

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Fall 2015

www.nydistrictIV.org



Message from District IV Director Judy Esposito



By the time you read this, you will have prepared your gardens for the upcoming winter as well as worked in the gardens in your community that are sponsored by your club. Thank you for all that you do to beautify your areas. Some of us have brought plants inside, and have dug up bulbs and tubers. We breathed a sigh of relief as well as one of satisfaction. We breathed in the crisp air and we watched the sun shine its light upon the vibrant colors of the fall leaves.

The clubs of District IV have had summer projects, trips, garden parties and public garden upkeep to keep them busy. Carillon and Schuylerville clubs were busy planning for their flower shows. I travelled to Hague in September to attend the Carillon show, and I learned valuable information. Both shows were well organized and well attended, and both offered the new category of Photography.

I attended the State Meeting in Poughkeepsie in September and met with the other District Directors. We will be addressing the deer and deer tick problem through education and letters to public officials.

The District IV fall board meeting was held in September. Officers and committee chairs are settling into their roles, and the updating of the board committees and descriptions was helpful. I had business cards made up which are handy for giving out during errands and talking at events. The by-laws that were updated prior to my installation were distributed. The Ways & Means Committee is still investigating a day or overnight trip to a botanical garden in the spring, and is also looking

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District IV Officers

Judy Esposito, Director
Mary Dame, Assistant Director
Elizabeth Rossi, Recording Secretary
Martha Van Patten, Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Millington, Treasurer

into inviting vendors to our spring and fall District luncheons. The board will be meeting in the future to further discuss the opinions offered at the meeting and at the fall District Meeting and Luncheon.

At the District IV Fall Meeting and Luncheon on October 6, we heard committee reports. Mary Dame, 1st Assistant Director for District IV, is also State Chair for Nature Conservancy. She presented a report on the Jefferson Project, which State President Pat Wania has earmarked as her Nature Conservancy project. All Nature Conservancy funds will go toward this project which is a study of the Lake George ecosystem. It is hoped that this will serve as a model for other studies. The guest speaker at our luncheon was Tim Boebel, an expert on hydrangeas. He showed slides on the various species, and pruning and maintenance tips. Thank you to the Glenville Hills Garden Club for your efforts in hosting the day's activities.

Lastly, I have the pleasure of being president of a club that celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. In September, the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club hosted its anniversary luncheon at which two long time members were honored with State lifetime memberships. It was especially nice that State President Pat Wania personally put the official pins on the ladies. Fifteen scrapbooks were displayed that had been put together by three club members; and I presented a slide show. These bits of memorabilia were very popular with everyone that attended.

If your club has long time members, State Life Memberships or Books of Recognition are two ways to honor them. As clubs, your members and your activities have many ways to be honored, so please contact District Awards Chair Jackie Viestenz about the award process, which has very specific timelines and rules. If you have many years of club history, take the time to organize the pictures and newspaper articles into scrapbooks, and keep them in a safe place. Future members will appreciate the effort!

- Judy Esposito, District IV Director

2015 Fall Awards

FGCNYS

Club Recognition: Ballston Spa, Carillon, Schuylerville

District IV

Contribution to Nature Conservancy: Schuylerville

Contribution to Lake George Conservancy: Carillon

Contribution to Conservancy Groups: Glenville Hills

Greatest Number of New Members: Lake George

Membership Retention: Ballston Spa, Lake George

Yearbook: Ballston Spa, Carillon, Heritage, Lake George, Schuylerville

Youth Campership: Ballston Spa, Carillon, Glenville Hills, Heritage, Lake George, Schuylerville

Youth Scholarship: Ballston Spa, Heritage, Lake George, Schuylerville

Anniversary Citation: Ballston Spa

Outstanding Educational Exhibit: Sharon Lonergan (Carillon)

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club



Club members were pleased and honored to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary at a luncheon on September 13th at the Ballston Spa Country Club. Current club President and District IV Director Judy Esposito welcomed honored guests Pat Wania, President FGCNYS; Stacy Simmons, President Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association; and Vincent DeLucia, candidate for Town of Malta Supervisor. Stacy Simmons was awarded a "Friend of the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club" certificate for her continued support of the club through many generous Brookside Nursery donations. Club members Diane Lang (far right), and Mary Ortoleva (second from right) were honored with lifetime memberships in the FGCNYS for their service to the club and the community (Diane 47 years, Mary 57 years).



The October meeting featured a presentation by staff of Wild Birds Unlimited who discussed how to create a habitat that attracts a wide variety of birds, and how to be a responsible birder. At the November meeting, club members will learn how to create their own Thanksgiving centerpieces from items in the home. December will be a busy month for club members as they enjoy a holiday luncheon together, make fresh holiday swags for public buildings in the village, and decorate a float and march in the village holiday parade.

- Pamela Relyea, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

The summer months were devoted to planning for the club flower show which was held September 25 and 26 at the Hague Community Center and showcased two very informative and fun design programs (see photos on page 9). In preparation for the show, Valerie Cleary presented a program in July on different types of design. She showed how to construct a design and emphasized that "less is more". She inspired many club members to enter the show. In August, Phoebe Hunt-Fontaine gave a program on miniatures. Constructing miniatures is harder than it appears. Phoebe emphasized staying within the size required by the schedule.

The theme of the show was "Let the Games Begin". There were 36 entries in the Design Division. A Petite Division was included to compete for the Pauline Sherwood Silver Tray. The classes in the Design Division were all associated with different games. Club members outdid themselves in interpreting these designs. Susan Darrin received the Design Excellence award plus a blue ribbon in the "Full House" segment of the Design Division. Steven Brown of District V won first place in the "Let's Have Tea" segment.

Kathryn Ramant won the People's Choice award in the Photography Division.

There were 96 entries in the Horticulture Division which included categories for perennials, annuals, collections, potted plants, and vegetables. Some very beautiful and unusual horticulture was submitted.

Everyone who attended the show thought it was very beautiful.

- Jackie Viestenz, President

Glenville Hills Garden Club

Club members enjoyed a tour in July with Father Anthony Barrett through the English Garden at the church of Saint Ambrose in Latham. Parishioners maintain the garden with care, creativeness and expertise.



During the summer months, club members watered the flower barrels throughout town that were planted during the club's spring cleanup. Club members also planted and nurtured gardens at the Galway Post Office, Galway Central School and the local food pantry.



The club sent four seventh-graders to Camp Colby. They reported that they had unique educational experiences, made new friends and just had a "really good time"! Two awards were presented to twin graduating seniors at BOCES. Both were extremely grateful.

Members faithfully nurtured their hydrangeas and then dried them. In September, they created special centerpieces, under the direction of Sharyn Kalinkewicz, for the FGCNYS District IV Fall Meeting. Sue VanOmmeren's committee worked very hard planning for the event which was a great success. To coordinate with the hydrangea theme, Tim Boebel discussed growing these beautiful flowers prolifically.

Claude Monet, the French impressionist painter, was a gardener first, then a painter. At the club's October meeting, Sue Pezzola will present the story about his passion for flowers and landscaping. In November, club members will assemble a holiday decoration for distribution to seniors in the area. To end the year on a festive note, club members will enjoy a catered meal at the Mari-Bob Farm.

- Lenore Lanka, Co-President

Heritage Garden Club

As reported in the last issue of The Garden Gate, two of the Saratoga Springs gardens that are cared for by the Heritage Garden Club were on the Soroptomists "Secret Garden Tour" on July 12. This was very exciting for the club members and was a great opportunity to acquaint area residents with the gardens and the gardening efforts of the club. It was a warm, sunny day and the gardens were beautiful. Many visitors commented on how much they appreciated and enjoyed the gardens.

The club members held their very popular barbecue for Woodlawn Commons residents on July 6. The members did the grilling of the hot dogs and hamburgers which are served with "all the fix-ins" donated by club members. Dessert and cookies are not forgotten. This event is eagerly anticipated by residents and club members alike.

After a hiatus of two months, the club members were happy to get together in September for a pot luck luncheon and meeting. All enjoyed great food and even greater company. On October 5, the annual fall garden therapy activity with Woodlawn Commons residents took place. The residents made floral and dried arrangements in mason jars for their rooms. Later in October, another annual event for the Woodlawn Commons residents will take place. Club members will prepare and host the very popular Harvest Tea using a silver tea service and the members' best serving pieces to serve special goodies. Club members will miss member Anita Jaenisch terribly at this event. Anita passed away recently and had been the chair of this activity for many years.

The annual Card Party and Luncheon will be held on November 4. All are invited to attend this annual fund raiser. This year it will be held at the Vista Restaurant at the Van Patten Golf Course in Clifton Park, starting with registration at 11:30. Club members hope to see many of you there enjoying the luncheon and a card game. In December, club members will meet again at the Vista for the annual holiday party to which they bring gifts

for Maplewood Manor residents, donations for Shelters of Saratoga residents, and hats and mittens for school children.

Another activity for Woodlawn Commons residents takes place in early December when club members assist the residents in decorating holiday trees and wreaths they will use in their apartments. In early January, club members will enjoy a program about the Wilton Wildlife Park. It may encourage the members to appreciate the great outdoors of this beautiful area and to get out in it when spring arrives (or even before!).

- Martha Van Patten, Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club

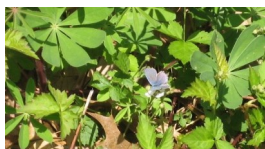
In early June, the club purchased a flowering crabapple tree that was donated to the Village of Lake George. The tree was planted along the waterfront in Shepard's Park. A dedication with Mayor Blais will be held this month.

In June, club members enjoyed a visit to Wiawaka Holiday House. It was a day of good food, relaxation on the porch, sunning on the dock, and a tour of the historic grounds and beautiful perennial gardens.



Also in June, club members were treated to a guided tour of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park. The Karner Blue butterflies were

a sight to see fluttering around the blue lupine.

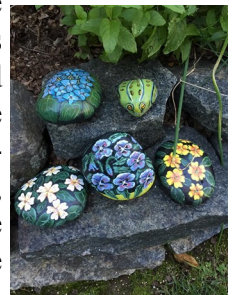


In July, the membership was invited to the home of member Betsy Birchenough on scenic Lake George. This was the club's annual salad and dessert luncheon. After lunch, club members toured Betsy's gardens and the newly planted buffer gar-

den.

Club member Ann Marie Jetter hosted the annual brown bag lunch in August. Ann Marie's spectacular Adirondack style home is located on Trout Lake in the Town of Bolton. Club members enjoyed a brown bag lunch followed by a tour of Ann Marie's gardens.

The September meeting was held on the Lake George Association Floating Classroom. It was a beautiful day for a slow cruise along the lakeshore. Members viewed examples of good and bad stewardship of properties on Lake George. Another September project was painting flowers on rocks, led by club President Charlanne McDonough. In no time at all, the plain rocks were adorned with splashes of color and beautiful flowers.



The following is a snapshot of upcoming events: October - members will create long lasting indoor terrariums at the home of Pat Carpenter. Dorothy Burt will lead the workshop; November - members will make sixteen holiday wreaths to donate to public buildings and health facilities in the area; December - members will design a holiday tree to donate to the Glens Falls Festival of Trees. Also, members will gather at the Log Jam Restaurant for the annual holiday luncheon. Canned food and monetary donations will be collected.

- Charlanne Ryan-McDonough, President

Schuylerville Garden Club

Summer is gone, fall is here, temperatures are trending down and the holidays will be here soon.

Our group went to the Ripe Tomato to celebrate a great flower show. The theme of this year's show was "Home is Where the Heart Is" and was enjoyed by all (see photos on page 8). The show encompassed 9 Design classes and 8 Horticulture sections. Pelargoniums (geraniums) were selected

for the growing challenge which boosted Horticulture to 250 entries - an all time record. New this year was the photography section with the winners being selected by people's choice. There were 29 entries. Club members are already gathering ideas for next year's show, and again will have a contest to determine the title/ theme of the show.

On September 9, club members traveled to Little Heck's Hydroponics in Saratoga Springs to learn about that method of gardening. With great humor, owner Jeff Parish and staff demonstrated various methods and equipment.

In October, Leona Brownell will teach club members how to construct terrariums and keep them looking good. In November, members will construct kissing balls.

A long time member who is downsizing her home held an "over stock" give away of garden related items. This was a novel way of finding new homes for the many objects we collect.

Schuylerville Garden Club was awarded first place in Class 3 Yearbook Evaluations for District 4. Yearbook co-chairs Mary Malicki and Patricia Frazier have done an outstanding job.

- *Sharlene Pendrak, Correspondent*



Message from Barb Millington, FGCNYS Youth Chairman

Youth Contests for 2016

Teachers will be back in the classroom and if you haven't already contacted them, now is the time.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters are due to me by Jan. 10, 2016. The rules can be found at www.gardenclub.org under Youth Programs, then Youth Contests. The posters do not have to be done in the classroom. The Sculpture Contest is due by Jan. 20, 2016. The rules can be found on the same web site.

The 2016 NYS Poetry Contest, "Garden Blooms", is due by March 31, 2016. All of the information was emailed to club presidents in the spring. The winners for 2015 were chosen and were printed in a booklet which I distributed at the District IV fall conference. Proudly, there were two winners from District IV! They are: Siela Zembsch, 8th grade from Glenville Hills, and Alexandra Lay, 9th grade from Ballston Spa. Congratulations to the winners and the club members who encouraged the school districts to participate. The interesting cover art on the booklets was done by two entrants who sent their artwork in with their poems. Please advise your entrants that if they would like to draw a picture to accompany his/her poem, we will try to include it in the booklet.

It was a very successful award year, and I am hoping for even more participants this year. I'm looking forward to seeing what the youth in your area submit.

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Schuylerville Garden Club Standard Flower Show

July 12-13, 2015

“Home is Where the Heart Is”



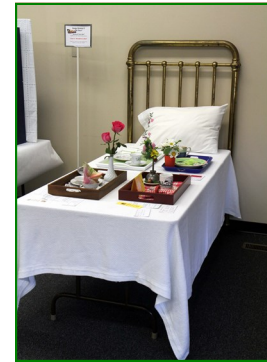
Table Artistry Award

Diane Swartwout



Pelargonium Challenge Winner

Center planter - Leona Brownell



Class 6

“Breakfast in Bed”

A Snack Tray

“The Landscape”

Designer’s Choice &

Award of Design Excellence

June Rickard



Class 3 “Troughs”

Grower’s Choice Award

Leona Brownell



“The Nursery”

Petite Award

Marge Shostak

“The Doll’s House”

A miniature vignette

Blue Ribbon Winner - Liz Gee



Carillon Garden Club Flower Show

September 25-26, 2015

“Let the Games Begin!”



Enjoy Autumn !!!



District IV Calendar of Events

October 25-27 CAR Conference, Hotel Wyndham, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

November 4 Heritage Garden Club Luncheon & Card Party, Gideon Putnam Hotel, Saratoga Springs

November 17 FGCNYS Winter Meeting, Guilderland Town Library, 9AM

District IV Clubs

Ballston Spa House & Garden Club

www.bshgc.org

Carillon Garden Club

www.facebook.com/carillongc

Glenville Hills Garden Club of Saratoga County

www.glenvillehillsgardenclub.org

Heritage Garden Club

www.heritagegardenclub.org

Lake George Community Garden Club

www.lakegeorgecommunitygardenclub.org

Schuylerville Garden Club

www.schuylervillegardenclub.org