



## Director's Message

Take a look out of your window. Is it moderately sunny, warmish and breezy. Then at long last Spring has arrived. Our thoughts turn to warmer, fairer weather, the blooming of crocus, daffodils and tulips, the buzzing of bees and the return of butterflies.

It is also time to peruse all those catalogs you've been saving and look towards designing your annual beds. The NGC urges all its members to consider planting Pollinator Gardens to support bees, birds and, of course, the endangered butterflies. With the continued development of once rural and suburban land, these pollinators have lost most of the plants that support their lives. So please plant a 4ft by 4ft area with native plants designed to nourish these pollinators. The Native Plant Center is an excellent resource to answer the question, "What should I plant?" I am happy to announce the new District Officers for 2017 -2019:

Director	Carol Della Femina
Assistant Director	Rosemary Eshghi
Recording Secretary	Sue Trager
Corresponding Secretary	Jacqui Bergonzi
Assistant Treasurer	Melanie Smith
Treasurer	Maureen Delano

Please join us on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at the Mount Kisco Country Club for the 9<sup>th</sup> District Annual Meeting, Luncheon and Installment of our new officers. Contact your club presidents or Chris Wolff for more information.

To our retiring officers, Gloria Bisaccia, Chris Wolff and Barbara Roy: you will be missed. Thank you for your service and dedication to your position. Hopefully, you will continue to sit on the board as committee chairs.

Speaking of committee chairs there are still some vacancies. So, if you or someone in your club has an interest in any of the following please contact me [nanniecaroll@gmail.com](mailto:nanniecaroll@gmail.com)

*Civic Improvement, Historian, World Gardening, Yearbook Contest, or Youth.*

**Best Always,**

**Carol Della Femina**

Bartlett Arboretum. Pound Ridge Library at 10:30.  
Additional information: Anne Lyman:  
[aclyman@verizon.com](mailto:aclyman@verizon.com)

## CALENDAR

**May 9 – Pound Ridge GC** "Know Your Weeds", Peter Russell, UConn Certified Advanced Master Gardener,

**May 10 - Briarcliff Manor GC** - "The Art of Kokedama" Pam Wright, NGC Flower Show and

Horticulture Judge, will discuss and demonstrate the ancient practice of Kokedama or Japanese Moss Balls. She will also give a recipe to create one at home. Briarcliff Manor Public Library at 1:00 pm. Additional information: Sueshark2000@gmail.com.

**May 13 -Briarcliff Manor GC** - Plant and White Elephant Sale - annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, herbs, Growers' Own, etc. Wells Fargo Bank's Parking Lot, 1050 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor from 9:00am to 1:00 pm.

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES** **Reported by Section Chairmen**

### **Section 1A**

**Judy Malatino**

#### **Highland GC**

**GC of Peekskill** Our Club members collected the wreath frames from the city for storage until next Christmas. As we had no meeting in January this chore was done by the committee that made and delivered the wreaths in December. Our February meeting was a business meeting and all members were invited to speak. We reworked our by-laws and a considerable amount of time was spent discussing how to attract new members and to get them involved in our activities. In March, club member Danny Meyer presented a delightful program of arrangements announcing spring is almost here.

#### **GC of Yorktown**

### **Section 1B**

**Joan Bradley**

**Brewster-Carmel GC** In February, garden club member Kathy Muentener presented, "Gardens Far and Near," a series of slides highlighting gardens from Brewster to Bora Bora. The Garden Club participated in the Carmel Rotary Basketball Shoot-Out, an annual fundraiser. The club's annual business meeting was held in March.

**Lake Mahopac GC** We held our annual luncheon the last Tuesday in January, and though the fluffy snowflakes were falling outside the Community Room at Lake Sycamore, we partied inside. The tables were laid with pretty tablecloths, and tulip arrangements hinting of spring made them even more festive (and hopeful). Our members brought an assortment of dishes, and it was very interesting sampling the variety of tastes. During the Business Meeting each Committee Chairman was asked to account for activities of 2016. Member Regina Morini was added to the 9<sup>th</sup> District Book of Tribute for her 50 years in our club. Chairpersons were announced for our Annual Flower Show, September 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Trip Chairman provided a list of interesting places that our members may want to go to in the coming year. Our club does not meet in February, but will meet again in

March. At that meeting historian and master gardener, Edward Illiano, will be our guest speaker. His topic will be *Agriculture in Putnam County*. We have a trip planned to the Brooklyn Botanical Orchid Show for that month.

**New Horizons GC** used the month of January to plan upcoming lectures and workshops for 2017. The new NGC, Inc. Handbook is our focus this year; helping clubs navigate the updated rules and designs. On February, New Horizons will meet at Bill Smiles' greenhouse in Chappaqua that he has filled with species orchids. Bill is a former President of New Horizons. On March 20<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Nelson spotlights the "Due's, Do's and Don'ts" of the new handbook at Lasdon Park & Arboretum (\$10). For more info contact Auralie 914.739.3469 or [aplfgcnys@aol.com](mailto:aplfgcnys@aol.com)

### **Section 2A**

**Briarcliff Manor GC** Our February meeting was a workshop presented by members Terry Marchica and Marion Cowles. Those present created Valentine's Day centerpieces to take home. We were delighted to have District Director Carol Della Femina and Assistant Director Rosemary Eshghi attend the meeting and share 9<sup>th</sup> District information with our members. In March professional herbalist and President of Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserves, Clare Pierson, returned to conduct a workshop on how to make Oxymels (honey and vinegar combinations). Secret raffles take place at meetings to help raise funds for the club. Garden Therapy meets at the Briarcliff Manor Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing.

#### **Chappaqua GC**

### **Section 2B**

#### **Green Acres GC**

#### **Hopp Ground GC**

**Pound Ridge GC** Although the club did not meet during the months of January and February, the club was buzzing with behind-the-scenes planning for our upcoming year. We were proud to learn that our club received the Westchester County Soil & Water Conservation Achievement Award for 2016. Our March meeting, was presided over by our new President, Connie Marchetti. Members received their 2017 Yearbooks produced by Virginia Bulzacchelli and her committee. In addition, members received their copies of the 2017 NGC, Inc. Handbook. Our speaker, Kim Eierman, introduced us to "Eco-Beneficial" gardening. Our website at [poundridgegardenclub.com](http://poundridgegardenclub.com) included more information about that and numerous other topics. Check it out!

### **Section 3A**

**Pat Riedel**

#### **Little Gardens of Tarrytown**

### **Section 3B**

**Yvonne Avant**

#### **Ardley GC**

**Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry** In January we had a wonderful speaker, Ken Greene, who is the founder and director of the Hudson Valley Seed Library. He told us the story of the seed library and their artist-designed seed packets. We bought seeds for growing this year! In February we had a master gardener speak on backyard vegetable gardening. We also held our second workshop with the seniors of Dobbs Ferry. In March we heard Arnie Friedman speak on the history of landscape design. Also in March we held a co-sponsored lecture with the Irvington Garden Club where Margaret Roach spoke on non-stop plants and 365 days of gardening.

**Parkway Gardens/Parkway Homes GC** The Parkway Gardens/Parkway Homes Garden Club had no formal meetings during the months of January and February. However, members of the Flower Show Committee met and began planning for our Annual Flower Show. The tentative schedule is August/September 2017. Several members also visited the Orchid Show at the Bronx Botanical Gardens. In March the Garden Club convened and planned the cleanup of the Flag Pole Community Garden and restoration of the Blue Star Memorial Marker that was damaged by a motor vehicle accident in the fall of 2016.

#### **White Plains GC**

##### **Section 4**

**Suzanne Clephane**

**Boulder Ledge GC** Our January/February meeting was held at a member's home. We were fortunate to have Pamela Wright of Terraria New York as our speaker. Pam introduced us to Kokedama (also known as Japanese moss balls or string gardens). Our annual Open Meeting was held in March at the Bronxville Library. Our speaker, Alejandro Saralegui, is Director of the Madoo Conservancy in Sagaponack, New York. Madoo, a barely two acre public garden, is notable for both its design and plantsmanship.

#### **Ceres GC of Rye**

##### **GC of Larchmont**

##### **Section 5A**

**Corinna Kerber**

##### **Baychester GC**

##### **Luther Burbank GC**

##### **Morsemere GC**

##### **Section 5B**

**Yolanda Gorman**

**GC of City Island** A spectacular collection of three hundred camellias greeted club members on their visit to the Planting Fields and Arboretum Historic State Park in Oyster Bay, Long Island in February. Members were given a guided tour of all greenhouses. They toured the Camellia House and enthusiastically photographed camellias in bloom. Members enjoyed a catered box lunch in the Haybarn Visitor Center thereafter continuing on to Sagamore Hill National Historic Site where members toured President Theodore Roosevelt's home filled with the family's original furnishings and memorabilia. A beautiful warm day contributed to a

successful outing. Our February meeting was held at the Harlem Yacht Club and focused on the garden club's working committees. The Beautification Committee started planning our community-wide fund drive that will enable us to continue our beautification projects, including the containers on City Island Avenue. The committee also began plans for this year's plantings. Our Membership Committee has created a new garden club brochure, which was distributed to community locations this month. The Program Committee started organizing special events appropriate to the season, to the Untermyer Garden in Yonkers, the Bartow-Pell Mansion in the Bronx for a tour and tea, and to the New York Botanical Garden to view artist Dale Chihuly's blown glass sculptures on display throughout the grounds. The Publicity Committee which supports all the working committees and reports club activities to the media began updating the club's posters and letters. The Sunshine Committee continues to attend members in need of special cheer and encouragements. Although each committee has its designated members, in a real sense, every active club member is part of each committee, helping in their projects, and representing the Garden Club in our community. The Hospitality Committee continues to provide special refreshments at every monthly meeting. Happy springtime wishes.

#### **Manor Club of Pelham-Garden Section**

**GC of New Rochelle** January: No Meeting

February: Hosted a slide show presentation of the Untermyer Gardens located in Yonkers, NY presented by Head Gardener and landscape designer Timothy Tilghman. In the past, Timothy has worked with Marcos Stephanos of Wave Hill and has done an awesome job at the Untermyer Gardens. If you haven't been there, it is worth the trip.

March: Our March Club Fundraiser, "Games for Gardens" is always popular and the group had a relaxing fun time together in support of our Club