

# THE GARDEN GATE

## FGCNYS District IV Newsletter

Summer / Fall 2019  
[www.nydistrictIV.org](http://www.nydistrictIV.org)



### Message from District IV Director Charlanne Ryan-McDonough



Dear District IV Members,

Oh, My! Schuylerville Garden Club presented a spectacular FGCNYS Fall District IV Meeting and Luncheon at the Holiday Inn and Resort in Saratoga Springs. The atmosphere was alive with chatter among mingling members and ideas being hatched. This director overheard conversations beginning and ending with “That’s a great idea” and “we can do it”! Thank you Schuylerville Garden Club for the many months of planning and completing the endless list of to dos.

The meeting was electric, thought provoking and enjoyed by all. I am so proud of my Officers and Committee Chairmen. They are willing to work and deliver what this director asks for. We are a team with a goal of our district clubs working together on program planning, projects and reaching out to nearby districts to collaborate on future events.

We thank FGCNYS President Vikki Bellias for attending and inspiring us with her theme, 2019-2021 Theme: Plant America: Spreading Roots ThruNY ❤️ Vikki and District IV have an exciting road ahead!

Welcome Sacandaga Garden Club to District IV. We are now six strong! We enjoyed meeting President Janet and members who attended the District IV Meeting and Luncheon. We look forward to getting to know your members and working with you on many projects in the future.

We are the “Gardeners of the Federal Garden Clubs of New York State”. We are on the front line of what’s happening in New York State as well as the whole country and beyond. This director can attest from our Committee Reports dubbed “A to Z”, we are already very involved. We are concerned about the birds and wildflowers, the environment and horticulture, civic development and historical preservation, and we donate to World Gardening and Nature Conservancy...just to name a few. Our goal is to get more people involved by inviting a friend or a neighbor to a monthly meeting and having programs open to the public. Keep up the good work...garden club members!

#### The Garden Gate

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#### District IV Officers

Charlanne Ryan-McDonough, Director  
Annette Newcomb, Assistant Director  
Mary Anne Brown, Recording Secretary  
Sharon Meyer, Corresponding Secretary  
Barbara Millington, Treasurer

**Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga**

Members welcomed June with a visit to Saratoga Botanicals where they created their own unique scented roll-on aromatherapy stick.

Late June brought the club together for a pot-luck picnic at a member's home on Galway Lake. Butterfly weed seeds were distributed to encourage guests to continue to create Monarch butterfly habitats. Our efforts were rewarded when



sightings of the Monarch and its caterpillar stage were observed in August.

A tour in July of Saratoga's

Yaddo Rose Gardens and woodlands was enjoyed by stalwart members who braved a bit of rain but were rewarded with a peaceful and interesting visit. Presently, Yaddo is having problems with deer thinking the roses are part of their meal plan!

Angie Thompson from the Schenectady County Cooperative Extension offered members a "Leaf Casting" workshop in September.

Bonsai Myths and Reality will be discussed at our October meeting by Pauline Muth, past president of the American Bonsai Society. After the presentation,



a workshop will be offered to those who wish to create their own Bonsai masterpiece.

In November, Logger Walter Chandler will give a presentation to members on the modern practice of logging.

Our Holiday Party will take place in early December. Members and their guests will enjoy a catered meal and exchange greetings of the season. In mid-December, we will look forward to honoring our veterans by placing wreaths at six local sites.

Even though January promises to be wintery, members will enjoy a feeling of spring as we attend our program on the Keukenhof Gardens near Amsterdam, Holland.

- Lenore Lanka, Correspondent





### Schuylerville Garden Club



Summer is over and fall is here.

It has been a busy summer for the Schuylerville Garden Club.

July saw a very successful flower show "The Games People Play".

Members demonstrated their talent and creativeness . We can boast of 100% participation of the members.

August 11 Evelyn Rybaltowski donned century dress and explained plants of the herb garden at the Schuyler House to visitors. The club has maintained the garden there for 20 years

We traveled to Laveniair Farm Whitehall NY to learn all about this fragrant plant. Many took the opportunity to cut a bundle. Important to remember French lavender is for fragrance English is for cooking.

October 1 will be the District meeting at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs NY. Our club is creating the centerpieces at the direction of Marge Shostak. We will have 3 educational exhibits. Hope you all come and have a great day.

Our October meeting will be an exercise of Chair Yoga. Sounds like fun so limber up and be prepared to laugh. Sharon Gavitt will be leading the group.

Through the fall we are collecting seed pods and other nature items to use at November meeting . Liz Gee NCG life Judge will guide us in making Christmas decorations for our self's or gifts.

*- Sharlene Pendrak, Correspondent*

### Lake George Community Garden Club

The Lake George Community Garden Club went Wild In September! It's great to have these wonderful adventures with the garden club. One of our members, Joyce Logan, worked with her daughter, the Director of the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, to set up a special tour for our group. We studied the Adirondack flora and fauna, enjoyed



presentations on otters and porcupines, saw films on various pieces of Adirondack history, and some members were treated to a "Behind the Scenes" tour! The playfulness of the otters was definitely one of the highlights of the day. I'm sad to report that shortly after the Wild Center trip, Joyce had routine knee surgery and did not survive. Life can certainly change in a minute.

The Lake George Community Garden club enjoys taking advantage of the beautiful vistas of the Adirondack's in the summer. Their two summer luncheons were held at the beautiful lakeside homes



of members Kathy Schonewolf for a salad-dessert Lunch and Diana Kambar for a brown bag lunch with fabulous desserts donated by members.

“Eat to live” rather than “live to eat” was the primary message from

Mary Mitcham from Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension to Lake George Community Garden Club members in June. Mary came equipped with healthy snacks to illustrate that Heart Healthy eating can be interesting AND fun.

In the fall the Club moves back indoors to hear a presentation by Pam Taft on wildflowers while November has club members designing and donating wreathes for local nonprofit groups. Club members will wrap up 2019 with a Holiday party at the rustic Log Jam Restaurant in Queensbury while being entertained by the popular local talent of Bobby Dick and Susie Q.

The Lake George Community Garden Club began to host a second gathering each month in 1990 called Perennial Planters. This subgroup was created to give members an opportunity to get in-depth horticultural experience in the design, growing, and maintenance of a perennial garden. Throughout the summer months, the Perennial Planters organized many activities. In June an interesting field trip to the Old Fort House Museum in Fort Edward was enjoyed. The docent was fabulous while pointing out and explaining the amazing variety of artifacts on display. Pieces were on display from the Revolutionary War period. In fact, there were no

knives at place settings at tables in the 1700's because everyone routinely carried his own knife with him!



Ratatatat! No, it's not a woodpecker! It is garden club members pounding flowers in interesting designs on shirts, napkins, cards, and more. Garden Club members had a fun time unleashing their creativity “smashing” the vibrant colors out of flowers at the historic Lake George Club. After the “smashing” Garden Club members enjoyed a scrumptious luncheon while drinking in the fabulous lake and mountain views. It will be interesting to see how Club members will use their new found flower pounding skills. Another great day in Paradise!

Each year Club members design and donate centerpieces, wreathes, stockings, and mantle pieces to the Festival of Trees to benefit the Prospect Children's Center. Garden Club members created holiday centerpieces at the Perennial Planter session under the guidance of a talented Club member, Carolyn Rudolph. In the interests of recycling,







one member salvaged an old wooden tennis racquet into her design. The next project Perennial Planters will include learning to draw flowers led by the talented Club artist, Judith Tully. Club members are looking forward to another exciting year of activities.

- Carol McCarthy, 1st Vice President

### The Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

June was an extremely busy month for the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club. We no sooner wrapped



up another successful geranium sale in May than we found ourselves digging up plants for our second annual plant sale held on the Saturday of the Village wide Garage Sale which was June 8.

Though it was a lot of hard work we were rewarded with a sale that topped our first one. On June 13 we met as a club at the garden of fellow member Christine Burghart. The refreshments were outstanding and the garden tour perfect. Chris' gardens included several paths that surrounded a koi pond fed by a downhill stream. The paths were strewn with hand made stepping stones crafted by

Chris. Along the way we encountered hand made mushrooms, a butterfly house, birdhouses and small animals tucked into the foliage. It was a perfect day for a gardener.

July 11 we took off for a tour of Lavenlair Farm in Whitehall. The farm grows different kinds of lavender in separate fields and a tour of the various



fields was given. The tour ended with a visit to the gift shop then on to lunch at the Dockside on Glen Lake.

July, August and September involved work on the library gardens and the trail garden. The gardens around the library have been transformed thanks to a grant from the National Garden Club and a lot of hard work from a group of our hard core gardeners.



A battle against bishop weed was waged and we are praying it will be successful next spring. We have had many compliments from the community and are in the process of commissioning a sign to inform the community of our hard work.

Our September meeting was a welcome back for our members. Stacy Simmons of Brookside Nursery discussed underused late blooming plants with our members. There is always a way to stretch out the growing season.

## The Garden Gate

In October we will make a floral arrangement not using pumpkins. Again we will try to stretch out our arrangement for a holiday or two. We also bring items for the food pantry to this meeting.

November we will make Holiday ornaments using dried pos and plants. We will also collect new clothing donations for teens that their parents can select as a present to their older child for Christmas.

December we are treating ourselves to lunch out with a Chinese present exchange to liven things up. And as always we will place a wreath at the War Memorial in thanks to those who gave to keep us free.

January we will take the month off.

*- Barb Millington, Co President*

## Heritage Garden Club

For National Garden Week in June, the Memorial Garden at the Saratoga Heritage Visitor Center was open on June 4.



with special activities.

Visitors were welcomed by the Club members who have maintained this beautiful garden,

which is open to the public on a daily basis, for 20 years. Master Gardeners and Club members were available to answer questions regarding gardening and plant identification. Information about the Garden Club and Garden clubs in general, plus plant information from Saratoga Cooperative Extension was made available.

The new location of the Herb, Perennial Plant and Garden Decor sale at the Italian American Club on

## Summer 2019 (6)

Grand Avenue proved to be very advantageous. The customers found us and business was brisk. This will be the location of the sale for next June as well.

The annual Summer Barbecue for Woodlawn Commons residents was most successful, as usual. Other events for the residents include the Fall Garden Therapy project and the Harvest Tea both in October.

Our primary fund raiser is the Card Party and Luncheon On November 4 at the Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs.



Bring cards or games and enjoy lunch and an afternoon out! More information will be forthcoming.

Upcoming meeting topics include: "Old-fashioned flowers for today's garden" and "How to prepare your property for optimum bird activity during the Winter months".

*- Martha Van Patten, Correspondent*

## Sacandaga Garden Club

Welcome to District IV! We will look for your input in the next Garden Gate.





## District IV Calendar of Events

### Save the Date:

District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon hosted by Heritage Garden Club

**May 5, 2020**

Location: TBA

Oct. 24-25, 2019	CAR-SGC Conference, Arlington, VA
Oct. 26-27, 2019	CAR-SCG Symposium, Arlington, VA
May 1, 2020	District IV Board Meeting - 9:30 am - 1 Perry Rd., Saratoga Springs, NY
May 5, 2020	District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon hosted by Heritage Garden Club
May 11-14, 2020	NGC National Convention, Milwaukee, WI
May 20, 2020	FGCNYS Spring Board Meeting, Albany, NY (Wednesday)
Sept. 24-26, 2020	NGC Fall Board Meeting, Fargo, ND
Oct. 4-8, 2020	FGCNYS Annual Convention & Symposium, Utica, NY (nominating committee)
Oct. 13, 2020	District IV Fall Meeting & Luncheon - Hosted by Ballston Spa House & Garden Club
Nov. 11, 2020	FGCNYS Winter Board Meeting, Albany, NY (Wednesday) (nominations)

## District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club  
[www.bshgc.org](http://www.bshgc.org)

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)

Sacandaga Garden Club  
<http://sacandagagardens.blogspot.com/>

Schuylerville Garden Club  
[www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org](http://www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org)