

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Summer 2014

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



## The Gardener's Morning

The robin's song at daybreak  
Is a clarion call to me.  
Get up and get out in the garden,  
For the morning hours flee.

I cannot resist the summons,  
What earnest gardener could?  
For the golden hours of morning  
Get into the gardener's blood.  
The magic spell is upon me,  
I'm glad that I did not wait;  
For life's at its best in the morning,  
As you pass through the garden gate.

—Howard Dolf

## Director's Message

I think the above poem is very appropriate, and not just because of its title! There is just something about gardening in the morning, the serenity is almost spiritual!

This summer there is so much to report as District IV has been very busy! Everywhere you look, you will see the plantings of our dedicated garden club members. The public gardens, community landscaping, memory gardens, and Blue Star Memorials, and the gardens of our own individual members have all had a major and positive impact on our communities. As I have said in the past, District IV's beautification efforts are unparalleled!

Congratulations to the Schuylerville Garden Club for their fabulous flower show entitled "Mother Nature's Wardrobe." Schuylerville Garden Club continually sets the bar and is a shining example of what a club's hard work, dedication, and team effort can achieve! The level of detail exhibited throughout was phenomenal. BRAVO!

On April 29, the Carillon Garden Club did an outstanding job hosting the District IV Spring Luncheon at the Great Escape Lodge. We had a great turnout and even hosted some visitors from a neighboring district. The business meeting allowed me a chance to "wear my wicker" and the floral design program by Valerie Cleary was fabulous and enjoyed by all! In addition, the Carillon Garden Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a luncheon and floral demonstration by our judges Liz Gee and Pat Wania. Congratulations to the Carillon Garden Club, your longevity makes us proud!

In May, the FGCNYS Annual State Conference was held in our own backyard at the Desmond Americana in Albany, NY. The conference offered a leadership counsel program and a breakfast to honor

### The Garden Gate

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### District IV Officers

Laurene Tompkins, Director  
Marjorie King-Martin, Second Assistant Director  
Judy Esposito, Recording Secretary  
Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary  
Barbara Millington, Treasurer

the club presidents. I was very proud to have received the following awards, which will be distributed at the Fall District Meeting:

**Ballston Spa House & Garden Club**  
World Gardening Citation, Award #14 b

**Carillon Garden Club**  
World Gardening Citation, Award #14 b

**Glenville Hills Garden Club**  
World Gardening Citation, Award #14 b  
World Gardening Citation, Award #14 d I—Largest Club Contribution  
Fran Burnett—FGCNYS Life Member

**Heritage Garden Club**  
World Gardening Citation, Award #14 b

**Lake George Community Garden Club**  
Certificate of Participation, 2012–2013 School Gardens Project

**Schuylerville Garden Club**  
1st Place Standard Flower Show Citation—“And They’re Off”  
2nd Place Standard Flower Show Schedule Citation—“And They’re Off”

Last but certainly not least, I want to send a special thank you to the members of Judges Council for their hard work in designing and implementing educational programs for our clubs. I have had very positive feedback and feel this was a wonderful use of grant money awarded to us from the NYS Federation! I am thrilled that they are bringing an educational experience of floral design for us to use in our homes and/or flower shows!

—Laurene Tompkins, District IV Director



**Schuylerville Garden Club  
Standard Flower Show  
“Mother Nature’s Wardrobe”**

July 12 and 13, 2014



## District News

### Wildflower Walk: Cole's Woods, May 2

Five members of several District IV clubs plus a very appreciative visitor from the area, met at Cole's Woods in Glens Falls for the annual District walk. Jackie Donnelly was her usual enthusiastic and knowledgeable self, imparting information about trees, shrubs, birds, invasive species, and wildflowers. It was a little early to see a wide variety of wildflowers, but we did see a beautiful small hill of trailing arbutus! It was a lovely location to walk in and we would recommend it for a nice walk in the woods. Next year's location has not yet been chosen.

—*Martha VanPatten, District IV Wildflower Chairman*

### Poetry Contest

FGCNYS, Inc. is offering a new poetry contest for the upcoming year. The topic is "Nature's Wonders," and it is open to all grades, pre-school through 12. Poems will be judged on style based on age. Entries must be typed and titled. The student's name, age, grade, school of participation, and sponsoring garden club need to be on the back, lower right corner. Poems may be traditional, verse, acrostic, blank verse, cinquain, diamond point, limerick, or Haiku. The winning poets will have their poetry published in a printed booklet. The deadline for all entries is February 15, 2015. Poetry can be sent to:

Barb Millington  
546 County Route 76  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Please encourage your local schools to participate. If you need further information please call or e-mail me at 518-587-3085 or [bmillington@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bmillington@nycap.rr.com).

The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest is annual. All information for this and the National Poetry Contest can be found online. Last year very few posters were submitted. Let's see if our District can have some this year! Looking forward to seeing some creative poetry and delightful posters!

—*Barb Millington, FGCNYS Youth Chairman*

### World Gardening: Water for Sudan

All of us who have been following the work of Salva Dut and Water for Sudan have been concerned about the turmoil in the country. The crews are not close to the fighting, and, with the surge of refugees fleeing the areas of conflict, clean safe water is even more vital. Crews are continuing to dig wells and so far over 200 wells have been dug providing water for more than 25,000 people.

I hope that this year 100 percent of the District IV clubs will be able to donate to Water for Sudan. I know that there are many needy projects and funds can be limited but even a small donation from each club would show that we are concerned about these unfortunate people.

The State World Gardening Chairman has asked that all donations be sent to her before January 31, 2015. If your club is able to make a donation, please send it to me as early as possible in January to give me time to record the donations and forward them to her.

Thank you for considering supporting this cause.

—*Catherine Caine, District IV World Gardening Chairman*

### Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Over the spring and early summer, club members have been very busy maintaining the three village gardens that they sponsor. A local Boy Scout troop and their parents, and a group of home-schooled students and their parents helped members to lay compost, pull weeds, and put in new plants. Club members will continue their efforts through the summer and into the fall.

The May 15th meeting featured a presentation by Marilyn Stevenson who is a member of the Thymely Herb Club. Ms. Stevenson spoke about herbs and lavender in particular, explaining how they are grown, harvested, and used as herbal supplements.

On June 4, club members once again led a group of pre-schoolers in a program celebrating National Garden Week. Club members read books out loud to the children and then led a fun craft session. The club donated the garden-themed books to the library.

On June 24, club members gathered at the Schenectady Rose Garden in Central Park for a tour of that beautiful area. Volunteer guide David Gabe, who is very knowledgeable about roses and the history of the garden, answered questions and explained about the care and feeding of roses.

On July 15, club members met for lunch at the home of club member Pam Relyea. Although it started out as a rainy day, club members were able to sit outside in the gazebo after lunch and enjoy a view of lovely Mariaville Lake.

Two members entered arrangements in the Schulyerville Garden Club's flower show. Laurene Tompkins won second place in her category.

—Pam Relyea, Correspondent

### Carillon Garden Club

Carillon Garden Club members are finally able to relax a bit after a busy spring and early summer schedule of activities.

The club's May program was a field trip to the old Gas Light Village site in Lake George Village to see the storm water management project spearheaded by the Lake George Association. Executive Director Walt Lender led a tour through the wetlands restoration area and explained in detail how the area has been returned to its former natural state, only better, allowing for the



site to be enjoyed in other more environmentally responsible ways. Members also participated in the Memorial Day Parade wearing new club T-shirts and decorated hats. The club's annual plant sale was also held in May.

In June the club celebrated its 40th anniversary! Members were honored and pleased to welcome many guests from District IV. Flower show judges Liz Gee and Pat Wania wowed guests with their floral design demonstrations.



Carillon's Annual Luncheon and card/game party fund raiser was held in July. Members welcomed many guests who enjoyed the day and then went home with prizes, benefit-drawing items, and a tea cup floral decoration. Club members provided a delightful buffet with an extensive array of foods and desserts.

The club's August program will feature a hands-on workshop to be led by flower show judges Liz Gee and Pat Wania. Using garden flowers and a variety of other materials members will have an opportunity to create their own floral arrangement with expert guidance.

—Betty Rettig, Co-President

### Glenville Hills Garden Club

Each year May seems to be the busiest of months for the garden club, and this year was no exception.

At the annual community cleanup day with the sixth graders of the Joseph Henry Elementary School, 11 club members worked with 62 students to weed, trim, mulch, and plant 12 sites in and around the Village of Galway including the gardens at Town Hall, the post office, library, village park, and three churches. Twelve wooden barrels along the village streets were filled with an as-

sortment of annuals, already blossoming in reds and yellows, purples and pinks.

The plant and pie sale at the village green on Memorial Day broke all club records for sales. The profit was just short of \$2,000, more than enough to cover expenses for the work of the club during the coming year.

The very next day six club members gathered at the elementary school to help with the next stage of the club's newest project, the renovation of the circle garden. In March, first and third graders had planted marigold seeds in milk cartons, two for each student. The seeds germinated and the plants grew in the classrooms, tended by teachers, aides, and students. For Mother's Day each child took one plant home. Now was the time for each child to plant another marigold in the garden in front of the school. There was some apprehension on the part of club members when they learned all 75 first graders would gather at the garden



in one group. Any concern about the behavior of the children was completely unfounded. The children approached the garden holding the cartons with their marigolds close to their bodies, protecting them as one would a baby. They circled around the garden finding just the right places. Each child dug a hole with bare hands, gently freed the plant from the cardboard, and cupped the plant in small hands. "Please help me," said one little girl. "I don't know how to do it. I've never planted anything." Now, two months later when the children stop on the way to the playground, they see the results of their labor, a garden encircled by a band of yellow marigolds.

The second weekend in June, members of the club's beautification committee held a small plant sale at the post office, offering to the public divisions of the plants that community residents admire all season long since the garden was planted with perennials from member gardens in 2010. Sales totaled \$100 with another \$75 in donations, a nice sum to be used for the club's beautification projects in the community.

The annual June picnic was held on club member-Lenore Lanka's porch overlooking Galway Lake. This

year's summer field trip offered club members access to two private gardens in the area, one covering a steep hillside and another featuring a well-established water garden. For the rest of the summer members will be busy in their own gardens!

—Arlene Rhodes, *President*

### Lake George Community Garden Club

In April, the Lake George Community Garden Club invited Kevin Lee Jacobs to speak on "The Easy Kitchen Garden in a Nutshell." Kevin is an award-winning food, garden, and



lifestyle guru who lives in New York's Hudson Valley (zone 5-b). His recipes have appeared in dozens of newspapers. Kevin's vegetable gardens are a delight to look at: raised beds made so access is easy from all sides and crops planted to suit his family's needs rather than "acres" of zucchini no one will eat.

To separate seedlings without damaging their roots, Kevin suggested dropping them in a big bowl of water. Swish them around for a second or two. He plants potatoes in shallow holes in a raised bed, sets a wooden frame over the bed, and gradually fills it with chopped straw. This nifty method is not only water-wise, but it permits the easy hilling and harvesting of tubers.



In June, members went to a private garden in The Hague, on the western shore of Lake George, where the owners had completely renovated the home to look like an Adirondack lodge.

The club's very creative program chairman has planned the August meeting to be a Victorian Tea, for which members have created whimsical nosegays complete with ribbons and doilies. The tea will be served by members of the Victorian Social Club and the speaker, Sue McLane, will talk about "The Saratoga Season."

—Nancy Boericke, *Correspondent*

(Club news continued on page 6)

### Schuylerville Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club spent late spring and early summer planning and preparing for an exciting Flower Show, “Mother Nature’s Wardrobe,” which took place on July 12 and 13 at the Town of Saratoga Hall. So many details to work out and so many designs to create. And of course horticulture specimens were needed from home gardens, so bugs beware—especially that new lily beetle that wanted to destroy the lily foliage. All members participate in the show, and it is a great way to learn about one another as well as improving flower growing and arranging skills.

In June the club visited a member’s gardens and greenhouse, and in August members will visit the gardens at the Church of St. Ambrose in Latham, NY. The September meeting will be a workshop taught by a member, creating miniature fairy gardens or dish gardens and learning how to maintain them.

The flowers the club planted in the village this spring are doing beautifully. Rain has been plentiful and made the work a little less this year. Hopefully when travelers drive through the village they see the colorful displays and appreciate the club’s work. The locals do!

—Kathy Turcotte, *President*

## Awards

### *District IV Spring Meeting*

*April 29, 2014*



#### **Civic Concern and Improvement**

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Carillon Garden Club

Glenville Hills Garden Club

Heritage Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club

#### **Garden Therapy**

Carillon Garden Club

Heritage Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club

#### **Heartline**

Carillon Garden Club

Heritage Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club

#### **Historic Preservation**

Carillon Garden Club

Heritage Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club

#### **Publicity Pressbook**

Carillon Garden Club

#### **Standard Flower Show**

Schuylerville Garden Club

#### **Flower Show Schedule**

Schuylerville Garden Club

#### **District IV Award for Horticulture Excellence**

Sue Fero

#### **District IV Award for Design Excellence**

Liz Gee

#### **District IV Award for Tri-color in a Flower Show**

Laurene Tompkins

#### **District IV Award for Petite Design**

Mary Seymour

#### **40th Anniversary Certificate**

Carillon Garden Club

## Red Lily Leaf Beetle (*Lilioceris lili*)

There was something amiss with my Asiatic lily plant. It was losing leaves from the ground upwards and on closer examination I saw these black excrescences hanging beneath the leaves. Even closer examination yielded some pretty-looking red beetles that I did not immediately connect with the other symptoms. But I was under attack and had been for a couple of months, although I had not noticed it before.

The red lily beetle's favorite food is Asiatic lilies, but it is a pest on all types of bulb lilies and fritillaries. Beetles overwinter in the soil and in April start hunting for food (your emerging bulbs) and a mate. There is an orgy of sex, and the havoc is about to begin.



These beetles are very sneaky, everything is done undercover. The orange eggs are laid under the leaves, the larvae which look like little slugs covered in poop hang from the leaves, and the adult beetles hide under the leaves. But you need to search them out even if it does give you a crick in your neck. Unchecked these beetles will kill your lilies as they cannot replenish the bulbs without their foliage.

### What to Do?

Apply a 10 percent solution of household ammonia to newly emerging lily sprouts and surrounding soil. Diatomaceous earth sprinkled around the area is also effective, however it needs to be reapplied after rain.

Look on the underside of the leaves for the tiny orange eggs and remove by hand. The eggs turn red when about to hatch. If you get larvae (the really gross and voracious stage), wear gloves and hand pick larvae letting them drop into a bowl of soapy water. Similarly with the red beetles, but tread very softly, if they hear you coming they immediately drop to the ground flipping over to hide their red shell. Hold your bowl of soapy water under the leaf to catch the beetle as it falls. Do not dump your dead beetles back in the soil as this leaves a smell that can attract new activity. Coffee grounds sprinkled around affected plants will mask their scent and make the area less attractive.

If you suspect that you have beetles but can't find them, try digging in the top half inch of soil where they could be hiding and catch them as they pop out. Be vigilant all season, even after your lilies have bloomed and you've lost interest. The aim is to save the foliage.

Neem oil has been found to be somewhat effective in controlling the beetles. It is necessary to really saturate the plants especially underneath the leaves, using the spray once a week or after rain has washed it off. Other chemicals (e.g. Sevin), although effective, kill beneficial insects and bees and should not be used.

The search for a natural predator is continuing. The beetle originates from Eurasia where a parasitic wasp keeps it under control. Scientists are conducting experiments to see if these wasps would be effective in this country. But till then keep picking!

—Liz Gee, District IV Herb & Vegetable Chairman



**You Are Invited!**

*District IV Fall Meeting & Luncheon*

**“An Autumn Gathering”**

**Tuesday, October 14**

**Registration Begins at 9:15 · Meeting Begins at 10:00**

**Fort William Henry Resort  
Lake George**

*Hosted by the Heritage Garden Club*



**District IV Calendar of Events**

- October 14* District IV Fall Meeting & Luncheon, Fort William Henry Resort, Lake George, hosted by the Heritage Garden Club
- October 22* District IV Board Meeting, Lake George Senior Center, Lake George

**District IV Clubs**

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

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

Carillon Garden Club

[www.facebook.com/carillongc](http://www.facebook.com/carillongc)

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

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

Heritage Garden Club

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

Lake George Community Garden Club

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

Schuylerville Garden Club

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