

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Spring 2013

www.nydistrictIV.org



Director's Message

Spring is finally here . . . at least that is what the calendar says! The days are getting brighter and the air is warm against our skin. Beneath us, the plants and trees are preparing for rebirth.

Spring is also a time of rejuvenation in our lives and becoming the Director of District IV has proven to be quite a growth experience! Recently I traveled to Buffalo and the State installed me as Director of District IV. I met many wonderful people and was surprised to learn that we belong to the largest volunteer organization in the United States!

As Director, I am very anxious to meet with you, visit your clubs, and attend your special programs. I will then take with me all that I have learned and share it with others at the State level. In return, I will disseminate information and opportunities that will help our members and clubs to grow, learn, and teach others.

It is with deep regret that I report the resignation of the Katrina Trask Garden Club from the Federation. The club's history goes back to 1923 (this being its 90th year), and it was a founding member of FGCNYS in 1924, District IV in 1926, and National Garden Clubs in 1929. Remigia Foy, club president, indicated a declining and aging membership as the reason for the club's withdrawal. This District and I, as new Director, will surely miss their experience, cooperation, and camaraderie. We wish them well.

I look forward to meeting with you at the District Spring Meeting and Luncheon on May 7, 2013, at the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center. The members of the Lake George Garden Club have been working diligently to plan this day and give us the opportunity to come together.

My theme for the next two years will be "Nurture nature . . . and each other." Together we will grow and strive to make positive changes in our lives and in the world in which we live.

—Laurene Tompkins, Director

The Garden Gate

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

Published Quarterly
Next Deadline: July 1, 2013

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

WILDFLOWER WALK: Moreau State Park May 17, 10:00 a.m.

Jackie Donnelly will lead us on the Nature and Wetlands Trail around the lake. Save the date!

TREASURER'S REPORT

All clubs are reminded to file the e-postcard (990-N) with the IRS by July 15. This simple task should be completed by presidents or treasurers, but must be done online. Failure to file for three consecutive years will result in the loss of your club's tax exempt status.

District dues are due now. If your club has not sent a check in by May 7, please send it to Barbara Millington, who will be installed as the District's new treasurer at the Spring Meeting and Luncheon. Dues are \$2 per active member and checks should be payable to FGCNYS District IV.

(Note: State dues have increased from \$5 to \$8 per member.)

—Sue VanOmmeren

Awards

District IV Spring Meeting

May 7, 2013

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Civic Concern

Carillon Garden Club

Civic Concern

Garden Therapy

Heartline

Historic Preservation

Publicity Pressbook

Glenville Hills Garden Club

Civic Concern

Heartline

Heritage Garden Club

Civic Concern

Garden Therapy

Heartline

Historic Preservation

Indian Lake Garden Club

Civic Concern

Lake George Community Garden Club

Civic Concern

Garden Therapy

Schuylerville Garden Club

Civic Concern

Flower Show Schedule

Garden Therapy

Heartline

Historic Preservation

Standard Flower Show



Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

The club is pleased to announce its third annual spring Geranium Sale. Available for sale are pink, white, purple, red, dark red, and salmon geraniums with buds and blooms in 4 1/2 inch pots at \$4.00 each. Proceeds from the sale will supplement club efforts to provide funding for club projects and student scholarships. Fellow District IV club members, the public, and businesses are encouraged to place orders by calling Judy at 885-6416. Orders will be available for pick-up on May 13.

The March meeting of the club featured an interesting presentation entitled "Succulents for Indoors and Out" given by Susan Beebe of the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Members learned that many succulents can grow and thrive in our climate outside, and that all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti.

The May meeting is entitled "Vertical Gardening." Club member and District IV Director Laurene Tompkins will discuss how to save space in your home and yard by using vertical gardens to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Vertical gardens create entire walls of green in limited space and can be done in containers or on trellises or other upright structures.

The June meeting is entitled "Ornamental Grasses" and will be conducted at Brookside Nursery in Ballston Spa and presented by store manager Stacey Simmons. Stacey will discuss the use, maintenance, and planting of ornamental grasses, which are so popular in today's landscaping.

Club members are looking forward to warmer weather and are motivated to get out to the gardens maintained by the club: the Pink Garden at the Ballston Spa Public Library and the Upper Garden at the Jim Tedisco Fitness Trail at the Old Iron Spring in Ballston Spa. This year, club members will also be working toward making the Upper Garden into a totally native New York garden.

—Pam Relyea, Correspondent

Indian Lake Garden Club

Members met in March for the club's traditional end-of-winter potluck. It was good getting together with members who had not seen each other these past cold, dreary months. By April the club will welcome its "snow birds" back to the North Coun-

try. The April meeting will feature a presentation by Nancy Welch, Director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Hamilton County, "Getting Ready for Planting: Soil Health." The soil in Hamilton County is replete with sand, so members will be looking at soil amendments to improve nutrient retention and soil tilth. In May the club looks forward to the District Meeting and Luncheon with presentation by Steve Silk on container gardens.

—Pat Leonard, President

Lake George Community Garden Club



This year, the National Garden Club's School Garden Project was "Protect Our Friends the Pollinators." LGCGC's Youth Committee Chairman, Gayle

Nelson, works with the Lake George Elementary School and this past year they created just such a project at the school. The center portion of the school, known as the Courtyard, had been sitting vacant for many years. Beginning in May 2012, the Parent Teacher Student Organization decided to create an environment within this space that would help native plants and animals thrive as well as allow teachers to incorporate the project in their daily lessons. The project was completed within the fall months of 2012. Three gardens were created: a butterfly garden, a vegetable garden, and an herb garden. The project even includes a miniature cement version of Lake George, "Queen of American Lakes."

The District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon is on May 7 and the Lake George club is hosting the event. Members have been growing herbs to be put in small pots as table favors and developing ideas for our bicentennial-themed (it is Warren County's bicentennial) centerpieces which will be whipped together for the luncheon. The speaker will be Steve Silk from Farmington, CT, and his topic is "Thrillers, Fillers and Spillers – Planting in Pots."

On the subject of pots, the club's Plant Sale is May 18 in Shepherd Park, Lake George Village.



Members have had a workshop to paint clay pots that will be for sale, as they proved to be so popular last year. A creative set-up for making candlestick floral arrangements will also be for sale. Both of these items are in quite limited supply so plan to arrive early.

—Nancy Boericke, Correspondent

Glenville Hills Garden Club

The Glenville Hills Garden Club's January meeting was spent planning the year ahead and reflecting on the year that is coming to a close. Among this past year's accomplishments is a new monetary award for a BOCES horticulture student, which will begin this spring. The club also planted annuals in the new flower boxes at the Galway Food Pantry and will continue to do so each spring for many years to come. The food pantry garden is funded by memorial donations received in honor of deceased member Kathie Bryant, who served on the club's beautification committee and was also a volunteer at the food pantry.

In February, the Director of the Galway Public Library gave a presentation of the history of the library and introduced plans for the library's future.

During March, club members learned what the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District does to help the towns and villages of the county prepare for development today and tomorrow, through monitoring agriculture, soil and water conservation, and land use.

The club's new officers will begin their term and the new program will start at the April luncheon at the Cock 'n Bull Restaurant. In May the club will work with Galway's sixth-grade students to clean-up gardens and landscaping at public buildings throughout the village, an annual project the club has sponsored for many years. Memorial Day brings the annual plant and pie sale, the club's only fundraiser, on a festive day in the village, which includes a parade and several other sales of various types, which all benefit local community organizations.

—Mary Lynn Kopper, President

Carillon Garden Club

The members of the Carillon Garden Club are most anxious to be digging in their gardens again.

Isn't everyone? The club is ready to get in gear for what should be an exciting club year, too.

The regular March meeting was the first official meeting for the year though members met informally and as committees during January and February. In March the club welcomed a local landscaper, Tony DeFranco, who brought information on decorative grasses as well as ideas for rain gardens, a timely topic since many homeowners are now required to install one.

In April Dr. Leonard Perry, Horticultural professor at UVM will give a program on the selection and use of "Perennials: New Introductions and Unused Favorites." Dr. Perry's wit and wisdom is always a hit.

Carillon Garden Club will be having a plant sale on Saturday, May 18, from 10 to 2 at the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga. The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga will also be selling their perennials the same day so hopefully the trip will be worthwhile for other gardeners in District IV.

Members are looking forward to the club's flower show, which will be held on September 27 and 28. In order to prepare for the show programs and hands-on workshops led by nationally accredited judges have been scheduled. Plans are also in the works for Novice classes at the flower show where entrants with limited experience will be able to enter and not compete with the more seasoned members. Members of other clubs who are interested in entering the show are welcome to attend the club's programs/workshops June 20 and July 18, but should register in advance by contacting club president, Betty Rettig (585-7247 or bettyhansrettig@yahoo.com).

—Betty Rettig, President

Heritage Garden Club

As a result of member Lee Nelson's hard work and determination, the Heritage Garden Club has received an Alfred Z Solomon Charitable Trust Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1770. This will be used to support the club's spring, summer, and fall garden-related projects. These projects include plant material for the three gardens in the city of Saratoga Springs that the club is responsible for and also will

Judges Corner

Question Time

Q: I would love to be able to buy a bunch of flowers in the market and arrange them. Is there anywhere I can go to learn how to arrange flowers from my garden or the store for use in my home?

A: National Garden Clubs, Inc., provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, **floral design**, civic, and environmental responsibility. So your Garden Club is the perfect place to learn. Talk to your program chairman about including Floral Design in your regular meetings. She can contact an NGC judge who will develop a program specifically designed to meet your club members' requirements.

Q: How is horticulture judged? I heard the comment "Points were taken off for grooming." What does that mean?

A: Horticulture specimens should be at their peak of bloom/condition. Cut specimens and container grown plants should be examined closely for dead leaves / blossoms, insect damage, and dirt. Grooming involves removing these blemishes. For container grown plants, the container also should be clean and pleasing.

—Liz Gee, Judges Council Chairman

fund plaques for the gardens. Included in the grant are funds for the Garden Therapy programs for the residents of Woodlawn Commons plus a scholarship to the DEC camp, Camp Colby. This grant will help the club to continue to fulfill its objective of participating in civic and environmental improvements through gardening.

The January program explaining the coming Community Health Resource Center, planned by Saratoga Hospital, was well-received by the members. In February the ever-popular potluck lunch was held, with March being the annual business meeting.

In April there will be a program on the achievements and plans of Sustainable Saratoga. This organization encourages environmental and economic sustainability and is involved in such projects as community garden projects, energy savings, and smart growth. May will bring the club's very special Spring Luncheon; invitations are being sent out soon.

—Martha Van Patten, Correspondent

Schuylerville Garden Club

Members of Schuylerville Garden Club are enjoying their new yearbooks, filled with informa-

tion about the many projects planned for 2013–2014.

Dr. John Giusti came to the January meeting to discuss good body mechanics for safe, pain-free gardening, and Sue Beebe joined members in February to discuss how to select, grow, and maintain houseplants.

The club has a student signed up for DEC camp this summer. The new, all-computerized process was threatening, but everything went very smoothly when registration day arrived.

This spring several members have signed up for the District IV trip to Montreal, and several are also signed up for an overnight at Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George in July.

Spring meetings include a virtual trip to the Galapagos Islands with member Mary Herltz and her husband as tour guides, and demonstrations of Vibratile and Pot-et-Fleur flower show designs by NGC Master Judge Stephen Brown.

Schuylerville's annual plant sale is May 11, so members will be out in their gardens deciding what to keep and what to share and, of course, where to plant new purchases.

—Kathy Turcotte, President

Schuylerville Garden Club's Installation of Officers

Kathy Turcott (president), Liz Gee (vice president—not pictured), Patricia Frazier (recording secretary), Esther Blair (corresponding secretary), Diane Swartwout (treasurer), and Marilyn Park (historian).



District IV Calendar of Events

- May 11 Schuylerville Garden Club Plant Sale and Chamber of Commerce Lilac Festival at Ft. Hardy Park, Schuylerville
- May 13 Heritage Garden Club Spring Luncheon at Saratoga National Golf Club
- May 14–16 Flower Show School Course I, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, NY
- May 17 District IV Wildflower Walk at Moreau State Park
- May 18 Lake George Community Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Shepherd Park, Lake George, 9–3
- May 18 Carillon Garden Club Plant Sale, First United Methodist Church, Ticonderoga, 10–2
- May 27 Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County Plant & Pie Sale, Village Park, Galway, 9–1
- June 7–8 Ballston Spa House and Garden Club Village-wide Garage Sale
- June 10–11 District IV Bus Trip: Montreal Botanical Gardens and Biodome
- June 12 FGCNYS Summer Board Meeting, State Office Complex, Guilderland
- July 13-14 Schuylerville Garden Club Standard Flower (“And They’re Off”), Schuylerville Town Hall, corner of Broad and Spring St., July 13: 1–6 p.m., July 14: 1–4 p.m.
- August 15 Carillon Garden Club Annual Card & Game Party and Luncheon, Hague Community Center, Rt. 8, 11:30 a.m., by reservation

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