

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#176 May ~ July 2015



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"VINE & ROSES"

Hello Garden Friends,

Seasons come and go and it's time to move on to what the next season brings. Haven't had much time to ponder this season, since I have been busy navigating through Board meetings, District meetings, State meetings, and Conventions, while also visiting all clubs of our district. It's now time to move on and allow the next officers to have their own rewarding experience.

Spring is here with it's full array of colors in the gardens. Hope you're enjoying them along with the weeding, which comes with being a happy gardener.

This time of the year each club is busy with Community projects. Root & Bloom has decorated the front of the Dryers Masonic Hall by planting flowers; check it out when you come to the next district meeting. Dogwood is busy planting flowers in barrels on the streets of Eatonville. Garden Hour continues doing beautification projects at the Edgewood Fire Hall and also stays involved with Garden Therapy projects at the Valley Community Inn in Puyallup.

Our district is so blessed by having long time members who have come along and given us years of wisdom in gardening. Here are examples of great longevity; **Glove & Trowel**; Velma Williams 48 years & Sherry Matthews 42 years; **Sunbonnet Sue**; Gerry Nelson 50 years, Doris Yuckert 50 years & Trudy Wargo 52 years; **Dogwood**; Vera Byrd 62 years, and Mary Bewley 40 years. As our first District Director stated in 1975, "May we never grow too old to learn, too forgetful to conserve, or too lazy to create."

In closing, always remember to "Think Outside the Box" & "Put a new twist on utilizing recycled items".

Have a wonderful Summer and enjoy the beauty along with the produce of your gardens, and remember - keep on weeding!!!

Rosie Trujillo, Director, Hill and Dale

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Meeting May 26, 2015

Dryer Masonic Center
306 134th St S, Tacoma
Registration: Sunbonnet Sue
8:30 a.m. to 9:45 for entries
10 a.m. meeting
Flower Show: Root & Bloom
Table Decorations: Dogwood

Lunch: Trio Salads & Rolls

Morning Program: Marianne Binetti and Susan Goetz will present a program called **"My Plant is Better Than Your Plant"**.

Each speaker will discuss their plant and tell why they think their plant is better! They have both been featured in the News Tribune and have published books. Their books and some plants will be for sale. There will be a Q & A at the end of their program.

Afternoon Design Program: Avant Design Group from East Lake Washington

WSFGC Convention June 2—5, 2015

registration info on the WSFGC website or in Smoke Signal

Awards Potluck June 23, 2015

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Midland Community Centre
1619 E 99th St, Tacoma

Art in Bloom July 18-19, 2015

Eatonville - contact Diane Mettler for more details 360.832.8456
diane@spilledinkstudio.com

Pierce County Fair August 5-9, 2015

Frontier Park, Graham
Contact Sherry Matthews for more details and to enter. 253.845.2555
sherrytom41@comcast.net

CLUB NEWS!

ROOT & BLOOM

As always, Root & Bloomers have been busy. Those who attended the last District meeting at the Masonic Hall may have noticed that the front garden has a new look. We decided to take it on, 1: because it needed help and 2: because we want it to look nice for the Workshop. Four of us did an initial reconnaissance and planting in February. Then on a rainy March day ten of us put in the rest of the plants. The trick was to choose hardy things that won't require a lot of tending, and trying to work with everyone's ideas, not forgetting the four arborvitae already there. Some plants were donated and some were bought with money earned at our bakes sales. That means everyone attending a District meeting who bought cookies played a part in beautifying the garden. With luck (and plenty of sun) the front of the building will be a welcoming presence. Although one Mason drove up, parked his car, and looked at what we'd done saying, "Ferns in a garden?"



The Bloomers also took a field trip to Wind Mill Gardens in February, but I saw on Facebook that Kathy Toups hit Watsons in a big way. I did, too, trying to identify the blue shrub currently blooming. I was told it was probably a giant Scilla. After some research I found out it is a Catmint Walker's Low. I'm hoping the "low" means low maintenance.



Members of Country Gardeners were our guests in March, and we welcomed Rosie's friend, Margaret Hofer. We hope she will join, that would make four new members this year, three from the Fern Hill Crafters Guild where Linda Maida is going to teach a sedums, wreath making class. The Bloomers provided a potluck and the afternoon program was, "Wild Flowers & Hikes and How to take Photographs in Your Own

Garden" put on by Maureen Courtney, owner of Covenant Photography and self-described "Garden Girl – Garden Advisor."

In April we made corsages (about 50) for ladies at the Alzheimer's Home off 112th St near the motor vehicle building, and boutonnieres for the men (about



20). We all applauded Patti Power when she mastered bow-making under Judy's tutelage. Eight or nine of us drove the flowers over and helped pin them on the residents. It was very heartwarming to see their appreciation

Our Stamps-for-Breast-Cancer research continues. Member Leslie Winchell belongs to a penpal club and donates dozens of stamps every month. We also received a lovely thank you letter from some Girl Scouts in Bethel, Alaska where we sent redeemable box top labels. Coincidentally, Patti Power has a relative who taught at Bethel and said it is a somewhat low-income town where residents don't benefit from oil payments.

Only two more meetings this year and lots to do yet.



GARDEN HOUR

Good golly Miss Molly! Things are getting' crazy down at the Edgewood fire hall. During a discussion on moles, **Queen Frances Nix** confessed in her demure, sweet voice, "If the blast from the gunpowder doesn't kill 'em, then I whack 'em with my shovel!" Yikes!! ...really Frances?

On a softer note, "**Doo-Bee**" **Dorinda Jenkins** whimsically mused, "Sometimes I feel like a butterfly," concluding her environmental report on the life cycle of her favorite bug. Members agreed when "**Java Junkie**" **Jan Hurley** suddenly blurted out, "I know I'm goofy, but it's fun!" during her horticulture presentation. "**Sassy-Frass**" **Sue Miller** confessed she likes "to watch their funny little habits" (birds?) following Wild Birds Unlimited Greg Cole's presentation.



"Oh, I just cut their heads off," "**Vocal**" **Valerie Linkert** answered dryly when asked if she liked her scented geranium flowers during Megan Aumiller's talk on "Everything Geranium". "They just get in my way," she added coyly.

Members gasped -- no, not at any of these shenanigans, but when we learned that aphids are born pregnant according to Frank Gatto of Raft Island Roses. Then he added thoughtfully, "We'll have 70,000 blooms at our Gig Harbor nursery in June." Hmmm, bugs and blooms...We do love spring!

Thinking we needed some fresh April air, we left the confines of the fire hall and descended en masse like a swarm of geriatric gnats on Watson's Nursery. We toured the inner sanctum with their education/resource employee, Sue, learned a few trade secrets, and marveled at a \$300 pot of giant geraniums. (Let's see "**Vocal V**" try to cut their heads off!) Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at Anton's Café and tried to behave ourselves.

Yes, things are crazy at the fire hall. And yet, in February we added another brave soul to our rowdy gang: **Marty Roper**. Then suddenly, without warning in April, the dynamic duo of **Mavis and Wally Platt** ventured into our inner sanctum and joined our group. Welcome y'all. We look forward to sharing many garden hours with you and you can look forward to earning your new Garden Hour Rowdy nickname!

Krazy Karla Hiers, Secretary

GLOVE AND TROWEL

Glove and Trowel members have thoroughly enjoyed an "extra-curricular activity" the last few years. Pierce County 4-H has asked us to present one of their many workshops at their annual Super Saturday gathering. It has been interesting choosing an activity appropriate for about twenty 4-Hers, from elementary through high school ages, and it has been amazing to see all the individual spins they come up with after they see our initial examples. Projects have included multi-layered hanging planters made from plastic bottles, people communities made from driftwood sticks, and Valentine designs in potatoes with fresh and artificial media

Our February program got our creative juices going. Patsy Jackson guided us in using pressed flowers to make beautiful cards, book marks, and note papers. A glance at these items will remind us all year long of our summer flower gardens.



Garden clubs equal learning. The more comfortable we feel with something, the easier it is to undertake it. So to encourage many to enter designs or horticulture in the District shows, our members showed their designs using the upcoming District themes. Lori Case's design (Double Rainbow) featured roses and contorted willow in two containers.

Linda Pempeck chose an interesting sculpture and red roses for Rainbow Riot. Emily Miller displayed softly hued carnations in her underwater design, Rainy

Day. Jan Morgan, for her underwater designs, used peach lilies with faceated willow for one, and white andromeda and green hellebore for the other. Sherry Matthews demonstrated the fine points of using two containers. Learning takes place in doing and seeing. Sherry and Linda also emphasized important aspects of displaying and preparing horticulture entries.

For our April meeting Jan shared some horticulturally related highlights from her week in Amsterdam last September. The Aalsmeer Flower Auction is the largest in the world, the building covering an area the size of 220 football fields and selling 34.5 million plants and flowers per day. Jan also shared some information about tulips from the Tulip Museum in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. Of course, our own Skagit County is the location of some of the largest fields and distribution of these beautiful Spring flowers.



After enjoying early, prolific flowering of everything because of our warm weather this season, it is a busy time keeping up with our gardens.

Always -- Happy Gardening!

Jan Morgan, Secretary

COUNTRY GARDENERS

The Country Gardeners are in full swing with lots of up coming things to do and see. Our February, March and April meetings have been well attended, fun and informative with sharing and learning from all members.

The February meeting was held at our usual meeting place and our honored guest was Mr. Larry Owens, which is always a treat. Larry's program with his vast knowledge of gardening was on the vegetable garden. He talked about seed sources and recommended sowing times in our area. It was a very informative program and well received

We also had a guest from Root n Bloom who invited our club to have lunch with them and enjoy their program on "How to take pictures in your own garden" on March 16. Thanks so much - we all had a great time.



The meeting in March was busy with unfinished business and new business that needed to be taken care of. We elected a new slate of officers for the upcoming year. Gail Harte will be our new President, Sandy Walker Vice President, Secretary Deborah Schmus, Treasurer Margie Knudson, our phone caller will be Roxy Giddings and Sunshine will be Chris Sherrill.

We are looking forward to upcoming events like the district meeting and the Workshop at the end of April.

Our April meeting was held a member Chris Sherrill's house. After a very quick meeting we went out to see and enjoy her yard. Her garden was so nice! She had been working hard. Lunch was potluck. Thanks Chris !

A message from Linda Maida.....

As the outgoing president of Country Gardeners I want to thank the members of Country Gardener's for their outstanding giving and sharing in all aspects of garden club. We are a 100% club in all respects of NGC and WSFGC.

Attendance at club meetings is always close to 100 percent. We have shared out gardens and knowledge of horticulture and design of course! We put on a small standard flower show, which was a major undertaking, with a lot of fun and field trips along the way.

I am so proud to be a member of this club. They have set the example for district meetings, not only by attendance but have led the way in entering both horticulture and design. I have been truly fortunate to be their president the last two, well four plus years, but who's counting!

Linda Maida

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB:

WHOW!!! THE SUN CAME OUT AND GARDENING BECAME THE PRIORITY OVER NIGHT!! Out came the “Dos and Don’ts “ list from last year from the journal we kept of what grows well or doesn’t. What was the name of the plant your “borrowed” from the friend’s garden? How to lay out a better garden? We learned that last year from our speaker Diane Mettler. Think about flowering shrubs and Fall colored shrubs for the garden, too.

Meetings keep us centered and on track, apart from all the wonderful information, current events and community projects.



JANUARY: “All about Hostas”. The number one selling plant in North America. Greg Graves has at least 60 different types of Hostas at their Old Goat Farm. Some are even fragrant. As borders they make a real

statement and prefer rich, moist, well drained soil. Their biggest enemy is the slug. Greg suggests SLUGGO twice a year. Safe around animals. Kathleen Owens and Jan Landry served a delicious Quiche. Kathleen has the perfect view of Mt. Rainier. (when it’s out)

FEBRUARY: “ Hydroponics”. ‘Short on soil? Hydroponics is a process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but without soil.’ J. Valentine, again, shared his profound knowledge of hydroponics to a fascinated audience. Diane Mettler shared her visit to Holland and their production in hydroponics which are some of the best in the world. Lynn Smith provided a sumptuous buffet which we enjoyed in her new mountain/county house. She, too, has a view.

The call went out to help Jr. Gardeners on their Spring projects. Potato sprouts, old hanging baskets to be recycled for Mother’s Day, the plastic/clear/box contains used in the Deli, etc., that food comes in to be used as mini hot houses to start seeds and plants.

Seed catalogs coming in the mail. Driving me crazy!! I want to do it all but must remember that Journal list from last year!!.

MARCH: “Container Specialist”, on field trip to Windmill Garden, Sumner. Pots do like to be crowded full. “You look at the pots as your garden. They are



your inspiration”. They give you instant gratification. Of course, the 3 things we think about: *Thriller, Filler, Spiller*. We can go for dark and light plant contrast, or the monochromatic one color effect and often an Evergreen is the thriller which stays healthy and looks good while the other may die at the change of season.

Lunch at the Windmill was a gift from our club to club members at the end of the year. Afterwards, we were all inspired to go look at ALL the plants in the nursery and start our own container display. GOOD DAY WAS HAD BY ALL.

APRIL: “Birds”. Member of the Tahoma Audubon Society. “Why should you add more birds to your garden?” Answer: pest control, flower pollination. weed control and more. When attempting to encourage birds in your home gardens think of stratification when attempting to stimulate nature. Think Layers. Some birds like the over story canopy (tree tops), others like the understory (bushes/shrubs), while many like the ground cover. Because removal of bird habitat has reduced the bird population we must put in more native plants for our beautiful feathered friends.



Size of beaks indicate if they are insect eaters, seed eaters and even cone rippers. Every bird slide/picture was an awesome moment.

Dennis the Menace said: “Birds are so smart! They fly South without maps, and build nests without blueprints.”

CeaCea Bicknell and Sharon Aguilar enjoyed hosting and gave Japanese Mochi ice-cream and Korean cookies for dessert.

The little LBBs (little brown birds) have been feasting on the primrose petals in the potted pots on the steps of the house. They prefer red to white and were not affected by the cayenne pepper I put on the flowers, but that was solved when the flower died.

MAY: Will be all about Bees.....Andy the Beekeeper....

Looking forward to summer,
Sharon Aguilar

MARCH DISTRICT MEETING

The March District meeting was a lively event with approximately 70 members attending. Sunbonnet Sue handled registrations and Garden Hour did a great job with the flower show.



Country Gardeners made the charming table centerpieces which were quickly snapped up by folks attending. Great job, Country Gardeners!!

Greg and Gary from Old Goat Farm did a presentation in the morning on plants for your garden that were featured at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. They also brought lots of plants to sell which many members took advantage of.

The afternoon program was a pot pourri of designs presented by several talented ladies. They spoke about design rules for judging and then design rules for your personal enjoyment. Basically, throw the rule book out and do what pleases you in your own home.

Flower Show Results

		Design Points	Horticulture Points
80 horticulture exhibits	Country Gardeners	2.2	11.9
27 designs	Dogwood	.2	.9
4 crafts	Garden Hour		
	Glove and Trowel	1.5	1.6
	Root and Bloom	1.3	4.8
Thanks to everyone who entered.	Best Design- Judy Strickland		Root and Bloom
You made this another successful show.	Best Horticulture- Sherry Matthews		Glove and Trowel
	Best Miniature-Chris Sherrill		Country Gardener's
	Best Craft-Chris Sherrill		Country Gardener's
	Best Novice-Sheryl Gustafson		Glove and Trowel
	Award of Merit-Margie Knutson		Country Gardener's
	Award of Merit-Kathy Johnson		Root and Bloom

Sunbonnet Sue Says Farewell!!

Sunbonnet Sue celebrated 60 years with Hill and Dale District at the March meeting. That is an amazing legacy they have shared with us.



They were first formed in February, 1955, and affiliated with Hill and Dale (then called League of Garden Clubs) in 1956. Their Garden Therapy projects have garnered honors and awards at State and National levels for more than 50 years.

We will say farewell to Sunbonnet Sue in June as they disband their club.

Hill and Dale District is grateful for their years of contributions, their sharing of garden knowledge and their friendship!



Arbor Day

Three clubs were represented at the Arbor Day planting on April 14th at Frontier Park. Enjoying the SUNSHINE planting were Sherry Matthews and Fran Cissell, **Glove and Trowel**; Eddie Joe Fueston and Carol Demott, **Root and Bloom**; and Rosie Trujillo and Mary Bewley, **Dogwood**.

The Flowering Cherry, *Prunus subhirtella*, Autumnalis, joins last year's tree at the north end of the Home Economics Building Parking Lot. Lisa Libby from Dogwood, transported the tree from Todd's Nursery to the fairgrounds

“Not For The Faint Of Heart”

Hill & Dale's 31st workshop delighted the audience! The morning program started with a talk by Kate Johnson delighting us with pictures of her fantasyland gardens followed by her passion for repurposing almost anything she touches into amazing different creations. She wowed us all, thank you Kate.

Scott Vergara from Woodland Gardens in Port Orchard amazed us with his program on carnivorous plants - the amazing colors and shapes and the fact their leaves make a great design component was a added bonus. Visit Scott on Saturdays at the Gig Harbor Farmers Market.

Lunch not only had us partaking of a wonderful selection of salads but gave us an hour to visit with fellow garden club members. Black Hills, Capital, Central, Chinook, CrossSound, East Lake Washington, Evergreen and Olympic Peninsula Districts were all represented. Hill & Dale is proud to host a workshop that brings so many together to enjoy a day of fellowship and education.

Char Mutschler, top designer and instructor from Salem, Ore, led the design program. She was joined by Nita Wood and Gretchen McCain, also from Salem. Char has been giving design programs for thirty years and is on the NGC board for flower show schools and a sought after speaker. Nita and Gretchen were giving their first program called Twelve Creative Designs that had the designers in the audience ready to get creative.

A big thank you to Judy Strickland for hosting the three designers overnight; they had rave reviews for the slumber party. And a thank you also goes to the members of Glove and Trowel for their excellent job in the kitchen. Country Gardeners, Dogwood, Garden Hour, Root & Bloom, Sunbonnet Sue and the Hill & Dalers put together amazing raffle baskets. The proceeds helped pay for our speakers.

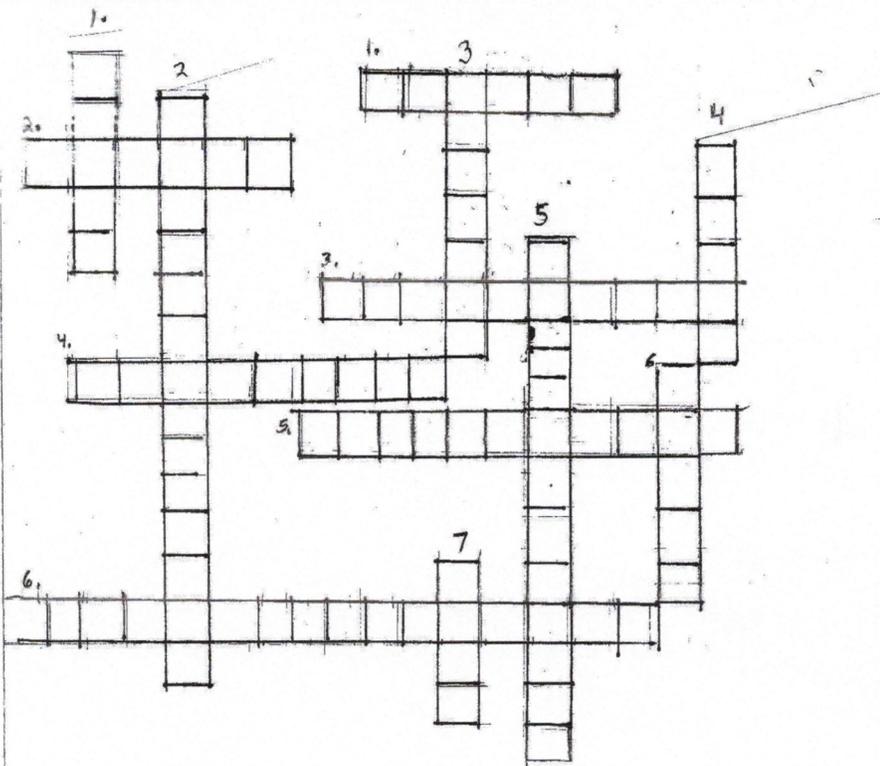
Sue Miller, thank you for assisting the morning speakers; Sherry Matthews, another great job with reservations. Lunch and coffee break would not be possible without the participation of all of you. Once again we had rave reviews on the cookies and salads. My thanks to all who donated - you make the Workshop "WORK" Linda Maida



BUS TOUR: Our bus tour on May 20th is almost SOLD OUT!!! We will be visiting Bellevue Botanical Gardens in Bellevue in the morning and having lunch there. The afternoon brings us to Soos Creek Botanical Gardens in Auburn and then home with memories of a day of beauty. Contact Sherry Matthews to reserve a spot! 253.845.2555 or sherrytom41@comcast.net

Judy Strickland will have activities, snacks and something for our thirst as we travel up north for a full day of fun.

Solve the crossword puzzle below. The first member to solve the puzzle and send it to Karla Stover will be presented with a prize at the May District Meeting Karlstover@gmail.com



Across:

1. This is reward enough.
2. Not all Johnnys do this
3. Men wear these flowers more than women.
4. Its gold is deceptive.
5. They can only stand as long as they lean against each other.
6. They're mostly left to the men.

Down:

1. Of the 2,500 different species, on 11 are found in North America.
2. The Stock Market grew out of this event in 1637.
3. Compost piles love these.
4. Ed Stover's favorite flower.
5. They're an important part of Hill&Dale's District meetings.
6. Vicki Nelson has a garden dedicated to these.
7. It's a soothing plant to have around.

“Chairs”

The days may be grey,
they may be damp, cold and
cloudy,
but that doesn't stop us
Garden Hour Rowdies.

From fall into spring
we gather “en masses;”
Some stand having coffee,
some sit on their....*chairs.*

A greeting, a meeting,
a motion made---
and it passes!
More coffee is poured
as we sit on our....*chairs.*



New program, new speaker,
long lesson on grasses;
Our brains have gone numb
along with our....*chairs.*

We Rowdies are tough though,
like nails—like brass is,
but after an hour
we got pain in our....*chairs.*

So at the end of each meeting
we prim, proper lasses
can't wait to stand up
and get moving our....*chairs.*

--by A. Rowdy Karla Hiers

DIVISION II - DESIGN "SUMMER FUN"

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

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

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

Rosette of Purple and Cream ribbons: Novice Award class 5

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

- Class 1.** "Mountain Climbing" - Designer's choice
- Class 2.** "Beach Combing" - using driftwood
- Class 3.** "Kite Flying" - Designers choice
- Class 4** "Some-Mores" - Exhibitional, Alfresco, type 2, some plant material
- Class 5.** "Carnival Ride" - NOVICE ONLY - using two containers
- Class 6.** "Fireflies" - Miniature Design
a. All fresh b. Combination of fresh and dried

A miniature design is under 5" in height, depth and width

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.** "Heat Wave" - A decorated fan.

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

Editor: Anne Hartman
annehartmansdesk@comcast.net
PO Box 478
Graham, WA 98338

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.



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.

dyucert@centurylink.net or 253.845.8720

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Dogwood Garden Club members recently spent a sunny morning clipping, raking, pruning and weeding the Dogwood Park on Hiway 161 leading into Eatonville.

The ladies worked hard for a couple of hours and then adjourned to the Cottage Bakery in Eatonville to enjoy lunch.

