



Winter 2018: Volume 74, No. 4

Memoranda Editor: Glenda Pugh



**District Director's  
Message  
Anthony R. Antes**

Our fall meeting at the Orchard Vali Golf Club was a great success! Chris Miller, Atkinson Center for Sustainability, offered a great morning presentation on sustainability. After a sumptuous meal, we were hilariously entertained by "Three Clowns and the Prez" did a "Challenge Design". Each was given an identical set of materials and containers. Then, before our very eyes, they each created their own unique arrangement. Four very fortunate members won these creations. We elected the following VI District Officers for 2019-2021 term: District Director - Annemarie Ramirez; 1st Asst. Director - Cheryl Miller; 2nd Asst. Director - Tracy Welder; 3rd Asst. Director - Glenda Pugh; Recording Secretary - Susan Hayden; Corresponding Secretary - Pauline Ireland; Treasurer - Susan Fuchs; and Asst. Treasurer - Barbara Zeller. They will be installed as our new officers at our upcoming 95th Annual Meeting. I ask all our VI District members to please provide them with your full support during their term of office. And, speaking of our Annual Meeting, please save the following - The VI District Inc., FGCNYS Inc. 95th Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 at The Hathaway House, 3976 Route 41, McGraw, NY 13101. The Hathaway House is certainly one of our favorite venues. We have contracted for our morning presenter, Rick Marsi, a well-known naturalist in the Southern Tier, his presentation is "Attracting Birds Through the Year". November 12-14th saw the completion of Course #2 of the VI District Flower Show School. Meanwhile, at our FGCNYS Fall Conference, the dates for courses 3 and 4 were approved. The dates for Course #3 are April 16 - 18 2019 and for Course #4 are October 14 - 16 2019.

Now, I would like to share some information about FGCNYS and National Garden Club programs you may find interesting. First, the Amazon Smile Program, if you order from Amazon, please order via the following link which may give some money back to FGCNYS, Inc. You need to sign into this particular site rather than the regular Amazon website. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1663223>. College Scholarships - Jane Madis, our FGCNYS Scholarship Chair is beginning to work with colleges for this year's scholarship applicants. Our FGCNYS Scholarship is currently \$1,500.00 and we offer three scholarships while NGC has a \$4,000.00 scholarship available. Both scholarship applications are funneled through Jane and her committee. Our revised, interactive scholarship application is at [www.fgcny.com](http://www.fgcny.com) under forms and applications. Please contact Jane Madis at [janemadis@gmail.com](mailto:janemadis@gmail.com) with any questions. Youth Contests - NGC has three children's contests and further information may be found on [www.nationalgardenclubs.org](http://www.nationalgardenclubs.org) website. All NGC Contest applications are submitted to FGCNYS first and then then forwarded by us to NGC. The person that these NGC entries are sent to is Kimberly Paone, 24 Larkspur Drive, Ballston Spa NY 12020 (cont'd pg2)

**TO COUNTY CHAIRS  
PHOTOS AND NEWS  
DEADLINES FOR COPY**

|                           |             |           |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| <b>SPRING ISSUE: 2019</b> | <b>Feb.</b> | <b>28</b> |
| SUMMER ISSUE: 2019        | May         | 31        |
| FALL ISSUE: 2019          | Sept.       | 7         |
| WINTER ISSUE: 2019        | Dec.        | 1         |

**MEMORANDA**

**Glenda Pugh  
VI District Memoranda Editor**

Ready or not the holidays are upon us! If you have any memoranda suggestions or questions, send to [glendapugh@icloud.com](mailto:glendapugh@icloud.com) or phone: 315-815-4149 cell: 315-415-4987. For VI District information, visit our website: [www.fgcnyvi.com](http://www.fgcnyvi.com)

Tony Antes, our Memoranda Publisher, asks that if you have a change of mailing address, please send it to Pauline Ireland at [pauline.ireland@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.ireland@gmail.com), and if you have a change of E-mail address, send it to Tony Antes at [aantes@stny.rr.com](mailto:aantes@stny.rr.com) and Pauline

**Calendar of Events**

**April 16th-18th- VI District Flower Show School Course #3**

**April 24th - VI District Annual Meeting  
Hathaway House, McGraw, NY**

**Oct. 14th-16th - VI District Flower Show School Course #4**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SKANEATELES- Art, Music and Gardens - June 28th and 29th** -Our June 2019 Garden Tour, is entitled "Art, Music and Gardens". Six gardens will be on tour along with Artists, Musicians and floral arrangements. The tour is both days from 10:00 - 4:00. A luncheon will be at the Country Club on Friday (only) from 11:30 - 1:30. Pre-Sale tickets will be available online and at the Skaneateles Chamber of Commerce May 1st.

• Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest due by January 14, 2019. This contest is for grades K - 9. • High School Essay Contest concerning "The Impact of Bottled Water on the Environment and the Water Supply" for Grades 9 - 12 due by January 14, 2019. National Poetry Contest Due by January 14, 2019, "Pop Goes the Seed" Grades - K-9. All contest information for these three NGC youth contests are on <http://www.gardenclub.org/> in "Youth Contest". Include Child's name, Age, Address, Club's Name & Contact, Grade, School, and Teacher. The poster contest has a printable label.

## BROOME COUNTY

From: Linda Vick, County Chair  
607-648-2189 \* email: [birder65@gmail.com](mailto:birder65@gmail.com)

**BINGHAMTON GC -** Patience is a virtue they say, and it sure helps to bring some to the garden. There are always challenges to a successful gardening season – the weather, garden pests, disease – and the rain this summer was certainly a prime example. This year, the Binghamton Garden Club learned a lot about some new challenges facing us as gardeners!

Kevin Mathers, Extension Resource Educator at Broome County Cornell Cooperative Extension spoke to us about an invasive pest we have begun to see in our gardens - Asian Jumping Worms. Asian worms are native to Southeast Asia and are believed to have arrived in the US in potted plants and nursery stock. The problem with this species of worm is that they are surface dwellers, and they consume leaf litter and organic material at the soil surface. Populations can build rapidly and they can out-compete other worms and degrade forests and woodlands by stripping the soil surface of its protective organic layer. We've begun to see them in Southern Tier gardens and they are unmistakable by their wild writhing movement when disturbed. At this time there is no cure or method of eradication for them, and since they winter over in the ground in tiny pinhead-size cocoons, they aren't detectable as adult worms until June or July – long after garden clubs and master gardeners have finished their plant sales. Discussions have begun about the future of plant sales and how to avoid passing on the worms. Education is the first step.

I don't know about you, but I just got my first seed catalog in the mail and I'm ready to make some tea and start making lists! Have a warm and cozy winter!

**CHENANGO BRIDGE GC-** The Chenango Bridge Garden Club enjoyed a joint meeting in October with the Hill-n-Dale Garden Club. Our speaker was Elaine Gregory from Cooperative Extension, and she spoke on medicinal plants. We all enjoyed her presentation, and it was just lovely being able to meet up with Hill-n-Dale again. They had a very festive set up for the fall season, and our club provided wonderful desserts. Many thanks for Hill-n-Dale for inviting us, and we hope to do it again!

Our club's Holiday party will be Dec 12th at "A Tavolo" Restaurant and we look forward to a fun evening. We will be bringing donations of children's socks, mittens etc. for one of our local schools. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

**ENDWELL GC -** The Garden Club of Endwell has had a busy fall and from the looks of the weather outside we feel like winter has come early. Our community gardens were beautiful this year and were so appreciated by our community. Fall cleanup has occurred in preparation for next spring. Thanks to all who have helped throughout the season in making these gardens lovely for all that pass to see. **The Garden Club of Endwell's presence is evident.**

Local leaders and residents came together to celebrate and remember the lives of those who died on September 11, 2001. Patriotic messages, music, poems and participation by all who wished to remember those tragic events of 2001, were held at Highland Park.

Our club was honored to receive an award at this year's Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. which was held in Corning NY. We stepped up to the challenge of "Planting the Seeds of Membership" and increased membership by 7.

We continue to work on membership. This fall we implemented "hostesses" at our meetings. The hostess responsibility is to welcome members and be sure new members are made to feel included. It was also suggested from the research we did on "Recruitment and Retention" strategies for the clubs as well as a way to strive for strengthening friendships and relationships between club members.

We have had some wonderful programs this fall including "Native plants" presented by Karen Anderson, Master Gardener at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Our presentation on "Kokedama" presented by Jasmine McAvoy in October was great. In November we had a workshop by "Ye Olde Country Florist" in Owego. Margie and Jack walked us through making a "Kissing Ball". Members enjoyed this workshop!



We had two fundraisers this fall including Friendly's in Endicott, NY. In addition our yearly Poinsettia/Wreath Fundraiser is in progress, this is one of the Garden Clubs main money makers. Both Fundraisers were a success!

December will continue to be busy despite the cold temperatures. Our Garden Club of Endwell Christmas tree was placed and decorated at the Endicott Visitor Center for the community to enjoy. In addition, plans are being made for our Christmas Dinner in December at which we will be installing our new officers. We welcome Mary Tucker and Lura Baylor to our Garden Club of Endwell Board. We also want to thank our former board members Maria Leahy and Janice Black for all they have done for the club over the years.

At our last meeting a survey was distributed. This survey is important as we gather suggestions and ideas for the next year. The clubs input is valuable! With the suggestions we have received thus far, 2019 proves to be a great year!

**Hill 'n' Dale GC -** No report

**CHENANGO COUNTY**

From: Della Ericksen  
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**GREENE GARDEN CLUB-** The hanging baskets gracing downtown Greene were spectacular again this summer. Thank you to all who helped with this project. Thanks also to chairperson Alice Hoyt and members who helped with the cleaning-up and planting at the Blue Star Park and to the chairpersons of the other parks.

In October members enjoyed sharing delicious herbal dishes at the annual herbal supper.

Ten members participated in a November workshop at Sticks and Stones Nursery. Porch pots, wreaths or swags were created using a variety of fresh evergreens. At the November meeting members made holiday decorations for the meals-on-wheels recipients.

A couple of members along with other garden clubs went to Cooperstown to help decorate Fenimore House and enjoyed lunch together.

The year comes to a close on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> when members will wrap and organize the holiday gifts they purchased for the Rotary's Adopt-A-Family project. Our club has participated for 11 years.

The new president, Lisa Delaney, will be inducted and we thank our outgoing President, Jeanne Kennicutt, for a job well done. Savory appetizers and desserts will be enjoyed, while members start planning for the New Year.

No meetings are held in Jan. & Feb. but organizational and yearbook plans will be underway.

Happy Holidays and blessings for the New Year

**NORWICH GARDEN CLUB-** No Report

**OXFORD GARDEN CLUB -** No Report

**TOWN & COUNTRY NORWICH -** No Report

**CORTLAND COUNTY**

From: Judith Heath, County Chair  
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**HOMER GC-** In September we toured the new greenhouses at SUNY Cortland. DR. Steve Broyles, biology professor took us on a tour and showed us the plant collection received from the U.S. Botanical Garden in Washington D.C. Dr. Broyles also discussed his study on milkweed and has many varieties from across the Americas'.

October was the annual Anna Hilton Lecture opened to the public and was very well attended. The executive director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust, talked about sustaining healthy lakes and the scenic landscapes. Mr. Andy Zepp had handouts and answered many questions. Refreshments served by the committee were delicious.

The November meeting was cancelled.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY CORTLAND/HOMER** In September members A. Dalham and C. Baranello gave a program regarding ticks. The life cycle was discussed along with a demonstration on making tick logs, to help rid the yard of ticks. Soak cotton balls in a safe insecticide and stuffed them in toilet paper rolls, then placed them around the yard.

October took us to the home of E. Mohemini to view and learn about her bee keeping hobby. It was a beautiful evening and we all went home with a jar of honey.

November members N. Olp and S. Zeches supplied us with pumpkins and plant material to make holiday succulent arrangements.

**MADISON COUNTY**

From: Glenda Pugh, County Chair  
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**CAZENOVIA -** Cazenovia Garden Club members had the opportunity at our September meeting to catch up with each other after the summer, sharing stories of gardening, travel, and time spent enjoying the beauty of summer. Band concerts on the lake, picnics, boating, and relaxing filled many of our summer days! Spring bulbs were planted in our gardens, and yard clean up began, yet we still were able to savor our Autumn Crocuses, Perennial Asters, as well as several varieties of Hardy Mums being offered by local garden centers.

Mr. Calvin Wood of Deruyter's Woodstead Farm spoke about maple syrup. His program touched on tapping maple trees, sap collection, and sugaring off, resulting in this delicious product of nature! Mr. Wood's dedication to preserving his family's generations old process of collecting sap by buckets, hauling it through the woods, and boiling it down over wood fires was refreshing in today's often mechanical process. His family enjoys doing it "the good old fashioned way."

Preparing for decorating the village of Cazenovia for the Christmas season took place at our November meeting. Wreathes were checked for their lights and red bows before they are hung along with garlands on storefronts and light poles throughout the business district. Members chose cards suggesting gift items to be collected at our December meeting which are then donated to Caz Cares, our local food pantry. Also, donations of a requested item of the month are collected at each meeting to help support Caz Cares.

Members cut greens, red twig dogwood, sumac, an assortment of pine cones and berries, plus sprayed hydrangeas to use in filling the business district hayracks. Wreathes, garland and hayracks turn Cazenovia into a winter wonderland.

One of two major fundraisers, the annual Holiday Sale, was held in the Cazenovia Library Community Room on December 1st. Wreathes, roping, kissing balls, and poinsettias, along with our always in demand boxwood trees were just a few of the items that were offered for sale.

The Lincklaen House is the venue for our annual holiday luncheon. Members bring their unwrapped gifts for Caz Cares to this meeting. Holiday wishes are exchanged among members who always enjoy a delicious lunch, accompanied by great conversation among friends.

Our club wishes to extend all good wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy 2019!

**CHITTENANGO –** The Chittenango Garden Club is just bringing to a close its 80th anniversary year. We are proud to have been an active part of the Chittenango community since 1938. Special activities and celebrations culminated with our 80th Anniversary Dinner held on September 18, 2018 at the Whitetail Restaurant at Woodcrest Golf Club. V1 District Director, Tony Antes was our honored guest and program presenter for the evening. Director Antes program was titled, "Unusual Perennials". Vocalist Aaron Velardi entertained on keyboard during cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The club was honored with citations and awards presented by Director Antes and Village of Chittenango officials.



The 80th Anniversary Cook Book was fresh off the press and distributed as a memento of the occasion.

Our annual Holiday Bazaar held on Sunday November 4th was a huge success. Twenty-seven crafters displayed and sold their wares in our boutique room. A variety of options were available on the lunch menu and free punch, coffee and cookies were enjoyed by the shoppers as they strolled through the building or while enjoying



the floral design demonstrations of V1 District Flower Show Judges, Sharon Vazquez and Andrea Markham. Club member Lisa Munoff closed the afternoon's program with a final demonstration. All floral designs were then raffled.

Members look forward to a "Make and Take" activity for the November meeting and the Christmas party pot luck dinner that will close out the year of 2018. We wish all joyous holiday celebrations and a happy and healthy New Year.

**ONONDAGA COUNTY**

From: Nancy Haswell, County Chair  
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**HOME GC of SYRACUSE-** October 2<sup>nd</sup>- Home Garden Club of Syracuse held its board meeting at the Fayetteville Senior Center, enjoyed a warm lunch, and headed out for a work day in the Fayetteville Memory Garden. We got the beds weeded and put to rest for the winter!



November 6<sup>th</sup>-Teresa Plaza of St Agnes Florist Shop presented Holiday Designs! Teresa entertained members and the visiting public to her innovative approach

to designing for events, home holiday tables and bright lighted designs for festive occasions with lights and plenty of sparkle!

The Annual Greens Workshop will be held Saturday December 1, 2018 at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church from 10am-1pm. We have over 25 guests who have registered for the event! Ways and Means Table will be set up with holiday items and refreshments will be served. December lights decorations will be installed at Casey's Place in Syracuse. Members will meet on December 12th to enjoy a Holiday Luncheon at Vito's Italian Restaurant. Unwrapped gifts will be collected at the luncheon for Syracuse Girls Club Inc. families' gift giving events.

February 5th members will reconnect and get down to business creating "tray favors" for clients of Meals on Wheels.

March 5th will be our Annual Meeting with reports due from Committee Chairs and officers for the 2019-2020 terms will be installed.

**ONONDAGA -** In October, our Club had a great presentation by John Rogers, co-founder of the NY State Bluebird Society, at the Fayetteville Free Library. He gave us an in-depth look at the life of the Eastern Bluebird and what we can do to attract these delightful birds to our gardens. Following the Program, we enjoyed lunch at Kirby's Grill.

November had us meeting at the First Baptist Church where we worked at wiring ornaments for our Hospice Tree project while we discussed ideas for next year's programs. The slate of Officers for 2019 was also presented. Much was accomplished and we enjoyed Monkey Bread as we worked and pumpkin soup for our lunch.

On November 28, we battled the elements and gathered at Sue Fitzgerald's home to put together our Boxwood trees for Hospice. We succeeded in making 35 trees to go to Hospice to be delivered to their patients. This is our annual Community Project which we have done for over 20 years.



In December, we will be celebrating Christmas with a Holiday Luncheon at the Century Club of Syracuse. We will collect donations to contribute to the Food Bank of CNY. At this Meeting, our Officers for the 2019 Garden Club Year will be voted on. We wish all our fellow Gardeners, a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

**SKANEATELES –** September's meeting was on shade gardening. We've all been faced with the challenge in our gardens of an area that is shaded by a mature tree or the shady side of our homes. Doreen Todorov, Master Gardeners of Onondaga County shared with us some ideas for these shady area problems.

Kathy Purdy, writer, gardener and award winning blogger (on cold climate gardening) spoke to us in October. Her program was entitled "Autumn's Best Kept Secrets". She

has over 50 fall bulbs in her garden. She also spoke a lot on colchicums. Who knew there were so many varieties?

Nancy Easter held a bulb forcing workshop in November. Paper whites for Christmas and daffodils, tulips and hyacinths for late winter enjoyment. Twenty-two members attended. Our November program was "Fresh Ideas for New Traditions". "Blooming Gals" is a family owned business in Marcellus, NY. We learned some new ideas for holiday decorating. Five members attended Course Two of Flower Show School in mid-November. Thank you to Nancy Haswell and Sharon Vazquez for all their determination in making this happen. Dedication for the Creche in front of the Skaneateles Library was Friday, November 30th.

We are having our annual Holiday Arrangement Workshop December 10th. Members will make arrangements for our annual Christmas Luncheon at Elderberry pond or for their own enjoyment at home. We certainly have a lot of fun together!

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and good blessings for 2019!

**SPADE & TROWEL** – Spade and Trowel Garden Club has had a busy fall. Our regular program season kicked off in September with an amazing tour of Nancy Haswell's gardens. We toured, learned and snacked on delicious apples and tomatoes from the trees and vines.

October featured a presentation by master gardener Pat Kojaczyk on raised bed gardening.

We braved the first snow storm of the season for our November meeting at Loka Tea Lounge in Cazenovia where we enjoyed a tea tasting paired with desserts and a talk about tea growing.

Our greens workshop will be December 3rd. Happy and safe holidays to all!

**SYRACUSE STUDY GROUP** - Does not meet regularly. ♦

**WOMEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF BALDWINSVILLE-**

The Baldwinsville Garden Club has had a busy fall. In September Michael Putna a NYS biologist talked to us about the Land and Habitat Management of Three Rivers. Three Rivers is a vast area of wild land in Baldwinsville and also around the state that is managed for birds and animals.

Our Club gathered at the local library and donated 3 books in memory of three of our deceased members.

In October Village Engineer, Steve Darkangelo told us about improvements the village is doing, including new walking paths and ideas for village flowers.

Our November meeting had Kay Ptak helping some of the members make fall floral arrangements in pots of their choice. A fall weeding and cleanup was done by a group of dedicated ladies at Pointe Garden which is the entry to the village. Terri brought her husband to help also!



(Carol Antwine, Kay Ptak, Terri Ferrigan, Lorraine Reeves)

**OSWEGO GC** - The month of September brought some relieve from the hot and dry summer days. It was still warm enough to meet outdoors surrounded by the many beautiful fairy gardens at Sue Tontarski's home where we learned to paint garden rocks. From expert to beginner it was a fun event followed by a camp fire. The beautification committee was busy with some fall cleanup work at our designated locations.

At the October meeting Donna James and Doanne Hurlbut gave a presentation on building and designing a succulent container garden. A lovely pumpkin floral arrangement was offered as a raffle to benefit our scholarship fund.

As is every year, the November meeting was held at the home of our most senior member who celebrated her 101st birthday this year. Over refreshments we enjoyed each other's company. We made plans for the coming year, collected toys for children to be delivered to the DDS and had yet another raffle for the scholarship fund.



Our garden club will end the year with a dinner at a local restaurant. We are looking forward to next year and spring gardening.

**OTSEGO COUNTY**  
 From: Sharon Bosco, County Chair  
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**BUTTERNUT VALLEY GC** - The BVGC club enjoyed a lunch in Cooperstown followed by a visit to the Otsego Land Trust at Brookwood Point for their September meeting. The Mission of the land trust is "to conserve our natural heritage of woodlands, farmlands, and waters that sustain rural communities, promote public health, support wildlife diversity and inspire the human spirit".

Composed of 22 acres, Brookwood, located on West Lake Road, Cooperstown, is open to the public to enjoy picnicking, viewing gardens, birding, fishing and boating.

Our October meeting, which was open to the public, was held at Zion Parish House in Morris. Linda Vick, the 6th district's Birds and Butterfly committee chair person, presented a talk on "attracting birds by improving their habitat". It was very interesting to all that attended.

Later in November we were invited by the Cooperstown Garden Club to help Decorate the Fenimore House for its annual Christmas celebration. Several members of the club enjoyed a festive morning helping other clubs to decorate the historic building which was followed by lunch prepared by the museum staff. Also in November, we had a program at our regular meeting which featured holiday tables decorated by club members. Each member was asked to explain the holiday that their table represented and the types of food they would be serving. Some members even prepared food that would've been typical

**OSWEGO COUNTY**  
 From: Evelyn Baldwin, County Chair  
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in their homes for that occasion. The holidays featured were Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and Valentine's Day.

**ONEONTA GC** - Our season opened with welcoming two new board members, President Angie Eichler and 1st Vice President Wendy Miller-Willis. Both ladies are enthusiastic and ready to lead OFGC.

The People's Choice Award for this year's Art in Bloom show was Dawn Minette, noted for arrangement expertise.

September's meeting was a visit from District director Anthony Antes. His presentation, "Putting Your Garden to Bed," was very informative and appropriate for the time of year. As usual, Anthony was ready with answers to all our questions. Also on September's agenda, the club handed out over 1,000 daffodil bulbs to Oneonta residents willing to add a bright welcome to spring in their front yards. The 'bright' idea for this drive to the club's continuing efforts to improve the beauty of Oneonta came from Publicity Chair Laurie Zimniewicz, with a generous donation from local organization, FOF. Bags of daffodils plus instructions and trowels were handed out at the local Main Street Farmers' Market. Laurie always looks for ways to keep OFGC in the public's eye.

October's meeting was a presentation by Dr. Sean Robinson, curator of SUNY Oneonta's Jewel and Arline Moss-Settle Herbarium. What an eye-opener. Did you know that many plant enthusiasts have been collecting New York's plant specimens for over one hundred years and that many collections have been donated to various NY colleges? Dr. Robinson explained that identifying and registering the specimens and the locations where they were found can be used to identify land use and climate changes over time. Botany and Horticulture students gain over-all knowledge of their topics as they identify plants and examine the environments where these were found.

The November meeting welcomed Michele Peters, owner of Ambiance Floral Events. Her demonstration of Holiday arrangements in many styles and colors is just what we need as we prepare for this year's Holiday Greens sale event.

**TIOGA COUNTY**

From: Diane Arthur, County Chair  
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**APALACHIN GC**- Our September meeting featured making an air plant terrarium by Jasmine from Kokedama Flora. Jasmine certainly loves what she does to create these terrariums. Members were happily entertained and created some beautiful terrariums.

In October, Tony Antes, Master Gardener and our District Director presented a slide show on Putting Your Garden to Bed. Everyone had so many questions and Tony spoke to us about the Jumping Worms which are making their way into the Southern Tier. It was a wonderful program and many of us were anxious to go home and get busy in our gardens.

Our November meeting was presented by Fran Berry, our Apalachin Garden Club Vice President. Members made a Christmas arrangement and all the supplies were provided to the members.

On December 6, the Club will celebrate with a Christmas Dinner at the Blue Dolphin Diner in Apalachin. Members are asked to bring food items for the Food Pantry.

**TOMPKINS COUNTY**

From: Dona Clark, County Chair  
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**ITHACA GARDEN** - For some November is a special month because it holds their favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. As we think of this day, some here may think of our Ithaca Garden Club members, the wonderful activities, treasured friendships, and to be thankful.

The fall has been an especially busy time for the Club's members. In October, another very successful fundraiser was held. The Co-chairs, Sue Hamilton and Adrienne Posner, showered words of thanks to all who contributed to the farm stand, the luncheon, silent auction items and flowers, putting in hours of work insuring an "over the top" outcome. Big kudos to Sue and Adrienne for their leadership, work and determination in making this a fabulous event.

Ways and Means Tri-chairs, Dolores Adler, Elaine Alexander, and Gretchen McDaniel planned and organized two superb meetings providing members opportunities to see and create beautiful floral arrangements and brilliant tablescapes. Our Horticulture Co-chairs, Kathleen Covell and Carol Eicher also held an exciting meeting with members sharing their favorite garden plants. We now look forward to our general meetings with lectures on climate change, shrub varieties, touring Mullestein Winter Garden at Cornell, and creating flower portraits.

On November 8th, fifteen crabapple trees were planted



on the Ithaca inlet. Forty five trees have now been planted. In 2022, the Ithaca Garden Club will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. How fitting that over 100 trees will have been planted by that date. Recently installed on the site was a large rock with a plaque that reads: "To celebrate its centennial year The Ithaca Garden

Club presents this crabapple grove to the community2022". Thanks to Wendy Blanchard and Beverly Hillman for their time and work on this important community project.

Our annual event of decorating the Cayuga Medical Center and Convenient Care Center will occur on December 6th. This is such a special day for our members, as they give of their time and energy creating beautiful holiday displays for the patients, staff, and guests to enjoy.

From our Club members, Happy Holidays to all!

## Herbs

By: Elaine Gregory  
District VI – Herbs Chair

Recently I taught a class how to prepare an herbal first aid kit. One of the items we made was plantain oil, which is used for bug bites and stings. When I talked about plantain I was asked if I meant the banana-like fruit *Musa x paradisiaca*. It brought home to me how important botanical names are. The plantain I was referring to is *Plantago major* – the broadleaf weed that is as ubiquitous as dandelions in our yards.

Broadleaf plantain is native to Europe but happily adapted to our soils and climate. Native Americans called it Englishman's foot because it flourished every place Europeans settled. The plant is very hardy and will grow successfully in full sun or part shade; along roadsides or in established lawns. A rosette of leaves appears in late spring followed by tiny yellow-green flowers stalks from mid-July until frost.

Despite it being the bane of homeowners who want perfect lawns, *Plantago major* has many good qualities. As mentioned before this is the go to herb for minor stings and bites. Simply plucking a leaf, crushing it and applying it to a sting or bite immediately stops the pain or itch and reduces the swelling. Although the older leaves are tough and stringy, the tender young leaves can be eaten like spinach. Broadleaf plantain is often added to cosmetics for its ability to improve circulation, and when combined with an alum mordant the entire plant can be used to dye wool a dusty gold.

Two cautions should be noted. The leaves can have a mild laxative effect and can cause contact dermatitis in sensitive people.

## Birds and Butterflies

By: Linda Vick  
District VI- Birds & Butterflies Chair

Monarchs started to arrive at their winter sanctuaries in Mexico on November 7th. Due to lots of rain, arrival on the expected Day of Dead Celebration was delayed. Arrival of Monarchs symbolizes the ancestors' souls returning to Earth for their annual visit. They are now arriving by the hundreds. For more info check out [journeynorth.org](http://journeynorth.org).

Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports that this could be a great year of irruptive birds. Because of a poor summer weather, conifer seeds and other foods for birds in Canada, are in short supply. We will be seeing several birds that would not normally be in NY during the winter. Keep an eye out for Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, Red-Breasted

Nuthatches, Redpolls, Crossbills, Snow Buntings, White-throated, White-crowned Chipping and Fox Sparrows, and



Evening Grosbeaks. Rick Bunting from Bainbridge shared this picture of Evening Grosbeaks feeding at his feeders. Because of the Grosbeaks large size and beak they

are more apt to feed at platform feeders.

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## NGC Flower Show School Recap by Sharon Vazquez

The second class in the 4 class series was held at DeWitt Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church on Nov 12, 13, & 14th. Chairman Nancy Haswell and Registrar Sharon Vazquez are happy to report the classes were well attended; 1 student from another state, 2 students from outside 6th District, and a number of attendees who attended either only Horticulture or Design portions. We would like to thank our 6th District and 6th District Judges Council for their continued support- it takes a lot of helpers. Our community of Horticulturalists and Designers stepped up to bring *Sansevieria* and *Needled Branches* for the critical Point



Scoring exams. Students practice point scoring exhibits and having ample entries is so helpful to instructors and students alike. NGC Flower Show School instructor Sandra Joyce led the Horticulture and Flower Show Procedure section of the course. NGC Flower

Show School instructor Jackie Davies wowed the students with designs: Tables, miniature and petite designs. We encourage anyone interested in attending all or a portion of the Course- It is a chance to see amazing designers, and help to better understand the process of entering and judging a Flower Show. The Trifold Registration Form will be available in our next memoranda- Course 3 will be held April 16, 17th, & 18th, 2019

## Arboriculture

By: Mary Connors  
District VI- Arboriculture Chair

My arboriculture article is an expression of sympathy for the lives lost, the homes destroyed and the devastating loss of the forests as the result of the fires in California. It is my hope that the people affected by the fires will find strength in unity and love. ♥



**FGCNYS VI District Inc. Memoranda**

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