



The LEAF

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2024



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Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

<https://www.vermontfgcv.com>

"Cultivate and Nourish Yourself in
Nature...Play Outside"

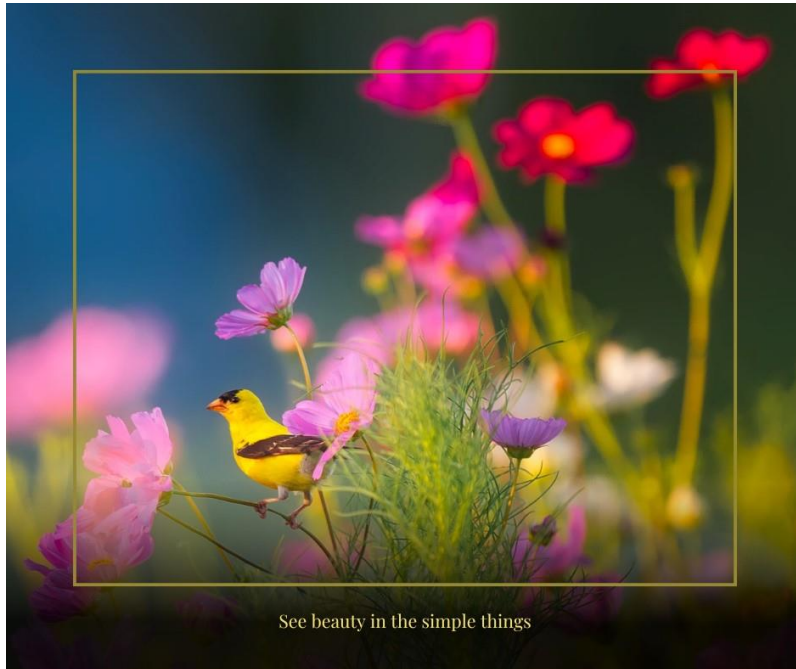


Member of the National
Garden Club

President's Message

As gardeners, we all have a love for Spring ... and I would say for most of us ... we look forward to greeting Spring in the garden. This affection for gardening sustains our being with hopes of warm weather and sunny days.

This is the time of the year we are looking for flowers to emerge from bulbs, glancing at our landscape, patio, gardens, planting seeds and seedlings, thinking of compost and tuning in to when we will attend to our gardens.



And as we sow our seeds and plant our flowers... we see future possibilities as we gather to attend our garden club meetings with projects and volunteer works which are our “social prescription” to access to our outdoor spaces. This is our engagement with the world beyond ourselves where we can provide care, skill, and tenderness. We gain sustenance from nature’s regeneration.

Soon we will be seeing bursts of delicate pastel flowers, orange, pink, yellow, so let us wait a little longer, be observant to the natural world and our garden’s

powers to distract and inspire us. Enjoy nature in all its seasons as we await Spring, take time for peace and relaxation, as well as take photographs of those life-giving moments of beauty.

Spring brings us “The Leaf” our bi-yearly publication, full of your garden club activities publicizing your club’s work in your community. Thank you.

An incredibly special and grateful thank you to Riina Viise for her steadfast devoted work to bring the spring newsletter to you.

Sunshine and warm breezy days are on our minds.

Doris Van Mullen FGCV President

Spring 2024 *The Leaf*



Green Mountain Garden Club March Meeting
L to R: Martha Dale, 1st Vice President, Doris Van Mullen President, Linda Saarnijoki, Green Mountain Garden Club President

Upcoming Events

April

FGCV District Meetings

Northern District - 4/9
Central District 4/15
Southern District 4/22

June
11

FGCV Annual Meeting

Register online - FGCV website
see form on page 14

Submit and bring an educational poster

April 1 -
May 15

Spring photography Series –

“Spring Unfolds its Beauty” deadline date
extended due to snowstorm

October

Oct 1 - FGCV Fall Meeting

Northern District Host TBA
New England Garden Clubs (NEGC)
Annual Meeting - October 23-24, 2024
The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS - NGC

<https://gardenclub.org/>

2024 NGC Convention June 2 - 5, 2024

The Westin Westminster
10600 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, Colorado
Susan Hinkle – Past Pres.
Doris Van Mullen Pres.
will represent Vermont.





Burlington Garden Club

Linda Lane & Barbara Gaida



Since 1934

GRANDMA & GRANDPA'S GARDEN
an FGCV project at 1100 Dorset Street, South Burlington

This heirloom garden was established in 2003 with a \$1,000 SHELL/PETALS grant and matching funds by FGCV. In 2015, ten (10) raised beds were established by a \$1,000 grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. These beds are planted with vegetables and maintained each Wednesday all season by the Burlington Garden Club, Master Gardeners, and unaffiliated volunteers. The garden was beautiful and productive all last season. The children in the Growing Young Gardeners summer program sponsored by the Burlington Garden Club helped plant most of the vegetable seeds and harvested some of the produce.



The donation to the South Burlington Food Shelf on Dorset Street was 324 pounds in 2023, less than the previous season due to poor germination, heavy insect infestation and heavy rains.



The vegetable and flower seeds for 2024 have arrived. Some are

started indoors in mid-March, others a couple of weeks later, and rest are directly sown in the ten (10) raised beds and the flower beds. For 2024 the gardens will be maintained by the Burlington Garden Club, Master Gardeners, and unaffiliated volunteers from the surrounding towns. The garden clubs that are within a reasonable driving distance to South Burlington are encouraged to participate on the first Wednesday of each month of June, July, August, September, October, and November from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. An hour or two at any time is gratefully appreciated. Please bring a sandwich for the picnic break at noon. A dessert is provided for everyone. A sincere thank you to FGCV for supporting this educational, beautiful, and productive garden that benefits the community and the Food Shelf.

Jan DeSarno, Coordinator



Burlington Garden Club

On June 27, 2023, the Burlington Garden Club members gathered at the Catamount Country Club in Williston to usher in a new year. The 2023-2024 cycle kicked off three days later with a successful fundraising excursion to the Botanical Gardens in Montreal.

To make up for a budget shortfall club presidents Barbara Gaida and Linda Lane spearheaded a committee of eight that would plan and produce a club Yard Sale on September 16th. What is notable about this endeavor is that from beginning to end more than 70% of the membership participated. Over the summer members collected donations, excluding electronics, clothing, and books. We had a limited time allotted in the rented space, so we had to be very organized in gathering and moving items. We met our financial goal while reconnecting with old and new BGC members.



Over the summer we had three wonderful garden tours beginning at the home of Shelburne Farms head gardener, Paul Wiczorek in Hinesburg. In July we visited a private garden in Underhill, and in August we were entertained by St. Albans Garden Club members who donned period costumes while regaling us on the village green with historic tales. Our next adventure was the 6th Annual BGC Picnic at Vermont Garden Park. In August the Butterfly Garden as well as the colorful flowering beds BGC members tend, were in full bloom. We donated hundreds of pounds of produce from Grandma and Grandpa's Garden to the South Burlington Food Bank.



Annual Picnic - Barbara Gaida & Mary Jane Cain



Kelly Wakefield President
St Albans Garden Club

We joined Barre’s Granite Center Garden Club, with a labor of love. The North District with the Burlington Garden Club collected, and transported multitudes of donated flowers to Barre. Club members distributed flowering potted plants by placing them outside businesses on their flood ravaged Main Street. Many store owners were still doing clean-up, removing the mud and silt from inside their stores. The 30+ remaining flower flats helped the GCGC members replant their damaged community gardens in town.

In October Brian Collier, a professor at St. Michael’s College explained how we could increase native plant diversity using seed balls. Large trays filled with soil and water and then sprinkled with native seeds invited members to roll balls out of the muddy mixture. We had great fun and come spring; we will be tossing those dry seed balls into our gardens in anticipation of wildflowers.

The first meeting of 2024 was a garden tool Show and Tell. Numerous members displayed their favorite tool, explaining its unique value. It was fun and informative and highly recommended as a garden club activity. February ushered in another year of Bouquets for Birchwood, a rehab and healthcare facility in Burlington. Some ninety-two small bouquets were created and delivered on February 1st. Two weeks later members made 266 heart shaped cookies for Age Well AKA Meals on Wheels to be delivered on Valentine’ Day.



In March we hosted Ann Hazelrigg, PhD, an expert on the Asian Jumping Worm and other emerging diseases and pests in New England. This extremely hot topic attracted many people from the community. We have found that guests have been so impressed by our speakers that they subsequently joined our club. In the coming months we will be pressing our noses to windows seeking sunshine, warmth and signs of Spring.

← Delivering Flowers to Residents at Birchwood Terrace and Health Care Center L to R: Linnie Aubin activities director, resident (phot permission granted), Karen Villanti, BGC coordinator.

Vermont Judges Council

Happy Spring to all Federated Garden Club of Vermont members,

The Vermont Judges Council would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of some upcoming events.

Granite City Garden Club will be having a Small Standard Flower Show at the Aldrich Public Library in Barre on July 27, 2024. The show is entitled “Stories in the Garden” and is open to the public from 1 to 3 pm. For more information, please contact Renee Hotaling at rhotal1218@aol.com.

The Rutland Garden Club is hosting a Standard Flower Show on September 14, 2024, at the Castleton University Bank Gallery in Rutland. The show is entitled “FloraOpoly” and is open to the public from 10am to 4pm. For more information, contact Kathy Perkins at ksheaperk@comcast.net.

It is always exciting to have Flower Shows in Vermont. If you have never attended a flower show, please consider doing so. Floral design is really an art form, a way to express beauty and creativity through the medium of flowers. For those who love to grow flowers, shrubs, indoor plants and vegetables, a flower show provides a venue for exhibiting these specimens in the horticulture section of a show.

The Vermont Judges Council is available to help with flower show education. Please reach out to Maryanne Wood at maryanne@caninedimensions.com, or Kathy Perkins at ksheaperk@comcast.net.

The Council is always willing to present programs on floral design. Consider this idea for one of your club’s monthly program meetings.

The National Gardener is a publication produced by the National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC). This is a great resource for clubs looking for information about flower shows, floral design, upcoming events across the nation, and other schools offered by NCG. It is published quarterly and can be found free of charge on the NGC website.

<https://gardenclub.org>



VT Flower Show 2023

Pictures are representative of flower shows, provided by the Vermont Judges Council



VT Flower Show 2019

FGCV BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER

Flora Bell – Chair

The FGCV Fundraising for the Blue Star Marker Memorial project began in the Fall of 2023.

We are pleased to report that **\$2,350** of the \$2,500.00 has been raised. The Blue Star Memorial Marker project is in place to install a 6th Vermont Blue Star Memorial Marker. This marker will be placed in the Burlington area where there currently is none. These markers are part of the National Garden Club's Blue Star Highway Program honoring those men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services.



Contributions may be sent to our State Treasurer:
Therese Burton
5 Overlook Drive
Springfield VT 05156



Flora Bell and Stacy St Peter – American Legion Post 91 – spaghetti dinner

Mountain Gardeners Garden Club

Janet Ellison

We celebrated 2023 with a successful plant sale, which supported a scholarship for a high school student, along with planting and maintaining many Mad River Valley municipal gardens.

We were lucky to have great programs at every meeting. These included topics like “How to start a new perennial garden”; “Rain Gardens and how they can help the environment”; “The Ecology of Ticks and Tick-borne diseases”; “Anemones in Vermont”; “Including Fabulous Foliage in your gardens all year”. With a few hands-on workshops, we had a great year.

2024 will be just as much fun with programs like “Knotweed invasion and how to help prevent”; “The Seed Man”; “How our forests are vital to our lives” as well as an 8 AM bird walk.

The Mountain Gardeners will hold their annual plant sale of native, home-grown perennials and herbs on June 8, 2024, 9:00-1:00, at Slow Road in Waitsfield

The von Trapps closed their retail business in 2021 after 41 years. They will open their 30+ year-old display garden once again for five Friday-Saturday weekends, 10 PM to 4 PM starting July 5-July 6, every other weekend, ending on August 30-31. \$10/adults, children eighteen and under free.

Mad River Valley Arts offers its annual, one-day tour of five private Valley gardens on Saturday, July 13, 10:00-4:00. \$30.00/2/\$50.00. A festive cocktail party at a private home precedes it on Friday, July 12. Combination tickets are available.

For more information about each event, please contact Jane Macan 610-420-1477 802-583-4770 busyknit@gmail.com



Garden in the Mad River Valley



Julie Parker with one of her photographs

Weathersfield Garden Club

Amy Beth Main



Christy Chamberlain, Alicia Jenks, Beth Hinton, Wendy Smith, Lisa Stapleton, Ray Stapleton, Julia Gumbart, Olivia Savage, Caleb Strong

WEATHERSFIELD continued

In 2023 WGC accomplishments were focused on three main projects:

- 1879 Schoolhouse
 - Added a perennial garden on the south facing side of the building
 - Added barrels to the walkway and well head
 - Decorated seasonally
- Romain Tenney Memorial at Exit 8 Park and Ride
 - Added lilies along the stone wall.
 - Added perennials to bloom during summer and fall after the daffodils have passed.
- Martin Memorial Hall - Town Offices
 - Pruned bushes and trees that had not been maintained for years
 - Weeded, mulched and added pansies
- In October, WGC participated in Trunk or Treat at Hoisington Field sponsored by the Weathersfield Proctor Library. Over one hundred children dressed in costumes chose between a sweet treat and seeds for planting.
- 2024 Preparations are in full swing and we are planning our spring cleanup at the Martin Memorial Hall April 21st. Activities have started at the 1879 Schoolhouse with a pruning of the dogwood bush that had sawfly larvae in the fall. We dusted the bush with diatomaceous earth in the fall. Unfortunately, there was some damage due to a snowplow at the Roman Tenney Memorial so we are currently assessing the work to restore the garden bed around the tree stump memorial. We are planning a field trip to the Hildene Estate in Manchester - date yet to be determined.



Weathersfield Garden Club Kim Ryan, Christy Chamberlin, Amy Beth Main, Olivia Savage



**FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT
REGISTRATION - ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
The Inn at Manchester, 3967 Main Street (Rte. 7A),
Manchester, Vermont
In the big Red Barn**

Name _____
Club _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please check all that apply:

- State President District Director – Southern Northern Central
- 1st Vice President Club President
- 2ND Vice President State Life Member
- Secretary National Life Member
- Treasurer National Garden Club (NGC) Board Member
- Past State President New England Regional Garden Club Former Director
- State Committee Chair New England Regional Garden Club Board. Member
- Member Guest

Registration is \$45.00 which includes: registration fee, coffee & tea, luncheon, awards, program, guest speaker.
\$10.00 additional charge for nonmember.

Buffet of four (4) summery salads, drink, and dessert.

Please make check payable to FGCV and send registration form to: Pat Williams, 209 Sycamoore Lane, Arlington, Vt 05250 johnpatw@comcast.net 802-375-1223
or register on the FGCV website: <https://www.vermontfgcv.com>

Registration

DEADLINE DATE: Tuesday May 28, 2024

9:00 - 9:30 am
9:30 - 11:30 am
11:30 - 12 noon
12:00 - 12:45 pm
12:45 - 1:30 pm

Business Meeting
Socializing
Lunch
Guest Speaker -Corey Creagan – Rutland and Bennington County Forester ***“Anything you Want to Know About our Trees and our Forests”***
Raffle, Final Credential Report

1:30 pm

All Garden Clubs are encouraged to bring an item for the annual raffle. Many thanks.

FGCV EDUCATION POSTER COMPETITION

As gardeners we understand the importance of improving our environment through landscapes of plants, flowers, fruits, vegetables. Federated Garden Club members of Vermont continually increase sustainable gardening making a greener future as well as beautifying communities in their work.

As you continue to learn we encourage you to participate in an opportunity to educate others by creating a horticulture poster and bringing it to the June 11, 2024 FGCV Annual meeting for display.

WHO: PARTICIPATION OF FGCV CLUBS

WHAT: CREATE AND SUBMIT A POSTER. SELECTION OF TOPICS BELOW (OR OTHER HORTICULTURE TOPICS)

WHEN: BRING TO THE JUNE 11, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

INSTRUCTIONS: Poster size 36x48 tri-fold

Clubs Sign Up Now – notify djvanmullen@gmail.com of your topic

Judging by Judges Council

Three (3) gifts of \$25 recognition to top Honorable Mention

Posters will be saved for submission to the 2025 Vermont Flower Show

Educational Exhibit Rubric

Criteria	Value Points
Educational Value	
Interest to Viewer	25
Clear, concise presentation	15
Adequate signage	10
Conforms to FGCV and NGC Objectives	10
Craftsmanship/Technique	10
Distinction	10
Creativity and Expression	20
Total	100

Poster Themes

TOPIC	NAME OF CLUB
What is Sustainability?	
Ways to Save the Environment	
Invasive Plant Management"	The Garden Club of Manchester Melissa Bell
Habitat and Pollinators	Burlington Garden Club
Pollinator Plants	
Food and Carbon	

The Role of Soil – How dirt works	
Nature and Clean Water	
Water conservation	
Role of Soil	Granite Center Garden Club
Our Environmental Footprint	
Plastic Pollution	
The Earth laughs in Flowers	
Be Environment-Friendly	
Nurture the Environment	
Ways to Go Green	
Gardening, a Solution for less Pollution	
Saving Seeds	Randolph Garden Club
Vegetable Gardening	
Plant Diseases	
The Benefits of Landscaping	
Tree Fruit	
Food Safety - Storage	
Composting	
Herbs	
Weed Management	
Beneficial and Harmful Insects	
Wildlife care and Management	
Why we need Bees	
Why we need Birds	
“From lawns to Meadows“	The Garden Club of Manchester Carol Berry

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont
Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens 2024 Summer Tour
with host Charlie Nardozi



Monday, June 24, 2024:

We depart by coach from Burlington with stops in Montpelier and White River Junction and travel to the historic city of Portsmouth, NH in time for lunch at a local restaurant. Afterward we'll tour the home of the [Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden](#), dating from the Colonial era. The home is beautifully decorated with rich carvings, hand-blocked wallpapers and period furniture. The lovely, terraced gardens feature old-fashioned perennials and arbors smothered in roses. We will continue to Portland where you will

stay for the next two nights and check in to your hotel. Enjoy a dinner at one of the local restaurants on the waterfront ([paid individually](#)). **Meals included: Lunch.**

Tuesday, June 25, 2024: Today we'll drive to the gorgeous [Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#), which has been ranked as one of the best public gardens in the US. Located on 325 acres in Boothbay, ME, Coastal Maine features diverse natural ecosystems, dramatic topography, and innovative plantings. Some of the themed gardens include a Five-Senses Garden, delightful Children's Garden, rhododendron garden, a woodland meditation garden, kitchen garden, and butterfly house. We will enjoy a guided tour with lunch in the cafe, and plenty of time to explore the acres of beautiful plantings on our own. Return to Portland for dinner at one of the restaurants on the waterfront ([paid individually](#)). **Meals included: Breakfast**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024: Today we will check out and depart for 30-acre Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. [Bedrock Gardens](#) began as the private garden of sculptor and horticulturist Jill Nooney and her husband Bob Munger. We will enjoy a tour through the series of imaginative gardens highlighted with Jill's whimsical sculptures. Enjoy a boxed lunch after the tour. Return to Vermont with stops in White River Junction, Montpelier and Burlington. **Meals included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch**



For More information – go to our FGCV website.

<https://www.vermontfgcv.com>



FGCV LIFE MEMBERSHIP – Margery Salmon Chair

An FGCV Life Membership can be given to honor any club members. The one-time \$50.00 fee is submitted to the President or Lifetime Membership Chair, who submits a life membership certificate to the member and a pin. The money contributed by the club supports the scholarship fund. The person’s name is added to the Life Membership list and kept in the Recording Secretary minutes of the Annual Meeting of the year presented.

You can also become a life member of the National Garden Club and the procedure is on their website.

**State (FGCV) Life Membership Application
FEDERATION GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT, INC.**

NAME OF APPLICANT _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
MEMBER OF _____ GARDEN CLUB NAME _____
GIVEN BY _____

BRIEF SUMMARY OF APPLICANTS GARDEN CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS (offices held, participation in related garden club work, etc.)

STATE CHAIRPERSON FOR FGCV LIFE MEMBERSHIP
Margery Salmon salmonm@vermontel.net Phone 802-492-3315

STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE \$50
Make check payable to the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont and email/mail your completed application form to Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont chairperson
Margery Salmon, 8177 Cold River Road, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

Send completed copy of membership form and check to the state Life Membership Chairperson to record, prepare and sign certificate and return to the presenter. The chairperson will forward the check to the FGCV state treasurer. Make sure you save a copy of the completed form for your records.

The Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. (FGCV) is a registered 501©3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided by the FGCV in return for this contribution.

For use by FGCV _____ certificate, pin _____ Welcome _____ Thank you _____ NGC headquarters (email) _____ permanent register

Randolph Garden Club

Presidents: Lori Peirce



March 19

Garden Club work meeting at the American Legion Hall on Pleasant St. from Noon until 1:30 to plan for our upcoming season. Bring your lunch. The club will provide drinks and dessert.

April 9

Noon-Until. Our traditional season-opening Potluck Luncheon will be held at St. John's Church on Summer Street. Bring a dish to share and greet your fellow gardening friends!

RANDOLPH GARDEN CLUB
CENTRAL DISTRICT
Gardening in the Green Mountain State!

Lori Peirce
President



Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

GRANITE CENTER GARDEN CENTER

Presidents

Alyson Flint

Betty Jean (BJ) Winders

The Granite Center Garden Club officers have been meeting monthly since the first of the year. We have been busy planning the presentations for our monthly meetings and organizing the events we

have scheduled for the upcoming season. At our first monthly Club meeting on April 8 our guest speaker, Dr. Deborah Black, will be doing a presentation addressing the Asian jumping worm and ways we can avoid their spread. We plan to implement her recommendations when preparing for our annual plant sale, to be held on May 24 at the Barre Granite Museum.

Our biggest project this winter has been the planning of our first National Garden Club Small-Standard Flower Show, "Stories In The Garden," to be held on Saturday, July 27, at the Aldrich Public Library in Barre. This will coincide with the Barre Heritage Festival and Homecoming Days. Our Flower Show Committee has been fortunate to have the excellent support of Maryanne Wood as our mentor, as we have immersed ourselves in the new language of the plant show schedule and the planning of our show. For more information, visit us at GraniteCenterGardenClub@gmail.com. The schedule is soon to be finalized and will then be available via hyperlink or QR code. We are very excited about our first show!

Congratulations Alyson and BJ – Your leadership as the new Presidents is admired & appreciated.

FINAL NOTES:

Earth Day – April 22 - strive in an unwavering commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health. Advocate on the health risk of plastics and help do your part to build a plastic-free planet for generations to come.

Green-Up Day – May 4 - promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways, and the livability of your community by involving yourself in Green Up Day. Help raise public awareness about the health, economic, and visual benefits of a litter-free environment year-round.

GRANITE CENTER GARDEN CLUB BARRE, VT

Alyson Flint
Betty Jean (BJ) Winders
Presidents

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

