



**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT, INC.  
MEMBER OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. - Spring 2018**

**FGCV, Annual Meeting. Monday, JUNE 4, 2018 Registration on the last page**



Spring is just around the corner according to the calendar. Winters grasp does not seem to want to let go, although a small bunch of crocus popped up in my garden late February only to be hidden once again with a huge snow fall. Spring and mud season always find their way. Now is the time to plan for your garden club events of the year.

I look forward to sharing information with you at the FGCV Spring meeting,

The spring meetings will be held in your District for Club Presidents or their representatives and FGCV Board members, as follows,

Northern District: Monday April 16, 2018 will be held in Barre VT. 9.30am (Christine Rousseau)

Central District Members: Wednesday April 18, 2018 will be held in Springfield VT. 9.30am (Claremont Savings Bank)

Southern District Members: Tuesday April 24, 2018 will be held in Danby VT. 10.00am ( Sue Hinkels)

The spring meetings give each club an opportunity to share information on their clubs, problem solve with their peers and share Vermont, Regional and National Garden clubs information.

FGCV Annual Meeting. JUNE 4, 2018. HILDENE, Manchester, VT

Special Guest: Nancy Hargroves, President: National Garden Clubs

Program: Andrea Luchini, Horticulturist at Hildene and after lunch a tour of the garden

June 20, 2018 A small Standard Flower Show, Equinox Village, Manchester, Vermont

## **Bennington Garden Club**

Over the past year the Bennington Garden Club has entered into a cooperative relationship with the Vermont School for Girls in Bennington, housed on the former Bennington School property, but not associated with that former school. One of the ways the school is working to help girls who have suffered trauma is their horticulture program. This is where our partnership comes in. The school has built two greenhouses and a large garden where the girls learn about horticulture and growing food for themselves. Through our Educational Fund we made a grant to help with furnishing the second greenhouse.

We visited the greenhouses last fall for their grand opening day. They provide a wonderful opportunity for learning about growing, as well as a quiet space to retreat to. This spring on April 24th we will be hosting a program at the school on the Student Conservation Association and women in conservation with our inimitable Liz Putnam, the founder of the Student Conservation Association.

A public program that we are planning for this summer is a presentation on Victory Gardens, Past and Present by Maria Reade. This will be held at the Bennington Museum, 75 Main Street, Bennington, VT on July 11 at 7 pm. This program will be in conjunction with the Four Freedoms Festival being held across Vermont this summer <https://www.themillvt.com/4freedomfestival>.



The Bennington Garden Club visits the greenhouses at the Vermont School for Girls

Consie West

## **Burlington Garden Club**

### Adams Farm Supports Burlington Garden Club Beautification Project

Looking back during this cold winter, our club is reminded of warmth, sun and summer. Yet as last summer rains fell and moisture accumulated under the huge trees at the Ronald McDonald gardens, the flowers planted and maintained by the Burlington Garden Club members growth were stunted and were not thriving.

Adams Farm on Stagecoach Road in Williston stepped in and donated trays of annual flowers to beautify the Ronald McDonald Gardens. Adams Farm offers to the community a full line of annuals, herbs and vegetable plants in the spring/summer along with delicious local produce all summer. We eagerly await spring and the planting of flowers in the gardens.

The Gardens at the Ronald McDonald House were adapted as a Garden Club Therapy Project in 2009, Garden Club Members maintain the gardens May through October. Andrea (Andy) Kenney and Doris Van Mullen coordinate the project.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington, Vermont, the “home away from home” for families with seriously ill children seeking treatment at the University of Vermont Children’s Hospital. It is their aim to be a refuge for families experiencing the stress and anguish of their loved one’s illness. Whether for a short stay, or for weeks at a time, they provide families with the comforts of home as well as the support of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Kim Adams Antonioli, Adams Farm with flowers donated to Ronald McDonald Gardens



Burlington Garden Club Members give love during February for Meals on Wheels

For the fifth year, the Burlington Garden Club members shared their Decorative Valentine Cookies as special treats for the Meals on Wheels Program. They planned, they baked, and baked – over 400 hundred cookies as a gift for others to enjoy. They met, they packaged and they delivered to the Meals on Wheels program to bring joy to others. The cookies will be included in the meal program distribution.

"Like clockwork for the past 5 years, the Burlington Garden Club is again brightening up the lives of the South Burlington Meals on Wheels recipients by providing them with home made decorated heart-shaped cookies for Valentine's Day. Our approximately 50 South Burlington residents who receive Meals on Wheels comment often how much they enjoy the packages they get from the Burlington Garden Club. It is gestures like this from the Garden Club that remind me of how lucky we are to live in a community that cares about others."

-- Peter Carmolli, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels

The Burlington Garden Club was organized in 1934. The near 100 members stimulate knowledge and appreciation of horticulture, aid in the protection of the natural environment, along with promoting garden therapy, civic and residential gardening and planting. The Burlington Garden Club has had a long time relationship with Meals on Wheels. This project which is in its fourth year is one of many ways the members share their talents to bring a little smile, a treat of cheer and a bit of love from someone near. New members are always welcome.

#### Boxwood Tree Workshop.



Doris Van Mullen



### Mountain Gardeners.

We began this year in January as we do every year with a wonderful Potluck Luncheon at the Lareau Farm and distribution of new yearbooks. This is the month that we celebrate our accomplishments, vote on new officers, gather ideas for future projects and look forward to a busy, fun-filled year ahead.

The February program on “Stone Arches” presented by Thea Alvi was truly wonderful, one of the best! Thea is a stone mason and designer of amazing stonework and invited our club to come for a visit to her sculpture gallery in Morrisville, VT.

Then in April we made holiday flower arrangements with floral supplies provided by the Mad River Garden Center.

Rounding out our spring programs, in May each member showed a favorite gardening book and told how it was helpful in planning, planting and caring for their gardens. It was a delightful and informative session as gardening problems and concerns were discussed because gardeners do make mistakes and that is how we learn.

In June, Mountain Gardeners have their annual plant sale, a fundraiser that fills our treasury with money to help fund our budget expenses. Members were busy digging and dividing plants in their gardens then potting 700 plus plants for the sale



Later in the month, we celebrated another successful plant sale with a garden party luncheon at a member's home and displayed flower arrangements with a nursery rhyme themes. Summer months keep us busy with traveling programs. In July we toured MRV bed and breakfast establishments, ending up with a Low Tea served at the West Hill House B&B.

The August program was a garden tour at Rocky Dale Gardens and Nursery with a picnic lunch on the grounds. That month the club also held a flower arrangement show at the Waitsfield Inn which was part of the Art in The Garden celebration in the Mad River Valley. Arrangements were coordinated with book titles and brought to the Inn for this one -day show. Admission was charged for this event which benefited the club treasury.

One of the best programs we have ever had was a plant swap and garden tea cup auction in September. This was an in-club fundraiser and social that was a lot of fun for members. Members brought plants, books, garden tools, pots and garden ornaments to sell and swap. This was a program that we will be repeating!

In the fall, we met to make Japanese flower arrangements (Ikebana). Another program was creating boxwood trees for the holidays. This ended our busy year for MountainGardeners.



***Making topiary trees***



***Creating Ikebana***

Carol Miner

## **Rutland Garden Club**



Jo Fretz, with the help of RGC members, plant and maintain flowers boxes throughout the downtown area of Rutland with annual flowers in the summer time and evergreens and berries in the winter time.

### **Meetings/Educational Programs:**

Our first meeting of the 2017-18 year began with an informative “Ikebana” presentation/demonstration by Ann Davis in the lovely home of Wilma “Cuffy” Moore. A beautiful luncheon was provided by Valerie Cleary, Betsy Moakley, Martha Baker, Kathy Perkins and Kitty Furman.

Dr. Alan Betts presented “The Challenge of Climate Change” at our public meeting at the Leahy Center, RRMCC. Refreshments were provided by Shelley Zara, Judy Nevin, Ellen Schlagel, Laura Tadio and Gale Courcelle.

Our annual Holiday Party was held in the beautifully decorated home of Sharon Brown. Wintery weather did not hinder everyone enjoying a delightful luncheon provided by David and Carolyn Hazen, Ann Herlihy, Brian Billings, Taffy Maynard and Betsy Franzoni.

Our January meeting highlighted the gastronomic excellence of chefs Pat Kent, Jan Semp, Deb Weaver and Melanie Reedy as they served individually hand crafted paninis to club members.

Our March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature Rachael Kane from Perennial Pleasures, East Hardwick, VT. Rachael will speak on growing flowers successfully in the cold climate of New England. Her specialty is growing over 300 kinds of phlox.

Jo-Anna Gagnon, a wildlife biologist, will speak April 10<sup>th</sup> on “Bird Friendly Gardens” at the home of Shirlee Nickless. Patty Cupoli, Suzanne Savage, Jaga Smiechowski, Carol Kenlan and Susan Casella will be providing the luncheon.

“Who Cares How the Food Tastes if the Flowers Look Good” is the topic of speaker/designer Maureen Christmas at our Annual Meeting to be held at Southside Steakhouse, Rutland, VT, on

May 8, 2018. We are looking forward to her presentation on how to make floral designs for your dinner party, cocktail party and other special occasions.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, the club held its annual Garden Therapy workshop with the residents of the Meadows at East Mountain. Red coffee cups filled with dry floral foam were used as containers for the residents to make a floral design using permanent botanicals provided by club members. Jaga Smiechowski gave a short “how to” lesson and then the third graders from Christ the King school helped each resident create a beautiful bouquet. The children also gave each resident they helped a Valentine card and ended the session by singing a song about flowers.



### **Special Projects:**

A new project has been started under the guiding hands of Kathy Perkins. Hands-on projects are provided for the members to learn to techniques related to gardening. The first project was making hypertufa troughs at the home of Jo Fretz. Those troughs are now sitting outside under the snow “curing” for use in the summer

In January members met to make Topiary Designs.



Valerie Cleary presented a “Holiday Hands –on Workshop” making centerpieces following a “recipe” provided by Val. With small additions the centerpieces could be changed for Thanksgiving and for Christmas/Hanukah.

Valerie did another workshop in December to make Christmas boxwood trees to be used



as centerpieces for holiday decorations.

### **Money Making Projects:**

Each year, holiday wreaths are sold to businesses in Killington, and friends and family of RGC members. Melanie Reedy took over the leadership of this project from Nancy Beauchamp and Judy Findeisen. The profits from the sale of these wreaths are used to obtain speakers for future RGC meetings.

The club's annual plant sale will be May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 am across from the Rutland Fire Department

The RGC is again planning their Strawberry Luncheon at the home of Ann Clark on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be two serving times at 11 am and 2 pm. Tickets are \$30.00 and may be reserved by contacting Pat Kent at [patkent10@comcast.net](mailto:patkent10@comcast.net). This elegant luncheon, complete with linens, silver and crystal, consists of strawberry soup, strawberry salad and strawberry shortcake.

The RGC will have a National Garden Club Standard Flower Show on July 21-22, 2018. The show, 'Play Monopoly' will be held at the Castleton University Bank Gallery, 104 Merchant's Row, downtown Rutland, VT. Admission is Free to the public. In Design the show will feature three Sections including a Petite Section of designs between 3"-12" in any given direction. The Horticulture Section will include Perennials, Annuals and Combination Plantings. The Education Section will include an Exhibit on Award Ribbons and other Exhibits to be determined. More information will be sent to VT Club Presidents in the next couple of months. For questions contact Kathy Perkins at [ksheaperk@comcast.net](mailto:ksheaperk@comcast.net)

Finally, 40 club members take care of the 17 ongoing beautification projects the club undergoes each year.

Margery Salmon

## Springfield Garden Club

The members of the Springfield garden Club spent much time in January taking down the decorations from our Festival of Trees. Most of the decorations (including all of the trees) are left at the Great Hall for the pleasure of anyone who passes through that facility over the Holidays. Then in early January everything is packed up and stored for the next season. There is tremendous participation including several husbands who make our work lighte4



In February we had a very interesting presentation in collaboraton with OSHER by Henry Kaestner , who has retired from McCormick Spice Co. It was open to the public and very well attended. Currently some of us have begun to work on our programs for 2018/2019.... Scary thought!

We are all looking forward to spring's warmer weather to get outside and see all of our dormant greenery coming b ack to life. On March 7<sup>th</sup> we have the opportunity to visit the Smith College Spring Bulb Show which will give us a jump start on the season.

No more news for the moment. Cheers to all garden club friends.

Carolyn Lane

## Seed and Weed Garden Club

Seed and Weed has the smallest number of members within the FGCV

8 active and two associate members.

In spring we held our annual plant sale on the Fairbanks Museum front lawn.

The club maintained the Il Porcellino Fountain Park in Lyndon Center and handed over the maintenance to the town at the end of the season due to the clubs decreasing numbers.

We planted and maintained the Fairbanks Museum flower boxes and garden.

For the winter we planted greens in the flower boxes.

During the summer months many gardens in the area were visited.

The fall gave the club the opportunity to have a successful flower arranging program.

During the summer of 2018 the club will assist the Fairbanks Museum with their Butterfly Garden, providing native plants and expertise for their special display.



Caroline Frey

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT INC.  
ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 4, 2018, MANCHESTER, VT.

**\*\*Special Guest: Nancy Hargroves,  
President of National Garden Clubs\*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check applicable categories

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State President       | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past State President  | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Committee Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member     | <input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member                | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Board Member       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest                 |   |

Registration is \$35.00 which includes registration fee, coffee, tea and pastries, lunch, and a visitor's pass to tour the Hildene property.

Please send your registration and check made out to FGCV to: Jean Freebern, 216 School St, Arlington, VT 05250. \$10.00 additional charge for non-members.

The Southern District invites you to historic Hildene in Manchester, Vermont, on June 4th. The summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, and surrounding grounds will be the setting of a wonderfully educational and peony-filled meeting. Hildene's Head Gardener will talk about the ongoing process of maintaining the heirloom peonies which were planted by the Lincoln gardeners in the early 1900's.

Following lunch you will be able to tour the home of Mary and Robert Lincoln as well as the famous Hoyt Gardens, which will be full of blooming, gorgeous, heirloom peonies. Peonies are available to buy for your own gardens. Please join us for this "Celebration of Peonies."

Tentative schedule: 9-9:30 Registration; 9:30-10:30 Business Meeting with NGC update by Nancy Hargroves, NGC President; Peony presentation by Andrea Luchini, Hildene Horticulturist; 11:30 Social Time, Lunch, Awards; 1:00 Tour of Hoyt Gardens with Andrea.