CAR Review

Monica Hansen, Director

Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs: www.car-sgc.org

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs: Ginny Cardona www.delawaregardenclubs.org

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Inc.: Susan Middleton www.fgcofmd.org

National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.: Barbara Kiker www.ncagardenclubs.org

The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.: Beverly Kazickas www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com

Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc.: Donna Sessa www.fgcnys.com

Garden Club of Ohio, Inc.: Kathy Wagner www.gardenclubofohio.org

Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania: Leeanna Ryba www.pagardenclubs.org

Caroline Carbaugh, Editor
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From Our Director:

Theme: TOGETHER WE'LL PLANT AMERICA FOR A CLEANER, GREENER AND HEALTHIER WORLD!

I'd like to thank everyone who came to our Conference in Corning – I heard from so many of you who attended that they had a great time. We learned a lot while having a lot of fun. It was a happy Halloween event as well with so many of our members wearing costumes. It was wonderful to see so many of you and we were so very happy you were able to join us. A special thank you to Vikki Bellias, Conference Chairman, Annette Kuhn, Vice Chairman and Barbara Campbell our Registrar. And we couldn't have done it without all our FGCNYS Members who helped!

As I mentioned at our Conference, several of our members have told me that when they attend their Club meetings, they seldom hear any mention about what we are supporting or offering in our States, Region, or National organization. I would ask that all of you be ambassadors for our entire organization and share the information you have received at these meetings whether through talks or merely by interacting and sharing with each other.

I certainly understand how involved and focused we all become in our own backyards, and I still have more weeds than flowers, yet in many cases we become so wrapped up in what we are doing in our own Clubs or Districts, that we forget the larger picture. We all talk about losing members, but having common goals and objectives is what will tie us together and help us grow. My intention is by no means to mitigate what we are doing as Clubs, Districts or States, but that we could all be stronger if we worked more closely together and in uniform with all our goals and objectives.

Communication is vital but unless it is passed along and shared, it doesn't do much good. In addition to your various State publications, we have *The National Gardener* provided by NGC as

well as this wonderful publication that Caroline Carbaugh puts together, the *CAR Review*. Hopefully this information is shared with your club members, thereby helping all our members feel more connected with us and to each other. So, I'll go back to what I wrote at the beginning and ask that all of you be ambassadors for our entire organization and share the information you have received through publications, through talks and informative sessions or simply by interacting with each other.

Want to wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and look forward to interacting with you all again soon. Now I must find those 302 snowmen I put up on our window ledges every year!

Monica Hansen,
CAR-SGC Region Director 2023-2025

Our NGC President and our CAR-SGC Region Director with our state Presidents

Attendees from Pennsylvania

From the National Capita Area

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From Our States:

Delaware

Ginny Cardona

As we put our gardens to bed for the winter, there is no rest for Delaware gardeners. Our clubs take advantage of the numerous opportunities for community projects during the holidays. We support and encourage our clubs in their projects.

The annual breast cancer walk provides garden therapy opportunities. With over 3,000 participants, gardening and garden clubs reach a large audience. Clubs provide horticulture information and give away plants and flowers. Walk participants come back year after year with questions about gardening support.

Clubs participate in the Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees events throughout the State. Our horticulture and garden themed trees are popular and are donated to nursing homes and day care centers. Delaware is home to a myriad of historic buildings, and many are the recipients of our clubs' expertise in design during the holidays. The Ronald McDonald House, Veterans' Homes and community centers are also the beneficiaries of our festive designs.

Bee Themed Tree

Handmade Ornaments for Hospice Tree

Coastal Gardeners fundraise year-round for their Operation Christmas CHEER project. The Club provides hundreds of holiday gift bags for the Roxana CHEER Center, a senior services center, and Meals on Wheels. Spade and Trowel Garden Club gathers greens from their gardens for their annual Holiday Greens Sale. Members spend a week filling orders for wreaths, centerpieces, and swags. Repeat orders make this a successful fundraiser for the club.

Photos by Alva Hutchinson and Coastal Gardeners

As the calendar rolls to January, many clubs are preparing for their upcoming flower shows. Newer members are practicing designs with mentoring from our experienced designers. Indoor programs and Zoom allow clubs to maintain their camaraderie all winter long.

The strength of our Delaware Federation is dependent on the strength of our clubs. Their holiday and year-round community service projects strengthen the bonds among members and between clubs and their communities.

Ginny Cardona, President,
Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Maryland

Susie Middleton

Alice Rush McKeon Tree Plantings

Scientists will tell you that planting a tree is one of the best things you can do for the environment. Our State is fortunate that we have a special fund dedicated planting Trees throughout the State.

Alice Rush McKeon was a former President of Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. Alice served twice as President of FGCMD and was the first Roadside and Tree Chairman for the Federation. She was a conservationist, environmentalist and poet. In 1935 she wrote "Sonnets for the Scenic-ease". The proceeds from the sale of her poetry were invested to establish the "Alice Rush McKeon Tree Planting Fund". A staunch conservationist before it became popular, she coined the phrase "litterbug" and started Victory Gardens. Since 1959 we have held 54 of these events throughout the state planting hundreds of trees. This year we planted trees in Baltimore City/ District IV and rural Frederick County/District V. Both Districts collaborated with members of the community and local organizations to plan the event. Working with the Forestry Service and Department of Natural Resources, District V was able to purchase trees at a discount allowing them to plant in three locations.

Sidewalk images in Marble Hill neighborhood of Baltimore

Montgomery County: "A Natural Home to Lifelong Learning" by The Garden Party Garden Club

Photos from Susie Middleton

Decorating the State Capitol Building in Annapolis

Continuing a tradition started by her predecessor, Dawn Moore, our State's First Lady has invited garden clubs to decorate trees and wreaths for the Rotunda of the State House. Each display will have a theme highlighting the county it represents. Here are photos of the trees and wreaths decorated last year by member clubs of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland.

Susie Middleton, President, Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

National Capital Area

Barb Kiker

So many things have been happening in the National Capital Area, it's hard to know where to start!

Thank you, New York State, for a wonderful CAR Convention. We all dressed up, learned a lot, had fun, were honored to have so many clubs awarded for their projects, and were delighted to have our own Caroline Carbaugh recognized for her newsletter chairmanship!

Hippies from NCA at Corning costume evening

Our NCA meeting featuring Art Chadwick from Chadwick's Orchids was a great success. He sold out of his orchids. I HIGHLY recommend him for a speaker.

We had an inspiring Morning of Design, attracting over 100 members! The Judges Council is incredible. Our Flower Show School is scheduled for this spring.

Not last - but all I have the energy to tell you about - The Yacht Haven Garden Club Fashion Show celebrated the club's 60th anniversary! It was a delightful day. Next on the agenda is our Biltmore Trip leaving November 12 for 3 nights.

We'll report on that later!

Barb Kiker, President,
National Capital Area Garden Clubs

New Jersey

Beverly Kazickas

Holiday Greetings from the Garden State! GCNJ is in full swing since kicking off the season in Corning, NY, where an enthusiastic group of "Jersey Girls" attended the 2023 CAR Conference. Fond memories of our delegates include dressing up for the Halloween themed dinner and announcing that New Jersey will host the 2024 CAR fall event on October 22-23 in Basking Ridge.

Jersey Girls at the CAR-SGC Conference in Corning, NY October 24, 2023

While gearing up for the colder months ahead, I've enjoyed visiting numerous clubs at their recent holiday fundraisers, luncheons, flower shows, house tours, shopping sprees, and programs. I particularly enjoyed the interesting presentations on topics ranging from Growing Topiaries to Pollinator Pathways to Floral Arranging for Holiday Entertaining, not to mention, fabulous vendors and silent auction / raffle items offered a wide variety for gift giving.

Garden Club of Fair Haven's "Seasonal Splendor" Flower Show included a Photography Division

When it comes to the holidays, the GCNJ is extremely proud of our annual involvement at Drumthwacket … the official Governor's Residence. Our GCNJ chair oversees the local garden clubs that decorate the historic manor house decking out a variety of rooms with festive decorations. The GCNJ's Board enjoys a yearly tour of

Drumthwacket to marvel at the beauty and creativity expressed by these very special garden clubs whose members so generously share their talent and time with fellow New Jerseyans who visit during the holidays.

Drumthwacket beautifully decorated for the holidays by GCNJ's local garden clubs

Lastly, it is also a busy time for our Awards and Scholarship Committees. They have been promoting and reviewing the wide range of offerings for students and clubs. NJ Youth Clubs are currently focused on NGC's Poster, Poetry and Sculpture Contests while our Garden Clubs are submitting applications for a wide range of awards, including the GCNJ President's Project "Plant America - Gardening for a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul".

Demarest Garden Club hosts its Annual 5th Grade Planting Day … a very "healthy" project
Photos by B. Kazickas

Beverly Kazickas, President, Garden Club of New Jersey

Group from Maryland At CAR Conference

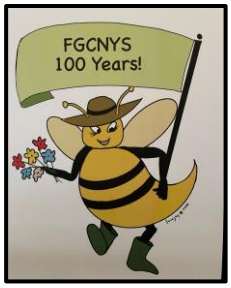
New York

Pollinator Pathways throughout New York State

Donna Sessa

Meet "Polly Pollinator", Federated Garden Clubs of New York State's mascot. Polly is ushering in the State initiative to create pollinator pathways throughout New York and to celebrate New York's centennial in 2024.

Polly was officially introduced at the CAR-SGC Convention in Corning, New York in October. State President Donna Sessa announced that Polly would be communicating to all FGCNYS members directly through a new email service launching before year's end. The 2024 FGCNYS convention and symposium will take place May 6-9 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. A gala is planned for the evening of May 7. All CAR-SGC members are welcome to come celebrate with New York State.



Donna Sessa, President, Federated Garden Clubs of New York State

Ohio

Kathy Wagner

What a wonderful time I had at Corning NY at the CAR Conference! It was great to meet new friends and reconnect with some old friends. I especially liked the Halloween costumes, that part of the evening festivities was very enjoyable.

The State of Ohio clubs have been very busy in 2023, with the completion of the fall gardening projects, many of our clubs are currently planning luncheons for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, relaxing

and enjoying leisure time with our fellow club members one last time before the winter break.

We are proud of the following Clubs/Councils who have been granted the prestigious NGC Flower Show Achievement Award: Chippewa GC, Lake Shore GC, Avon-on-the-Lake GC, Federated Garden Clubs of Cincinnati and our Ohio Judges Council.

We end our 2023 year with our Holiday Programs in Columbus and Cleveland - GCO designers Barb Schuh and Linda Holzheimer will present the programs. Both are NGC Master Flower Show Judges.

As we begin 2024, our Convention will be held in Cleveland, April 16-18. As always, this will be an opportunity to enjoy the vendors, workshops, speakers, and my favorite, listening to live Jazz music at the Board Dinner. Everyone always welcomes the chance to get back in the groove after a long winter break, and spending time with friends.

Happy Holidays to Everyone at CAR-SGC, best wishes for a wonderful 2024!!!!

Kathy Wagner, President,
Garden Club of Ohio

Pennsylvania

Leanna Ryba

There were approximately thirty members of the Garden Club Federation of PA in attendance at the Conference in Corning. We all enjoyed the programs, workshops and the tri-refresher offered by the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. PA came home with a $2000 CAR-SGC Scholarship awarded to Christopher Burch, sponsored by the Chambersburg GC. Christopher is a graduate student, studying Environmental Biology at Hood College. Liz Snowden, a long-time active member of the Outdoors Gardeners GC, District XI won the CAR-SGC Golden Perennial Bloom Award. This award is presented to members, who like faithful perennials in our gardens, have made our clubs grow and bloom with their continuous support of our goals and objectives. We were very proud of our recipients.

The Garden Club Federation of PA Tours Chair, Sharon Richardson, has made arrangements for a May 2024 trip to visit England's Gardens and ending with a day at the Chelsea Flower Show. GCFP members learned about the itinerary via Zoom on November 1st. Stops included are Sissinghurst Castle, Hever Castle, the Cotswolds, Cornwall Gardens, Stourhead House and the Eden Project. Last years' trip to the Netherlands was fabulous, we are looking forward to tea at Kensington Palace in 2024.

Our 94th Annual GCFP Convention, "Petals & Patchwork", will be held April 7-9 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lancaster, PA. A tri-refresher and a flower show are included in the activities planned by District IV.

Leanna Ryba, President,
Garden Club of Pennsylvania

A Reminder from Jan Warshauer, CAR-SGC National Garden Week Chairman

National Garden Week will be June 2 - 8, 2024.

Honor and State Tribute Designs

Brenda Moore, NGC President

Monica Hansen, CAR-SGC Director

New York

National Capital Area

Maryland

Delaware

New Jersey

Ohio

Pennsylvania

Virtual Resources

The Virtual Resources Committee is focusing on all things Artificial Intelligence these days. Chair Cherie Lejeune asserts that it will significantly reduce the time you usually spend agonizing over what you need to submit for your club duties, newsletters, presentations, etc.

You might be wondering, "What is it?" Well, you can create content in any format you desire – whether it's a poem, essay, lecture, article, and more. Afterward, you can request it to summarize your points if desired, and yes, it will be both spelled correctly and grammatically sound. If you want to apply it to your personal projects, Cherie claims it could even challenge Hollywood's current scriptwriters, songwriters, and perhaps even Shakespeare himself.

At the Corning CAR Conference, Cherie and Pat Rupiper fielded questions on the "HOW TO" of AI during a roundtable session. New York President Donna Sessa later used AI for her role in providing inspiration during dinner. During the same dinner, Cherie demonstrated a quick poem for the State of Delaware table, celebrating their ladybug official insect and supporting their choice of costumes for the evening's dinner – and all of this was created in about 8 seconds using just 6 prompts. You can check out the poem on the Central Atlantic Regions FB group page, which, if you haven't seen it yet, please visit. You can even contribute; it's open to all – photos, advice, and more. Here's the link: *https://www.facebook.com/groups/2591040737879388*

If you'd like your club, District, or STATE to be introduced to this AI technology, the virtual team is offering sessions ranging from 15 to 60 minutes. This is a fantastic benefit for your members, and yes, they can participate via ZOOM at any time that suits them.

Mark your calendar for the end of January through February 2024 – the FIRST HORTICULTURE JEOPARDY sponsored by CAR. Yes, it's a fundraiser (watch your own state go head-to-head with another), pitting the 7 States against each other for the grand title of horticultural knowledge in areas like gardening, the environment, and more. If you're interested in participating as a contestant, please inform your State President. But regardless, we hope you'll want to obtain an all-session competition passport to follow the entire event.

Here's a quick example of the types of questions you can expect:

- FOR $200: What is a Flowering Dogwood?
- $400: What is the Florida Adder's Moth Orchid?
- $600: What is a Bristlecone Pine?
- $800: What is a Saguaro Cactus?
- $1000: What is a Traveler's Palm?

The series and rules will be released in late December, so stay tuned.

Also, remember that if you need any tech training, we are here to assist you. Whether you need to refresh old skills or acquire new ones, whether it's on your smartphone, iPad, laptop, or with various apps, we've got you covered. You can reach us at virtualteamcar@car-sgc.org.

Cherie Lejeune,
Virtual Resources Chair

Air Quality/Water Conservation

During our CAR-SGC Conference in Corning, NY, the question arose in several conversations as to how many lakes there are in the nearby Finger Lakes. Most people could name the three or four largest but not the smaller ones. The answer is 11.

They are Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice, Honeoye, Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca, Cayuga, Owasco, Skaneateles and Otisco. The glacier formed lakes and their watersheds cover approximately 4,600 square miles and vary in depth.

Conesus Lake is the western-most lake with a length of 8 miles and a depth of 59 feet. Because it is so shallow it tends to freeze over completely during the winter, ideal for ice fishing. Otisco Lake is the eastern-most lake with a length of 5 miles and a depth of 66 feet. By contrast Cayuga Lake is the longest at 39 miles, with a maximum depth of 435 feet and Seneca Lake is the deepest with a maximum depth of 630 feet.

The 11 lakes attract tourists from around the world to visit the many wineries, but they also provide drinking water to 1m residents. As a result, there is constant monitoring of the water because unfortunately the predominant threat to water quality is Cyanobacteria or Toxic Algae Blooms. ***Anne Johnston,***
Air Quality/Water Conservation Chair

Be a winner!

The *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows* defines an herbaceous perennial as "a plant with soft, succulent tissue (non-woody) usually dying to the ground during the winter in colder climates". If an NGC Flower Show had exhibits with at least 20 herbaceous perennials during 2023, it is eligible for CAR-SGC's American Horticultural Society Herbaceous Perennial Award. Documenting photos and a list of botanical names are required. Each of our 7 states can have a winner. See the website for easy details.

Shows during 2024 will be eligible too. Photos and the list of botanical names can both easily be obtained on the day of the event.

Shirley Nicolai,
AHS Regional Perennial Award Chair

CAR-SGC Life Membership Report

I was very happy to announce the names of our ten newest Life Members of the Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs at the recent conference in Corning, New York. Lovely certificates signed by our Director Monica Hansen and Life Membership pins were presented to the following new members. All the $50 contribution for the Life Membership is allocated to the scholarship fund. It is a wonderful way to honor a club member who has accomplished great service to a garden club.

Here are the newest life members: Marlene Hatton, Ohio; Sue Scholz, Pennsylvania; Anna O'Kelly, Maryland; Carolyn Leahy, Maryland; Rose Gazarek, Maryland; Virginia Cardona, Delaware; Judy Jackson, Pennsylvania; Paula Winkler, Maryland; Nancy Moats, National Capital Area; Grace Mitchell, Pennsylvania.

Claire Leichliter,
CAR-SGC Life Membership Chair

NGC Life Membership

NGC Life Members are a special group of people. They are people who want to give back to our Youth and Membership. People who strive to maintain and encourage NGC projects and goals.

The donation of $200 aids two wonderful NGC programs: **THE PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND** and **THE PERMANENT HOME AND ENDOWMENT FUND.**

For this fiscal year, beginning June 1, 2023, we have 22 new Life Members, with only one coming from our Region, the Central Atlantic Region.

So let's get busy! Join today or better yet, give a Holiday gift membership this season to any individual or group deserving an honor or remember someone in your community who shares your passion for garden club interests. Life Members do not need to be a Garden Club Member. A gift for a spouse or family member is always a special way to recognize someone you love.

Applications can be found on the NGC website under Member Resources.

"LIFE MEMBERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Any questions? Contact Gail Manna, 814-932-3231 **or *gcorle1214@gmail.com.***
Remember all new Life Members present are recognized at the National Convention in Denver June 2024. Don't be left out……..

Gail Manna, NGC Life Membership Chair, 2021-2025

Vision of Beauty Calendar

Just a little reminder that you may want to consider taking a photograph or having a photograph taken of your fall, winter or spring floral design(s). You might also want to consider a photograph of your garden. Fall, winter and spring gardens may have wonderful seasonal interest. Your photograph could be considered for inclusion in the Vision of Beauty Calendar. Challenge yourself. Take a picture and submit your photo. Perhaps your entry will be chosen for inclusion in VOB the calendar.

Your design could be traditional, creative, abstract, botanical, artistic craft, seasonal, or other. Photographs of a design must be taken in front of a blank seamless background. Do not include any flower show ribbons or entry cards in the image taken.

Complete entry information is on the last pages of the Vision of Beauty Calendar. All submissions are sent and emailed to the **National Garden Club Vision of Beauty Calendar chair Nancy Voyles**.

Vision Of Beauty calendars for 2024 are available for $10 each (+shipping) in the National Garden Club store on *www.gardenclub.org.*

Barbara DeRue,
CAR-SGC VOB Calendar

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

In 1963, one year after Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" was published, bald eagle populations in the lower 48 U.S. counted just 417 nesting pairs- a shocking fraction of the estimated 200,000 birds that once soared the skies in the 18th century. Other species were plummeting as well from a boom in construction, polluting of the nation's air and water and degrading habitats of wildlife such as grizzly bears, whooping cranes and short nose sturgeon. Because of public groundswell for the imperiled wildlife, in 1970 Congress established the Environmental Protection Agency which outlawed DDT and then mandated steps to protect and restore plants or animals identified as threatened or endangered. In 50 years since the act was adopted, more than 1,000 fish, mammals, insects, birds, flowers and other species have been listed under the act and more than 50 have rebounded because of its protections. One of them, the bald eagle was delisted in 2007 and now can be spotted in nearly every state and also added to this list is Kirtland's Warbler of which some 2,300 breeding pairs are alive today. Now that's something to sing about.

Excerpts from Winter 2023 issue of "NATURE CONSERVANCY ".

Iris Cisarik,
Birds, Bugs, Butterflies and Endangered Species Chair

CAR-SGC Scholarship Recipients 2023

CAR-SGC Finance Committee approved the award of two $2000 scholarships for 2023/2024.

The following winners were selected based on their academic achievement, commitment to environmental study and overall financial need:

The first award winner was submitted by The Garden Club, Federation of Pennsylvania. Christopher Burch, is a graduate student attending Hood College, majoring in Environmental Biology. Christopher has a 3.7 GPA and has worked on efforts to improve the Chesapeake Bay. His future plans include returning to teaching at the collegiate level or working for the Department of Agriculture.

The second award winner was submitted by the Federated Garden Club of New York. Sam Bjorklun is a Junior from Clifton Park, NY. Sam attends the University of Vermont majoring in Environmental Sciences with a 3.9 GPA. Sam is a first-generation college student and is working her way thru college. Her future plans are to attend graduate school focusing on insect agroecology and its impact on farming.

We congratulate the winners and wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Thank you to all of the state scholarship Chairpersons for the timely submission of our scholarship award applicants and the judges who give of their time to review and select the winners.

CAR-SGC Scholarship Patronage Program

The CAR-SGC Scholarship Patronage Program is a fundraising effort to fund our annual scholarship award to deserving college students majoring in garden related fields: Agriculture Education, Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology/Science, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns, Environmental Conservation, Urban and Rural Planning, Wildlife Science, Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology, Land Management and/or other garden related or allied subjects .

Here are the Scholarship Patronage Donations for 2023:

Bronze Donors	
Claire Leichliter	$ 50
Jane Bersch	$ 50
Silver Donor	
Victoria Bellias	$200
Gold Donor	
Gail S. Manna	$500
Platinum Donor	
Robin Hammer	$1000

Connie Taylor,
Scholarship and CAR-SGC Patronage Program

Website Report

I want to thank Monica Hansen for being such a great website partner. It is a pleasure to work with you, Monica, to keep CAR-SGC members informed about news and announcements they can use in their states and local clubs.

In addition to routine updates, we recently made three major improvements:

1. The 2023-2025 Board Directory combines two previous documents on the website:
   A. CAR-SGC Board Members listed by name and their office or committee
   B. Contact information for Board Members
2. We created a website within the website for all information related to the CAR-SGC Conference.
3. The CAR-SGC Bylaws approved during the Conference are now on the website.

I would like to see the website reflect our seven states and the talents of CAR-SGC members. Please take a look at the new home page photo. I try to change them seasonally, and this beautiful autumn view from a friend's yard in Maryland really caught my eye. I challenge anyone who reads this report to send me one photo (or more) currently on your phone that could possibly be used on the CAR-SGC website today or in the future. Please email your photo(s) to me in jpeg format at *MargaretWoda@gmail.com* and provide your name, state and a brief description of the photo(s).

THANK YOU!

Margaret Woda, Webmaster

Schools Being Held by NGC in CAR

Environmental School

Feb. 02 – 03, 2024. Westerville, OH – Zoom – Course 3.

Sept. 18 – 19, 2024. McHenry, MD – In-person – Course 4.

Flower Show School:

April 06 – 10, 2024. – East Brunswick, NJ – Course 1 – 4/6-Zoom; 4/9 and 4/10 – In-person

October 12 – 15, 2023 – Plymouth Meeting, PA – Course 4

Flower Show Symposium:

None scheduled.

None scheduled.**Gardening School:**

May 08 – 09, 2024 – Columbia, MD – In-person – Course 4.

Landscape Design School:

None scheduled.

The Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, New York

The Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, New York, is a distinctive fusion of a mansion, marine, and natural history museum situated on Long Island's north shore. This historic estate once served as the summer residence of William K. Vanderbilt, the great-grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and is proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Centerport Garden Club, which is part of the Second District, FGCNYS, is entrusted with the care of its historic Rose Garden.

In April 2020, two new members, Linda Pitra and Nancy Schwartz, assumed leadership of the Rose Garden Committee. Initially, they anticipated tasks like deadheading, weeding, mulching, and fertilizing. However, they soon discovered the need to undertake a more extensive project—removing all the roses, replacing the top six inches of soil, and redesigning the entire rose garden.

What is Rose Rosette Disease? It is a disease that specifically affects roses and is caused by mites. Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) has spread throughout much of the United States and, unfortunately, is incurable. Infected plants must be promptly removed and destroyed to prevent the virus from spreading to healthy roses. Identifying the disease can be challenging. The earliest signs include a red pigmentation of the underside of leaf veins, followed by the abnormal growth of red shoots known as "witches' broom."

Upon discovering the impact of Rose Rosette Disease, the Centerport Garden Club, in collaboration with the museum's leadership and staff, rose to the challenge. With 8 to 15 members dedicating over an hour every other Thursday, they made remarkable progress in addressing the issue.

Naturally, this undertaking involved a significant amount of work and investigation. Soil had to be excavated, replaced, and tested for pH levels. Linda and Nancy sought guidance from the local Cornell Cooperative Extension and had to wait for two seasons, as required, to eliminate the rose rosette mites. The Centerport Garden Club's objective is to maintain a chemical-free garden, and they rely on recommendations from the Cornell organic rose test garden and the book "ROSES WITHOUT CHEMICALS" by Peter E. Kukielshi for selecting roses. This book offers photos and descriptions of 150 disease-resistant rose varieties.

Summarizing the major accomplishments of the Centerport Garden Club:

- Restoration of the historic fountain
- Installation of a custom arbor and six trellises
- Soil pH testing and amendment to meet the needs of roses
- Planting 53 disease-resistant roses, eight boxwoods, two Japanese maples, and numerous complementary perennials
- Acquisition and planting of 25 hydrangeas through donations
- Installation of a drip irrigation system
- Procurement of nameplates for identifying roses

Photos by Marisa Comple

On a splendid day, June 19th, 2023, the Vanderbilt Rose Garden was joyfully rededicated, marking the successful rejuvenation of this historic garden.

Gail Berti - Arboretums Chairman

VI District of the FGCNYS Celebrates Their 100th Anniversary

On 1 November, the VI District of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State celebrated their 100th Anniversary! The Hathaway House in McGraw, NY was the venue. Their facilities are the very best, with an old mansion flanked by two modern wings specifically designed for events. The food is gourmet, the wait staff prompt and courteous, and a perfect setting for our Century event.

After registration, we grazed the scrumptious homemade pastries that were available. With morning refreshments eaten and the table cleared away, the business meeting was called to order. Officers presented their reports, and numerous awards were delivered by our Director.

We were educated about "The Value of Planting Native Plants". Native alternatives were offered to replace unwanted non-natives. Next, we adjourned to the main dining room. Clubs were asked to bring a history of their club, and they responded in a spectacular manner.

As if everything before wasn't grand enough, came the most outstanding feature of the day. Normally we would have had a floral designer make a few arrangements that would then be auctioned. However, Susan Fuchs, our First Assistant in charge of Programs, surprised us all. She delivered a "plain brown bag" to each table that contained an empty container. Each table was instructed to "harvest" plant material from the broad assortment that was provided, and then all at each table teamed up to create a design. The room exploded in creativity. Everyone was contributing ideas and advice, and the frenetic activity was amazing!

It was obvious that the entire room was rampant with design skills. Arrangements were awarded to those whose ticket was drawn, and, sadly, the 100th Anniversary ended. I feel confident that I can speak for all attendees when I say that this was THE most entertaining VI District meeting and will be remembered very fondly by all who attended.

Designing

Displays

Award

Winners

Anthony R. Antes,
CAR-SGC Liaison to Master Gardeners

CAR-SGC Conference in Corning, NY

Pumpkin Blowing

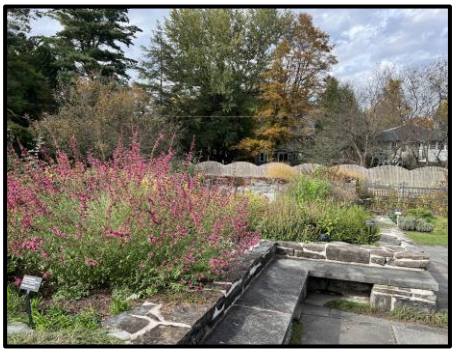
Birds of Prey by Ryan Donnelly

Group from New Jersey

Designs by
Frances Thrash

Photos by Danielle Brabazon and Caroline Carbaugh

Tri-Refresher Bus Tour to Taughannock Falls, Cornell Botanical Gardens and Oechsner Farm



Photos by Judy Bonanno and Robin Hammer