



VI District, Inc

Memoranda



Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.

Spring 2024: Volume 80, No. 1

Memoranda Editor: Diane Bloom



VI District Director Cheryl Miller's Message

Hello, fellow Gardeners!

While spring isn't quite here yet, the days are getting longer, and thoughts are turning to the gardening season ahead. Clubs are busy planning their programs and preparing their yearbooks. Please be sure to let me know if you would be interested in submitting your yearbook for judging.

Here are a few more things to add to your Spring calendar:

The 6th District Semi-Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Wednesday May 14th at the Hathaway House in Cincinnatus, featuring one of our favorite speakers - Rick Marsi. Rick will be sharing "For the Love of Forests". The 2025-27 Officers will be installed at this time.

There's also still time to register for the FGCNYS 2025 Flower Show School. Course 1 is to be held at the CCE in Voorheesville NY, on April 1, 2, 3. If you have ever felt an interest in learning flower show procedure, design, or have an interest in becoming a flower show judge, this is for you! More details are available on the State website at FGCNYS.com.

Last but not least, the FGCNYS Annual Convention "Bee the Change" will be held at the Desmond Hotel Crowne Plaza in Albany, NY, from June 1-3. This event is open to all Garden Club members and is a fabulous way to meet like-minded folks from around the State. Please know that you are always welcome to contact me if you have any questions.

Happy Gardening,
Cheryl Miller, Director

TO COUNTY & COMMITTEE CHAIRS: NEWS AND PHOTOS DEADLINES

WINTER ISSUE: 2025	Dec 1
SPRING ISSUE: 2025	Feb 28
SUMMER ISSUE: 2025	May 31
FALL ISSUE: 2025	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

To All VI District Presidents, Treasurers, Officers, Committee Chairs, and County Chairs. As the VI District Directory Editor, I am having difficulty getting updated information. Could you please look at your 2023 copy of the Directory, sent out early April 2023, and verify that your information is correct? If it is not, or you are no longer in the position, please let me know that, and if you know it, send me the Name, Address, Phone #, and Email Address of your replacement. You can reach me at:

aantes@stny.rr.com

**Remember, our information is only as good as we keep it current. Anthony R. Antes
VI District Directory Chair**



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 has chosen the theme “Caring for our World One Garden at a Time”.

We intend to explore how individual gardens can play a crucial role in supporting environmental health and sustainability. We have several programs planned for the upcoming year which will guide us in achieving the goal of successfully planting and maintaining a garden at home or in the community. A single garden can help the earth by providing habitats for various species, improving air quality, and reducing the carbon footprint by minimizing carbon emissions from trips to the store.

We will be joining with the City of Binghamton and the CCE Broome County Master Gardener Volunteers to assist in the “Blocks to Bloom” program, which aims to help city blocks in lower resourced neighborhoods create front yard flower gardens to beautify people’s yards and their blocks. We will provide “tough as nails” perennials and offer planting advice to get them started.

We’ll be getting back to basics with programs on starting your own vegetable garden from seed to composting, planning a perennial bed, a garlic planting workshop and a tour of Talkrot Mushroom Farm in Tully, NY to learn about cultivating our own mushrooms. Much of the emphasis will be on chemical free pest management and weed control. In addition, we have several fun and informative field trips planned to local businesses and gardens.

ENDWELL GC - Hello everyone

The Garden Club of Endwell ended 2024 with our Annual Holiday gathering. It is always such a

wonderful evening with a potluck of absolutely delicious foods. We certainly have some great cooks and bakers among us! Shana, our secretary also puts together a wonderful PowerPoint that displays pictures of members and events throughout the year. We also have our induction of officers at this event.

2025 Garden Club of Endwell Board Members



From left to right.... Luann S.(Treasurer) , Shana W.(Corresponding Secretary), Darin W. (Co-President), Diane M.(Parliamentarian) , Annie C.(Recording Secretary) , and Tammy T (Co-President).

CONGRATULATIONS!

Even though we take the months of January and February off the Board members are very busy preparing for this next year. It all began in January when we met to review the budget, review the previous year and prepare for the next! 2024 was a great year for us due to dedicated Board and committed members.

Tammy T. , who is our VP for programs, already has set up wonderful programs for the entire year as well as fundraisers. Tammy sends the members a survey to obtain their input to help with this planning.

Shana has been busy with our 2025 Handbook and Annie preparing the Historian report. Shana and Tammy have also been working on “computerizing” many of our documents such as sign-up sheets, Information for our handbooks, etc...

We are looking forward to our first meeting of 2025 on March 12th. We begin with our first fundraiser at Taylor Pizza.

FYI.....Endwell Garden Club Trip to London and the Chelsea Flower Show May 2026!

If you are interested in touring some of the best gardens of England and attending the Chelsea Garden Show, please contact Good Times Travel with Patty to be added to the interested travelers list to receive updates as plans become available. You can email Patty at travelwithpattyski@gmail.com or call her at 607-765-4785.

Enjoy the winter and looking forward to Spring!

HILL 'n' DALE GC- Our fall meetings included a very informative presentation by Tony Antes titled "Putting Your Garden to Bed", which included tips on tree and lawn care, caring for perennials and container gardens, and our garden tools and equipment. We also made a centerpiece for the holidays with Paulina, from Country Florist in Owego, leading the project. As we have in past years, we filled pretty mugs with candy to be distributed to residents at a local nursing home; this year it was Bridgewater Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Binghamton. In December, we placed a wreath at the Chenango Town Hall near the service memorial plaques as part of the Wreaths Across America remembrance. Members celebrated the holidays with a festive dinner at Grande's before starting our three month break from meeting. Like our perennials and spring bulbs, this rest period gives us time to prepare for another great year of growing. We'll be back together in April and ready for the spring season.



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

GREENE GC – No report

NORWICH GC- No report

OXFORD GC – The Oxford Garden Club had a terrific end to the 2024 year!

We all had an amazing time at our October meeting, where two club members, Jeanne Cline and Debbie Arotzky, presented their tips and tricks for pressed flower designing. We then created art and greeting cards from pressed flowers – it was such an inspiring workshop! Several Oxford Garden Club members enjoyed the District VI luncheon in November, it is always nice to see everyone and make some new friends too.



OGC November meeting centered around Club business and election of Officers for 2025. We also conducted final discussions regarding proposed by-laws changes, which were confirmed in December. During both October and November, club members got together to care for the Oxford gardens in our care, cleaning them up and putting them to rest for the winter.

December found us celebrating the holidays with our Oxford neighbors at the Bida Adult Home, a local Assisted Living Community. We shared gifts with the residents, yummy snacks, and sang Christmas carols. A merry time was had by all!

The following day, we closed out the year with a visit to the Binghamton mansion of Jonas Kilmer, where we learned the fascinating history of this beautiful house and its inhabitants, followed by a delicious and festive celebration at Tavern 1244 in Greene, NY.

Wishing you all a safe end to this winter-y winter, and we are looking forward to Spring 2025!

TOWN & COUNTRY OF NORWICH – The Town and Country Garden Club had a great turnout at our December meeting. One of our members demonstrated different methods and combination of scents for making potpourri. Another member distributed bookmarks made by a friend, each with a different flower in watercolor. Also, in December our Club collaborated with The Norwich Garden Club to sponsor a holiday outdoor decorating contest for the City of Norwich. Awards were given in a number of categories. Many Club members head south, and the rest snuggle in at home for the winter months, but the Chenango County Fair Flower Show Committee, with members from The Oxford Garden Club, The Norwich Garden Club and The Town and Country Garden Club are already hard at work, planning for the upcoming show. The Club will be ready to go in March with a packed schedule



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

HOMER GC -DECEMBER: Twenty-two courageous Garden Club members braved snowy, slushy, slippery roads to attend our much-anticipated, holiday dinner at the beautifully decorated home of Sandy Dewey. A delectable meal of stuffed chicken breast, vegetable lasagna, and



salad was provided by Scratch Farmhouse Catering from Skaneateles. Our coordinators and hostesses created lovely, festive table settings and provided delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages. Outgoing President, Amy Simrell, was thanked for her 3 years of dedicated service and presented with a beautiful centerpiece crafted by Karen Seibert, long gardening gloves, and pruning shears. Karen and Katie Kerr will become our Co-Presidents as we start the New Year. As we do each year, members brought warm hats, mittens, pajamas, or monetary gifts for the Bridges for Kids program at the YWCA, which connects adults who want to provide positive experiences with children from stressful home environments. It was a festive, celebratory evening of wonderful food and warm camaraderie...a perfect start to the busy, holiday season.



JANUARY: No meeting.

FEBRUARY: Because February often brings slippery roads and hazardous driving conditions, and because



we have snowbirds in our club, we enjoy an interesting video for our February programs that can also be viewed via Zoom by our snowbirds or members who don't

wish to venture outside. This year we enjoyed a fascinating video: "The High Line in New York City."



The High Line is a 30-foot tall, elevated park built on a defunct railway. It spans 1-1/2 miles on the west side of Manhattan along the Hudson River. The current park was once an elevated freight rail line built in the 1930s after over 540 deaths were caused by the street level freight trains that ran through



chaotic, congested areas when making deliveries. In the 1980s, freight rail line use had declined, and the High Line infrastructure was abandoned and fell into disrepair.

Many people considered the expansive, rusting structure a huge eyesore and wanted it demolished. But some creative, forward-thinking people saw beauty in the overgrown vegetation that covered parts of the tracks and wanted to save it. A non-profit group, "Friends of the High Line," led a movement to transform the space into a public park. The High Line now encompasses a variety of landscaped gardens designed with shrubs, trees, and drought-resistant, low maintenance native plants. There are walking paths, sitting areas, unique architectural features, rotating art exhibits, food vendors, and scenic views of the Hudson River and Manhattan skyline. Some of our members have been fortunate to visit the High Line in person. To learn more about this incredible urban masterpiece, you can view the video here:

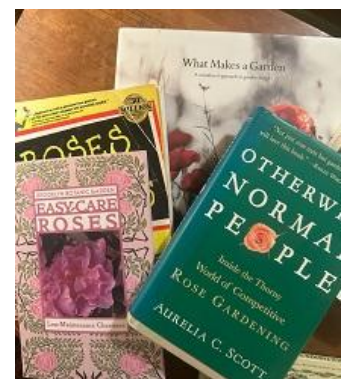
https://youtu.be/7CgTlg_L_Sw



TOWN AND COUNTRY CORTLAND/HOMER - Members of the Town & Country Garden Club met at a club member's home for a holiday dish to pass dinner. In December, members conducted a successful poinsettia sale, the profits of which were donated to the Bridges for Kids program at the YWCA of Cortland. The Bridges for Kids program provides individual mentoring for enrolled kids, ages 5-12, to help them succeed. Holiday initiatives include needed gifts and can include food assistance. The program provides needed assistance throughout the year including school supplies and family activities.


Town & Country Garden Club does not meet in January.

In February members were asked to bring their favorite gardening books to share with the other members. The small group present shared their favorites which included gardening manuals and how-tos, stories of garden design and garden restorations, books about gardening and picture books. A special share was a 1921 Wildflowers of New York with color plates, printed by the University of the State of New York State Museum. Other books shared were: Braiding Sweetgrass, What Makes a Garden, A Proper Garden, The Joy of Gardening, Otherwise



Normal People (Inside the World of Competitive Rose Gardening), The Old Farmer's Almanac, The Wildflower Gardeners Guide and even Robert Louis Stevenson's A Child's Garden of Verses, which was brought to share the illustrations. Members enjoyed hearing and learning about the other members selections.




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

CAZENOVIA GC – Our year began with a wintry January meeting when several members enjoyed a lovely "Garden Dreams" show featuring photo submissions from our members. It was a nice reminder that the future holds beauty and sunny skies!

Our February meeting featured Dr. Thad Yorke, who presented an informative program titled "Aquatic Plants and Snorkel Gardens".

We are excited to visit Carol Watson's Greenhouse in March when we'll learn all about annuals. For many, it's an annual investment and we are eager to hear Carol's tips on selection, planting, care, feeding and deadheading. We are lucky to have such a talented gem in our area.

Our Spring luncheon and annual business meeting is scheduled for April 1st at The Brae Loch Inn, with the induction of 2025-2026 officers.

Spring always brings a bit of work (okay, sometimes a lot of work!) and soon the club will be spiffing up Cazenovia - cleaning up the town, replanting planters, and getting ready for the Spring Plant Sale!

The Spring Plant Sale is always a hit and this year it is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th, 9am - 2pm, at the Cazenovia Farmers Market. We'll have a ton of perennials 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 - The Chittenango Garden Club recesses for January and February. During this recess, nineteen individuals participated in our seed-starting workshop, which was open to club members and interested community members. Our annual dish garden workshop for youth had to be canceled due to a recent winter storm. Program committee members have been busy scheduling programs for the coming year, and we all look forward to our March meeting when Colgate's Beth Roy will present Sustainable Gardening in an Uncertain Climate. Plans are underway for our annual plant sale to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, in Stickles Park from 8:30 AM to Noon. We all look forward to spring when we can finally be outside working in our gardens again.

Chittenango Garden Club
Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17, 2025
 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

I never
 miss this sale
 and neither
 should you!!!!




dried arrangements for the MOWS- Meals on Wheels of Eastern Onondaga County. Currently the organization serves 180+ clients each week with hot and cold meals. A February meeting to finalize our 2025-2026 Yearbook and Program leads us into our March luncheon at Avicoli's on March 4th. Year-end committee reports are due at that time. April our plan is to



visit Watson's Green house and listen to Carol Watson's team talk about what's growing, and dish gardens. Our program for the 2025-2026 year will include planting and workdays at our Herb Garden in Thornden Park, and hosting visiting speakers, and our Perennial Plant Sale at Beard Park. Looking forward to our new year together!

ONONDAGA COUNTY
 From: Nancy Haswell, County Chair
 315-469-2849 * nhaswell@twcny.rr.com

HOME GC OF SYRACUSE – What a Winter!! Spring is definitely on its way - all those Bulbs and sleepy flowering branches will be such splendor in time for Springs's arrival! On December 7th, 2024, Home Garden Club will host a Wreath



Decorating party at Cross Creek Nursery in Manlius. The folks at Cross Creek supplied the lush fresh greens wreaths- we had a great space to hold our



workshop. Thanks to Cross Creek Nursery and Terry Foran's team. At the Lorenzo House on December 10th member had a holiday tour of the historic building and proceeded to the Lincklaen House for a holiday lunch. After a break in January, Home Garden Club members met February 4th, 2025, at member Tara Vresenga's home for a potluck Lunch and workshop. We assembled beautiful miniature

ONONDAGA GC- OGC finished out our 2024 year with our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Century Club. A delicious lunch was served in a lovely decorated room. An origami star was a Christmas favor for each member. Donations were collected for the Central New York Food Bank. Photo is our Christmas Luncheon group.

Two days after our luncheon, we gathered for our Boxwood Christmas Trees for Hospice workshop. We were able to make and decorate 15 trees that were delivered to Hospice on the same day. Photo shows some of our creativity.

For the months of January and February, we hibernate and plan the upcoming year's programs. On Monday, March 3, 2025, will start our new year. We hope all our fellow Gardeners have weathered this real winter we are experiencing and are extremely excited to see Spring arrive!



SKANEATELES GC –We haven't had a Winter like this is quite a few years. It seems like one storm after another. We are dreaming of Spring and gardening catalogs!

January brought a visit from Angela Weller; Cornell Cooperative Extension spoke to us about alternatives to chemical use in our environment.

In February, our very own member and Master Judge Priscilla Pultz, gave a very interesting talk on the "Art of Preserving Plant Material". Priscilla has been preserving flowers, leaves, and other plant material for many years. She brought in many displays for us too view.

She also had a valuable instruction handout to share. Also, our Design Chair, Andrea Grant delighted us with two designs. Welcome Spring with a little splash of color! Watercolor artist, Christy Lemp will demonstrate "a loose flower" painting and then it will be our turn! This should be fun! Each painting will be our own creation. Workshop chair's Linda Arthur and Gretchen Hamlin will conduct a Woodland Planter March 12th. "Summer Affair" is the name of our 2025 April luncheon. Once again, this function will be held at the Skaneateles Country Club! We will be welcoming in our new Board for 2025-2027.



Yes, this is all dried!



Horticulture Chairs, Karen Mazzeo and Kathy Scollan are challenging us with growing the "Thomas Edison" Dahlia this summer.



Valentine's Day meeting treats

Design Chair, Audrey Grant



Dried Flower Presentation by Priscilla Pultz



SPADE & TROWEL GC - Over the winter, the Spade and Trowel Garden Club enjoyed club activities such as our January potluck dinner and garden-themed book discussion, and in February, a fascinating presentation on the Eastern Bluebird. Meanwhile, many members are watching as their forced bulbs from the November workshop sprout and bloom!





Upcoming spring meetings promise to be equally educational and inspiring. In March, the Club will be treated to a presentation by garden historian Alice Massa. Alice's program will be called "Turn of the Century Arts and Crafts Gardens" and will focus on the Arts and Crafts

Movement in America, and particularly in Syracuse.

In April, the Club will have a hands-on Terrarium Workshop at Ballantyne Gardens in Liverpool. This workshop will be the perfect prelude to spring gardening and our annual plant sale on May 17! As we do every year, we will hold our annual fundraiser at Gazebo Park in the village of Manlius. Members will offer divisions from their own gardens for sale and then help community members select plants best suited for their gardens.

STUDY GROUP OF SYRACUSE - NO REPORT.

WOMEN'S GC OF BALDWINSVILLE The Baldwinsville Club met only once since December. Our club sewed and decorated about 50 Christmas stockings and donated them to the Christmas bureau along with gifts.

At the Christmas party we were able to make Christmas arrangements with greens & natural dried plants, ribbon etc. that were donated by club members (Amy, Nancy & Cathy).

We had a nice turnout and great food.

No meeting in January but chairpersons met to plan the coming year. Our February meeting was canceled due to weather. We are having a real winter this year!

Photos from top to bottom names:

Amy-with greens

Big group: Lisa, Betsy,

Katie, Julie, Patty, Phyllis, Claudia, Tyra, Lorrie, Ellen, Mary, Carolyn

Sandy, Connie, Phyllis

Nancy-with greens

Pat-with greens

Tyra-with dried display

Claudia, Amy, Nancy, Patty




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

OSWEGO GC - The Oswego Garden Club recently met at the Oswego Tea Company to review and update plans for the upcoming year. Garden Club meets the third Monday of the month from April through December. We have many exciting and interesting activities planned for this year. We usually meet at the McCrobie building and membership is opened to anyone interested in gardening. Our purpose is to promote interest in gardens, their design and management, encourage use of flowers in the home, to undertake civic projects to beautify the community, and conservation of wildflowers and native plants. We hope to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs. Some of our activities include a plant sale May 17, field trips, working in the community gardens of the Richardson Bates House, the H. Lee White Maritime Museum, the Minetto Gazebo. We often have speakers at our meetings or will create arrangements with seasonal flowers and greens. We sponsor two scholarships every year for high school seniors graduating from Oswego, Fulton, Hannibal or Mexico, who have an interest in pursuing further education in horticulture, environmental science, agriculture or landscape. Please follow the Oswego Garden Club on Facebook. If you are interested in joining email rememgftbasg90@aol.com



Oswego Garden Club meeting to finalize plan for 2025. Seated from bottom left Linda Shurr, Pres., Katie Spanagel, Marsha Cummins, Sue Viscomi, VP, Amy Pelow, Mary Gilbert, Suzanne Fox, Deb Jaskula, Sue Tontarski, and Gail Opanhoske, sec.


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

BUTTERNUT VALLEY GC - 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 just completed 80 little flowerpots with pink flowers of painted pinecones with little greenery that were donated to the Owego Nursing Home for Valentine's Day. They turned out very cute. One of our newer members painted all the little pink cone sections for us.

In March, our members will be making a fresh flower arrangement in a teacup. Evelyn from Country Florist in Owego will provide the flowers and do a demonstration for us. We will also be taking orders for our flower sale in March for pick up in May. It is our yearly fundraiser.

Our April meeting will be with Annah from Morning Light Landscaping and floral. She is going to demonstrate how to make 2 different terrariums. We will raffle them off to a couple of our lucky members. We also donate a small plant to our shut in members of Apalachin at Easter time.

Our May meeting is at Confection Connection in Owego. We have desserts and coffee at this meeting. May is also our big planting month in the town. We plant in the street barrels and fire station, the Hickories Park in Owego, the Lions Club area and our Garden.

June finds us at Pie Thyme and Flowers. We all have pie and make a large planter to take home.

It's been a chilly winter this year, so we are all looking forward to spring.



Apalachin Garden Club's Hummingbird Garden


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

ITHACA GC – This time of the year it seems all of us in Central New York/District VI have the same refrain...we greet each other with “What a winter we’ve had!!” This week, for the Ithaca gardeners, the greeting has been “How do I get rid of the ice in my driveway”. Then, there’s the nightly news with the same story...more snow north of Syracuse and into the Tug Hill area. I’ve always felt anyone living in the northern part of Central New York is related to the Nanook of the North. All of you carry the special gene that gives you the ability to be impervious to winter weather. Makes us in Ithaca look like wimps. But there’s a consolation...it is the end of February...and highs in the 40s are anticipated for this coming week. There’s hope yet!!

For the Ithaca Garden Club, no formal lectures or general meetings are scheduled in January and February. Instead, we meet very informally to talk about our garden experiences. In January, the theme was childhood garden memories. As you can imagine, there were wonderful stories. One of us shared what it was like to grow up in the Philippines where gardens thrived year-round. Another talked about her family’s apple orchard and about her father’s rather potent homemade apple wine. Many spoke about the mentoring they received as young homeowners from neighbors who were veteran Garden Club members. It was one of those typical grey, ugly days, but sharing garden memories was like having chicken soup for the soul.

Just before Valentine’s Day, we met again in our local senior living center for another informal gathering....this time the topic was on our favorite spring bulbs. Our chair opened with a game of “Bulb Jeopardy”. She had gathered questions to evaluate our knowledge about bulbs, their history, the best practices for storing and planting them, and ways to ward off squirrels and chipmunks. I learned about the 17th century Tulip Mania in the Netherlands where bulbs were used as currency!! An Augustus tulip bulb was worth 10,000 guilders, which was equal to the cost of a mansion on Amsterdam’s Grand Canal!!



The Garden Club had planned to take a field trip to visit the Tulip Mania display at the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY. (If you’ve never been...try to attend next year...it’s an AMAZING



display of flowering bulbs in clay pots.) Unfortunately, it was



snowing on the designated day, so the trip was cancelled. But a friend and I decided to drive up later to see the display. Simply stated: it was



awesome!! The pictures (see below) don’t do justice to the beauty of ALL those flowering bulbs and orchids. Still, the exhibit gave us that much needed boost...spring is coming.

All Central New Yorkers know, when March comes, we’re not out of the woods weather wise. We can experience a big snowstorm, usually around St. Patrick’s Day. Most of us take the plunge to push the season along to get ready for spring. For the Ithaca



Garden Club, our March meeting will be a perfect time to gather and craft. This year we will make little habitats for migrating birds to hang in our gardens or around our properties. Watch for more details.



The month of April is the Garden Club's version of the Super Bowl. Everything happens at once. In addition to a regular meeting, we will be working with the City of Ithaca forester to select trees for Arbor Day, April 25th. We will host our third Daffodil Dash Saturday, April 26. This event has something for everyone: it is a race/walk for the community and it's the Club's biggest fundraiser. Registration has recently opened for participants. Last year we had to close the registration earlier than planned when we reached 500 runners.



side of the lake. There are now 180,000 bulbs in the area known as Cass Park. Yes, I'm biased, but seeing all those daffodils in bloom is a feast for the eyes.

A few more "teasers": In May, the Club will host a mini field trip to the Plantsman Nursery in Groton, which specializes in native plants. And June features our annual Spring Luncheon at the local yacht club, which is always a special event.

Back to reality. Tonight, I turned the calendar to March to read my post-it note reminders: get seeds from the local garden center and make arrangements to order the garden mulch. Now those are truly good signs that spring is coming. The warmer weather and the mad scramble to get plants into the garden will be here before we know it!!

Happy Spring, everyone.



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.](#)

Herbs

VI District Chair – Elaine Gregory

PEPPERMINT

Many of us have a love/hate relationship with peppermint (*Mentha piperata*). It's certainly useful both medicinally and in the kitchen, but it becomes like Audrey in the Little Shop of Horrors –taking over everything in its path. So how do you enjoy having peppermint in your garden without it becoming a nuisance?

Growing it in pots seems to be the answer. Although this weedy little herb will grow just about anywhere, it will thrive in a clay pot filled with potting soil and buried in a sunny spot in the garden. To make certain the plant stays healthy and manageable dig up the pot every 3 – 4 years, trim off any roots that have escaped, refresh the soil, and rebury the pot. Because peppermint is a hardy

perennial, no need to dig up the pot in the fall to overwinter indoors – just leave it in the garden to live out the winter.



One thing to remember – not all mints are created equal. Peppermint is a more aggressive cousin to spearmint (*Mentha spicata*), and chocolate mint (*Mentha x piperita* f. *citrata*) is a much milder relative, but mints tend to interbreed. So, if you grow different flavors of mints close to one another, within a couple of years the plants will intermingle, and the flavor of the leaves will become less distinctive and less medicinally active. This is another benefit to growing mints in pots – you can keep the pots far enough apart, so the plants retain their characteristic flavors.

Indigestion after a meal? Try the following tea –

- 1 part chamomile
- 1 part dill leaf and seed
- 1 part peppermint

Steep herbs in hot (not boiling) water for 30 – 45 minutes. Drink 4 ounces after meals to relieve indigestion.



Horticulture
VI District Chair – Anthony Antes

Here is a partial list of native shrubs that can be found in New York state:

- Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
- Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
- Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)
- Northern highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- Prairie willow (*Salix humilis*)
- American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
- Purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)
- Maple-leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)
- Additionally, some evergreen shrubs native to New York include American Holly, Canadian Yew,

Common Juniper, Eastern Arborvitae, Holly-Leaved Barberry, Inkberry, and Leatherleaf.

Red Osier Dogwood: The bark, twigs, and leaves are bright green in spring through summer. The simple, opposite leaves are 2-4 inches long, dark green above and hairy and lighter-colored below, with smooth margins, rounded bases, pointed tips, and falsely parallel veins.

The fleshy fruits are very valuable to wildlife, particularly in the Northeast. The white berries are smooth on the faces, furrowed on the sides. The fruit ripens in late summer, and besides being available through the fall, some of the berries may persist on the plants into the winter months.

Flowering occurs from June to August. Dense, flat-topped clusters of creamy-white blossoms are followed by umbrella-shaped clusters of pea-sized white berries.

Red osier dogwood is used for basketweaving. Sometimes called red willow, both *Salix* species and *Cornus sericea* are used interchangeably. Red osier dogwood grows in soils that are saturated for at least a portion of the growing season. Red osier dogwood is common on the edges of lakes, ponds, within wetlands, and along streams. It is tolerant of fluctuating water tables. The “osier” in red osier dogwood is derived from French, meaning “willow-like”; it is often called red willow because of its red stems.

Wildlife browse the twigs, foliage, and fruits. Birds known to eat the fruit include wood ducks, eastern bluebirds, cardinals, catbirds, crows, purple finches, grosbeaks, kingbirds, American magpies, mockingbirds, orioles, robins, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, European starlings, tree swallows, thrushes,



vireos, pine warblers, cedar waxwings, woodpeckers, and more. Game birds who eat both the fruits and buds include grouse, ring-necked

pheasants, bobwhite quail, and wild turkeys.

Mammals that eat the fruit and foliage include black bear, beaver, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, and rats. Deer, and moose browse the twigs and foliage.





Birds/Butterflies

VI District Chair – Anthony Antes

Mourning Dove: *Zenaida macroura* - A graceful, slender-tailed, small-headed dove that's common across the continent. Mourning Doves perch on telephone wires and forage for seeds on the ground; their flight is fast and bullet straight. Their soft, drawn-out calls sound like laments. When taking off, their wings make a sharp whistling or whinnying. Mourning Doves are the most frequently hunted species in North America.

Look for Mourning Doves on telephone wires and similar perches throughout your neighborhood, or keep an eye on patches of bare ground, where the birds gather to stock up on seeds and grit.

Backyard Tips: Scatter seeds, particularly millet, on the ground or on platform feeders. Plant dense shrubs or evergreen trees in your yard to provide nesting sites. Keep your cats inside - birds that spend much of their time on the ground are particularly vulnerable to prowling cats. Find out more about what this bird likes to eat and what feeder is best by using the Project FeederWatch Common Feeder Birds bird list. Consider putting up a nesting cone to attract a breeding pair. Put it up well before breeding season.

Cool Facts

- During the breeding season, you might see three Mourning Doves flying in tight formation, one after another. This is a form of social display. Typically, the bird in the lead is the male of a mated pair. The second bird is an unmated male chasing his rival from the area where he hopes to nest. The third is the female of the mated pair, which seems to go along for the ride.
- Mourning Doves tend to feed busily on the ground, swallowing seeds and storing them in an enlargement of the esophagus called the crop. Once they've filled it (the record is 17,200 bluegrass seeds in a single crop!), they can fly to a safe perch to digest the meal.
- Mourning Doves eat roughly 12 to 20 percent of their body weight per day, or 71 calories on average.
- The Mourning Dove is the most widespread and abundant game bird in North America. Every year hunters harvest more than 20 million, but the Mourning Dove remains one of our most abundant birds with a U.S. population estimated at 350 million.
- The oldest known Mourning Dove was a male, and at least 30 years, 4 months old when he was shot in Florida in 1998. He had been banded in Georgia in 1968.





Save the Date

Chittenango Garden Club

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17, 2025
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



**I never
miss this sale
and neither
should you!!!!**



Perennial Plant Sale
Gazebo Park Manlius
Rte 173
Saturday May 17th
8:00 - Noon