

July, 2026



Greetings from the garden chair!

Wow. What a very, busy few weeks we have had since the last newsletter! We had a very lovely gathering to honor Linda Jones, many of us toured Marita Johnson stunning iris gardens, brought home 6 awards from FGCV spring meeting, awarded three scholarships, a group visited Cathedral of the Pines, we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence, and toured three member gardens. Every event and gathering, I continue to be astonished and blessed by the outpouring of love and enthusiasm this organization shares with the community, but mostly to each other. And I hear these same sentiments in conversation with other members. How lucky we are.

But wait! There's more!!

Dates to Remember:

July 31st - FGCV – Photography Seminar – Zoom classes.

PHOTO GROUP MEETING #2; Time: 7:00 pm

Topic: Photography Session #2 - Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89116063477?>

August 12, 2026 – Annual Summer Potluck Picnic, Rescue Lake, at Bonny & Peter Andrews

Meet at Ollis @ 11AM to carpool – parking is limited.

Presentation by Lynn Likus – Flower arranging basics.

Check details in your yearbook!!!

September 9, 2026 - Scott Farm, Dummerston, VT.

Meet at Ollis, ready to depart @ 9:30 (presentation starts @ 11:00 AM)

Presentation on Heirloom Apple and Orchard Practices

September 16, 2026 - Fall Board Meeting

Every member is welcome at all Board meetings!!

9:30 A.M at Nolin Murray Center, Apple Suite, 38 Pleasant Street, Springfield

October 6, 2026 – FGCV – Fall Meeting

(Zoom – details TBD)

October 13-14, 2026 – New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting, Killington, VT

For details/registration: <https://www.vermontfgcv.com/upcoming-events>

The weather is certainly confounding this summer, but wouldn't it be boring otherwise?

Linda Jones Memorial

It was raining the day we gathered with Barry Jones to honor Linda. We placed the plaque by the forsythia that was given by Judi Martin. (It has been taken up to have a concrete base attached for security) Members provided food and flowers, and we gave Barry framed photos as a remembrance. He was very pleased and honored to be able to share memories of Linda with us. He expects to be relocating further south, possibly Florida before winter. Members brought delicious food, and yellow sunflowers (by Sandy). The sign should be installed by the end of the week.



Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont Annual Meeting

Therese Burton, Karen Vatne, Marita Johnson and I traveled to St. Albans for the FGCV Annual meeting. Karen was able to lure Marita away from her iris garden tours that day to accept a very special individual award for her iris gardens. If you have not been to visit Marita and Bruce when the iris blooms, please mark your calendar for next year. It is time well spent!

The Federated Garden Clubs of VT Award #	Status	For
1.4. Yearbooks (45-69 members)	First Place	2025-26 Yearbook
5. Best Ongoing Project that has Merit	Merit	Community Gardens
8.b. Education: Club Program, Project, Public Meeting	Merit	OLLI/SGC NE Stonewalls
9. Individual Within the Club (maintains a fabulous garden with or without help)	First Place	Marita Johnson
10. Window Boxes and Containers (\$25 1st place)	First Place	Main Street
11.b. Youth: Young Gardeners Award for NGC goals	Merit	Junior Gardening
16. Garden Therapy (\$25 1st place)	First Place	Adult Day Program & MOW

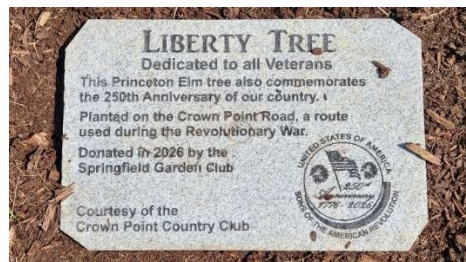


Our club continues to receive recognition every year, and we have to thank Karen Vatne for the hard work she does in getting the details and photos organized for submission. It is the work behind the scenes (and the camera) that is not always visible to our members.

The Liberty Tree

The next big event was our Liberty Tree dedication at the Crown Point Country Club. The attendance surpassed expectation, and while the thunderstorm moved the event fully indoors, it worked out beautifully. Again, the club members were so generous, responding to the call for hors d'oeuvres (and flowers by Sandy). We had more than plenty for the 70-plus people in attendance. Mike Martin "Judi's husband", from the County Club, opened the ceremony with a welcome from the Crown Point Country Club. Jeff Taft-Dick shared the history of the Crown Point Road and its ties to the Country Club location. A member of the Charlestown VFW lead the Pledge of Allegiance against the 1776 Flag held by re-enactors Eric and Barbara Bye. The Star-Spangled Banner and the Prayer of Dedication were lead by Karen Oehl, Pastor of the United Methodist Church. If you have a chance, go online and read the article on Springfield Reporter. We had only hoped for the attendance and enthusiasm for this event. It was quite moving to see so many people there. The Springfield Historical Society and the Crown Point Road Association were there to field any questions from the attendees. We will be able to watch this living monument for many years to come. Again, we owe it to Karen Jarret, who brought the idea to our Programs Committee meeting.

I want to acknowledge and extend a special thank you to the committee that organized and followed up to ensure the success of both this event and Linda's memorial - Lynn Likus, Sandy Peplau, Karen Vatne, Karen Jarret, Barb Riotte and Therese Burton.



Member Garden Tour

The last activity of the month was the Garden Tour, which kicked off at our house, which is a garden in re-design/experimental phase after four years of pondering. The infrastructure was there, but mostly ground cover and greenscape. The learning curve is how to plant in shade and have color all season long. That's not too much to ask, right? Then the crew moved over to Josh Browning's house where he has a tremendous renovation project of their gardens - removing an asphalt parking area, repurposing pallets into brilliantly colorful window boxes, and developing vegetable gardens around a fabulous natural spring. Next on the tour was Judi Martin's house. Her gardens are masterful, and an ideal that many of us strive towards. The goldfinches and butterflies were unbothered by the traffic and fluttered about all during the tour. It is well planned for color and variety throughout the season, in sun and in shade. We enjoyed our lunch afterwards, and everyone was offered a plant upon departure. It was not easy to leave that sanctuary!



The photos do not tell the full story of fellowship and generosity of spirit that resides in the group. Marita supplied the photos of our garden; I took the ones from Josh's (apologies for missing the vegetable and back yard development!) as well as Marita's. Karen has many more photos, so be watching for them.

And, SPEAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHY!!!

Karen is very interested in creating a photography team. We all have great cameras on our phones these days, and it is almost as easy as point-and-click! The FGCV is offering training, workshops (over Zoom) and encouragement for any budding photographer who may be interested. It is a very relaxed, friendly, and encouraging group. You will have a lot of fun and some laughs. See details on the link above.

And to wrap it up for this July newsletter...

Thinking ahead to Christmas Pop-Up Market

As we head into Autumn, we must already be looking ahead to plans for the 2026 Christmas Pop-Up Market. Time has certainly whipped by this year, and I am late to the schedule for reviewing last year and deciding ways we can improve. If you are interested in and have ideas, please let me know. I am looking at the calendar for a planning meeting between late August or mid-September because we begin, in earnest, by early October with taking inventory. Please shoot me an email at AdrienneF56@outlook.com, or call/text to 940-255-9132.

Observation

Driving through town, I have noticed (and have been notified) that several of our planters have had the flowers vandalized. I can report it to the Springfield Police Dept, but without knowing the general dates of the changes, there is not a lot they can do. However, they can be watchful for future damages. For the future, please shoot me an email as soon as you notice that plants have been taken. For the most part, the flowers are beautiful. We were at the stoplight by the Plaza Gardens last week and noticed so many butterflies dancing over the flowers. Many thanks to all who help plant and maintain these gardens and planter boxes. From comments made by the public, we know how much your hard work is appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you at the summer outing at Bonny's! Don't forget to RSVP only to Bonny!

Talk soon,

Adrienne