



Town and Country Garden Club of Williamsville

Founded April 1, 1960

18 Active Members and 3 Associate Members

Member of:

National Garden Clubs, Inc. - Central Atlantic Region

Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. - Eighth District, Section Erie V

Club President: Ricki Gormley

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

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

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

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

Regular Meetings

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

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

(Unless noted otherwise on the list of events)



Events and Meetings for 2024-2025

April 10, 2024: Special Event - Success with Indoor Plants

(Special time and location: 4:00-5:00pm at Clearfield Library, 770 Hopkins Rd., Williamsville)

As part of our continuing involvement with the Clearfield Library, the club is hosting a special event for the community. Sean Nordlund, owner and horticultural specialist of Flowers & Dreams Unique Plant Shop, in Williamsville, will present a program on selecting indoor plants for the light conditions, as well as how to transplant and maintain them. He will create two demonstration window box planters which our club will donate to the library. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required.

April 18, 2024: Installation Luncheon

(Special time and location: 12:00-3:00pm at the Creekview Restaurant, 5629 Main St., Williamsville)

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

May 9, 2024: Tour of Draves Arboretum, Darien, NY

(Special time and location: 1:00-4:00pm at Draves Arboretum, 1815 Sharrick Rd., Darien)

Draves Arboretum is located on 20+ acres of property, with a 1.75-acre pond, surrounded by almost 800 species of trees and shrubs. Tom Draves, Arboretum Owner, will conduct a 90-minute walking tour of the property, following a boxed lunch in their Education Building. He will identify the various trees and shrubs planted at the Arboretum and answer our questions. The tour will provide a valuable tool to observe what many unusual plants look like in a landscape setting. Reservations are required.

June 13, 2024: Two "How To" Presentations

(Special time: 1:15-4:00pm at the Ransom Oaks Community Clubhouse)

At 1:15pm, Micheline Lepine will give members a brief presentation on how to press flowers. Members will be encouraged to cut and press flowers from their garden this summer for use in a workshop later in the year.

At 2:00pm, Kathy Massing will talk about the rules for creating a Tray Design using fresh flowers. Kathy is a member of the Smallwood Garden Club, Classification and Placement Chairperson for Plantasia, and the Yearbook Chairperson for the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, District 8. She will share photos of award-winning Tray Designs.

July 6 and 7, 2024: Special Amherst Garden Walk Event

(Special time and location: 10:00am-4:00pm at Clearfield Library, 770 Hopkins Rd.)

For the second year, Town & Country Garden Club will showcase our community service project, the Clearfield Library, on the Town of Amherst Garden Walk. Club Members will be on hand to answer questions about the renovated garden at the Clearfield Library. Since 2018, Club Members have worked hard to remove the original overgrown plantings and replaced them with new trees, shrubs, perennials and annual flowers. The Clearfield Library will also serve as a location where the public may pick up Amherst Garden Walk maps.

July 11, 2024: Williamsville Garden Tours

(Special time and location: 11:00am-5:00pm in the Village of Williamsville)

Club Members will gather at the public Mural Garden, 5565 Main St., next to the Williamsville Village Hall. After viewing the garden, we will have a Dutch-treat lunch at the Irishman Restaurant. In the afternoon, there are four additional gardens in the Village of Williamsville that we will be touring. Maps and directions to the "Open Gardens" will be provided at lunch time.

August 8, 2024: Annual Garden Club Picnic

(Special time and location: 3:00-6:00pm at the home of a Club Member)

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

September 12, 2024: Monarch Butterflies and Pollinator Conservation

Club Members welcome David O'Donnell, President of the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm, in Clarence. Since 1999, David's mission has been the Monarch Butterfly recovery and habitat restoration through milkweed plant distribution, awareness and education. He will talk about their efforts.

September 28, 2024: Special Event - Butterfly, Bee and Flower Puppet Show

(Special time & location: 10:30-11:30am at the Clearfield Library, 770 Hopkins Rd.)

This is a special event for children ages pre-K to 3rd grade to learn about pollination through an interactive puppet show. At the end of the show, each child will color and make their own puppet to take home. The program is free and open to the public; however, reservations are required through the Clearfield Library.

October 17, 2024: Crafting with Pressed Flowers

Four Club Members will demonstrate how to use the pressed flowers from their garden to make various craft items. A workshop for members will offer the opportunity to make decorated pumpkins, votive candles, wax candles and holiday ornaments.

November 14, 2024: Winter Sowing

Our guest speaker for the month is Kathy Contrino, owner of CW Native Plant Farm, in Akron. Her 10-acre native plant farm offers a selection of plants not typically found at local nurseries. She will demonstrate how club members can sow perennial seeds from the winter solstice in December through January and annual seeds in February and March.

December 12, 2024: Holiday Luncheon

(Special date time and location: 12:00pm at Linguine's Italian Restaurant, in Bowmansville)

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

January 9, 2025: Planning Meeting

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

All Club Members are encouraged to share their ideas for programming and Officer nominations for the 2025-2026 garden club year.

February 13, 2025: From Seed to Sale

Each year, Club Members look forward to purchasing annuals and perennials from Kenneth A. Henry Sons, Inc. This year, Jason Henry is going to present a behind-the-scenes look at the family's greenhouse operations. Also, in February, Club Members will start to plan their gardens for the upcoming year and order flowers from the nursery to be delivered in May.

March 13, 2025: Learning & Shopping at Plantasia

(Special date, time and location: 11:15am at the Olive Garden Restaurant, in Blasdell, and 1:00pm at Plantasia, at the Hamburg Fairgrounds)

Club Members will meet for lunch and a business meeting at the Olive Garden Restaurant before heading to WNY's Premier Garden & Landscape Show, Plantasia. We will attend educational seminars, shop at vendor booths, and enjoy the flower show offered by the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, District 8.

Special Projects and Activities

Clearfield Library Garden

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



Look for the garden on the Amherst Garden Walk on July 6 and 7.

Dash's Markets Tape Saver Program

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

Horticulture Project

Each year a new project is selected. In 2024, we will be growing a Hardy Gladiolus.

Recycle and Reuse Program

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

Holiday Collection Drive

Each year a new project is selected to support the community. In 2023, we collected children's sheets and comforters for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a charity that builds beds to ensure children in Western New York have a bed to sleep in.

Federated Garden Clubs of NYS

Club Members support the activities of District 8; including, luncheon meetings, sale of calendars and wreaths, and publication of the Figure 8 newsletter.