

THE GARDEN GATE

FGCNYS District IV Newsletter: Winter 2015-2016

www.nydistrictIV.org



Message from District IV Director Judy Esposito



Hello! I don't know which club members may be reading this from the south or from your primary residence up here but hopefully, the Garden Gate will help all of you feel connected to your fellow District IV club members.

It will be very interesting to see how our plants survive the up and down winter weather we are having here in upstate NY. Maybe a lot of what we do this spring will be to salvage what didn't die off due to lack of snow cover. Although the gardens have been asleep, District IV garden club members have not! You were all busy providing or selling greenery for the holiday season, participating in community events, donating food to your local pantries, and enjoying holiday luncheons. My home club, Ballston Spa, held a holiday luncheon at which a cute Christmas garden poem was read based on "Twas the Night Before Christmas." (Editor Pam Relyea thought you might want to read it, even if it is a little late, so it is printed in this edition following my message.)

Many of our clubs are now working vigorously planning for the 2016-2017 year with lining up programs, scheduling luncheons, and working on club projects and fundraisers. As you plan, I hope everyone will give some consideration to meeting the needs of club members as well as that of the community. The purpose of membership in a garden club should be to encourage participation and fellowship as you seek to beautify your homes and your community in many varying ways. Your programming process, therefore, should begin with thoughtful insight regarding what can realistically be achieved by the active members of your club. There should be a variety of project options for all members, regardless of physical or other limitations. For example, a new garden project may not be advisable to pursue if many members are no longer physically able to plant and tend a garden. This takes into consideration not only those who cannot actively participate, but also the amount of work to be done by perhaps too few club members. The goals and objectives of the National Garden Club (NGC) and the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS (FGCNYS) should also be reviewed for possible activities and projects such as: youth programs, floral design, National Garden Week, Wreaths Across America, Arbor Day, and community beautification. Keeping in mind my previous cautionary example, the NGC is encouraging clubs to create or expand gardens to make them more friendly for the butterflies. The

The Garden Gate

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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

NGC Butterfly Committee has produced a butterfly booklet "Inviting Butterflies Into Your Garden" which is downloadable at the NGC website: <http://gardenclub.org/resources/projects/ngc-inviting-butterflies-into-your-garden>. Another helpful butterfly website is: <http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs>. Additionally, please consider that there may be National, Central Atlantic Regional (CAR) or State awards for many of your activities so please review those listings, document your activities well, and communicate with your club awards chair and/or District IV Awards Chair Jackie Viestenz.

As the new year begins, please brainstorm ways that your club can use all the different forms of media available to us to keep your club "in the news". Community publicity serves to increase club awareness throughout the community, encourage new community contacts, and increase your membership. If your club does not have a publicity chair, consider asking for one or more volunteers to take on this worthwhile job.

Many clubs renew their membership to the Nature Conservancy in the spring, so please send your checks to FGCNYS State Nature Conservancy Chair (and District IV Assistant Director) Mary Dame and note "The Jefferson Project" on the check. This is the Nature Conservancy project that FGCNYS President Pat Wania has chosen for FGCNYS to support. Let's all support this worthwhile project that serves not only our area but is a model for lake research throughout the US.

As District IV Director, I attended the November 17th FGCNYS Board meeting in Guilderland, participated in the District Directors meeting; and was in charge of the food planning. I will also be attending the FGCNYS annual meeting on Long Island, April 11-12. If any District IV club member would like to attend with me, I am happy to travel with others. The brochure for this event should be available on the FGCNYS website soon. Looking towards the fall, the FGCNYS will host the National Garden Clubs - Central Atlantic Region (NGC-CAR) 2016 conference at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs on October 23-25, followed by a flower symposium sponsored by the FGCNYS on October 25-27. This will be an excellent opportunity to experience world class demonstrations and workshops, and so close to home! District IV 's contribution is to provide chocolate horseshoe favors for one of the dinners. In the future, you may hear from committee planners looking for support with this project so please be helpful if you can.

As I close, please know that I support each club's activities. If you invite me, I will do my best to attend your meeting and/or event. I attended the November luncheon of the Heritage Club, and it was fun to meet new people! Lastly, always remember that communication is key to successful activities, whether on the district level or individual club level.

Enjoy the rest of the winter, wherever you are!

- Judy Esposito, District IV Director



A Gardener's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard,

Not a plant was left standing, the ground it was hard.
The tools were all hung in the garage with care
A well deserved rest now that the garden was bare.

The bulbs were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of springtime danced in their heads,
I in my Snuggie, my husband with our cat
Had just settled in for a long winter's chat.

When out in the hydrangeas there arose such a clatter,
I dropped my seed catalogs to see what was the matter.
Away to the front door I quickly dashed,
Half expecting to find my yard had been trashed.

When I opened the door, it was suddenly clear.
Here was a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer
With a little old gardener so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!

More quickly than crabgrass his coursers they came
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name.

“Now Holly! Now Ivy! Now Daisy and Rue!
On Rose, On Petunia, Fern and Lily too!
To the top of the trellis! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!”

So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew
With a sleighful of gifts and St. Nicholas too.

I closed the front door and was turning around
When he slid down the chimney, hitting the ground.
He was dressed all in red, with Wellies on his feet,
And a poinsettia on his cap made him look really neat.

He stood up quite quickly and went straight to his work
With a composter for Cathy, a Dutch weeder for Dirk.

There were asters for Ann, a pine tree for Paul
And a garden design book for use by us all.
Next came a rain barrel. This was for Rob.
And finally, for me, a ginkgo key fob.

Then laying a trowel aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He ran to his sleigh and gave a quick whistle
And away they all flew like the seeds of globe thistle.

But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
“Merry Christmas to all gardeners and to all a good night.”

Ballston Spa House and Garden Club

Club member Barb Fasake was the presenter at the November meeting, and she demonstrated how to make lovely Thanksgiving centerpieces. Afterwards, club members made their own to take home.



The December holiday pot luck luncheon was held at the home of club member Pat Burnham, and enjoyed by all. Club members also got together to make and donate holiday swags to the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, which hosts the monthly club meetings, as well as to the Ballston Spa Public Library and Village Offices. The library front door urns were decorated with holiday greens. The club was represented at the Ballston Spa Annual Village Holiday Parade where members carried the club banner and threw candies to the crowd.

The February meeting at club member Lorraine McPherson's home will be highlighted by the induction of club officers for 2016-2018. The March meeting will again feature club member Barb Fasake, this time leading the group in a game of Garden Jeopardy.

Club members are discussing, planning and formulating the specifics to host a possible First Annual Ballston Spa House and Garden Club Garden Tour! It is hoped that the tour will be held in the spring/early summer and will feature a number of lovely gardens in the village, including some belonging to club members!

- Pamela Relyea, Correspondent

Carillon Garden Club

The Carillon Garden Club once again had a whirlwind fall and pre-winter season! Members continued to be dedicated to club activities and community events.

In October, club members visited the Heritage Commons Adult Home in Ticonderoga to help residents make fresh floral arrangements. Over twenty residents participated with the help of six club members. Beautiful fresh flowers such as zinnias, snap dragons, asters, delphinium, dahlias and other fall materials were donated by the Kings Garden at Fort Ticonderoga to make over thirty arrangements that were displayed throughout the facility. Members and residents agreed that they hope to repeat this activity each year.

The November meeting featured a visit and talk by the club's sponsored student to Camp Colby, Madison Flora. Also in November, over three hundred locally made wreaths and kissing balls were sold and distributed. This process, the club's main fundraiser, was begun in September with club members making bows, and wiring pine cones and berries to adorn the greens. The Youth Committee also sold evergreen sprays.

December found club members enjoying the "Holiday Magic" reception, the club's gift to the community after the Champlain Valley Choral Concert. Members displayed beautiful seasonal arrangements, wreaths and collections; and provided tasty sandwiches and goodies for all to enjoy. The club was also represented at the local museum's "Festival of Trees".



Club members brightened up the holidays with decorations on special trees at the local library and nursing home, as well as containers throughout Hague and Ticonderoga. Club members visited a local assisted living adult home to help residents decorate wreaths for their doors.



The Youth Committee helped students to make holiday arrangements for the Senior Citizen's dinner put on by the Kiwanis Club; and also helped the kindergarten students make fresh evergreen arrangements to take home. Club members and guests enjoyed a festive holiday luncheon and were happy to welcome club member and FGCNYS President Pat Wania who conducted the special Installation Ceremony of officers.

The club also honored the nation's veterans by placing a wreath at the Blue Star Memorial near the Crown Point Bridge.



There will be a recess from monthly meetings until March, but in the meantime, the club's new officers will be planning another busy year full of activities and informative meetings. With the unsea-

sonably warm temperatures during December, let's not be fooled into thinking that Spring is just around the corner just yet!

- Betty Rettig, Correspondent

Glenville Hills Garden Club

In October, club members were treated to a very informative program given by Sue Pezzola, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator, on the French impressionist painter Claude Monet. He created magnificent gardens and ponds which he used as subjects for his art work.

Club members were proud of Galway Central School student, Seila Zembach, who was a FGCNYS poetry contest winner for her poem



"Metamorphosis". She was presented with her award, a printed booklet of all winning poems, at the Galway Library in October. Co-Presidents Lyn Liuzzo and Lenore Lanka were pleased to attend the ceremony,

along with club member Amy David (Seila's mother).

Autumn means garden clean-up, so along with clearing their own personal landscapes, club members tended to the club's plantings at the Galway Central School, post office and food pantry.



The club's November project was assembling a holiday decoration in a reusable mug. These were

given to seniors and shut-ins. Club members Darby Neahr and Sue Wemple decorated the Village Park gazebo and a local church with evergreens and ornaments.

Between holiday preparations, members took time out for a relaxing catered dinner at club member Mari Fettke's lovely home.

In honor of National Wreaths Across America Day, club members honored veterans on December 12th with the placing of wreaths at six local sites including town halls, parks and school.



A potluck luncheon, election of officers and plans for the New Year will take place in January. February's meeting will feature Karen Totino, co-owner of Green Conscience in Saratoga, who will discuss the environmental impact of common products and how we can be more earth-friendly. In March, Marilyn Stevenson from the Thymely Herb Club will present a program on herbs and lavender. Officers will be installed in April at a luncheon held at Galway's unique Cock 'n Bull restaurant.

- Lenore Lanka, Co-President

Heritage Garden Club

Club President Betsey Sutton wrote in her recent email to club members: "We ended the year on a 'high note' with the news that the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust will again make a grant to the Heritage Garden Club in 2016 in support of our community garden efforts, the garden therapy

programs at Woodlawn Commons and a National Garden Week program in June." Club members are very grateful to the Solomon Charitable Trust and to Betsey for her efforts in applying for the grant.

In the fall, club members enjoyed interesting and informative programs on Saratoga County dairy farming, and Treasures Consignment Boutique and Thrift Shop which supports the mission of Saratoga Hospital.

In November, club members held the annual fundraiser, the Luncheon and Card Party, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

In December, club members helped Woodlawn Commons residents to decorate small Christmas trees for their apartments. The annual holiday luncheon was held at Vista Restaurant at the Van Patten Golf Club. Before enjoying a wonderful meal and while listening to beautiful music played by Tony Eastwood, the members brought in many bags of gifts. As usual, Maplewood Manor, Shelters of Saratoga and elementary school children were the recipients of the contents of these many bags, mainly warm winter clothing.

In January, club members will attend a program on the Wilton Wildlife Reserve and Park presented by Executive Director Margo Bloom Olson. In February, the program will be "Beyond the Farmers Market" presented by Theresa Whalen, Lake George Community Garden Club member. Theresa is also a representative for Adirondack Harvest, a group that works to connect local farmers to their local and regional markets. Club members look forward to the April program on the Yaddo gardens, presented by a member of the Yaddo Garden Association.

We wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year filled with successful, productive and enjoyable gardening projects!

- Martha Van Patten, Correspondent

Lake George Community Garden Club

Club members gathered at the Lake George Senior Citizen Center in October to enjoy a lecture by Albany County Master Gardener Cathie Gifford. Cathie presented a program entitled "Shakespeare in the Garden". Cathie spoke of plants cited in Shakespeare's writings and their literary context. We also learned that if we ever knitted our brows or slept not one wink, we are quoting William Shakespeare!

Also in October, the Perennial Planters, a subgroup of the club, met at club member Pat Carpenter's home to construct a long lasting terrarium. The workshop was led by club member Dorothy Burt. Dorothy discussed soil, plant types, and closed/enclosed

containers. The finished containers provide lasting beauty for many seasons with minimal maintenance.

In November, the members decorated holiday wreaths which were delivered to area post offices, fire stations, libraries and nursing homes. The members had a delightful morning of creativity and a good dose of aroma therapy...the essence of pine!

The Perennial Planters met again in November to make the ornaments for the club's four foot tree entered in the 2015 Festival of Trees held at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. The tree came to life with the help of wire, glue guns, bow makers, and lots of talent and enthusiasm. This year was the swan song for long time Chairpersons Caroline Rudolph and Eileen Ruel. Over the years, their trees have won many awards and sold for a good

profit to benefit the Prospect School in Queensbury. Thank you, Carolyn and Eileen, for your years of dedication and creativity.



The club celebrated the holidays in December at the Log Jam Restaurant in Lake George. North Country Ministries was the recipient of the cash donation and food items collected for their pantry. Members enjoyed an afternoon of good food and holiday cheer.

In upcoming events, Peter Bowden, spokesperson for Hewitt's Garden Center and WRGB's resident garden expert, will share his evolution into digital close-up flower and garden photography at the January meeting. In February, the annual covered dish luncheon will take place at the Lake George Senior Citizen Center. Members will bring their favorite dishes to share and exchange recipe cards. The afternoon will be filled with good food and lots of stories of winter plans. Julie Nathanson, Consumer Horticulture Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Warrensburg, is the speaker at the March meeting. Julie will discuss several invasive plants generally found in local gardens and how to combat them.

- Charlanne Ryan-McDonough, President

Schuylerville Garden Club

Schuylerville Garden Club met at Schuyler Park to plant 100 daffodils for spring, then went to the Schuyler House to put the herb garden to bed for the winter.

At the November meeting, club members created kissing balls and table decorations for themselves. After comparing the cost of ready-made, everyone realized how much was saved by foraging for greens in the backyard.

Early December saw the group decorating the village with greens and participating in the festival of trees. The club donated a wreath with glass ornaments representing garden tools.

On December 14th, club members sang carols at Morgans Run senior housing followed by cookies and punch. The holiday meeting was held at Longfellow's. Members enjoyed good food and a gift exchange, along with Christmas bingo. Everyone had fun.

As garden magazines arrive in the mail, plans are underway for club members' personal gardens and the flower show in July. Enjoy the holidays and think spring!

- *Sharlene Pendrak, Correspondent*

SAVE THIS DATE!

District IV Bus Trip

June 28, 2016

Join members of District IV on a visit to Elizabeth Park in Hartford, CT on Tuesday, June 28th.

Everyone will have the opportunity to view the gardens on their own at their own pace. You will see annual and perennial gardens located in the 101 acre park. The park has many benches and wide pathways leading through the gardens for the comfort of visitors.

The Elizabeth Park rose garden became a test garden for the American Rose Society in 1912. It is the first municipal rose garden in the U.S., and the third largest rose garden in the country. All types of roses can be found here and should be in full bloom at this time of year. There are more than 15,000 rose bushes in a 2.5 acre area.

We will enjoy lunch at the Pond House Café located in the park. Its menu offers fresh organic ingredients grown in their own garden.

After lunch, we will continue on to the Mark Twain Museum and Harriet Beecher Stowe gardens. This is a small museum and grounds that will give us time to return home at a reasonable hour.

The cost for the bus trip, lunch and admission will be \$80 on a first come/first serve basis. Seating is limited. District IV members who bring a non-member will receive \$1 off each ticket. Please support your district for this fund raiser and enjoy a beautiful trip!

Information for registration will be sent to your club presidents soon.

- *Barb Millington, District IV Treasurer*



District IV
Federated Garden Clubs
of New York State

Spring Meeting & Luncheon

Save The Date:

Tuesday

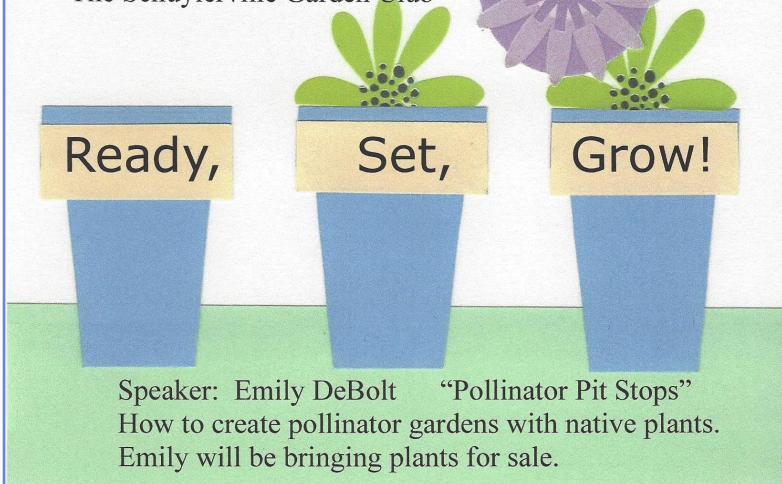
May 3rd, 2016

Holiday Inn Resort

Lake George, NY

Hosted by:

The Schuylerville Garden Club



Speaker: Emily DeBolt "Pollinator Pit Stops"
How to create pollinator gardens with native plants.
Emily will be bringing plants for sale.

District IV Calendar of Events

April 11-12 FGCNYS Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Hauppauge, Long Island

April 20 District IV Board Spring Board Meeting, Lake George Senior Center, 9:30 AM.

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