



Town and Country Garden Club of Williamsville

Founded April 1, 1960 ~ Celebrating our 65th Anniversary this year!

18 Active Members and 3 Associate Members

Member of:

- National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Central Atlantic Region - State Garden Clubs
- Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. - Eighth District, Section Erie V

Club President: Ricki Gormley

Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage interest in all phases of better horticultural practices and the art of arranging plant material. We foster measures for the conservation of natural resources and to encourage civic beautification.

Club Flower: The flower of this organization shall be the violet.

Membership: A prospective member must attend two meetings to be eligible for full club membership. We are a fun club with a common interest in our gardens. Come join us!

Please contact Membership Chairperson Linda Anscombe for information at: lanscombe@roadrunner.com

Regular Meetings

Second Thursday of each month,
2:00-4:00pm

Ransom Oaks Community Clubhouse
101 Ransom Oaks Drive
East Amherst, NY 14051

(Unless noted otherwise on the list of events)



Events and Meetings for 2025-2026

April 17, 2025: Installation Luncheon

(Special time and location: 12:00-3:00pm at the Eagle House Restaurant, 5578 Main St., Williamsville)

Following a luncheon at Eagle House Restaurant, our new slate of Officers for the year will be installed by Renata Fischer, Past President and Life Member of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS. Reservations are required.

May 13, 2025: "I Can't Do This Anymore ~ How to Downsize and Manage Your Garden As You Age"

(Special day, time and location: Tuesday, 2:00-3:00pm at the Amherst Center for Senior Services, 370 John James Audubon Pkwy., Amherst)

This is a special membership recruitment presentation which is free and open to the public. Carol Ann Harlos will present her popular presentation aimed at aging gardeners who just can't garden like they used to anymore. She is an Erie County Master Gardener, former teacher, bee keeper and frequent author and speaker. Due to size limitations of the room, reservations are required by calling the Senior Center at 716-636-3051.

Special Statue Dedication Event - Date and Time to be Determined

Maria Gerbracht, a 49-year member of our garden club, recently passed away. In her memory, our garden club has purchased a bronze statue to be placed in the garden of the Clearfield Library. Maria was an accredited National Flower Show Judge and Life Member of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS. She was an active volunteer at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, serving as their Foundation President. She was also involved in the Maude Gordon Holmes Arboretum at Buffalo State University. She shared her vast horticultural knowledge with members of all of the garden clubs in WNY.



To honor Maria Gerbracht, the statue titled "*Sharing Knowledge*" will be installed in the Clearfield Library Garden and a dedication ceremony will be held in the Spring. Details on Date and Time will be updated once the installation of the statue is complete.

June 12, 2025: Garden Tea Party

(Special time: 1:00pm at the home of a garden club member)

A time for members to share garden ideas and get to know each other's garden interest. For fun, Club Members will dress up in their favorite garden hat, bring a tea cup for sipping iced tea, and we'll take photos of everyone dressed up for a summer garden party. Each person is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert...if possible, with a strawberry theme! As this is our 65th Anniversary year, the Club scrapbooks will be on display to bring back memories of our Club's history!

July 10, 2025: Williamsville Garden Tours

(Special time and location: 12:00pm-5:30pm in the Eggertsville, Snyder and Cheektowaga)

Club Members will gather at Brunner's Tavern, 3989 Main St., in Eggertsville, for a Dutch-treat lunch. Over lunch, maps and directions to five area gardens will be distributed. Club Members will spend the afternoon looking at beautiful gardens and get ideas to incorporate into their own garden.

August 14, 2025: Annual Garden Club Picnic

(Special time and location: Noon at the home of a Club Member)

Each August, we have a picnic in the garden of a different Club Member. Members bring a dish to share. Over dessert, we hold our fundraising Recycle and Reuse Auction where members bring assorted gardening tools, plants, books, and more, that they no longer need and Club Members bid on the items for use in their garden. The summer picnic is always a fun event to socialize with other Club Members and demonstrate they are great cooks, as well as great gardeners.

September 11, 2025: "Meatballs, Volcanoes & Other Gardening Malpractices"

Club Members welcome Master Gardener Peggy Koppmann to present her humorous, slightly irrelevant look at some gardening mistakes and reminding us how to correct them. Peggy is the FGCNYS Section 1 Chairperson and a founding member of the Grand Island Garden Walk.

October 16, 2025: Grassroots Gardens WNY

Development Director Justin Baumgarner will share the 30-year history of this nonprofit organization that supports a network of over 100 community gardens in Erie and Niagara Counties. Each member garden is managed independently by their sponsoring organization. GGWNY facilitates five key ingredients: access to land, access to water, providing liability insurance, offering garden education classes (free to the public!) and providing material support in the form of plants, soil and lumber.

November 13, 2025: Holiday Card Painting

Two of our talented artistic Club Members, Debbie Wixson and Sharon Johnson, will demonstrate painting techniques and conduct a workshop for members to create nature focused holiday greeting cards with watercolor and acrylic paints.

December 11, 2025: Holiday Luncheon

(Special time and location: 12:00pm at an area restaurant)

Club Members will celebrate the holidays with a luncheon and a chance to sit back and relax with fellow gardeners. As always, we will take up a collection for a local charitable organization.

January 8, 2026: Planning Meeting

(Special time: 1:00-4:00pm)

All Club Members are encouraged to share their ideas for programming and Officer nominations for the 2026-2027 garden club year. The proposed budget for the upcoming year will also be presented and discussed.

February 11, 2026:

There are many garden problems which Club Members face each year; such as, Lesser Celandine, Creeping Charlie and Jumping Worms. Andrea Locke is the Coordinator for the WNY Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM). She is our regional expert on how to deal with the issues of invasive species. Members will learn to recognize problems and how to deal with them.

March 13, 2025: Breakfast, Learning & Shopping at Plantasia

(Special time and location: 9:30am-4pm at the Pegasus Restaurant, followed by a day at Plantasia, at the Erie County Fairgrounds, in Hamburg)

Club Members will meet for breakfast and a business meeting at the Pegasus Restaurant before heading to WNY's Premier Garden & Landscape Show, Plantasia. We will attend educational seminars, shop at vendor booths, and enjoy the flower show offered by the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, District 8. In 2024, one of our participating Club Members, Debbie Wixson, won second place at the flower show...Congratulations, Debbie!

Special Projects and Activities

Clearfield Library Garden

In 2018, Town & Country Garden Club adopted the Clearfield Library, at 770 Hopkins Road, in Amherst. Over the past seven years, Club Members removed the original overgrown plantings and replaced them with an assortment of trees, shrubs, perennials and annual flowers. Each year the garden continues to grow and evolve to the pleasure of library patrons.



Dash's Markets Tape Saver Program

To fund the Clearfield Library Garden, indoor plants and other special events, the Town & Country Garden Club participates in the Dash's Markets Tape Saver Program offered to 501(c)(3) organizations. The library has a collection box set up where library patrons can drop off their receipts.

Horticulture Project

Each year a new project is selected. In 2025, we will be growing Starflower "Triteleia Mixture" bulbs. The mix of white, lavender and blue flowers will bloom in early summer on sturdy stems. They attract butterflies and make great cut flowers. In the language of flowers, they symbolize purity and elegance.

Recycle and Reuse Program

Several times during the year, Club Members can bring in used floral design and garden items which will be auctioned off to a new user and save the items from ending up in a landfill. The proceeds are used to subsidize Town and Country Garden Club postage and office supply needs.

Holiday Collection Drive

Each year a new project is selected to support the community. In 2024, we collected over \$300 to support Grassroots Gardens WNY, a non-profit organization which facilitates more than 100 community gardens in WNY.

Federated Garden Clubs of NYS

Club Members support the activities of District 8; including, luncheon meetings, publication of the Figure 8 newsletter, and participating in their Flower Shows.