

# THE ECHO

## Hill and Dale District

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

#205 May - Aug 2022



### Happy September everyone!

What a summer we have had, first wet and wild and then hot and dry. Some of my yard is wonderful and some I choose not to look at.

I just spent a few days in Ellensburg at the Fall board meeting. There will be some good info coming your way. It was hot, hot over there.

This is going to be a great Garden club year as we will be meeting with each other in our clubs each month and having our district meetings in person. These should all be able to happen with out the worry of canceling any of them. It will be so nice to not have that hanging over us as we move forward.

I know that some of you might have met over the summer outside. I know I was able to get together with a few different members this summer just to keep in touch and enjoy each others company. Even just meeting with a few club members is a great way to stay in touch and connected.

I'd like to thank all you that supported our district but most of all supported Kathy Johnson in making the Pierce County Fair a success again this year. The decorations were amazing and educational all at the same time. Can't wait for the Sept 6th board meeting to hear the final count on horticulture and kids entries.

Enjoy what will hopefully be a lovely Sept until we meet at our District meeting on the 27th Bring your horticulture to share with our members, I can't wait to see it and all of you

Rachel



## District Meeting

**Sept 27, 2022**

**Dryer Masonic Center**

**306 134th St S, Tacoma**

**Flower entries no later than 9:30 a.m.**

**Meeting 10 a.m. To 2 p.m.**

## Dates to Remember

### District Meetings

Sept 27th, 2022

Nov 29, 2022

### District Board Meeting

Sept 6, 2022

Oct 25, 2022

## My Wife The Gardener

She dug the plot on Monday, the soil was rich and fine.

She forgot to thaw out dinner so we went out to dine. She planted the roses on Tuesday, she says they are a must.

They really were quite lovely but she forgot to dust... On Wednesday, it was daisies, they opened with the sun,

All whites and pinks and yellows but laundry wasn't done!

The poppies came on Thursday, a bright and cheery red

I guess she was engrossed and never made the bed....

It was dahlias on Friday in colours she adores.

It never bothered her at all all those crumbs upon the floors.

I hired a maid on Saturday, my week is now complete,

My wife can garden all she wants, the house will still be neat!

It's nearly lunch time Sunday and I can't find the maid.

Oh, no! I don't believe it! She's out there with a spade!

## GLOVE & TROWEL

Glove & Trowel Garden Club

Third 2022 Quarterly Report

Our May meeting found us at Carol Ball's home where we had our brown bag lunch including treats made by Carol. 12 of us gathered around her very large dining room table. After lunch we planted herbs in egg cartons to take home.



All 16 members met on Barbara Bias' very spacious deck on a sunny day for our June meeting. Lots of horticulture brought from home were shared with the group. Everyone contributed ideas for recycling and we had a great potluck lunch too.

Six members went on the district bus trip to The Lake Wilderness Arboretum continuing on to Jon Thorne's farm for a box lunch and guided tours through Jon's gardens. The trip was enjoyed by all.

The club helped clean the horticulture building in preparation of the Pierce County Fair. Additionally, 8 members hosted for the event and classified entries.

Lori Kase, a member since 1986, passed away July 8 of this year.

The club will meet again September 6.

# *Celebrating 75 years Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*



Thanks to the members of Hill & Dale District who participated and our annual tradition of sponsoring the Floral Building here at the Pierce County Fair since 1975. The State of Washington Department of Agriculture visits our fair every other year and awarded all of us the Black & White Commissioners' Rosette Ribbon for the most outstanding building of the entire fair. We also received the President of the Fair Boards Rosette Ribbon for our outstanding building, and I thank each and every one of you that supported the Floral Barn this year.

We had lots of excitement and traffic this year. Some of our hostesses dressed as Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow and they greeted all the visitors and encouraged them to enter our people's choice awards. Plus they handed out 1,252 treats to the kids for constantly bringing in one of our 300 hidden rocks on the fair grounds. This is the most treats yet that have been passed out in a year and the faces of the kids were filled with excitement. With the on and off weather lately our entries were down from other years with only 394 total entries. New this year we accepted photos of "What's in Your Yard", had a guest speaker each day, and a guest kids' activity daily. We donated all the vegetables to the Graham Food Bank which was 24 pounds.

To follow this year's theme our main highlight was 3 live gardens out front representing the gardens of yesterday, today & tomorrow. Inside the building the 75 year history of the floral building was presented on poster boards on the walls for all to enjoy, including where we will be as a building in 2047.

Victory Gardens  
Yesterday 1947-2000



Home Gardens  
Today 2001-2022



Conservation Gardens  
Tomorrow 2023-2047



A special thanks to Randie Welcher, Julie Wells, Kathleen Muckian, Bridget Pilgrim, and Keith Ripley, who stepped up to execute all our plans spending 42 hours just decorating our building. A total of 395 hours were spent giving back to the community just the week of the fair from cleaning, decorating, accepting entries, hostessing, and helping with the kid's activities, not to mention all the prior months of planning hours to make this another great year. Please support the business that donated to our building this year, Purple Geranium Nursery donated 6 hanging baskets and 100 annual plants, Portland Ave Nursery again sponsored the kids' planting sedums in old shoes and provided us with 12 flats of plants and soil. McLendon's Hardware donated \$50.00 towards paint & wood; Lowes donated our white picket fence, and Rainier Landscape Supply provided us with 300 river rocks.

*Without YOUR support, none of this would  
have been possible!*

## ROOT & BLOOM

Root & Bloom finished the year in fine fettle. In May, we met at the Olympia Farmers Market instead of at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club.

Our VP Rosie Trujillo, arranged for us to have tables at the market which is easy to find and a great place to brown-bag it or buy



lunch and then shop. It has a seemingly unending and ever changing supply of vendors.

In June we visited the gardens of three members, beginning at Judy Strickland's house. Judy provided snacks for everyone but better than that, she had shovels and pots and let club members dig up plant starts. From there, we went to Vicki Nelson's home for a short meeting and lunch along with a tour of her yard. That's where we picked up the starts for our growing project.

From Vicki's house we went to see what Jeanine Faulkner had been up to in her garth. ( Yes, that's a real word, pretty much out of use now but meaning fenced in yard. I needed a new word for yard or garden.)

Every year, Jeanine and her husband buy a different variety of living Christmas tree which they then plant outside, so she has a lot of different trees. Jeanine also made her own gambions with which to fence, as it were, her front yard. (ha, ha, autocorrect wants to change the word to Gambians )

Because our garden tours are so popular with the Bloomers, the Board discussed touring the gardens of willing members in late summer. And Root and Bloom begins 2022 / 2023 by celebrating its 75th birthday and we have lots of exciting plans.

Karla Stover, secretary

## DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Dogwood members had a fun time filling the bright red vintage pickup with flowers and riding in the Eatonville July 4th parade. It was a great way to promote our club!



## COUNTRY GARDENERS

Spring and summer have been full of fun activities for the Country Gardeners. We hit the ground running with our meeting in May. We are making plans on how we can help the up-coming District Meetings, Symposium, and our fundraising plant sale at the Farmhouse Country Market.

The District Flower Show in May was a huge success, especially of Country Gardeners Chris Sherrill and Keith Ripley.

Chris won a Blue ribbon for her "Hopscotch" design and ribbons Awards for Horticulture Excellence, Award of Merit and the Betty Belcher horticulture award.



Keith entered a horticultural exhibit for Rhododendron/Azalea with "Mandarin Lights". He is now eligible to be awarded the Marva Lee Peterschick Arboreal Flowering Shrub for WSFGC state competition.



Congratulations to both of you, your entries were magnificent and you both should be very proud of your efforts.

A few days after District, Symposium was held. Country Gardeners were pleased to be able to provide the luncheon for the Tuesday meeting. We helped to serve approximately 90 lunches for the attendees. This was a lot of hard work and we were grateful that we shared duties with Black Hills District and they provided the lunch on Wednesday. As you can see from the picture, we were ready when they called "lunch".



June arrived with more activities. We had our last meeting in a beautiful setting at Lakewold Gardens. President Patti Isom had made arrangements with the staff for a tour. They also set up tables on the patio at the Manor House where we held our meeting and enjoyed our lunch. We discussed the upcoming bus trip and the Pierce County Fair. The setting was serene and calm — a perfect ending to our day.

Next, we were off to Lake Wilderness and lunch at Jon Throne's Farm. Chris S truly outdid herself in putting this event together. Thank you, CHRIS! We rode in comfort, enjoyed goodies and Mimosa's on the way.... None of us were worried as WE weren't driving!

Lake Wilderness is a beautiful area with all sorts of gardens and trails. We gathered ideas and enjoyed the surroundings. We left Lake Wilderness and headed to Jon Thorne's Farm for lunch. Jon was a very hospitable host and took many of us on small tours of the grounds or left us free to wander on our own.

Then we headed home and enjoyed a garden-themed bingo game with unique prizes created by Sandy.

Some of us have been busy keeping up with our gardens or enjoying vacations with family. Others were preparing for The Fair!

August arrived and so did the Pierce County Fair celebrating their 75th year. Country Gardeners was in charge of the Kids Activity. We planted shoes again this year, I'm not sure but I think this is a "winner" for the kids!! Or at least for most;

I was witness to one little one that was encouraged to plant a shoe, which she seemed excited to do as she took care picking just the right she and plants. When her shoe was complete, she turned to go and her Mother reached out for it saying, "honey don't forget to take your shoe", "WHY?" came the reply!!



All in all I would say the Fair was a great success, thanks, in part, to all those garden club helpers who were there cleaning up, decorating and taking down the displays. We even had many ladies dress for the times--- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Again a big shout out to KATHY JOHNSON for all her HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. Is it too soon to ask what is planned for next year??

September is here and we are starting anew year. Hope everyone has enjoyed their spring and summer and are looking forward to what fall and winter bring.

Whatever it is, everyone enjoy your "gardens of weedin"

Kathleen Muckian  
Country Gardeners

## GARDENING MEMORIES

When I was a wee lass gardens were a part of everyday life. Often the front yard was the 'pretty' part of the property and the back yard was where the produce grew. If one neighbor had too many beans they would trade with a neighbor who had too many squash. We ate 'real meals' that came fresh from the garden, not the store. Mom would labour long hours canning fruit and veggies to last through the winter.

My mom cooked on a big, black beast of a stove that used sawdust for fuel. I have vivid memories of lugging buckets of sawdust for that stove. In the summer the kitchen was hot but in the winter my brothers and I fought over the comfy chair next to the stove.

My dad had a green thumb. Not much good with a hammer but he could sure make things grow. I would trail around behind him and, without realizing it, absorb an amazing amount of garden knowledge.

Dad taught me to 'talk to the bees' when I was about 5. He encouraged me to thank the bees for the hard work they do in the garden which provided so many pretty flowers and fruit and veggies to eat. 70+ years later I still talk to the bees.

My garden today reflects my childhood and the city of Victoria where I grew up. In the spring there were daffodils everywhere - that's why I keep planting them! In the summer I remember walking to the bus stop and pausing to sniff a rose leaning over a picket fence. Or to admire some poppies with their blowsy blooms. In the fall I would scuff through piles of oak, chestnut and maple leaves on the way to school. And in the winter the bare branches would be etched against the gray sky.

I still have the bushel basket that my brothers would carry me around in after we raked up all the leaves in our yard.

Memories..... Always worth a visit.

Anne Hartman



## BUS TOUR 2022

A long awaited bus tour finally happened June 23rd. The plans were started pre-covid, so after two years, it was a dream come true. The bus company (Explorations NW) were great to work with. In fact, they kept the rental fee for the bus at the pre-covid rates!

Members met the bus at South Hill Mall and we were on the road at 10 am. Judy Strickland provided us with her traditional libations on the way. The weather was perfect. Our first stop was Lake Wilderness Arboretum. We divided in groups and docents walked us through various areas and gardens where we saw and learned so much.

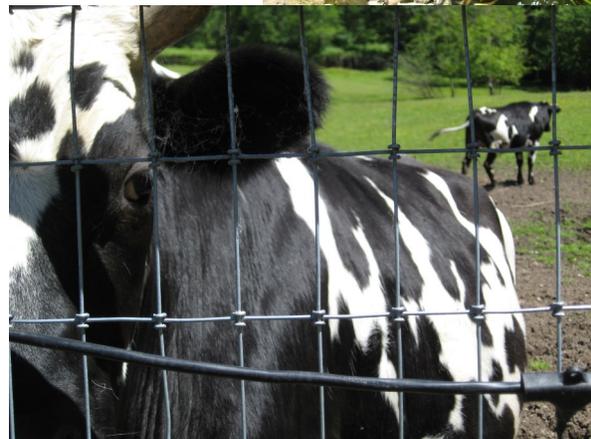
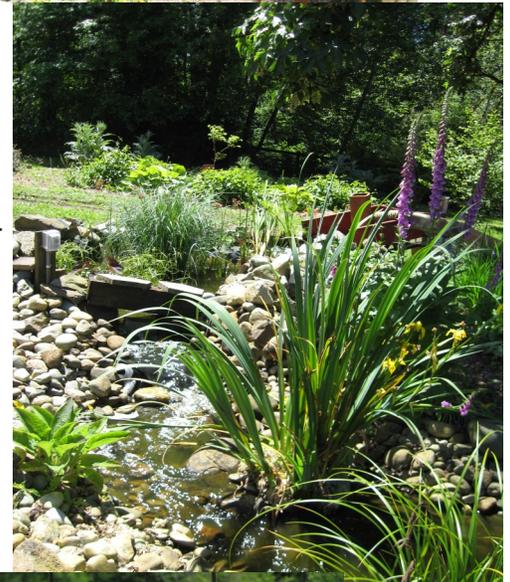
About noon we boarded the bus to John Throne's farm. What a treat—with a nice waterfall, gardens, animals, and so much more to see. He provided a shaded area and tables with beautiful flowers to have our boxed lunches (Thanks Rosie!), relax and have our annual awards ceremony.

John provided guided tours in groups and some of us just wandered around the grounds. John had veggies and plants for sale too. We boarded the bus, played some Flower Bingo (Thanks Sandy Walker!), and arrived back at our cars about 4 pm. There were 46 of us and I think we all had a good time. Some said they were ready for another tour soon. Our bus driver Harold was just great putting up with us and maneuvering that huge bus at John's place.

I want to thank all those who helped with the lunch and awards ceremony. Many in our district worked hard on ways & means projects throughout the last couple years to help with the costs of this trip—it really helped.

Shall we do it again next year?

Chris Sherrill  
Education Bus Tour Chairman



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### **SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE!**

Do you know a member who could use a cheerful note or card? Let **Chris Sherrill** know and she will send out a card. [smittywalt@centurylink.net](mailto:smittywalt@centurylink.net) or 253.820.5907

### **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.