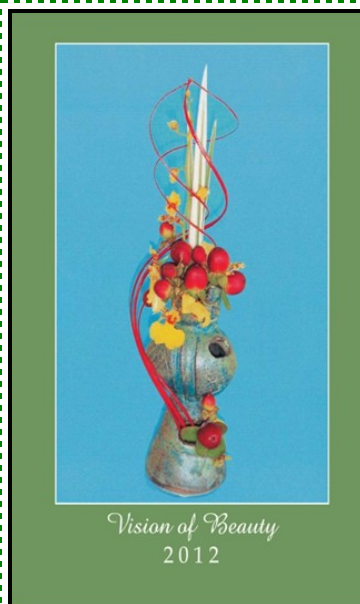
Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

BSH&GC members are pleased to announce the club's first annual spring geranium sale. Available for sale are pink, white, purple, or red geraniums with buds and blooms in 4 1/2 inch pots at \$4.00 each. Proceeds from the sale will provide funding for: a scholarship to send a student to Camp Colby for one week, a cash award for a BOCES senior who will be entering a career or continuing his/her education in horticulture or environmental science, and the planting of geraniums at the Ballston Spa Public Library "Pink Garden" and in the flower boxes at Brookside Museum. Place orders by calling club secretary Judy Esposito at (518) 885-6416 no later than May 6. Orders will be available in mid May.

The featured speaker at the April meeting was Liz Gee, vice president of the Schuylerville Garden Club, who is a National Garden Club Accredited Judge as well as a Master Gardener. Ms. Gee discussed a variety of herbs and how to grow them successfully.

The club's fifth annual Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony will be held on May 7 at noon at Kelley Park in Ballston Spa. This year's event will be held in conjunction with Friends of the Kayaderosseras. Ten white paper birch trees, donated by Saratoga Tree Nursery, will be planted. The trees will border a future native-plant nature area planned by the Friends.

The May meeting will be held on May 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Henry Cornell Post 234 on 23 Pleasant Street in Ballston Spa. The featured speaker will be Maureen Gannon, a member of the club. Ms. Gannon is a science teacher at Argyle Central School District and the owner of "Spa Garden Seeds."



Vision of Beauty 2012

A Flower Arrangement and Engagement Calendar Created by National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Full Page Color Designs (5 1/2 x 8 1/2).

It's time to order the 2012 Vision of Beauty calendar! The sale of this lovely annual calendar is a major fundraiser for National Garden Clubs, Inc., FGCNYS, Inc., and your own District IV. Please consider ordering one or more calendars for

yourself or as Christmas/birthday/anniversary gifts.

Calendars are \$6.50 each; clubs' orders are due to Pam Relyea by June 17. Calendars will be delivered at the Fall District Luncheon, October 6.

She will introduce club members to new perennials and rare plants that are on the market.

On May 17, club members will hold the third annual reception at Ballston Spa High School for the participants of the Woodsy Owl/Smokey the Bear poster contest. The contest, sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc., invites 1st through 5th grade students to demonstrate their understanding of fire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings.

—*Pam Relyea, Correspondent*

Glenville Hills Garden Club

Greetings Fellow Gardeners: I am writing this news as fast as I can. The sun just came out, and I want to run outside and plant something before it snows again!

Like everywhere, southern Saratoga County has had a bit of snow. Members of the Glenville Hills Garden Club are all ready to enjoy spring. Plans are well under way for the club's annual Spring Clean Up with the middle school students to get the park and municipal buildings in Galway Village ready for Memorial Day. The town hosts a real fair and the garden club sells pies and plants to raise funds for camperships to Camp Colby. With the help of a grant from a local trust, the club sent four students last year. The students were very enthusiastic about the camp and all they learned about conservation and protecting the environment.

The Beautification Committee is starting to plan to landscape the Galway Food Pantry as their project for 2011. Members have received many compliments on the plantings around the Post Office, which was their project in 2010.

Newly elected officers were installed at the spring luncheon, and they have some wonderful plans for the upcoming year.

—*Catherine Caine, President*

Katrina Trask Garden Club

With crocus, squill, snow drops, and hyacinths poking their heads up through the remains of winter (piles of snow persist in shady spots), Katrina Trask Garden Club members are looking forward to warmer spring days. The club enjoyed a colorful slide presentation given by Bill McTygue (just-retired Director of Public Works), which focused on Saratoga Springs' flower and beautification program. The March meeting provided members with an opportunity to create place settings accompanied by a small floral design appropriate for a luncheon event. Hands-on opportunities are always a challenge and a learning experience—fun to do, too.

Officers for the 2011–2012 year were elected in March. They are Remigia Foy (president), Irma Mahar (vice president), Sandi McTygue (treasurer), and Jean Ernst (secretary).

Flower Show School

Course III

Oriskany, NY

June 7–9, 2011

Sponsored by Districts IV, V, VI

Tues., June 7 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Container-grown annuals / Combination plantings

Wed., June 8 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Creative abstract / Free-standing niche
Niche - Pedestals

Thur., June 9 8:45 a.m. – 12 Noon
Written Exams

Full course	\$90.00
Written exam	\$10.00
One day Hort	\$45.00
One day Design	\$45.00
Lunch per day	\$8.50
Total enclosed	_____

Check payable to FSS

Send to: Registrar, Anne Doherty

3925 Burlingame Rd.

Cazenovia, NY 13035

annescape@windstream.net

315 655-4824

The club's spring luncheon will be held at Longfellow on May 17, and their final activity before breaking for the summer will be a June tour of the Yaddo rose garden with a brown bag lunch.

—*Remigia Foy, President*

The Garden Gate Wins State Award

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc., has awarded the following citation to District IV:

First Award for District Newsletter

(Award #76 A2Bb)

Heartfelt thanks to all contributors whose efforts have made this an award-winning publication!

Native Plant Nurseries

As I write now, it is spring. The light has changed and there is excitement in the air. Little green shoots peek out of the soil where the snow has disappeared. It is the season for flower and garden shows, fueling the desire to get outside and do something! I notice talks that emphasize our NGC theme of a couple of years ago: “Plant Native, Grow Organic.” Speakers point out how important our little patch of garden is because when considered with everyone else’s little patch of garden, an enormous area is covered. Native plants provide food and habitat for all manner of insects, birds and mammals.



Not sure what to buy? Here are some good books to read:

Bringing Nature Home, by Douglas W. Tallamy. (Tallamy will be speaking at the Wafa Flower show in Boston, in June. Make a reservation: http://www.wafausa.org/product_ticket_listing.php)

Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East, by Carolyn Summers.

Wondering where to buy native plants? Here are some nurseries that I have visited and can recommend:

Fiddlehead Creek Nursery, Hartford, NY (<http://www.fiddleheadcreek.com/>)

Has 100 percent New York native plants. They carry herbaceous perennials, grasses, ferns, groundcovers, and shrubs. They specialize in plants native to New York State and the Adirondack Park that can be used for stream and lakeshore buffers, rain garden, and regular landscaping purposes as well!

Wild Things Rescue Nursery, Valley Falls, NY (<http://thosedarnsquirls.mswin.net/>)

Carries some native plants and some others. Plants in a beautiful garden setting make this a nice place for your garden club to visit.

The following nurseries are farther away but mostly not more than 20 miles from a major highway:

Catskill Native Nursery, Kerhonkson, NY (<http://www.catskillnativenursery.com/index.html>)

Specializes in nursery-propagated North American perennials, fruits, shrubs, and trees. Visit the display gardens around the 150-year-old farmhouse. There is a native-only dry shade garden, a native-only butterfly garden, and a native fruit orchard featuring Pawpaws, a Meader Persimmon, Blueberries, Dwarf Lingonberry, Serviceberries, and much more.

White Oak Nursery, Canandaigua, NY (near Geneva) (<http://www.whiteoaknursery.biz/>)

Grows the majority of woody species that are native to the northeastern United States. It is possible to establish complete plant communities that benefit native wildlife. Visits to the nursery are by appointment, generally on weekends or evenings. They also do mail orders.

New England Wildflower Society, Framingham, MA (<http://www.newfs.org/>)

Home of the “Garden in the Woods” extensive wildflower gardens. Headquarters of the society with many workshops and other activities besides selling plants.

Happy Native Gardening!

—Liz Gee, *Herb and Vegetable Garden*

Awards

*Congratulations to all the clubs for all of their hard work.
The following awards will be given at the May District meeting:*

Civic Concern

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club
Carillon Garden Club
Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club
Glenville Hills Garden Club
Indian Lake Garden Club
Katrina Trask Garden Club
Schuylerville Garden Club

Garden Therapy

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club
Carillon Garden Club
Heritage Garden Club
Lake George Community Garden Club

Heartline

Carillon Garden Club
Katrina Trask Garden Club
Schuylerville Garden Club

Historic Preservation

Carillon Garden Club
Heritage Garden Club
Schuylerville Garden Club

Standard Flower Show

Schuylerville Garden Club

Flower Show Schedule

Schuylerville Garden Club

Landscape Design

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Publicity Pressbook

Carillon Garden Club

Youth Projects

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

In addition, District IV received awards from FGCNYS at the March state meeting for the publications of newsletter and bylaws manual.

—*Jackie Viestenz, Awards Chairman*

District IV Calendar of Events

May 7	Schuylerville GC Plant Sale, Youth Center, Fort Hardy Park, Ferry Street, 9 a.m.
May 19	Carillon GC Luncheon & Program. Joan Reilly, "Hand-tied Bouquets and Armature Floral Arrangements," 12 Noon (\$10).
May 21	Carillon GC Plant Sale at Ticonderoga First United Methodist Church, Rt. 9N, 10 –2.
May 21	Lake George Community Garden Club Plant Sale, Shepard Park, Lake George, 9 –4.
May 27-30	National Garden Clubs 82nd Annual Convention, Washington, DC.
May 30	Glenville Hills GC Plant and Pie Sale, Village Park, Galway, 9 a.m.
June 4	Heritage GC Plant and Cookie Sale, Saratoga YMCA, West Ave., 8 a.m.
June 4	Lake George GC will have a table at Evergreen Estates garage sale, Northway exit 19.
June 7-9	Flower Show School, Course III, Oriskany.
June 11	Ballston Spa House & GC participates in the Village-wide garage sale and has a Plant Sale.
June 15	FGCNYS Executive Committee and Board Meeting, Headquarters, Guilderland at Community Club House, 10 a.m.
June 16-17	WAFSA 10th World Flower Show, "This Glorious Earth," Boston, MA, bus tour sponsored by District IV.
July 23-24	Schuylerville GC Standard Flower Show, Town Hall, Schuylerville.

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