

VERMONT LEAF

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

FALL 2020



Greetings: Sue and I look forward to our next FGCV get together.

"The Leaf" is the FGCV's way to send club members information from a variety of our clubs, We usually split the number of clubs within the state and half report in the spring issue of "The Leaf" and half in the fall issue.

We welcome your input and ideas on what would be useful and of interest to you the reader.

Our message in this issue will address some of the questions we have received from members in the past couple of months.

Every club has faced challenges and we are excited that all have found unique ways of continuing to be a presence within their communities.

Most clubs continued their beautification projects and some clubs have grown vegetables to give to the local food shelf as a way of reaching out to their community.

FGCV, FALL Meeting. Montpelier. Cancelled

Greetings FGCV members!

As our battle with the Covid-19 virus continues, Caroline and I want to remind you that we are all in this together. Our get-togethers will resume as long as we follow the rules. So stay healthy and keep up your positive thinking!

Here are some reminders for you: our Fall Board Meeting in October at the Vermont State house is cancelled as the State house building remains closed to groups; our 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on June 1st at The Castle in Proctorville.....this is the same venue that we had planned on using in June 2020; we will continue to have our spring District meetings but they may have to be virtual. Thank you to all the clubs who have paid their dues to FGCV.

We mentioned in our last publication that each club should have an updated Bylaw and Procedure regarding Electronic Meetings and Voting. When writing up your new Bylaw follow Roberts' Rules of Order. Each club will have a slightly different definition depending on how your own Bylaws are written, ie do you need the whole membership to vote on a budget or slate of officers. Let us know if you are in doubt about this.

One of FGCV's important projects is our Life Membership Scholarship Program. A Life Membership may be awarded to any member(s) you would like to honor for their service in your club. This seems to be the time of year when many clubs are installing new officers. This award would be a special gift to the outgoing officers from your club members. The award costs \$50.00 and this money goes directly into a permanent fund for our state scholarship, the Mabel Mayforth Award. In Vermont we annually choose the most qualified candidate who applies for the award of \$1000.

The Award committee chaired by Kitty Furman is responsible for choosing this scholarship candidate. A Life Membership is a great way to honor your special member(s) while contributing to the scholarship fund! If you would like to participate in this program, please contact Caroline Frey, FGCV Co-President.

The FGCV Board is busy updating some of our procedures during these "down" times. The Award format is being updated by Kitty Furman and will be available soon on line. As you know our website was discontinued due to lack of volunteers to maintain it. We are working on a more simple means of communicating, thanks to Martha Dale, a Co-President of the Green Mountain Club. We would appreciate any ideas or comments you might have on these projects. A small sub-committee is working on updating our By-Laws and Procedures. Following their completion each club president will receive a copy of these as well as a copy of the Awards requirements.

We are excited to hear about different ways your club has handled its meetings during the pandemic. Pictures are always welcome! Keep up your optimism and please stay healthy!

Sue Hinkel, FGCV Co-President

I Recommend all club members check the updated NGC web site you do not need a password to access all the information that will be helpful to your club www.gardenclub.org

Please ask either of us if you have questions or concerns. We look forward to a productive term and a lot of help from you, our members!

Brattleboro Floral Arts and Garden Club

This spring, the Brattleboro Floral Arts and Garden Club is keeping in touch with its members online, through email, Facebook, and snail mail. We post notes to and from members and share photos of our gardens.

In April, since we did not have our Annual Meeting, our past Presidents, Lynn and Missy Kuralt, informally turned the “keys” over to the new President, Lynne Kennedy, on a safe, socially distant, ten-foot pole!

We are considering holding our club meeting in September in an outdoor venue with enough space for social distancing. There are many items to discuss, such as whether or not to host programs for 2021. Plus, it will be a time for members to get together and share their gardening stories.

At this time, we have no formal programs scheduled for the remainder of the 2020 year. A number of our committee members continue to work on community projects such as beautifying the gardens near the Creamery Bridge, the Green Mountain Chapel, and the World War I Memorial Park. Also, we will have a “mum” event in August/September where members can purchase chrysanthemums for their gardens. One club member will order and several will help distribute them.

We also communicate regularly through Facebook pages. We host two pages: one for members only and one where the public can interact. Our members have been active posting photos and info of their own gardens on these pages so we can stay in touch. Here is a link to the public (community) page <https://www.facebook.com/BrattleboroGardenClub> We all look forward to returning to “normal” and wish the very best to other Garden Clubs throughout the State.



Members garden flowers

Granite Center Garden Club.

The Granite Center Garden Club (GCGC)- Barre has been busy this year with the continued care of our 8 city garden beds. We have been working with the Barre Partnership Program and connecting with the 4-H Educator for Orange and Washington Counties, UVM Extension program. Present and Past Presidents of GCGC were interviewed through email with the 4-H on how community service can be rewarding and other reasons volunteers get involved with community service (i.e. love of gardening!).

GCGC has continued to meet monthly via Zoom and provide educational programs; such as invasive worms and composting. However, a few of our community events have been canceled, (annual plant sale and Heritage Festive) this year but this has not stopped the work of the members in their continued community commitment. Our membership continues to grow this year, and we have had a number of inquiries from the community regarding GCGC and how they can become members.

Helping Beautify Barre with the Barre Partnership Program- Members of GCGC volunteered to plant flower barrels for Main Street. Barre Partnership provided the flowers and left the planting to the experts! Nancy Wolf, Nancy Andreoletti, Theresa McMahon, BJ Winders, Edda Cardenas, Diane and Ed Blodgett. Next time you drive through the city be sure to check out the barrels in front of the stores, they came out beautiful.



GCGC continues to stay safe and busy during the COVID19 pandemic!

Green Mountain Gardeners

We Can Do It! *Green Mountain Gardeners At Work*

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the Green Mountain Gardeners (GMG) with the cancellation of our biennial Garden Tour. It's an event that GMG members look forward to hosting as a way to connect with regional gardeners and our local communities in presenting the beauty of Vermont's southern mountain towns. It is also a major fundraiser for our scholarship program.

But COVID-19 was not going to stop GMG members from contributing to the beauty of mountain landscapes. In addition to working on their own gardens and landscapes, GMG members took charge of beautifying the Town of Londonderry. The planters were filled with colorful, thriving flowers to brighten the community and provide a great lift to residents and visitors during this most challenging time.

COVID-19 guidelines restricted the annual gathering of volunteers to plant the barrels. With their can-do-it spirit, Barbara Wells and Pam Abraham took on the task and created vibrant, eye-catching arrangements. Helen Hamman worked with Wantastiquit Rotary members to refurbish bridge boxes and collaborate with Glebe Mountain Gardens to provide beautiful cascades of flowers along Londonderry's bridges.

Other GMG members organized the volunteer watering crew with the help of an online sign-up program created by Martha Dale. These efforts will continue through October to keep the show-stopping flowers blossoming and thriving.

GMG also took charge of creating and providing flowers arrangements for the Dine-Around at the Londonderry Art & Historical Society (LAHS). The Dine-Around is annual fundraiser that helps maintain the LAHS buildings where the GMG hosts events like the biennial Art in Bloom.

All of these activities were done with our community spirit that was not be diminished by COVID-19. In addition, we're able to continue support for our scholarship student and his studies the University of Vermont. Over the coming year, we hope to have many opportunities to grow our scholarship fund



with exciting events and programs.

MOUNTAIN GARDENERS

AUGUST, 2020

There's little to report since our last newsletter. A number of garden tours had been planned for the summer, but they were all cancelled. We have not met during the Covid-19 crisis.

Work continues on our community gardens with each member taking turns watering and weeding our gardens. They, as well as most of our personal gardens, are flourishing in spite of the extended dry spell.

The club won numerous FGVT awards this spring. These included:

Awards:

Year Book

Junior Gardeners

Environmental Education of the Public through Club Programs

Best On-going Project that has Merit

Individual other than Garden Club (Chamber of Commerce, Village Grocery)

Honorable Mention:

Civic Beautification

Conservation

Groups other than Garden Club in #3

Thanks to Wendy McDonough for putting together all the materials for submission to the awards committee.

We look forward to a time when we can once again meet in person!

Carol Hosford

Club President

Garden Club of Manchester



Don & Sue Hinkel pose with our new AMES tools at the Manchester Green!

Although COVID 19 influenced our decision to cancel many programs on the calendar for 2020, the Civic Beautification committee members forged ahead and provided container gardens and window boxes to bring a sense of “normal” to our communities.



Suzanne Hittle, Nancy Rhodes and Rene Wilson unmask for a quick photo at the Dorset Green.



The Manchester Post Office all prettied up by Jean Morris.

Our big event and major fundraiser in celebration of our 100 Anniversary this year went ahead after a change in dates from July to August. GCM presented a 2 day Garden Tour after receiving the "Okay" from local officials and physicians. Masked and keeping social distances, we welcomed similarly masked visitors who enjoyed 8 private gardens plus Hildene and the Southern Vermont Arts Center.

We were thrilled with the response and the care visitors made to wear masks and distance carefully at each garden.



Middlebury Garden Club

One of our members summed it up perfectly when she said there we all were happily sitting shoulder to shoulder in the filled function room at the Residence at Otter Creek. That was March 10 when we were treated to a wonderful presentation, "Stone in the Garden" by Jamie Masefield, a professional dry-stone mason. We were the last outside group allowed to use their facility, and we had no concern about being at risk. Then Governor Scott declared a state of emergency on March 13 and we realized the gravity of the situation. All of our events through June were cancelled, even our popular Annual Plant Sale and our Annual Meeting and Luncheon. We did manage to complete our planning and yearbook for 2020-2021, and members sent in their dues.

We have since realized that we have to think "out of the box" to provide some opportunities for our members and the community.

Rather than making flower arrangements with the residents at Helen Porter Rehab Center, our members have been leaving flowers in a bucket placed outside the facility for the workers to make the arrangements. We have been maintaining the gardens at the Sheldon Museum with weekly two person crews who weed, prune and water. We are planning to have our fall get-together on the covered deck of the Edgewater Gallery. It will be an afternoon tea, a party we are calling a "SafeTea". If the Ilsley Library remains closed to the public during the holiday season, we may instead decorate the flower boxes on Main Street. We are also hoping to provide online lectures for the membership, and our monthly newsletter has been expanded to provide more information and communication to keep our members involved.



We did manage to have field trips this summer for a limited number of participants to the

Vermont Flower Collective in Panton and to the wonderful gardens of Judith Irven in Goshen. Enclosed here are photos of those events, and of course, with members in masks.



