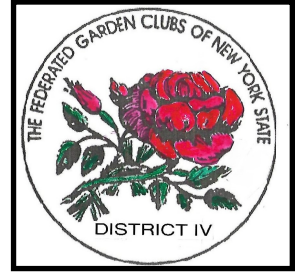


THE GARDEN GATE
FGCNYS District IV Newsletter
Fall 2024
www.nydistrictIV.org



Message from District IV Director Mary Lou Baker



Thank you to all who attended the District Wide Meeting and Luncheon on October 1st at the Hales Mills Country Club in Johnstown, NY. Many thanks to Janet Mitchell and the Sacandaga Garden Club for our biannual event.

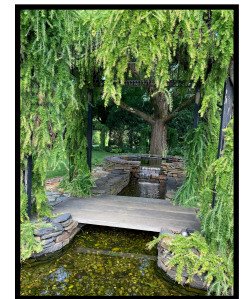
If you were not able to attend, you hopefully have heard by now via your local club meetings some of the District initiatives that are underway; we will be sending periodic updates to the Clubs to keep all members of District IV informed....especially about the forward movements of the district committees **AND** a possible day trip in the Spring.

It is so hard to leave the beauty of summer gardens behind. Even though the weather this past summer was not ideal, it is still a season that most people greatly enjoy. I am excited for the approach of the fall and winter seasons. My favorite months have always been September and October, as nature's beauty continues to astound us and it is so much cooler. I hope everyone can take a drive to see some amazing foliage this fall. Let us hope that nature blesses us with a mild winter, with just enough snow to make it pretty!

Fall means preparing for the winter, which no doubt many of you are already doing. I have multiple projects underway, but most important to me is setting up my bird feeders for the winter. I think of it as a living garden, as so many beautiful finches and other birds visit the haven I create in my backyard. New this year, I am adding a solar hanging bird bath for my flying friends.



This past August, the Schuylerville Garden Club, my "home club," toured "Rogerland" in East Arlington, VT. Please consider it for one of your programs for next year. Photos are examples of water features dispersed throughout the estate.



The Garden Gate

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District IV Officers

Mary Lou Baker, Director
Annette Newcomb, Assistant Director
Sue Van Ommeren, Recording Secretary
Sharon Meyer, Treasurer
Barbara Millington, Corresponding Secretary



Congratulations to the newly elected Officers of FGCNYS District IV

District Director Mary Lou Baker Assistant District Director Annette Newcomb

Treasurer Sharon Meyer Recording Secretary Susan Van Ommeren

Corresponding Secretary Barbara Millington

The Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

www.bshgc.org

This summer has been very busy for our club. In July, we continued our popular member garden visits including a tour of the native plant horticulture at The Iron Spring Garden in Ballston Spa which we opened to the public.



A number of club members braved the early summer heat to attend the 29th Annual Soroptimist Secret



Gardens Tour and were treated to 11 very special gardens in Saratoga and Ballston Spa. The next week a group of us attended the always spectacular Schuylerville Garden

Club Flower Show followed by a stop at the Farmers' Daughters' Drive-in for ice cream.

In mid-July, we held our inaugural "Garden to Fork" picnic for members, and partners/spouses, with members bringing a dish to share. We enjoyed an exceptional variety of main courses, sides, and desserts. The picnic was a resounding success in spite of being cut short by a major thunderstorm.

Later in the month, we headed to East Arlington, Vermont for a guided tour of the 10 garden areas of Rogerland Private Gardens and learned a great deal about the owner, Roger Cooper's, philanthropic, and artistic adventures. It was all quite fascinating. After the tour, the property manager provided a lovely barbecue lunch for our group.

In August, we made the trip north to the King's Garden at Fort Ticonderoga. Our tour guide was dressed in period costume and walked us through several of the gardens



explaining what was grown and why during that period in history. We, also, held our second annual 'Celebrating Summertime!' Ice cream social for members and partner/spouses at Linda Fay's

‘rainbow sprinkles’ gardens. Everyone had a wonderful time.



In the Fall, our regular business meetings will resume with outstanding programs scheduled. In September, the program, *Don't Get Ticked NY* with Joellen Lampman from CCE Albany County, in October, *Native Plants Go Public*, with Donna Lee Newsome from Wild Ones of the Capital Region and in November, *Bringing Nature Home*, a slideshow set to music that includes wildflowers, scenery, wildlife and more presented by Dave Williams, a local naturalist.

Our Wednesday walks began again the first week of September and will continue through April. Members Walk the Zim Smith Trail, an easy, paved trail providing another opportunity for members to connect and get to know each other better. In mid-September, we will tour the 24 acres of gardens, grounds and greenhouses of the Berkshire Botanical Gardens.

We will be collecting donations for the food pantry in September and the clothing drive in November. In December, we will provide a wreath for the Veterans Park Cemetery, participate in the Ballston Spa Holiday Parade and hold our Members Holiday Party. It will be a busy December.

We want to thank our programs and outings committees for their outstanding work planning an engaging and educational schedule for us throughout the year.

- Kathy Kane, President

Heritage Garden Club www.heritagegardenclub.org

This very hot and rainy summer, members of the Heritage Garden Club were busy in the four gardens they maintain, cleaning up debris, weeding, planting, watering, and thinning. Due to reconstruction work at the Saratoga Visitor Center, the gardens were closed to us and the public. The Center finally opened the



doors late July. The Memorial Garden committee started the work of cleanup in gardens, removing the old tired plants, and planting anew with fresh mulch. More plants will be added where needed this coming spring. Sometime late spring a tea will take place to view and celebrate the re-designed gardens. The



Gideon Putnam Burying Ground gardens are still lush with color and showcase a variety of beautiful flowering plants. The garden at the Knights of Columbus are thriving under the watchful eyes and nimble hands of Anne Hunscher. Anne will have help putting the garden to bed for the winter. The Garden



of Hope at the Saratoga Hospital is truly a garden resting place for healing and thanksgiving. The garden is enjoyed by hospital staff, patients, and visitors all year long.



In September the members gathered at the Knights of Columbus for a business meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon. Sharon Meyer provided a seed producing weed identification chart, prepared by the cooperative extension and samples to take home and dry. Sharon cautioned, if planted next year, these weeds are very invasive.

In October the Fall Garden Therapy volunteers will assist the residents of Woodlawn Commons in creating a fall dried arrangement to take back to their rooms. A Winter Garden Therapy is planned to help residents decorate small trees and wreaths to enjoy during the holiday season.

At the regular meeting later in the month, Carol English, National Garden Club Master Flower Show Judge and a member of the Schuylerville Garden Club, will present a workshop on designing floral bouquets with store bought flowers.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held in November followed by an afternoon of cards and games.

A holiday luncheon is planned in December. Donations will be collected for area shelters, hat and mittens for school children, gifts for nursing home residents and clothing for the homeless.

- Charlanne McDonough, Correspondent

Schuylerville Garden Club

www.schuylervillegardenclub.org



The Garden Club of Schuylerville presented their annual flower show at the Saratoga Town Hall on July 20 and 21, 2024. This year's theme was "A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY" and it was very well attended by over 300

people. The country décor was established throughout the show by the talent of our very creative staging artist, Diane Swartwout. Scenic banners, scarecrows, barnyard petite



designs, tractor- pull floral designs, county picnics, and table settings were outstanding. Thanks to Glenville Hills Garden Club for entering some petite Horticulture. This is our major fundraising event, and we are happy to say it was once again both a financial and social success.

For the next few meetings, the club set out on road trips. August brought us to "Rogerland" in East Arlington, Vermont. Rogerland is an owner designed English garden featuring wildflower beds, a putting green, and many architectural elements and whimsical delights. Lunch was provided and the meeting was well attended.

In September, the club members ventured to the Landis Arboretum in Esperance, NY a wonderful place in the Schoharie Valley. An old farmhouse and

pavilion complete with picnic tables allowed the member to bring their own lunch. There was a visitor center, pond, meditation garden, waterfall and many interesting sculptures. Trees and trails were well marked with much information on QR codes to describe the collections and ecosystems. Members were able to wander at their own pace in any direction of interest. Several levels and short trails made the walk easy.



To complete the road trips, October will bring us to Gardenworks Farm in Salem where the members will learn how to dry and arrange dried flowers and plant materials. The farm is run by third generation farmers. Originally a dairy and chicken farm, the granddaughter, Meg Southerland, transformed it into a specialty market with acres of raspberries, blueberries, flowers, pumpkins and produce. Meg is a talented flower designer and will present the program. Today, along with her son and his family, they are now a fourth-generation farm.

The happy garden club wanderers will return home in November to create a fall wreath under the tutelage of Tim Healy, an award-winning designer and native of Schuylerville. He is the owner of Posie Peddler in Saratoga and has presented workshops for the club before.

The December Holiday Party will be held once again at Wishing Well Restaurant in Gansevoort. In January we will explore Seed Sowing to prepare for spring gardens and will begin to plan the next exciting flower show. Stay tuned for details. February brings the club to explore the vast and interesting history of the Garden Club of Schuylerville. March will begin next year with our “winter” potluck picnic, along with the installation of our new officers.

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A busy and successful time was had by all.

- Carol English, Correspondent

Glennville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga www.glennvillehillsgardenclub.org

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July found members touring Dave Jennings Hosta Cottage in Malta.



Later in July, member and Master Gardener Heidi Muschick, presented a workshop on “How to Prepare and Submit

Horticulture Specimens to a Flower Show.

After the workshop's tips, member Jules Constantine entered a variety of specimens in the Schuylerville Standard Flower Show. They were very well received.

An August field trip to North Country Daylilies in Buskirk provided a full day of fresh air and an amazing array of lilies which could be purchased.

Then on to Wild Things Rescue Nursery in Valley Falls where owner Dawn Foglia presented her native plants rescued from logging sites. With skillful propagation, Dawn is able to share and sell these native plants thereby preserving their fragile ecological existence.

The September Workshop led by Jules Constantine, Julie Hoxsie and Mary Ellen Cusano on the Art of

Pressing Flowers provided members with the experience of creating a votive cup decorated with a variety of pressed flowers and leaves.



Glennville Hills Garden Club has been recognized and praised for the town gardens planted and maintained by members with the professional direction and participation of member Lynn Kindinger. We will be “Putting these Gardens to Bed” in mid October. Members will trim, prune, weed, rake and tuck plants and shrubs away for the winter.



“Gardening Native: Incorporating Native Plant Species into Your Garden” will be the October presentation by Kate Brittenham, owner of Front Stoop Gardens in Troy. The essentials of ecological garden design principles and practices when incorporating native plant into our gardens will be discussed.

In November, the How-to of Holiday Door Swags will be demonstrated by members Jules Constantine

and Donna Zelanko. Following the program, Tari Lee Muth will assemble a group to decorate the Village Park Gazebo with Swags and Wreaths.

Our Annual Wreaths For Veterans will take place at 12 noon on December 7. Club members lay wreaths at six sites in the Galway Area. There are small ceremonies to which the public is invited.

Our December Holiday Party will be held at Kim Bellizzi's home. Members and their guests are invited to celebrate the holidays.

- Lenore Lanka, Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club
www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

The LGCGC started the summer with a salad and dessert luncheon at a member's home on the lake. We discussed plans for the summer and enjoyed beautiful Lake George.



In August the members enjoyed a buffet lunch at Wiawaka Center for Women on Lake George. After lunch we attended a lecture about the history of

Wiawaka under the tent. The story was narrated by a figure from the past, Harriet Pryun Rice. Harriet, dressed in costume, relived the beginnings of the property through fires, rebuilding, and visitors of days gone by.



We were given a tour of the farm at ACC by farm manager, Tommy

Donolli. He answered many of our questions and gave us tips on how to grow produce, keep weeds down and protect the garden from animals. We were able to buy garlic, tomatoes, greens, and other produce grown at the farm. The public is also able to purchase produce.

The Youth Committee offered a rock painting workshop at the Caldwell Lake George Library for summer campers. The children were eager to create flowers and bugs of all kinds on their masterpieces!



In August the perennial planters made wine bottle planters. The workshop was led by member, Julie Brino. Julie provided the wine bottles that she cut meticulously by hand to provide a well for planting our succulents. The wine planters created were beautiful!



In September, the perennial planters made a functional garden art/trellis by reclaiming and using garden waste. Led by member, Kim Cavarretta,



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members made a rustic trellis to use in their gardens for climbing plants and vines.



Before the summer ended, the members celebrated Arbor Day honoring Charlanne McDonough with the Perennial Bloom Award. A tree was planted in Blaise Park along with a marker. The photo shows Charlie with the new Village Mayor, Ray Perry.

Future program topics are “Step Back in Time”. 1800’s Canal Life. The presentation will depict life along the Feeder Canal in years past. In November the members will decorate wreaths for Libraries, Post Offices, Fire Houses and Nursing homes around the lake. We will finish the year with a holiday luncheon with donations of food and cash given to local charities.

Charlie McDonough, Member

Sacandaga Garden Club

<http://sacandagagardens.blogspot.com/>

Sacandaga Garden Club has done a little traveling this summer. We went to Wiawaka in

July and Dalton’s in August. We heard about these trips through the District.

Our biggest endeavor this fall was hosting the GFCNYS District IV Meeting and Luncheon. This is our club’s first time planning and hosting this semi-annual event.

- Janet Mitchell, President



Congratulations Sacandaga Garden Club!

Your club treated District IV to a spectacular event. Hales Mills Country Club was a beautiful setting to spend the day with fellow members promoting the work and accomplishments of the six clubs in District IV. Thank you!

District IV Calendar of Events

Oct 22-23	CAR-SGC Conference, The Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ
Nov 8	Roundtable Rendezvous, Knights of Columbus, Saratoga Springs, 9:30-12:30 pm
June 2-4	FGCNYS Annual Convention, Desmond Hotel Crowne Plaza, Albany, NY