

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#196 Mar - Apr 2020



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

DIFFERENT TIMES, NEW IDEAS

Dear Garden Club Members,

This has become my new theme for these months behind and before us. So many events, meetings and just good old fashion get togethers. We've had birthdays, anniversaries, Easter and soon Mother's Day. We've had to find "different and new" ways to celebrate them.

It is with a heavy heart after much discussion I need to inform you our May District Meeting will be cancelled. Hopefully we as individuals will be able to get together with family and friends but, a large gathering of this nature we feel is not in our best interest health wise at this time. I hope you all are safe, healthy and finding time to relax and get all those unfinished or "new" projects going.

Well we have come up with a "DIFFERENT AND NEW" way to celebrate MAY!!!! Thank you to Black Hills District for sharing their great idea. We are going to have a VIRTUAL FLOWER/DESIGN SHOW. Yes, you read that right. We're working on all of it right now. Keep your eye out for emails from sherrytom41@comcast.net for all the details. This will be easy and fun. I'm so excited to share this with you all and can't wait to see the results!!

Start taking pictures of your flowers now—put white paper or some other white item behind your flower or branch and snap away!!!! You don't have to cut that branch, put something white behind it when you take the picture. We just want you to share what's growing in your yard with our members. There are more instructions in the Flower schedule that will be sent out May 1st.

Thank you, please stay safe and healthy during this very difficult time. I will continue to share with you any and all changes during this time.

Rachel
Hill & Dale Director
253-906-5981
"Share Our Knowledge"
raejenrae@aol.com



CLUB NEWS!

DOGWOOD

Greetings and salutations garden club members. I hope all of you are staying healthy during our unprecedented stay-at-home spring. Even as we all do our part to flatten the curve of this pandemic and keep our loved ones and everyone else as safe as possible, in our own backyards Mother Nature tells us to proceed as usual. I for one thoroughly enjoyed the recent warm and dry spring weather the past couple of weeks. I've been enjoying our spring bulbs of hyacinth (my favorite spring bulb), crocus, daffodils, and tulips.



We have undertaken a major project to turn a swampy area into a garden by adding French drains, gravel, fill dirt with a high percentage of sand, and then

compost on top of that. It's a major undertaking, but my fingers are crossed for a really nice large garden area to enjoy year after year. With that, here's all the good dirt from the Dogwood Garden club!

As all local and district garden club meetings have been cancelled until we receive word that it's safe to resume such activities, Dogwood Garden Club is staying connected through email and a new Facebook page. So far the consensus from everyone is weeding, weeding, weeding, enjoying the lovely spring bulbs and all the delightful birds. Below are some vignettes of what else our members are up to.

Jane is planting native plants and wildflowers and any plants her sister divides in pallets as raised beds. She plans to do sugar pumpkins and acorn squash as well.



Diane says the yard has never looked this good in April. She has started several projects including a grass waterfall and two hosts/grass ponds. Chris is busy making ceramic fish for them. She also tried to graft some historic Eatonville trees. Time will tell.

Geneal tried wintering geraniums in the woodshed instead of the basement and lost them to the cold so she has plenty of pots to do something else with once it's safe to go shopping. Terry is planting clematis in compost and wondering if the roots need shade (heard that from someone)



Ginny and Sherry have their vegetable garden ready for planting, earlier than ever before, and have planted peas, lettuce and kale which are all coming up. Ginny has also resurrected her AeroGro hydro gardening system inside, with 2 kinds of lettuce and one basil started.



Kathy Mettler has been pruning bonsai, planting seeds, making cuttings and planting up bulbs. All with a little help from her furry friend.



Tiffany Mason is waking up her garden and has a lot of things planted.

SammieJoe's lasagna garden pot is still blooming from the garden club outing to Windmill Gardens in Sumner last September, but her amaryllis didn't make it. Her mason bees are out and about and fruit trees, camellias, pink azaleas and blueberries are blooming.



Anne Hartman planted 100 bare root strawberry plants! .

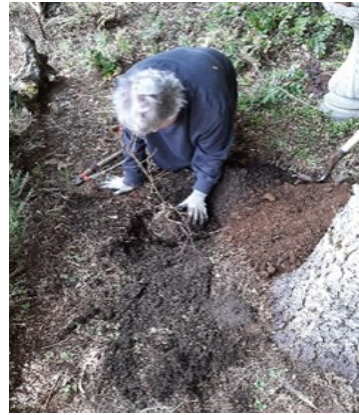
In addition to all this, Mary Bewley suggested members try to plant a tree for Arbor Day since we couldn't hold our annual Arbor Day planting at Frontier Park



SammieJo wins the prize for most trees planted I think, with 100 cedar and 200 alder 2 year old seedlings!

Crystal planted up a home orchard of 22 different fruit trees

(surrounded by a fence to keep out the elk and deer.



Kathy Mettler planted 3 grafted apple trees. Diane and Chris had to move a couple of rocks first to make a home for the tree they planted.

Mary planted a Sequoia gigantea that her son-in-law gave her for her 83rd birthday.



Lisa Libby planted a flowering almond at the edge of the forest for some more colour..

If any of you are still planning to plant a tree, Nancy suggested a short list of trees that deserve to be planted more widely: Parrotia persica - Persian ironwood, Cercidiphyllum japonicum - katsura tree, Nyssa sylvatica - black gum, Metasequoia glyptostroboides - dawn redwood, Sciadopitys verticillate - Japanese umbrella pine, Cryptomeria japonica Sekkan -golden Japanese cedar, Amelanchier X grandiflora - Autumn Brilliance serviceberry, Tilia cordata—basswood which is widely planted in the Midwest and now on Eatonville's Main street as well. It is a fine bee tree with fragrant blooms in early summer. ,

Hoping our current state of emergency resolves soon, that you all stay safe and healthy, and in the meantime happy gardening kindred spirits!!

Crystal Dorsey

GARDEN HOUR

Who doesn't love a field trip? After our meeting in March, our club headed to Edgewood Nursery and Garden where we enjoyed a Q & A with Manager, Mike DiCecco. We learned a lot from that visit and many of us brought home plants and other treasures from the nursery.



Sandy Parr has cleared a portion of one of her strawberry beds where she will bring in fresh plants for her new berry patch.

Kris Krueger is currently leading us in a seed growing project! Club members were given zinnia seeds and we've all been busy planting the seeds in pots and noting the growth. At a future meeting, we will have the opportunity to see the growth and beauty of all the flowers.

Margie Van-Volkenburg's been working hard maintaining her yard. Here's a sampling of her flowers in all their glory!



Karla Hiers recycled used plastic containers to create new concrete planters. See the before and after below.



Membership Report

As of April 13, 2020 we have a total of 7 new members for the 2019-2020 term.

Country Gardeners	1
Dogwood	3
Glove and Trowel	1
Root and Bloom	1

Rosie Trujillo
Membership



ROOT N BLOOM

What is everyone doing in their yards? I made a bird house out of pine needles but when



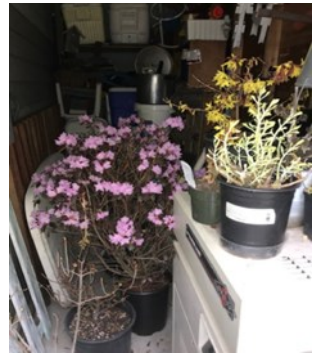
the weather improved, I bought 8 lovely plants at the Purple Geranium and am trying to get them planted. Carol D and I met for coffee

at McD's. She parked facing one way and I the other and we talked with good social distancing through the driver's side windows. And speaking of Carol, she now has a lovely Gabion for the rocks in her yard. If you have them, you might as well make them into yard art. On the way home I passed April's house and her front yard looks lovely. Cindy, you mentioned camas bulbs. Where can I get some? Karla

I have been weeding 3 sides of my house. Have the back yard to do & it's got lots of weeds. That will take some time to clear that area. My husband & I are doing fine. Following the recommended things we're allowed to do. Can't do anything else, trying to stay sane. Didn't go crazy buying stuff, as part of emergency management here in Thurston County, had all the necessary stuff for about a month. So just have to go for fresh stuff. My training with FEMA has really kicked in this disaster, even tho it's this horrible virus. This tree is a wild cherry tree from Ashford, where we used to live, it was small at that time and it grew. It fell over during a rain/hail/wind storm last week & had to replant it again. It's in full bloom now, so I'm enjoying it. Stay safe & blessings. Rosie



I am not doing anything outside; it's been cold & wet. Hoping this coming week i can get motivated, the weather is supposed to be good. I have plants that are blooming in my shed left over from last year that were not planted. Kathy Johnson



I planted a weeping katsura in memory of my mother and a witch hazel to replace the davidia (handkerchief tree) that died (don't know why). Bridget Pilgrim

Well, I'm not planting a tree but we took 4 firs down. So what we are doing in our yard is splitting and stacking 2 1/2 cords of wood. Thank goodness for power splitters. I started weeding in the front yard but the wood is taking most of our time right now. Please stay safe and healthy. Diana Riddle

Here is a photo I just took of one of four baby Dawn Redwoods, aka megasequoia, that I've grown from seed from the large Megasequoia at Lake-wold. It's 9" tall and a year and a half old, and growing FAST! It's too small to actually plant outdoors yet, and so I don't know if this genuinely qualifies for what you're looking for for Arbor Day photos, but in a short time I will have to transplant it into a larger container. It's deciduous and so loses all its needles before winter. This one has grown its current set in about three weeks.



Fossilized branches of Megasequoias have been found in former swamp areas in North America, so it's been on earth for many millions of years.

Pat Yager

I am currently making a great mess with several ongoing projects between work and time sharing the grandkiddios. Some of our projects are:

1. The addition of large pavers in the front & back yard.
 2. In our back yard we are also widening a walk way from the patio to the shed.
 3. A new bed in the back.
 4. Straw covering the mud from the chickens winter foraging.
 5. Preparing for a Tagro delivery.
- April Devereaux

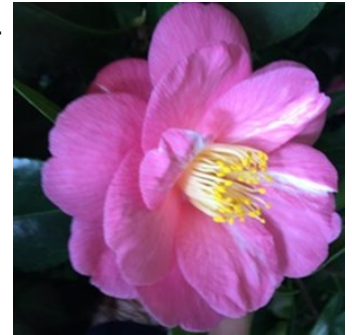


GLOVE & TROWEL

These past few weeks have stopped us from gathering with others and enjoying the talk of preparation of Spring and Summer. But Mother Nature has not stopped. Spring is popping out all around us. The Birds are singing and making their nests for their new babies to be hatched in. The Trees have been budding and blooming with the promise of the new fruit to come. The Earth has had new growth popping up which will turn into beautiful flowers and fragrant smells. The Sky is filled with beautiful rainbows and brilliant sunrises and sun sets. During these times of feeling alone just look around - life is all around us with its promise of days to come.

I asked our member to share pictures of things happening around their yards

Jan Morgan took this pictures of her beautiful Pink Camellia



Linda Bond and her husband, Larry, built this beautiful fountain just off their patio.

Barbara Bias provided us with this beautiful picture of her Hino Azalea and Pieris Japonica with

its fresh bronzy red leaves.



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COUNTRY GARDENERS

This will forever be known as the Year of Covid-19. So many of the activities we have taken for granted have been curtailed due to this illness that has plagued the world. There have been many lives lost and loves ones left to grieve. Our media provides us with daily updates on how catastrophic this is and this in no way will downplay all the sorrow this has caused but hopefully our gardening activities will show another side.

There are positive things we can take away that will help us through the next few months and help us live a happy, more productive life in the future.

Less dependency on spending money for fun and entertainment: Many of us have been enjoying walks with immediate family or on their own or perhaps with a furry friend. Some are finding a more productive use of their phones and discovering Apps that find new ways to exercise that does not require gym equipment. We are improving our minds, as well as bodies, with reading, jigsaw and crossword puzzles to help relieve the daily stress we may feel. People are also taking advantage of that age old custom of “visiting with neighbours over the backyard fence”. I know that I have connected with a neighbor that I previously had not met, and find myself waving to passer-bys when they are out walking. They keep saying that we are in this together and we truly are.



Education and Work may change for the good: We have had for some time the technology to be able to learn and work remotely. Perhaps now we will utilize this in a more productive manner.

Appreciate things that we have taken for granted: We have become a society of “get what you want, when you want it”. Perhaps we will realize the peace and serenity that actually comes from appreciating what we already have. I will never again take for granted the availability of toilet paper!

Improving our world around us: And this is where we as Country Gardeners excel. Many of us have taken on painting projects that have been put off, doing DIY decorating, worked tending our gardens, mowing lawns and washing cars.

Some of our members would like to share what they have been doing since this has prevented us from holding our monthly meetings.

Chris Sherrill has taken on various projects, but has been spending a lot of time in her sewing room. She is busy finishing long overdue projects, crafting items that she hopes to show in the Eatonville Bazaar in November. She has also given a “facelift” by repainting some of her yard art items. **Roxy G** made a Mason Jar vase with a bouquet that hangs near her mailbox to brighten her mail carrier’s day and also perhaps anyone else that might be lucky enough to see it.

Randie W is our “crazy crafter” (her own description) who has been busy making various yard art items, painting and also having fun with a new toy...a rock machine that cuts and polishes. Mosaics are on her list now! She, too, is working on garage sale items for upcoming (hopefully) bazaars.

Gail H. has been weeding, helping her dad, working on indoor projects and in spare time, reading a book by Margaret Roach, “A Way to Garden.”

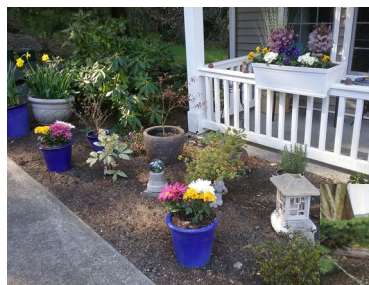
Katie VanD has been working in her greenhouse planting a number of flower and veggie seedlings and has also planted trees in the ground. **Lorene J** had purchased some plants for planting before the Stay Home order, an Anemone Coronaria – Harmony Blue, which she has planted among ferns and a tall bird-house. She says it is a beautiful backdrop for the new addition. Her husband has also been busy building another birdhouse and a rustic garden bench for her to enjoy while watching the Chickadees enjoy. She’s planted blueberries and divided rhubarb, when not busy in her garden she enjoys reading.

Sister **Margie K**, is also tending her garden, weeding and planting perennials and an Arbor Day tree. Her project is repurposing an old chicken coop from her granddaughter into a garden shed. We hope to see pictures of completed project.

Ellie E spends her days weeding and working in her garden, while at night she works a jigsaw puzzle. **Cindi E** wintered over some geraniums and she is keeping a close eye on them for planting. She has also started a vegetable garden and walks for added exercise.

Patti I recently moved into a condo, but that does not mean she has given up on gardening. Quite the contrary, she has a small area in front where she has planted a Zen Garden, potted a Japanese Maple and two azaleas. She has plans for a water feature. She has not stopped there; her management has given her permission to tackle the garden area at the end of her driveway, where she will add rockery and drought tolerant plants. Next project, her back deck!

Debbie S began the “stay home” order with a bad cold, so she started indoor projects. One of which was painting on flat river rocks she had collected last summer. Helped her to recuperate and was a fun project for her. Once outside, she followed Chris S lead and gave Mr Frog and Mr Flamingo a “new look” for summer and strung new trelis for her raspberries



Linda M had a challenging project of repotting all her container grown trees, cleaning out flower beds and planting some new lilies. She is now looking to make a place for the dahlias she purchased at the flower and garden show, says to keep and eye out for the new Black Currant petunia, should be a stunner! **Patty S**, like most of us has been taking advantage of the good weather to be in her garden tending to weeds and seeing what new things are poking their way through to spring.

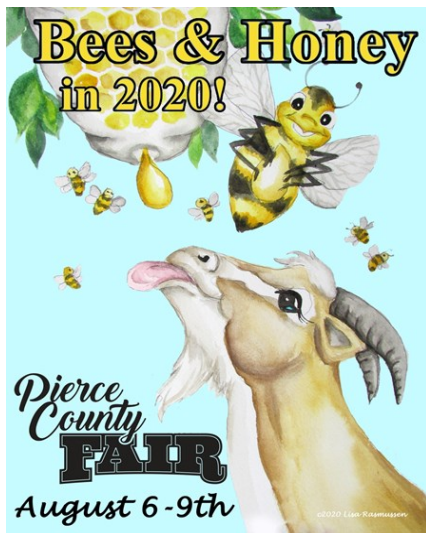


Devieux H recently purchased a new home near Port Orchard. It is situated on a bit of acreage and near a lake, so she has been busy with moving in, surveying her property, trimming and fixing up. I'm sure spring will bring many surprises for her. And now for me, **Kathleen M**, I could not hold a candle to these talented ladies that I am fortunate enough to be in a club with, but I have been working on my yard as well. Doing the regular maintenance that comes with spring. Expanding an existing flower bed, cleaning out from winter and finally have resorted to building a rock tower---objet d'art from rocks gathered last spring that I could not find a use for at the time. When it rains, I have found a new passion (at least for now) working jigsaw puzzles.

I hope I have not left anyone out that passed along their stories, my apologies if I did.

One other positive from all of this is renewing our friendships by keeping in touch with each other and valuing our health and the health of our friends and families with the willingness to sacrifice a bit of freedom to preserve it for the future.

We need rain before the rainbow!!
Country Gardeners
Kathleen Muckian, Secretary



At this point we are still planning for the Pierce County Fair. The Fair Board elected July 1st to be the decision deadline for cancellation. On this date a decision will be definitely made.

So.....this is the plan! As soon as we no longer have to “stay at home”, we will meet at the fair grounds to plan, paint and do everything else needed. You will receive an email when this happens.

*Mon, Aug 3, 9 am. ~ Open & clean floral building
Tues, Aug 4, 9 am ~ Set up & decorate
Wed, Aug 5, 1-7 pm ~ Entries accepted & judged*

Please save your old shoes/boots for our Kids Planting Activity. We will paint them and the youth will plant them with succulents. Please contact Gail Harte at 56gailharte@gmail.com to donate.

Hand written entries will be taken this year, so you can sit at home, fill out the entry tags and the sheet of paper listing all your entries and then bring it to the floral building. On line registration will also be accepted at <http://piercecountyfair.fairentry.com>

The Fair Flower Show Schedule, signups for kids planting activity and to be a hostess will be emailed out to all club members May 1, 2020. Or, contact Kathy Johnson at 253.847.4933 or kathyj16@msn.com to sign up to help.

South Hill Library Pollinator Garden Status Report April 2020

Bridget Pilgrim's library, the South Hill Branch of the Pierce County Library, had a neglected entry garden plot that greeted every visitor with bare dirt and five lonely iris plants. Could Root and Bloom Garden Club make this a blooming, educational space? With that she set out in 2019 to make it happen.

First alone, and then with three other garden club members; Cindy Swanberg, April Devereaux and Karen Hargus, they conducted research and met a least ten times with Friends of South Hill Library, the library maintenance staff and head librarian. An objective was chosen: Rehabilitate the 155 square foot planting bedas a Pollinator Garden and... become part of a nationwide garden network <https://www.pollinator.org/>.

This enhanced garden will beautify the library, provide educational opportunities and improve local habitat for pollinators. The committee secured matching funding from the Friends and developed a written proposal which was approved by the library administrators.

Because we were working on public property, we had to develop and co-sign a Memorandum of Understanding about respective roles. A comprehensive plant list was developed and garden club members began looking for plants they could donate. We purchased a short term sign. The library and garden club team began working on a grand opening, set for Earth Day, April 22, 2020. Karen secured 50 packets of pollinator seeds from Ed Hume to give out and a children's' planting activity was planned.





South Hill Library cont.....

This is a picture of the bed we plan to rejuvenate



Then our world changed and the library closed due to the coronavirus risk. So, as soon as we can get onto library grounds, we will be enhancing the soil and planting. If we are lucky, we can have our grand opening during National Pollinator Week, June 22- 28.

Long term we hope to involve more garden club members to help maintain the garden and develop educational information for the library lobby.

Pollinators, such as butterflies and moths, birds, bees, beetles, and bats, are the foundation of life. They are responsible for bringing us an estimated 1 out of every 3rd bite of food, assisting 90% of the world's flowering plants to reproduce, and providing an indispensable food source for countless other animals, as well as providing beauty and educational opportunities to gardens, fields and farms. From: The Pollinator Partnership <https://www.pollinator.org/>.

Hill & Dale District Web Site

<https://hillanddaledistrict.weebly.com/>

Did you know that our District has a website that you can go to for lots of additional information? Our website is there for anyone looking to join a garden club but it also has resources for all our current club members.

Just scroll across the top for Events, Echo Newsletters, Photos and Links to National, Regional and State websites.

New this year, click on the "more" tab and find:

Garden Resources - do you have a question and would like some help?

Horticulture Grooming - how to condition and groom your flowers,

Plant Botanical names - cross referenced with their common names,

Sample Horticulture tags – how to fill out your tags for flower show.

ARBOR DAY

As Arbor Day was cancelled this year we should not forget the purpose of it. Planting trees is good for the environment. Consider planting a tree in your yard or in a pot on your patio or balcony. And if possible, plant native trees which will usually bring more longevity and greater success in your garden.

Also, consider contributing to Penny Pines at the personal level or club level. Penny Pines helps replant burnt or damaged trees in our forests. The form and information is on page 11.



PENNY PINES

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a proud supporter of this
Reforestation / Forest Education Program

Re: Donating to the Penny Pines Reforestation / Forest Education Program

1. Make Checks payable to: NGC-Penny Pines
Must be in increments of \$68.00 each

Mail check and *copy of form* to:
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Headquarters
4401 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110-3406

2. If you have any questions or concerns please contact NGC Headquarters.
headquarters@gardenclub.org

These donations are used by the USDA Forest Service or State Forester to replant burnt or otherwise damaged trees in conjunction with federal funds. Seedlings are replacement and / or trees native to that particular area not necessarily of the pine variety.

In order for your donation to be properly noted please fill out the form below. Thank you for your participation in this wonderful program which helps Plant, Protect and Promote the Beauty of our Country. Per FS Agreement No. 15-MU-11132425-090 January 2015

Penny Pines Form

Name of Club: _____ Date: _____

District: _____ State: _____

National Forest this donation is to benefit: _____

State you wish this donation contributed to

Total \$ amount being sent : _____ Must be in increments of \$68.00 each

Check to have a certificate sent.

Please make this Certificate: In Honor of: _____

or In Memory of: _____

Sent by (Name): _____ Phone No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4 _____

E-Mail: _____



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.

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