

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

A Member of National Garden
Clubs & WA State Federation of
Garden Clubs

#187 Dec, Jan, Feb 2017 ~ 2018



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all our members!! I hope all had a wonderful Holiday Season.

What a fun and successful Holiday District Meeting. The dresses were all fabulous and it was quite the energetic competition so be prepared for a new challenge this coming year.

The gardening industry has been working overtime to send out all the new seed catalogs. Make some choices and plan on a trip to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. It is the ultimate in all things spring: plants, tools, bulbs and all those things (and toys) you need for a successful year. As the work begins outdoors remember to take it easy. Sore muscles and back pains are all waiting for us.

The March District Meeting is fast approaching. The morning program is featuring a speaker on Butterflies. David Dropper, Vice president of the Washington Butterfly Assoc is our speaker.

For our lunch recess we will be having Potato soup and tuna croissants.

Peggy Starr the Director of the Black Hills District will be our afternoon speaker and she will talk about Landscape Transformation. Ideas on solving various landscape challenges large and small. Downsizing or renovating is a question we all need to address. Of all the requests we get for speakers and programs this is one we hear most often. Stay and see what she can offer you.

A new year with so many possibilities. A year where we can learn so much when we join together as club members.

I am so longing to be outside. The garden calls and I will answer with vigor. We are once again united after a long and dark winter.

Welcoming Spring

Kathy Toups



CLUB NEWS!

COUNTRY GARDENERS

Country Gardeners started the New Year with a fun project at the January meeting. After our business meeting we learned to make Wine Bottle wind chimes for our winter gardens, with the expert guidance of Randie Welcher. Randie provided instruction, prepared the bottles and components. Members brought beads to add their own adornments. The chimes are a bright addition to our winter gardens.



Randie Welcher created the wonderful wooden planter boxes to fill with succulents and flowers for the District Meeting tables. They will be a bright spring addition to the room.

We were happy to welcome a new member Christine Birka in February.

Country Gardeners were sad to receive the news of the passing of Theresa Zimmerman. Theresa joined the group last fall and was an enthusiastic addition to the group. She will be greatly missed.

The February meeting found us planning our March projects. Our creative project for the meeting involved learning to create miniature designs. Chris Sherrill organized the program with Linda Maida instructing the group.

Country Gardeners are looking forward to working in our yards and welcoming all the flowers that come with Spring and Summer.

Happy Gardening from the Country Gardeners

March brought hopes of spring with Keith Ripley sharing his extensive knowledge on the care of roses. The program created a lot of enthusiasm to add roses to our gardens.

GLOVE & TROWEL

November: A very pregnant Mother Nature was our entry for the mannequin decoration challenge at the Nov 28 Hill & Dale district meeting. It didn't win any awards. However, we think it was the most unique horticultural presentation.



November is our annual auction where we pay into our club's treasury for each other's donated goods. All niggling and bidding was in good fun and especially beneficial with proceeds of \$302.50. We also participated in Christmas decorating at Meeker Mansion.



We concluded the March meeting by working on the Easter center pieces for the McKenna Home. Chris Sherrill prepared all the components with Debbie Spiller providing the egg shells used to create little planters.

December: Soup n' Cookies Social. No formal meeting. We enjoyed each other's loving company with three different soups and accoutrements, and our annual cookie exchange. We learned more about each other in a relaxing and fun atmosphere. Conversations were meaningful, silly and complex... we even solved the world's problems.



January: Happy New Gardening Year. This year, we are looking for various ways for our aging bodies to remain agile while gardening. To that end, in April, we will have a program entitled 'Physical Therapy'.

In the meantime, our January program was entitled "Medicinal Plants" and for that, we went to pot. Yes, medicinal cannabis. After all, it is horticulture too. We are grateful to our speaker, a well-respected authority and a leader in medicinal cannabis. Her captivating presentation was exciting and inspiring.

I think Glove & Trowel will indeed have a happy new year. Maybe even a merry one. Incidentally, the last line of *Marianne Binetti's* response to my email about potential speakers for this special program was...

"May you *always remain high on gardening*." (Oct. 2017)

Barbara Bias, President

DOGWOOD

WHOLEY MOLE!! WEREN'T THE FALL COLORS OUTSTANDING THIS YEAR?

Since we hadn't had a frost yet the leaves were vibrant in color, not browned, and still on the trees. (when this article started_)

October clean up at Dogwood Park Look-Out on Meridian was very successful, if only a start for what is really needed. WHERE DO ALL THOSE BLACKBERRY VINES COME FROM?

Coffee and doughnuts from the trunk of the car is the reward for working so hard and lunch afterwards.

November: Hurrah, another field trip to Windmill Nursery in Sumner. Our instructor told us to use a knife, not clippers, when cutting stems off for an arrangement. Don't crush the bottom of the stem. It needs to be able to drink a lot of water.

And that little packet of powder sustenance that comes with flowers you buy does not have to be used totally. Only use half.

She also used clear tape on the glass container to make a grid over the top opening to support the flowers better and it isn't seen. Very clever. (HINT: fine rocks to put in the bottom of a glass vase or flower container can be found in pet stores in the gold fish section.) Heavy rain did not dampen our spirits for lunch at the Bistro after the meeting.



Did you know that Elk like weeping willow leaves? The Weeping Willow tree now looks like a stock of broccoli.

Hill and Dale had some spirited competition in decorating mannequins, hats or shoes with nature's storehouse of goodies in their last district meeting. GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS ARE SO TALENTED!!!!



Kathleen Owens' creative juices just wouldn't stop on our "Scarlet Doll". Pampas grass, cedar boughs, hens and chicks and a cranberry necklace earned the winning 1st place. So much fun to work together and create a winner...."Scarlet" will be recycled....another project!

December: Christmas trees, poinsettias, Christmas pot luck and surprise presents. What more could we want? Garden Club member Pot lucks are the best!!!! Gardeners are good cooks!!!

The last meeting of the year as held at Diane Mettler's. Always a pleasure to see what art work and decorations husband Chris has created for the season.

Take an old Christmas card, cut it in half, some crazy way, stick one part on a present and later.....everyone will get the other half of one of the cards to be matched up with the half on a gift and.....voila.....you have a surprise Christmas gift. Clever way of distributing gifts.

"Caring for Poinsettias" was the program topic. And the challenge was with every poinsettia taken home and kept alive for one year and made to bloom at next Christmas, will get another new plant as a prize.....Hard to keep plant in total darkness in Sept. and Oct. without even a peek to look at it.

Crazy...(Dec, 10)...just saw the tips of daffodils coming up. I live in a cold belt. They have been covered over with the dirt from the mole hills. (wonderful stuff...no rocks) Dec. 13, was the last of my beautiful geraniums. The frost came. Couldn't believe they lasted so long.

Had a big, fallen, maple leaves problem at one point. Too many to rake, too thick to mulch, too, too many. Yes, some \$\$\$\$ could get rid of them while dry.....AND THEN.....magic.....the wind came and blew them all over the field. Thank you Mother Nature.....

January: Ginny Phillips and daughter co-hosted with Kathy Mettler giving us the straight scoop on Bonsai growing, keeping, pruning and nurturing them. The delicious quiche for lunch was fantastic! Great way to start the year. Old Goat Farm will receive big, old, black plastic pots that we collected to recycle.

(OK...Feb. 5) measured the daffodils...5 to 6 inches high already. What's with this crazy weather? The snow did protect the daffies. Isn't Mother Nature amazing?

Did you know that Elk like Pampas grass? or at least try to play with the white plumes? They have made a big mess of the Pampas grass "bush on my road. Of course doing it in the dark of night.....

Our March meeting will be held at the home of an outstanding orchid grower's home. Another wonderful field trip.

Hasta luego, Sharon Aguilar reporting....

ROOT N' BLOOM

Burrr!! it's cold outside. Fall/winter has brought us unusually cold and snowy weather and lots of rain. . As I'm writing this article, it's still cold outside, but the hellebores still keeps on blooming!!! So, by the time your reading this, we should be having some warmer weather for our gardens. We also should be seeing daffodils and other flowers popping their heads up ready for us to enjoy.

Since our last Echo, all you club members should be busy with various activities in your clubs; so now let me tell you some highlights of our club.

During November, Debbie Spiller came and demonstrated how to make some interesting holiday designs. Those that participated in making a design took it home to enjoy. Debbie encouraged us to first take photos; looking at them, to add or take away in order to make better designs. We all learned something from this process.

At the December District Event, each club decorated a Mannequin. Those that participated from our club in this event had so much fun dressing ours for this competition. Even though we didn't win, she was still a beautiful "Angel" enjoyed by the club member that took her home for the holidays.



December was very busy! We had fun decorating a room at the Meeker Mansion and when we were finished it had the look of an old fashion Christmas.

At our December meeting we had our holiday potluck, played floral bingo and had fun winning; additionally, we brought items for the local food bank and gifts and socks for the Veterans Home in Orting.

January, will bring Sharon Burlingame (Dogwood Garden Club) to our club to discuss the different small objects that can be turned into the mechanics of a miniature design. We are looking forward to learning, enabling us to compete with miniature designs at District Events.

February, we will be doing an Educational/ Horticulture Tour to a hydroponic greenhouse to learn more about this conventional farming; this should be a very interesting tour. It was a wonderful tour and we went away with some lettuce!!

March, will bring a speaker from the National Wildlife Federation to advise how gardeners can help wildlife in our yards, even those we don't like!!.

Marianne Binetti has advised to plant more flowers for the bees, birds and butterflies that visit our gardens. She also encouraged us to plant more herbs; (my Rosemary blooms all year long), so hummingbirds and bees can enjoy them year round.

I leave you with this, "Happy New Year", to each garden club member & Plant more flowers!!!!!!

Submitted by RT

District Meeting Tuesday, March 27 2018

Our morning speaker will be David Droppers, Vice President of the Washington Butterfly Association will speak in the morning. He will enthusiastically introduce you to the world of butterflies, and how inviting them into your backyard will reveal how they are connected to a number of other species of urban and suburban wildlife.

Not only will you learn about what plants to include in your garden to attract butterflies, but will get a glimpse into butterfly biology – how they see the world, what additional resources they need, all centered on how to design your garden for maximum attraction. Watch your garden come alive with bloom and wings!



Peggy Starr, the Director of the Black Hills District, will be our afternoon speaker and she will talk about Landscape Transformation. She will share ideas on solving various landscape challenges large and small!

The Downy Woodpecker



The downy woodpecker is a friendly bird that looks so much like its slightly larger cousin, the hairy woodpecker. It's often difficult to tell the two apart, but here are the two easy-to-spot hints. First, the downy sports its namesake tuft of downy feathers at the base of its short bill. Second, the patch on the back of a male downy's head is solid red, while the hairy's has a thin black stripe through the middle. It is the smallest woodpecker.

They drum on trees or utility poles to announce territory or attract a mate. For nesting they excavate or reuse a cavity in a dead tree or use a woodpecker nesting box. The entrance requires an entrance hole of 1 1/4 inch hole with sawdust inside, attached 12 to 25 feet high on a tree trunk. The female lays 4 to 5 white eggs.

Their habitat is any open wooded area, including parks and backyards. They feast at backyard feeders.

Their diet consists of insects, caterpillars, berries and nuts, but their backyard favorites are suet and peanut butter.

Save the Dates August 9-12, 2018

Mon, Aug 6 Open & Clean out Floral Building

Tues, Aug 7 Finish Cleaning & Decorate

Wed, Aug 8 Entries accepted, & Judged

We will need help from **ALL** Garden Club Members with:

- Cleaning the building
- Registration
- Classification
- Placement
- Clerks
- Youth Entries
- Hostesses
- Kids Activity

Please be prepared to sign up at our District Meeting on May 22

Any questions, please call Kathy Johnson 253-847-4933 & Sherry Matthews 253-845-2555

Let's Feed the Birds District Garden Therapy

The residents at Brookdale Courtyard enjoyed the morning making orange bird feeders, and used dried oranges, tomatoes and popcorn for garland.

Nine ladies represented the district well while helping the residents, again thank you for your support.



June thought she might be on TV because of the flash pictures that her activity director was taking and commented that she had to be in her 80's to have all this fun. When another woman walked in, she was asked if she wanted to make a feeder and said, "no, I am just nosing around".

Even while in Girl Scouts, Jane said they did not have this much fun, or at least she could not remember it.

MINIATURE DESIGN BY June Kuzminsky

Use your IMAGINATION... find something different for your Line. Have a lot of fun doing this - and you'll be doing it all the time!

BUTTONS AND BEADS for the base and containers are not really new, But the one YOU have - and the line You use - may be totally, originally YOU!

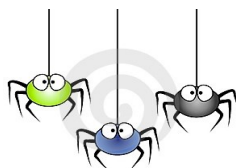
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Take a look at the kitchen cupboards - Where you stash may be a GOLD MINE! Any little thing that will curve, curl or bend may be just the thing for your line!

If your design is to be 5" or less your line can only go that high. And that's including your container, so think "smaller", not BIGGER this time.

You may not even need a flower... but if you do, you need to find a size that fits and you only need one or two!

Kalanchoe has a little flower. Yes, houseplants often can be used. Spider plants leaves on the 'babies' look great.... Use a leaf or two.



Use tiny round leaves like the kalanchoe... smooth, thick and scalloped with a long leaf that's narrow, or some evergreen, like the pyramadalis.

Look for texture and colour. Look for a good blend. Remember these tips! It'll pay in the end!

Don't forget your 'crisper'. Yes, the leftovers you don't use! They often help you in a pinch.... Parsley, cherry tomatoe, dill weed, too!

And as for shape and texture, you will be amazed at what you have around the house or right ere by the mayonnaise!

Now putting it together (YOUR MECHANICS) - you ask... "What's a solid basis?" Well, of course the answer is easy, a tiny piece of OASIS!

Don't tell me, "My fingers are all thumbs". You know that just AIN'T TRUE! So get yourself a toothpick and poke holes for your 'stuff' to go through.

Clean off the stems at the base so it won't be too thick. And to make it go into the hole, poke it with that toothpick!

Now, your saying, "But it won't all fit!". And all I can say to you is, "Then you've got too much stuff, throw away a piece or two."

I'll leave you with this final word: Really, the most FUN in design (like I said)... is trying different STUFF for the line. And if you9 think you're not that clever or smart....

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW IF YOU DON'T START!

UPCOMING EVENTS for 2017-2018

District Meetings

Dryer Masonic Temple
306 134th St S, Tacoma
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for entries
10:00 a.m. for meeting

- March 27, 2018
- May 22, 2018
- September 25, 2017
- November 27, 2018

District Board Meetings

Midland Community Centre
1619 E 99th St, Tacoma

- April 24, 2018
- August 28, 2018
- October 23, 2018

Arbor Day

- April 11, 2018

District Workshop

- April 30, 2018

Bus Tour

- TBD 2018

Pierce County Fair

- August 9-12, 2018

ECHO Deadlines

- April 25, 2018
- August 15, 2018
- October 25, 2018

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SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE!

Do you know a member who could use a cheerful note or card? Let **Doris Yuckert** know and she will send out a card.

dyuckert@centurylink.net or
253.845.8720

MISSION STATEMENT

***National Garden Clubs, Inc.** provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.*

Workshop 34 April 30th at the Masonic Hall

All clubs are responsible for 6 salads that will each serve 12 and 4 dozen homemade cookies. Each club is ask to bring a raffle basket, these baskets have paid for our speakers the last two years so it is very important that we give them our best effort.

Country Gardeners will have kitchen duty but I am asking for one volunteer from each club to help with set up on the 29th and to help with clean-up after the event.

This is the 34th workshop because we have worked together to make this an event that people want to attend I have faith that we will outdo ourselves again this year.

Thank you All Linda Maida, Workshop Chairman