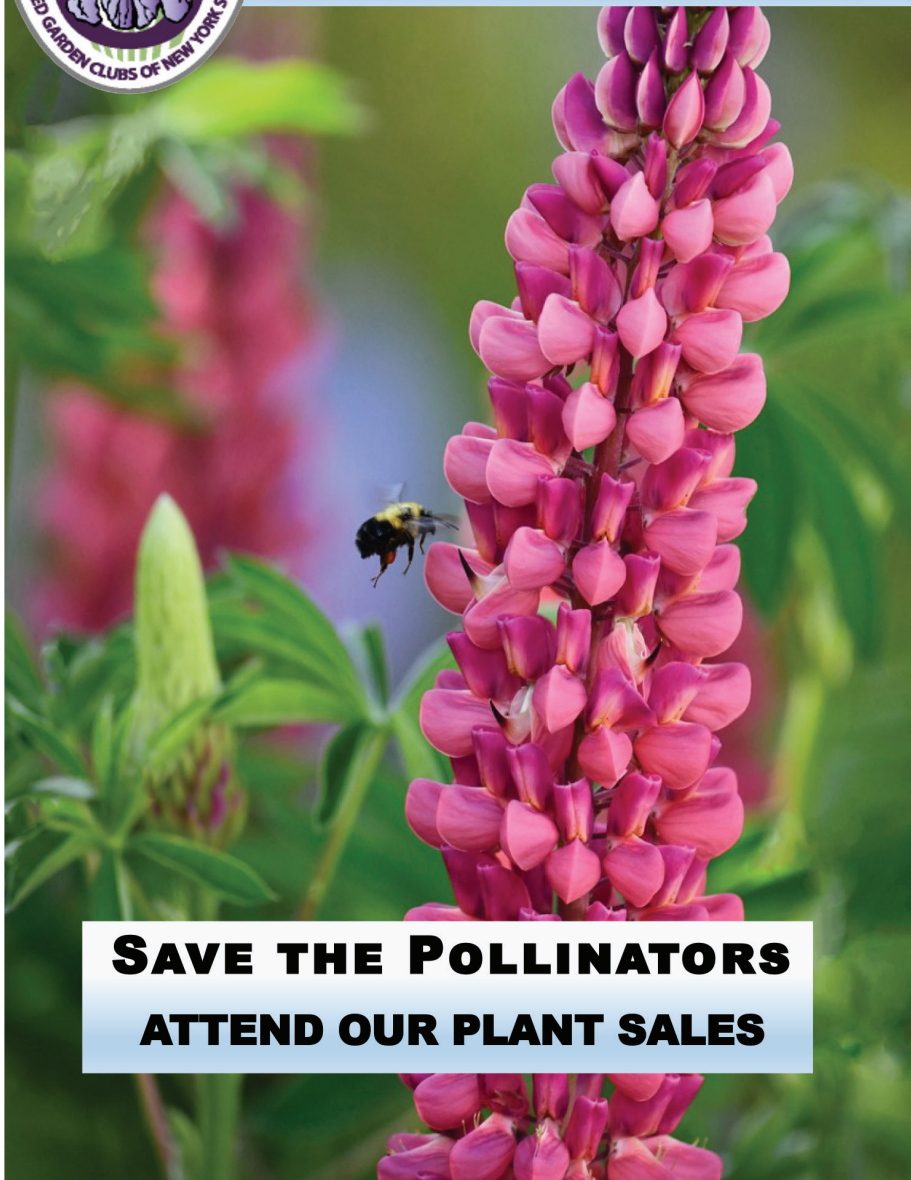




Figure Eight

Volume 72, Number 2

April, May, June 2026



**SAVE THE POLLINATORS
ATTEND OUR PLANT SALES**

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FIGURE 8 DEADLINES

Deadline for next Figure 8... June 1, 2026

Articles received after 6/1 will be saved for the next issue

FIGURE 8 ADVERTISING (Donations as listed)

Quarter Page	Garden Clubs	\$25/issue	\$80 for 4 issues
	Other	\$30/issue	\$100 for 4 issues
Half Page	Garden Clubs	\$50/issue	\$175 for 4 issues
	Other	\$60/issue	\$200 for 4 issues
Full Page	Garden Clubs	\$100/issue	\$350 for 4 issues
	Other	\$125/issue	
Back Cover	(Full Color)	\$80/issue	

Specs: 2.5in wide x 3in high or 1in high x 8in long

PLEASE BE SURE TO PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!

Club Presidents, plan ahead, make sure that you use this newsletter to advertise your upcoming events and fundraisers. All copy must be camera ready. Deadline for advertising is the same as for editorial copy. —Judy Weinstock, Advertising Editor

Figure 8 is published four times annually by the Eighth District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. 28 Clubs. Member of Federated Clubs of New York State, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Director's Message

Can Spring really be here? I personally am tired of being cold and seeing snow. My brother reminds me that this past winter was like the winters we had as children. I don't remember that probably because I didn't want to. But I will defer to my brother because as he reminds me, he is always right.

Our Figure 8 has changed printers again. If you recall, Xoar publication was purchased by Minuteman Press when Matt retired. We are happy for Matt but sad for us. He was an exceptionally patient man who worked well with us. Our first issue with Minuteman Press was great, however, the second issue was poorly done. Therefore, I started the search for a new printer. Martyn Printing in East Aurora checked all my boxes. They are smaller and privately owned with a commitment to excellence. I am writing this before I see this issue, but I trust that they made us proud. However, no matter how hard we try to keep costs down it has become a losing battle. All the printers were competitively priced, but all were higher than Xoar. I still believe that if you have a paper copy you will read it and keep it handy for reference. Therefore, I would still like to publish the Figure 8 four times a year. Remember: Communication is key.

Our winter meeting in February at the TR Site was poorly attended. The sun was shining and the roads were clear. The TR Site did not charge us for the use of the room. They set up tables & chairs and a coffee table. They treated us as honored guests. I know some of you question our involvement at the TR Site but clubs all over the state have relationships with historical sites and mansions. It is part of their involvement with their community. Every time we step out of a traditional "flower" role we increase our presence in the community. The TR Site administrators value our work and have publicized it on their website, on Facebook, and at the site itself. Publicity for us is a great way to create interest in our district and our clubs.

One last thought, please attend the various plant sales that our clubs work so hard to run. They are all listed in this issue. I plan on visiting as many as I can.

Another last thought, I truly enjoyed the Christmas parties I was invited to, and I am looking forward to all the installations I will conduct this spring. My greatest pleasure as district director is spending time with all of you.

Nancy Kalieta, *Director*

District 8 Spring Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, April 9, 2026 at The Columns Banquets

2221 Transit Road • Elma, New York 14059

9:00am	Registration (coffee and tea)
10:00am	Business Meeting
12:00pm	Lunch

Afternoon Program: Bringing Nature Home

Masterson's Nursery will explain how to become a certified wildlife habitat by emphasizing the needs of your habitat: food, water, shelter. By using sustainable practices, you can create a backyard habitat that attracts bees, birds or butterflies.

Table Designs: A basket incorporating the colors and flowers of spring

Design must be in place by 10:30am

Tip of the Hat

by Nancy Kalieta, District Director

With Thanks & Appreciation to:

- To the staff of the Figure 8 – Linda Blyth, Judy Weinstock, Myretta Zimpfer – for adapting to the changes required by a new printer TWICE. You are invaluable.
- To Terry Skura for handling the 8th District Honor Roll
- To Sharon Low for collecting donations for World Gardening
- To Lyn Chimera for her informative Arboriculture articles in each issue. We have all learned a great deal.

Checklist for Presidents

- Send a copy of your club's membership list and Figure 8 mailing list to Nancy Kalieta, District Director and Myretta Zimpfer, Membership/Circulation Chair.
- Send the name, address, phone number and email address of your club's 2026-2027 president to Nancy Kalieta and Myretta Zimpfer.
- Send a copy of your yearbook to Nancy Kalieta, your Section Chairman, and Linda Blyth.
- Figure 8 subscriptions of \$5.00 are due to Myretta Zimpfer by June 1st.
- Submit \$10 per member for state dues to FGCNYS by April 1st.
- E-Filing: IRS Form 990 is due July 15th. Failure to file may impact your 501c3 status.

Some Thoughts on Spring Planting



As we get ready for this season that we all look forward to, here are a few planting tips. For some of you this may be a “DUH” moment but for others this information may just assure the best garden you have ever had.

- If we have a dry spring, give your new plants a fighting chance by digging a planting hole, filling it with water (let the water soak in) and putting your transplant into the hole. I have been known to carry a bucket of water and a quart canning jar around the garden as I plant.
- Make sure that you cover the planting medium that the new transplant grows in with garden soil; if any of this medium is exposed to air, the moisture will be pulled out of it, and your plant may die.
- Check the label that (hopefully) comes with your plants for spacing and recommended conditions – sun/shade, moist/dry, etc. and try to follow these guidelines.
- What is full sun? it is considered to be just 6 hours of direct sun – not blazing sun from dawn to dusk. Morning sun with some relief from searing afternoon heat is ideal for most plants.
- Consider adding some organic mulch... but do NOT use shredded bark-type mulch in your flower or vegetable gardens. It has not decomposed so will pull most of the nitrogen out of the soil. This type of mulch is meant for foundation plantings (around your house under trees and shrubs.)
- Finally: if you plan to divide some of your perennials, do it **NOW** – like immediately!!! As warm weather arrives, NOW is almost too late. These transplants need some cool, moist weather to reestablish before the heat and possible drought of summer stress them even more than being chopped apart.



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Master Gardener

Plan your Spring, Summer and Fall “Teas” now
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Arboriculture

DEER RESISTANT SHRUBS

by Lyn Chimera, Lessons From Nature

Unless you live on the 2nd floor of a building you probably have experienced some deer damage. This article will be the 1st in a series of articles on deer resistant plants. There are many good resources including the Cornell website: albany.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/deer-resistant-plants

Planting shrubs that deer don't prefer is a good start. The following are a few that do well in our area. As with any plant, you need to match the growing conditions of the plant to the conditions in your yard. Check the botanical names as so many natives have been genetically modified for a variety of reasons, size, color etc. These are referred to as cultivars or "nativars" and may not provide the food for insects and birds that you desire from natives. If there is an English name after the botanical one that is a cultivar and you should look further for the native species. A few recommendations (There are many more):

Shrubby St. John's Wort (*Hypericum prolificum*) A dense small shrub 4x6 ft wide and 3-4 ft tall. All season interest, bright yellow flowers in early summer change to dark purple/black berries in the fall followed by exfoliating bark for winter interest. Likes full sun to lightly shaded area and is not fussy about soil.

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) The big attraction for this shrub is bright magenta/violet berries. It prefers moist soil with sun to part sun and can grow 8ft tall. In spring it has very small lavender or pink flowers which are favored by pollinators but not showy to people. Planting a few together increases the bloom/berries.

Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia) In nature it's found in marshy wet areas, perfect for a rain garden, but does well in normal garden conditions in slightly acidic soil. Clethras prefer part shade to sun and will grow 8ft high x 6ft wide. The fragrant flowers bloom white in spring on 6in racemes and the leaves turn golden brown in fall.

Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus sericea) Another shrub for moist areas and rain gardens although it does well in normal garden conditions. The main draw for this shrub is the beautiful red "twigs" which give any winter garden a boost. It prefers sun to part sun and grows to 9 ft high but is easily controlled by pruning. To keep the twigs red, they need to be pruned back every 3 years as the mature branches tend to turn brown. Red twig flowers white in spring with white berries in fall that birds enjoy.



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CHARLES BURCHFIELD NATURE & ARTS CNTR
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Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Christmas Decorating

by Paula Gober and Jean Errington, Coordinators

We would like to thank the Clubs that participated this past year. It was a big challenge to all, as most of the areas had to be completely re-thought, following a new vision for the site. As always, our very talented Clubs were more than amazing as they stood up to the challenge and excelled. The TRS staff was extremely pleased with the results.

We look forward to their 2026 Christmas and will be decorating the same areas. Some adjustments are being considered, based on the results of the survey completed by the clubs. The theme and colors will soon be announced. The theme and colors will be announced soon and awards presented at our Spring District Meeting.

Be sure to regularly check the district website (see the address at the bottom of each page of this publication. There is a LOT of information to be gleaned there. Here are some things you may find:

- A list of all the 8th District garden clubs; if you click on them you may find their current information and activities (BUT only if they have been updated)
- Area Gardens, Nature & Wildflower Trails
- Societies & Organizations
- Protected and Invasive Plants of New York State
- Upcoming Events
- Past and current issues of Figure 8s
- Speakers List
- Scholarship information
- Various awards and contest information

Please make this correction to your District directory

TR Site Co-Chair:

JEAN ERRINGTON
6385 Boston State Road #12
Hamburg, NY 14075-6601
email: jeanerrington@yahoo.com
phone: 716-941-3225



Eighth District Honor Roll

Terry Skura, Chair

With Appreciation

DEBORAH ADAMS
from Paula Gober

PAULA GOBER
from the Hamburg Garden Club

In Remembrance

CAROL BAUDA
from Smallwood Garden Club

KATHY KUEBER
from Evans Garden Club

PAULA FIRESTONE
from Forest Stream Garden Club

JUDY KURTZWORTH
from Garden Club of the Tonawandas

ROSEMARY HALLORAN
from Smallwood Garden Club

JUDY KURTZWORTH
from Debbie Proefrock

JANET HEINEMANN
from Amy Miller

May 27, 2026 is the deadline for submissions to appear in the summer issue. Honor Roll grants will be awarded at the District Spring meeting. Please know that all funds stay in the District. Remember to honor someone for the contributions and hard work done to further the success of your club. Consider submitting names to the Honor Roll with a \$10 donation. See the district website for more information.

Youth Report

by Dorothy Julius, Chair

Have you ever wished upon a star? Disney says, “When you wish upon a star, your dreams will come true.” I wish I had a “keyhole garden.” In Europe where they have limited land for a garden, you will see many raised stone or brick circle beds with a pie shape section removed. In the center they would dig a hole and add kitchen/yard waste to decay and feed their plants like a slow release fertilizer.

With spring around the corner, now is the time to teach the children in your life to apply this same technique in your raised beds. With some chicken wire make a circle frame and secure it together. Dig a hole in your raised bed. Then anchor a few inches of the wire frame into the soil. Secure it with stakes or wire loops. Now have the children add kitchen scraps every few days along with some straw or leaves into the wire form. Be sure to add water. As the season goes on, they can pick some veggies. At the end of the growing season remove the chicken wire frame and work up the compost into the soil. This is a great way to practice the three “R’s”: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Remember the seeds we sow today will become the flowers of tomorrow.

For information on upcoming youth contests either go on the State’s website: fgcnys.com or contact me by email: dorothymjulius@gmail.com or Phone: (716) 681-1473.

Important Financial News

by Nancy Kalieta, District Director

As you are all aware the cost of everything has gone up. This has affected the district too. Our wreath and the Vision of Beauty Calendar sales are down. These are small fundraisers for the district. The raffle and 50/50 monies in April and October help to defray the cost of the event. The \$36 that we each pay at the District luncheons does not cover the cost of the meal, the use of the facility, the speaker, and the AV setup. Most times we just break even. Plus, the \$10 that we pay to the state covers our state, regional, and national dues. These organizations offer us knowledge and opportunities. But none of that money stays in the district. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I propose a \$5 per member district dues. Because we are so far into the process of collecting dues this year, I would like to ask your club to voluntarily pay the \$5 by June 1. ** It will become mandatory next year, June 1, 2027. This plan will be discussed at the April meeting along with other options such as we could stop giving a \$2,000 scholarship and go to three issues of the Figure 8. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Please understand that this decision was not made lightly. The executive board spent many hours studying our finances. Charging district dues seems to be the quickest and most efficient way to keep the district solvent.

**Checks should be made out to "District VIII FGCNYS"

Mailed to: Anne Dyet, 3240 Love Road, Grand Island, NY 14072-2428

2027 Vision of Beauty Calendars

By Ellie Foster, Chair

Orders are now being taken for the 2027 Vision of Beauty Calendar, an annual publication of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Creative designs as shown in the Calendar are submitted by garden clubs across the nation.

Prepaid orders will be accepted through June 15, 2026. Cost per calendar is \$12.00. Please use the order form below. The calendars will be available at the fall luncheon/meeting.

Club Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail form and club check payable to District VIII FGCNYS, Inc

2027 Vision of Beauty Calendar c/o Ellie Foster • 84 Bridle Path, Orchard Park, NY 14127

For more information, please contact Ellie Foster at lefoster84@gmail.com

Kenmore Garden Club

PLANT SALE



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Around the District

ERIE II Peggy Koppman, Section Chair

Cinderella Isle GC (President Pat Fabin) Meetings – 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm, Trinity Church. April marks the installation of our new slate of officers at Elden’s at the River Oaks Golf Club. Johanna Domingues of Put A Plant On It will share her expertise on houseplants at our May meeting. Members are invited to wear their favorite garden hat to the June meeting where they will also demonstrate their favorite gardening tool. The meeting festivities also include our annual White Elephant Sale.

GC of the Tonawandas (New President Cathy Collignon) Meetings - 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM, Tonawanda City Hall. Our April meeting will feature Kathy Contrino of CW Native Botanical speaking on Landscape Solutions with Native Plants. Later in April, members will participate in the annual statewide Canal Clean Sweep at Long Homestead in Tonawanda. In May our members will plant geraniums at the Historical Society of the Tonawandas, where we maintain the gardens, watering and weeding throughout the spring, summer and fall. On Saturday June 6th, we will have our annual perennial plant sale at Niawanda Park, located on Niagara Street in the city of Tonawanda. Plants include perennials from members’ gardens and heirloom tomatoes grown from seed by one of our members. Our plant sale is held in conjunction with the “Weekend on Niagara” craft show from 10am to 5pm. If you are looking for a specific type of perennial or specialty tomato, shop early! This year we are dedicating our plant sale to Judy Kurtsworth who recently passed away. Judy was the chairperson for this plant sale, a long-standing member of our garden club and a friend to all of us! She will be dearly missed! Plans for the June meeting are underway.

Kenmore GC (New Co-Presidents Sue Giambra and Mickey Kavanaugh) Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 am, Kenmore Methodist Church. In April, Noah Shaner, volunteer coordinator, will enlighten us on the Olmstead parks in our area and tell us about the work of the Olmstead Parks Conservancy. Later in the month, Town officials and club members will plant a tree for Arbor Day. May brings Thomass Mitchell of NCCC who will speak on the Dumb Things That We Do In The Garden. Our plant sale will take place on May 20-21 at the DFK pavilion at 1200 Parker Blvd in the Town. Did you know that Elmlawn Cemetery is the first and only cemetery in WNY to have an accredited arboretum? President Michael Austin will give a PowerPoint on the various tree species located there at our June meeting.

Ken-Sheriton GC has disbanded and most of their remaining members have joined Kenmore Garden Club.

ERIE III Dorothy Romanczuk, Section Chair

Erie Section III is planning their Flower Show in 2026

Eden Garden Study (President Dawn Seggio) Jeanne Burke, former NGC Judge, will demonstrate techniques in drying plant material for use in floral arrangements in April. The club will meet at Four Corners Restaurant to complete Erie County Fair

registration, coordinate sign-ups, and review members planned entries. The club will also care for plants in the greenhouse for the town plantings and begin growing lettuce for the Eden–North Collins Food Pantry. In May, the club will host a plant exchange evening, with each member bringing a plant to participate. The club will work throughout the town preparing Chamber Park for planting and installing the street planters. In June, the club will hold a workshop on Spatial Thrust Designs, with materials provided, and will work on the planting of the Blue Star Memorial.

Evans GC (President Candace Mayer) In April, our Club will install new board members at the Installation Dinner at O'Brien's West End Inn. On April 25th, we participate in the Town of Evans Environmental Fair held at the Evans Center Fire Hall. There will be demos, information handouts, and activities for children. May is our Annual Plant Sale at the Evans Center Fire Hall, 8298 Erie Rd, Angola, NY. We'll have hanging baskets, a boutique featuring hand crafted items by our members, our perennial sale, a basket raffle, and a "farm to table" planting station for children. June brings Carol Ann Harlos doing a presentation on multiplying and dividing to grow new plants.

Hamburg GC (President Paula Gober) April's Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers will be a catered luncheon at their VFW meeting venue. April's National Plant America month finds members landscaping the VFW, maintaining Hamburg Public Library gardens, planting Memorial & Centennial Park and the Blue Star Memorial. May's program features Melissa Moore, Assistant Professor at SUNY Niagara, talking of "Home Cultivation of Cannabis 101." June's walking tour of the Richardson Olmstead Campus has Nellie Gardner, founder of Flower Fields, talking about the gardens that helped feed the patients of the campus. The 22nd Annual Perennial Sale on June 6th helps celebrate National Garden Week.

Hamburg House & GC (President Susan VanTine) Our April Speaker Nina Saintz, certified landscape designer of her business Gardenette and Spree magazine garden columnist, will be speaking on "How to Transition your Garden from High to Low Maintenance". In May, Marilee Farry will tell us about a favorite perennial, "What Is an Iris." HHG Donna Lipowitz will discuss "Lovely Orchids" and their care at June's meeting.

ERIE IV Evelyn Mietlowski, Section Chair

Amherst GC (President Evelyne Mietlowski) April 22nd we will meet at the Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (formerly the Audubon Library) on John James Audubon Pkwy. in Amherst. Our guest speaker will be Elizabeth Licata "All Things Hydrangeas". Our May 27th meeting at the Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library is in the planning stages. In June we are going on a field trip to the Kin Loch Farmstead Lavender Farm, 4299 Ridge Rd., Lockport.

Cheektowaga GC (Co-Presidents Cindy Zaborowski and Deidre Whiteside) April 13 will be our last meeting at Maryvale Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm. Our speaker is Elizabeth Licata, "All Things Hydrangeas". May 11, at 6:30 we will be at our new meeting venue, Cheektowaga Senior Center, 3349 Broadway. We will be preparing raffle baskets for our plant sale which will be held on Saturday, May 30,



9am-2pm at Stieglmeier Park, 810 Losson Rd., Cheektowaga. June 8th, we will be holding our open to the public event at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Rd. Our speaker will be Pam Turner, a club member, and board member at Wild Ones WNY. She will speak on Gardening for Butterflies.

Forest Stream GC (Contact: Babbidean Urban Huber) At our April meeting, Kathy Massing (co-chairman of A World in Bloom District 8 Flower Show) will share her expertise as a prize-winning flower arranger. In May we will take a docent-guided trolley tour of Forest Lawn Cemetery. In June we will go to Mischler's Florist & Greenhouses for a hands-on workshop about mini succulent gardens.

Smallwood GC (New President Susan Steck Kusneske) Our April 20th program will have our experienced members, Kathy Massing and Diane Sipple, present instruction on floral arranging techniques. This is in preparation for our biannual Flower Show in September. For our May 18th meeting, we will have Colleen Gaskill, Landscape Design Specialist, speak on butterfly gardens, discussing various plants and maintenance for a successful butterfly garden. On June 15, we will continue to prepare for our flower show with a hands-on learning session creating various floral designs. Floral supplies and instruction will be provided by member Kathy Massing as members create their own floral designs.

ERIE V Judy Cavagnaro, Section Chair

Bowmansville GC (New Executive Committee Lynne Lowery, Sue Mason, Donna Brehm) Meetings: first Monday at 7pm at the Bowmansville Fire Hall

South Town Gardeners (Co-Presidents Janine Watson and Kathleen Gallson) Meetings: 3rd Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m., at the American Legion Post, 5684 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park. Members will have a regular meeting on Friday, April 17, and we will host Steve Styn, master gardener from the Rose Society. He will educate us on spring and summer rose care. May 1st we will take a trip to the Holland Flower Show. We will also order and pick up our Henry's flower orders and start our flower project. May also brings Hospice and Chestnut Ridge spring cleanup and planting. We end the month on Saturday, May 30, with our annual plant sale at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center from 10:00-2:00. June 19 we will have a short business meeting at 11:00 a.m. with a half sandwich lunch and treats! We get to relax after a busy May.

Lancaster GC (Presidents Kailyn Crone) Meetings: second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. Social hour begins at 6:30pm, business meeting begins at 7pm. All guests are welcome. April 8 - Master Rosarian Steven Styn shares expert knowledge with a presentation on the art of growing roses. Members also take a field trip to visit the McKinley High School greenhouse and student-run plant sale. May 13 - David O'Donnel from Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm shares an inspiring presentation on monarch butterfly conservation. Members also begin to plan for the LGC Plant Sale on May 30, from 8am to 3pm at the Lancaster Senior Center Pavilion. June 10 -Guest Speaker Erin Masterson Holko presents an enlightening program on the art and science of herbal medicine. Members also finish plans for the LGC Garden Walk on July 8th.

Town & Country GC of Williamsville (New President Debbie Wixson)

Town and Country Garden Club has adopted the theme of "Let's Grow Together: Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary." Our club has planned a year of speakers and activities to celebrate our nation's 250 years by honoring our past and planning for our future. The Installation Luncheon will be held at Linguine's Italian Restaurant on April 16th when we welcome a new slate of Officers: Debbie Wixson, President; Rosemary Jordan, 1st Vice President; Janice Rogers, 2nd Vice President; Linda Rockford, Secretary; and, Linda Anscombe, Treasurer. On May 14th, we will have a guest speaker talk about the role women have performed in the garden throughout history. Later that month, members will meet for the delivery of flowers from Kenneth A. Henry Sons Nursery. In addition to planting in our personal gardens, club members are creating a "Red, White and Bloom" themed garden at the Clearfield Library using a patriotic color pallet of flowers to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary. In June, club member Rosemary Jordan has created a skit about the "History of Garden Tea Parties" which will be performed in the garden of one of our members. (Did you know garden tea parties in the U.S. began with the Suffragette Movement, in 1848, in Waterloo, NY?) In addition, members are encouraged to bring their favorite garden books and magazines to share ideas with fellow members about good reading materials when we aren't busy getting our hands dirty in the garden.

ERIE VI Esther Kopp, Section Chair

Amama GC (President Marie Taber) Meetings 2nd Wednesday at 12:30 . First, Amama Garden Club has moved to a new meeting venue. They now meet at the American Legion Post 735 located at 35 Legion Pkwy., at 12:30 PM. April- Members will enjoy a small lecture titled "Flowers as Food." Also, members will design the April luncheon centerpiece. May- A member will speak about annuals, biennials, and perennials. They will also be having their annual plant and container auction. June- A member will be speaking about " Underground Wonders"- bulbs, rhizomes, corms, tubers, and bulbs. They will also be learning about the wonderful world of bees by Beekeeper Jesse Fodera.

Countryside GC (President Annette Walter) Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM April - The meeting will be at a member's home followed by a potluck lunch. May and June are not put together yet.

East Aurora GC (President Marty Mummery) Meetings 2nd Monday of the month at 12 noon. April – "Butterfly & Pollinator Gardens" presented by Olivia Rondon, Exhibit & Interpretation Specialist from Erie County Botanical Gardens. May – "Garden Life January through November" presented by EAGC member, Loei Britton, Conservation Chairman. June – "Recycling in the Floral World" presented by Carole Melnick, owner of A Snail's Place. The EAGC is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year. They will hold monthly events throughout the year. In April they will feature a display in Vidler's window. On May 23rd the club will hold their Annual Perennial Sale from 8AM to Noon. In June they will hold a history program presented by Ginny Pendleton, Club Historian.



Holland GC (President Sarah Tobin) Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM. April – Garden Club will have the Interpretation of HGC Annual Standard Flower Show schedule by the Eighth District President Nancy Kalieta. The Holland Garden Club will have their Annual Standard Flower Show in conjunction with the Holland Tulip Festival put on by the Kiwanis, held on May 1st and 2nd. The show theme is “Travel Around the World”. The Flower Show can be viewed on Friday, May 1, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please come and see our Flower Show! May - The program will be a review of the Annual Flower Show. In addition, Garden Club member (and former President) Tammy Schmidt will present a virtual tour of the Botanical Gardens of Florida. June - Program on “Dragonflies” given by Charlie Meiss. This meeting will be held at the Holland Methodist Church across from the Holland Middle School on Partridge Rd. in Holland at 11:00 am.

Orchard Park GC (New President Elizabeth Bruno) Meetings 1st Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM. April - program is Hosta - "The Flowering Foliage Plant", presenter Micheal Shadrack, one of our own members and American Hosta Society member, introducing all to the joys of hostas. May - "Sex in the Garden", presenter Master Gardener Carol Ann Harlos will explain. It's not what you think!! June - "Garden Safety", presenter, Jack Kowiak will share valuable information to lessen your chances of cuts, sprains, stings, rashes or more serious gardening injuries. They will be having the Annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 16th, held at the Orchard Park Train Depot, 370 S. Lincoln Ave, OPNY.

Orchard Park GC Evening Group (Leader Carol Jo Pope) Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm

NIAGARA I Barbara Stafford, Section Chair

Lewiston GC (President Sharon Low) April's meeting will begin with a pot luck supper at 6:00 pm at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Lewiston. The evening's program will be presented by Shawniece Baille, who has an extensive background in fitness training and teaches a variety of fitness classes - at various levels. She will discuss the physical aspects of gardening in a program entitled “Be Fit to Garden.” May brings Lewiston's annual Planting Day, when members clean up and plant annual beds and containers at the Lewiston Historical Museum and the Lewiston Library. On May 16 the club will hold their annual Perennial Sale, offering a wide variety of plants from members' gardens. The sale will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Academy Park Pavilion in Lewiston. Late in June we will gather for a potluck picnic, but most of June is devoted to Lewiston Garden Club's premier event of the year, GardenFest 2026. This year's theme is “Cheers to 20 Years,” celebrating our twentieth (!) year of hosting this exciting festival! As always there will be a wide variety of garden-related vendors, speakers, a container competition, creative activities children, and of course open gardens. GardenFest 2026 will take place June 20 and 21 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Center Street in Lewiston. For details and updates, please visit www.lewistongardenfest.com.

Youngstown GC (Consortium of Past Presidents) April's meeting will focus on water: Who needs water? We all do. All of Nature does. Who speaks for Water? Kirk Scirto and Paul Winnie of the WNY Rights of Nature will delve into the concept of recognizing the legal right of Water/Nature to exist, flourish and regenerate. Join us at our April meeting as we explore this growing global, regional and local movement to protect, care for and restore Water. Also in April, in an effort to keep our shores clean, members will participate in Beach Sweep (Clean Ocean Action) by removing debris along the coast of Lake Ontario at Fort Niagara and Porter-on-the-Lake. This type of cleanup benefits marine life and coastal communities. In May, we will turn our attention to preparing local community gardens for planting at Faulkner Park, the Gazebo and in front of the Youngstown Civic Center. The often besmirched dandelion takes center stage at our May meeting. Andrea Zaccarella, a local eco-conscious gardener, will enlighten us as she digs into the many benefits of the dandelion to both health and the environment. We will be as busy as bees this June organizing and running our fundraiser, Plant-O-Rama. This is our annual perennial plant sale which includes family friendly activities, music, food and hands-on floral bouquet making workshops. It will take place on Saturday, June 13 in front of the Civic Center from 9 am to 2 pm.

Cayuga GC (President Kathleen Hesson) In April, the club will be planting succulents in teacups and have a tutorial at our meeting. May is dedicated to the Cayuga Island Garden Club's care of the outside of the historic LaSalle Library, which we have been doing for many years, when we will be cleaning and trimming the bushes. We will then plant flowers in the large concrete pots on either side of the main entrance. Because our May meeting is scheduled for late in May due to our western NY weather and our delicate plants, the club will not meet in June.

CHAUTAUQUA

Fredonia GC (Co-Presidents Kim Woodward and Annabell Hahn) Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at noon. April will feature an educational seminar on the enrichment of soil with worm castings as well as four Tree Care Clinics. May will bring the annual pot bulb planting and Installation at the Trillium in Cherry Creek followed by a beekeeping class in June.

Jamestown GC (President Sharon Reed) No report

Bud 'n Bloom GC (President Judy Wilcox) No report

District VIII Summer Meeting and Decorated Hat Contest* and Garden Basket Raffle

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Amherst Presbyterian Church

151 South Youngs Road
Amherst, New York 14221

6:30pm

District Summer Meeting

7:00pm

"How to Win a Blue Ribbon in Horticulture"
Presented by Babbidean Urban-Huber

8:00pm

**Hat Contest Judging followed by
and Ice Cream Social**

Everyone is Welcome!

Please join us for comradery, learning, and fun

Please RSVP to Debbie Adams by July 1st

716-627-5461

windrush421@verizon.net

(we need to know how much ice cream to buy)

*Decorate your hat of choice with flowers (live or dried)
and other components



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MAY 2 - 3, 2026

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Sunday, 5/4 12:00-3:30pm

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Minutes District VIII Winter Meeting, February 12, 2026

The meeting was brought to order by Director Nancy Kalieta.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paula Gober

The Blessing was led by Candace Murphy

Welcome: Director Kalieta welcomed those in attendance and past director Babbidean Urban-Huber.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary – Sharon Low: advised that the minutes of October meeting were published in the most recent Figure 8. A motion was made to approve them. It passed.

Treasurer – Anne Dyet: Absent.

First Assistant Director – Dorothy Julius: Absent.

Second Assistant Director – Dawn Seggio: No report.

Third Assistant Director- Debbie Adams: The District's Spring meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Columns Banquet facility, 2221 Transit Road in Elma, NY. Registration will begin at 9 AM. The meeting will begin at 10 AM followed by the luncheon at noon. The cost is \$36.00 per person. The presentation entitled "Bringing Nature Home" will be given by Masterson Nursery. The summer meeting is being held at the Amherst Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 9th.

District Director – Nancy Kalieta: Director Kalieta handed out several financial information sheets, including budget information. Due to treasurer, Anne Dyet's absence, it was decided to wait until she was available to do the district budget.

Martyn Printing in East Aurora is now going to print the Figure 8. The price has increased but it was decided to wait before increasing dues. Photos to be put in the Figure 8 are to be sent to the director by February 20th with a caption. Other information needs to be sent by March 1st.

The Director asked for ideas for fund raising. Wreaths will be for sale again.

Erie County Fair – there is a change. Individual exhibits will be accepted with a \$25.00 fee. No groups. Deadline is March 31st to enter and must be done online.

The meeting was poorly attended. Director Kalieta advised that the bylaws state that only the April and October meetings were necessary. A decision will need to be made regarding other meetings.

Committee Reports:

Figure 8: Linda Blyth submitted a report stating that articles and reports for the spring edition must be in by March 1st.

Scholarship Committee: Babbidean Urban Huber advised that school counselors have information on where to access an application online, specifically the District's website. She checked the information and said it is correct.

Nominating Committee: Annette Kuhn will chair. Voting for new officers will be at the October meeting.

Speaker: Spencer Morgan spoke about the TR Site and the new programs they are developing. The site is a National Park site and connected with the Erie County Historical Society.

Submitted by: Sharon Low, District 8 Secretary

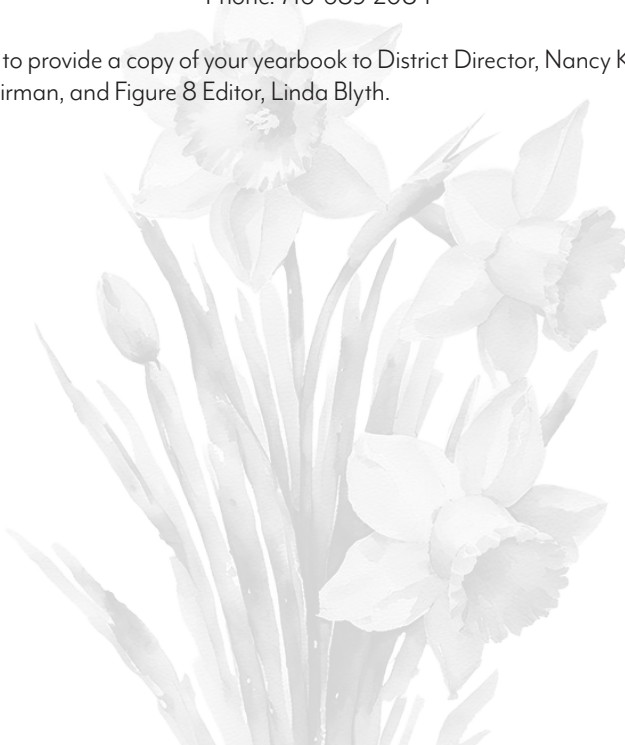
Yearbooks

by Kathy Massing, Retiring Chair

Any Clubs interested in entering the District and State competition for Yearbook judging, please submit 4 books to me by May 15th or bring them to the District Luncheon on April 9th.

Kathleen Massing
78 Hickory Hill Road • Williamsville, NY 14221
Phone: 716-689-2084

Remember to provide a copy of your yearbook to District Director, Nancy Kalieta, your section chairman, and Figure 8 Editor, Linda Blyth.



2026 Event Calendar

April 9	Spring District Meeting
May 1-2	Holland Garden Club Flower Show
May 9-10	ROC Lilac Festival Art in the Park
May 16-17	Spring Tour of Open Gardens (new)
June 14-16	FGCNYS Convention Albany
June 27-28	Garden Art Sale Botanical Gardens Lawn
July 9	District Summer Meeting (more information inside)
July 25-26	Garden Walk Buffalo
July 31	Twilight Tour of Open Gardens (new)
August 12-23	Erie County Fair
October 8	District Fall Meeting
October 19-21	CAR-SGC Convention Cleveland

Plant Sales Calendar

May 9	Evans GC Plant Sale, Evans Fire Hall 9am-12pm
May 16	Lewiston GC Annual Perennial Sale, Academy Park Pavilion 10am-1pm
May 16	Orchard Park GC Annual Plant Sale, OP Train Depot, 370 S. Lincoln Ave
May 20-21	Kenmore GC Annual Plant Sale, DFK Pavilion, 1200 Parker Blvd, Wednesday 1pm-7pm, Thursday 9am-7pm
May 23	East Aurora GC Perennial Sale, Village Farmers Market, 8-12pm
May 30	Cheektowaga GC Plant Sale, Stieglmeier Park, 810 Losson Rd, 9-2pm
May 30	Lancaster GC Plant Sale, Lancaster Senior Center Pavilion, 8-3pm
June 6	GC of the Tonawandas Perennial & Heirloom Tomato Sale, Niawanda Park, 10-5pm
June 6	Hamburg GC Plant Sale, Hamburg Farmers Market, 7:30-1pm
June 13	Youngstown GC Plant-O-Rama, Youngstown Civic Center, 9-2pm



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April 24 - May 2

2026 Perennial Sale List available online at
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20th Annual LEWISTON GARDENFEST

Saturday,
June 20
and
Sunday,
June 21,
2026



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to
5 p.m.
Located on
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Cheers to 20 years!

Visit over 80 booths featuring nurseries, landscapers, garden artists, and garden/yard vendors. Get expert advice and see presentations, view open gardens, and enter the container garden contest.

Please come and enjoy this free event!

Sponsored by the Lewiston Garden Club
A District 8 Member of the NY State Federated Garden Clubs

Please attend the Lewiston Garden Club Annual Perennial Sale
May 16, 2026





Erie County Fair Flower Show

Individual Registration with Garden Club Selection (ShoWorks)

Follow these steps to register as an individual exhibitor and select your Garden Club for the Erie County Fair Flower Show competition using ShoWorks.

Step 1: Access the ShoWorks Entry System

Go to the Erie County Fair Flower Show Competition page and click the 'ENTER ONLINE' button. <https://www.ecfair.org/p/competitions/flower-show>

Step 2: Create or Log Into Your Account

New users should click 'Create Account.' Returning exhibitors should log in using their email and password. Each exhibitor must create their own individual account.

Step 3: Add Yourself as an Exhibitor

Click 'Add Exhibitor.' Enter your name, address, phone number, and email, then click Save.

Step 4: Enter the Flower Show Competition

Select 'Entries.' Choose the Flower Show department from the drop-down menu. Select the appropriate division from the drop-down menu. Select the class you wish to enter.

Step 5: Select Your Garden Club

Once you select your class you will be able to select your club from the list. If your club is not listed contact the Competitive Exhibits Office. Once complete, click 'Add Entry'. Repeat as needed.

The screenshot shows a registration form with a progress bar at the top containing steps: Register, Entries, Items, Review, Pay, Confirm, and Finish. The 'Entries' section is active and contains the following fields:

- Department: Flower Show
- Division: BOTANICAL ARTS HORTICULTURE
- Class: 001 : Outdoor Gardens
- Description: (empty text box)
- Club: -- Choose a Club -- (dropdown menu with options: Hamburg Garden Club, Lancaster Garden Club, Orchard Park Garden Club)

Step 6: Checkout

Review entries in your shopping cart, pay the required \$25 entry fee, and submit registration. A confirmation email will be sent once registration is complete.

Need Help? Competitive Exhibits Office Phone: 716-649-3900 ext. 6407

Email: ceoffice@ecfair.org

The Best 12 Days of Summer — August 12-23, 2026

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The Erie County Agricultural Society is a not-for-profit membership corporation.

World Gardening

by Sharon Low, Chair

Reminder: District 8 is still sending donations to World Gardening. Checks should be **made payable to FGCNYS** and sent to:

**Sharon Low, District 8 chairman
5251 Bronson Drive, Lewiston, NY 14092**

Please mention in the memo section where the donation should go, either Water for South Sudan or Dig Deep.



Environmental Report

by Anne Dyet

On February 12, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized its rescission of the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding, which served as a prerequisite for regulating emissions from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines. The EPA also finalized the repeal of all subsequent emission standards from its regulations for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty on-highway vehicles and engines. This is the single largest deregulatory action in U.S. history.

As a result of these changes, engine and vehicle manufacturers no longer have any future obligations for the measurement, control, and reporting of emissions for any highway engine and vehicle, including model years manufactured prior to this final rule.

However, despite upfront savings on vehicle prices, the rollback is expected to lead to \$1.4 trillion in higher, long-term costs for fuel, maintenance, and insurance due to less efficient vehicles.

- **Public Health & Environmental Impact:** The regulatory rollbacks could result in over \$250 billion in lost annual benefits, including higher healthcare costs from increased pollution.
- **Regulatory Uncertainty:** The reversal of long-standing standards creates instability for the automotive industry, which had been investing in electric vehicle (EV) technology based on previous regulations.
- **Additional Costs:** Other targeted rollbacks, such as those related to fuel efficiency, could cost consumers an additional \$23.8 billion per year.

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- ❖ **PLANT SALE**
- ❖ **LIVE MUSIC**
- ❖ **FOOD & BEVERAGE**
- ❖ **ARTS & CRAFTS**



Saturday, June 13: 9-2
The Village Center, 240 Lockport Street

For more information, including a schedule of activities, visit www.facebook.com/youngstowngardenclub/

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