



FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT, INC.
MEMBER OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. - Spring 2021



National Garden Week is coming up June 6th to the 12th 2021.

The National Garden Clubs' website www.gardenclub.org has a link to a fillable PDF poster you can print off and put your own club's name on the poster! This is another way to get your club's name out in the public eye.

The FGCV has updated our web site. www.vermontfgcv.com

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Annual Meeting July 20th 2021

Registration will be forwarded 4-6 weeks prior to the meeting.



SAVE THE DATE

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on
Tuesday, July 20, 2021
Rain date: Tuesday,
July 27, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Vermont
Garden Park,
South Burlington, VT

- Annual business meeting, awards ceremony
- An outdoor venue with physical distancing & opportunities for outdoor enjoyment of the gardens prioritizing health and safety without sacrificing needed joyful moments
- Bring brown bag lunch and comfortable chair



Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont
Susan Hinkle & Caroline Frey –Co-Presidents

Garden Club events open to the public

Brattleboro Floral Arts and Garden club. Plant sale: Saturday, May 15, 9:00 to noon at the Green River Chapel parking lot.

Manchester Garden club. Plant Sale: May 22nd at the Southern Vermont Art Center. Flower Show "The Roaring Twenties" is June 16th at the Wilburton Inn in Manchester Village.

Rutland Garden Club. Plant Sale and "Blooming Tulip" quilt Raffle: May 22nd corner of Center and Main Street Rutland.

The Green Mountain Garden Club will host its garden tour on Saturday, July 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. Mountain Garden Walks Garden Tour to benefit the Lib Thieme Scholarship Fund. Visit our website for online ticket sales. <https://www.greenmountaingardeners.net>

Burlington Garden Club.

As with all the other Clubs, the virus cut back activities for the Burlington Garden Club! We still managed some outdoor events during the summer of 2020.

Co-Presidents Lynne Tiballi and Jan DeSarno began official duties on July 1, 2020. Altho a couple of the summer Garden Tours were canceled, there were seven that members attended. Four were to member's gardens, two to non-member gardens, and a visit to The Farm Between organic fruit nursery in Cambridge.

June 7 to 13, 2020, National Garden Week, was celebrated with events scheduled for each day by Chairperson Nancy Bell. Two were canceled per COVID restrictions.

From **May to November**, the FGCV Grandma & Grandpa's Garden was planted and maintained each Wednesday by Master Gardeners and BGC volunteers. All FGCV Clubs are invited to join the effort. Each month, the gardens at Hope Lodge, a temporary residence for patients needing treatment at the hospital, and at Ronald McDonald House, were planted and maintained by 6 to 8 BGC volunteers.

The 2020 Annual Award of Excellence was presented by Sarah Dopp, President of the South Burlington Land Trust, on August 16, 2020, to the Burlington Garden Club for the beautification and conservation of the Vermont Garden Park, 1100 Dorset St, S. Burlington. Accepted by Nancy Bell, Jan DeSarno, Mary Scollins and Doris Van Mullen,

Summer Picnic, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020 Forty members and guests attended. Thank you gifts from Simon Pearce and Gardeners Supply were presented to Doris Van Mullen and Mary Scollins for their 2 years as Co-Presidents. Charlie Nardozzi received a Media Service Award from the National Garden Clubs.

In **September**, BGC fulfilled its commitment to honor the request of National Garden Clubs President, Gay Austin, and planted a 2-1/2" caliper red maple tree "Red Sunset" at the Garden Park on Dorset St., South Burlington. It will shade the new children's sandbox.

The **October 2020** Club meeting was the first in-person meeting since the February 2019 meeting. About 21 members attended to enjoy the program "For the Love of Herbs" presented by Club member Gail Kirby. The Club meeting of January 2021 was canceled. The February & March Club meetings were on ZOOM.

The Board Meetings of January, February, and March of 2021 were held on ZOOM.

January 26, 2021 - Sixty bouquets were created and donated by 17 Club members to Birchwood Terrace Rehab & Healthcare. Bouquets to Birchwood were previously donated in the Fall, 2020. As stated by Lenny Aubin, Activities Enrichment Department Director, *"When we saw the carts full of flowers, it was beyond expectations. The generosity of your members is beyond belief. This gift continues to brighten the darkest of our days. We just cannot thank you enough for continuing to support and think of us through these times, the most challenging of our lifetimes".*

February 10 ,2021 - 340 Valentine cookies were baked by 15 Club members and donated to the South Burlington Food Shelf and Meals On Wheels.

Looking forward, the Club will continue planting and maintaining the public gardens all season, and hope for an in-person Annual Meeting in June.



Brattleboro Floral Arts and Garden Club



Clean up at the Brattleboro Creamery Bridge.

Covered Bridges Garden Club.

Due to Covid Covered Bridges Garden club decided to suspend club activities in 2020, except for their civic beautification, that was able to continue with social distancing.

Members planted approximately 30 barrels in the Village and the Center and continued to support the Jr Gardeners Club activities

No membership renewals were sent as the club felt they had enough funds to manage expenses.

Green Mountain Gardeners

Notes from the Mountain Towns

Greetings to members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont. This has been some year, calling on the creativity of individuals to create a semblance of the way things were. But the pandemic has taught us new ways of doing things that will stay with us going forward, such as the technology innovations that have kept us connected. Zoom – not many of us had ever heard of that pre-2020, and even if we had, it wasn't necessarily our go-to meeting format the way it is now.

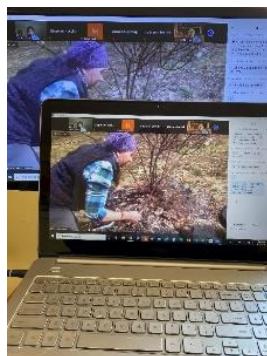
The Green Mountain Garden Club, based in the mountain towns of Londonderry, Weston, and Peru managed the flip from in-person meetings to remote, Zoom, meetings, beginning in October for our annual meeting. By then we were reeling from COVID isolation and everyone was thrilled to meet our gardening buddies over the internet. That presentation was followed by a December holiday presentation, also done via Zoom, with designer Amy Thebault, helping ring in the holidays with a joy and merriment. The winter doldrums were broken up by two other virtual presentations, one a lecture and slide show on early American landscape architect Capability Brown and another a travelogue on an English gardens' country walking tour.

We have every finger and toe crossed that our last Zoom presentation was just that, our last one. It really was a hoot – enrolling the expertise of three club members in a demonstration of spring garden cleanup and pruning. Our presenter, club member Betsy Gritman-Johnson, has her own garden landscape design company and she took us through her gardens giving expert advice on the how's and why's of bringing gardens back to splendor, with an artful eye and sharp pruning shears. Trailing Betsy around her garden were two other members, one filming with the iPhone and another managing and directing the filming from her computer. Lastly, we had a member hosting the Zoom presentation and ricocheting questions from the spellbound audience to our gardening expert. Oh, the places Zoom has allowed us to go, literally and figuratively. Thank goodness for the technology and it has woven its usefulness into our lives

We will undoubtedly use it again in the future, but will gladly opt first for in-person garden club meetings!

Club member Betsy Gritman-Johnson has graciously agreed to share her pruning program
Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IK1wS_CuYSq9zogYvL3wHe3uk4ZiC_cat0RnvurgMgF4lzxz4-ZI4eBhZGZ0wXBX.qTosRwt2J1Cbh5Pz



MOUNTAIN GARDENERS.

Mad River Valley

2020 started with our Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon followed by our February meeting with a presentation, Planting for Birds, which was open to the public.

Then COVID 19 hit and we were caught like deer in the headlights, not knowing what to do. Our meetings, plant sale, garden tours and annual garden party and luncheon were cancelled. We could no longer make table arrangements for the senior center. We did keep our cleaning, planting, weeding and watering schedules for the community gardens. We also donated a scholarship to a local high school student.

Welcome to Zoom! Thanks to one of members who hosted a zoom meeting using her account we held a Zoom meeting in September with a wonderful program, Sustainable Home Gardens, by Judith Irvin. At our October meeting we voted in our new board whose terms became effective in January and had a beautiful program about photographing flowers presented by an award winning photographer, again via Zoom.

We are fortunate that one of our co-vice presidents hosts the zoom meetings on her personal account. She and the other co-vice president book all the programs so this arrangement works well. We have had great programs, including Charle Nardozzi via zoom every month except November and December.

We have been granted a permit for our plant sale on June 5th. We will be spending the month of May preparing for the sale as well as cleaning the community gardens. We will be awarding another scholarship in June. Hopefully we can have our annual garden party/luncheon outside this year as well as scheduled garden tours and perhaps an outside flower arranging workshop. And of course continue to maintain the community gardens.

The attached pictures are of the current board in masks, some of the members at the January 2020 luncheon, a poster for the February 2020 program and one of our community gardens.
Happy Spring!! Judy Reed



Rutland Garden Club.

Greetings All. Hopefully Garden Club members throughout our State have stayed safe and healthy throughout this Covid 19 pandemic year. It has, indeed, been a different year.

It all began for Rutland Club about March 19th, 2020 when I sent out the first meeting cancellation notice. We did not have a regular member meeting through the rest of the year and have not the months so far of 2021. We did, however, carry on with some new and different activities as well as some of the “old” activities in a revised way. For example, we had Board meetings in a very large room, distanced and mask wearing.

Garden planting and tending occurred throughout the summer as members worked by themselves or at either ends of their gardens. Our flower boxes and large pots were filled with flowers as we distanced outside in early June. We planted flowers and shrubs at the new Habitat for Humanity home.

Discount merchant cards were given out by me outside at one of the gardens we tend. Dues were collected from most members at that time. Crocus planting happened in October as many of us worked independently. Two small committees met outside several times and revised both our membership form and our Club bylaws/policies.

Our annual December wreath sale occurred outside and in a member garage as we struggled to sort and gather up our sold wreaths. The Rutland Girls and Boys Club was given 15 wreaths and decorations to decorate by themselves since we couldn’t go inside. That is a dearly loved project by the children. We cleaned out our storage shed- a feel good event!



Boys & Girls Club and their RGC Donated Wreaths



Cleaning the RGC Storage shed

We decorated the Chaffee Art Gallery outside since our usual inside events could not be held. It looked beautiful and was up through February



Decorating the Chaffee

We had one outside garden tour of a member's lovely garden.

Some new activities we undertook were the enhanced usage of IT equipment. We enjoyed a Zoom Board meeting. We also were treated to a Zoom floral design event by Jaga Smiechowski.

Two other newly created activities we undertook were individually done Spring door/entrance decorations that will be in the RGC April newsletter.



Door Decorations



Teacher receiving pots, seeds, soil



The Door Decorations were just for fun and noncompetitive. The second new activity we did had to do with hundreds of Burpee seed packages we were given by Walmart. They couldn't sell them in the Spring because they were not an "essential item".

Members received plentiful numbers of packets of flowers, vegetable or herb seeds.

Later, seeds were distributed to teachers at several schools along with potting soil and pots for their students to plant, learn and enjoy. The final lot of seeds went to the VT Farm Food

Center Educational Program for more students and also directly to some needy families. Seeds were also planted by the Center for us to sell at our planned Annual Plant Sale on May 22nd. We feel we made great and extensive use of this enormous free gift of seeds.

Finally, our Club was proud and pleased to be the NGC overall award winner for Container Gardening for 2019.

It has, despite a very different year, been a busy and rewarding one for our many active and willing members. Frequent contact with all has, I hope, kept them still very proud to be a Rutland Garden Club member.



"Blooming Tulip Quilt"



SEED and WEED GARDEN CLUB.

Seed and Weed garden club decided to suspend meetings due to covid 19 for the 2020 season except for their civic beautification projects.

Members planted the Fairbanks Museum garden and flower boxes in spring and in the fall replaced the flower boxes plant material with winter greens.



Springfield Garden Club.

Moving Forward Through Covid.....

The Springfield Garden Club thanked the community for the ongoing outpouring of support in response to the cancellation of the November Festival of Trees fundraiser. "Community support has been generous, overwhelming and heartwarming" stated Co-president, Cheryl Pierce. "I don't know how we can ever repay our generous donors for giving us the ability to keep going this year."

Funds were donated to "Springfield on the Move" by the Garden Club to provide for the downtown holiday wreaths as a part of civic beautification winter efforts. In terms of summer beautification, the club is currently making plans and ordering annuals for town planting day in May, which will be a cheerful and uplifting event for everyone!

"The SGC will continue to offer college scholarships which will assist students and families whose lives have been turned upside down by this virus.

In ongoing work, the Garden Therapy committee is busy creating floral notes that are delivered each month to thirty Meals on Wheels clients. "We used to create 30 fresh flower arrangements," stated Therese Burton, Meals on Wheels Chair, "but we have not been able to enter the site to make arrangements because of the Covid shut down." These beautiful flyers include an image of flowers, many using photos from the town plantings, and a warm message, letting the recipient know club members are thinking of them.

The Club continues to do amazing things with the resources provided. "Covid-19 did slow things down a bit but it also showed us the importance of our community service contributions. At least for me, the virus caused me to have a deeper level of appreciation for what our contributions mean and how they create a tradition of giving and pride that has become integral to how Springfield feels about itself. Just amazing," stated Cheryl Pierce.



THINKING OF YOU
A NOVEMBER BLESSING
FROM YOUR
SPRINGFIELD GARDEN CLUB FRIENDS
The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.
HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING DAY

Theresa Burton, Garden Therapy chair and the notecard she created.