



VI District, Inc

Memoranda



Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

Spring 2024: Volume 79, No. 1

Memoranda Editor: Diane Bloom



VI District Director Cheryl Miller's Message

Welcome Spring!

Even after the mild winter we had, it's always so exciting to see signs of spring, isn't it? I see all sorts of green popping up all over my yard and even though I'm excited to get out there NOW I'm going to leave the leaves for a while longer and let the bumblebees get more sleep.

Speaking of spring, mark your calendars for the FGCNYS District VI Semi-Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday May 15th, 2024, at the Hathaway House in Cincinnatus, NY. The invitation should be in your email any day now with details and menu choices.

The FGCNYS annual meeting is being held on May 6&7th at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. This will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York and is sure to be a celebration to remember! There will be excellent programs and designers with a Gala Dinner celebration on Tuesday night. The meeting will be followed by the FGCNYS 2024 Symposium "Celebrate: Go Wild, Grow Wild" on May 8-9 at the same location. Information on both can be found on the FGCNYS website: WWW.FGCNYS.org. While you're visiting the website, check out the information the State has to offer on Youth Contests, Schools, Awards, Grant information and much more.

Sadly, we have accepted the resignation of our Assistant Treasurer, Barb Zeller – the hardworking lady who does such a great job at the Ways and Means table at our luncheons – due to health issues. We wish her all the best in healing! If you think you'd enjoy a twice a year volunteer position (perhaps as a club effort), please let me know!

I look forward to seeing this issue of the Memoranda to catch up on what all our clubs have planned for the year. I'll be bragging about your efforts in my report to the State at the meeting in May!

Happy Gardening,
Cheryl Miller, District Director

TO COUNTY & COMMITTEE CHAIRS: NEWS AND PHOTOS DEADLINES

WINTER ISSUE: 2024	Dec 1
SPRING ISSUE: 2024	Feb 28
SUMMER ISSUE: 2024	May 31
FALL ISSUE: 2024	Sep 5

Memoranda articles need to be received by the Memoranda Editor, Diane Bloom, by 6:00pm on the Date of Deadline.

If you have any memoranda suggestions, questions, or comments, please send to: dbloom9995@aol.com or phone 315-420-4228.

For VI District information, visit our website:

www.fgcnysvi.org

If you have a change of **E-mail address**, send to Tony at aantes@stny.rr.com



Attention

Attention all VI District Officers, County Chairs, Committee Chairs, and anyone else in the 2023 VI District Member Directory.

March is the month that I update the directory so I can release a 2024 version with (hopefully) all accurate info. Please review your copy and let me know (YES or NO) if your information is correct. If not, please send me by Email the corrected info. If you know that someone else has taken your place, please have them verify that to me as well. Please send it to: aantes@stny.rr.com . You can also phone me at 607-775-3831 (NO TEXT). NOTE: Deadline for corrections, etc. is Wednesday 3 April 2024.



Memoranda Publisher – Tony Antes

As the VI District Memoranda Publisher, it is my function to take the Quarterly District Memoranda (February, May, Fall and Winter), skillfully created by Diane Bloom, our Memoranda Editor, and distribute it

to all our garden clubs. When I receive it, I give it a quick review and then I send it out to all the VI District Garden Clubs. Each club has designated one or more club members to receive the Memoranda and then to distribute it within their own garden club. If my club member contact changes for any reason, I need to know that so I can provide the clubs their Memoranda on time.

Recently I have received emails from a few individuals who did not get their Memoranda.

Club Presidents and Memoranda contacts, please determine who in your club has this responsibility. If that person(s) has changed, please send me their name, email address, and club name so I can keep my list up to date.



BROOME COUNTY
 From: Linda Vick, County Chair
 607-648-2189 • birder65@gmail.com

BINGHAMTON GC- The Binghamton Garden Club's theme "Oh the places we will grow" is quite appropriate this year!

As well as moving to a new meeting space with more room and ample parking, we have had a busy spring conducting a vigorous membership drive.

We have a diverse line up of programs scheduled for the upcoming season and some interesting field trips planned.

Our program topics include caring for houseplants, raising orchids, caterpillar gardening, all about the Eastern Bluebird, linen production from flax, cider brewing, an environmental podcast, and the latest about recycling in Broome County.

We will have hands on workshops on floral arranging and card making.

The field trips will take us to W&W in Apalachin to learn all about water gardening, Gourlandia in Ithaca NY to see how decorative gourds are raised and turned into art, Kutik's Bees and More in Greene and VINES Binghamton to tour the Urban Farm and their new zero energy use office building in downtown.

We'll be getting out into the community at the Daffodil Festival in Candor in early spring. We will be at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market on June 1st to promote National Garden Week (June 2 - 9) making wildflower seed bombs for kids to toss, and finally, we'll be doing a demo at Much Ado in the Garden on July 21st at Cutler Botanical Garden. Looking forward to a fun year!

See the last page for a fun event!!

ENDWELL GC – Hello, my Garden Friends and Happy spring!



In December, we ended our year with a wonderful potluck dinner. It is always amazing to see the variety of dishes that our members bring in. They are certainly great cooks and bakers. We had some trivia games and a "make and take craft." and then ended the evening with the installation of our officers.

Our poinsettia and wreath fundraiser were very successful and left us with some beautiful decorations for Christmas .



Our last senior center garden therapy meeting was painting, sugar, cookies, and enjoying an ice cream social which they always love.

We had five members come together and do some Christmas centerpieces for our members who are homebound. They are always so happy and grateful that we think about them.



The club then takes a couple of months off. However, the board members are busy at work preparing for 2024. Tammy Terboss, our second vice president, does an excellent job with setting up programs and workshops throughout the year.

We have had some new members step up to join some committees and had 10 members sign up to do a "garden tip of the month".

We are looking forward to our first meeting of 2024 on March 13th!

HILL 'n' DALE GC – The Hill 'n' Dale Garden Club celebrated the holidays in December with a dinner party at the Vintage Vibes Cafe. Members brought gifts to donate to the Greater Binghamton Health Center and the Broome County Humane Society and we prepared candy cups to be given to the residents of St. Louise Manor Nursing Home. Party games livened up the evening and our meal was followed by a candy making demonstration by Leopold the Chocolatier and, of course, a tasting of his delicious peanut butter cups.

Hill 'n' Dale does not meet in January and February, so no further group activities have taken place. We are

all looking forward to the 2024 meeting and growing season.



CHENANGO COUNTY

From: Joy Coletta, County Chair
607-843-9209 *joyful@frontiernet.net

GREENE GC - In December we freshened up the holiday wreaths for the Town and Village Offices and placed them on the windows. They complemented the holiday decorations of the other businesses on our main street.

We enjoyed a holiday luncheon at our December meeting. After the meeting was adjourned, we wrapped gifts for the Rotary Christmas basket program.

Our next meeting will be in April.

NORWICH GC – No report

OXFORD GC – As we gear up for the Spring, the Oxford Garden Club is looking forward to new members joining us. Our programs for the next few months are going to be interesting , In April we will have a public meeting about Medication & Herbal interactions, May will be our 65th anniversary, celebrated with a BLUE TEA PARTY. and in June we will be decorating gourd bowls. We're springing ahead. Our former President is recovering from an extensive surgery & rehab. Heal well, Barbara.

TOWN & COUNTRY OF NORWICH – The Town and Country Garden Club of Norwich was off in January and February, but members are very much looking forward to resuming meetings in March. We will start with a potluck dinner and a program on soil differences and starting seeds. The mild winter has put us in a gardening frame of mind much earlier than usual.



CORTLAND COUNTY

From: Marthe Seales, County Chair
607-749-4769 * marthe.seales@gmail.com

HOMER GC –DECEMBER: A lovely evening was enjoyed by all at our holiday dinner at the Cortland Country Club. Sandy Dewey, Debby Finn, and Margaret Anderson created festive table centerpieces from poinsettias,



pinecones, evergreens, and sparkly red ornaments. President Amy Simrell presented Marcia Blay, our long-time recording secretary and club historian, with a warm thank you and flowers for her many years of outstanding service. Marcia's minutes are always beautifully scripted. She has also kept detailed scrap books with photos of club activities for many years. As we do each December, members brought monetary donations for the Bridges for Kids program at the YWCA.



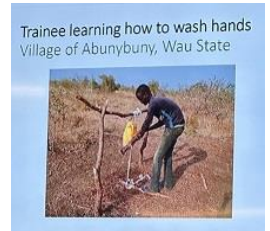
JANUARY No meeting.

FEBRUARY's meeting consisted of a zoom presentation and short video we viewed at the Homer Senior Center which were also joined remotely by several members. The focus was on two important projects that the Homer Garden Club supports



When a well is drilled, children, especially girls, have the possibility of attending school.

each year: "Water for South Sudan" and "DigDeep," the Navaho Water Project. Lynn Malooly, Executive Director of Water for South Sudan, gave us a very informative overview of this project, whose focus includes drilling new water wells and repairing broken wells so that villagers can access fresh water. They also provide hygiene education and sanitation services in areas of great need.



Trainee learning how to wash hands Village of Abunybuny, Wau State

Millions of South Sudanese leave their village homes during the dry season in search of water. Some have to abandon their homes, while others, usually women and children, walk miles every day to collect water from ponds, marshes, ditches, or hand-dug wells, where the water is often contaminated with disease-causing parasites and bacteria. Lynn spoke of the critical need for latrines, which is especially important for girls at the age of puberty to attend school. For more information on this very worthwhile project, visit www.waterforsouthdudan.org.



The second presentation was a short video on "DigDeep," the Navaho Water Project. Many of us were unaware that more than 2 million people in America live without running water or plumbing. Thirty percent of Navajo families still don't have a sink or a toilet. These families haul water every day and pay at least 72 times more for the water they haul vs. piped water. The DigDeep project develops new sources where water is pumped, treated, and stored locally. It brings clean, hot and cold running water to Navajo families across New Mexico, Utah, and

Arizona. They do this primarily by installing off-grid "Home Water Systems" which provide 1,200 gallons of hot and cold running water and solar power.

To learn more about DigDeep, visit <https://www.navajowaterproject.org/project-specifics>

TOWN AND COUNTRY CORTLAND/HOMER - Members of the Town & Country Garden Club of Cortland-Homer met in December at a local restaurant for our annual Holiday Dinner. During the dinner members visited with each other and discussed their holiday plans. Our holiday giving project was also discussed. Every year we work with our local YWCA to provide gifts for children in some of the YWCA programs. Garden Club volunteers subsequently shopped for and delivered the gifts to the YWCA. The Town & Country Garden Club did not meet in January.



Our February program was "Feeding the Birds." Members Sue Covington and Michele Ball gave members a refresher course in feeding our backyard birds. The information included the types of bird foods, seeds, fruit,

fats, etc., and also the different and appropriate types of feeders. Members also chimed in with their personal experiences with their feeders, and of course, the squirrels. During the discussion members created a treat for their backyard birds using a pine cone, peanut butter and bird seed. The perfect project to work on while listening and contributing to the program.



professor at SUNY ESF, who presented an informative program titled "Algal Blooms: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful." With Cazenovia Lake the subject of several research projects on water quality and algal formation, members had many questions and were highly engaged.

Carol Bradford will share her insights on peony history, culture and what makes this perennial so dearly loved, when she presents "Central NY: The Birthplace of the Modern Peony" at our March meeting.




Our Spring luncheon is scheduled for April 2nd at The Brewster Inn, with the induction of 2024-2025 officers and our annual business meeting. Always fun and festive!

We are looking forward to our Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, June 1st, 9am - 2pm, at the Cazenovia Farmers Market. Look for lots of perennial plants from our members' gardens along with other items for sale. Please check our website (CazenoviaGardenClub.org) as the time gets closer for more details.



Interested in becoming a member of the Cazenovia Garden Club? Please contact us at cazgardclub@gmail.com.

CHITENANGO GC - Election of officers was held at our December meeting. Officers include: CoPresident, Liz Ross and Jackie Lawniczak; Vice President, Jill Doss; Secretary, Linda Yonteff; Treasurer, Gail Harrington; Inspirational Speaker, Midge Daviau. A workshop for members and guests, directed by Elizabeth Lin, was held in a members garage. Pinecone swags were artistically crafted for holiday door decorations.


MADISON COUNTY
From: Glenda Pugh, County Chair
glendapugh@icloud.com

CAZENOVIA GC - We started the year at our January meeting being captivated by a fabulous movie - "The Gardener". It's a lovely documentary of the life's work of Frank Cabot, who created one of the most beautiful gardens in the world.

Our February meeting featured Dr. Greg Boyer, Director of Great Lakes Consortium and biochemistry



Our club once again participated in our community



sponsored holiday decorating contest. Four of our members had a wonderful time decorating the

planters at the entrance to the Village Office and Police Station, interpreting the theme of the Grinch story.

On February 20th we sponsored a dish garden workshop for children between the ages of 7-11. The event was free for our next generation of gardeners. All materials were provided by the club.



Our meetings will resume in March with member Sue Kamp giving a presentation on her 2023 visit to the Chelsea Garden Show and other English gardens. Planning is underway for our annual Plant Sale, scheduled for Saturday May 18, 2024. **See flyer on the last page.**



ONONDAGA COUNTY

From: Nancy Haswell, County Chair
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HOME GC OF SYRACUSE- The Annual Home Garden Club Green's Workshop was held at the Fayetteville Free Library on December 2nd. Attendees were about to create various holiday décor: A tabletop wreath or door hanging wreath adorned with berried evergreens boughs. (see wreath, wreath2.jpeg).



Our Holiday Boxwood Trees are always a big draw. President Liz Vanlaster demonstrated making a boxwood tree at the event. On December 5th members were treated to a lovely lunch as Caron Foran hosted at Fayetteville Town Center Resort 3900 Medical Center Drive. Members each contributed an item to the Holiday Auction that was held after our lunch. February 6th, 2024, met with scissors, folding fingers and glue sticks for our annual Meals on Wheels tray favor workshop (see mealsonwheels.jpeg) Meals on



Wheels presents weekly meals to clients- we were happy to provide over 175 of these lovely colorful favors- Think Spring!! Our March 5th luncheon will be hosted by Sharon Vazquez's home in Fayetteville. Members will meet to "close the year" present annual Reports and discuss our upcoming Program Year 2024-2025. April 9th is our first fieldtrip of the year- We will be gathering to carpool to Illick Hall at SUNY ESF and tour the rooftop greenhouses. May will prove to be a busy month for Home Garden Club Members- May 14th- members gather to discuss the upcoming events. Hostesses Rina Flatau will open here home to members a provide a lunch. The days meeting will have a speaker from Lans Flower Farm talking about growing Hosta. Plant Sale On May 18th at Beard Park in Fayetteville. 9am-12pm. June will have our members returning to Thornden Park to plant and clean up the Herb Garden. Springtime is on its way to Central NY!

ONONDAGA GC- No Report

SKANEATELES GC – January brought us a visit from our friends at Baltimore Woods Nature Center located in Marcellus, NY. David DuBois, Land Steward spoke on "Plants and Ecological Communities of Baltimore Woods." It's certainly worth a visit! Our very own Nancy Easter will share her journey's with us on all the gardens she has visited in the U.S. and abroad. In March, Tony Antes, Master of all things garden will speak on the many legends associated with St Patrick and Ireland. Many plants are associated with St. Patrick's Day. We will also enjoy some trivia as well. Our next workshop will be Silk Scarf Dying, March 28th. April will be our annual Spring Luncheon. Also, in **June, save the date! "Summers' Splendor Garden Tour"!** June 14th & 15th – see last page of Memoranda.

SPADE & TROWEL GC- The holiday evergreen kissing balls our club made for the village's Gazebo Park looked wonderful again this year. Many thanks to Pam Baran, Tracy Welder, Barb Dugan and Roberta Mou for their help in carrying on this wonderful tradition.





We enjoyed some delicious food and had lots of fun catching up with each other after the busy holidays at our Potluck Dinner / Book Club meeting in January. Member Clare Leary led an excellent discussion of our two book selections-- The Kew Gardens Girls by Posey Lovell and A Life In

Gardens by Penelope Lively-- and shared a slide show presentation of people, places and world events cited in the books. Everyone



enjoyed the meeting so much we've decided to repeat the format this coming January!



Club member Jen Fredenberg, who loves dahlias and has won

ribbons for hers at the New York State Fair, will share her knowledge of these garden beauties at our February meeting. More than a few members have caught the "dahlia mania" and experienced tubers being sold out within minutes of their sales being offered online. We are really looking forward to Jen's slide show presentation and tuber division demonstration! Who knows, we may discover a new variety we just have to grow....

And finally, our March 18, 2024, meeting is the rescheduled talk "Attracting Birds To The Garden" with Cornell Ornithology Lab's Dr. Stephen Kress. This 6:30 PM presentation at the Manlius Library is free and open to the public. Dr. Kress is a wonderful speaker who loves sharing his extensive knowledge of bird life. He is the author of numerous articles, online courses and books about wildlife conservation, including The Audubon Society Guide To Attracting Birds. Dr. Kress will hold a book signing after the presentation.

STUDY GROUP OF SYRACUSE - NO REPORT.

WOMEN'S GC OF BALDWINSVILLE

- Baldwinsville Club had their yearly Christmas Party where we brought hand decorated Christmas stockings for the Christmas bureau along with gifts.



Our February meeting was a talk by Angela Weiler, Master Gardner. She spoke about native plants and why we should be using them. Our hostess was members Betsy Holden and Terry Mullen. Betsy brought treats from her daughters' bakery; The Gingersnap Bakery located in Phoenix NY. Talking to Betsy at the table is Claudia and Diane.

Some of our members volunteer at the local Syracuse Nursing home. Local funeral homes donate flower arrangements to the nursing home and our members deconstruct and rearrange the flowers into vases to perk up the nursing home. The flowers done this week were by Claudia, Lorrie, Helen, Patty and Carol.

Next month we will gather and tell stories about our favorite teas and teacups. An opportunity to sit back and chat and get to know members.




OSWEGO COUNTY
From: Evelyn Baldwin, County Chair
315-256-9049 * bbaldwi3@twcny.rr.com

OSWEGO GC - On Winter break, no report.


OTSEGO COUNTY
From: Sharon Bosco, County Chair
607-263-2267 * sbosco@frontiernet.net

BUTTERNUT VALLEY GC - Do not meet in the Winter - No report



TIOGA COUNTY

From: Barbara Hohman, County Chair
607-625-4660 * hohman17@yahoo.com

ONEONTA GC- NO REPORT.

APALACHIN GC – The Apalachin Garden Club's March meeting will host Anna from Morning Light Landscaping. She will speak to us on The Care and Placement of Houseplants in Our Homes. March is also the month that the members take orders for our plant sale. It is our fundraiser for the year. We also purchase small plants to donate to the Shut in families in Apalachin for Easter.

In April will have Jeff Smith from the Waterman Center speak to us on The History of the Apalachin Marsh. May is our Dessert Meeting at the Blue Dolphin Diner. Our members sign up to plant the Fire Stations, the large barrels in town, the Muth Park, Our Hummingbird Garden and Hickories Park.

June is our year end activity at Pie Thyme and Flowers. We have pie for dessert and make a planter to take home.

July and August we are on recess, but our members water all the areas we plant in town.



TOMPKINS COUNTY

From: Melanie Weymer, County Chair
607-272-5373 • melanie.weymer@gmail.com



ITHACA GC –
March Madness

In the land of frost and chills where winter's grip holds tight, March arrives with a mischievous grin, ready to put

up a fight.

One day, it's sunny and mild, the next a blizzard roars. March winks at the confused daffodils and whispers, "Expect more!"

The Lion and the Lamb play tag, chasing each other 'round. One moment, gentle breezes kiss your cheeks, the next, icy gusts abound.

March is like a fickle friend, changing moods on a whim. "Spring is here! It declares triumphantly. Then sends snowflakes on a grim swim.

So, bundle up, my fellow gardeners, as March dances its wild jig. Remember it's a month of surprises, where winter and spring collide and dig.

...poet unknown, could have been AI generated?

Yes, I, too, have confused daffodils. In my garden, all of my spring bulbs, except the hyacinths, have poked through the soil. The snowdrops are blooming. Last fall, I planted over 60 daffodil bulbs in my front garden. Either I didn't plant them deep enough or...more likely...global warming has caused them to start growing early. Either way, the shoots are a good sign. Spring is coming!

Writing about daffodils reminds me to share with you the Ithaca Garden Club's plans for its Second Annual Daffodil Dash!

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday April 13th, 2024
Ithaca Cass Park



It's official. Registration is open for the 1-mile fun run/walk and 5-K race! You can register at www.raceroster.com. Registration is limited to the first 500 applicants or until March 28, whichever comes first!

Registration & one Dash T-shirt are free for children 12 and under: \$25 registration for all others. T-shirts are only \$10. Experience the sights and smells of 130,000 blooming daffodils along the level, accessible course.

Daffodil Dash is a joint project of the Ithaca Garden Club and the Ithaca Children's Garden. Thanks to our generous sponsors, every dollar raised is transformed into more daffodils, planted by the City of Ithaca, Cornell volunteers and their unique equipment. Daffodil Dash is part of the Ithaca Garden Club's Daff-A-Dazzle campaign, a multi-year effort to plant daffodils throughout the community.

Special thanks are also extended to the many Ithaca Garden Club volunteers...and their significant others.... who will make this race a success. Members should watch for emails about sign-ups for the pre-event Work Bee and for helping on race day. There will be all sorts of fun jobs: from monitoring the race, staffing water stations to sitting at the registration tables.

Note to District VI Garden Club members: one of the surprising outcomes of last year's race was the number of people who attended the race and expressed an interest in our club. Several became members, saying that they joined because of the Daff-a-Dazzle civic project.



Upcoming Spring 2024 Ithaca Garden Club meetings and events:

On March 13th, the Club will host an informal meeting: Blooming Tales in Three Minutes or Less. Each of us is asked to bring a favorite garden-themed tool, pot, vase, book, etc. We'll have 3 minutes or less to show our treasure and explain why we chose that item to share. It's an afternoon of hilarious stories that our members won't want to miss.

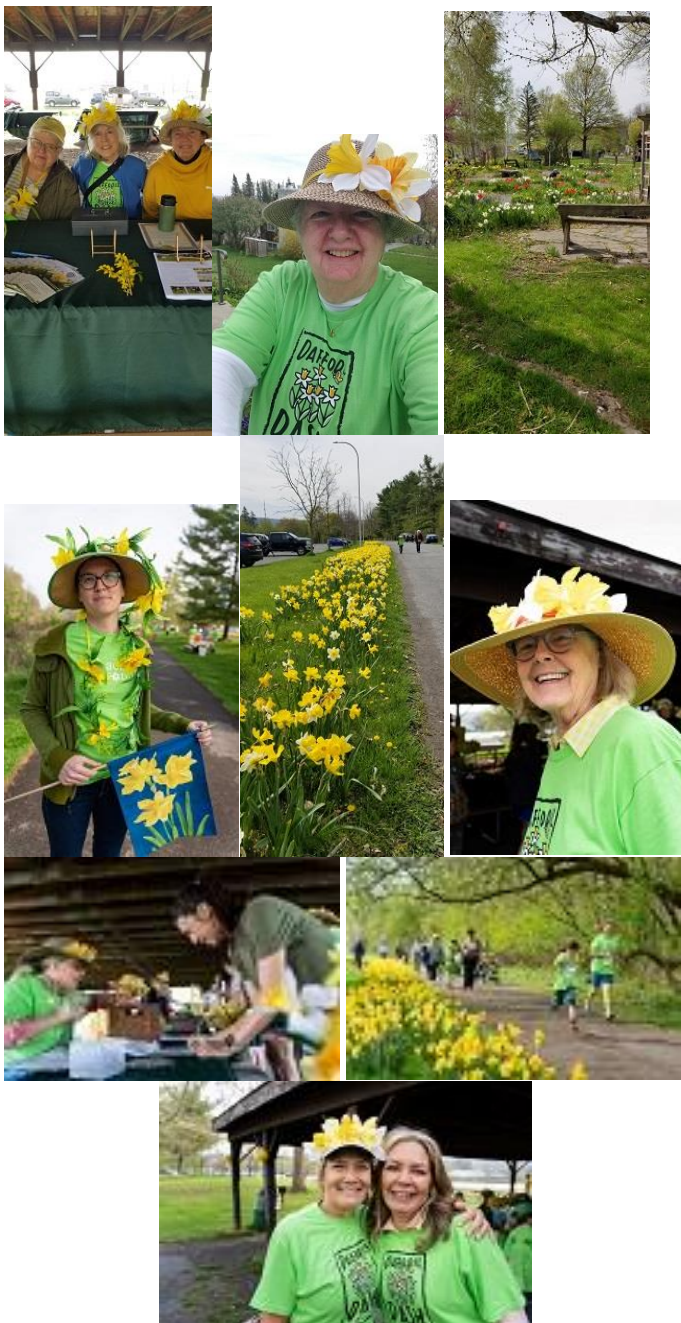
In keeping with April's National Arbor Day, we will devote our April 2024 meeting to learning about the American Chestnut Tree from Andy Hillman, our former City Forester. Gardeners will remember that American Chestnut trees succumbed to a major blight starting in 1904. Since that time, modern science and decades of research have brought back this majestic tree. We'll learn where in Ithaca they are planted and what kind of special care they will need.

Just in time for Mother's Day, our Club will embark on a field trip on May 8th to Grisamore Farms Garden Center in Locke NY. We will learn everything there is to know about container gardens. Grisamore Farms has a wonderful selection of annuals for home containers as well as stunning hanging baskets. This will be a popular event, so members should watch for information about sign-ups.

In June, the Club will enjoy its annual Spring Luncheon with our featured presenter, Michael Warren Thomas from Naturally Green FLX. Michael will share his strategies for raising Monarch butterflies. The date is Wednesday, June 12th and the luncheon will be held at the Ithaca Yacht Club. Members should look at their emails for more information.

From 1K and 5K races through daffodil beds, to container gardens to luncheons and monarch butterflies, it's going to be a great spring season for the Ithaca Garden Club. This writer would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Club's leadership and volunteers for putting together these outstanding programs and events. Watch for updates and pictures in future columns.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Spring!





Herbs

VI District Chair – Elaine Gregory

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT VIOLETS

Spring is a time of anticipation and optimism. We look for the smallest signs to confirm our faith that the plants in our gardens will awaken from their winter sleep. As the weather warms and the snow melts, I take a stroll around my yard every day to look for any type of encouragement, and one plant I always delight in finding is the sweet violet. I have a large patch of *Viola odorata* growing in and amongst the grass in my backyard and I take care not to disturb it. I know gardeners who consider violets a nuisance, but looking at those deep purple flowers and smelling that super sweet scent never fails to make me smile.

Although native to Europe and Asia, *Viola odorata* now grows happily in our area alongside the native *Viola sororia*. While well-drained, moist soil is a requirement violets are not too fussy about light – they will tolerate sun or partial shade. They grow to about 6" high and have easily recognizable heart-shaped leaves with scalloped margins. In Celtic lore a single violet is considered unlucky, but picking a bunch attracts love. Violets were a favorite of Napoleon Bonaparte – he was even nicknamed Coporal La Violette or Corporal Violet. The Romans consumed violet infused wine for good health, and Victorians used violets in tussie-mussies to mask the odors well documented during that era.

These plants are small but mighty in the world of herbal medicine – no shrinking violets here. Aerial parts of the plant are used to treat colds, sore throats and as an expectorant for dry coughs. Violet tea can be used to reduce inflammation, alleviate headaches, and lessen the pain of gastritis. Harvesting in early spring ensures that you're picking the flowers and leaves when the essences of the plant are at their peak. Even dried violet flowers retain both their fragrance and their efficacy.

As you enjoy a walk around your yard this spring, I hope you smile when you come upon the "lowly" violet.



Membership

VI District Chair – Anthony Antes

Are you interested in membership information to discuss with potential members? Take a look at the National Garden Club website. "Membership Monday" is a free monthly Zoom event for all federated garden club members. Join us on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2PM - 3PM EST. Learn new skills, share success stories, resolve commonly encountered issues, and brainstorm solutions with fellow members across the Americas.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and we can all benefit when we help each other Recruit, Retain, and Revitalize our clubs. Together we are stronger!

Membership Monday workshops present a topic of the month with a special guest speaker, followed by a Q&A session and follow up. We may not have every answer, but NGC Membership is committed to bringing us all together to explore solutions in a spirit of collaboration. Videos of previous workshops are linked in the **Video Café** and the Member Resource Library under the Club Resources tab. To go directly to Member info, click on:

[Member Resources](#) | [National Garden Clubs, Inc.](#)



Birds and Butterflies

VI District Chair – Anthony Antes

Regal Fritillary - There is no butterfly on earth that can be mistaken for a regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*). Its bright-orange fore wings with a deep orange-brown border may appear common, but its velvety blackish hind wings are unique. Both sexes have two rows of spots along the hind wings - cream on females, cream and orange on males. The regal fritillary is found in tall-grass prairies and wet grassy areas, mostly in the central United States; however, they are critically endangered in the American East. Females lay up to 1,000 eggs in August and September at the base of violets. They hatch after three to four weeks, and the small larvae hibernate without feeding, becoming active again in



spring. The velvety black larva enters the mottled brown pupa and emerges a beautiful butterfly. Adult males live about a month, females closer to two.



The adult butterflies may feed on a variety of nectar plants and their availability throughout the summer flight time can

be as important as the presence of larval food plants in determining whether an area can support populations of butterfly species. Milkweeds, thistles, coneflowers, blazing-stars, bergamots, clovers, goldenrods, and ironweeds are some of the most important nectar sources for adult regal fritillaries. Milkweeds and thistles have been observed to be the preferred nectar source throughout the regal fritillary's range. They become so engrossed in nectaring that they may be picked up by hand, though this is not recommended because the species is becoming increasingly rare due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

The larval food source for the regal fritillary are violets (*Viola* species). Violet species that the larvae feed on include bird's-foot violet, blue prairie violet, common blue violet, lance-leafed violet, Nuttall's violet, arrow leaf violet, and Johnny Jumpup. These various violet species are associated with the different areas of the regal fritillary's range.



So, when first mowing your lawn in the Spring, please give your violets a wide berth. The Fritillaries will thank you!

They need only average soil and moisture. Echinacea plants typically bloom in the summer, lasting for several weeks.

Echinacea purpurea was called Purple coneflower because of the large, daisy-like, purple flowers but Echinacea flowers come in purple, white, blush, wine, cream, and yellow colors. They have clumps of foliage with dark green, lance shaped leaves about 4" long. They grow in large, upright or semi-sprawling clumps that add rounded growth or upright growth accents to large containers or mixed, drought-tolerant borders. Echinacea plants grow around 4' tall and wide although recent hybridizing has produced dwarf coneflower cultivars half as tall.

Some gardeners deadhead their Echinacea plants to keep the plants looking tidy. You can prune them back lightly after the growing season ends in late fall or leave the dried seed heads for winter interest. Divide every 4 years or as needed to prevent overcrowding.

Self-seeding is common if Echinacea seed heads are allowed to stand and ripen. Some hybrids must be purchased as started plants and propagated through division. Echinacea plants are best planted in the fall season although their ease to establish makes spring planting fine. Purple coneflower plants are drought tolerant and thrive in medium to poor soil and full sun. They provide garden interest in late spring through winter months. Late spring is when the coneflower buds begin to appear. Winter interest can be found by leaving the Echinacea seed heads standing. Use Echinacea for any full sun border, kitchen and herb gardens, drought-tolerant planters and containers, prairie or meadow gardens as well as a native, naturalized landscaped area.

Other Uses: Echinacea is used as an immune boosting supplement against colds, flus and minor infections. A 2007 study by the University of Connecticut combined findings from 14 previously reported trials examining Echinacea and concluded that Echinacea can cut the chances of catching a cold by more than half and shorten the duration of a cold by an average of 1.4 days The seeds are also attractive to small songbirds, especially goldfinch. Echinacea flowers are also great for cut flower arrangements.



Horticulture

VI District Chair – Anthony Antes



The Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower) thrives in hardiness zones 3 through 9.



**THE SKANEATELES GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS -
 SAVE THE DATE COMING IN JUNE! JUNE 14TH AND
 15TH, 2024 SUMMERS' SPLENDOR GARDEN TOUR
 FIVE GARDENS IN SKANEATELES MUSIC, FLORAL
 DISPLAYS AND MORE TICKETS PRICES: ADVANCE
 SALE - \$40.00 AFTER ADVANCE SALE - \$45.00
 STAY TUNED FOR MORE EXCITING NEWS!!!**

Chittenango Garden club presents -

Chittenango Garden Club
Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18, 2024
 8:30 AM-12 PM
Located at Stickles Park
 Falls Blvd. Chittenango
 We will also have good used
 garden items, decor and
 houseplants for sale. And of
 course a wealth of information
 from our experienced
 members. Please join us for
 this special event

For sale from the
 Nursery and our
 members' gardens:
 Perennials, Hanging
 Plants, Bedding Plants,
 Vegetables and
 Shrubs
 For more info call Gail
 @
 315 687-7726

It's gardening
 season again.
 Come pick up some
 great plants

The Binghamton Garden club suggests:
 World Labyrinth Day is May 4th. Walk as One at 1 to create a
 rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone
 to the next. Meet at 12:45 at the entrance to Cutler Garden
 to participate. For more info, visit the CCE Broome website
 at: ccebroomecounty.com.