



The Vermont Leaf
Newsletter
Autumn 2023



FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT, INC
MEMBER OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC

Founded in 1937

Find us at: <https://www.vermontfgcv.com>

President's Letter

Greetings, whoever you are in the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont.... leader, member let us raise and combine our voices for improving our environment. The seeds of positive change will emerge. Collective voices drive growth and change to countless and endless possibilities. This collaboration will spark a fire of knowledge, friendship, and rejuvenation.

I completely appreciate and support each club member, garden club, district, the FGCV, New England Garden Clubs and the National Garden Club goals. As you enjoy success and challenges, remember you are shaping tomorrow's garden and environment world.

As leaders and club members, continue to reawaken, rejuvenate, and rekindle yourselves and your club through your passionate and admirable work.

Please reach out with concerns and/or questions.

"Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of humanity." – Daniel Webster

October Fall Meeting FGCV Rutland Country Club

October Fall Meeting

The sun burst on the multicolored hillsides in our beautiful Vermont as garden club members traveled through picturesque small towns with scenery so lovely it took your breath away.

The Rutland Country Club was the destination for the Fall 2023 Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Meeting. The Central District club members were waiting to welcome everyone. Members gathered, with smiles and laughter, to see friends and neighbors, greeting fresh faces and celebrating all that is great with garden clubs across the state. It was a not-to-be-missed event as fifteen (15) of the sixteen (16) clubs in the state were in attendance. With seventy (70) members present it was an opportunity to gather and share our love of gardening, projects, and events.

The agenda was filled with opportunities and news...upcoming "Fall in its Glory" Photography Series with garden club members submitting photos containing yellow/orange colors and submitted by October 31st; upcoming award application dates; welcoming a new club, the Weathersfield Garden Club; Blue Star Memorial Marker Project to raise funds for a marker in the northwest part of the state; Flood Recovery with the Granite Center Garden Club.

Lovely raffle items donated by garden club members garnered \$500. The Penny for Pines initiative continues and assistance to clubs for program planning with a speaker's bureau list was available. We had an auction of wreaths and arrangements from our speaker Michele Dauphinais, who is mad about dahlias.

At the end of the day, we realize it is time to part and, like autumn dazzling and soaring by ... holding our crisp badges of courage, gifts, and talents, small and large, continue to make our clubs successful.

Thank you for attending. See you in April 2024 for District Managers (more to come) and our Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2024, with the Southern District hosting.

"Autumn leaves do not fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar."

— Delia Owens, "Where the Crawdads Sing"

Doris Van Mullen FGCV President



Photo Riina Viise

A field of sunflowers

Arlington Garden Club

Nancy Boardman

Our year started in March with a "Welcome Spring" potluck luncheon, an overview of the programs and events on the docket for 2023, and a chance to catch up with our fellow club members after the three-month winter hiatus.

Fittingly, April's talk was by local yoga teacher Pat Fletcher, who gave us helpful tips and demonstrations of the best ways to loosen up and get ready to dig in the dirt. This was the perfect guide to a gentle approach to stretching, bending, and breathing before taking on the physical tasks awaiting us.

Memorial Day Weekend was devoted to one of our traditional fundraising efforts—the Plant,

Bake and Tag Sale was held at the Arlington Community House. It was a remarkable success, thanks to the planning of the chairpeople, the participation of virtually all club members, and a beautiful day. On the Monday of that weekend, we marched in the town-wide Memorial Day parade with a float created by Linda McDevitt themed “Moon Gardening.” It won the blue ribbon and we took home the first prize of \$100!

June brought a trip to Manchester landmark Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln’s only surviving son. Hildene is noted for not only its stately home, but also the extensive gardens surrounding it, especially its world-famous peony collection. We enjoyed a private tour of the gardens with staff horticulturist Andrea Luchini, followed by a self-guided tour of the Greenhouse, cutting gardens and, of course, the dairy goat herd that is always a visitor favorite!

Club member Carol Fay explained the meaning and process of creating Ikebana, the Japanese flower - arranging art, later in June; in July, photographer Susan Karchmer, sister of our member Kay Wisniewski, showed us how to get the best pictures possible of landscapes and



Treasurer Pt Williams at the Plant Sale →



flowers with mobile phones. Her work is gorgeous, creative, expressive, and achievable, so the program was both inspiring and hands-on. All these programs took advantage of the knowledge and expertise of neighbors, members, and their relatives, which made them even more special.

Photo Kay Wisniewski Susan Katcgmer

The biggest endeavor of 2023 was our bi-annual Town and Country Garden Tour, held on July 22nd. Overseen by Pat Williams, Joanna Taylor, and Debralyn Stempel, it featured seven very diverse properties in Arlington and nearby Sandgate. We were extremely blessed to have a gorgeous day, unlike the terrible summer flooding that destroyed so much of Vermont, and caused our over-the-mountain neighbors, Green Mountain Gardeners, to have to cancel their own garden tour just the week before.

Perhaps because of the prior catastrophic weather, we welcomed many visitors, neighbors and fellow FGCV members that Saturday, and we are immensely grateful for their support.

Although the gardening season is winding down now, we still have fun events to look forward to before

year-end, and we continue our civic beautification and educational efforts around Arlington, Sunderland and Sandgate. On our to-do list are putting our community gardens to bed for the winter...decorating the roadways, covered bridges and municipal buildings for the holidays...hosting a greens workshop to prepare for our Dec. 9th Holiday Bazaar and Plant sale...and joining the whole Arlington community for its annual tree-lighting and caroling festivities.

We will be installing new officers in December, confident that next term's leadership will not only continue, but also expand, the vision of the Arlington Garden Club as we—in the words of President Lynn Novick— “rejuvenate our spirits through gardening.”

NEW GARDEN CLUB IN WEATHERSFIELD

The Weathersfield Garden Club (WGC), a new garden club established earlier this year by founding member Olivia Savage, is now an official member of the Federated Garden Club of Vermont (FGCV). Doris Van Mullen, President of FGCV welcomed the members into the Federation at their monthly meeting in June. The FGCV now consists of sixteen (16) garden clubs throughout Vermont. Doris congratulated the members with a federation certificate and club map and stated, “as members of the WGC sharing your talents, enthusiasm, and support, you will enhance the opportunities to beautify your community.”

Photo left to right: Founding member Olivia Savage, WGC Treasurer Beth Hunton, WGC President Amy Beth Main, FGCV President Doris Van Mullen, WGC Secretary *Christy Chamberlain*



WGC President Amy Beth Main states, “The mission of the Weathersfield Garden Club is to cultivate the beauty and community of the Town of Weathersfield by collaborating with the landowners of public spaces to grow and maintain gardens and plantings across town. To provide a space for community members young and old to learn from and to teach each other about caring for plants, place, and the environment. For the

purposes of strengthening neighborly relationships and civic involvement, hosting fun plant-based activities, and ensuring the community is a pleasant place to live.”

The club is well on its way to living the mission. In the fall the club planted 200 daffodil bulbs at the Romaine Tenney Memorial and in the spring added lilies. During Earth Day, club members pruned, weeded, mulched, and planted flowers at the town offices.

Green Mountain Gardeners

From the Mountain Towns of Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru, and Weston, VT
Linda Saarnijoki, Co-President

Our program year begins in the fall, after our annual meeting in October.

In the late fall we got off to a great start with our holiday programming. A local florist and decorator presented a program on holiday decorating, showing us how to use plant material from the woods and fields to complement more traditional flowers. We invited the Weston Women’s Club to the program, and they also joined us in our annual holiday project, providing cheer to homebound residents of our area. The Green Mountain Gardeners once again gathered (after two years of being safe!) to enjoy some social time and to put together holiday table decorations of greens, boxwood, and tiny ornaments that accompanied boxed cookies from the Women’s Club and were delivered to residents identified by a local church and social service agencies. Partnering with other organizations like the Women’s Club helps us extend our efforts to provide help to our communities.

Our February program by arborist Jeromy Gardner, of the local Bartlett Tree company, was open to the public and drew a large audience, including members of other nearby garden clubs. He shared information about planting native shrubs and trees and gave valuable information about how to assure success. One valuable tip was about biochar, a substance created and used by humans in traditional agricultural practices in the Amazon Basin of South America for more than 2,500 years. Gardner highly recommended its use and noted it is available online.

As with all garden clubs, our spring and summer are the busiest times, though this year even more so, quite unexpectedly. Our June program featured a talk about landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted by one of our members. Mid July was the scheduled time for our immensely popular Mountain Garden Walks Garden Tour, the primary fund raiser for our Lib Thieme Scholarship. After months of planning, however, we had to postpone our tour until next year because of the catastrophic flooding in our towns. Fortunately, we were given an anonymous gift that reimbursed all our unrecoverable expenses. We were also enabled to award the 4-year scholarship to a fine graduate of Burr and Burton Academy. It was a wonderful gift! We will resurrect our planning and hold the tour next year in July, if the Lord is willing and the creek do not rise! In the meantime, our members have turned their attention and energy to flood recovery efforts in all of our towns. There is much to do!

Early this September featured a field trip to Seven Springs Garden in Manchester. It’s a spectacular sculpture and landscape garden that rewards leisurely strolling. What a treat! We will conclude the year with our Annual Meeting in October.



*Photo: Members of the Green Mountain Gardeners enjoying the landscape and sculptures at Seven Springs Garden, Manchester: Elsie Smith, Nancy Fox, Cheryl Edwards, Helen Savio, Sally Hesse, Gay Church, and Carolyn Badger
Photo taken by Co-President Helen Hamman*

The Garden Club of Manchester

The Garden Club of Manchester has had a momentous year so far with many new members joining our roster. Our programs this year have been varied and filled with interesting and engaging topics. In February we had a virtual tour of Germany and Belgium to observe local floral techniques with Lisa Oberholzer-Gee. In March we had our Cabin Fever Lunch which helps us get through the long winter and see so many of our friends. Our April program was given by Toni Kessler of West River Seeds on seed saving. In May we began our busy spring and summer season. We had a very educational program on Tree Morphology by Jim Graves. Our Annual Plant, Bake and Tag Sale was well attended, as always, and record profits contributed toward our scholarship fund and civic beautification. Martha Pfeiffer led our annual Bird Walk with a program following breakfast.





*L to R: Beth Alden,
Carolyn Brogan,
Martha Heilemann
Carol Munson
Rene Wilson*

In June, we had a fascinating program by Rebecca Rupp on the surprising history of common garden vegetables including our Gilfeather turnip. In July we had an entertaining and educational flower demonstration by Jaga to help inspire our membership for our upcoming Flower Show in September. On August 9th we had a day trip to the Wiawaka Center for Women on Lake George.

Our small standard Flower Show, "The Language of Flowers" was held on September 8th and 9th at the Manchester Community Library. This year we were excited to have included a Photography Division, as well as a Youth Division. It was an enormous success enjoyed by members and the community. Our members enjoyed a Preview Party after all the judging was completed. We were honored to have Doris Van Mullen, FGCV make the trip down to join us.



L to R: Carol Munson, Becky Burke, Lisa Welp, Nancy Rhodes - Photo Courtesy Joan Blanchard

The Show was open to the public on September 9th at no charge. Funds raised between a raffle and donations will help fund our Scholarship Fund.



photos courtesy of Joan Blanchard

Along with all these programs, we have monthly clean ups scheduled for the Manchester Town Green and Dorset Town Green. We also participate in Green Up Day.

Many members enjoyed our Annual Meeting and Luncheon September 13th.

Additional Programs we look forward to are "Forest Bathing on the Boswell Trail", a program on the History of The Garden Club of Manchester and Area Gardens Wrapping up in November and December: our "Annual Greens Workshop" donating wreaths and greens as part of our civic beautification and items to sell at our Winter Market at the Manchester Community Library, culminating with our Annual Tea.



BURLINGTON GARDEN CLUB

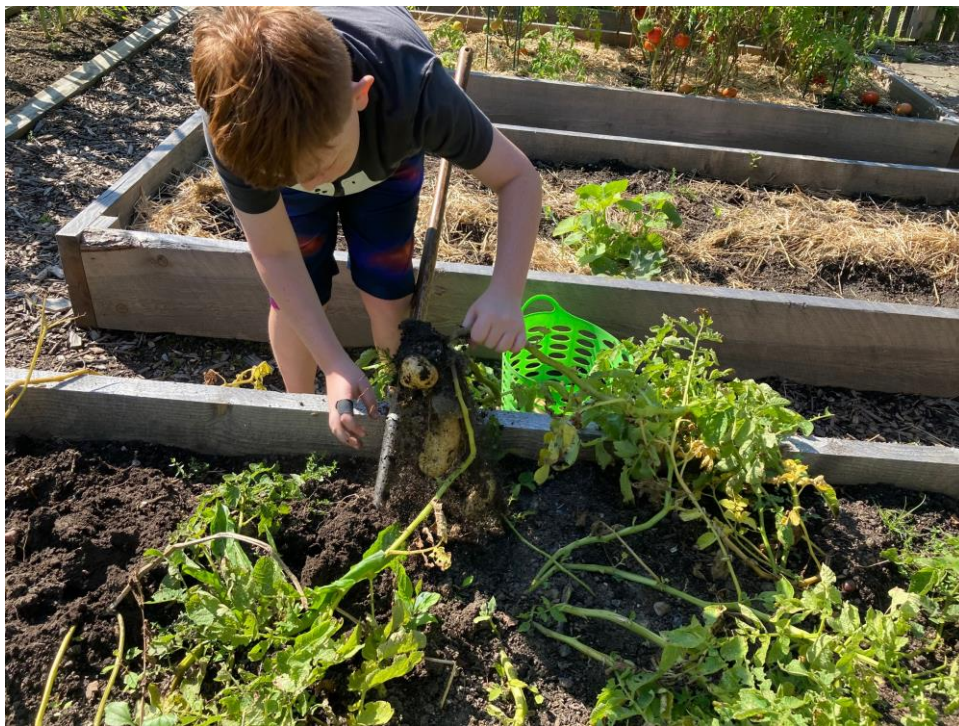
Grandma and Grandpa's Garden

This heirloom garden was established in 2002 with a \$1,000 SHELL/PETALS grant and matching funds by FGCV. In 2015 ten raised beds were established with a \$1,000 grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. These beds are planted with vegetables and maintained each Wednesday all season by the Burlington Garden Club, Master Gardeners, and unaffiliated volunteers. The past few years the children in the Growing Young Gardeners program sponsored by the Burlington Garden Club planted and harvested the beds. All produce is donated to the Food Shelf, some years as much as five hundred (500) pounds! The children learn about donating to their community as well as having fun in the gardens. There are also perennials and annuals in addition to the vegetable beds.

Many helping hands are needed and greatly appreciated. All Vermont garden club members are invited to the gardening days from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Wednesday until November 1st. Volunteers bring a sandwich to picnic at noon. Dessert is available for everyone.

Hope to see you in the gardens!
Jan DeSarno, Coordinator

Daniel DeSarno
Harvesting potatoes
in August 2023



UPDATE ON 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT – Catherine Wessel

It is wonderful to let you know I started classes again on August 28th. The scholarship has already been put towards my fall bill and the national scholarship split between the two remaining semesters of my master's program. Thank you!



Shown above are some special highlights: the beautiful labrador tea and mountain sandwort, the very rare Boott's rattlesnake root and a new subpopulation of purple crowberry I just found a couple weeks ago (only one other population in the state, which is also on Mansfield)!

I finished the season having studied six 20x30m sites in the alpine of Mount Mansfield, and two smaller peatland sites there. I have lots of vegetation data that I will soon be analyzing to learn more about the plant communities there: associations between different species, how aspect, steepness and soil depth might species present and more. On the fairweather days, Mansfield was an absolute delight to spend time on and there was a lot of joy in seeing what has been in bloom throughout the season. Thank you again for making this scholarship possible!

Catherine

SCHOLARSHIP Program

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT

Carol Kress – Chairperson – Middlebury Garden Club - cjkress77@gmail.com

Spread the word to members that a college scholarship is available to any resident Vermont student of horticulture or related environmental study. The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont (FGCV) is happy to support upcoming college students who will become professionals in contributing to our gardens, small farms, and the environment when they complete their studies. Scholarship applications are available:

- 1. FGCV website – <https://www.vermontfgcv.com>**

The application is available from the website listed.

2. **VSAC** – Vermont Student Assistance Program for Vermont students

<https://www.vvac.org/pay/student-aid-options/scholarships>

The scholarship application is available from VSAC, (Vermont Student Assistance Corporation) in a booklet "Scholarships for Vermonters" that is published each year (in paper and online).

3. The **University of Vermont** – bulletin board poster displays – monitored by faculty.
4. **National Garden Club** – <https://www.gardenclub.org>

However, the most effective way to attract qualified applicants to this scholarship is by word of mouth – tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this opportunity. All Vermont garden clubs have a personal stake in supporting students of farming, gardening, and horticulture.

Make copies of the notice below and distribute to potential students every opportunity you must - let students know about these valuable scholarships.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP
\$1000

THE FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ITS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WHICH OFFERS FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENTS MAJORING IN FIELDS OF STUDY RELATED TO HORTICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS
APPLY ONLINE
[HTTPS://WWW.VERMONTFGCV.COM](https://www.vermontfgcv.com)
[AWARDCHAIR - CAROL KRESS_CJKRESS77@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AWARDCHAIR-CAROLKRESS_CJKRESS77@GMAIL.COM)
DEADLINE DATE: FEBRUARY 1

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

MUST BE A RESIDENT OF VERMONT
MUST BE MAJORING IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIELDS OF STUDY: ■ AGRONOMY ■ AGRICULTURE EDUCATION ■ FLORICULTURE ■ HORTICULTURE ■ LANDSCAPE DESIGN ■ BOTANY, BIOLOGY ■ FORESTRY ■ WILDLIFE SCIENCE SELECTION CRITERIA ■ PLANT PATHOLOGY/SCIENCE ■ CITY (RURAL & URBAN) PLANNING ■ HABITAT OR FOREST/SYSTEMS ECOLOGY ■ ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (MANAGEMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL, HORTICULTURE RESOURCE/ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOR) ■ ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (INC. ENGINEERING, LAW ETC.) ■ LAND MANAGEMENT AND/OR OTHER RELATED OR ALLIED SUBJECTS

MAINE COASTAL TRIP 2024 June 24/25/26

Join us on this exciting trip and see for yourself the beautiful connections among people, plants, and nature. Explore the more than 300 acres of gardens and natural spaces, from the Native Butterfly and Moth House to the Bibby and Harold Alford Children's Garden or Giles Rhododendron and Perennial Garden. Enjoy the stops along the way to stunning iconic gardens.

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens 2024 Summer Tour



Monday, June 24, 2024:

We depart by coach from Burlington with stops in Montpelier and White River Junction and travel to the historic city of Portsmouth, NH in time for lunch at a local restaurant. Afterward we'll tour the home of the [Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden](#), dating from the Colonial era. The home is beautifully decorated with rich carvings, hand-blocked wallpapers, and period furniture. The lovely, terraced gardens feature old-fashioned perennials and arbors smothered in roses. We'll continue on to Portland where you'll stay overnight and check in to your hotel. Enjoy a dinner at one of the local restaurants on the waterfront ([paid individually](#)).

Meals included: Lunch

Tuesday, June 25, 2024:

Today we'll drive to the gorgeous [Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#), which has been ranked as one of the best public gardens in the US. Located on 325 acres in Boothbay, ME, Coastal Maine features diverse natural ecosystems, dramatic topography, and innovative plantings. Some of the themed gardens include a Five-

Senses Garden, delightful Children's Garden, rhododendron garden, a woodland meditation garden, kitchen garden, and butterfly house. We will enjoy a guided tour with lunch in the cafe, and plenty of time to explore the acres of beautiful plantings on our own. Return to Portland for dinner at one of the restaurants on the waterfront (paid individually)

Meals included: Breakfast

Wednesday, June 26, 2024:

Today we'll check out and depart for 30-acre Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. [Bedrock Gardens](#) began as the private garden of sculptor and horticulturist Jill Nooney and her husband Bob Munger. We will enjoy a tour through the series of imaginative gardens highlighted with Jill's whimsical sculptures. Enjoy a boxed lunch after the tour.

Return to Vermont with stops in White River Junction, Montpelier and Burlington.

Meals included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

2 nights in Portland at the [Courtyard by Marriott Portland Downtown/Waterfront](#) or similar

- 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch in Portsmouth at local restaurant, 1 boxed Lunch
- Baggage handling at the hotel
- Guided visit of Moffett House and Gardens
- Guided visit of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
- Guided visit of Bedrock Gardens
- Garden Trip host Charlie Nardozi
- Goodspeed Trip director Deb Flanders
- Full time Premier Coach bus service
- Bus driver gratuities

Tour Cost with 2 persons sharing a double room:

*Based on a minimum of 35 paying travelers: **\$1029 USD net*** per person.*

*Single room additional fee: **\$329 USD net** per person*

** **The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont** adds revenue to the net pricing above. When the contribution is included in the cost and payable to Goodspeed, the traveler cannot claim it as a tax deduction according to IRS regulations. If the entire tour is payable to the non-profit organization the added contribution is tax deductible.*

TOUR DEPOSIT SCHEDULE:

A \$125 per person deposit is required to confirm booking.

Final payment due: 65 days prior to arrival date

Tour Booking Conditions and Refunds:

- The **\$125** per person deposit is refundable, less **\$35** per person service fee, if the traveler cancels the reservation 66 days prior to departure date.
- 65 days prior to departure: \$100 per person penalty applies
- If the cancellation is received less than 35 days prior to arrival: **No Refund**
- Trip Coverage is recommended and can be purchased directly from [Allianz](#) Travel



BLUE MARKER HIGHWAY MARKER FUND AWARENESS

Flora Bell and Lori Peirce – Committee

To our garden club members, friends, and neighbors. Please consider and pass the word to help the Federation Garden Clubs of Vermont honor the members of our Armed Forces.

In 1944, The New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs established the Blue Star Program to honor those men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services. Its history began with the planting of 8,000 dogwood trees as a living memorial to veterans of World War II.

In 1945, the National Garden Clubs, Inc adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system.

The purpose of this project is to erect highway markers at roadside rest stops, vista points, historical sites, and other appropriate areas throughout the United States.

The Blue Star was chosen because it had become an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in churches, businesses, and the homes where sons and daughters were away at war.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Blue Star Marker committee has made a goal to install another Blue Star Marker in Vermont. Currently there are eight (8) Blue Star Markers throughout the state but none in the Burlington area (northwest part of the state)

Markers cost ~ \$2500.00 (including installation). Will you help us pay tribute to all who have served, those who are presently serving and those who will serve our nation?

Flora email: vitadolce@surfglobal.net



The tribute line is on the Blue Star Highway Marker. A tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America. This appears on all Blue Markers.

Contributions can be sent to our State Treasurer: Therese Burton, 5 Overlook Drive, Springfield, VT 0515

Penny for Pines

What began in California in 1941 as a statewide conservation program, Penny for Pines has expanded to all 50 U.S. states. It is a partnership with the National Garden Club and the United States Department of Agriculture.



Penny for Pines is a program dedicated to sustaining national and urban forests. The conservation effort entails the planting of replacement seedlings that are indigenous (not only pine trees), to forested areas damaged by insects, fires or natural catastrophes. The plantations provide soil and watershed protection, soil stabilization, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

Garden clubs dig in - to replant disaster-struck forests. The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont gladly participates in the Penny for Pines. This year four donations have been made with dedications to the garden club members throughout Vermont and in gratitude to Mable Mayforth, past president of the FGCV and the founder of the first FGCV scholarship.

Congratulations to the **Arlington Garden Club**, the **Burlington Garden Club**, and the **Rutland Garden Club** for their participation in the Penny for Pines Program.

To learn more about starting this project with your garden club - <https://gardenclub.org/penny-pines>



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Penny Pines Program

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT

Has Made A Contribution In Honor of

FEDERATED GC OF VERMONT

Brenda Moore

National Garden Clubs, Inc. President

June 2023

Garden Club Awards – FGCV Awards Chairperson – Jo Fretz

AWARDS. What does that mean? The dictionary states: to grant as merited and to bestow for performance or quality. All the garden clubs perform projects of merit and quality. FGCV, NE Regional and NGC want to reinforce your performance, hard work of the numerous kinds of projects and activities your members support in your communities. We want to recognize the value and importance of your planning and implementation to make your communities better for everyone. That is why we keep encouraging you to apply for the Garden club AWARDS.

Several of the FGCV members have been meeting to rewrite the awards listed on the website so they are more user friendly and easier to understand when you think about which award you would like to apply for. A table of contents will help you find a certain award easily and read the description. A rubric we use to score the application will be available for you to see when you are writing your application(s). It will help you understand what is important for you to emphasize and include as you fill out the 3-page application (cover sheet, 2 pages of description and pictures).

This is the beginning of the year for quite a few clubs. When you plan projects, it is a terrific time to think about which award you could apply for. Remember, the same project can be used to apply for a State, Regional or National award. You just must use a different application which you can find on each website. Many awards have a monetary amount attached. FGCV has added money to six (6) different awards for the coming year. We value your many activities and want to reward them.

The next award available for which you can apply is an NGC award. It will be due to the State Awards Chair in December. I will look it over. If it needs improvement in some way, I will contact you to add or change something. Then I will send it on to the National Chair.

Next April 15 will be the due date for State (FGCV) applications. August 15 is the due date for the regional awards. Lots of time to think and plan for your award applications. They will need to be sent to me electronically. Remember, I am here to help in any way you need.

Have a fabulous Garden Club Year.

dfretz39@gmail.com

Interesting Information:

FGCV LIFE MEMBERSHIP

An FGCV Life Membership can be given to honor any club members. The one-time \$50.00 fee is submitted to the President or Lifetime Membership Chair, who submits a life membership certificate to the member and a pin. The money contributed by the club supports the scholarship fund. The person's name is added to the Life Membership list and kept in the Recording Secretary minutes of the Annual Meeting of the year presented.

You can also become a life member of the National Garden Club

<https://gardenclub.org>

FGCV application form is on our website <https://www.vermontfgcv.com>



Last blast **New England Garden Clubs Fall Meeting** - The NEGC Fall Meeting was held on October 10-11, 2023 in historic Plymouth Rock, MA at the 1620 Hotel and Conference Center.

One hundred and thirty (130) garden clubs throughout the six (6) states were in attendance – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Vermont garden club members attending were: Pat Cherry (The Garden Club of Manchester), Jo Fretz (Rutland Garden Club), Barbara Gaida (The Burlington Garden Club), Susan Hinkel (The Garden Club of Manchester), Linda Lane (Burlington Garden Club), Doris Van Mullen (President FGCV).

With magical excitement – the FGCV received two (2) awards:

Fall 2023 Awards – New England Garden Clubs Jeanne Marie Parkes Award for an individual club presented to the Burlington Garden Club for their timely poster exhibit at the 2023 Vermont Flower Show - Out of Hibernation: The Magic of Pooh at their show “Spring Comes to 100-Wood”.

Susan Miner, New England Garden Clubs Director, Barbara Gaida, President of Burlington Garden Club, Doris Van Mullen, President Federated Garden Clubs VT, Linda Lane President Burlington Garden Club



New England Garden Clubs, Inc. Photography 2023 Display

"Rejoice in the Sun"

Class 3 – If I had a Hammer

"Soothing Presence of a Pinetree"

Doris Van Mullen

<https://youtu.be/ontPyUg1s-Y>

Watch me: <https://youtu.be/ontPyUg1s-Y>



Gift of Beauty to Barre Main Street Businesses – Flood Recovery

On a rainy Thursday afternoon in July, Barre's Main Street was busy with volunteers replenishing and replacing thirty plus flower containers for local businesses. The intense floods had washed away the flower containers placed outside Main Street businesses in the spring by the Granite Center Garden Club (GCGC) in collaboration with Barr Partnership.

Resplendent color of new flowering plant containers and visits to merchants was heartwarming after a time of heartbreaking loss. The coordinated effort was orchestrated by Diane and Ed Blodgett, Co-Presidents of the GCGC, Doris Van Mullen, President of the Federation Garden Clubs of Vermont, along with Karen Villanti, FGCV North District Director and Burlington Garden Club members.



Top L to R: Jody Gendron, Karen Villanti, Mary Ellen Johnson, Susan Daily
Below: Two granddaughters of Diane & Ed, Diane Blodgett, Doris Van Mullen, Rose Godard, Ed Blodgett



The FGCV expresses its genuine appreciation for the remarkable work on the Fall 2023 Newsletter. Thank you.
Riina Viise – “The Leaf “ Editor