



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Of all the tasks assigned to me as District Director one the hardest has been writing my little blurb in the Long Island Gardener and now I can thank you, my readers for making this so much easier with your kind words of encouragement. By the time you read this, we will have nominated a new director for the 2017 to 2019 term, so this happy task will be on her shoulders.

This term has been a real learning experience for me. Two years ago I would've had no idea how much I could learn in such a small period of time. This is due to the incredible talent and imagination of a wonderful Board and a great group of garden leaders in the individual clubs. They have taught me how to gently temper quick pre-judgements. They have taught me to return to simple straightforward ideas which often work the best. They have taught me not to be afraid to try something new and the rewards have been unexpectedly good for the district. They have taught me how to rely on the talents of others when my own are deficient; I just wish I could have shown a spotlight a little brighter to reflect my gratitude.

But one picture is worth thousands of my words so in goodbye I will direct you to our website, district2fgcnys.com. I have asked Marion Romeo to post one of my favorite images. It comes from the work of photographer and environmental scientist Kei Nomiya. Go to the website you can learn all about his work but the image for me is the culmination of how I really feel about the garden. The image is a time lapse photograph of fireflies in a bamboo grove; it brings together my love of Japanese culture, bamboo, and those magical creatures that enchant our summer evenings.

In so many ways gardening can make time stand still, we can crystallize a moment that we first discovered a new way of planting, or suddenly understood why certain things work in the garden and why they don't! Time can certainly standstill when you're working joyfully with others and accomplishing something for a common good. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to make these two years standstill and yet go by in the blink of a second.

Lynn Pezold, Second District Director



WHEN YOU SEE a firefly, it's only for a moment. The bright light blinks and vanishes until it magically appears a few feet away. But photographer Kei Nomiya freezes the dance with long exposures that make hundreds of fireflies appear suspended in mid-air.

Nomiya is an environmental science professor, but loves to spend his free time photographing the world he studies. "I became a scientist to protect nature, and I have an interest in photography to record nature," he says. The fireflies thrive in the forests of Shikoku Island where Nomiya lives, and he's spent the last eight years documenting their mating ritual with his camera.

The final images are overflowing with hundreds of tiny lights. In the early 20th century, firefly hunters captured thousands of the insects to illuminate hotels and private gardens in Tokyo. Nomiya just needs his camera.