

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Winter 2013

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



## Director's Message

**I**t will soon be time to plan our gardens for 2013. Seed catalogues have been arriving with new plants for our consideration.

The FGCNYS has scheduled its 89th Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers for March 16–18, 2013, in Buffalo. Pat Wania will be installed as First Vice-President during the banquet luncheon and installation of officers on Sunday, 12:15–3:00 p.m. A design program by Carol Lucia follows the luncheon. It would be wonderful to have District IV garden club members in attendance to recognize Pat for this honor. Contact your club president for details and the registration form or go to

the FGCNYS web site and click on Annual Meeting.

Two District IV programs have been scheduled. A wildflower and nature walk at the Moreau State Park, conducted by naturalist Jackie Donnelly, has been planned by Martha Van-Patten for May 17. A bus trip to Montreal to visit the Biodome and the Botanical Gardens has been organized by Barb Millington for June 10 and 11. The itinerary and registration form have been sent to club presidents. A valid passport or enhanced driver's license is required for this trip.

Catherine Caine, the District's World Gardening Chairman, reports that 100 percent of our clubs (plus the District itself) have made contributions to the Water for Sudan project this year. Our combined efforts total \$1,020.00, which is more than a 50 percent increase over last year. Great credit is due to Catherine and her "mite box" campaign. Thank you, Catherine, and thank you to all the clubs who are changing lives with their loose change.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the District IV Spring Meeting and Luncheon at the Fort William Henry Hotel on Tuesday, May 7. We will be installing our officers for 2013–2015. The Lake George Community Garden Club is hosting this meeting, which I am sure you will enjoy. Please see page 6 for information about the speaker and his presentation. It promises to be an exciting program. Registration details will be sent to club presidents soon.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on May 7.

*—Patricia Leonard, Director*

### The Garden Gate

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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 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!

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### **ANNUAL BUS TRIP: Montreal Biodome & Botanical Gardens June 10 – 11**

Join fellow club members to experience a wonderful overnight trip to Montreal. The first day we will be going directly to the Biodome and will have lunch there. The bus will then take us to Old Montreal for free time to shop or visit historical areas. We will head to the Le Nouvel Hotel & Spa for check-in and time to freshen up before dining at the hotel. Breakfast will be at the hotel on Tuesday before boarding the bus for the Botanical Gardens. Everyone will be able to explore the beautiful gardens at their leisure. Restaurants & cafes are located within the grounds. On the way home, we will stop in Plattsburgh at the Cracker Barrel for dinner on your own.

#### **A VALID PASSPORT OR ENHANCED LICENSE IS REQUIRED**

**March 1 – \$100 Deposit \* April 15 – Balance due (no refunds after April 26)**

Please contact Barb Millington to request pricing and a registration form  
Phone 587-3085 \* E-mail [bmillington@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bmillington@nycap.rr.com)

### **Ballston Spa House and Garden Club**

At the Ballston Spa club's November meeting, club member Laurie Tompkins demonstrated and assisted members in making their own terrariums. Laurie provided the necessary planting materials and the containers and carefully explained the layering process. Members only had to supply the plants. The December meeting was the annual holiday luncheon, which was held at the home of club member Pam Relyea. Members each brought a favorite covered dish, as well as nonperishable food items for the local food pantry. Club members were busy elves during the holiday season! They gathered together at the Union Fire Station to make fresh holiday swags, which were donated to the local post office, library, Village Office, and American Legion. They also made holiday crafts and baked items to sell at the Brookside Museum Holiday Shoppe. Club members were on site for two Saturdays selling their wares, and they also

gift wrapped purchases from the Shoppe for a small donation. Proceeds from this event helped to fund the club's youth scholarship programs.

The January meeting helped to bring some sunshine to a dreary month, as club president Barb Millington discussed forcing paperwhite bulbs and assisted members in painting a flower pot and planting the bulbs.

The February meeting will feature speaker Maureen Robinson, owner of the local store Wild Thyme and a certified herbalist. She will discuss growing herbs and using them for healthful benefits.

The March meeting will feature speaker Sue Beebe, Master Gardener from the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Sue will give a presentation on succulents and how to maintain them indoors and out. Club members will once again bring nonperishable food items for donation to the local food pantry.  
—Pam Relyea, Correspondent

### Indian Lake Garden Club

Members of the Indian Lake club had a busy fall working on their September project to decorate the town for the Antiques Weekend and Great Adirondack Moose Festival. In November members prepared for the club's only fundraiser by decorating wreaths and kissing balls and making centerpieces which are sold during the Indian Lake Country Christmas Tour. In December the club had its traditional cookie exchange and relaxed to enjoy the end of a busy year.

The club will begin 2013 with a potluck luncheon in March and officially begin the year with its April meeting.

—Pat Leonard, President

### Lake George Community Garden Club



On October 2, a large contingent from the Lake George club enjoyed the Fall District Meeting and Luncheon at the Great Escape Lodge.

At the November meeting, Annette Newcomb demonstrated how to make a simple pumpkin decoration. Each year in November:

- Members decorate fresh wreaths for the local libraries, post offices, nursing homes, and the Senior Center in Lake George.
- Planning for the club's May 18 plant sale begins, even before Thanksgiving.
- Members design and deliver the club's tree entry to the Festival of Trees in Glens Falls. This year the theme was "Spirit of the Adirondacks."

Also, members Carol McCarthy, Carolyn Rudolph, and Denise Castiglione each created a centerpiece for the show. The Prospect Center honored designers for their



efforts and the club's tree won "Most Traditional."

On December 5, members enjoyed the club's holiday luncheon at Sweet Basil restaurant in Queensbury. Each year members have great fun with a "re-gifting" table. At this time, the club collects food items for the Food Bank, and a cash basket to benefit a local charity is passed. This year the cash basket was given to North Country Ministries in Warrensburg and Women in Need.

The February program will be "Favorite Houseplants," and members will bring in their own plants and describe them.

The Lake George club is hosting the Spring District Meeting on May 7 at Fort William Henry. As Warren County is celebrating a bicentennial, the meeting will have a bicentennial theme.

—Nancy Boericke, Correspondent

### Glenville Hills Garden Club

A representative from County Waste, the waste management and recycling company that serves the area, was invited to talk at the club's October meeting. The new single-stream recycling program can be confusing, and members wanted to know more about the process.

For the holidays, club member Nancy Caparulo and her committee decorated the gazebo in Galway's village park. Miniature boxwood trees made and decorated by club members for the seniors in the Meals on Wheels Program were lovely and appreciated.

The club collected food and cash for the local Christmas Basket Program, made plans for the gardens at the Galway Food Pantry in the spring, and started plans for renovating the elementary school entrance garden, which the school asked the club to help with.

To top off the holidays, the club's Christmas party, held at Mari Fettke's home, was beautiful and good fun.

Some years ago, after a January speaker had to cancel due to bad weather, the club decided not to schedule programs in January, but rather to use the meeting as a time for members to discuss the club's direction and ideas for the coming year. And so this January the club will enjoy a potluck luncheon and reflection.

—Mary Lynn Kopper, President

### Carillon Garden Club

The Carillon Garden Club's Annual Card and Game Party / Luncheon in September proved successful and fun. Members provided a huge assortment of delicious foods for the buffet luncheon and guests enjoyed a leisurely afternoon of fun and prizes.

In October, the club's program showcased floral designs by Master Flower Show Judge Steve Brown of District V, Accredited Flower Show Judge Liz Gee of the Schuylerville Garden Club, and Student Judge Pat Wania of the Carillon Garden Club. Their combined talents were enthusiastically received and gave members encouragement and important information for making seasonal arrangements for home as well as for the club's upcoming flower show. October also saw Carillon members securing orders for the club's wreath fund-raising project. Nearly every member participated in one way or another. At the end of the holiday season, the balsam from the wreaths, the bows, and the metal forms are all recycled. The Youth Committee, under the guidance of Sharon Lonergan, makes balsam pillows and will also decorate arrangements with the ribbon next year. And, of course the metal ring is recycled back to the supplier or to the town's metal recycling bins.

Two days of wreath workshops were held in November plus another day for the Youth Committee to make sprays (a good seller that boosts funds for many youth activities). At the club's regular monthly meeting members enjoyed a presentation from the student who attended Camp Colby with a campership from the club. Members could feel his enthusiasm for the conservation program and they plan to provide another opportunity to a student in 2013.

December was packed full of activities starting with the club's annual Holiday Magic reception following the Champlain Valley community chorale concert. For many years, concertgoers have been treated to an opportunity to linger afterwards to enjoy goodies and also to see displays and arrangements of some of the club's talented members. Members were also involved with decorating the local nursing home Christmas tree, decorating the town library, preparing a large tree for the Festival of Trees event at the Historical Society, making gifts available for local children to purchase and wrap for their families at Hague

Holiday Fest, decorating entranceways to the towns of Hague and Ticonderoga, helping in the fifth-grade classroom to make seasonal centerpieces for the Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner, and helping in the kindergarten to make seasonal centerpieces. December would not be complete without the club's annual holiday luncheon when members kick back and enjoy one another's company.

For the past several years the Carillon club chose not to meet in January and February because of weather and many folks going off to warmer climates. This year however, members decided to have a January meeting to sit back, relax, and evaluate where they've been and where they want to go. Planning meetings will take place, and a flower show is in the works for September.

—Betty Rettig, *President*

### Heritage Garden Club

November saw the members preparing for and then enjoying their annual Card Party / Luncheon at the Gideon Putnam Hotel. The crafts table was of great interest to many of the attendees as they looked over the assortment of crafted pins, scarves, and other items made by the Craft Group members. Sixty women attended the event, which is the club's main fundraiser.

In December the club's annual holiday party was held at The Vista at the Van Patten Country Club. Each year club members bring gifts for three organizations in our local area: Shelters of Saratoga, Maplewood Manor Nursing Home, and Division Street School (warm hats and mittens). At this party the members also celebrated the 90th birthday of long-time member Millie Meeker.

In January the club will have a program about the new Community Health Resource Center for Saratoga Springs, to be established soon by the Saratoga Hospital Foundation.

—Martha Van Patten, *Correspondent*



Left to right: Barbara Tasso, Nancy Sausville, Anne Hunscher, and Heather Cushing stand with the many bags of donations.

## Judges Corner

This is a new column intended to demystify what judges do and to inspire you to show off your horticultural and floral artistry skills. The content will be entirely up to you.

First, to introduce your judges to you, you should know that there is a judge reasonably close to everyone. In the northern part of District IV we have Teresa Whalen, Janet Billingsley, and Pat Wania. In the south are Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine and Liz Gee. Their contact information is below.

Judges do a lot more than judge flower shows. We are here to answer any questions you may have and to work with you on club programs. For those of you who would like to have a Flower Show some day, we are willing to be your mentors and to work side by side with your members as you explore possibilities.

This is the time of year when clubs are writing their yearbooks and engaging speakers for programs. Maybe you would like to have a judge present a design program? Or talk about some particular species of horticulture or brainstorm ideas for a display at your local library? Whatever you choose, the program will be tailor-made for your club members.

I would like to have a question-and-answer segment in the next issue of *The Garden Gate*. Please send your questions to me at [egeel@nycap.rr.com](mailto:egeel@nycap.rr.com).

Looking forward to hearing from you.

—Liz Gee, Judges Council Chairman

### DISTRICT IV JUDGES

Janet Billingsley	546-4076	<a href="mailto:janetdq3@yahoo.com">janetdq3@yahoo.com</a>
Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine	695-3405	<a href="mailto:phunt@nycap.rr.com">phunt@nycap.rr.com</a>
Liz Gee	692-1214	<a href="mailto:egeel@nycap.rr.com">egeel@nycap.rr.com</a>
Pat Wania	543-8046	<a href="mailto:hagueheritagehouse@msn.com">hagueheritagehouse@msn.com</a>
Teresa Whalen	466-5497	<a href="mailto:taawhalen@yahoo.com">taawhalen@yahoo.com</a>

### Schuylerville Garden Club

Fall and winter projects have kept the Schuylerville Garden Club very busy. Members found time, however, to enjoy a relaxing day at Wiawaka Holiday House on Lake George, and many club members enjoyed the District IV Fall Meeting/Luncheon at the Great Escape Lodge. The orchid grower's presentation inspired several members to try growing an orchid, or two.

At the club's October meeting, Margo Olson, Executive Director of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve, presented a program about the endangered Karner Blue butterflies and the progress that has been made in increasing the numbers in Wilton. Plans were made to clean up the club's village plantings and put the Schuylerville House herb garden to rest for the winter; and the work was done.

Then it was November and time to cut and place greenery in the village planters, decorate seventeen wreaths for municipal buildings, and

organize the club's sing-along with the folks at Morgan's Run senior housing. Members made boxwood teacup trees, and the results were so unique! Favors were made for Meals on Wheels and Town Hall meal-site lunches, and the club decorated a tree for the Festival of Trees with hand-sewn woody animals.

The December meeting was a party at Longfellows Restaurant, with the club's traditional story and gift exchange, and some rowdy bingo games, which may become a new tradition.

There is no time to slack off, since January brings committee meetings to plan the 2013 flower show, order plants for the civic plantings, and gather information and interesting program ideas for the yearbook. The January speaker is a chiropractor, who will discuss good body mechanics for safe and pain-free gardening.

—Kathy Turcotte, President

## District IV Spring Meeting and Luncheon May 7, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

Fort William Henry Hotel  
Hosted by the Lake George Community Garden Club

### Featured Speaker: Steve Silk, "A Passion for Pots"



Steve Silk became interested in plants more than twenty years ago, during extended travels in tropical South America and Southeast Asia. Some of the tropical plants seen during his journeys, along with hundreds of other plants from all parts of the world, now grow in his ever-expanding Farmington, Connecticut, garden. Steve's gardening year begins with the sowing of more than 1,000 seedlings and ends with the planting of as many bulbs.

After fifteen years as an award-winning photographer and travel writer at the *Hartford Courant*, Steve moved in 1996 to *Fine Gardening* magazine, where he was Managing Editor and later spent ten years as a contributing editor. He now spends most of his time writing about, photographing, and re-inventing his own backyard. His photography has garnered two Garden Writers of America awards for best portfolio. He collaborated with Sydney Eddison on *Gardens to Go* (published by Bulfinch) a book about container gardens. Steve and Sydney also worked together on *The*

*Gardener's Palette: Creating with Color in the Garden*, (published by Contemporary Press). Steve has appeared several times on HGTV's "Gardening by the Yard." He is a past president of the Connecticut Hardy Plant Society and is currently president of the Connecticut Horticultural Society.

#### A Passion for Pots

Gardening in pots opens a whole world of easy experimentation for new and experienced gardeners alike. Trying out new plants, playing with color schemes, and learning about how to create dynamic plant combinations are all easier when the ingredients are in pots, and thus easily rearranged. This talk covers the gamut of container gardening, from a few plants in a single pot, to whole container-based gardens utilizing scores of pots and arranged into potted borders. It also touches on horticultural techniques including basic propagation, overwintering tender perennials, fertilizing, deadheading, and watering.

## District IV Calendar of Events

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>March 16–18</i> | FGCNYS 89th Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers, Millennium Hotel, Cheektowaga (Buffalo), NY           |
| <i>April 24</i>    | District IV Board Meeting, Lake George Senior Center, 9:30 a.m. (coffee), 10:00 a.m. (meeting)                 |
| <i>May 7</i>       | District IV Spring Meeting & Luncheon and Installation of Officers, Fort William Henry, Lake George, 9:00 a.m. |

### 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)

Indian Lake Garden Club

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

Katrina Trask Garden Club

Lake George Community Garden Club

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

Schuylerville Garden Club

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