



# *Figure Eight*

*Volume 72 Number 1 January, February, March 2026*



***Christmas tree decorated by Lancaster Garden Club***

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## **FIGURE 8 DEADLINES**

**Deadline for next Figure 8... March 1, 2026**  
(Articles received after 3/1/2026 will be saved for the next issue)

## **FIGURE 8 ADVERTISING**

*(Donations as listed)*

1/4 page -	Garden Clubs	\$25 per issue	\$80 for 4 issues
	Other	\$30 per issue	\$100 for 4 issues
1/2 page -	Garden Clubs	\$50 per issue	\$175 for 4 issues
	Other	\$60 per issue	\$200 for 4 issues
Full page -	Garden Clubs	\$100 per issue	\$350 for 4 issues
	Other	\$125 per issue	

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**PLEASE BE SURE TO PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!**

Club Presidents, plan ahead, make sure that you use this newsletter to advertise your upcoming events and fund raisers. All copy must be camera ready.

Deadline for advertising is the same as for editorial copy.

**Judy Weinstock**, Advertising Editor; 648-6669

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:**      **Nancy Kalieta**

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# *Director's Message*

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A new year can mean different things to different people: excitement over a new beginning, or worry about what the new year will bring, or the challenge to make this the best year ever. Truly, I feel all of those emotions. As gardeners we experience excitement over new plants to grow or new configurations in our garden. We worry about how the weather or the insects, or the deer will affect our plant growth. But, most of all we accept the challenge of nurturing our gardens to be the best that they can be. Only an optimist can be a gardener. We know the challenges and yet we plan and grow anyway fully expecting success.

This year I plan on growing something I have never grown before. I am not sure if it will be a houseplant or an outdoor plant. But I am studying plant catalogs and will visit nurseries to get an idea. I am also going to do a design that I have never done before. Whether it is at Plantasia, the Fair, or my section flower show I will challenge myself to learn and create. I don't want to become complacent. I will listen to Eleanor Roosevelt who said, "You must do the thing you think you cannot do." I will let you know how this works out.

We have some great meetings planned for this year. Please read the Figure 8 for details. Right now, our state president, Elizabeth Walker, is planning on attending our April meeting. This will give you an opportunity to meet her. Also, it would be great if you could attend at least one of the district meetings. Cudos to the members who attend all four. New ideas and great conversations are always part of each meeting. I look forward to them because of that.

Let's keep an open communication going. Send me any ideas you have for future meetings and activities. I look forward to talking with you at district meetings, club meetings, plant sales, and flower shows. Being district director is a privilege that I enjoy.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year!

*Nancy Kalieta*

# ARBORICULTURE

Lyn Chimera,  
*Lessons From Nature*

## Doug Tallamy's "How Can I Help"

The Washington Post refers to Doug Tallamy as, "The godfather of the native plant movement". That is so true. His first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, was the first garden themed book to be a national bestseller and made a huge impact on how people looked at the plants they grew. He stresses sustainability through using native plants to support insects, pollinators and birds.



His latest book, How Can I Help, Saving Nature with *Your Yard*, is a departure from his previous books. How Can I Help is written in a question-and-answer format. He based the questions on those commonly asked by people attending his lectures. The book is divided into chapters including Biodiversity, Native and Non Native Plants, Oaks, Invasive Species, Conservation and Restoration and Home Landscapes.

Tallamy's answers are informative, concise and very helpful in making readers realize one person can make an impact within their own yard. I found this book extremely helpful in understanding what people are concerned or confused about as well as practical ways to help them understand the solutions. It's the type of book you can refer to again and again to help educate yourself and others. The book jacket describes it best, "Whether by reducing your lawn, planting a handful of native species, or allowing leaves to sit untouched, you will be inspired and empowered to join millions of other like-minded people in becoming the future of backyard conservation."

Tallamy's other books are: Bringing Nature Home, Nature's best Hope, The Nature of Oaks and The Living Landscape. If you haven't read any of his books, I'd recommend Nature's Best Hope to start with as it shows the relationship of what you plant to supporting nature. Any of these books would be a wonderful gift for yourself or a gardening friend. Happy reading!

# WORLD GARDENING

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 Dr.**  
**Lewiston, NY 14092**



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



## **8th District** **HONOR ROLL** Terry Skura, Chair

*With Appreciation:*

Hamburg Garden Club Ronald McDonald  
Meal Makers from Jeannie Burke

*In Remembrance:*

**Honoree:**

Virginia Thrun from the Amana Garden Club



February 27, 2026 is the deadline for submissions  
to appear in the spring 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.

District VIII  
SPRING MEETING AND LUNCHEON  
Thursday, April 9, 2026  
The Columns Banquets 2221 Transit Road Elma, NY 14059  
9:00am Registration (coffee and tea)  
10:00am Business Meeting  
12:00pm Lunch - \$36 per person

MENU

All entrees include fresh garden salad, rolls and butter, baby red roasted potatoes, broccoli & baby carrots, rice pudding with whipped cream, and regular/decaf coffee, tea. Entrée choices are:

Chicken Chardonnay

Chicken breast topped with artichokes, spinach, sundried tomatoes & white wine cream sauce

Oven Roasted Salmon

Salmon with a lobster dill cream sauce

Special Dietary Requests

Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Dairy free, etc.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Bringing Nature Home

Masterson 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.  
The design must be in place by 10:30am.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Fall Meeting and Luncheon – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Registration Deadline is March 19, 2026

1. Make one check from each Club payable to "District VIII FGCNYS."
2. List names of those attending and their menu choices.
3. Forward check and information to: Milissa Jurewicz, 30 E Home Road, Bowmansville, NY 14026  
Email: milissajurewicz@gmail.com Phone: 716-572-6494

CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB PRESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please specify if they wish to sit at the Life Member Table.)

Please attach a list of attending member names and menu choices.

## Winter Meeting

When: February 12, 2026

Where: Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site  
641 Delaware Avenue Buffalo 14202  
Parking in rear on Franklin Street

Time: 10:00



### What's Happening?

- Quick business meeting
- Coffee, tea, & pastries
- Lecture by Spenser Morgan "History of the TR Site"
- Discounted tours - \$9.00 per person\*



\*If you want to sign up for a tour, please email Debbie Adams at [windrush421@verizon.net](mailto:windrush421@verizon.net) before February 1st. Payment in cash (exact change appreciated) or by check will be collected at the meeting.  
Make check out to: District VIII FGCNYS

## *From the Desk of the Director* Yearbook Chairman needed



Kathy Massing has faithfully served as district yearbook chairman for many years. She has asked me to retire. Basically, you must determine a date for yearbooks to be sent in by; find three people to evaluate the yearbooks; send the winners in each class to the state yearbook chair. This is a one-time job each year. If interested, please contact me for details.



Those 70- and 80-degree days that we enjoyed while being at the Erie County Fair this past year are now replaced with the upcoming winter but Nancy and I are already focused on the 2026 Erie County Fair Flower Show Schedules and working on them brings back memories of all the wonderful support we had from our garden club members.

The 2026 Erie County Fair will be open Wednesday August 12 – Sunday, August 23, 2026 with the primary entry day Monday August 10. It is a bit later than last year so please don't plan your vacation during that time as we really need your continued support! The theme for the Fair will be "Stars, Stripes & Summer Nights" and our schedules will follow along with that theme as we celebrate the 250th Birthday of our Country. Our schedules are due to the Fair by early January and they will be placed on our District website later that month so you can get a head start in deciding what you'd like to enter. The Fair is now asking that our entrants sign up individually rather than via a Club sign-up. This way each entrant can enter in as many categories or competitions of the Fair as they would like for one fee of \$25.00 and receive 3 entry tickets to the Fair.

For the 2026 Fair – another date to put on your calendars – we will have our in person sign up day March 31 at 9:00 AM. This will be held in the Lower Grand where we met last year and will be an opportunity to talk further about the various designs and horticulture you would like to enter, as well as reviewing how to enter online.

With your continued support, we look forward to another fantastic Erie County Fair Flower Show next August! If you have any questions/concerns, please contact Monica Hansen at 716-380-8663 (cell), or email at [johnmonica@verizon.net](mailto:johnmonica@verizon.net) or Nancy Kalieta at 716-826-7462; [nancyk212@aol.com](mailto:nancyk212@aol.com)



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## **From the Treasurer** Anne Dyet

[annedyet@gmail.com](mailto:annedyet@gmail.com) 716-812-4850

Don't forget! submit \$10 per member for FGCNYS dues and membership list by April 1st.

Make checks payable to District 8 FGCNYS, Inc.

Mail to:

Anne Dyet (DO NOT WRITE TREASURER ON ENVELOPE)  
3240 Love Rd.  
Grand Island NY 14072





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**Notice to all 8<sup>th</sup> District Garden Club Members!!!**  
***Judges Council will sponsor a Standard Flower Show***  
***PLANTASIA 2026***

**“A World in Bloom”**

Held in the Event Center, Hamburg Fairgrounds

Entry day March 11, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – noon

Show Chairman: Evelyn Mietlowski (716) 836-5397

EMAIL: evelyn523@gmail.com

Co-Chairman: Kathy Massing (716) 689-2084

Kathysgarden155@gmail.com

Design Chairman: Kathy Massing

***Contact the Design Chairman or Co-Chairman if you want to make a reservation for a design or if you need more information***

**DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE “WORLD TOUR”**

***Eligible for the Award of Horticulture Excellence***

**Section A: “The Sahara”**

***Eligible for Growers’ Choice Award***

Cacti and Succulents. Maximum diameter of container 12”

**Class 1:** Cactus Family

**Class 2:** Crassula

**Class 3:** Haworthia

**Class 4:** Any other Succulent

**Section B: “The Amazon”**

***Eligible for Growers’ Choice Award***

Plants grown primarily for foliage. Maximum diameter of container 12”.

**Class 5:** Begonia

**Class 6:** Araceae Family (Philodendron)

**Class 7:** Palm Family

**Class 8:** Any other foliage plant

**Section C: “Island Paradise”**

***Eligible for Growers’ Choice Award***

Plants grown primarily for flowers and must be in bloom. Maximum diameter of container 12”.

**Class 9:** Bromeliads

**Class 10:** Gesneriad (Gloxinia, Streptocarpus, African Violet, Saintpaulia, etc.)

**Class 10 (a)** standard size, **Class 10 (b)** dwarf

**Class 11:** Orchids

**Class 12:** Any other flowering plant

**Section D: “The Black Forest”**

***Eligible for Arboreal Award***

Cut branch, maximum length 30” from cut end to tip.

Note: Classes 17 & 18 will be exhibited in committee-provided bottles. All others will be exhibited on a white lattice panel.

**Class 13:** Juniperus (Juniper) 1 branch

**Class 14:** Picea, Spruce, 1 branch

**Class 15:** Pinus, Pine, 1 branch

**Class 16:** Any other needle evergreen, 1 branch

**Class 17:** Any other broadleaf evergreen, 1 branch

**Class 18:** Any forced flowering branch, 1 branch

## DIVISION II: DESIGN

### Section A: “SPRING AWAKENING”

*Eligible for the Designer’s Choice Award*

#### Class 1: “The Sunny Side of the Street”

A Traditional Line Mass design of fresh and/or dried plant material staged on a table 30” high. The space allowed is 22” wide by 24” deep. Exhibitor to provide a 30” high staging panel and underlay.

**4 reservations**

#### Class 2: “A Time to Unwind”

A Functional Table for One with decorative unit of fresh and/or dried plant material. Design staged on a skirted table 30” high. Space allowed is 22” wide by 24” deep. Exhibitor to provide an underlay.

**4 reservations**

#### Class 3: “Flower Child”

A Creative Design consisting of fresh and/or dried plant material staged on a table 30” high. Space allowed is 22” wide by 24” deep. Exhibitor is to provide a 30” high staging panel and underlay.

**4 reservations**

### Section B “SMALL WONDERS”

*Eligible for the Petite Award*

Note: All classes in this Section will be staged on a 30 inch high table with a black cover and black background.

#### Class: 4: “Clearly Rejuvenated”

A Transparency Design – A Creative Design with see-through elements (translucent, diaphanous, grid-like materials, etc.) integral to the design and permitting some components to be viewed through others. Design is of fresh and/or dried plant material and may extend up to 12 inches in height. Exhibitor may provide a staging panel and underlay, but it may not extend beyond the allotted dimensions of 12” wide by 12” deep.

**4 reservations**

#### Class 5: “Season of Love”

A Creative Design of fresh and/or dried plant material must not exceed 8” in height. Staged on a table 30” high with a black cover and black background. Space allotted is 12” wide by 12” deep. The exhibitor may provide a staging panel and underlay, but it may not extend beyond the allotted width and depth.

**4 reservations**

#### Class 6: “New Energy”

A Creative Line Design of fresh and/or dried plant material must not exceed 5” in height. Staged on a table 30” high with a black cover and black background. Space allotted is 8” wide by 8” deep. The exhibitor may provide a staging panel and underlay, but it may not extend beyond the allotted width and depth.

**4 reservations**



### *Club activities for January, February, March 2026*

#### **Erie II Peggy Koppman, Section Chair**

**Cinderella Isle GC** (President, Pat Fabin) Meetings – 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm, Trinity Church. Our year opens with the traditional “Soup Meeting”, featuring homemade soups, salad, and lots of laughter. In February, Melissa Marcus will present a program on flower arranging. Melissa is a member of the District Eight Judges Council and a long-time member of our club. ‘Mason Bees: Our Super Pollinator Friends’ is the topic of our March meeting and will be presented by member Heidi Travagline.

**GC of the Tonawandas** (President, Cathi Ullenbruch) Meetings - 3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM, Tonawanda City Hall. January is a good month for a speaker. Kathleen Contrino, of CW Native Botanika, Akron NY will present a talk from her variety of 14 topics. She is also known for her herbal infused lotions, soaps and various other products. February finds us doing our therapy projects, which is making pillows for Breast Cancer patients. March is our yearly banquet and installation of officers.

**Kenmore GC** (President, Carole Zeiher) Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 am, Kenmore Methodist Church. Renee Wert, KGC member will present "Dutch Gardens" at our January meeting. She has visited the Keukenhof Gardens twice and will give a program on their tulips. The Program Committee and the Ways & Means Committee will meet to prepare for the upcoming fiscal year. Ken Parker, an Indigenous Horticulturist will do a program on "Native Plants" for our February meeting. He is a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians. Our March Installation of Officers will be held at Classics V Banquet Center. Linda Blyth, Historian will present "The Year in Review".

**Ken-Sheriton GC** (President, Therese Malchiorre) Meetings – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, St. Mark Lutheran Church.

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## **Erie III Dorothy Romanczuk, Section Chair** **SECTION ERIE III is planning their Flower Show in 2026** **Eden Garden Study** (President, Dawn Seggio)

January's Potluck Dinner will be held at the Eden Town Hall. A roundtable discussion will focus on future club program ideas. A planter from the club will be raffled. NGCFS Instructor David Robson, heads a webinar on "Mechanics of a Good Design 2022" for February's meeting. Town baskets will be planted in February or March. March meeting will be "Bulb Forcing" with President Dawn presiding. Yearbook will be finalized at the E-Board meeting.

## **Evans GC** (President Candace Mayer)

The Club will elect new Board Members followed by a workshop presented by member Kathy Connolly in January.

February will welcome Nancy Kalieta who will talk to us about entering items in the Flower Show at the Fair including entry procedures, judging rules, and behind the scenes stories about her years of experience with the Erie County Fair.

March is our annual business meeting with detailed reports given by the officers and the committee chairs. March has always been the meeting where we reflect on our accomplishments of the past year and look forward to new growth and opportunity, not only in our gardens, but in our Club.

## **Hamburg GC** (Co-Presidents Paula

Gober & Cheryl Steffan)

January's program features Herbal Educator Sarah Sorci of Sweet Flag Herbs. Sarah focuses on native culinary and medicinal herbs. Nominating Committee will present slate of officers for the upcoming year. The Membership Tea in February will feature HGC member and Judges Council member Jeanne Burke with "Tips on Flower Show Entries". March meeting is a week earlier than usual to encourage Plantasia entries. Topic is "Nesting Balls for Birds" with workshop; materials needed will be announced at the February meeting.

**Hamburg House & Garden** (President Susan VanTine) Our club does not meet in January. Member Nancy Kalieta will talk in February about participation in the Erie County Fair Flower Show. March's meeting features Master Gardener, author & speaker Carol Ann Harlos telling us about one of her favorite pastimes, "Bee Keeping and Pollinators".



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## **Erie IV Evelyn Mietlowski, Section Chair**

**Amherst GC** (President, Evelyn Mietlowski) January is our election of officers.

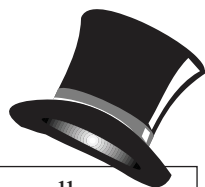
February will mark our 97th birthday. Ken Lawton of Turnbull Nursery will be the guest speaker. The topic has not been decided. March is our installation of officers.

**Smallwood GC** (President, Catherine Barthel) January: We greet the New Year with an extended holiday snug & warm in our homes. February: To avoid the possibility of driving in a snowstorm at night, we have scheduled our first-ever Saturday afternoon meeting, February 21, 1:00 pm. at the Clearfield Library on Hopkins Rd. between Maple and Klein. The meeting is open to the public, so please join us as to hear Elizabeth Licata discuss "All Things Hydrangea." Incoming officers will be installed at a luncheon on Saturday, March 21 at Rizotto's Restaurant.

**Cheektowaga GC** (Co-Presidents Cindy Zaborowski and Eileen Beiter) Cheektowaga Garden Club does not meet in January. At our February meeting, we will celebrate our 79th birthday and discuss what we are doing for the rest of the year. We will be electing new officers in the Spring.

**Forest Stream GC** (Contact: Babbidean Urban Huber) We are starting the New Year with a Members' Luncheon in mid-January. The Reverend Ryszard Bienat from Buffalo Bee Company will be our speaker in February. The timely and very serious topic is "Bee Wellness". Also in February, our quarterly visit to Heathwood Health Care for Garden Therapy is scheduled. March is our Installation Dinner. At this dinner will be the yearly awards, including the Dorothy Hangauer Award for an outstanding member and the Beverly Born Award for an outstanding new member.

### **TIP of the HAT from Nancy with THANKS & APPRECIATION to**



- All the members who purchased wreaths. This is a small fundraiser for the District along with supporting a local business.
- All the members who purchased the "Vision of Beauty" calendars. This is also a small fundraiser for the District and a great way to study floral designs.
- Paula Gober and Jean Errington who organized and all the clubs who decorated the TR Site for Christmas.
- Section Chairmen for contacting their clubs for information for the Figure 8. You serve as the bridge between the clubs and the district.

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## **Erie V Judy Cavagnaro, Section Chair**

### **Bowmansville GC** (Executive Committee Sue Maue, Kathy

Kwiakowski, Lynne Lowery) *Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Bowmansville Fire Hall.* There will be no regular meeting in January.

The Executive Board will meet to discuss the proposed budget and programming for 2026. On February 2nd, Sami Wnek, will lead us in making Snowdrops crepe flowers. Our program for March has not yet been determined.

### **South Town Gardeners** (co-Presidents Janine Watson & Kathleen

Gallson) *Meetings at the American Legion Post, 5684 Ellis Rd., Orchard*

*Park.* There will be no regular meeting in January. The executive board will meet to discuss the proposed budget and the year's program schedule. We will go to Hospice and Palliative Care to take down the holiday decorations in early January. Our first regular meeting will be February 20th to finalize our plans with all our members. Our new programs will begin in March.

**Lancaster GC** (President Kailyn Crone) *Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. Guests are welcome.*

### **Town & Country GC of Williamsville** (Ricki Gromley,

President) January 8: 1:00-4:00 pm: All Club Members are encouraged to share their ideas for programming and nominate officers for the 2026-2027 garden club year. The proposed budget will also be presented and discussed. February 11: Andrea Locke, Coordinator for the WNY Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY Prism) 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: 9:30 am-4:00 pm, Members will meet for breakfast and a business meeting in the Pegasus Restaurant, Hamburg, before heading to WNY's Premier Garden & Landscape Show, Plantasia at the Erie County Fairgrounds. We will attend educational seminars, shop at vendor booths, and enjoy the flower show offered by the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, District 8.

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## **Erie VI Esther Kopp, Section Chair**

**Amana GC** (Marie Taber, President) *Meeting 2nd Wednesday-11:00...*

January - they will have an executive board meeting to discuss the proposed budget and program yearbook. February - Amy Miller will be speaking about growing from kitchen scraps titled "Don't Toss, Plant It". They will also be discussing the program yearbook with members. March - Lori Brand will be speaking about "Preparing your Hummingbird and Oriole Feeders". Connie Trawinski will be creating a design called "Stormy Weather" and Janice Frasier will lead a design workshop for members.

**Countryside GC** (Annette Walter, President) *Meetings 2nd*

*Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM.* January - No Meeting. February - No Meeting. March – Program, a time and a place will be determined and members that are in town will get together for the event followed by lunch.

**East Aurora GC** (Marty Mummery, President) *Meetings 2nd Monday of the month at 12 noon.* January – No meeting. February – the program will be “Nature Sanctuary Society of WNY, Inc.” presented by Jacqueline Courtney Swift, President, NSSWNY. March – the program will be the Installation of Officers.

**Holland GC** (Sarah Tobin, President) *Meetings 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM.* – January - the Garden Club will have a visual tour of the Botanical Gardens of Florida presented by Tammy Schmitt. February - there is a presentation of the club's annual flower show schedule and a discussion of the design and horticulture categories. Entry requirements will also be reviewed. March - the Annual Installation of officer's luncheon will be held at Holland Willows at 177 Savage Road in Holland NY. The chairpersons are Pat Miller and Lois Bodie.

**Orchard Park GC** (Pat Leach, President) *Meetings 1st Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM.* January - the program will be "Iron Chef". Several of their own members will create floral designs in competition. February - the speaker will be David O'Donnell owner of "Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm". March - the program will be "Underwater Design", speaker Laura Buckner, Senior Violet Judge.

**OPGC Evening Group** (Carol Jo Pope, leader) *Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.*

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## **Niagara I      Barbara Stafford, Section Chair**

**Lewiston GC** (President, Sharon Low) January's meeting will feature a program by Pat England, who will discuss how Mason bees assist gardeners in pollination. She'll hand out a booklet that shows how to build bee habitats. In February the club will welcome a Cornell Cooperative Extension master gardener who will speak on pruning shrubs and taller trees. Tools and techniques will be discussed. The program for March is being developed and will be announced after the first of the year.

**Youngstown GC** (President: Consortium of Past Presidents) In January the club will make plans for 2026-2027 exploring options for guest speakers, programs, field trips and fundraising events. There will be an internal audit of the Club's budget in February; after which the executive board and committee chairs will meet to formulate a proposed budget for the coming year. In March, members will celebrate the achievements of the past year at our Annual Meeting & Dinner held at the Youngstown Yacht Club.

**Cayuga Island Garden Club** (President Kathleen Hesson) In January the club will clean up the Christmas decor at the LaSalle library. The club is on winter break for the months of January and February. Meetings will resume in March with a garden auction. Members will bring a garden treasure to be auctioned.

## **Chautauqua**

**Enchanted Mountain GC** (Stacy Seip, President) Check their web page: [alleganygardenclub.com](http://alleganygardenclub.com)

**Fredonia GC** (Co-Presidents Kim Woodward and Annabell Hahn)

**Jamestown GC** (Sharon Reed, President)

**Bud 'n Bloom GC** (Judy Wilcox, President)



### **Orchid Exhibit:**

**Open January 22 - March 9**

Exciting pops of color will breathe even more life into our lush greenhouses this winter. See incredible orchids of all shapes and sizes, learn all about these interesting flowers, and relax in our peaceful conservatory. You don't want to miss this spectacular showcase of tropical flowers from around the world.



**Kids Day!**

**January 19, 10am-4pm**

Kids get FREE admission!



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**716-827-1584**

**[buffalogardens.com](http://buffalogardens.com)**

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Trying to keep up with environmental issues can be overwhelming. Understanding public policies isn't for the timid!

First off, coal. Hopefully, none of you got coal in your stockings! Maybe some of you remember coal deliveries at home. Alternative energy sources have largely replaced coal. The last coal-burning plant in NYS was the Huntley Station in Tonawanda, which closed in 2020. Coal is not a clean energy source. Burning coal significantly harms the environment by releasing air pollutants like **sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulates**, which cause acid rain and smog. It is also a major source of mercury and other heavy metals that are toxic to wildlife and humans.

Furthermore, coal burning is a primary contributor to **greenhouse gas emissions**, particularly carbon dioxide.

Coal generated 15% of electricity in the United States in 2024, an amount less than that from renewable energy or nuclear power, and about half of that was generated by natural gas plants.

Why has the EPA, led by Administrator Lee Zeldin, a NY resident, rolled back coal regulations?

Artificial Intelligence and data centers are consuming electricity at an astonishing rate. Newer, cleaner power plants take many years to build, so coal plants, once thought to be nearly extinct, are being pressed into service. Wholesale electricity costs are 267% higher than they were **five years ago** in areas near US data centers. Western NY has numerous data centers.

But there is some good news. Britain developed the steam engine and coal-fired power plants, making it the first country to have coal as the foundation of its economy and infrastructure. Almost 150 years later, the United Kingdom has ended coal-fired electricity generation and is banning domestic coal burning. The

UK's last coal-fired power plant closed in September 2024, making it the first G7 country to phase out coal power completely for electricity generation. The government has also announced bans on new coal mines and will be phasing out coal for domestic heating due to its air pollution.

## Youth Report

Dorothy Julius, Chair

Now is the time to plan some fun activities with the children in your life. Years ago after finishing our big Thanksgiving meal I would make ornaments and cards at the dining room table. A time to make memories. Here are a couple of projects you may like to do when it is snowing outside.

### 1. BIRD FOOD GARLANDS:

Slice up an orange and an apple about 1/4 -1/2 inch thick. Place the apple slices on a waxed paper lined cookie sheet. Spread both sides of the lower portion of the apple slice with peanut butter. Then coat the slices with bird seed. With a big eye needle and twine or jute alternately thread an apple slice and orange slice in a running stitch to form a garland. Hang on a tree and enjoying watching the birds.

### 2. BUG HOTEL

Gather some twigs, straw, pine cones dried flowers, small pieces of wood and moss. If you can't find any hollow plant stems, you can make some yourself by rolling a piece of paper around a pencil. Secure the roll with tape and slide off the pencil. Now using either a wooden box or tin can cluster your plant material into the container. Use some moss to fill in the gaps. Hang your hotel outside for the bugs. This is great for the pollinators and bees.

Let's make memories. Remember the seeds we sow today will become the flowers of tomorrow.

# CHECKLIST FOR PRESIDENTS

- ✓ April 1st: submit \$10 per member for FGCNYS dues and membership list
- ✓ April 1st: send District Director Nancy Kalieta and Membership Chair Myretta Zimpfer the name, address, phone number, and email address of your club's 2026-2027 president
- ✓ June 1st: update your membership/Figure 8 mailing lists and send \$5.00 per member for a hard copy of the Figure 8 to Myretta Zimpfer
- ✓ July 15th: submit 501c3 postcard to IRS to maintain tax exempt status
- ✓ Please remember to update your club's website information.
- ✓ Remember to invite our director to a club meeting or function, so she can meet and interact with your members.

**Please mark these dates on your calendar so that all payments and information is sent on time. Our organization operates more efficiently when we all fulfill our obligations on time. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.**

## Calendar of Events 2026

February 12	Winter District Meeting (open to all) See article in this issue
March 31	9:00 Erie County Fair Sign-up Day, Creative Arts Building
April 9	Spring District Meeting See article in this issue
June TBD	FGCNYS Convention, Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY
June TBD	Symposium, Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY

**EIGHTH DISTRICT FGCNYS**  
**3240 Love Rd.**  
**Grand Island, NY 14072**



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