

**Federated Garden Clubs of New York State  
Eighth District**



**Speakers List**

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Joanne Bassett  
**Address:** 11837 Parker Rd., East Aurora, New York 14052  
**Phone:** 716-652-2569; **E-mail:** none

**Credentials:**

American Iris Society Garden and Show Bench Exhibition Judge  
Growing Iris of all varieties, specializing in Japanese Iris, Siberian Iris and all forms of Bearded Iris.

**Topics/programs available:**

1. How to Grow Iris Successfully
2. When and How to Divide Iris
3. Soil, Fertilize, Water

**Fee:** Negotiable

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Linda Blyth  
**Address:** 939 Delaware Rd., Buffalo, NY 14223-1007  
**Phone:** 716-873-5447; **E-mail:** [songnbird@aol.com](mailto:songnbird@aol.com)

**Credentials:**

Gardener for over 30 years; co-owner of Song 'n Bird Gardens; member & past president of Kenmore Garden Club; editor of Figure 8 (8th District publication); participant in National Garden Festival & Ken-Ton Garden Tour

**Topics/programs available:**

All programs are PowerPoint presentations and include a photographic tour of our gardens. Handouts are provided for all programs. I have my own laptop computer and projector.

1. Unusual and Late Blooming Perennials
2. Growing Your Own Plants from Seed - How to do it and why you would want to.
3. Gardening 101 – Tips for Starting and Maintaining Your Garden.
4. Creating a Memorable Garden - Do's and Don'ts.

**Fee/s and/or mileage:**

\$60 within 25 miles driving distance; \$10 additional for every 10 miles

**Tours of Song 'n Bird Gardens are available free of charge.**

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Mary Jane Bolo  
**Address:** 9998 Clarksburg Rd., Eden, NY 14057  
**Phone:** 716-992-9456; **Email:** [performingatyourpeak@gmail.com](mailto:performingatyourpeak@gmail.com)

**Credentials:**

Master Gardener 2001  
University of Delaware B.S.  
The Lord's Garden owner/operator [www.thelordsgarden.com](http://www.thelordsgarden.com)

**Topics / programs available:**

1. Perennials- My Faithful Friends
2. Biodiversity – the Importance of Planting Native Plants
3. Garden Design – The Three Rules to Increase Your Curb Appeal
4. Bugs and How They Enhance Your Garden

**Fee:** \$50.00

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Anne Brierley / Steps and Stones  
**Address:** 337 Parkside Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214  
**Phone:** 716-836-1470; **Email:** none

**Credentials:**

I have made and sold hypertufa pots for ten years; and have presented programs at garden clubs and The Keenan Center in Lockport, NY.

**Topics / programs available**

1. How to Make Hypertufa and where you can take the product using your imagination and using simple household tools.
2. Stepping Stones / Garden Leaf Troughs using mortar mix

**Fee/ mileage:** Negotiable

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens  
**Main Contact:** Education Department  
**Address:** 2655 South Park Ave., Buffalo, NY 14218  
**Website:** <http://www.buffalogardens.com/pages/outreach>  
**Phone:** 716-827-1584 ext. 291; **E-Mail:** info@buffalogardens.com

**Credentials:** The Botanical Gardens offers programs led by various staff members or docent presenters with a wide range of credentials. Please call or e-mail us for details.

**Topics/Programs Available:** (Various Presenters)

1. Gardening for Butterflies
2. Math in Nature and Gardens
3. Dendrology Demystified- Terrific Trees
4. The History and Future of the Botanical Gardens
5. The English Plantswomen
6. Botanical Gardens in the Victorian Era
7. Plant Propagation Techniques\*
8. The Fantastic World of Mosses\*
9. Floriography: The Secret Language of Flowers\*
10. Indulge-Delectable Botanical Luxuries\*
11. Tropical Terrariums\*

\*A hands-on option is also available at an additional cost.

**Fees and/or Mileage:** \$100.00 base cost. To add a hands-on component up to 25 people, add an additional \$75.00 to cover supply costs. For every additional 25 participants after, add \$50.00.

For Garden Clubs with a current organization membership, our reduced rate for speakers is a base cost of \$60 for a lecture or a \$75 base cost for a hands-on program.

For more info on the Garden Club membership, visit our website at [www.buffalogardens.com/collections/membership/products/garden-club-plant-society-membership](http://www.buffalogardens.com/collections/membership/products/garden-club-plant-society-membership)

For travel outside of a 12 mile radius from the Botanical Gardens, groups will need to pay a travel fee of \$1.00 additional per mile.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Jeanne Burke  
**Address:** 11179 Pratham Rd, P.O. Box 70, East Concord, NY 14055  
**Phone:** 716-949-5133; E-mail: jeanburke1950197410@gmail.com

**Credentials:** Accredited National Garden Club Flower Show Judge. Past Director and Superintendent Erie County Fair Flower Show

**Topics/Programs Available:**

**“Cut and Dried”** Will teach different techniques in drying plant material for use in floral arrangements. Will also focus on leaf manipulation and a completed arrangement will be taught using these techniques.

**“Floral Arrangements from Your Garden”** Using plant material from your home garden to create beautiful floral arrangements. Will teach 2 different arrangements. Months of September and October only.

**Speaking/Workshop Fee & mileage fee if applicable:** Donation to Wounded Warrior Project in the name of the Hamburg House and Garden Club.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Lyn Chimera  
**Address:** 170 Pine St., E. Aurora, NY 14052  
**Phone:** 716- 652-2432; **E-mail:** [lyn@lessonsfromnature.biz](mailto:lyn@lessonsfromnature.biz)

**Credentials:**

Cornell University Affiliated Master Gardener; author for After 50 Magazine, Upstate Gardener's Journal, and self-published book Five Keys to Better Gardening; retired teacher (more than 30 years).

**Topics/programs available:**

1. **5 Steps to Better Gardening** – This topic covers the basics to improve your gardening including site assessment, tools, plant care and composting.
2. **Using Native Plants In Your Garden** - A large variety of native plants that will grow successfully in our area are covered with this topic.
3. **Site Assessment** - A program from Cornell covering how to know what will grow successfully on your property.
4. **Eco- Friendly Gardening** - How to garden without harming the environment covers lawn care, perennial gardening and composting.
5. **Pruning** - The how and why of good pruning technique and the tools you need.
6. **Hypertufa & Concrete Birdbaths** - A hands on workshop on how to make hypertufa planters &/or concrete birdbaths or steppingstones. It's too much to do both with a large group, so one or the other at a time is best. Each person gets to make one.
7. **Gardening On A Dime With Less Time** - Saving Time & Money in the Garden
8. **Container Gardening** - How to plant and care for a containers, plant choices along with a power point presentation of creative ideas for containers.
9. **On-site Garden Consultation** with one of the garden club member's garden. This was done for a garden club at their request and it was a huge hit its better with a small group of under 30.

**I can design a program to suit your needs.**

**Fee/mileage:** \$75 plus mileage if more than a half-hour drive one way



**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Sally Cunningham  
**Address:** 1335 Blakeley Road, East Aurora, N.Y. 14052  
**Phone/s:** (716) 998-1573; **E-mail:** [sallylacewing@aol.com](mailto:sallylacewing@aol.com) (best communication method)

**Credentials:** Book author (*Great Garden Companions*), columnist (Buffalo News), TV gardening expert (WIVB-TV, Channel 4), former Cornell Cooperative Extension Agent, CNLP (Certified Landscape Consultant), consultant/educator at Lockwood's Greenhouses, Director of National Garden Festival.

**Topics/programs available:** (All PowerPoint style programs unless indicated otherwise; require your screen; prefer your digital projector/laptop but can supply them. Talks can be adapted for general audiences, keynote dinner programs, or for professional learners.)

1. **Great Garden Companions:** Sally's book of the same name has now sold 44,000 copies nationally. The book and program present a chemical-free system of gardening with a focus on *companion* plant combinations—herbs, flowers, vegetables—that attract beneficial insects and other garden helpers. Get to know your beneficial insects! Originally written for vegetable gardeners, the book and talk also help flower gardeners create a biodiverse, nature-friendly yard. Book signing/sale follow.
2. **Lessons from Garden Walk Gardens:** Garden Walk Buffalo, the largest event of its kind in the country, garners national publicity and attracts over 55,000 people. Upon its shoulders we've built a National Garden Festival. So *what makes one garden a "Wow" and another just "rather pretty"?* How do those gardeners get so much bang out of a small space—and in urban conditions? *What plants, art, and artifacts really perform?* Let Sally show you gardens through new eyes as you "garden-walk" with her.
3. **Native Plants and Eco-friendly Landscapes:** Suburban and urban homeowners have important roles in replacing the rapidly disappearing habitat upon which our birds and animals depend. Consider with Sally the plants and garden/landscape styling that work. Features underused native and some exotic, high-performing perennials, shrubs and trees. *During some seasons actual plants may be shown.*
4. **More Bang with Perennials:** The American front yard lacks flowers all too often. This program shows professionals, gardeners and homeowners new ways to use perennials around their property. Sally recommends superior perennials (less known and newer to the market) for wet, droughty, shady, hot, or difficult places. *During some seasons Sally can bring perennial examples to show and sell afterward (optional).*
5. **What Every Gardener and Homeowner Should Know:** Sally covers what everyone should all know (and so many don't) about the soil, trees, shrubs, flower beds and plant care—including plant selection, landscape design and eco-friendly "green" choices (low-care composting, water-wise plans, lawn alternatives). This high-energy; fast-moving talk is suitable for general audiences or any gardener who will be teaching and influencing others; time for questions. *No digital; classroom style, can be done outdoors; handouts.*
6. **Great Plants/Great Gardens (with plants\*)** Choosing great plants is the secret of success, but how can you choose among so many new annuals, trees, shrubs, and improvements on the old perennials? Sally recommends superior plants for shade, sun, and other conditions, with tips on keeping them healthy. *Questions welcomed; handout and door prizes; no pictures; gardening season only; plants shown and available for sale.*

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Sally Cunningham cont'd.**

- 7. What Every Landscaper (and Homeowner) Should Know:** Intense basic training for landscapers, CNLPs in training, consultants, or homeowners who want to take ownership of the landscape; will help you work with a landscaper as well. The talk also updates what longtime veteran landscapers and gardeners once learned about soil, amendments, trees, flowers, pests, pruning, and cultural/site problems. Includes the most-asked consumer questions. (Straight teaching, extensive handouts or notebook; no or very little digital; 1 to 3 hour choice; fee may vary)

**Fees:**

In Greater Buffalo/Niagara area: \$135 plus mileage at \$.50 per mile from home in East Aurora (for talks beyond 15 mile radius)

In nearby counties, Rochester, NW Pennsylvania (Drive over 1 hour; half day required): \$200 plus mileage (Longer distances, other states negotiable).

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Dave Davis, Queen City Nursery  
**Address:** 4000 Harlem Road, Snyder, NY 14226  
**Phone/s:** 716-839-2626; **E-mail:** none

**Credentials:** Owned Queen City Nursery for over 56 years

**Topics/programs available:**

1. A Year in the Rose Garden
2. Lawns

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** \$85.00

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Nell Gardner  
**Address:** Graycliff Estate, 6472 Old Lakeshore Rd., Derby, NY 14047  
**Phone/s:** (716) 947-9217; **Nell's E-mail:** [ngardner@darwinmartinhouse.org](mailto:ngardner@darwinmartinhouse.org)  
**Group Tours E-mail:** [group tours@graycliffestate.org](mailto:group tours@graycliffestate.org)

**Graycliff Estate Website:** [www.graycliffestate.org](http://www.graycliffestate.org)  
**Darwin Martin Website:** [www.darwinmartinhouse.org](http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org)

**Credentials:** Horticulturist Darwin Martin House and Graycliff Estate

**Topics/programs available:** The Graycliff Gardens, Cutting Gardens, Pruning and tools class, House and Garden Tours, others upon request

**Group Tours:** We offer group tours of the Martin House, so Garden Clubs could come here as a group and receive a discounted price. Those arrangements can be made through **Evan** who coordinates the Tours **(716) 947-9217 or at the group tour e-mail listed above**. The tour will allow us to answer questions about the gardens and integrate the Landscape aspects throughout the tour, especially in relation to the architecture and intent of Wright's design.

**Group Class: Sharpest Tool in the Shed:** Lecture and sharpening demonstration to gain a comprehensive understanding of the "tools of the trade." Learn how modern technology has changed gardening since the turn of the last century, and get tips to strengthen your gardening skills.

**Price:** Priced at booking, to be determined

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Colleen Gaskill, Landscape Design Specialist  
**Address:**  
**Phone:** 716-628-9023  
**E-mails:** [cghummingbird7@gmail.com](mailto:cghummingbird7@gmail.com) or [colleen@adamsnuseries.com](mailto:colleen@adamsnuseries.com)

**Credentials:**

**Topics/ Programs**

1. Butterfly Garden
2. Garden Paths
3. Grass Gardens
4. Kids Garden
5. Ponds
6. Pruning
7. Putting Your Garden to Bed
8. Sitting Garden

**Fee and /or mileage:** \$75

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Albert J. Gilewicz  
**Address:** 191 Huxley Drive, Snyder, NY 14226  
**Phone:** 716-839-4508; **Cell:** 716-523-9887; **E-Mail:** [ajgilewicz@gmail.com](mailto:ajgilewicz@gmail.com)

**Credentials:**

BS Civil Engineering - Union College, Schenectady NY; MBA Loyola University, Chicago, IL

35 years of practical environmental experience providing consultation to individuals and major corporations. Instructor of hands-on practical environmental courses for all skills & ages.

**Topics/Programs Available:** All programs presented at garden club meeting location.

**The Garden Revolution: A Call to Trowels:**

Designed specifically for the home gardener, this presentation focuses on the potential impact 90 million gardeners in the United States could have on climate change following the concept of "think global and act local". Even if you do not believe in climate change, this compelling presentation will prompt you into action and in the process show you how you can save money at the same time. Attendees are encouraged to bring at least one family member, relative or neighbor to understand how the active gardener's close relationship with nature can help solve what is predicted to be the largest problem facing the world in the near future. You will walk away with a list of actions easily taken to reduce your own carbon footprint. (35 minutes plus Q&A)

**What is Your Carbon Footprint?**

Not a day goes by without some media outlet discussing our carbon footprint and the consequences of failing to take action to reduce our carbon emissions. Severe weather conditions. Rising water levels in the oceans. Warmer summers. 97% of all scientists believe that mankind's carbon footprint may be at the core of these environmental impacts.

Whether you believe in climate change or not, this presentation will explain what makes up your carbon footprint and more importantly, practical actions you can take while saving money and maintaining your current lifestyle. This presentation will provide you with the ability to complete an inventory of your current carbon footprint, identify areas to reduce your carbon footprint and calculate your individual monetary savings. All attendees will be provided with a small take home booklet as a guide through the process and to monitor progress. (60 minutes w/5 minute break plus Q&A)

**Fee Structure:**

The Garden Revolution: A Call to Trowels	\$40
What is Your Carbon Footprint?	\$50

**Mileage Surcharge:**

Erie Co.	\$ 0
Niagara Co.	\$15
Chautauqua Co.	\$20

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Geri Hens  
**Address:** Hens Honey Bee Farm, Pendleton, NY  
**Phone/s:** 716-625-9322 or 716-439-0870: **E-mail:**  
**Website:** [www.henshoneybeefarm.com](http://www.henshoneybeefarm.com)

**Credentials:** VP WNY Honeybee Producers Association, 1999-2009  
Bee Specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension - Niagara County

**Topics/programs available:** Pollinators

**Fee/s and/or mileage** \$75.00

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Conrad Jason

**Address:** 9415 Steffi Drive, Angola, NY 14006

**Phone:** None;      **Email:** [jaslife@verizon.net](mailto:jaslife@verizon.net)

**Credentials to be noted:** Naturalist, Coordinator for NYDEC Water Assessment Program, Coordinator for NYDEC Environmental Programs (PTL), Cornell University online courses on climate change, teach numerous wildlife and computer workshops.

**Topics/Programs with titles:**

1. Bird ID and Migration
2. Bugs/ insects, pollination, pollution,
3. Native plants
4. Climate change
5. Wildlife photography
6. Soil bio and roots, symbiotic and fertilizer in the garden

I have a number of PowerPoint presentations and can design a workshop to meet your group's needs.

**Speaking/Workshop Fee & mileage fee if applicable:** No fee if roughly 15 miles from Town of Evans



**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Dorothy Julius  
**Address:** 3770 Bowen Road Lancaster, NY 14086  
**Phone:** 716-681-1473; **E-mail:** [dorothymjulius@gmail.com](mailto:dorothymjulius@gmail.com)

**Credentials to be noted:**

Co-owner of Along Garden's Path, a family owned, home-based business specializing in pressed flower and leaf designs; Winner of numerous awards in floral designs at Letchworth Arts and Craft Show 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007; Hilton Apple Festival 2009, Best of Show 2006; Recipient of FGCNYS 2001 Member Award of Honor in Design; FGCNYS District VIII 2007 Advisory Council's Leadership Award.

**Topics/programs available:** I can tailor my programs to fit the needs of your clubs including demos and workshops. My programs include:

1. Basic Flower Arranging
2. Holiday Designs (Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
3. Small and Miniature Designs
4. Nature's Reflections – Designs Inspired by Nature (Demonstration only)
5. Christmas Naturally – Demonstration of decorating for the holiday using natural materials. Ideas for making ornaments included.
6. Think Green, Think Spring – Eco-friendly program using natural material to decorate your home, recycling tips and gardening tips (Demonstration only)

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** \$65.00  
Depending on location, mileage may be an additional cost.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Maryann Jumper  
**Address:** 2703 Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150-4406  
**Phone/s:** 716-435-3412; **E-mail:** [mjump50@gmail.com](mailto:mjump50@gmail.com)

**Credentials:**

Retired educator 33 years in the Williamsville Central School District  
Federated Garden Club member 40 years  
Traveled to over 60 countries 38 states

**Topics/programs available:**

PowerPoint presentations on the following topics;

1. Federated Garden Clubs – Demystifying the Organization
2. W.A.F.A\* Flower Show Boston, MA in 2011
3. W.A.F.A Flower Show,\*\* Dublin, Ireland 2014
4. Butchart Gardens, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
5. Keukenhof Gardens, Lisse, Holland

\*World Association of Flower Arrangers

\*\*Will be ready for viewing in fall of 2014

**Fee/s and/or mileage:**

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Nancy Kalieta  
**Address:** 3166 Clearview Way, Blasdell, NY 14219  
**Phone:** 826-7462; **Cell** 435-4711; **E-mail:** [nancyk212@aol.com](mailto:nancyk212@aol.com)

**Credentials:**

MS in Education, taught for 34 years; Volunteer coordinator Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

**Topics/programs available:**

**1. Victorian Language of Flowers** (PowerPoint slideshow) approx. 45-50 min.

Brief summary of Queen Victoria's life  
Presentation of Victorian homes and fashions  
Discussion of social mores and courtship  
Use of tussie-mussies to express sentiment  
Flowers and their meanings  
Legends associated with flowers

**2. Famous Crystal Palaces** (PowerPoint slideshow) approx. 45-50 min.

Visual tours of Phipps Conservatory, Longwood Gardens, Sonnenberg Gardens  
Conservatory of Flowers, U.S. Botanic, Mitchell Park, Fairchild Gardens, Crystal Bridge and  
Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.  
History of greenhouses and problems facing them today

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** \$50; Mileage negotiated over 25 miles

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Claudia Kolbe-Hawthorne  
**Address:** 3 Beale Avenue/ Cheektowaga, New York 14225-2008  
**Phone:** 716 491-5549, cell E-mail: hdhckh@msn.com

**Credentials/Expertise:**

Horticulture, Niagara County Master Gardener

**Topics/programs available:**

- Spring garden: The spring garden, boasting an extensive array of bulbs has been featured in the Buffalo-Niagara Gardens digital magazine  
PowerPoint presentation on tulips available
- Summer garden: The Summer Garden is a Buffalo-Niagara Gardens Open Garden which has been a stop on several bus trips.
- Roses – PowerPoint presentation
- Personalized group tours.

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** Negotiable fee. No fee for travel expenses.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Donna Lipowicz  
**Address:** 88 Basswood Dr., Buffalo, NY 14227  
**Phone/s:** Phone: 716- 479-7698; E-mail: ladysliper@roadrunner.com

**Credentials:**

Second year Student Judge for the American Orchid Society, studying at the AOS Judging Center in Toronto, Canada; judged shows all over Canada, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, and Pennsylvania; 20 years of growing and showing orchids; own a collection of approximately 100 orchids including Ladyslippers, Vandas, Phalaenopsis, and Cattleya's.

I am a member of the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society which has the great privilege of not only caring for the orchid collection at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, but holding two orchid shows per year in February and November at the beautiful century old Victorian style tri-domed glass conservatory in South Park.

**Topics/programs available:**

PowerPoint Presentations (I have my own projector would need a screen or a wall.)

- 1) Orchids for Everyone: Easiest Ones to Care For.
- 2) Antelope Dendrobiums
- 3) Paphiopedilum sukhakulii

Hands-on Workshops:

- 1) How to Repot an Orchid
- 2) How to Mount an Orchid

I could prepare something in particular if there was a request, with some lead time of course.

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** \$75; mileage for travel over 20 miles from (South Cheektowaga)

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Joe Manuel  
**Address:** 3876 Lynn Dr., Orchard Park, NY 14127  
**Phone:** 716-649-7118; **E-mail:** [trmanuel@aol.com](mailto:trmanuel@aol.com)

**Credentials:**

Master Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Ext., Erie Co.; past president of Master Gardeners; Erie County's "Master Gardener of the Year" for 1999; gardening teacher at West Seneca Adult Education Program.

**Topics/programs available:**

1. **Saving Seeds & Successfully Germinating Them:** Identify seeds to save, when, how to dry & store them for the winter and then in Spring, when & how to germinate & grow them successfully.
2. **Container Gardening & Raised Beds:** Advantages, what to plant in them, watering, location and containers on posts for a WOW effect.
3. **Organic Gardening:** Advantages, composting, red worm bins-pros & cons; investment, on-going care.
4. **Roses-You Can grow Roses or Better Ones with This 12 Step Plan:** What to buy-bare root or potted, zone, plant in containers or in the ground, soil preparation, pruning, pests & disease, feeding, watering, sources.

**Fees and/or mileage:** I really don't charge as it is giving back to the community what I have been given and enriched with.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Master Gardeners of Erie County Speakers Bureau  
Lorraine Van Slooten, Coordinator, Outreach Speakers Bureau  
**Address:** Cornell Cooperative Extension  
21 South Grove St. East Aurora, NY 14052 (716) 652-5400  
**Phone:** 716.652.5400 ext. 177  
**Email:** sin2@cornell.edu or mgerie@cornell.edu

**Credentials:**

Looking for speakers for your garden club? Master Gardeners of Erie County can provide a speaker on most any gardening related topic. Our members have received comprehensive training, have access to current research from Cornell University, and keep up to date on a variety of topics of interest to gardeners.

We can also customize a presentation to a particular topic or area of interest to your Garden Club. We welcome your interest and are happy to answer any questions you might have.

**Topics/programs available:**

- A Visit to English Gardens
- Beyond Impatiens: Using Annuals in the Garden
- Caring for Houseplants, Identifying Plant Problems
- Creating Color Combinations in Containers
- Emerald Ash Borer: Choosing Replacements for Lost Trees
- Fragrance in the Garden
- Good Bugs, Bad Bugs: Organic Gardening & Integrated Pest Management
- Herb Gardening
- Hypertufa Containers
- Monarch Madness: Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden
- Multiply & Divide: Making New Plants for Your Garden
- Native Plants for Western New York Gardens
- Perennials for Every Garden
- Seed Starting: Getting a Head-start in the Garden
- Soil, Compost & Mulch: Why Dirt Matters
- Spring/Fall Garden Maintenance
- Winter Sowing: Low cost planting in milk jugs

**Fees/mileage:**

The suggested donation for Master Gardener speakers is \$50-75. All proceeds go to advance the programs and projects of the Master Gardeners, a program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE Erie).

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Cathy McGovern, Owner Trillium's Courtyard Florist  
**Address:** 2195 Kensington Ave., Amherst, NY 14226  
**Phone/s:** 716-839-2033 **E-mail:** [cathy.mcgovern@trilliumfloral.com](mailto:cathy.mcgovern@trilliumfloral.com)

**Credentials:**

Has owned and operated Trillium's Courtyard Florist since 1980.

**Topics/programs available:**

Call to discuss topics

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** Negotiable



**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Julie Mc Indoo  
**Address:** 12200 Taylor Rd., Lawtons, NY 14091  
**Phone/s:** 716-337-2531; **Cell:** 716-479-3552; **E-mail:** [j.mcindoo@att.net](mailto:j.mcindoo@att.net)

**Credentials:**

Retired art teacher and life-long gardener with 18 perennial beds and a 66' x 100' picking garden on a 50 acre farm; studied to be a Master Gardener through Univ. of Guelph, Ontario, CAN; presently operating Mc Indoo Farms- Arts & Flowers giving adult education classes in watercolors and providing flowers for special occasions and weddings.

**Topics/programs available:**

1. "How to Have a Continuous Blooming Garden" – includes a 4 page handout of plants to grow in zone 4. Slides or computer projection
2. "How to Put Your Garden to Bed" - Slides or computer projection
3. "Edible Plants, Flowers & Herbs" - Slides or computer projection
4. "How to Be a Successful Artist" – putting your garden first to create art
5. "Travels to Monet's Garden" - Slides or computer projection
6. "Travels to Italy in the Tuscan Region" - Slides or computer projection
7. "Travels to France – Provence" - Slides or computer projection

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** \$100.00 per lecture/slide presentation  
\$10.00 per person garden visits

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Carole Melnik, A Snails' Place  
**Address:** 6550 Seneca St., (between Transit and Jamison Rd) Elma, NY  
**Phone/s:** 716-652-3355; **E-mail:** [SPFlower@aol.com](mailto:SPFlower@aol.com)

**Credentials:**

Floral design – Society of American Florists; 35 years in retail sales; frequent District 8 speaker

**Topics/programs available:**

You are invited to a shopping and instructional outing at **A Snails Place** with at least 12 guests but no more than 25. We provide refreshments from our gourmet section as well as a short, lively, floral demonstration in our design studio based on time of year and level of skill.

Fun with Fruit  
Japanese Kanzans  
Holiday Easy Table Ideas

Early booking is advisable. Store hours: 11 am to 6 pm  
Call the store for more information. We'd love to have you visit.

**Fee/s and/or mileage:**

No charge for visiting the store  
Speaker fee for out-of-store programs is **\$50.00**  
Mileage for distance more than 25 miles

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** David Newman  
**Address:** 12645 Rt 78, East Aurora, NY, 14052  
**Phone:** 716-652-9120  
**E-mail:** newmiesbees@verizon.net

**Credentials:**

Beekeeper since 2014. Currently manages about 20 bee hives in Erie, Wyoming and Cortland Counties in New York State. President of the Western New York Honey Producers Association (WNYHPA) – A local beekeeping club; [www.wnyhpa.org](http://www.wnyhpa.org)

**Topics/programs available:**

All About Honey and Bees – Presentation gives an understanding of honey bees and their relationship to flowers. How bees make honey. What honey consists of and many uses of honey are discussed.

**Fee/s and/or mileage: \$65**

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Robert Poczik  
**Address:** 8670 Howard Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221  
**Phone/s:** 716-632-7617; **E-mail:** rpoczik@gmail.com

**Credentials to be noted:** M.S. in Education

**Topics/programs available:** Japanese Gardens; Frederick Law Olmsted

**Fee/s and/or mileage:** Negotiable (generally \$75)

**Name:** Kathy Guest Shadrack  
**Address:** 8399 Zimmerman Road, Hamburg, NY 14075  
**Phone/s:** 716-94-6167; **Email:** irisborer@aol.com (preferred method of contact)

**Credentials:**

Currently Recording Secretary Hosta Society, board member Buffalo Botanical Gardens, and co-author of *The Book of Little Hostas* (Timber Press). Kathy is an avid plantswoman collecting iris, hostas, daylilies, ephemerals, epimediums, ariseamas and many dwarf plants. She is a knowledgeable and engaging speaker.

**Topics/Programs available**

- 1. Honey, I Shrunk the Hostas:** 1 hour - (slides) Based on *The Book of Little Hostas*. A review of small and mini hostas, their shapes and colors that are available in the market; where to display them to best advantage, and special cultural needs including winterizing. Mike Shadrack helps with this talk.
- 2. Shady Characters:** 45 Min. There is more to the shade garden than hostas. Consider the lesser known shade tolerant plants; epimediums, ariseamas, disporiums and ephemerals. An overview of plants that are not difficult but may not be commonly grown.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS**

**Fees and Expenses:**

\$100.00 plus traveling expenses (negotiable). A screen and dark room is required. Equipment will be provided. A table from which books can be sold and signed would be appreciated.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Mike Shadrack  
**Address:** 8399 Zimmerman Road, Hamburg, NY 14075  
**Phone/s:** 716-941-6167; Email: [h8staman@aol.com](mailto:h8staman@aol.com) (preferred method of contact)

**Credentials:** Currently Vice President American Hosta Society and the author and photographer of several books. Mike is a knowledgeable, engaging and humorous speaker who has gardened on both sides of the Atlantic and who has previously given talks in England, The Netherlands, Canada, and 20 of the 50 states.

**Topics/Programs available:**

1. **Hosta - The Flowering Foliage Plant:** An introduction to the joys of hostas. A talk geared to garden clubs and plant society members.
2. **Chelsea Flower Show:** A review of the history, organization, set-up and ambiance of the world's best and most famous flower show (this talk can exceed 1 hour)
3. **Eric Smith, Master Hybridizer:** An in-depth look at the life and works of this famous British plant hybridizer, known for his work with perennials, especially hostas and for his association with the famous gardens at Hadspen House.
4. **A Wander Through English Gardens:** A lighthearted tour through the gardening obsession in the UK showing famous as well as private gardens
5. **'H20' (Hosta, Hemerocallis and Others):** a look at the organization of horticulture in the UK
6. **Hostas in the English Garden:** A review of English gardens and how hostas feature in English gardening.
7. **Plant Photography:** A simple talk about getting the best from your photographic equipment when photographing hostas and other plants by a dinosaur who is still using slide film
8. **Little Wonders:** The charm of very small and mini hostas - an exploration of growing the smallest hostas... special cultural needs, container growing and selections.
9. **Eight English Gardens:** A tour of four pairs of gardens in different comers of southeast England that have totally different gardening styles and contents.

**Fees and Expenses:**

Fees vary from \$100.00 plus traveling expenses to \$400.00 plus expenses depending on the size of the anticipated audience. Mike has no objection to organizations charging an audience entry fee. A darkened room and a screen are required. Other necessary equipment will be provided. A table from which books can be sold and signed would be appreciated.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Claudette J. Smith  
**Address:** 23 Thicketwood Place, Bayshore Village,  
Brehin, ON LOK1BO, CANADA  
**Phone:** 705-484-0173  
**E-mail:** [smithclaudeltj@gmail.com](mailto:smithclaudeltj@gmail.com)

**Credentials:**

NGCI Board of Directors - 2011-2013  
**NGCI Design Flower Show School Instructor**  
Accredited NGC Master Flower Show Judge  
President, Ken-Sheriton G.C., District VIII FGCNYS  
International WAFA Designer 1993, 2002, 2009, 2011  
NGC International Affiliate Judge (Garden Clubs of Ontario/Royal  
Botanical Gardens - Canada)  
Member, Creative Flower Arrangers; National Flower Arrangers



**Topics/programs available:**

North American Design

Aroids Celebrating Club Anniversaries  
Basic through Advanced Design Course Series  
Design Techniques  
Duo Designs  
Exhibition Table Type II  
Fun with Flowers  
Fun with Foliages & Grasses  
Fun with Stems  
In a Blue Mood  
Mad Hatters  
Op Art" Designs  
Panel Designs  
Parallel Designs  
Reflective Designs  
Small Designs  
Would It Be Wood?

Contemporary Horticulture Containers & Special Exhibits

European Design

Contemporary Designs  
Construct & Invent (Belgian)  
Flowers in the City & Euroflora (Italy)  
Green with Envy (Ireland)  
Italian Modern Mass

Sub-Tropical

Flora, Flora  
Caribbean Christmas  
Dried Wreaths Cayman Island style  
Friends of the Arts Banquet Designs  
Turks, Caicos Garden Club  
Arboretum of Grand Turk, TCI

**Fee:** To be determined with signed contract

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Sarah Sorci

**Address:** 142 Buffalo St, Upper Hamburg NY 14075

**Phone:** 716-997-2007

**E-mail:** [sarah@sweetflagherbs.com](mailto:sarah@sweetflagherbs.com)      [www.sweetflagherbs.com](http://www.sweetflagherbs.com)

**Credentials:** Owner of Sweet Flag Herbs; certificate in Holistic Herbalism, Blue Ridge School of Herbal Medicine; completing a Clinical Herbalism program through the Eclectic School of Herbal Medicine; certificate in Horticultural therapy, Colorado State/American Horticultural Therapy Institute.

**Topics/Programs with titles:** (I'm happy to work with a requested topic as well)

**1.) Medicinal Plants for the Home Garden** - Whether you have a spacious backyard or a stoop for a few containers, you can enjoy beautiful, easy-to-grow plants with useful medicinal properties. In this class, Community Herbalist Sarah Sorci of Sweet Flag Herbs will introduce you the medicinal properties and safe uses of a few common ornamentals (bee balm, echinacea, yarrow), and introduce a few plants you may not have heard of (holy basil, Ashwagandha, etc). Sarah will include tips for cultivation and preparation after harvest.

**2.) Backyard Remedies of Western NY** - Wild medicinal plants abound in western NY. In this class, Community Herbalist Sarah Sorci will focus on those that are easily found in lawns and gardens. Learn about identification and unique properties of plants like self-heal, burdock, dandelion, cleavers and yarrow. We will discuss safe and sustainable harvesting, and what to do with these common "weeds."

**Speaking/Workshop Fee & mileage fee if applicable:**

Fees vary depending on proximity to Hamburg and duration of workshop. The baseline fee is \$75 for one hour, and \$100 for 1.5 - 2 hours. Here are some recent fees for talks, as an example:

1 hour talk in East Aurora: \$85

1.5+ hour talk in Hamburg: \$100

1 hour talk in Rochester: \$150



**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Jacqueline Swift, Owner, Rainbow's End Herbs  
**Address:** 20084 Hooker Hill Rd. Perrysburg, NY 14129  
**Phone:** 716-532-6022; **E-mail:** [jcourtneyswift@aol.com](mailto:jcourtneyswift@aol.com)

**Credentials:**

The 1840's farm and shop, Rainbow's End Herbs, has been in business since 1978 specializing in organic culinary, medicinal and fresh cut herbs and garlic. They offer classes, tours and consultations.

**Topics /programs available:**

1. **Herbs for Women's Health** - Many herbs offer powerful effects for enhancing the function of the female body. Learn about plants for childbirth and lactation, menopause, breast health and more. One-hour talk.
2. **Herbs Through the Ages** - A one-hour lecture with emphasis on past and present-day uses of herbs as healing agents for self-care. The talk includes suggestions and recipes. A workshop includes a second hour with a hands-on class in ointment and tea preparation. Materials fee.
3. **Living in Balance** - The basics of good living are proper nutrition, exercise, sunshine, fresh air, inner peace and laughter. In this one-hour talk, we will explore how these work together and how herbs can enhance the process of living in health.
4. **Herbs at Risk** - Over-harvesting, development and logging are threatening certain wild herb populations. Explore the problem and some valuable solutions. One-hour slide presentation.
5. **The World Herb and Spice Industry** - A close look at the very large and important business of herbs and spices. Discussion of industrial processes, wide-scale cultivation and production of items such as morphine, digitalis, spice extracts and oils. One-hour talk.
6. **Other** - Other lectures and workshop topics: Basic Family Nutrition; Cooking with Natural-Foods; Culinary; Botany; Indian Harvests - Plants of the Native Americans; Winter Ailments; Colonial Heirloom Gardens; and The Art of Tea.
7. **Shrubs and Trees for Healing** – Elderberry, rose and hawthorn are just a few of the wooded herbs that provide good medicine. Learn about identification, folklore, harvesting methods and remedy preparation of many local species. One hour lecture/demonstration

**Fees:** Workshops: **\$40 per hr.** - minimum two hours, plus materials fee  
One-hour lecture: **\$75**;  
Mileage at **.50 per mile**

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Wild Birds Unlimited, owners Danielle Pecoraro and Marilyn O'Connell  
**Address:** 3835 McKinley Parkway, Suite 1, Blasdell, NY 14219  
**Phone:** 716-823-7889; **E-mail address:** [wublany@verizon.net](mailto:wublany@verizon.net)  
**Website:** [www.wbu.com/blasdell](http://www.wbu.com/blasdell)

**Credentials:**

We are Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialists® who have owned and operated Wild Birds Unlimited in Blasdell for 14 years

**Topics/programs available:**

1. **Fall & Winter Backyard Birds** – Birds you can expect to see and what they eat. Slide show presentation is approximately 1 hour in length.
2. **Spring & Summer Backyard Birds** – Birds you can expect to see and what they eat. Slide show presentation is approximately 1 hour in length.

Both programs have gorgeous slides. We have our own projector but would need a screen or white wall. We travel to the club's location.

Programs are available Jan- April; Sept – Nov; evenings preferred

**Fee/s and/or mileage:**

\$75.00 (subject to change)  
Money goes directly to Messinger Woods Wildlife Rehabilitation.  
They help all injured and orphaned wildlife.

**Eighth District, Federated Garden Clubs of NYS  
Speakers List**

**Name:** Jeannette Williams  
**Address:** 617 Mill Road, East Aurora, NY 14052  
**Phone:** 716-655-0340; **E-mail:** [williamsdi@roadrunner.com](mailto:williamsdi@roadrunner.com)

**Credentials:**

Volunteer, docent, and instructor in botany at the Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens.

**Topics/programs available:**

1. **Botany Workshop - Why Plants are Important?**
2. **Interesting Facts About Vegetables, Fruits and Spices** - PowerPoint Presentation discusses where on the planet vegetables, fruits and spices grow.
3. **Plant Propagation** – PowerPoint Presentation discussing methods of plant propagation with **How to Make a Cutting** a hands-on workshop activity (\$5.00 per person for supplies).
4. **Pollination** - PowerPoint Presentation discussing pollination and **Taking Apart an Alstromeria Lily** a hands-on workshop activity (\$5.00 per person for supplies)
5. **Taking Care of House Plants** - PowerPoint Presentation, discussing care and placement of plants in your house.

I have projector but will need large screen or a light colored wall space to project the PowerPoint Presentation and a table for supplies and projector

**Fee/s and/or mileage:**

Presentations: \$50:00  
Workshop activity: \$5.00 per person

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