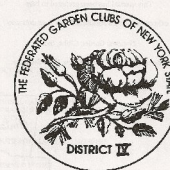


# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Summer 2009

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



## Director's Message

This has been a very busy summer in District IV. Most of the clubs have been actively engaged in plant sales, community projects, flower shows, and the installation of new officers. In May, FGCNYS President Elaine DiPietro installed the officers of District IV at our Spring Meeting and Luncheon. My thanks to the members of the Lake George Community Garden Club for hosting this marvelous event. Also in May, the district sponsored a trip to Garden in the Woods and Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Massachusetts. We had a full bus of enthusiastic gardeners who truly enjoyed the day. The trip was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Martha Van Patten, Wildflower Chairman, and we plan to sponsor another trip next year. We welcome your input and suggestions.

Districts IV, V, and VI have finalized plans for the first course of the Flower Show School to be held October 13 through 15 in Oriskany, New York. Information regarding Course I is contained in this issue of *The Garden Gate*. Please read it over and consider registering. Remember our motto: "Come one day ... come two days ... or come two and a half days ... You decide!" If you have any questions, please contact me or Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine, District Flower Show School Chairman. Each district is offering one full scholarship for anyone who completes the course and takes the exam. FGCNYS is also offering a scholarship. In addition, I encourage individual clubs to offer one paid registration to a member who attends the entire two-day course. It is our hope that this Flower Show School will result in some needed new judges for District IV. However, we encourage anyone who is interested to register and attend. Your goal may be to learn more about horticulture, design, or flower shows. This school provides a marvelous opportunity to hone your skills, to expand your knowledge, and to make you a resource to your local club in implementing flower shows. I encourage you to join me. It will be terrific!

Plans are in the works for the Fall District Meeting and Luncheon. Please join us on October 6 at Longfellows in Saratoga Springs. Bonnie Sellers and the members of the Katrina Trask Garden Club have been working diligently to make this a truly memorable event. The venue, the food, and the program all combine to make this a very enjoyable day. I hope to see you all there.

Due to changes in scheduling of both state and local events, the elective summer District Board Meeting has been canceled. The next District Board Meeting will be held in Lake George at the Senior Center on October 28. I encourage all of you to attend. We have many great projects to be considered for 2009–2011. Your input is needed and welcomed! Please continue to consult the District Calendar. There are many events planned by our local garden clubs that will be very enjoyable and provide an opportunity for clubs to support each other. Hope to see you at these events.

*Pat Wania, District IV Director*

### The Garden Gate

Sue VanOmmeren, Editor  
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Next Deadline:  
October 1, 2009

### 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

## Poster Contest Winners Recognized at Reception

Members of the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club along with Andrea Simmons of the Ballston Spa Public Library were pleased to hold a congratulatory reception on Saturday, May 15, at the library to recognize fourteen children from Malta Avenue Elementary School who submitted posters for a contest sponsored by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The contest invited first through fifth grade students to demonstrate their understanding of fire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl. Five posters were selected for awards at the New York State level: Austin Winter: 1st place (4th grade); Alex Franco: 2nd place (4th grade); Elizabeth Frantz: 3rd place (5th grade); Alexa Mahserjian: Honorable Mention (4th grade); and Megan Murphy: Honorable Mention (5th grade). Austin Winter's poster will move on to the Central Atlantic Region competition where winners will be selected at each grade level to represent the region at the national level.

*Pam Relyea, Reporter*



*Left to right: Ballston Spa School District Humanities Coordinator Peg Brady, Megan Murphy, Alexa Mahserjian, Alex Franco, Ballston Spa House and Garden Club Youth Committee Chairperson Barb Millington, and Austin Winter. Not present are student Elizabeth Frantz and Malta Avenue art teacher, Pat Chakas.*

## Garden Therapy

Garden Therapy is defined as the use of garden-related activities as an aid to the recovery and rehabilitation of the disabled. Garden-related is defined as the growing of plants, the artistic use of plants and other natural materials, the study of birds, nature, and conservation, and the exhibiting of knowledge, interests, and skills in these areas. Activity projects are those conducted *with* people instead of *doing for* or *giving to* them.

Please consider using garden therapy as a club project. Club members are willing and eager to share their time, knowledge, plant material, imagination, and enthusiasm to bring to others some of the joy they have found in their own garden club activities and experiences.

The above information was taken from the Garden Therapy Manual, Revised 1998, National Garden Clubs, Inc. If you have any questions please e-mail [hcushing@hotmail.com](mailto:hcushing@hotmail.com).

*Heather Cushing, District IV Chair*

## 2010 Youth Contests

This year the National Garden Clubs has announced the contests available to youth in partnership with local clubs. Students, scouts, church youth groups, or even relatives of club members can be invited to participate.

A "Native Plants" badge will be offered to Girl Scouts in collaboration with local garden clubs.

Contests for high school students include an essay contest ("Respect the World Around Us") and a Distinguished Service Project Award. Both offer monetary prizes.

The theme for the poetry contest is "Our Beautiful World." Any student, grades K-9, is eligible. Each child who submits a poem will receive a certificate from FGCNYS, Inc., and will be given an opportunity to be selected to have their poem included in the annual state poetry booklet.

Essays and poems need to be submitted to the state chair, Ann Crinzi (15 Fox Chapel Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127), by December 1, 2009.

The Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is for youth in grades 1-5. Submit entries to Ann Crinzi by January 20, 2010.

Junior Master Gardener is a 4-H Youth Development Program, which provides horticulture and environmental science education through creative activities to help kids learn while having fun. Go to: <http://>

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www.jmgkids.us or contact Kathryn Z. Shubar, our state horticultural chair at: ks.plantlady@verizon.net.

More information and rules for the above programs can be found on NGC's web site: www.gardenclubs.org/youth/contest or call Barb Millington at (518) 587-3085.

*Barb Millington, District IV Chair*

### **Book of Recognition**

The Federated Garden Club's Book of Recognition is a great way to honor a hard-working member of your club. A ten-dollar contribution enters their name in *The News* and in the permanent Book of Recognition, which resides in the Guilderland office. To honor a member, please send a check payable to FGCNYS, Inc., to Rose Marie Viscardi, 5 Father Jogues Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883. The money goes into a fund that is used at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

*Rose Marie Viscardi, District IV Chair*

### **Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County**

The Glenville Hills Garden Club continues to work with the Galway Preservation Society, Village of Galway trustees, and Galway sixth-graders to plant and maintain flower barrels in the village. In May the club held their annual clean-up day with the sixth-grade students, teachers, and parents who raked and weeded and planted all over town to get ready for the town's Memorial Day observance. And, on Memorial Day, the club held their annual plant and pie sale. This is the club's major fund-raiser, and, thanks to Mother Nature's cooperation, it was enormously successful. Using funds from the sale supplemented by a grant from a local trust the club is delighted to be able to send four students to Camp Colby this year.

The club does not have regular meetings in the summer but members enjoyed a garden tour and progressive lunch which took them to three members' gardens on Galway Lake. On another day, the rain broke long enough for members to participate in a guided tour of the Yaddo gardens followed by a picnic lunch on the lawn.

Club members are looking forward to a joint meeting with the Ballston Spa club in September. The two clubs held a joint meeting last year and enjoyed the chance to meet other gardeners and share information.

This year we can all lie about how few weeds we have.

*Catherine Caine, President*

### **Schuylerville Garden Club**

The Schuylerville Garden Club held its flower show "School Days" on July 11 and 12 at the Town Hall in Schuylerville. Liz Gee did a fantastic job chairing the show, and the designs and horticulture by the members again this year were superb. The show was a success and enjoyed by all.

Club members will participate in the Turning Point Parade on August 2 and will be having their August meeting at the Kings Garden in Ticonderoga.

The members continue to plant and maintain the flower boxes around the village and Fort Hardy Park.

*Pam Foehser, President*

### **Katrina Trask Garden Club**

The Katrina Trask Garden Club ended its garden club year with another new member and is looking forward to adding to their roster. Currently, members are talking with several more friends who are considering membership.

Shirley Rice, past president, hosted a very satisfying plant and tag sale at her house in June. Excellent publicity resulted in a non-stop busy and successful day.

July was exciting for club member Patricia Frazier who was one of four winners of the Schenectady *Gazette's* landscape/nature photo competition. Her black-and-white photo composition portrays the starkness of winter with barren trees on snow-covered ground. Patricia recently photographed flowers at the club's senior center project and displayed them on the senior center's bulletin board. Congratulations, Patricia!

Work is in progress for hosting the District IV Fall Meeting and Luncheon at Longfellows in Saratoga. The theme will be the Champlain and Hudson Quadricentennial. Club members look forward to seeing you there.

*Bonnie Sellers, President*

### Lake George Community Garden Club

This has been a challenging season for gardeners, and one could say it taught us a few tricks as how to deal with an abundance of water and very scanty supply of sun! But Lake George members had an active club season in spite of it all.

To prepare for the club's flower show ("Ferns and Friends," held June 16 and 17), Betsy Birchenough gave a slide presentation of past flower show entries, which prompted much discussion. Members found this to be most informative and educational.

The annual plant sale was *very* successful. More members contributed plants this year and customers were the happy recipients of wonderful quality specimens. This is really the key to a great plant sale.

The summer salad/dessert luncheon, on the shore of Lake George, was super as usual. This club should really consider publishing a cookbook someday.

The spin-off group, Perennial Planters, has been enjoying field trips to members' gardens. Many thanks to their talented hostesses: E. Ruel, C. Rudolph, and C. McCarthy. In August trips will be taken to W. Callihan's in Minerva and to Jim Dalton's in Middle Grove. All these members and friends have persevered and have spectacular and photogenic gardens.

*Debbie Hoffman, President  
Nancy Cathers, Reporter*

### Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

The Ballston Spa House and Garden Club teamed up with the Ballston Spa Public Library to promote National Garden Week, June 7-13. Garden Club members created seed sticks to grow sunflowers, and library staff created special bookmarks with suggested readings about gardening and nature. Throughout Garden Week, the seed sticks (along with instructions for planting) and the bookmarks were distributed at the library during story hours conducted for children ages 1 1/2 to 5 years.

The club held its third annual Patriotic Tree Planting at the American Legion Post #234, in Ballston Spa on Saturday, April 25. This event honors all those in military or civilian service, past and present, whose sacrifices enable all to enjoy the

freedom, security, and opportunities our society offers. The tree, generously donated by Brookside Landscaping of Ballston Spa, was planted by members of the American Legion. A short reception with light refreshments immediately followed the ceremony.

*Pam Relyea, reporter*

### Indian Lake Garden Club

Members of the Indian Lake Garden Club enjoyed two field trips this summer. In June, they visited Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home, in Manchester, Vermont. The Hildene garden was in bloom with peonies and other perennials. Members particularly enjoyed visiting the Hildene farm to see the goats.

In July, members visited Pauline Muth's bonsai studio at her home in West Charlton. Pauline graciously hosted the visit and invited the group to use her garden for a picnic. While in Charlton, members then traveled to Wynne Trowbridge's Shades of Green. This was the club's second visit to her beautiful gardens, which are well worth the return trip.

Mother Nature cooperated in providing beautiful weather for both visits.



*Indian Lake post office garden.*

The Indian Lake post office garden is finally in full bloom. The cold, wet weather slowed the process, but community members are now enjoying the results of warm, sunny weather.

*Pat Leonard,  
President*

### Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club

Elizabethtown-Westport is having a very wet summer; but so is everyone else. That does not dampen spirits, however. One of the club's main challenges is figuring out how to publicize the fun and good works of the club. They circulate brochures, have

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## Flower Show School: Course I

### “Start at the Beginning”

**Learn horticulture, design, and how to stage a flower show. Come one day. Come two days. Or come two and a half days . . . Explore the possibilities!**

Course I of the Flower Show School, sponsored by Districts IV, V, and VI, begins on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at the Oneida Cooperative Extension and ends on Thursday, October 15. Day one begins at 8 a.m. and features horticulture courses on needled evergreens, foliage houseplants, and ivy. Day two also begins at 8 a.m. and includes courses on the history, elements, and principals of design, as well as on traditional and mass designs. Both days end at 3:45 p.m. Written exams are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on day three (Thursday).

There is a required reading list, which is listed in full on the tri-fold registration form (available from your club president) and on the district web site.

Dorothy Yard and Jackie Davies are the featured instructors. Dorothy, a graduate of California State College, is a four-star member of National Garden Clubs and immediate past president of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. She serves on NGC's Flower Show Committee as accredited chairman. Jackie, also a past president of the GCFP, has served on the NGC Nominating Committee and is currently Award Honor Chairman.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ramada Airport Road Inn in Oriskany (315-736-3377). Rates are \$77.00 per night plus tax. Be certain to mention the FGCNYS.

Course II is scheduled for May 25-27, 2009.

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL: COURSE I

October 13-15, 2009

Oneida Cooperative Extension  
121 2nd Street  
Oriskany, NY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

GARDEN CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

Full course \$95.00

Written exam \$10.00

One Day (horticulture) \$40.00

One Day (design) \$40.00

TOTAL enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Flower Show School

Send to:

Anne Doherty, Registrar  
3925 Burlingame Road  
Cazenovia, NY 13035  
(315) 655-4824

[annescape@windstream.net](mailto:annescape@windstream.net)

No refunds after October 1, 2009

Deli buffet lunch may be ordered each day for \$8.50

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posters pegged up on local bulletin boards announcing meetings and events, and even had a table at the town-wide yard sale last month.

Many of the club's programs this summer will bring attention to the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial celebration. The club is also continuing to promote activities which will make members more comfortable with the idea of having a flower show. In August the club will have its annual luncheon and fashion show, which is a major fund-raiser. In December, the club will have its Greens Tea luncheon and sale, which benefits local community health services.

*Martha Honeywell, President*

**Heritage Garden Club**

The Heritage Garden Club will present a standard flower show entitled "Our Empire State" on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Military Museum, 61 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY.

The three gardens in Saratoga Springs that the Heritage club maintains are benefiting from the frequent rains and are looking beautiful. One is at the Visitor Center, behind it and around the old platform; one is new and is located at the Mollie Wilmot Radiation-Oncology Center at Saratoga Hospital; and one is in the Meditation Corner of the Gideon Putnam Burying Ground. Also located there is a small garden surrounding the New York State marker marking the site.

Heritage Garden Club has held several events lately for the Woodlawn Commons residents including two garden therapy projects. Ten residents planted marigold seeds in small pots and later planted the seedlings and other plants in a large pot visible from the dining room window. Residents who were unable to help plant enjoyed watching the activities. The club also held its annual barbeque and cook-out in July, which was very well attended. About forty residents enjoyed hamburgers from the grill and salads and desserts made by club members.

*Martha VanPatten, Reporter*

**District IV Calendar of Events**

- September 10** Luncheon and Card Party, Hague Community Center, Route 8, Hague 11:30 AM (Carillon Garden Club)
- September 21-23** FGCNYS 59th Annual Fall Conference, Binghamton Holiday Inn Arena, Binghamton, NY
- September 22-23** "Our Empire State," Standard Flower Show, Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, Tues. 2-5 PM, Wed. 10 AM-4 PM (Heritage Garden Club)
- October 6** District IV Fall Meeting and Luncheon, Longfellows, Saratoga Springs, 9 AM (hosted by Katrina Trask Garden Club)
- October 13-15** Flower Show School, Oriskany, NY (Course I)
- October 28** District IV Board Meeting, Lake George Senior Center 9:30 AM (coffee), 10 AM (meeting)

**District IV Clubs**

- Ballston Spa House and Garden Club
- Carillon Garden Club
- Elizabethtown-Westport Garden Club
- Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

- Heritage Garden Club
- Indian Lake Garden Club
- Katrina Trask Garden Club
- Lake George Community Garden Club
- Schuylerville Garden Club