

New England Garden Club 10.4.26

Report of the FGCV President

Submitted by: Martha Dale

I am pleased to submit this report to the New England Garden Clubs, with information on activities by The Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont.

Our Vermont garden clubs have been occupied nearly all year with the upcoming 10th New England Garden Clubs, Inc. regional meeting, which we are hosting at Killington. We are thrilled at the response and registrations, now topping 100 days before the event. Mother Nature will do her best to welcome our New England states' visitors, promising bracing temps, glorious scenery and the scurry of critters getting set for winter. The promise of time together to gain new knowledge, see old friends, make new friends, discuss topics of concern to gardeners and chart paths for continuing endeavors supporting our communities seems to resonate among all of us. We are grateful that Vermont can provide this opportunity this year.

The other highlight of the year was the FGCV's 88th annual meeting, held June 9th at the St. Albans Museum and hosted by the garden clubs of our Northern District. We had great participation from throughout the state and everyone enjoyed the meeting content and tour of Taylor Park afterwards.

Our theme for the FGCV this year is "gardening fosters connections", recognizing that our work involves: 1.) connecting members and clubs – our internal community, 2.) connecting with the community – via public outreach and education and 3.) connecting with nature and the environment – through conservation and ecology. Our activities to further these endeavors have included Zoom roundtable conversations for club officers on topics related to strengthening their individual organizations; assisting with a regional photography affinity group that focuses on outdoor scenes; hosting speakers for the upcoming NEGC meeting that will speak to issues of climate change and ways to redress its impact on our environment.

Our finances continue to reflect Yankee conservative fiscal management and investments, allowing our state federation to support our 15 clubs through scholarships, awards and community projects. Their good works are the truest representation of the strength of their volunteer spirit.