

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Spring 2012

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



## Director's Message

**W**e are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of spring so we can start our gardening activities. The unseasonably warm weather in March fooled us and we are now back to cold overnight temperatures.

The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State held its 88th Annual Meeting in Pearl River on March 28 and 29 with the theme "Roses Make Our Souls Bloom." Beautiful roses decorated the dining rooms and roses were used for the Judges Council demonstration of Stretch and Synergistic designs. District IV received many awards, which I look forward to presenting to our clubs at the Spring Meeting and Luncheon on May 1 at the Hiland Golf Club in Queensbury.

Excitement is increasing for the National Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in Buffalo, sponsored by the FGCNYS, May 18 and 19, with pre-convention tours May 16 and 17, as well as the National Flower Show. Districts and clubs have been requested to provide items for the hospitality bags. Schuylerville Garden Club assembled packets of recipe cards and several other clubs are preparing their contributions.

### Be sure to add to your calendars:

- Wildflower and Nature Walk at the Skidmore North Woods on May 11
- District Bus Trip to the New York Botanical Gardens on June 12
- Plant sales: Schuylerville Garden Club (May 12), Lake George Community Garden Club (May 19), Carillon Garden Club (May 12), and Glenville Hills Garden Club (May 28)
- Schuylerville Garden Club's Standard Flower Show, "A Work of Art," at the town hall on July 28-29

Congratulations to the Heritage Garden Club on their 25th Anniversary, which they will be celebrating May 21 at the Turf Club in Saratoga Springs.

I look forward to seeing you at the May Meeting and Luncheon.

*—Patricia Leonard, Director*

### **The Garden Gate**

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*Published Quarterly*  
**Next Deadline: July 1, 2012**

### **District IV Officers**

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

## DISTRICT NEWS

### ***District Wildflower Walk: May 11***

Everyone is invited to attend the District's Wildflower and Nature Walk in the Skidmore North Woods in Saratoga Springs, which is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Jackie Donnelly, who will lead the walk, will meet participants at the parking area where North Broadway turns into a dirt road. For more information, contact Martha Van Patten at gmvan5@aol.com or phone 583-0688.

### ***New York Botanical Gardens Trip: June 12***

This year, District IV is going to the New York Botanical Gardens in New York City. The trip is scheduled for June 12, with pickups at the Aviation Mall and the Wilton Mall. The \$85 fee includes deluxe coach transportation, admission to the gardens, and dinner at a restaurant in Newburgh on the way home. Space is limited. Contact Barb Millington at bmillington@nycap.rr.com or phone 587-3085.

### ***Time to File E-Postcards***

All clubs must file Form 990-N (aka the e-postcard) with the IRS by July 15. This is easy to do but it must be done online. Filing e-postcards each year maintains clubs' tax exempt status.

### **Schuylerville Garden Club**

Schuylerville Garden Club has completed their 2012–2013 yearbook and it's filled with programs of interest to one and all. As spring approaches members are busy planning village beautification, their plant sale on May 12, and the flower show ("A Work of Art") on July 28 and 29. Mark that weekend on your calendar!

—Kathy Turcotte, President

### **Ballston Spa House and Garden Club**

The Ballston Spa House & Garden Club started off the year painting colorful birdhouses. They can be put out for spring or used as a decoration to brighten this dull winter. In February Phoebe Hunt

-Fontaine demonstrated her wonderful flower arranging techniques.

Pat Burnham hosted the club's annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for a nice social time for members. Everyone brought a dish to share and the ham was provided by Pat. Betty McCanty, a former teacher and a story teller, shared amusing stories of old Ballston Spa.

In March a few club members met with the residents of the Guardian House. They had requested the club's help planning vegetable and flower gardens.

Pat Burnham and Maureen Mariani have been busy planning the sixth annual Patriotic Tree Planting for Arbor Day. A pear tree, donated by Brookside Nursery, will be planted at the Guardian House followed by a ceremony and refreshments. The event will take place April 28 at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

—Barb Millington, President

### **Indian Lake Garden Club**

ILGC members met in March for their traditional "end of winter" potluck. Considering the unseasonably warm weather it was more like "beginning of summer." The warm weather didn't last long and the North Country is experiencing overnight freezing and occasional snow showers. Members will have to wait for warmer weather to work in their gardens and on many of the club's community beautification projects. Officially, the April meeting starts the ILGC year. The flower barrel committee members are getting their thoughts together for a design for the 37 barrels the club plants throughout the Indian Lake community. A progressive lunch is planned for July, and a field trip to The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga in August is on the club's schedule.

—Pat Leonard, President

### **Carillon Garden Club**

Spring arrived early this year and with 80-degree weather to enjoy many of us have surely felt the urge to get outside and begin our gardening efforts. Carillon Garden Club members have started the process to spruce-up the flowerbeds they maintain in the towns of Ticonderoga and Hague. It is always rewarding to see the perennials poking up after their winter's rest. Adding annuals a bit later will also be enjoyable.

The club's regular meeting in March was a happy reunion for members after a two-month hiatus. Nancy Wotton Scarzello, a noted area herbalist, was the guest speaker. Nancy showed through her PowerPoint presentation and hands-on demonstrations some of the native plants and trees that are useful for home remedies. She is quite knowledgeable and resourceful.

Also in March, club members enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day Party at the 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.

The club will be getting ready soon for their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 12, at the Ticonderoga Methodist Church on Rt. 9N. Perennials and annuals will be available. This is a change in date as previously announced. The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga will be having their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 19. Both plant sales will be from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Committees have started to meet for activities scheduled for this upcoming year including community-wide annual plantings and perennial maintenance and other events that keep the club's members active, learning from one another and giving back to the communities. In the months ahead members will be learning about Square Foot Gardening, CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), and the health of Lake George by way of the LGA's Floating Classroom. An exciting and full year has just begun.

—Betty Rettig, President

### Lake George Community Garden Club



The Lake George club's annual plant sale will again be held at Shepard's Park, in Lake George Village right beside the lake, on May 19, offering both annuals and perennials for sale. Members are also donating "Golden Goodies" (for Ways and Means) to be sold at the sale. The prize addition to the sale will be painted clay pots filled with plants.

The painted pots are a true collaboration: club members working together. One member thought of selling the pots, another thought of painting them, another painted them, another donated the plants, another transplanted them, and another will be the seller on May 19. There is a limited supply of these pots and they will be a hot item.

The club is having an exciting program at its Wednesday, April 18, meeting: a Living History re-enactor, Stuart Lehman, will discuss medicine as it was practiced in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He will bring herbs, medicines, and implements used in those times—from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War.

Also this spring, one enthusiastic member, Carol McCarthy, will teach members about the typical ferns that thrive in this area. Members will visit the beautiful Yaddo Gardens in Saratoga Springs, and, in June, the Perennial Planters have arranged for a garden tour of Kevin Jacobs's "A Garden for the House" in Valatie, New York.

—Nancy Boericke, Correspondent

### Glenville Hills Garden Club

Crocuses are up, and daffodils are beginning to bloom. The pussy willows have been out for weeks, and the spring bird songs are a delight to hear. As every gardener knows, of course, we may still get a snow storm. That's what makes gardening so interesting. When it happens, we just shrug our shoulders and brush the snow away from the flower petals. And try to plan our gardens accordingly.

Glenville Hills Garden Club's spring meetings have reflected the club's eagerness for the season. Members made pretty spring wreathes of forsythia-decorated grapevines or green garden hose. The club has been working on plans for next fall's District Meeting and all the volunteers needed for that as well as the chairmen for the club's regular programs throughout the year.

The Galway Post Office daffodils are doing well, and the long garden on the side of the building is bursting with new growth. The club's Beautification Committee is beginning to plan the new garden bed at the front of the food pantry. The wooden planter boxes there, built as an Eagle Scout project last fall, have weathered well this winter. The annual Galway Village spring clean-up day with the sixth-grade students from Galway School takes place in May, as well as the club's Memorial Day

Plant and Pie sale; so spring, if it's really here, will find members' hands and hearts in the garden!

—Mary Lynn Kopper, President

### Heritage Garden Club

Spring cleaning for Heritage Garden Club members begins in the gardens that three committees maintain: the Garden of Hope at Saratoga Hospital's Oncology Center, the Visitor Center Memorial Garden, and the historic Gideon Putnam Burying Ground. It is a relief to say goodbye to the winter, though the club's members have been quite busy over the last several months.

Some members maintain that the February potluck and social meeting is the highlight of the year. Once again members outdid themselves with scrumptious soups, salads, entrees, and plentiful desserts. At the March meeting member Judy Eastwood, her husband Tony, and son Scott fielded questions on pruning, fertilization, and houseplants at a horticulture Q & A program. Judy's daughter-in-law Teri (who is an associate member of the club) runs The Plantkeeper, a garden maintenance, installation, and restoration company, with Scott. They recommend Espoma organic products and organic weed controls such as vinegar.

A garden therapy project in December was led by Heather Cushing, with a team of eight other members. Residents of Woodlawn Commons were assisted in decorating wreaths and tabletop trees to place on shelves outside their apartment doors. The trees and decorations have been recycled for use again next year. This was the tenth year for this always popular activity!

May and June will be packed full of activities for Heritage Garden Club. The District's Wildflower and Nature Walk at the Skidmore North Woods will be on May 11 and is organized by Heritage member Martha Van Patten. Members will conduct a spring garden therapy project for the Woodlawn Commons residents on May 14. Then on May 21 the club will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a luncheon at the Turf Club on Union Avenue. For the June meeting on the 11th, the club will meet at Yaddo Gardens for a tour, followed by a memorial service for past members at the Visitor Center of Saratoga Springs on June 19 at 2 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Meeting and Luncheon in Queensbury!

—Elizabeth Rossi, Co-President

### Katrina Trask Garden Club

Katrina Trask Garden Club held its first meeting of the new year in March. Tim Healy, designer at Posie Peddler floral shop, created arrangements featuring beautiful double white oriental lilies, Bells of Ireland, delphinium, freesia, and pussy willows. His free-flowing narrative and his combination of both color and texture were inspiring and uplifting. The April meeting will be a hands-on experience for members to let their creative ability blossom as they "swing into spring" and make colorful arrangements to refresh their table settings. The club's spring luncheon will be held on May 15. Shirley Rice will present a program on native wildflowers.

The club continues to maintain the plantings at the Kirby Road senior apartments, and they have provided pots of colorful tulips for the long-term-care patients at Saratoga Hospital for Easter.

—Remigia Foy, President

### Heritage Garden Club 25th Anniversary Luncheon

May 21

Turf Club / Saratoga Springs

For more information call Sharon at 258-1511

### Ballston Spa House & Garden Club 2nd Annual Geranium Sale

Potted geraniums available in red, white, pink & purple  
Taking orders starting April 1  
to be delivered the week before  
Memorial Day Weekend

Orders may be placed by phone to  
Judy Esposito 885-6416

## Planting Native Shrubs to Attract Birds

By Liz Gee

Winter is a great time to watch birds at the feeder and to plan your year's plantings. You probably have noticed that birds like to have some cover close to the feeder in case of danger. Berry-bearing native shrubs provide shelter, food, and nesting sites as well. The flowers attract all kinds of pollinators, which in turn attract the insect-eating birds and increases the number of bird species benefiting from each bush.

Here are some native shrubs to try for starters. Each shrub mentioned would be a wonderful addition to your landscape. They do have varying light and soil requirements. These are described in precise detail in *Native Plants for Native Birds* by Joel Baines. In general if a shrub gets more sunlight, it will produce more fruit.



Eastern Bluebird in Sumac

Not all berries are created equal.

Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*),

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), and Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) all have a high fat content, important for the birds that stop at your house to fill up before migrating. Gray Dogwood tends to spread, so fits better in a wild garden atmosphere. Spicebush berries are eaten almost instantaneously, they are so delicious. Bayberry requires full sun, its aromatic leaves make it deer resistant. It's the bush used to make candles. Arrowwood is

susceptible to the *Viburnum* leaf beetle, so you might want to choose a different, more resistant variety of *Viburnum*—all *Viburnum*s are attractive to birds.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) fruits early in the year, making it an important food source. Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), and Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) fruit later on and their berries persist into the winter months. Be aware that Winterberry (in the Holly family) is dioecious so you need a male and a female plant to produce fruit. One male will pollinate several females; only the females produce berries. Elderberries are enjoyed by 120 species of bird and people too. The red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) fruits earlier than the black (*Sambucus canadensis*). Elderberries have similar growth requirements to Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and provide a good combination of an upper story of winter food/cover and a lower layer of summer food/cover.



Cedar Waxwing in Sumac

There is a lot to choose from. Buy large-sized plants so that both you and the birds will get to enjoy the fruits of your labors sooner. Massed plantings have more impact—remember the rule of three. Some schools of thought recommend planting in the fall so that the shrub can get acclimatized over the winter and avoid the transplant shock that sometimes occurs. Nurseries can give specific recommendations.

All the shrubs mentioned here can be purchased at FiddleHead Creek Nursery in Hartford, New York. The nursery opens Mother's Day weekend, May 12, 2012 ([www.fiddleheadcreek.com](http://www.fiddleheadcreek.com)).



Mockingbird in invasive multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Studies have shown that more baby birds were lost to predators in nests located in nonindigenous shrubs. Berries also provide inferior nutrition.



American Robin in Sumac

## Awards

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

### Civic Concern

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club  
Carillon Garden Club  
Glenville Hills Garden Club  
Heritage Garden Club  
Indian Lake Garden Club  
Katrina Trask Garden Club  
Lake George Community GC  
Schuylerville Garden Club

### Flower Show Schedule

Carillon Garden Club  
Schuylerville Garden Club

### Historic Preservation

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club  
Heritage Garden Club  
Schuylerville Garden Club

### Garden Therapy

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club  
Carillon Garden Club  
Heritage Garden Club  
Schuylerville Garden Club

### Heartline

Carillon Garden Club  
Glenville Hills Garden Club  
Heritage Garden Club  
Katrina Trask Garden Club  
Schuylerville Garden Club

### Publicity Press Book

Carillon Garden Club

### Recycling

Carillon Garden Club

### Standard Flower Show

Carillon Garden Club  
Schuylerville Garden Club

—Jackie Viestenz,  
Awards Chairman



## District IV Calendar of Events

May 1	District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon, Hiland Golf Club, Queensbury, NY
May 11	District IV Wildflower and Nature Walk, Skidmore North Woods, Saratoga Springs, NY, 10 a.m.
May 12	Schuylerville GC Annual Plant Sale, Youth Center in Ft. Hardy Park, Ferry St., Schuylerville, 9–12
May 12	Carillon GC Plant & Bake Sale, 1st United Methodist Church, Rt. 9N, Ticonderoga, 10–1
May 18–19	National Garden Clubs 83rd Annual Convention, Buffalo, NY
May 19	Lake George Community GC Perennial Plant Sale, Shepard Park, Lake George, 9–4
May 21	Heritage GC 25th Anniversary Luncheon, Turf Club, Saratoga Springs
May 28	Glenville Hills GC Plant & Pie Sale, Village Park, Galway, 9–1
June 12	District IV Bus Trip to New York Botanical Gardens
July 28–29	Schuylerville GC Standard Flower Show, “A Work of Art,” Town Hall, Schuylerville

## District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

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

Carillon Garden Club

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)