

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#180 May, June, July 2016



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Spring arrived and the next day it seemed like summer started! The unusually warm weather has created a daily wonderland of blooms. What a pleasure it is to be working in the garden!

Don't forget to pot up those plants you were going to toss and bring them to share at the District Meeting in May.

When weeding the best way to make sure you are re-

moving a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out easily it was a valuable plant! (Author Unknown)

March was a very busy time for Hill and Dale District. We had the district meeting followed the next week by our 32nd Workshop. Thank you to all who worked to make both of these events a success. Workshop got rave reviews from those who attended.

I encourage you all to attend the May district meeting and share your horticulture and designs with your fellow garden club members.

Remember, together we can!

Linda

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Meeting

May 24, 2016

Dryer Masonic Temple

306 134th St S, Tacoma

8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. for entries

10:00 a.m. for meeting

Menu: Macaroni & Cheese

Laura Watson will be our Horticulture Speaker talking about "Clematis" - how to pronounce it and love it

Design program will be Diane Harper and Brenda Wood, 2 great designers from Black Hills.

WSFGC State Convention

June 7-10, 2016

Embassy Suites, Bellevue

Awards Picnic/Bus Tour

June 21

Bloedel Reserve

Pierce County Fair

August 11-14

Frontier Park, Graham

See page 5 for more info!

CLUB NEWS!

ROOT N' BLOOM

Good day Ladies! On a personal note, I'm sitting here this Fabulous sunny morning writing this. Thinking there is hope for a Beautiful sunny day May 15 for my daughter's out door wedding. It is Washington and we are never really sure what the day will bring until it's here!

Now to club fun! As those of us that attended District and Workshop saw, there were some fun and whimsical wooden flowers in the Bed to the left of the door. These were painted by Kathy Toups and made by her talented husband Craig. So cute I think I need some in my yard for those dreary winter days. Our group is working on a plan to make this area more interesting. So stay tuned, it's a work in progress.



Led by our own Kathy Johnson, and a few of our members, we were joined by a wonderful group of ladies from other clubs at Brookdale Alzheimer home. We met there for Garden Therapy and helped the residents make bird seed feeders using cookie cutters and a gooey batch of bird seed, karo syrup, flour and water. The residents all participated and kept asking if they could eat them. It was such a fun couple of hours. There will another Garden Therapy May 18th. Come join us, Kathy will have more details.

We've started a new grow project. We've planted 5 different kinds of Tomatoes. Will be fun to see which kind grows the best and produces the most flavorful Tomatoes. This is a win-win project, we get to eat the end result and maybe have a winning tomato at the Pierce County Fair in August.

Eddie Joe Fueston and others (it varies on the week who joins her) are going down to the Old Soldiers Home in Orting every Wednesday. There they help the residents with planting vegetable, and maintaining the veggie garden. In December the residents love when they're there to play Flower Bingo.

Our last meeting some of us took a trip to Watson's Nursery, always a fun place to go and see the new plants they have in. This year we were all excited about the new petunia named Night Sky. It's a beautiful deep purple that looks as if someone splattered white paint on it. A number of us left with at least one of these beauties.

Vickie even found a Chocoholic Plant and a Sweet Chocolate Pepper that would be perfect for her chocolate garden. We also found a popular annual that smells like vanilla and one that has a great cinnamon aroma.



Hope to see you all at our next District meeting on May 24th.
Rachel Jennings/Kathy Johnson

GARDEN HOUR

"Is it ok if I say 'sh-it' here?" was our opening statement by our favorite sassy master gardener, Nancy Mantey. She had been invited for a question and answer clinic, but it seems our clinic started with a controversial question from the speaker! We were too shocked to deny Nancy her colorful metaphors, and so we began. From raspberries (buy certified) to strawberries (Rainier or Olympia are best) to homemade aphid sprays and what to do with lichen on azaleas (nothing), the hour flew by as we had our gardening questions answered in a most entertaining way.

Speaking of entertaining, there's nothing like a good mystery, as our fire hall rowdies were hot on the trail of their mystery tulip project.



One of the mystery tulips

"Queen Frances" Nix brought in her mystery bulb in full bloom, the first member to do so at our March meeting. Our big reveal was in April when members learned the name and the particulars of their tulips: Darwin Hybrid, Triumph, Fosteriana or Single Early.

Not so mysterious are the specimens members bring in for horticulture sharing. We especially enjoy hearing from "**Vocal Valerie**" Linkert the stories behind her selections. In March she brought in a favorite of hers that she enjoyed whilst growing up in England. "It's called ox slip or cow slip depending on which pile you stepped in," she quipped. Valerie also shared childhood memories of the daffodils lining the streets and how magnificently beautiful they were.

If we thought our Feb. speaker was controversial, along came our March speaker's opening statement, "We shouldn't grow vegetables here!" exclaimed master gardener, John Valentine. "And yet, 40-50% of gardeners do tomatoes," he added. "We have a Mediterranean climate where the spring is the longest in the world – 4 1/2 to 5 months. There are places in China where spring lasts only a week." There was a collective gasp in the room. Imagine a one week spring.



How absurd. "Hybrids are better tasting than heirloom." Another gasp! "And Early Girl tomatoes don't have much flavor even though they do well here." Who does this guy think he is, turning our tomato world upside down? "You know, all tomatoes are sub-tropical and stop 'functioning' above 85 degrees". Please stop! We can't take anymore! "... and indeterminate tomatoes can produce for 6-7 years," he continued as he rocked our tom world. Other key points were: soil temp must be above 55°, thin out the leaves for ventilation, water the base not the foliage, buy small plants not in bloom; and for our Mediterranean climate, Big Beef and Stupis are the best varieties.

Sanity was restored when the April meeting featured our very own "**Hurricane Sandy**" Parr who gave an informative presentation, "Companion planting for vegetable gardens." She detailed what goes where and why to repel pests such as carrot flies and bean beetles, and to encourage pollinators. Even adding certain flowers can compliment the vegetable garden environs. Afterwards members "stormed" the Windmill Nursery in Sumner for lunch and shopping. Sunny weather, good friends, food and shopping – who could ask for anything more?

Karla Hiers, Secretary

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB:

Ok Ladies, did you get all that pruning done? At least, the old rose bushes? Hill and Dale speakers really told us what to do to roses for pruning. Sometimes shocking.....

FEBRUARY: SPIRAL GARDENING

The Master gardener Rita Butler told us how to grow upwards. "Spiral gardening is a highly productive and energy efficient vertical garden design. It allows you to stack plants to maximize space." All kinds of tepee looking frames can be used and built with poles, branches, sticks, rods and whatever is around but.....we like wood the best because plants can grab on to it best. Wood will deteriorate easily, but DON'T use treated wood. It is not good for the plants or the soil.

Beautiful Seed and bulb catalogs are coming in the mail and driving me crazy!!!!

MARCH: STEEP SLOPE GARDENING

Off on a field trip to ALPINE NURSERY. Sloping gardens have many challenges.

KEY: The selection of plants with good root systems. Carpet Rose will bloom from May to frost. Trees on a bank should be staked for 6 months or more when on a bank.

WATER IS A CLUE. Do not put plants that need water on a slope or a slope that needs water.

- Fertilize 2 or 3 times a year
- Organic fertilizer good for rocky ground
- Compost mixed with native soil recommended
- Amend clay soil for the nutrients
- Read your labels on compost

If you have a big slope it would be best to get some good consulting advice. There is too much involved for a healthy, good growing slope that will last.

Dogwood Club made clever, folded wire baskets filled with moss and succulents for Hill and Dale's meeting. Gardeners are so impressive with what they can do with a minimum of natural materials.

Dogwood Park got its Spring cleaning and we were all thankful that the big truck that plowed through part of it did not knock down the signs. A few plants will be replaced.

Town beautification in a number of barrels will be planted again by Dogwood with cooperation of store owners, in some spots, to keep them watered. For me, that is another form of "eye candy"....in town.



APRIL: GROUND COVERS

Greg Graves, owner of the Old Goat Farm, once again blew our minds away with the wonderful ground covers that are suitable for our area and climate. He had the examples to show us, too.

Ground covers include low-growing plants that never reach more than a couple inches in height as well as others that might grow as tall as two feet or more.

REASONS TO PLANT GROUND COVERS:

- they are better than bark and mulch
- keep your garden in place
- are beautiful
- come with a view. - a place for the eye to rest
- attract wildlife
- prevent weeds....
- can replace your lawn

Earlier in the meeting Sharon Burlingame showed us her prize winning miniature designs. What a talent to work that small!!!

MAY 6TH will be a big day **PLANT SALE AT EATONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**. Dogwood members have been saving the best for you. So much going on. Next month we learn about deer repellent plants.

“IN THE SPRING AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU SHOULD SMELL LIKE DIRT”

Gotta run.....and plant those pansies!!!
(Someone said my tulips were on steroids. :>)
Sharon Aguilar

COUNTRY GARDENERS

Some of the Country Gardeners have had a trying time over winter dealing with the health concerns of their loved ones and we are all wishing prayers and get wells to all of them. But we are so happy to have 3 or 4 new members and with them come new talent, energy and most of all smiles.

We have also had some fun afternoon programs. Debbie Spiller came and gave us a demo. {Thanks Debbie } and we all made paper mache containers for design. My, we are a talented bunch!

Roxie Giddings did a program on birdhouses. Gail Harte showed how to make a planter out of bark and moss, also some tips on cleaning driftwood for design.

Members Margie Knudson and Gail Harte joined in the fun at the Pierce County Fairgrounds on Arbor Day planting the tree. We then all went to lunch. Fun!

Chris Sherrill attended the Flower Show School #1 . She said she learned a lot. We can't wait to hear all about it.

District Workshop { was that great or what } Many of us helped with the set up and clean up, not only our club

but other District Members as well. A big Thank You to all of you Many hands do make light of the work. We heard many wonderful comments. Great food, good programs and many good friends.

Well, spring is here! I hope you are all getting time to workout in your yards it's good for your soul.
Gail Harte President

GLOVE AND TROWEL

Call us students, call us wise, call us Glove and Trowel members. February, March and April have been particularly productive and informative. Yes, we have our lively business meetings along with looking forward to our programs.

It is difficult to think back about our club's events of February and March, when only just a few days ago (April 19), we had such a fun hands-on and creative program. It was one of our more well attended and anticipated events.

However, on reflection, the February and March programs were also fun, educational, and creative. Our program for the afternoon in February at Eileen Smiley's clubhouse was for each member to do a design with materials provided by all of us from our homes. Sherry Mathews and Fran Cissell, two of our award-winning designers helped us. Sherry then kindly and gently reviewed each one and we all offered suggestions for creating that “wow” factor. They were wonderful designs and some of us pleasantly surprised ourselves.

In March, Emily Miller at JoAnn Brauen's home conducted a horticulture program. She demonstrated the proper way to identify, display and tag entries. We practiced how to show horticulture in the district meetings. Again, we brought plant items to share and study. This program was meant specifically to encourage more of our members to participate in showing at the next week's District Flower Show. As a result, there were ten or more entries from some who have never done so before -- and several blue ribbons.

Oh, yes, about the April program hosted by Fran Cissell. We made plate flowers for our gardens. Imagine being in a huge 3-door beautiful garage/museum. Two doors are open to a sunny 83 degrees outside, three large tables inside for dining and production of our flowers to hang on a stake in our gardens. One of those long tables contains various plates large to tiny, which were purchased at a garage sale by Sheryl Gustafson. Other glassware, and even heirlooms, came from our homes. This project brought out the best in us. Talking and laughing all at once while creating, admiring, and scrutinizing.

Call us lovingly grateful for each other's presence.

Save the Dates

August 11-14, 2016

Monday, August 8, Open & Clean out Floral Building

Tuesday, August 9, Finish Cleaning & Decorate

Wednesday, August 10, 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 24. Any questions, please call Kathy Johnson 253-847-4933 & Sherry Matthews 253-845-2555

DISTRICT GARDEN THERAPY

May Flowers We will be having our third activity with Brookdale Puyallup South, 8811 176th St E on South Hill in Puyallup. Wednesday May 18th, at 10:00 am we will be working with the Alzheimer's & Dementia residents to plant flowers. We would like each club to be represented by two of their members. Please come watch our flowers bloom.



ARBOR DAY 2016: On April 13, Washington state Arbor Day, eight hardy Hill and Dale members "helped" plant a flowering cherry at Frontier Park in Graham. Thanks to Sherry Mathews, Glove and Trowel, Margie Knudson and Gail Harte, Country Gardeners, Rachel Jennings, Kathy Johnson and Eddie Jo Fueston, Root and Bloom, Dorothy Bean and Nita Huber, Garden hour, and Mary Bewley, Dogwood, for representing their clubs at the planting.

Hill and Dale District has provided *Prunus autumnalis* trees on Arbor Day for over 10 years. Erin Benedict, the caretaker at the park, has already picked out the spot for next year's tree. Thanks to Lynn Smith of Dogwood Garden Club for getting the tree from Todd's Nursery to the fairgrounds. The occasion is topped off with lunch at "the" nearby golf course cafe to complete the occasion.

MARCH DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

CLUB	HORTCULTURE	DESIGN	TOTALS
Country Gardeners	56	33	89
Dogwood	17	6	23
Garden Hour	32		32
Glove & Trowel	58		58
Root & Bloom	59	11	70
Total Entries	63	12	

- Best Bulb: Ronnie Grottolo Glove & Trowel
- Award of Merit: Patty Swanson Country Gardeners
- Best Design: Linda Maida Country Gardeners
- Best Novice: Patty Isom Country Gardeners
- Best Small Design: Chris Sherrill Country Gardeners



Chris Sherrill



Kathy Johnson



Patty Isom



Gayle Harte

32nd WORKSHOP

Hill & Dales 32nd workshop was a success, Susy Egan on trilliums and Judy Bennett speaking in small fruit trees held the interest of all those attending. Great fun was had by all watching Debbie, Keith, Tory, Brynn and Diane Designing with Barry McAlister's pottery. Barry was a wonderful addition to the day.

A great big thank you to Root and Bloom for working the kitchen and Country Gardeners for doing set up and clean up. The salads, cookies and raffle baskets from the clubs is the reason this project continues to be a favorite event for garden clubs around the state. Thank you, Judy Strickland, for the door prizes.

Linda

General Rules

1. All entries to be made between 8:30 and 9:45
2. Judging will begin at 10:00AM. Rules for judging will be in accordance with the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows. Standard system of awarding is used, Judge's decisions are final.
3. Entry to include club and exhibitor's name.
4. Members of Hill & Dale District or student judge's requiring credits may enter.

Horticulture Rules

1. Exhibitors may enter more than one exhibit per class, if each is a different genus, species, variety, cultivar, type, size or color.
2. All cut exhibits must be fresh and grown by the exhibitor. Container-grown plants must have been in exhibitor's possession for at least 90 days, combination plantings, in the possession of the exhibitor and growing together for at least 6 weeks.
3. All specimens must be properly named. Include genera, species, and variety if possible.
4. Containers (clear or clear green) glass to be furnished by the exhibitor. Wedging is permitted. Suggested material plastic wrap, Styrofoam-may be visible but not detracting.
5. Only fresh untreated plant material is accepted. No plant material from the state noxious weed list will be accepted.
6. All horticulture exhibits will be classified and placed by committee
7. Scale of points HB pages 297-302
8. Rosette of Bronze ribbons: Best in Show

Design Rules

1. Exhibitor may enter more than one class, but only one design per class.
2. Fresh plant material emphasized and must never be treated, dry plant material may be treated.
3. No artificial plant material permitted.
4. Accessories allowed unless otherwise stated.
5. Scale of points HB page 303
6. Designer's choice: designer has complete choice of components and plant material.
7. Rosette of Purple ribbons: Best of Show Classes 1-4
8. Small rosette of Blue and White ribbons: Best of Show in class
6 a AND 6 b
9. Best novice class 5

Artistic Crafts

1. All exhibits must contain some plant material, fresh and or dried.
2. Artificial plant material in not permitted.
3. Scale of points HB page 304
4. Rosette of Red and White Ribbons

DRYER MASCONIC CENTER
306 134th St. S. Tacoma 537-9928
May 24, 2016

GLOVE & TROWEL GARDEN CLUB
Entries: 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.

"CHASING RAINBOWS"

DIVISION 1 - HORTICULTURE

Horticulture entries must be grown or in an exhibitor's possession for three months. All plant material must be properly groomed, conditioned and named. More than one entry may be made in each class or subclass if of a different variety or color. Wedging is permitted; a small inconspicuous piece of material may be used in the neck of the container only to prop or wedge the exhibit upright. **EXHIBITOR WILL FURNISH THEIR OWN TRANSPARENT CONTAINERS. PUT YOUR NAME & CLUB ON EACH ENTRY TAG.**

Rosette of Bronze ribbons: Best in Show WSFGC Betty Belcher Award Section 1
Rosette of Lime green ribbons: WSFGC MarvelLee Peterschick Flowering Tree/shrubs. Section 3
Rosette of Orange ribbons: 3 Awards of Merit. Sections 1, 2, & 3

SECTION 1 "BURSTING WITH COLOR"

Class 1. ROSES, *Rosa*

- a. Hybrid Tea, disbud b. Floribunda c. Any other

Class 2. IRIS 1 stem

- a. Bearded b. Beardless c. Bulbous
d. Any other

Class 3. PEONIES, *Paeonia* 1 stem

SECTION 2 "ALWAYS RETURN"

Class 4. PERENNIALS & BIENNIALS

- a. *Viola*, Pansies 3 stems, same variety, same color
b. *Zantedeschia*, Calla 1 stem
c. *Aquilegia*, Columbine 1 stem
d. *Chrysanthemum*, Daisies 3 stems
e. Any other worthy perennial/biennial in bloom 1 stem

SECTION 3 "FROM BUDS TO"

Class 5. FLOWERING TREES & SHRUBS, 1 branch not over 24", must be in flower

- a. *Cornus*, Dogwood b. *Syringa*, Lilac
c. *Camellia* d. Vines
e. *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, Beauty Bush f. Any other

Class 6. RHODODENDRON

- a. One truss with leaves b. Any other

Class 7. AZALEAS 1 spray not over 16"

SECTION 4 "OTHER SPRING BEAUTIES"

Class 8. ANY OTHER WORTHY BLOOMING SPECIMEN

Not listed above (No potted plants)

“CHASING RAINBOWS”

DIVISION 11 - DESIGN

No artificial flowers or foliage. Fresh plant material emphasized Accessories allowed unless otherwise stated. One entry to a class or subclass. Put your name and club on each entry tag.

Rosette of Purple ribbons: Best of Show Classes 1-4

Small rosette of Blue and White ribbons: Best in Show in class 6

Rosette of Purple and Cream ribbons: Novice Award in class 5

Rosette of Hot Pink ribbons: WSFGC Carolyn Erickson Award. All Fresh design, classes 1-6

Division II Design

Class 1. “Jumping in Puddles” Multi-rythmic*

Class 2. “Not my Mother's China” Exhibition table type 11, some plant material in design

Class 3. “Splashes of Color” Designers Choice

Class 4. “Purple Rain” Designers Choice

Class 5. NOVICE ONLY “Up, up and Away” Tall design

Class 6. Small Design “Rain Drops” Between 5" and 8"

A. All fresh

B. Combination of fresh and dried

Crafts

BEST CRAFT AWARD Rosette of Red and White ribbons

Using plant material to combine horticulture, design and craft work to add interest. May be fresh or a combination of plant material.

Class 7. “Pot of Gold” A decorated 6" clay pot

Multi-Rhythmic Design: A creative design with emphasis on two or more rhythms in the design. Lines create two or more separate and distinct thhythms, each creating a different pattern and movement unlike the other. Lines may go in any direction, e.g., straight, curvilinear, zigzag or a combination, and may cross. The lines may be created by any component/s, continual or broken, or by the repetition of color, form or texture.

NOTE: Please call Sherry Matthews 845-2555 with the classes and number of entries you will be bringing by Thursday before the Tuesday meeting.

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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.

In Memoriam

Dogwood Garden Club is sad to announce the passing of Vera Byrd on April 14th. 2016 Vera, 98, was a charter member of Dogwood from its 1952 beginning. She was an active designer, gardener and district and state garden club participant. She was very knowledgeable about every plant that grew in our area and was a valuable resource for our annual plant sale in May.

Vera was interested in Garden Club activities long after she could no longer participate, wanting to hear about the new projects of our club and district. Dogwood members visited Vera weekly keeping her in touch with our activities. She was an avid bird expert and had quail as well as every native bird visiting her bird sanctuary garden to the day of her passing at her home.

Vera and her father came to Washington in the 1930's to escape the Dust Bowl and set up a new home for her mother and siblings. Vera and her husband moved to Eatonville in the 1940's and established a business and became active in the community activities. We are thankful that one of those activities was Dogwood Garden Club, and we are inspired by her long life and continued alertness and interest in our garden club.