

GRAPES VINE

**SUMMER
2026
9th District**

Director
Sandy Walters

Editor
Shannon Daugherty

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Director's Report - June 2026



Back Office, but really important - Renew our Lease with Westchester County
Our lease formally expired at the end of 2025. We reviewed and, with their blessing, submitted it to the County in January. Last week, the county sent it back to us for signature. We are reviewing and will get it back to them for execution by the end of June. It provides a home for the District for the next 5 years. That gives us a meaningful connection to Westchester County and a place for the District to hold meetings, workshops and Flower Shows. Our obligations include participation in County events that relate to gardening and the development of additional activities that are mutually beneficial.

Our overarching District goals are to "Inform and Recognize"

Inform

- o Moving forward to use the website as our active source of Club and District activities.
- o Yearbook & other award opportunities - Better Communication – timeline and guidelines
- o Join the fun! We have established District Gardening Academies that meet once a month – learn from a Pro about a seasonal task in the garden. Our instructors are the Head Gardeners at each property
 - o For North County gardeners – at Lasdon
 - o For the South County gardeners - at Lyndhurst
- o We have identified a window to schedule District non-business activities - 4th week of the month, because there are no regularly scheduled garden club meetings in that week.
- o We are planning 3 local garden trips this year.
- o We are looking for additional opportunities to attend or Zoom into the excellent gardening programs available to broaden our garden interests.

Recognize

- o Installations – I have had the opportunity to install new club officers at 3 of our 18 clubs this year. I hope to continue to be asked to do this as a way to thank and recognize both the club and its new officers.
- o Pin Program – We are picking-up the tradition of giving FGCNYS Past Presidents pins to past presidents who are active in their clubs. It is amazing how many of these ladies are active! In the 3 clubs that were part of the program this year, there were 8 to 10 active Past Presidents in each club! Clubs will have the opportunity to be part of the program, or not. The request form will be online this month.
- o We gave Past Director pins to Jacqui Bergonzi & Rosemary Eshghi, both continue to be active. Jacqui is Recording Secretary and Rosemary is Membership Chair for FGCNYS.
- o The District Presidents' Luncheon in September recognizes the contributions of our Club Presidents and, this year to have a program that gives them a chance to do some bragging about their club.

In closing, let's ALL make an effort to attend Open Club Programs, Meetings & Flower Shows. The best way to appreciate how special we are is to meet and mingle with the wonderful gardeners in our District.

Sandy Walters
Director, 9th District
FGCNYS



Summer 🌸 2026 CALENDAR 🌸 Summer

NGC offers Environmental, Gardening, and Flower Show School Classes all over the country!
Check out the calendar here: <https://calendar.gardenclub.org/events/list/offerings>

June 20
11 am - 1 pm

GC of New Rochelle
[Garden Clean Up and Planting](#)

Huguenot Children's Library
794 North Ave
New Rochelle, NY 10801

June 22
10 am

9th District Board Meeting

Lasdon
Route 35
Katonah, NY 10536

June 24
10 am

Garden Academy
See flier below for details

Lasdon
Route 35
Katonah, NY 10536

June 27
11 am - 1 pm

GC of New Rochelle
[Pollinator Party](#)
Volunteers needed:
email gcnr10804@gmail.com

NR Public Library
Children's Pavilion
1 Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 10801

June 28
10 am

**The Rose through Time, Culture
and Trials for Sustainability**
See flier below for details

Lasdon
Route 35
Katonah, NY 10536

July 11
9:30 – 11:30 am

GC of New Rochelle
[Gardening in the Shakespeare Garden](#)

Davenport Park
New Rochelle, NY

July 20
10 am

9th District General Meeting

TBD
Hosting: Section 2A

July 29
10 am

Garden Academy
See flier below for details

Lasdon
Route 35
Katonah, NY 10536

Summer 2026 CALENDAR Summer

August 8 9:30 – 11:30 am	GC of New Rochelle Gardening in the Shakespeare Garden	Davenport Park New Rochelle, NY
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August 21-22	Brewster-Carmel GC "America the Beautiful" Flower Show
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September 12 9:30 – 11:30 am	GC of New Rochelle Gardening in the Shakespeare Garden	Davenport Park New Rochelle, NY
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September 15	Deadline – Fall Grapevine Shannon Daugherty shannon.dist9grapevine@gmail.com
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September 16 10 am	Presidents' Luncheon	TBD
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September 18-19	Pound Ridge GC "Silk Road" Flower Show	Lasdon Route 35 Katonah, NY 10536
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September 26-27	Hopp Ground GC "Celebrating our 50 th (+1) Anniversary" NGC Small Standard Flower Show	Katonah Village Library 26 Bedford Rd Katonah, NY 10536
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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: June, July, August

Section 1: Trina Hiemcke, Chair

Brewster-Carmel GC: The club is busy preparing for our upcoming flower show “America the Beautiful” on August 21st and 22nd. Roxanne Wasserman did a presentation on a transparency design at our June meeting. Mary Bomba and Pat Giovanini both accredited judges will be reviewing horticulture entries for the flower show and details for submissions. We do not usually meet in August but because of the impending flower show we will meet to review final procedures. Our September meeting will include a slide show and lecture on horticulture and the environment provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Lake Mahopac GC: Our club has had a busy Spring. We received a grant from National Garden Clubs which was used to revive our Blue Star Memorial Garden. Red, white and blue flowers were planted. Many meetings were spent on planning for our Flower Show Spring’s Palette which was held at the end of May.

GC of Peekskill: Despite the rainy weather, we had a successful plant sale at the Peekskill Riverfront Green on May 9. At our June 2 meeting, Roxanne Wasserman created cascading and mass floral designs and provided tips on how to prepare for and enter a flower show. For National Garden Week, members will deliver fresh floral arrangements to community organizations, i.e., Yorktown Nursing Home, Hendrick Hudson Free Library, Montrose V.A. Nursing Home, Buchanan Municipal Offices, Cortlandt Town Hall, Peekskill Police Department and Peekskill City Hall. Our July meeting will be an Herbal Potluck supper at the Peekskill Yacht Club. We do not hold an August meeting.

GC of Yorktown: This summer, we will take a private tour at Central Park’s recently renovated Conservatory Garden featuring French, English and Italianate styles. Our newest native garden, Veterans Memorial, will be showcased as part of the region’s Pollinator Pathway Tours as a model for communities to demonstrate how local partnerships & public spaces can be historically meaningful and ecologically alive. We have formed a committee to explore Community Consulting --expert members giving planting & care advice to residents & local businesses. Turns out this is an established Garden Club fundraising practice!

Section 2A: Marj Trainor, Chair

Briarcliff Manor GC: We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible success of this weekend’s BMGC Flower Show: "Peter Rabbit's Garden Party" May 29-30 2026. We made history with our highest attendance ever, and it was wonderful to see so many visitors-especially the children, enjoying the beauty and creativity on display. Your support and participation truly made this event unforgettable. In June, we enjoyed our End of Year Ice Cream Social at the Law Park Pavilion. Betsy Hoagland was inducted as Corresponding Secretary replacing Elaine Casey. BMGC will recess July & August.

Chappaqua GC:

Club Activities: June, July, August

Section 2B: Mary Bailly, Chair

Hopp Ground GC: Our Civic Beautification Kickoff was May 12 followed by a picnic lunch at Rasor Field in Katonah. Members will continue to tend to our five public gardens in the Katonah/Bedford area throughout the summer. We also organized a special field trip to White Flower Farm in Connecticut on June 4 for a tour of their beautiful gardens, including peonies that were in full bloom. In addition to Hopp Ground members, several members of Chappaqua Garden Club also joined the trip. On June 9, Hopp Ground celebrated another successful year with our Annual Luncheon at Ristorante Lucia in Bedford. In addition to delicious food and great company, the agenda included an inspirational presentation by Jay Archer from Green Jay Landscaping on native plants. We also recognized a number of members who were celebrating service milestones, including Sharon Griffith who has been a member for 50 years! We are planning a Small Standard Flower Show titled "Celebrating Our 50th (+1) Anniversary" from September 26-27 at the Katonah Village Library. Our Show Chair, Evelyn Tapani-Rosenthal and the various Committee Leaders will continue developing an impressive schedule that honors our club's legacy and provides many ways for members to get involved

Pound Ridge GC: Our June meeting was a container design workshop utilizing succulents led by our member Connie Marchetti in preparation for our upcoming September Flower Show. In July, our club will be taking a road trip to Olivers Nursery in Fairfield Ct. Lori Chips, alpine expert and author of "Hypertufa Containers: Creating and Planting an Alpine Trough Garden" will be doing a plant up demo of a custom trough. In August, our club will hold a "zoom only" meeting which will be a design program featuring designs from our upcoming flower show. Sept 18th and 19th our club will hold a Flower Show entitled "Silk Road" at Lasdon Public Gardens on Route 35 in Katonah, which will be open to the public. Hours and details to follow, but please save the date.

Section 3: Yvonne Avant, Chair

Ardasley GC:

GC of Dobbs Ferry: Summer started as our season ended with our June year-end meeting and lunch at the Mead House. Recapping a very busy and exciting year behind us we look forward to what blooms ahead. Plans continue to keep moving forward with the maintenance of the gardens of the Mead House and Blue Star memorial marker as well as a new endeavor that we are very proud of with the Lyndhurst restoration project. The club unveiled a beautiful small scale circular Victorian Garden at Lyndhurst which is affectionately called "The Dot!" This garden was a creation spearheaded by several members designing and sourcing every plant. All members are very proud of this project and will continue to assess and care for the garden throughout the summer and ongoing. Please come visit our Victorian Garden over the summer.

Little Gardens of Tarrytown: We are going to have a garden party for Little Gardens club members with spouses and partners on June 28th on a member's deck with a colorful native garden and a panoramic view of the Hudson River. Our board meeting is in July when we will plan for trips and events. We are slowing down for the Summer.

Parkway Gardens/Parkway Homes GC: The Club's annual plant sale fundraiser was a success. Club members will spend the summer months planning for a non-competitive flower show exhibition for September.

Club Activities: June, July, August

Section 4: Andrea Boyer, Chair

Boulder Ledge GC: We had a fantastic visit to Grace Farms in New Canaan, CT. The design simplicity creates a very peaceful place. We sipped tea, enjoyed a private tour, and had a wonderful lunch. This is a great place to visit. Club members continue their efforts to keep Bicentennial Park in Bronxville looking beautiful. Weeding, trimming, and planting continue to be our focus.

GC of Larchmont: In March, Mark Magel, member of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, spoke about planting for wildlife with natives and annuals. In April, Jacqui Bergonzi, past President of the 9th District, gave a presentation on the joy of container gardening. In April, we participated in Larchmont Earth Day, Seed and Plant Swap, and in May the club helped transplant annuals and trim overgrown plants at the American Legion Post. We enjoyed our Annual Spring Luncheon and Social in June.

GC of New Rochelle: GCNR has been busy getting out at Community Events this spring! Earth Day Festival, Plant Swap at TagNR, Goat Fest at Ward Acres Park, Green Fair with City School District of New Rochelle, and planting a Pollinator Garden at Jefferson Elementary School with their Green Team. Upcoming events: 6/20 Garden Clean Up and Planting at Huguenots Children's Library, 6/17 Pollinator Party and Children's Pavilion at NR Library – volunteers are needed to 1. Donate empty boxes 2. Help pre-cut 30 cardboard butterfly wings that the kids will color 3. Assist with activities during the event. Email gcnr10804@gmail.com if you are able to help. 7/11, 8/8, and 9/12 Gardening in the Shakespear Garden. See calendar above for event details.

Section 5: Kathy Ennis, Chair

GC of City Island: Our fund-raiser luncheon was a success with 86 attendees who enjoyed a raffle of gift baskets provided by members and gift cards from local businesses. At our June membership meeting, Cindy Olsen, Certified Forest Therapist, gave a delightful presentation on the benefits of plants. With the warmer weather in June, Garden Club members replaced the pansies in our containers on City Island Avenue with red-white and blue drought-tolerant plants: Cordyline florida, Supertunia Mini Vista (purple) and Lantana White Lightning. Our garden at the local post office has given us a succession of blooms: azaleas, irises, blue-eyed grass, and coral honeysuckle. The new inkberry hollies are doing well. Installation of officers, President and Vice President, took place at our July meeting, which was followed by a sandwich and salad luncheon provided by the Yacht Club steward. At our August meeting, local bird expert, Jack Rothman gave a slide presentation of local birds he photographed in our area.

Luther Burbank GC: The Luther Burbank Garden Club gathered to clean up and plant our public gardens. We participated in the Lyndhurst Plant Sale with fellow clubs and enjoyed the event immensely. We held our planning meeting for 2026-2027 season. We're excited for the new year. We will take the summer off and return in September for our 9/11 Memorial meeting. Please note our NEW email is: lbgc1923@gmail.com. Corinna Kerber can be reached at kerbercorinna@gmail.com. Have wonderful summer.

Morsemere GC: The Morsemere Garden Club was awarded funding through the NGC Keep America Beautiful PLANT AMERICA Blue and Gold Star Beautification Program to enhance the plantings at our Blue Star Memorial at the Yonkers Waterfront. The theme of this summer's monthly plantings will be red, white, and blue to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States. A May Club trip to the gardens at the Cloisters was held in the extreme heat. Part of the focus of our tour was on many of the historic medicinal plantings at the site and their uses. Relief from the heat was offered by lunch out in an air-conditioned venue, which was much appreciated. The club continues caring for the Hudson River Museum Garden throughout the summer, including planting annuals donated by the Untermyer Conservancy. In June, MGC awarded scholarships to two graduating seniors from Yonkers high schools who plan to pursue an education related to environmental and horticultural studies. At the June meeting and luncheon, President Chris Himics recognized past presidents with a lovely NGC Former Club President Pin. Throughout their time with the club, these members served multiple terms – Elizabeth Fitzgerald (10 years), Shannon Daugherty (7 years), and Susan Blanchard (5 years).

THE 9th IN VIEW

Book of Tribute



Terry Marchica is being remembered by the 9th District, the 9th District Judges Council, and the Briarcliff Manor Garden Club with Book of Tribute and Book of Recognition entries

Terry Marchica passed away on February 16, 2026. She was a devoted and active member of the Briarcliff Garden Club and the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, 9th District Judges' Council. In all her endeavors, Terry brought thoughtful leadership and a deep love of beauty.

She generously shared her time, skills, and dedication to beautifying her community and was proud to serve as an Accredited Life Flower Show Judge.

Terry will be fondly remembered for her warmth, generosity, and cheerful spirit. She is deeply missed.

Evelyn Tapani-Rosenthal, 9th District Judges' Council Chair

In Memory of Terry Marchica

I have been thinking a great deal about the passing of Terry Marchica, and it saddens me deeply to know that this remarkable woman is no longer with us.

Over the past twelve years, Terry became so much more than a colleague. She was first my teacher, then my mentor, and ultimately a dear and trusted friend. I still smile when I think back to my frustration in 2022, when Terry bested me in a flower show competition with a bridal bouquet we had both entered. In truth, I should not have been surprised—after all, Terry was a Master Judge, and I was only just beginning my journey.

In recent years, as Terry grew older and could no longer attend gardening events, I saw less of her. And as I saw less of her, I found myself thinking of her more, and worrying a little too.

I remember calling her on her birthday two years ago. A young man answered the phone, and for a moment I was concerned—it wasn't Vincent. I said, "Hi, this is John. I'm calling to wish Terry a happy birthday. Is she alright?"

He replied warmly, "Oh, yes she's fine—we're having a party for her. There are about twelve of us here—her husband, her children, and lots of grandchildren like me."

I remember smiling to myself, thinking how fortunate Terry was to be surrounded by such a loving family. I had met many of them over the years, sitting in her garden or at her kitchen table with Vincent, listening to stories about her children. It was clear they all lived nearby and lovingly watched over both of them.

I am also reminded of the many kindnesses extended to Terry by members of the Ninth District and the Judges Council. Knowing that I saw her regularly, so many would ask about her with genuine care and affection. If Terry missed a meeting of the Briarcliff Manor Garden Club I would be sent to her home with flowers or a care package and warm wishes.

Terry's contributions to our community were profound. She served as Director of the Ninth District from 2005 to 2007 and was instrumental in establishing Lasdon as its permanent home. She co-chaired the Judges Council and served as President of the Briarcliff Manor Garden Club from 1998 to 2004, and again from 2009 to 2014.

But beyond all of her accomplishments, it was Terry's spirit that left the greatest impression. She was warm, kind, generous, and always willing to give her time and share her knowledge.

I will miss her greatly—and I will always be grateful to have known her.

Respectfully submitted,

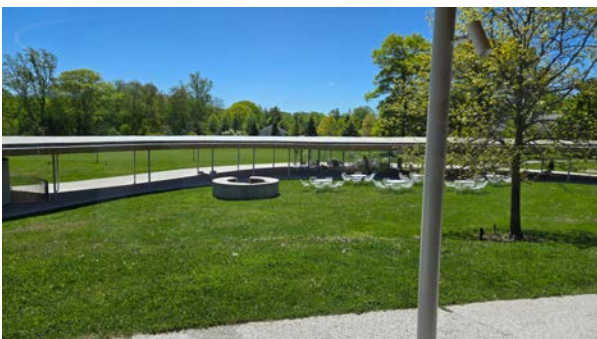
John Panagacos

GC of New Rochelle



GCNR planting a Pollinator Garden at Jefferson Elementary School with their Green Team.

Boulder Ledge GC



Grace Farms, New Cannan, CT

Luther Burbank GC



Morsemere GC



Red, White, and Blue plantings at the MGC Blue Star Memorial

Dobbs Ferry GC



Lasdon

The Rose through Time, Culture and Trials for Sustainability

June 28 at 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\$30 – \$40



Join author Kristine Paulus for a presentation to discover the extraordinary ways the rose has been depicted through time and across cultures, both within and beyond the garden. Also visit the American Rose Trials for Sustainability trial beds with Lasdon Public Gardens Head Gardener, Madeline Byrne, where roses are evaluated for disease and pest resistance, flowering, foliage, plant form and growth habit in a truly "no spray" environment. Wear shoes for walking.

Fees are:
\$30 Garden Conservancy Members.
\$40 Non members.
Payment made to Garden Conservancy

Lasdon Public Gardens \$10 Discount Code for Registration: **ROSE26**

<https://www.lasdonpublicgardens.org/event/the-rose-through-time-culture-and-trials-for-sustainability/>

To Register for Garden Academy:

<https://www.volunteernewyork.org/opportunity/a0NNr00005xhvh/garden-academy-garden-club-members-only>



Grapevine

Editor: Shannon Daugherty, shannon.dist9grapevine@gmail.com

The Grapevine is looking for a new Editor in 2027!

If you'd like to share all the great club activities
and events with the District,
this is your chance –
to volunteer, email me at shannon.dist9grapevine@gmail.com
or Sandy at sandywalters@verizon.net

The 9th District includes 18 Garden Clubs and more than
600 members in three counties.

Our Quarterly Newsletter - **The Grapevine** –
helps to keep us connected!

*How can your club submit to the Fall Grapevine?
Share your activities, events, fliers, and pics with your
Section Chair by September 15*

Thank you to the Section Chairs for connecting with each club and collecting
club activities and calendar items for each edition
and to the Club Presidents who share pics and fliers to fill these pages!

Spotlight on ...

FLOWER SHOWS

Briarcliff Manor Garden Club



The Flower Show
Federated Judges







"It was a wonderful, but tiring Garden Party," said Peter Rabbit as he rested in his wheelbarrow!

Lake Mahopac GC



