

WGC Achievements 2018-2020

Welcome everyone. It is my pleasure to highlight our club's achievements over the last two years. You will find the complete list in the program and on our web site. I want to thank the board and all our members for their gratifying response to fulfill our mission and to support new and creative opportunities.

Public Gardens

The teaching gardens our club initiates and maintains are gifts to our communities and gain public recognition of the club's mission and purpose: especially in horticulture education.

In the spring of 2019, the newly refurbished WGC garden on the Westhampton Beach Village Green was opened to the public. The beautiful plantings were enhanced by the new stone steps and pathways to the main area.

Joy Flynn led the effort for the Native Gardens at the Lily Pond in Quogue and WGC created one more bed. Quogue Village paid for the plants and installation.

Both of these openings received coverage in the SHP with both the WHB Mayor and Quogue Mayor present.

- Judy McDermott has insured three seasonal plantings at the Kanas Center for Hospice Care – both on the outdoor decks of patients' rooms and the at the Center's entrance. Total of 26 planters.

The development of two more wonderful gardens is underway despite delays due to the coronavirus.

- The reestablishment of a historic garden in front of the new location of the Old Schoolhouse on the Quogue Library grounds (QL1822SHG). Both, will be more visible to the public as part of the library's renovation and expansion site plan.

- In conjunction with the Battery Park Conservancy, WGC will create the Quogue Garden of Remembrance (QGR), expanding the 9/11 Memorial at the Quogue Firehouse as a place for peaceful respite.

Free Public Lectures

WGC has established annual free lectures as a public service – starting with the wonderful Paul Cowie “ Trees at Ground Zero” on September 2018, and the renowned Thomas Woltz “Garden of Ethical Delights” in September 2019 (co-sponsored with the Southampton Garden Club) The lectures both educate and entertain, receive publicity and attract potential new members as do the public gardens.

Improving the Club’s operations and member appreciation and opportunities:

- Conflict of Interest and Related Transaction Policy developed by Laraine Rothenberg, Allison Worthington, Delia Schulte and Inger Mejean
- Members voted YES to be under the GCA Umbrella in Aug. 2019 and the WGC is now part of both **NGC/FGCNYS & GCA and their respective resources.**

Flower Shows

Our shows bring out both the creativity and dedication of our members. **“WGC hosted a GCA Flower Show** Melissa Morgan Nelson chaired the spectacular “Bees and Flowers United for Life” June 24-25, 2019.

Awards

It is a pleasure to recount the many awards that have recognized our members achievements, including just in 2019 alone:

A “Book of Recognition” Award, FGCNYS, for 25 years and longer in the WGC. Honorees: Betty Ann Iseman, Susan Clarke, Milly Cary, Joan Larson, Missy Lynch, Zoe Van Wyck deRopp and Georgia Hatch.

President’s Award: Melissa Morgan Nelson Chair WGC’ GCA Flower Show in June, 2019.

The Petal Award – Frankie Ryan

NGC - Plant America Grant of \$1,000 was given to WGC for the QGR in Dec.,2019

FGCNYS - Awards of Honor: Judy McDermott

GCA Club Horticulture Commendation Award: Renato Stafford.

Education and cooperation and new Provisionals

Increasing involvement with the QWR. In addition to sponsoring a Bee Hive each year we have sponsored pollinator workshops for kids during Pollinator Week always in June.

We also increased our scholarship from \$1,000 to \$2,000 attracting outstanding candidates who will be studying the latest in horticulture and environmental protection.

●WGC Historic files being organized for preservation in WH Library and on our WGC website by chair Anne Moore Hutton. (2018 -

We recognize that all these efforts – public teaching gardens, public lectures, educational programs have attracted a growing pool of provisional candidates to our club:

In 2018 we had a great class of four(4) Provisional members, active in 2019 and in 2019 eight(8) wonderful Provisionals joined us and today become active and we are welcoming another outstanding Provisional class of eight (8).We are so lucky to have 20 women all, ready or on their way to be such wonderful productive members of our WGC.

Members adapted to the pandemic with creativity and celebration – utilizing Zoom, fb and Vimeo creating the uplifting garden video celebrating three of our members gardens and the slide show of our members you will see today.
