

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Summer 2012

www.nydistrictIV.org



Director's Message

Summer rains and warm (hot!) temperatures have resulted in lush (overgrown?) gardens. We are now all busy with maintenance.

The highlight of 2012 for the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State was sponsorship of the Annual Meeting of the National Garden Clubs in Buffalo. This was a memorable event. We are proud that

one of our own, Liz Gee, Schuylerville Garden Club, was invited to exhibit at the National Flower Show. Her award-winning design is pictured on page 3 and in the Summer 2012 issue of *The National Gardener*, inside back cover, middle row (yellow lilies and asparagus). Congratulations, Liz!

Phyllis Besch, Welcome Bag Committee chairman for the convention, has thanked us for our donations. District IV clubs donated recipe cards and recipe booklets and literature promoting local tourist sites (The King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga, Yaddo rose gardens, etc.). More than 950 members and friends attended the convention, making it a huge success.

The highlight of the year for District IV was the district-sponsored bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden. Forty-six members and friends enjoyed the beautiful gardens and, especially, the Monet garden exhibit, as well as a lovely dinner on the way home. Our thanks to Barb Millington for her outstanding efforts in organizing the trip.

Enjoy the summer and take time to enjoy your gardening efforts.

—Patricia Leonard, Director

The Garden Gate

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

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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

DISTRICT NEWS

Wildflower and Nature Walk in the North Woods of Skidmore College

Twelve members of District IV garden clubs plus two well-known horticulturists from Schenectady took part in a tour of the Skidmore College North Woods led by the very knowledgeable Jackie Donnelly. The group was introduced to many wildflowers growing there and also to many invasive species that are, unfortunately, also growing there now. Did you know that Norway maple, barberry bushes, burning bush, and honeysuckle bushes are all invasive and can be found in the North Woods? These invasive species have come from our yards, carried to the woods by the birds and wind where they crowd out native shrubs and trees. It was a very informative walk and also a wonderful time in the woods on a lovely spring day in early May.

—*Martha Van Patten, Wildflower Chairman*



Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

The April meeting was held at Green Conscience in Saratoga Springs. Co-owner Karen Totino spoke about the environmental impacts of common products and how everyone can return to earth-friendly methods. She discussed composting and rain barrels, as well as earth-friendly home furnishings, wall treatments, and flooring. The Green Conscience web site is: www.greenconscience.com.

The guest speaker at the May meeting was Lucienne Walker, Master Gardener with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County. Ms. Walker pre-

sented a PowerPoint program entitled “Using Wildflowers in Your Garden,” and she discussed the cultivation and control of wildflowers. She also indicated that a useful resource for wildflowers is Fiddlehead Creek in Hartford, New York (www.fiddleheadcreek.com).

Club members held the second annual spring geranium sale during May. Pink, white, purple, and red geraniums were sold to club members, family, friends, and residents of the community. Proceeds from the sale supplement other club efforts to provide funding for the following projects: a scholarship to send a local student age 12–14 to Camp Colby in Saranac Lake in the summer for one week; a cash award for a deserving high school senior that has been involved in horticulture or a related field; and the planting of geraniums at various community sites. This year, graduating Ballston Spa High School senior Colette McDonald was awarded a \$100 scholarship, and the Camp Colby scholarship was awarded to Ballston Spa Middle School student Bryn Giambona. Geraniums were planted by club members at the National Bottle Museum whose home is in the Village of Ballston Spa, and at the club’s Pink Garden at the Ballston Spa Public Library. Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 1 and their parents assisted in the Pink Garden plantings and they also put down the garden’s spring mulch, which was donated by Maple View Farms.

The club sponsored its annual National Garden Week children’s program at the Ballston Spa Public Library on June 7. The club donated two lovely children’s picture books with gardening themes. Club secretary Judy Esposito read the books out loud to the children, and club members Lorraine McPherson and Barbara Devlin assisted the children and their parents with a floral craft project.

Club members also continue to maintain a garden at the beginning of the Jim Tedisco Fitness Trail in the Village of Ballston Spa. Local horticultural expert Larry Woolbright has agreed to assist club members in converting the garden to an all–New York native species garden. Work on this important effort is ongoing. Mr. Woolbright will also address the club at its July meeting to be held at Kelley Park in Ballston Spa. He will speak about future plans for the Kelley Park Nature Preserve. In addition, local humanitarian Sue Johnson will be honored. The club applied for and received first place for the Award of Excellence from FGCNYS in citation of Ms. Johnson’s work as Director of Seeds for Peace International, Inc. Club members felt that the work done by Ms. Johnson and her not-for-profit organization clearly embodies the vision of the FGCNYS and the NGC. Seeds for Peace provides vegetable and flower seeds, as well as simple garden tools, for war-

and weather-ravaged people in the United States and abroad.

—Pam Relyea, *Correspondent*

Indian Lake Garden Club

The summer temperatures and rains have caused the Indian Lake Garden Club's beautification projects to flourish. Now it is time for the busy task of maintenance.

Several members participated in the District IV-sponsored bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden. The members appreciate the efforts of Barb Millington in organizing this wonderful trip.

In June members enjoyed an outstanding presentation on Adirondack Ferns by Carol McCarthy. Carol graciously hosted the presentation at her residence at Diamond Point on Lake George. Members ate lunch at the lakeside and toured the extensive gardens. A memorable day. Club members and volunteers in Blue Mountain Lake are landscaping the new pavilion at the town beach. The program to eradicate Japanese knotweed from the Blue Mountain Lake area has been successful thanks to the efforts of club members and volunteers working with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program.

The club looks forward to their July progressive lunch, visiting the residences and gardens of three members.

—Pat Leonard, *President*

Carillon Garden Club

Carillon Garden Club members and guests recently enjoyed an educational outing aboard the beautiful three-year-old pontoon boat, the *Rosalie Anna Ashby*, the Lake George Association's Floating Classroom. Mem-



bers toured and sampled the special waters of the Northern Basin near Roger's Slide and Anthony's Nose. Visibility was at least 22 feet in depth and samples revealed a healthy PH level of 6–7. Organisms necessary for the support of fish species were healthy and sufficient. It was a wonderful opportunity for learning and being together. The trip was followed by a picnic lunch at a member's home.



On a sad note, Joyce Mouradian, one of the club's long-time members and past presidents passed away in California where she had been residing with her son for the last few months. Joyce, as some readers may know, was the District Awards Chairman for many years. She was honored in 2011 with the "Award of Honor" (a National

Garden Club Award) for her many years of service to the garden clubs, her church, the Church Women



Liz Gee's award-winning design, exhibited in the National Flower Show, received a 90+ in the "Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens," tri-color section. It is a mono-botanic design using plants from the Liliaceae family (lilium, tulipa, asparagus, and aspidistra). Only fresh plant material was allowed, though all parts of the plants could be used (e.g. tulip flowers, flower centers, and bulbs with roots). Liz's design was intended to be viewed from all sides.

United, the Ticonderoga Area community, the local hospital, many town committees, and, in the global arena as well, with the Christian Medical Society. Joyce's humble, caring personality and leadership ability served as a role model to many and will be truly missed.

Looking ahead, The Carillon Garden Club's Annual Card and Game Party and Luncheon will be held on Thursday, September 13 (not the 20th as previously announced). A wonderful buffet luncheon prepared by members will be served at noon with cards and other games following. There will be raffle items and door prizes. Always a fun time, the club hopes to see you there. Please watch for an e-mail announcement for further details.

The Carillon Garden Club is fortunate to have the Kings Garden at Fort Ticonderoga so close by. What a marvelous place to visit. Check out their web site: www.fort-ticonderoga.org, or better yet, come for a visit.

—Betty Rettig, President

Glenville Hills Garden Club

Members of the club are busy planning the Fall District Meeting and Luncheon, which will be held at the Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury on October 2. Invitations will be sent to club presidents shortly.

The club's officers were installed by District Director Pat Leonard at the April luncheon, held at the Cock 'n Bull restaurant in Galway.

The club is pleased to welcome seven new members who have joined over the past year. With their help and enthusiasm, this spring's activities have been taken to a whole new level. The annual spring clean-up day was a huge success with club members, teachers, and parents guiding Galway's sixth graders as they weeded, mulched, trimmed, and planted at public sites throughout the village. The gardens at the Galway Post Office have reached maturity and are the talk of the town. Students also planted annuals in barrels throughout the village, and club members planted annuals in new planter boxes at the food



pantry, which were built last year as part of an Eagle Scout project. Keeping it all watered during these dry days has been a challenge.

On Memorial Day, the club's annual plant and pie sale brought in record-breaking profits. The sale has grown over the last several years in scope and reputation. The proceeds, bolstered by a grant from a local trust, allow the club to send as many as seven Galway students to Camp Colby and Pack Forest.

—Sue VanOmmeren, Correspondent

Heritage Garden Club

Several events have taken place this spring that the members of the Heritage Garden Club have particularly enjoyed.

The most note-worthy was the club's 25th anniversary luncheon on June 21 at the Turf Club in Saratoga Springs. Members and friends, including some from other District IV clubs, viewed displays of members' hand work, floral arrangements, the distinctive centerpieces, and other mementoes. Lottie Wincowski and Sharon Meyer, two of the founding members, put together a narrated historical DVD of pictures that were taken over the years. This DVD showed members who are no longer with us and members who still are, but changed considerably, in various club activities. The DVD was a great deal of work on their part and will become a valued part of the historical record of the club.

Late in May a group of Heritage members participated in a club fundraiser by planting annuals at a home on North Broadway. This has become an annual event and is actually quite fun.

Fourteen Heritage Garden Club members are busy tending the three gardens in the city that the club has taken responsibility for: the Memorial Garden at the Visitor Center, the Garden of Hope at the Saratoga Hospital Mollie Wilmot Radiation and Oncology Center, and the gardens at the Gideon Putnam burying ground.

On June 11 twenty-one members toured the gardens at Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, led by Yaddo Garden Association docents. Prior to the tour the members enjoyed lemonade, iced tea, and cookies in the cool shade of the beautiful pines near the Christlan statue overlooking the beautiful rose garden.

Early July brings one of the club's happiest activities as they host the annual barbeque for the residents of Woodlawn Commons. This is a retirement community in Saratoga Springs and is the location of the club's regular meetings.

The club is very pleased to have welcomed four new members.

—Martha Van Patten, Correspondent

District IV Trip to the New York Botanical Garden, June 12

Photographs by Patricia Frazier and Sue VanOmmeren



District IV Fall Meeting & Luncheon

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Great Escape Lodge, Queensbury, NY

Hosted by the Glenville Hills Garden Club

Featured Speaker: Glen Decker, owner of Piping Rock Orchids

<http://www.pipingrockorchids.com/>

Glen Decker began growing orchids at the age of 15 and holds the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Ornamental Horticulture. Glen is presently the owner of Piping Rock Orchids in Galway, New York. He was the previous chair of the American Orchid Society's Publications Committee and is presently a Director of the Orchid Digest Corporation.

Glen has won numerous AOS awards, including the Butterworth Prize, Nax Trophy, WW Wilson Award, and the Carlyle A. Luer Award. He has appeared in Martha Stewart's *Better Living* Magazine and on a PBS TV special "Orchid Delirium." He rewrote the Slipper section of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "The Best Orchids for Indoors" and was the technical editor for *Orchids for Dummies*.

In addition to being a world-renowned orchid expert, Glen is an entertaining storyteller as he takes his listeners on globe-trotting tales of orchid adventures.



Orchids growing in Piping Rock's greenhouses, Galway, New York (photo: Sue VanOmmeren, 2006).

District IV Calendar of Events

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| <i>July 28–29</i> | Schuylerville Standard Flower Show, "A Work of Art," Schuylerville Town Hall |
| <i>September 10–12</i> | FGCNYS Fall Conference and Meeting, Holiday Inn Arena, Binghamton |
| <i>September 13</i> | Carillon Garden Club's Annual Card and Game Party and Luncheon |
| <i>September 18–20</i> | Flower Show School, Course IV, Mohawk, NY |
| <i>October 2</i> | District IV Fall Meeting and Luncheon, The Great Escape Lodge, Queensbury |
| <i>October 24</i> | District IV Board Meeting, Lake George Senior Center |
| <i>November 14</i> | FGCNYS Winter Board Meeting, Guilderland Office Complex |

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

www.indianlakegardenclub.org

Katrina Trask Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Schuylerville Garden Club

www.schuylervillegardenclub.org