

# THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Fall 2011

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



## Director's Message

**W**hat glorious fall weather we are experiencing—after two nights of frost here in the Adirondacks! It's now time to put our gardens to bed for the winter. Many of us probably welcome this reprieve from garden maintenance.

On Tuesday, October 4, District IV held its Fall Meeting and Luncheon at the Georgian Resort in beautiful Lake George, hosted by the Indian Lake Garden Club. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal followed by a floral design presentation by Michele Peters of Ambiance Florals &

Events in Albany. Her outstanding presentation was very much appreciated by everyone. Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Anniversary Award Citations were presented to Katrina Trask Garden Club (87th) and to Schuylerville Garden Club (60th). Schuylerville Garden Club also received Third Place, Class 4, for its 2011 Yearbook. National Garden Clubs presented its Pink Glove Award to the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club in recognition of their volunteer efforts and commitment to their community through the NGC Plant It Pink Program. We congratulate them all.

At the FGCNYS Fall Conference in September details of the National Garden Clubs 83rd Annual Convention in Buffalo, May 18–19, 2012, were presented. This convention is being sponsored by the FGCNYS. There will be outstanding tours of the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area as well as seminars. Of particular note is a National Flower Show which will include 100 floral designs (by invitation), two from each of the fifty states. See the FGCNYS web site for details (including registration form): [www.fgcnys.com](http://www.fgcnys.com).

Enjoy the autumn weather and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

*—Patricia Leonard, Director*

### The Garden Gate

Sue VanOmmeren, Editor  
[svanommeren@gmail.com](mailto:svanommeren@gmail.com)  
(518) 882-5387

*Published Quarterly*

**Next Deadline: January 1, 2012**

### District IV Officers

Patricia Leonard, Director  
Marjorie King-Martin, Second Assistant Director  
Mary Leonard, Recording Secretary  
Heather Cushing, Corresponding Secretary  
Sue VanOmmeren, Treasurer

## Youth

The Glenville Hills Garden Club continues working with youth for the annual Galway clean-up day. They were able to sponsor four students to Camp Colby.

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club submitted 45 posters to the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest. One went on to CAR. A Girl Scout, working toward her Silver badge, returned to work with club members on the "Pink Garden" for the second year. One student was sponsored for Camp Colby, and a scholarship was awarded to a high school senior.

Carillon Garden Club has been busy with many youth projects this past year. Members showed prom goers how to make corsages and boutonnieres, supervised the 4H Club in the Community Garden, assisted fifth-grade students making centerpieces for a community Christmas dinner, and made floral arrangements with high school students for Teacher Recognition Day. The club sent one student to Camp Colby this summer.

The Indian Lake Garden Club worked with a Daisy Troop planting flowers at Byron Park. The girls were working for a gardening badge.

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2012 National Garden Clubs, Inc., poster contest for Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl. For students in grades four through eight a sculpture contest, using recycled materials, is offered. These and other contests are offered by the National Garden Clubs and can be found on their web site.

We hope all clubs will be offering projects for the youth of their community. They are the future.

—Barb Millington, Youth Chairman

## Lake George Community Garden Club

In June, the Lake George club welcomed Chuck Schmitt, Senior Resource Educator from the Albany Cornell Cooperative Extension, who presented a program on pruning. This was so appropriate for this wet and hot summer, which produced exceptional growth on garden trees and shrubs. Hydrangeas shot out like "Topsy"; and we must always be on the lookout for those "sprouts" that look so ugly.

Club members are trying to become environmentally sensitive, and, to encourage this, Conservation Chairman Kathy Kokalas continues to collect plastic bottle caps for recycling. Most people don't realize these are just as important to recycle as the bottles they top. Kathy handed out a handy information sheet on small ways to contribute to the sustainable living effort. To follow up on this idea, the club has adopted a space in the basement of the Senior Citizen's Center where they meet, to collect "treasures" for a Ways and Means

table at the plant sale next year. One man's trash can be another man's treasure. *(I have a favorite Italian painted metal candle holder set composed of blooming daisies that I bought at a garden club Ways and Means years ago, saving them from the local dump!)*

In September, members went to Up Yonda Farm, just north of Bolton Landing, where they learned about the Monarch butterflies: explored their stages of development and learned about their incredible migrations. Up Yonda has wonderful programs for families and children on the natural world around us, including a butterfly garden and small pond.

At the August Perennial Planters meeting, the group made hypertufa containers. These delightful bowls, of all shapes and sizes, are made of cement, peat moss, and perlite. Despite the extremely rainy day, the ladies mixed and molded in member Apryl Kingsley's garage.

—Nancy Boericke, Correspondent

## Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

On Thursday, July 21, members of the club met at President Barb Millington's home for a lovely brunch and tour of her gardens. The event occurred right in the middle of a hot spell, so the members wisely moved the brunch inside to Barb's nicely air-conditioned home, rather than on her backyard deck overlooking her beautiful gardens. After the brunch and a brief meeting, the members ventured outside to tour the gardens. Everyone was pleased to see the wonderful variety of flowers and plants among Barb's various flower beds.



On Thursday, September 15, members of the club gathered to view a presentation of photos from the Tenth World Flower Show held in Boston in June. Four members of the Ballston Spa club attended the bus trip

organized by District IV. Members Laurie Tompkins and Judy Esposito showed a PowerPoint presentation of photos that were taken at the event. They also discussed the organization of the show with its 34 categories of awards, and 30 countries contributing to 600 displays. Everyone attending the meeting declared that each display was original and thought-provoking, and that it was just like viewing art masterpieces at a museum.

The October meeting was held on October 13 at Maplewood Manor Nursing Home in Ballston Spa. Members of the club assisted the residents in making centerpieces for their dining tables. The centerpieces were made of mini-pumpkins and gourds that club members had previously carved holes in. The residents filled the holes with varied colored mums. Program organizer and club vice president Lorraine McPherson coached the residents in assembling the centerpieces, with club members and Maplewood staff assisting. This is the third year that club members have involved the residents in autumn horticultural therapy.

—Pam Relyea, Correspondent

### Carillon Garden Club

For the past few months, Carillon Garden Club members have been very busy with preparations for their standard flower show, “Moments in Time,” held on October 7 and 8 at the Hague Community Center. Under the able guidance of Pat Wania, show chairman, almost every member had a task to do and/or an entry to prepare for the horticulture and design divisions. An evening reception was held Friday night with special refreshments, tours and demonstrations.

In June many of the club’s members attended the Wafa show in Boston; others who stayed behind enjoyed a program on herbs given by Anna Pound, a member’s daughter. Anna owns an herb farm in Ohio and happily shared her knowledge, practical insights, and enthusiasm. In July members enjoyed a picnic and flower show workshop under a tent at a member’s home. Being out of doors, high on a windy hill, among favorite people made for a delightful summer’s day. In August, Emily DeBolt from the Lake George Association led a workshop on the construction of rain gardens, which was followed by a tour of rain gardens near the shores of Lake George. Members and guests enjoyed Emily’s knowledgeable presentation and then “soaked-up” the gorgeous day with a picnic lunch under the shade of the trees. In September the club held another successful Card & Game Party with nearly all members participating. Proceeds from this fundraiser are earmarked for a camp scholarship and other programs for area youth as well as beautification projects in Ticonderoga and Hague.

After their flower show, members will be securing orders for the Annual Christmas Wreath Fundraising Project. They look forward to a revue of the flower show at the October meeting as well as a presentation from the student who received a “campership” from the club to attend Camp Colby this past summer.

The autumn season is upon us. May you be filled with all its rich blessings.

—Betty Rettig, President

### Indian Lake Garden Club

This photo of the Indian Lake Library depicts the club’s landscaping project at the library/town hall complex. Club members completed the expansion of the garden at the post office with a large planter at the front of the building. Now all they have to do is maintenance!

September was a busy month. In early Septem-



ber the club had its annual plant exchange and sale, which is a public service to fellow gardeners with sales to those not exchanging. They then decorated the town for the Antiques Weekend which was followed the next weekend with the Second Annual Great Adirondacks Moose Festival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Chrysanthemums, corn stalks, hay bales, and a moose, created by one of the club’s members, added to the festivities.

Last, but not least, the club hosted the District IV Fall Meeting and Luncheon on October 4.

—Pat Leonard, President

### Glenville Hills Garden Club

The Glenville Hills Garden Club members are anticipating their next meeting—it is their once-a-year public meeting, and this year Andy Fyfe from Saratoga PLAN will introduce the county nature preserves that are located in Galway and Providence. He’ll bring trail maps and descriptions that residents (and of course club mem-



bers) will find helpful as they learn to enjoy the opportunities for outdoor activity right here on their own doorsteps.

The four youngsters the club sent to Camp Colby this summer (in conjunction with the Dockstader Trust) will be attending the meeting to share the photos they took and to talk about their week at the Environmental Conservation camp. The club has never had a youngster who didn't love it and want to go back! They are always so proud to tell about their "bog walk" and the outdoor skills that they learned—from counselors and instructors who they thought were wonderful! As expensive as it is, the club always wishes they could give every child the opportunity to attend.

The gardens the club designed and planted at the Galway Post Office did so well that members will have to move some of the plants—they've done better and grown larger than was planned. Some of the divisions will probably be used in the gardens around the local food pantry (the young, soon-to-be Eagle Scout who is doing the preliminary work and putting in the flag pole will be ready for the club's plantings in October), though the recent rain has delayed the work a bit.

Club members noted with sorrow the passing of one of their older members in September. Rachel Kitchen, a member of the club since 1976, was an artist of note, a dancer, a musician . . . ran the Village Gallery on the main street of Galway for years. For several summers she hosted the Saratoga County Arts Summer Show (*not once in the last five years did she greet me without saying "We'll talk about having a show next year". . . even when it was no longer possible*). During the memorial for Rachel—at her home, where so many meetings, receptions, and gatherings had been held—which many club members attended, one of them said, when someone commented on the number of garden club members present, "We take care of our own." And that is one of the most wonderful things about the garden club. We take care of our children, our towns, our villages, and the little bits of our world that we can influence through our united donations, and we encourage friendships that grow as our plants do. It hurts when we are "thinned out," but we never forget the friends we make in garden club.

—Mary Lynn Kopper, President

### Katrina Trask Garden Club

KTGC began its 89th year with an English tea hosted by its officers at the September meeting. Honorary member Beatrice Sweeney was recognized for her work as city historian and for her efforts to restore and preserve the Casino. She was also recognized for her

more than fifty years as an active member of garden club. Other honorary members, Mary Duval and Flo Hinckley, who were unable to attend were also recognized. Centerpieces of pink and green hydrangeas and silver Artemisia accented the tea table and provided an attractive setting for the English tea sandwiches and dainty cakes served with tea.

Susan Beebe, horticulturist with Cornell Cooperative Extension, presented a very interesting program on the care of house plants at the club's October meeting. Donations for the local food pantry were collected. The refreshment table was decorated in a colorful autumn theme with deep red mums. Hostesses for the meeting, Dolores Leber and Pat Mackey, provided delicious apple pie, pumpkin roll, cupcakes, and cider. This was a well attended meeting and an informative and enjoyable experience.

The club's November meeting will be the popular hands-on workshop creating Thanksgiving and Christmas centerpieces with materials from members' trees and gardens. At that time, the club will accept donations of Christmas gifts for children, which will be distributed to the needy by the Ladies of Charity.

—Remigia Foy, President

### Heritage Garden Club

The Heritage Garden Club was awarded a Proclamation of Appreciation from the City of Saratoga Springs for their work in maintaining three public gardens: the Visitor's Center garden, the garden at the Gideon Putnam burying ground, and the Saratoga Hospital Oncology Center Garden of Hope. Mayor Ken Johnson made a sur-



prise visit to the monthly meeting of HGC to present the award in person. Chairmen for the gardens (Lee Nelson, Martha Van Patten, and Anita Jaenisch) were pleased to accept the award on behalf of the club. Pictured are the chairmen and members who work so hard to make the gardens beautiful.

—Elizabeth Rossi, Co-President

## Schuylerville Flower Show

**S**chuylerville Garden Club held its annual Standard Flower Show on July 23 and 24, 2011. The theme was “We’re Going to Disney World!” The theme was everywhere with guests being greeted by a Mickey and Minnie display in the foyer, balloons, and a chance to win the “Princess Pamper Package” door prize.

Leona Brownell won the Award of Horticultural Excellence and Award of Merit for her oriental lily. She also earned the Collector’s Showcase Award for a display of perennials and Awards of Merit for lavender and balloon flower. Karen Estill’s combination planter won the Grower’s Choice Award. Sharlene Pendrak took home the Award of Merit for her bells of Ireland, while Pat Wania earned the Arboreal Award for her bottle-brush fothergilla.

In the Design Division Liz Gee received the Award of Design Excellence and the Designer’s Choice Award for her tapestry design in Class 6, “Magic Carpets of Aladdin.” The Tricolor was given to Diane Swartwout for her traditional mass design in Class 3, “Hall of Presidents.” Patricia Frazier won the Petite Award for her small functional table for two in Class 7, “Cinderella’s Tea.” Cinderella’s glass slipper held the floral design.



The show also included two educational exhibits as well as a youth exhibit. “Living with the Land” highlighted the richness of agriculture and farmers’ markets in Saratoga County. The display received a red ribbon and was assembled by members of the Saratoga Springs Farmers Market. Kathy Turcotte and Marilyn Park’s “Netherlands Pavilion” earned a blue ribbon. The beautiful display was designed to educate the public on the different types of bulbs available and the proper time for planting. The youth exhibit “Animal Kingdom” challenged youth to create a design incorporating a Disney item. Eight youths took up the challenge to exhibit their unique designs.

The Disney theme continued with a floral arranging demonstration “One Man’s Dream” by Suzanne and Nicole from Blooms in Greenwich. They provided the audience with some great ideas to use at home, arranging flowers simply but with an elegant touch.

Guests were offered refreshments at “Mater’s Drive Up for a Drink” and food items went quickly at “Minnie’s Bake Sale.” “Mickey’s Plant Sale,” “Goofy’s Glove Sale,” and “Daisy’s Benefit Tables” were also big hits.

For photos of the show please go to the club’s web site: [www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org](http://www.schuylervilllegardenclub.org), and click on the 2011 show page. The club wishes to thank all the other garden club members who judged, exhibited, or attended their show.

—Diane Swartwout

*Photos* Top: Leona Brownell’s lily (Horticultural Excellence)  
Bottom: Liz Gee’s design (Design Excellence)

## Awards

### District IV Meeting

October 4, 2011

#### Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Civic Beautification  
Contribution to Nature Conservancy  
Environmental Improvement  
Publication  
Youth Campership  
Youth Scholarship  
Yearbook

#### Carillon Garden Club

Conservation  
Contribution to Nature Conservancy  
New Members  
Publication  
Youth Campership  
Yearbook

#### Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

Contribution to Nature Conservancy  
Membership Retention  
Youth Campership  
Yearbook

#### Heritage Garden Club

Environmental Improvement  
Litter Control  
Protection of Birds and Butterflies  
Youth Campership  
Youth Scholarship  
Yearbook

#### Indian Lake Garden Club

Contribution to Nature Conservancy  
Membership Retention  
Youth Scholarship  
Yearbook

#### Katrina Trask Garden Club

87 Year Anniversary Citation  
Contribution to Nature Conservancy  
Youth Scholarship

#### Lake George Community Garden Club

Conservation  
Contribution to Nature Conservancy  
Youth Campership  
Yearbook

#### Schuylerville Garden Club

60 Year Anniversary Citation  
Greatest Number of Members Serving  
on the District Board  
New Members  
Youth Campership  
Youth Scholarships  
Yearbook

## District IV Calendar of Events

*November 7* Heritage Garden Club Luncheon & Card Party, Gideon Putnam Hotel, registration 11:30 a.m., luncheon 12:15 p.m. (\$25 fee)

*November 16* FGCNYS Fall Board Meeting, Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, Exec. Committee 10:00 a.m., BOD 10:30 a.m.

*November 2-4* Horticulture School, sponsored by District VIII, Lancaster, NY

## District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

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

Carillon Garden Club

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)