Figure Eight

Volume 72, Number 4 October-December 2026

WE GIVE THANKS



Erie III Summer Picnic
Eden, Evans, Hamburg, & Hamburg House & Garden Club Members



East Aurora Garden Club
Celebrating 100 Years

A Historic Year of Garden Activities, Picnics, Tea Parties, Flower Shows, Fundraisers, Clean-Up, Friendship, & Community Service!

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FIGURE 8 DEADLINES

Deadline for next Figure 8…December 1, 2026

Articles received after 12/1 will be saved for the next issue.

Interested in advertising? Email your ad to
martynprinting@verizon.net and contact Judy Weinstock

FIGURE 8 ADVERSITING (Donations as listed)

Quarter Page	Garden Clubs	$25/issue	$80 for 4 issues
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	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

I spent the spring going to plant sales, and I spent the summer enjoying the plants I bought transforming my garden into a place of beauty. Every spring I and many other gardeners try to find plants that are new and maybe unusual. Adding a touch of whimsy or a touch of drama can rejuvenate a flower bed or container. The fun of gardening is the ability to make changes.

This summer the Executive Board planned an ice cream social after the July meeting which highlighted Babbidean Urban Huber's PowerPoint on "How to Win a Blue Ribbon in Horticulture." And some of our highly creative members entered the Decorate a Hat contest. It was a fun evening! Plan to join us next summer.

This fall our meeting/luncheon event will be on October 8 at the Columns. Our speaker will be Vicki Munson, a well-respected floral designer whose designs will be raffled off. We are still looking for a location for our February meeting. Emails will be sent to the club presidents once everything is settled. Plus, it will be in the January issue of the Figure 8. It is the budget meeting.

I cannot believe fall will be here by the time you read this. It is a beautiful time of the year full of great holidays to decorate for and to celebrate with family and friends. Let me be the first to wish you Happy Fall, Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas. Enjoy your family and friends but take the time to look around your garden club and your neighborhood to check for people who have no one to celebrate with. "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud" Maya Angelo.

Nancy Kalieta, *Director*

Tip of the Hat

by Nancy Kalieta, *District Director*

With Thanks & Appreciation to:

- Babbidean Urban Huber for sharing her blue-ribbon knowledge at the summer meeting
- My Executive Board for providing the ice cream, raffle items, and prizes at the July meeting
- Linda, Judy, Myretta, and Patty for their continuous demanding work on the Figure 8

Checklist for Presidents

- Send your club's District VIII Liability Insurance check by October 1st to Anne Dyet • 3240 Love Road • Grand Island NY 14072
- Please remember to update your club's website information
- Please forward emails from the district or state to your members. Remember: Communication is key!

Insurance is Due!

Anne Dyet, Treasurer

Attention Club Presidents and Treasurers. Your club's liability insurance bill is due by October 1. The amount due is $6.00 per member.

Please mail your check, payable to 8th District FGCNYS, Inc., to:
Anne Dyet (please do not write TREASURER on the envelope!)
3240 Love Rd., Grand Island, NY 14072

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.



From the Editor's DESK by Linda Blyth

Ask – Listen – Act!

My garden club has been very fortunate to have had many new members join us in the last two or three years. When we have **LISTENED** to their comments about our programs or when **ASKED** about their impressions of the subject areas, their replies have not been surprising. Being the polite people that they are, they say that they appreciate learning about conservation, knowing more about native birds and plants or seeing the creation of some lovely designs ... BUT (truth be told) the reason they joined a garden club was to learn about **GARDENING**!

So a few of us got together, brainstormed some ideas and **ACTED**. We created a monthly informal meeting, held at our local library (free rent) on a day of the month that we meet and came up with these programs:

May - What's Hot in Pots! Containers!
Does it really matter what I put in them?

June - Let's Dig In! Vegetable and Herb Gardening
Composting, mulching, minimizing diseases & insect damage

September - Waste not, Want not! Preserving what you've grown
A quick guide to canning, drying, freezing

October - It's Time for Bed, Honey!
When, why and how much to clean up your garden

November - Holiday Décor
Fall holiday decorations using natural materials

February - Your Houseplants Are Calling!
Caring for Houseplants- not as daunting as it may seem

March - Your Space, Your Design!
Let's talk about beautifying your garden!

April - Growing Pains!
Let's plant some seeds! The what, where, when, how and why!

We provide hand-outs; sometimes we give a PowerPoint presentation; we are always open to questions and urge discussion. So far, attendance has been good and feedback has been positive. You are encouraged to **ASK, LISTEN and ACT** to give your members (old and new) what they are probably yearning for.

Arboriculture

The Beauty of Fall Asters

by Lyn Chimera, Lessons From Nature

Fall is one of my favorite seasons. Fields and wood edges are filled with colorful flowering asters and goldenrods. Besides being beautiful and brightening the fall with their blooms, native asters are a very important late season food source for pollinators, butterflies, and insects. After the flowers fade, aster seeds are a valuable food source for birds that winter over like goldfinches and chickadees.

Asters make great additions to garden beds or meadows and will give you lots of color from late summer through October. Unfortunately, they are often overlooked by gardeners for a variety of reasons. One is people consider them to be weeds. (A problem with many natives). Also, they bloom in the fall so are not attractive to people who do most of their plant shopping in the spring.

One of my favorite things about native asters is the variety. There are asters for sun and shade, tall and medium height. The following are 4 of the most common in our area.

White wood aster (Aster divaricatus) will grow in part sun to dappled light. It grows 1 to 2 feet tall on single stems forming a loose cover of starry white flowers.

Blue wood aster (Symphyotrichum cordifolium) will also grow in dappled light but will also tolerate sun. It can grow 2-21/2 feet tall and forms a beautiful show of small blue flowers with heart shaped leaves.

The two asters most people are familiar with are the New England and New York asters. They are the common showy stars in local meadows in fall. They both require full sun.

The New England asters (Aster novae- angliae) can attain 6-7 feet. Their colors are violet, purple and rose. To control the height in my garden I cut them back by 1/3 in early June. This results in a more compact and floriferous plant. However, at full height they are wonderful at the back of a border.

New York Aster (Aster novi-belgii) is smaller, 3 to 4 feet. This aster variety has flowers in bright blues and rosier purples. Both sun asters will self-hybridize resulting in an interesting variety of colors in seedlings.

Since Aster seeds are such a good food source for winter birds, I do not cut them back in the fall. Yes, I get seedlings popping up in spring, but they are easily pulled out or transplanted to form a new patch. To avoid the spread simply dead head them after the flowers fade and before they drop seeds.

DECORATIONS BY THE
8TH DISTRICT GARDEN CLUBS OF NYS

SAT, NOV 21st - THURS, DEC 31st



Christmas
AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

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DISTRICT VIII WREATH SALE

22" Fraser Fir Wreath

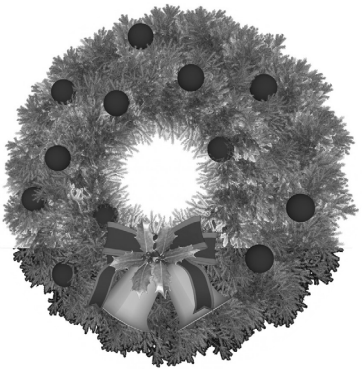
Local Vendor - Undecorated

$21 each

PICK UP: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

Two Saturdays BEFORE Thanksgiving

10:00am-12:30pm • 3921 Monroe Ave, Hamburg NY 14075
Notify Chair if not convenient



Detach order below with
CLUB Check payable to:
District VIII FGCNYS

Mail to Wreath Chair,
Dorothy Romanczuk
3921 Monroe Avenue, Hamburg NY 14075
Questions: droman13@verizon.net
or call 716-481-1405
Deadline: November 7, 2026

2026 DISTRICT VIII WREATH ORDER

Garden Club: _____

Member Responsible for Order: _____

Cellphone: _____

Email: _____

# of Wreaths _____ at $21.00 each **Total** $ _____

Deadline: November 7, 2026 droman13@verizon.net

One check per club • Make payable to District VIII FGCNYS
Mail to: D. Romanczuk at 3921 Monroe Avenue, Hamburg NY 14075

From the Desk of the Director

by **Nancy Kalieta**, District Director

1. The District needs YOU to be involved in a variety of ways. It operates BEST when many members get involved. We need the following:
   - Back up editor for the Figure 8
   - Back up advertising editor for the Figure 8
   - Back up cover design editor for the Figure 8
   - Yearbook chairman to give Kathy Massing a chance to retire

2. After the holidays, the next District Director will be reaching out to fill the chairman positions as well as the Section Chairmen. The ideal situation would be if you called the director and volunteer for a position to begin in April 2027. The outgoing chairman will then have time to explain what is required for you to do. Please consider getting involved. It is so rewarding to be part of the solution than to be part of the problem.

Eighth District Honor Roll

Terry Skura, Chair

With Appreciation ——— *NONE* **In Remembrance** ——— *NONE*

November 27, 2026 is the deadline for submissions to appear in the winter 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.

Christmas at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

by Paula Gober and Jean Errington, Chairs

The TRS decorating is on target for November 19 and 20. Information to set up an appointment to view the areas assigned will be sent out to your committee chairperson later this month from Lenora Henson. Please check your emails periodically for further information. Any questions, contact Lenora or your district chairs, Jean Errington and Paula Gober.

Paula Gober: PHONE 716-554-3992
EMAIL paulamgober@gmail.com

Jean Errington: PHONE 716-440-8046
EMAIL jeanerrington@yahoo.com

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Around the District

ERIE II Peggy Koppman, Section Chair

Cinderella Isle GC (President Kathryn Patchel) Our fall meetings will provide lots of opportunities for our creative members: creating a Christmas Kissing Ball in October. Fall maintenance and cleanup of the Grand Island Memorial Library pollinator gardens will wrap another season of providing enjoyment for library patrons and staff. In December our 'Gingerbread' themed Christmas party will take place at a local restaurant.

Meetings: Third Thursday, 7:00pm at Trinity Church

GC of the Tonawandas (President Cathy Collignon) As our members were tending to their own gardens over the summer, we continued watering and pruning the geraniums at the Tonawanda Historical Bldg. Our October speaker will be Kathleen Contrino of CW Native Plant Farm. Nora Saintz, an Erie County Master Gardener, will speak on 'Perennial Gardening' at our November meeting. Early in December our members will decorate the Tonawanda City Hall tree followed by a Holiday potluck to celebrate year-end cheer!

Meetings: Third Thursday, 6:30pm at Tonawanda City Hall

Kenmore GC (Co-Presidents Sue Giambra & Mickey Kavanaugh) The October meeting, 'It's the Talk of the Town' will feature our new Town of Tonawanda Supervisor who will bring us up to date on what's happening in our town. In November, Garda O'Keefe of the Youngstown GC will guide us in arranging small autumn displays in teacups. Fall decorations will be prepared for the Kenmore Library. Our annual Christmas celebration will be held at Sean Patrack's Restaurant to celebrate the holiday season. Our speaker will talk about 'Blessings in a Backpack.' The club will also be preparing decorations for the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site.

Meetings: Second Tuesday, 10:30am at Kenmore Methodist Church

ERIE III Dorothy Romanczuk, Section Chair

Eden Garden Study (President Dawn Seggio) October will be a busy month as members gather to discuss upcoming club activities, select a theme for the club's Christmas tree at the Theodore Roosevelt House, and begin planning our exciting 2027 Christmas in July Flower Show. In November, we look forward to welcoming Alan Henry of Henry's Gardens, who will present an informative program on pesticides. December will bring plenty of holiday spirit as members come together for our annual Christmas Party, White Elephant Gift Exchange and decorate Chamber Park for the season. Continuing one of our holiday traditions, members will also collect socks and candy bars for the residents of Eden Heights.

Meetings: Second Thursday, 6:30pm

Evans GC (President Candace Mayer) Members are enjoying their newly implemented yearbook. The October meeting will have a Botanical Gardens team sharing insights into their extensive horticultural experiences. A three-week Flower Design class with Terry Skura begins October 20th. November brings Emily Kwilos, one of our favorite "farm-hers" from Kwilos Farms. She will talk about their Christmas Tree Project, sharing insights, traditions and the care involved in growing holiday trees. We will also have a workshop to decorate our Christmas wreaths from the District. Plans for our Holiday Party in December include starting some new holiday traditions.

Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7:00pm

Hamburg GC (President Paula Gober) HGC member Brenda Werely will share her passion for beachcombing at the October meeting. See what happens when sea glass and driftwood meet. In November, "Wildlife 101 Rescue", presented by Margie Hanrahan, President of Messinger Woods, will demonstrate with live birds. The Nominating Committee is appointed. The Annual Holiday Luncheon in December will be a catered affair at their meeting place.

Meetings: Second Wednesday, 10:00am

Hamburg House & GC (President Susan VanTine) Members will learn "The Joy of Pickling" with Jill Break at the October meeting. A Holiday Workshop is scheduled for the November meeting. The Christmas Luncheon and gift exchange will be held in December.

Meetings: Second Tuesday, 12:30pm

ERIE IV Evelyn Mietlowski, Section Chair

Amherst GC (President Evelyne Mietlowski) October 28th Smallwood Garden Club member Doreen Notaro will give a presentation entitled "Dried Floral Talk and Technique" at the Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) Library. We are still working on a program for our November 18th meeting. There will be no meeting in December.

Meetings: To be announced

Cheektowaga GC (Co-Presidents Cindy Zaborowski and Deidre Whiteside) October 12th the club will be hosting Krista Sobon, owner of Spruce on Main, who will be presenting a program on tablescaping for the holidays. November 9th will be our community service meeting. Tray favors will be made and donated to a meal program for seniors. We will also be collecting hats, gloves, socks and personal supplies for the Response to Love Center. December 14th club members will enjoy a Christmas party at the Bellevue Hotel, organized by member Patty Fox.

Meetings: To be announced

Smallwood GC (President Susan Steck Kusneske) The Club will be holding a luncheon to celebrate our 70th Anniversary at Rizzotto's Italian Eatery on October 10th in place of our regular meeting. Highlights of the past 70 years

will be remembered by long-term club members and with pictures. Our November 16th meeting will feature easy holiday table ideas presented by Carole Melnich of A Snails Place. Creative, repurposed and sustainable solutions will be discussed. In December, we will celebrate the holidays together at a luncheon on December 5 and collect gift items for the residents of Cornerstone Manor.

Meetings: Third Monday, 7:00pm at The Well on Dodge Road

Forest Stream GC (Contact: Babbidean Urban Huber) At our meeting on October 15th, Carol Ann Harlos of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County will speak to us about Bees and Bee Wellness. At our November 19th meeting Club member, Kathy Hill, will guide us through the creation of our own Thanksgiving centerpieces using natural materials like pumpkins and dried flowers. Throughout the month we will also be working on decorations for our previously-selected area of the Wilcox Mansion as part of their Victorian Christmas fund-raiser. And in December, we will celebrate the season together with our annual Holiday Luncheon on the 17th.

Meetings: To be announced

ERIE V Judy Cavagnaro, Section Chair

Bowmansville GC (Exec. Committee Lynne Lowery, Sue Mason, Donna Brehm) On Monday, October 5, Jack Kowiak will present "Your Buggy Neighbors". This talk will take a closer look at those interesting fellows under your feet and flying above your head. Monday, November 2, a floral decoupage workshop is planned. Members will decoupage pressed pansies, grown as our horticulture project, and ferns onto a glass candle jar. Wednesday, December 9, we will meet at Ripa's Restaurant, 4218 Walden Ave. Lancaster, for our annual Holiday Party. Cocktails at 5:30 and dinner at 6pm. Members will participate in a gift exchange and donate to the Lancaster Youth Bureau.

Meetings: First Monday, 7:00pm at Bowmansville Fire Hall

Lancaster GC (President Kailyn Crone) October 14 Guest Speaker Joanna Palma, owner of the Lancaster Village Flower Co. will lead a presentation of how to utilize dying flowers from your garden and turn them into gorgeous arrangements. Community Service Project: collecting cat and dog food, treats and items for local Animal Organizations. Julie Hughes will be our guest speaker at the November 11th meeting. She has an extensive background in the Horticulture field. She attended McKinley High School for Horticulture and has now been teaching Horticulture there for the last ten years. Before this, she was a Horticulturist at the Buffalo Botanical Gardens for almost 7 years. Education includes degrees from SUNY Alfred in Greenhouse Production and Cornell University in Plant Science. Community Service Project: Collecting canned goods/non-perishable pantry items for St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry. December 2026 No regular business meeting - Happy Holidays! Holiday Party – Date TBA

Meetings: Second Wednesday, 7:00pm at St. John Lutheran Church

South Towns Gardeners (Co-Presidents Janine Watson and Kathleen Gallson) October will find the club on a field trip to Forest Lawn Cemetery for a SPOOKY tour! Our fall cleanup of the Hospice garden and Chestnut Ridge Honor garden will take place in October. We will have a regular meeting in November with one of our talented members leading us in a candle stamping craft. We will decorate Hospice And Palliative Care Buffalo for the holiday season after Thanksgiving. Closing out our 2026 year, we will celebrate the holidays with a Christmas luncheon at Buffalo's Best Grill & Catering in December.

Meetings: Third Friday, 9:30am at American Legion Post Ellis Road

Town & Country GC of Williamsville (President Debbie Wixson) Thursday, October 15th, presenter Jack Kowiak will speak on the topic Iroquois Gardeners. This presentation combines the spiritual beliefs of the Iroquois with a deep knowledge of both wild and cultivated plants. Thursday, November 12th, we will meet at Clay Hands Pottery, 10086 Main St., Clarence at 1:00. Club members can pick a piece of pottery to paint at the studio, learn how to paint it, and the staff will fire the pieces in their kiln. Pieces will be ready for pickup later. Thursday, December 10th, we celebrate the accomplishments of the year at a Holiday Luncheon. Time and location TBD. Donations will be collected for a local charitable organization to show our support for the community.

Meetings: Second Thursday, 1:00pm at Ransom Oaks Clubhouse

ERIE VI Esther Kopp, Section Chair

Amana GC (President Marie Taber) October - Lori Brand will talk about carnivorous plants. Also, the program "Insights into the world of Deer" will be presented by Mel Brand. November - Marie Taber will be speaking about all the joy the Amaryllis bulb can keep giving. They will also have the opportunity to create a fall wreath or swag using pine cones, nuts, dried flowers, etc. December - Members will enjoy a Christmas luncheon at Chef's restaurant and on December 9th, we will be at the West Seneca Library creating Christmas floral designs. These designs will be displayed at the library.

Meetings: Second Wednesday, 12:30pm at American Legion Post 735

Countryside GC (President Annette Walter) October - A Fall foliage ride to Springville and having lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, the club members are visiting Jake's Greenhouse in East Concord. November - The club members will meet at Snail's Place for a presentation on floral arrangements and having lunch at a local restaurant. December - The club members will be celebrating their Christmas party at a local restaurant.

Meetings: Second Wednesday, 10:00am at member's homes

East Aurora GC (President Marty Mummery) Program will be “American Chestnut Tree Seedlings” presented by Lynn Wilkins, Horticulture Co-Chair. The Anniversary Event will be a Community Flower Design Teaching Event. November –

Program will be "A Thankful Wreath-Centerpiece" presented by Christine Peruzzini and Sandy Warner. Anniversary Event will be "Thankfulness Card" presented by the Club. December – "Christmas Party Luncheon and Gift Exchange" with donations to a local charity to be held at The Columns Banquet Hall. 100th Anniversary Event will be a PowerPoint.

Meetings: Second Monday, 12:00pm

Holland GC (President Sarah Tobin) October - A tour at the Trillium Nature Center formerly Beaver Meadow. Members will bring a Dish to Pass and their place setting for a Potluck lunch. The members will tour the new Tree House and newly renovated grounds. November- A meeting making a Christmas Craft Project. Members will bring their place setting for a Potluck Lunch. December - A meeting at Holland Willows for a Christmas Party. The meeting will be at 11:30 AM. The program will be games, gifts and entertainment.

Meetings: Third Wednesday, 11:00am

Orchard Park GC (President Elizabeth Bruno) October Program - Putting your garden to rest - Colleen Gaskill, Landscape Design Specialist from Pinelli Landscaping will answer our Fall garden questions. The African Violet Interest Group will take a field trip to Rob's Violet Barn in Naples NY. November Program "Fall and Winter Backyard Birds" with Danielle Pecoraro from Wild Birds Unlimited will tell us about birds we can expect to see and what they eat. December- Christmas Luncheon. Let us relax and celebrate the beauty and friendship of this special season. After the luncheon, we will exchange Friendship gifts, a small holiday design in a container. We will decorate the Library Christmas tree, the Jolls House historical site and the Train Depot for the holidays. **Evening Group (Leader Carol Jo Pope)** Meetings: Fourth Thursday at 6:00pm at the Orchard Park Library. Guests and new members are welcome to both day and evening meetings. October - A pumpkin decorating night. November - A workshop will be Nov. 19 due to holiday. December - Will meet Dec. 3 due to the holiday and will have an Osage Orange decorating workshop.

Meetings: First Thursday, 11:30am

NIAGARA I Barbara Stafford, Section Chair

Lewiston GC (President Sharon Low) In October the Lewiston Garden Club will meet for a potluck supper at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lewiston. Following supper, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2027 - 2028 term of office. Following the business meeting there will be a presentation by a representative of Wild Birds Unlimited. We all love to welcome birds to our gardens. November is "Fluff and Stuff,", when members prepare wreaths and bows to be hung along Center Street for the coming holiday season. Afterwards there will be a brief meeting to elect officers for the next term of office, and finally lunch! Members who wish to may also select a family in need from a list provided by the Community Missions to donate holiday gift baskets. Later in

November members will help decorate the village of Lewiston by hanging greens along Center Street. In December the club will hold its annual holiday luncheon, details to be determined. Following lunch we will assemble the gift baskets to be delivered to our "adopted" Community Missions families.

Meetings: To be announced

Youngstown GC (Consortium of Past Presidents) In October, guest speaker Ken Parker will present "Design with Nature: Practical Native Plant Solutions for WNY." This workshop teaches how to use Western New York native trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, and edible wild plants to create beautiful, low-maintenance landscapes that help yards handle local soils and weather, support pollinators and wildlife, and look good year-round. Ken Parker is a horticulturist with over 30 years of experience as a grower and educator. A New York State Certified Nursery Landscape Professional (CNLP), he is currently Native Plant Specialist at Masterson's Garden Center and is Vice President of Wild Ones Western New York. Also at this meeting the Nominating Committee will be selected to find potential candidates to fill executive board vacancies.

November's program will be a "Holiday Workshop: Kissing Balls - The Original Mistletoe." Using simple, natural materials —oranges, and mixed cut greens—each attendee will create two, one to take home, the other to adorn the Main Street Business Association's shops, businesses, and professional organizations. The workshop will be presented by Michelle Vanstrom, holder of numerous credentials including Cornell Master Naturalist, former Wild Ones Native Plants, Natural Landscapes national director and chapter founder/president of Wild Ones Niagara, Niagara River Region Chapter; and creator of the Niagara River Butterfly Trail.

In December, the club will decorate Youngstown Gazebo and showcase the restoration work that has been done. December also features the club's annual Christmas Party, where members will make Christmas arrangements. Arrangements will be sold, with proceeds going to the YGC overall fund. In addition, the Social Committee will plan dinner arrangements with a local winery for a fun night out.

Meetings: To be announced

Cayuga Island GC (President Kathleen Hesson) October's meeting will feature a speaker discussing the benefits of mulch in the garden. This month members will trim and clean up in front of the LaSalle library to get ready for winter. In November a Ladies Night Out is planned including dinner at the LaSalle Yacht Club. December brings a pot luck Christmas party with an ornament exchange of gardening-themed ornaments.

Meetings: To be announced

CHAUTAUQUA

Fredonia GC (President Kim Woodward) Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 12:00pm

District VIII Fall Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, October 8, 2026

The Columns Banquet
2221 Transit Road • Elma, NY 14059

9:00am	Registration (coffee & tea)
10:00am	Business Meeting
12:00pm	Lunch - $40 per person

Afternoon Program

Vicky Munson, an NGC judge, an accredited floral designer, and the owner of a florist shop in the Rochester area will demonstrate several floral designs. You will be able to purchase raffle tickets for the chance to take one of these designs home.

Table Designs

Celebrate our harvest using fruits, vegetables, and flowers in a creative design. the design must be in place by 10:30am.

Environmental Report

by Anne Dyet

Keeping up with the latest environmental issues can be discouraging. We are waiting for the results of radiation tests in Niagara County and elsewhere around District 8. For those of us who remember the Love Canal saga, the sights, sounds, and locations of radiation testing bring back disturbing memories. Young people may not know the history of the Love Canal. Please consider sharing your memories with the youth in your life. Environmental causes are very interesting to young people.

I am encouraged by many who support pausing the construction of Data Centers in NYS. Governor Hochul signed an executive order enforcing the pause, proving that we can and do have time to weigh options. Rushing decisions that will have huge impacts on the environment and quality of life has ramifications far beyond our lifetimes, as shown by the Love Canal.

Stay active and aware, and most especially, vote this November! The environment has no one but you to defend it.



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In the Snyder Court Plaza
716-839-2033



Minutes District VIII Summer Meeting, July 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Director– Nancy Kalieta at 6:38pm
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Debbie Wixon.
The Blessing was led by Susan Kusneske.

Welcome: Director Kalieta welcomed former state president and CAR Director, Monica Hansen as well as former District VIII Directors, Babbidean Urban Huber, Anne Dyet, Melissa Marcus, Adrienne Pasquariello and Marcia Becker.
Vote on Change in Bylaws: Annette Kuhn explained the proposed changes in the by-laws. If voted on under Article 8, the District Director may be nominated for a second two-year term. Annette made a motion that the change be approved. Babbidean seconded it. A paper vote was held. 51 members voted. The motion was passed by 43 votes.

Officer Reports

Secretary, Sharon Low: Minutes of the April meeting were published in the last Figure 8. No changes were brought up so the minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer, Anne Dyet: As of July 8, 2026, the balance of the checking account is $18,411.91. The balance in the money market account is $2,899.97. The total on hand is $21,311.88.

First Assistant, Dorothy Julius: No Report

Second Assistant, Dawn Seggio: No Report

Third Assistant, Debbie Adams: The fall meeting and luncheon will be held on October 9th at the Columns in Elma. Guest speaker will be Vicki Munson who will do a demonstration on floral design.

Director, Nancy Kalieta: Nancy thanked everyone for attending the meeting and members of the board for organizing the ice cream social, hat contest and raffle at their own expense.

She advised the members that her comments would be brief because what she had to say can be found the Figure 8.

Nancy told everyone that she had not sent an email requesting members purchase Amazon gift cards for charity. She said it is a scam and one should check before buying anything.

The new budget is available to review. Questions should be addressed to her or Anne Dyet, treasurer. The budget will be discussed at the February meeting. Nancy attended the State June meeting and spoke to several district directors who said that they charge district dues. District 8 currently does not but may do so in the future. She thanked the 9 clubs who voluntarily sent in the extra $5.00 dues. It was greatly appreciated.

Extra copies of the Figure 8 were available at the meeting.

Minutes continued

Committee reports

Scholarship, Babbidean Urban Huber: There were 20 entries this year from 11 different high schools. The $1500 scholarship went to Leah Portwood from Lewiston-Porter High School. There were 5 merit awards of $100. Babbidean provided their names.

Erie County Fair, Monica Hansen: Monica thanked those who entered the exhibition at the fair. Those who still wanted to enter had until Monday, July 13th to send in their application.

World Gardening, Sharon Low: Donations are slow coming in. Sharon encouraged every club to make a donation. Even a small one helps.

TR Site, Paula Gober: Paula thanked everyone who participated in the past. Emails will be going out with sites to be determined. Decorating will begin a week before Thanksgiving. The committee is looking for discounts for greens and flowers. There will be a vendor table to sell items.

Adjournment: 7:20pm

Next meeting – October 8th at the Columns.

Following the business meeting, Babbidean Urban Huber gave a talk on "How to Win a Blue Ribbon in Horticulture." The many decorated hats were judged by Dorothy Julius and Sharon Low. (Unfortunately, we do not have the names of the winners.) A raffle was held and then everyone enjoyed the ice cream sundaes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Low, Secretary

2026 Event Calendar

October 8	District Meeting & Luncheon
October 18-21	CAR-SGC Regional Convention • Cleveland, OH www.car.sgc.org password: 2527@CARRegion
November 7	Last Day to Order Wreaths! (See ad inside)
November 14	Wreath Pick-up
November 19 & 20	Decorate TR Site by appointment
February	District Winter Meeting • Time/Place TBD
April 8, 2027	District Spring Meeting & Installation of new Board

Awards Jeannie Burke and Dorothy Julius, Co-Chairmen

The following is a list of the District 8 Awards that were presented at the Spring Meeting/Luncheon on April 9, 2026.

Award #3 Design Excellence: Paula Gober (Hamburg GC)
Award #4 Petite Design Excellence: Lana Gardener (Eden Garden Study)
Award #6 Alys Freer Smith Creativity: Judy Preischel (Eden Garden Study)
Award #8A Civic Development Individual: Tina Cole (Eden Garden Study)
Award #8B Civic Development Club: Eden Garden Study
Award #9A Historic Preservation-Historic Site: East Aurora GC
Award #9B Historic Preservation-Holiday: Orchard Park GC
Award #10 Garden Therapy: Orchard Park GC
Award #11 Club Newsletter: East Aurora GC
Award #14A Photography-Horticulture: Judy Presichel (Eden Garden Study)
Award #14B Photography-Traditional Design: Judy Preischel (Eden GS)
Award #14C Photography- Landscape: Cindy Flynn (Eden Garden Study)
Award #15 Landscape Design: Orchard Park GC



The most prestigious award of the American Hosta Society was recently presented to Marcia Sully, longtime member of the Eden Garden Study Club.

The Alex J. Summers, distinguished Merit Award, named after the first president of the American Hosta Society, is presented to one member each year who is recognized for exemplary service and dedication to the organization which Sully joined in 2003. As a member of several Hosta groups, Sully is currently the recording secretary for the executive Board of Directors of the AHS and also the immediate past president of the Great Lakes Hosta Society.

Sully first became interested in Hostas in the 90's. It was after she attended a Hosta garden walk convention in 2004 that she "fell in love" with Hosta gardens and referred to herself as a true "Hostaholic". As a participating member of the local Open Gardens, (Thursday's and Friday's in July) Marcia displays over 1000 Hosta varieties in her beautiful gardens. Several of those varieties have been hybridized by Marcia and named after family members.

Pictured above: Dawn Seggio, *Eden Garden Study Club President* and Marcia Sully, *National Award Winning Hosta Propagator and Hybridizer*

Youth Report: Iris & the Magic Garden

by Dorothy Julius, Chair

As the sun started to set, darkness fell on Grandma's garden. Iris, the garden fairy, became very sad because she could not dance in the garden. A little bug named Lightning, a firefly, sat next to Iris and asked her why she was so sad. Lightning said "I got an idea" he wiggled his body and a light came on to light his way as he flew off.

A little while later Lightning came back with a bunch of his friends who had their light on. The garden was filled with tiny little lights. Soon the moths and snails started coming out of their hiding places. The garden was filled with life as Iris danced the night away with her new friend Lightning.

We too can shed our light and share our knowledge with others every time we work with a child. If we all work together we can make a difference in our world.

With the holidays coming here is a great idea that Grandma and Mommies will treasure. Gather some plain Manila paper, paints, a plastic lid or plate, a corn holder, and a potato. Cut the potato in half and carve a leaf, butterfly or bug into it. Put a corn holder on the opposite end to act as a handle for the children to dab the carving into paint.

Every child will have paint on their hands so add some hand prints onto the paper. Let the paper dry and make a gift tag by glueing a pressed flower onto another piece of paper and cover it with contact paper. Be sure to add "handmade by" with the child's name on it.

We all can shine our light and make a difference in the world like Lightning.

Remember the seeds we sow today will become the flowers of tomorrow.

For information on upcoming Youth Contests, check the State and National websites.

Books to Inspire the Next Generation of Gardeners

Beverly Kent, Hamburg Garden Club

Give young gardeners a gift that plants more than seeds - a picture book that fosters a lasting interest in gardening. The Growing Good Kids – Excellence in Children's Literature Awards, launched in 2005 by the Junior Master Gardener program and the American Horticultural Society, honor picture books that encourage children to develop an interest in plants, gardens, and the environment. Publishers nominate titles published the previous year. A committee of educators and youth-gardening leaders selects winners for engaging stories, accurate environmental messages, and appealing illustrations.

The 2026 winners are:

Beansprout by Sarah Lynne Reul

A classroom seed that won't sprout becomes a lesson in disappointment, second chances, and community gardening.

Miss Betti, What is This? by Lela Nargi, illustrated by Kristen Uroda

A Detroit lunch lady improves school meals and starts urban gardens so students can grow their own food.

The Best Garden in the World by Alice Courtley.

A city squirrel learns that the "perfect" garden must also welcome its forest neighbors.

The Great Pollinator Count by Susan Edwards Richmond.

Children count bees and butterflies in their school garden, winning over a skeptical new classmate.

Thank You, Old Oak by Brit Crow-Miller, illustrated by Amy Schimler and Britt Crow-Miller

Forest animals thank a fallen 400-year-old oak and discover its new life as a nurse log.

A complete list of the past winners is available at jmgkids.us/bookawards/

These books give families an easy way to grow curiosity and perhaps a few seedlings together.

Eighth District FGNYS
3166 Clearview Way
Blasdell, New York 14219



Erie County Fair
Award Winner
Linda Meissner



Happy Holidays

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