

Shawangunk Garden Club

Club Marks 75 Years of Community Service

The Shawangunk Garden Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and continues its tradition of giving to the community by making our surroundings more attractive for everyone. As part of the anniversary celebration, the club gave 250 kousa dogwood trees to anyone in the community willing to plant and nurture them. The four-foot trees came in plastic pots and were distributed through a coupon placed in the local paper. The dogwood project was one of the club's many efforts to beautify the community.

Club members also planted a ten-foot tree at **Lippman Park** on Arbor Day. The project earned the club a special award from the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, which was presented to them at the federation's annual convention, held this year at the Nevele Grande.

The Shawangunk Garden Club was started in 1927 by eight

women, and has grown to a membership of 63. Most of the members – a mix of retired and working women – are from the towns of Rochester and Wawarsing.

The club meets monthly, and always has a program, according to Dale Craft, the club's current president. Their community beautification projects are many and varied, from decorating the Library's **Terwilliger House** and hosting a holiday tea there in December, to giving a monetary award to a graduating senior pursuing a career in horticulture or environment-related subjects.

Fundraising efforts support the Club's many community service projects. Each year, members hold a plant sale for Mothers Day and sell mums at the *Ellenville Harvest Music Festival*. They also hold a dessert gala to which the public is invited. This year's sold out gala featured well-known floral designer Cathy Miller.

"Our garden club gives us an opportunity to bring a woman's touch to our community," stated President Craft. ☆

"A Dickens Christmas" Theme of Holiday Tea

The Shawangunk Garden Club will host A Victorian Christmas Tea on **Saturday, Dec. 7**, from **1:00 to 3:00 pm** at **Terwilliger House, 40 Center Street**. This year's theme, co-chaired by Carol Lounsbury and Joyce Smith, will be "A Dickens Christmas."

Garlands and greenery will adorn the museum; a large Christmas tree, trimmed with hand-made Victorian ornaments, will grace the foyer. Period containers brimming with boughs and berries will complement the Victorian motif.

The Tea, complete with china and silver service, accompanied by homemade cookies, punch, and coffee, served by the ladies of the garden club.

The Ellenville High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Mr. Robert Oehme, will perform holiday songs, starting at **1:30 pm**. The holiday tea is free and open to the public. For information, please call **647-5530**. ☆



Presentation of a special award to *Shawangunk Garden Club* by Federated Garden Clubs of New York State for giving 250 kousa dogwood trees to their community, at the Federation's annual convention at the Nevele Grande, Ellenville. Pictured, l to r: Barbara Cambell, 111 district director, Club members Joan Lowe, Linda Murdock, Pat Foster, Sylvia Fogarty; Club President Dale Craft, and Federation President Donna Pair.

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