



SPRING 2026
9th District

Director
 Sandy Walters

Editor
 Shannon Daugherty

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Garden Therapy

**As we end one Garden Club year & begin planning activities and programs for a new one,
 Congratulations and Thank You!**

Congratulations and Thank You!

To our retiring club officers, you provided the leadership and commitment to bring your clubs into another year, better and stronger.

Congratulations and Thank You!

To our newly elected and returning club officers, I hope that you are excited to be at the helm. Thank you for taking on the responsibilities that come along with your titles.

Congratulations and Thank You!

To every club member. As a group, you bring life to each educational, gardening, social program and outing of your club.

It cannot be said too often - Congratulations and Thank You!

Spring weather just can't come soon enough! We are looking forward to luscious gardens that have been well watered by all the snow that blanketed them this winter. We are kicking off a Garden Academy at Lasdon Public Gardens & Veteran's Memorial. It is open to all of our garden club members. The monthly program will walk us through seasonal chores and how they benefit the garden and the plants in them. It will give us a chance to practice those skills working with Lasdon's gardeners. The program kicks off on March 25th.

We are getting ready for our Spring Luncheon, Tuesday, April 28 at the Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY. We decided that the ticket price for the luncheon would not be a Fund Raiser. It covers just the cost of the event. Fund Raising will come from Raffle and 50/50 chances that are purchased that day. And, this year, we are the presentation! Get ready for a round of light-hearted garden-themed trivia to keep everyone laughing and guessing. Of course, there will be prizes! Of course, there will be beautiful floral pieces included in the raffle!

Website training to access the District website is well underway. Jacqui Bergozi is generously doing one-on-one trainings and has sign-up instructions in the Website section of this Grapevine. 5 of 18 clubs can now log in and update their club page. We are learning with you. Updating the District calendar is a top priority.

For the summer, we are exploring gardens to visit and maybe a summer meet-up or picnic.

Looking ahead, the Flower Show Committee is getting things in order for our Flower Show in October.

Enjoy the warmer weather,
 plant beautiful native plants,
 stay healthy and busy,

Sandy Walters
 Director, 9th District
 FGCMYS



SPRING

2026 CALENDAR

SPRING

March 24

12 pm

Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf

Filmmaker Thomas Piper explores the Oudolf's philosophy of beauty and ecological vision through visits to Oudolf's gardens around the world.

Bedford Playhouse

633 Old Post Rd
Bedford, NY
Tickets Bedfordplayhouse.org

March 30

10 am

9th District Board Meeting

Lasdon Park

Route 35
Katonah, NY

April 25

1 – 4 pm

Larchmont Earth Day

Seed and Plant Swap

Constitution Park

Larchmont, NY

April 26

12 – 4 pm

Bedford 2030 Earth Day Festival

Hopp Ground Garden Club

Bedford Village

Memorial Park
Bedford, NY

April 26

12:30 – 5 pm

New Castle Earth Day

Chappaqua Garden Club

Gedney Park

Millwood, NY

April 26

12 – 3 pm

Ardsey Pollinator Day

Free plants, seeds, and native garden consultations

Ardsey Community Center

18 Center St
Ardsey, NY

April 28

11 am

Annual Spring Luncheon

Centennial Golf Club

185 John Simpson Rd
Carmel, NY

May 4

10 am

Judges Council

Lasdon Park

Route 35
Katonah, NY

May 4 - 6

NGC Convention

Hilton St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

May 7 - 9

Chappaqua Plant Sale
Chappaqua Garden Club

Chappaqua Train Station

SPRING

2025 CALENDAR

SPRING

May 9
9 am – 3 pm

Plant & White Elephant Sale
Briarcliff Manor Garden Club

Briarcliff Congregational Church
25 South State Rd
Briarcliff Manor, NY

May 9
9 am – 3 pm

Plant Sale
Garden Club of Peekskill

Peekskill Riverfront Green

May 11
12:30 pm

Larchmont Garden Club
Help transplant annuals
and trip overgrown plants

American Legion Post
Larchmont, NY

May 21
12 pm

**Garden Club of City Island
Annual Fundraiser Luncheon**
\$75 pp, RSVP by May 12
Contact: Judy Judson
917-940-6348 or chaika30@aol.com

City Island Yacht Club
64 Pilot St
Bronx, NY

May 29-30

Peter Rabbit's Garden Party
Briarcliff Manor Garden Club
Small Standard Flower Show

**Briarcliff Manor
Community Center**
1 Library Rd
Briarcliff Manor NY

June 14 -16

FGCNYS Annual Convention
“Sowing the Seeds of Growth”

Desmond Crown Plaza
Albany, NY

June 15
10 am

9th District Board Meeting

Lasdon Park
Route 35
Katonah, NY 10536

June 15

Summer Grapevine Deadline
shannon.dist9grapevine@gmail.com

www.district9fgcnys.com - for 9th District news, events and updates

www.fgcny.com – for what’s happening around NYS

www.gardenclub.org – for national events and The National Gardener magazine

Club Activities: March, April, May

Section 1: Trina Hiemcke, Chair

Brewster/Carmel GC: Spring is a very busy month for our club. We have a luncheon in April and an installation of newly elected officers. We are in the process of ordering annuals and perennials for our plant sale in May. Once plants are ordered and received, the work in our civic locations will begin. We currently have 5 sites in Brewster and four in Carmel. Planning has begun for our upcoming flower show on August 21st and 22nd. We are currently discussing a theme and making decisions regarding titles for our divisions and sections. We are planning a couple of presentations over the summer highlighting floral designs for the show.

Lake Mahopac GC: In December the Lake Mahopac Garden Club enjoyed our holiday luncheon and grab bag at Dante's Restaurant in Mahopac. There was no meeting in January. We were snowed out in both February and March. Our flower show committee continued to work on our show which will be held in May. Town gardens and the Mahopac Library gardens are being planned for in the hopes of receiving some grants.

GC of Peekskill: GC of Peekskill Members decorated wreaths for a number of community buildings located in Buchanon, Cortlandt Manor, Montrose, Verplanck and Peekskill as well as the Blue Star Memorial. Our annual Holiday Tea was held at the Peekskill Yacht Club and donations were collected for the World Gardening Dig Deep Project. There is no general meeting in January but members got together for our January Herbal Potluck Luncheon and Yankee Gift Swap. Election for new officers was held at our February meeting with installation to be held at a luncheon at Taormina in Peekskill on April 7.

Yorktown GC: *April:* The Club will be celebrating their 100th Year Anniversary with an old-fashioned High Tea at Lasdon Park. Members are encouraged to add to the fun by dressing the part--floral dresses, hats, gloves, pearls & pins. *May:* We will walk at Rockwood Hall, Rockefeller Preserve in Pleasantville. Guided by historian David Teich to learn about the collection of ancient trees.

Section 2A: Marj Trainor, Chair

Briarcliff Manor GC: In March, Roxane Wasserman gave an excellent presentation on two distinctive design types - Parallel Rhythms and Mass Appeal. On May 9, Briarcliff will hold its annual Plant & White Elephant Sale at Briarcliff Congregational Church. Just in time for Mothers' Day, the sale will feature hanging baskets, perennials, vegetable, vintage finds, pastries, and more.

Chappaqua GC: Chappaqua had a busy winter. Some of our members were first time exhibitors at the CT State Flower Show, all receiving ribbons. Club members supply weekly flowers arrangements or plants to New Castle Library. The Seniors Garden Therapy Group will have a spring flower arranging workshop at the senior center. They will also start preparations for planting spring raised bed plantings. Juniors continue to meet monthly March will have a windowsill herb garden workshop while April will be container planting. Civic improvement will continue spring clean up and planting throughout town. *March:* Chappaqua general meeting speaker is Karen Bussolini discussing Edible Ornamental Gardens. *April:* New Castle will be Celebrating Earth Day at Gedney Park, Chappaqua. *May:* Spring Plant Sale, Chappaqua Train Station

Club Activities: March, April, May

Section 2B: Mary Bailey, Chair Hopp Ground GC: Hopp Ground enjoyed a joint meeting with the Pound Ridge Garden Club at the Bedford Village Firehouse on March 9. Hopp Ground's Brenda LaManna shared insights from her successful floral design company, Damselfly Florals & Events, offering members a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at an industry most of us only see from the outside. At our April 14 membership meeting, members will take part in a hands-on workshop on petite floral designs led by our own Evelyn Tapani-Rosenthal. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build skills in preparation for our upcoming flower show, "Celebrating Our 50th (+1) Anniversary," scheduled for September 26–27 at the Katonah Village Library. Civic Beautification begins May 12 at five of our sites (John Jay Homestead remains on hold pending renovations). We also look forward to gathering for our Annual Luncheon on June 9 to celebrate another successful year together! Hopp Ground has committed a \$500 donation to support post-construction landscaping at the newly renovated Community Center of Northern Westchester. Once construction is completed, we look forward to providing hands-on help with the landscaping.

Pound Ridge GC: Our joint March meeting with Hopp Ground GC as detailed above was a huge success! *April:* Our April meeting will be a presentation by Taro Ietaka, Assistant Director of Conservation and the Supervisor of the Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. His program is entitled "The Why, What, and How of Planting Trees at Home." *May:* Our May program will be a design presentation by our own member Yuko Naughton. Yuko has a Design Certificate from the NYBG

Section 3: Yvonne Avant, Chair

Little Gardens of Tarrytown: Little Gardens of Tarrytown have been busy. In January, we made pickles and learned how to use leftover vegetables from our refrigerator and gardens. In March we created seed beds in recycled plastic containers to plant for Earth Day in April and for our gardens. The seeds had been collected in November from our native garden at Neperan Park.

Ardsley GC: Spring is making a valiant effort to shake the shackles of winter and release the warmer weather we all are waiting for. I saw snow drops and crocuses blooming. Ardsley Garden Club is participating in the Ardsley Pollinator Day on Sunday, April 26 from noon to 3 pm at the Ardsley Community Center. Carol Sommerfield is holding this pollinator pathway event and will be giving away over 500 free plants, providing free native garden design and plant consultations, and offering free annual pollinator seeds. The AGC will have an information table, have a few plants for sale, and raffle a plant-filled terrarium. All are invited. We are a small but still active club. Information on ways to increase membership would be welcomed.

Club Activities: March, April, May

Section 3: Yvonne Avant, Chair

GC of Dobbs Ferry: GCDF will be springing into action with a variety of new and old events focusing on the community. Our March meeting began with club elections and a lovely arrangement of flowers and Irish influenced treats for lunch. Later this month, we will have our second year of “Get Growing” at Dobbs Ferry Library community room, inviting the community to this introduction of basic gardening including plants, tools, soil and sun and other details needed for successful gardening. In April, our guest speaker will be Nick Storrs, an instructor at NYBG and Home Grown Nursery Founder and Farmer who will share tips on creating successful vegetable gardens while keeping deer and groundhogs at bay. On April 25th we will participate in the Dobbs Ferry Dirt Festival at the Dobbs Waterfront Park, which is organized by Sustainable Dobbs and highlights composting, gardening education with native plants and environmental education to the community. We continue our contribution to the upkeep and beautification of the Mead House property where we have our monthly meetings as we have a scheduled workday late April. In May, we will have our second annual plant sale at the historic Lyndhurst Mansion property. Also in May, Don Dembrowski, Chair of the Hudson Valley Chapter of North American Rock Garden Society will highlight the deer-resistant plant varieties that have been selected for the plantings in Lyndhurst’s unique and historic rockeries. Our luncheon and meeting in June will be the perfect way to end our club year!

Parkway Garden / Parkway Homes GC: Plans are underway for our Open House in April which will be held at the Greenburgh Library and our annual Plant Sale which will be held either the end of May or the beginning of June. We will also get together soon to do our Spring clean-up at the Parkway Homes Circle where the Blue Star memorial is located. We are excited about setting up our first social media account, which will be on Instagram, and we will set up a dedicated email account for the Club as well. Also, we are very proud of Jacqui Bergonzi for her achievement in receiving a 2nd Place award for her floral design entry in the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show! Congratulations, Jacqui!

Section 4: Andrea Boyer, Chair

Boulder Ledge GC

GC of Larchmont: In March, Mark Magel, member of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, spoke about planting for wildlife with natives and annuals. On April 13, Jacqui Bergonzi, past President of the 9th District, will speak on the joy of container gardening. On April 25, GC of Larchmont will participate in Larchmont Earth Day, Seed and Plant Swap at Constitution Park. In May 11, we will transplant annuals and trim overgrown plants at the American Legion Post, Larchmont. June 11 is our Annual Spring Luncheon and Social.

GC of New Rochelle: The Garden Club of New Rochelle has started planning meetings with library staff and HealthyYardsNR for the Planting America funded Pollinator Garden at the New Rochelle Public Library, and we are moving forward with our Pollinator Party to kick off summer on 6/27! Upcoming events include participation in the New Rochelle Earth Day Celebration on 4/22; Plant Swap at the Citywide Tag Sale on 5/2; and a Volunteer Garden Clean Up on 5/16 at the Shakespeare Garden at Davenport Park.

Club Activities: March, April, May

Section 5: Kathy Ennis, Chair

GC of City Island: In March, the club cleaned the winter greenery out of its 23 containers on City Island Avenue and installed pansies and curly willow, bringing the promise of spring to the island. In April, members will start soliciting donations from our residents and businesses by delivering donation requests to everyone on the island. This will provide the funds for our beautification activities. On May 1 we will clean up the post office garden and begin to install additional native plants to supplement the ones we planted last year. Results from the club's research project, in which two of our members sampled honey and pollen from local bee hives, showed that there was very little pesticide use on City Island. We will be reaching out to the wider community to share information about how to control pests without using dangerous chemicals. Our annual fundraiser luncheon this year will be held on Thursday, May 21 at noon at City Island Yacht Club. This is always a festive event with members donating baskets and island businesses donating gift certificates which we then raffle off.

Luther Burbank GC: March brings our club together for our first meeting of the season. We are hosting a submerged flower arranging workshop taught by Morsemere's own, Shannon Daugherty. In April, we will visit The Met Cloisters, Fort Tryon Park, NY. Perhaps the ancient tapestries will inspire some of our floral choices and color combinations. May is the time for using that inspiration for planting flower pots. Members will perfect their "Filler, Thriller, Spiller" technique and ensure proper soil prep and plant selection when designing their own patio pots. Ongoing activities include maintaining our Rumsey Road 9/11 Memorial, our Shakespeare Garden and McLean Ave flower boxes. Happy Spring to ALL!

Morsemere GC: The Morsemere Garden Club eagerly anticipated the arrival of Spring on March 20th along with garden awakenings and planting projects, having made it through a cold and snowy winter. As members reflected on the challenges of the past season, there was a renewed sense of hope and excitement for the opportunities that warmer weather brings. Still a bit "weather shy," rather than a March outing, club members decided to hold their March meeting indoors, accompanied by a BYO lunch during which YouTube videos of the recent Philadelphia Flower Show will be presented. An application for the NGC and Keep America Beautiful PLANT AMERICA: Blue and Gold Star Beautification Program grant was submitted in late February. This program seeks to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA. We are delighted our application was funded to replace the planters at the Blue Star Memorial at the Yonkers Waterfront, as well as providing funds for red, white and blue flowers for the months of April through July. Additional funds were awarded for site spruce-up and maintenance. Total awarded was \$953 which will be spent according to the itemized budget submitted, expenses to be tracked and reported. Club members expressed their gratitude for the support and look forward to enhancing the memorial site for the community to enjoy. The Club's April meeting will be held at a member's home and will include a floral design workshop, always a favorite activity. The PLANT AMERICA program begins in April and our Blue Star Memorial will begin to sport its red, white and blue flowers, chosen for color and climate for each of the four months. A May outing to the Cloisters in upper Manhattan is planned. After visiting the sumptuous gardens, the group will have lunch at the Café on campus.

THE 9th IN VIEW

Book of Tribute



In Memory of Phyllis Hoenig
Lake Mahopac Garden Club

Phyllis joined the garden club in 2009. From that moment, she was devoted to the work and people of the club.

In 2012, she was the telephone tree person, eventually becoming the corresponding secretary, a position that she held until her illness. That was not all – she wrote the Grapevine piece for many years, she was vice-president and producer of the yearbook for 6 years, and she had her own community gardens to care for, Potter Road.

As one member said, “I did not know she did so much.” That was Phyllis. Always in the background, very efficiently getting things done. Her class, friendship, and care of the club will be missed.

Happy Birthday, Garden Club of Yorktown!

The Garden Club of Yorktown celebrates its
100th Birthday this year!

They join the Garden Club of New Rochelle (1911), Garden Club of Larchmont (1913), Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry (1923), Luther Burbank Garden Club (1923), and Little Gardens of Tarrytown (1924) in that illustrious circle.

To put this achievement in perspective – National Garden Clubs wasn't founded until 1929!



9th District Scholarship

Chair: Trina Hiemcke, trinahem@aol.com

NYS residents who have completed one year of college, have volunteered for community-based environmental programs, and are pursuing a course of study related to biology, botany, the environment, etc, are eligible for the District Scholarship.

Do you know a student who might qualify?

The application and additional details can be found on the district website:

<http://www.district9fgenys.com/Youth.html>

Congratulations to Jacqui Bergonzi who took second place at the Philadelphia Flower Show!

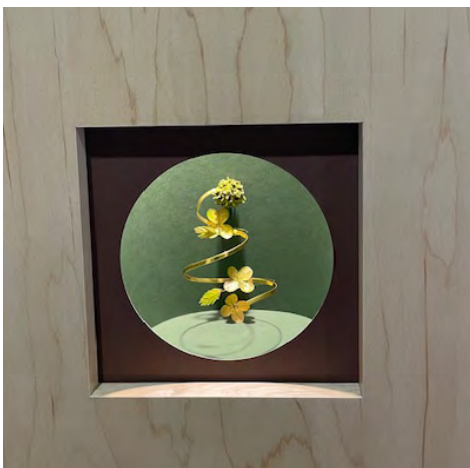
“This year I participated in the Philadelphia Flower Show as an exhibitor. Our FGCNYS, Inc, President, Beth Walker, encouraged me to try. Beth has participated as an exhibitor for more than 20 yrs!

The theme for the 2026 PHS Flower Show was “Rooted.” I competed in a miniature class “Wonders of Nature.” This was one of 3 different miniature classes. The size is 5”x5”x5” maximum. I exhibited in the class that was on display from Feb 27- March 2. Each of the 3 classes is replaced every 3 days. This happens in many of the single design classes.

My first attempt at exhibiting in the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show garnered a 2nd Place Red Ribbon. I was thrilled!!”



Jacqui Bergonzi with her award-winning design



Jacqui's miniature design in “Wonders of Nature”



FGCNYS, Inc, President Beth Walker's design from Class: Galleria (staged in a hanging frame)

Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry

The Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry presents
GET GROWING!
Sunday March 22, 2026
1 to 3pm in the Dobbs Ferry Library Community Room



Our Special Guest
Ardsley Pollinator Pathway
Chair, Carol Sommerfield
will share her expertise.

Introduction to the basics of gardening
including plants, tools, soil, sun, and
other details to help you succeed.
Experienced gardeners on hand
to answer your questions.

Registration is free.
Please register at:



Garden Club of City Island



Photo by Francine Alheid

Little Gardens of Tarrytown

Pickling Workshop



Seed Planting Workshop



Briarcliff Manor Garden Club

Roxane Wasserman's presentation on Parallel Rhythms and Mass Appeal





Website Update

Have you visited the new & improved 9th District Website?

www.district9fgcnys.com

Visit the website at the address above. Every club has a page and a presence on our site. District news and current events are front page!

Are you looking for a shortlist of native plants? Check out the Native Plant Page.

When is our next meeting? See the Calendar page.

Help your club to shine! The Club pages are searchable to anyone looking for a club in your community. Your club's social media links are already set up. Have you checked to make sure they're accurate? New members may be trying to find you!

All 18 of our terrific clubs can have access to update and edit their individual pages. So far, we have 5 out of our 18 clubs that have either scheduled training or completed training.

How do you get access? Fill out the form below with the name of a club member who has agreed to be your webpage content manager. Once that information is received the content manager will get a personal, private username and temporary password. The content manager will sign up for a tutorial to learn the features and how to use them.

**Return the completed form to Jacqui Bergonzi, 9th District webmaster,
jbergonzi@optonline.netG**



9th District FGCNYS, Inc.
District9fgcnys.com
Garden Club Website Access

The 9th District website has individual garden club webpage access capability. Each club can feature activities on their page. This is in addition to any social media that your club already has. Each club's page can link to whatever social media platforms that your club uses. Having a page on the District website also helps to make your club more accessible to members of your community that may be searching for a garden club. If your club does not currently have a social media presence, this page can help potential members find you. This page is also a way to let clubs in our District know what events in are going on throughout the 18 active clubs in Westchester, Putnam and on City Island.

Please review your garden club's page on the website. Assign a garden club member webpage manager. Training will be provided. Member clubs will have their own username and password. Your page can be updated as often as you like. Pictures may be added to your page. Your page is part of the 9th District website. Capacity is limited.

***Please fill out the form below and return to Jacqui Bergonzi, 9th District webmaster
(jbergonzi@optonline.net)***

Garden Club: _____

GC President: _____

Webpage Contact Name & Email: _____

Are your Social Media Links accurate?: _____

Added Links: _____

Save the Date



Luncheon in Bloom

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Centennial Golf Club

185 John Simpson Rd.

Carmel, NY 10512

Tickets \$70 per person

(reservation information to follow)





**PLANT &
WHITE ELEPHANT
SALE!**

**BRIARCLIFF MANOR
GARDEN CLUB**

Support the Briarcliff Manor Garden Club

Just in time for Mother's Day!

*Hanging Baskets
Perennials + Gardeners' Own
Vegetable Plants
Vintage White Elephant Finds
Pastries and more!*

Saturday, May 9

9 AM - 3 PM

Rain or Shine

Location:

**25 South State Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY**

**The Briarcliff Manor Garden Club
Proudly Presents
Peter Rabbit's Garden Party**

A NGC Small Standard Flower Show



Briarcliff Manor Community Center
1 Library Road Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
(NE corner of Pleasantville & South State Rd.)

Friday, May 29, 2026 (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm)

Reception 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 30,, 2026 (10:00 am to 2:00 pm)

Open to the Public

Admission Free

Spotlight on ...

GARDEN THERAPY

What Is Garden Therapy?

As part of the National Garden Clubs' legacy of service, Garden Therapy engages participants in creative, nature-based activities—such as flower arranging, container gardening, and seasonal crafts—designed to promote joy, healing, and connection.

<https://district9fgcnys.com/garden-therapy/>

9th District Garden Therapy Program

Garden Therapy has long been one of the most meaningful and beloved initiatives of the 9th District Garden Club. Rooted in the idea that nature nurtures, this program uses garden-centered activities to support recovery, wellness, and emotional enrichment for individuals of all ages and abilities.

Chair: Rachelle Filipek

I am so happy that Shannon chose to highlight Garden Therapy this month. So many of our 9th District clubs participate in wonderful programs that benefit their communities and themselves! We all know first-hand how plants and plant-related activities make us all happy!!!

As Garden Therapy Chair, I am also pleased to report that the 9th District is partnering with Lasdon Public Gardens and the Montrose VA Center to develop a therapeutic garden program at Lasdon to promote health and wellness for Westchester County veterans. A grant proposal has been recently submitted. The proposed program would develop a program similar to the NYBG THRIVE Program and G.R.O.W. Garden which primarily support NYC veterans. This therapeutic garden will also benefit many other populations.

Garden Therapy, now more commonly called Therapeutic Horticulture, is widely gaining popularity and is incorporated in many public gardens, senior centers, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. The biophilia hypothesis, first posited by Edward O. Wilson in 1984, is the belief that we are genetically predisposed to be attracted to nature and that that being in nature leads to improved cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Scientific studies support the biophilia hypothesis that humans are healthier when they're connected to nature. Being exposed to nature helps to lower levels of cortisol, the hormone typically used to assess stress levels, improve concentration, and heighten creativity. Even small activities in nature, like walking in a park and looking at nature through a window can improve one's health and happiness level. Therapeutic Horticulture empowers individuals and groups whose lives have been affected by old age, illnesses, injuries, disabilities, and life circumstances.

Resources to deepen knowledge of Therapeutic Horticulture and to access TH activities include

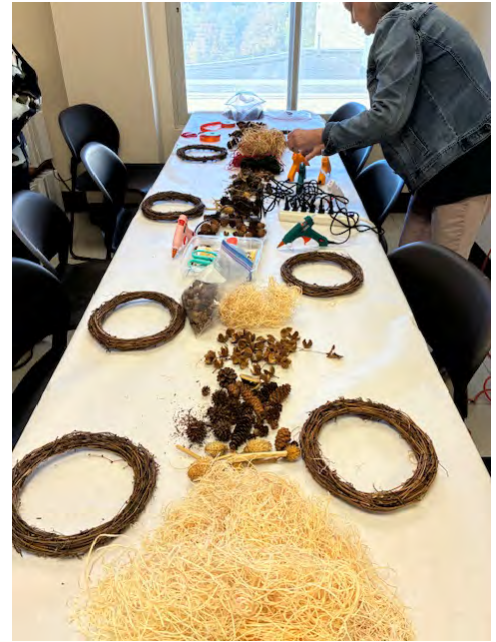
- NYBG Therapeutic Horticulture Classes and Certificate Program
nybg.org/education/adult-education/therapeutic-horticulture-classes/
- Mid Atlantic Horticulture Therapy Network mahtn.org
- Horticultural Therapy Methods: Connecting People and Plants in Health Care, Human Services, and Therapeutic Programs, 2nd Edition (2017) edited by Rebecca L. Haller and Christine L. Capra.

Happy spring and happy gardening!
Rachelle

Brewster-Carmel Garden Club Garden Therapy Program:

Volunteers from our club spend about an hour each month with clients in the Partial Hospitalization Program at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. The clients are adults with mental health conditions, and our visits have promoted creativity and healing as noted by both the clients and staff. Our program volunteers also benefit from these visits. It brings us great joy when we hear clients say they are 'creatively challenged' and go on to create true works of art! We typically have between six and twelve participants for each visit. Here are some photos of recent projects. For more information, please contact Barbara Nicoletti or Megan Castellano, co-chairs of the Garden Therapy Program.

Barbara Nicoletti: barbjnicoletti@gmail.com
Megan Castellano: megancastellano825@gmail.com



Wreaths decorated with natural materials



Journals with dried flower covers

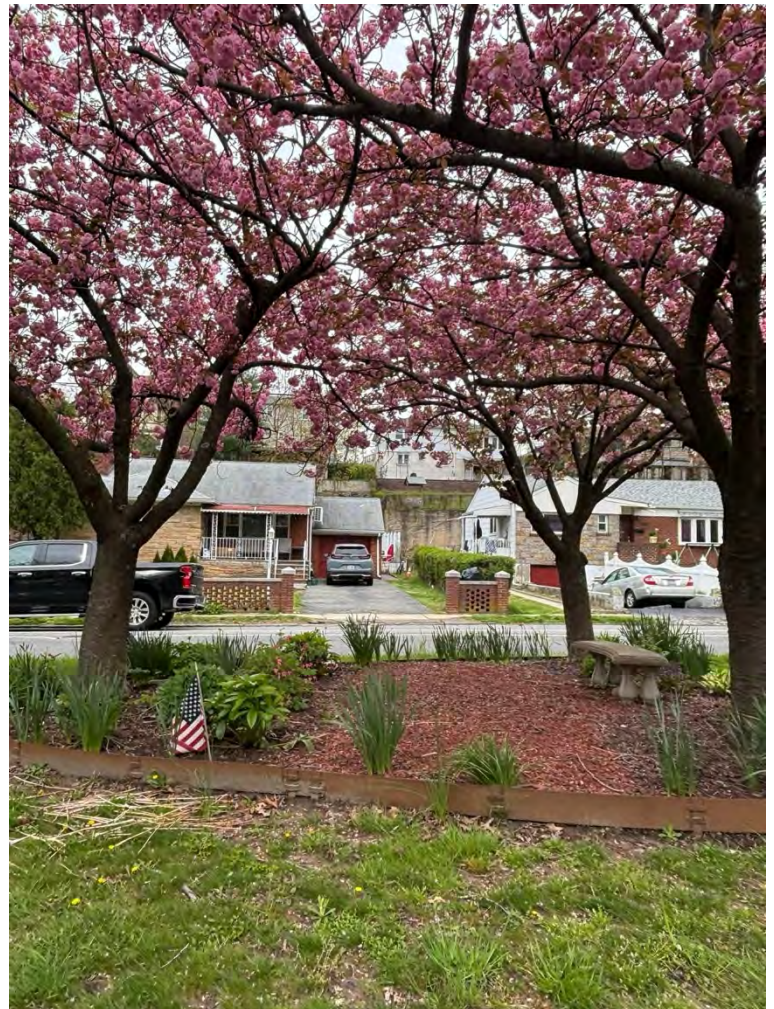


Luther Burbank Garden Club Garden Therapy Program:

The Luther Burbank GC is a 103-year-old club. We have several ongoing "Garden Therapy" projects, some dating back to our inception in 1923!

Our newest work is the 9/11 Memorial Bench garden. The bench sits beneath the cherry trees planted by the club starting in the 1920's. Our club meets every September under the trees and remembers those lost on September 11, 2001. This is the first meeting after our summer break.

During the year, we clean, weed and mulch. On occasion we are assisted by high school/ college students or the Girl Scouts. A wreath is displayed at Christmas, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day.





Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry Garden Therapy Program:

The Garden Club of Dobbs Ferry does Garden Therapy Workshops at the Embassy Community Center in Dobbs Ferry. These workshops are for the benefit of the Dobbs Ferry senior citizens. We demonstrate and assist in making floral arrangements for the seniors to take home. We provide all of the materials, and club members can also bring plant materials from their gardens to add to the arrangements.

Currently we have two workshops a year, one in the Fall and one on or near Valentine's Day, with about 8 garden club members participating at each workshop. This program began in 2010, and we've been doing the workshops ever since, with a break of a couple of years during the pandemic. Our members love working with the senior citizens and brightening their day. It's a fun time for everyone!

Currently the hardest part is coming up with sustainable containers to use for the arrangements. For our last workshop in February, the workshop Chair asked her brother, who is a ceramicist, to make the pots. He signed each pot, so they were very special and each one was unique!

