

# THE ECHO

## Hill and Dale District

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

#186 Sept, Oct, Nov



### THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Fall has come and harvesting is well under way. We have some exciting projects in our scheduling so far this year. The first Garden Therapy is scheduled for this month at the new location of Brookside Gardens. Kathy Johnson and Diana Riddle are doing a great job and have their projects all arranged.

Our September Flower Show was a huge success. The foyer was laden with Flowers, Designs, and Horticulture. Entries exceeded our expectation and there was great participation from all the clubs. Attendance was great and I hope it will continue.

The November District Meeting continues our program of competition of all clubs. This year I have selected the decorating of a mannequin. There is also the option of decorating a hat, gloves, and shoes. After some confusion there is excitement in the air.

We are continuing to garner new members and our goals for the State Membership Committee are almost fulfilled.

Dogwood has once again captured a Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear award. Please encourage all your members with children or grandchildren to participate. Mary Bewley has the page for coloring if needed. This is a worthy program open to grades 1-5, it acquaints the children with a view of our nature and conservation.

Root & Bloom has cleaned and continues to decorate the garden at the Masonic hall, and will decorate a room at the Meeker Mansion as well. My thanks to Cathie Pitts, Linda Maida, and all the volunteers that worked at the Pierce County Fair. A great job was done by Kathy Johnson and we had beautiful artwork done by Lisa Libby.

With gardens ready to retire for the year the seed catalogs will be on their way and we can look forward to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show.

I will soon be making arrangements to visit all the clubs on their meeting days. Best wishes to all our members

Kathy Toups



# CLUB NEWS!

## GARDEN HOUR

As we get ready to settle in for cooler days and cocoa, we can reflect on several projects that have been completed. We were able to purchase a new basketball hoop, net and backboard for the fire hall this summer. Thank you to Jim, Jan Hurley's hubby for doing a great job installing it.

Then there was our vegetable garden project with Puyallup Valley Enhanced Residential Care. Nita Huber reported the residents really enjoyed working in the garden and eating fresh veggies. Our next project with them will be to bake sugar cookies for them to decorate in a fall or Halloween fashion. I imagine they won't need any help eating them. Hmm, so we get them eating all healthy, then we lead them astray. Oops, we Rowdies are a bad bunch for sure!

Speaking about bad guys, in September we welcomed Edgewood's Chief Micah Lundborg. He explained his new Pets and Peds anti-crime program to help him catch the bad guys. Basically, it is a neighborhood watch program emphasizing being aware of your surroundings and noting what looks normal verses out of place while you walk your pet. He even handed out nice neckerchiefs with the logo for our furry friends to wear while on patrol. I got one for my cat, Indy, but he doesn't like it much.

Chief Lundborg was as entertaining as he was informative. He even joined us for dessert at Sandy Parr's home following his presentation. (No, she didn't serve him doughnuts.)

Our second program was a field trip to Edgewood Nursery and Garden to have a one on one with the owner, Mike DiCecco. Upon arrival, we were amazed to see tables set up in the greenhouse with white linen table cloths, a plate loaded with an assortment of cookies, cup cakes, and candy, plus a beverage table complete with coffee, tea and cider. Wow! Dessert and a show! This guy knows how to impress the ladies.



He pulled out plant after plant explaining its characteristics for seasonal color. We bombed him with question after question but he never faltered or got flummoxed. Poor guy, try-

ing to help 12 women decide what would look best where. And to add to the chaos, he had a 20-40% off sale. Score! I would highly recommend coming down to Edgewood Nursery for a treat (11000 36th St E, Edgewood located at the old Kitts Greenhouse).

Another treat (I hope it's not a trick) is our mystery daffodil growing project. Members were given 2 bulbs to plant; chart their growth and any other pertinent information, and then report back at the end of the season. There are 8 different varieties so it will be a fun surprise to see what each member grows.

It's been fun, but it's time to run,  
Got leaves I need to rake,  
But more will fall—can't get them all,  
So I think a nap I'll take.

Karla Hiers  
Secretary

## GLOVE & TROWEL



Our first meeting of our 2017-2018 garden club season felt like “back-to-school” time with fresh enthusiasm for future meetings and programs and for greeting our “class-mates” again. September’s program turned Esther Van Noy’s dining table into a mass corsage production area. Emily

Miller brought the necessary supplies and expertly helped us make our own beautiful corsages.

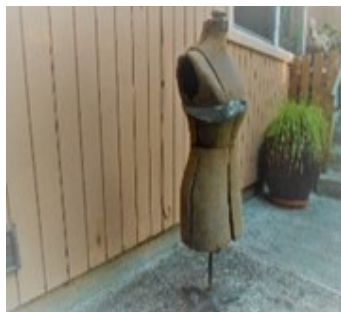
We were also given a homework recycle challenge for our next meeting; bring a list (or a finished product) to identify the most re-uses for corks.

Of course, October means pumpkins. We each brought hollowed out pumpkins and various live plant material to Jan Morgan’s dining table to create pumpkin horticulture designs. Well...it turns out, some of us are more creative than others. However, we all went home with happy designs and a gratifying feeling of a job well done.

Two members will volunteer for District Garden Therapy at Brookdale Courtyard October 25. By the way, Eileen Smiley won the cork challenge. So many ideas! Randa Conroy painted champagne corks to make toad stools for her fairy garden.

We also discussed many ideas for the dress form challenge for the November 28 District meeting. Oh my... we can hardly wait to see our “after” picture.

“Before”



In November, our annual fund raising auction will be at Fran Cissell’s. We will also be helping with Christmas decorations at the Meeker Mansion.

Barbara Bias, President

## ROOT N' BLOOM

Autumn – what does this season mean to you?? Some say; lots of work, as the leaves are falling off trees and someone has to rake them up (which is probably you!!). Others say; it is the season between summer and winter, or it could be a maturity of all your labor of love from spring to now; to me it means, looking ahead to Spring!!.

The Sept. meeting was a joyful meeting, as our President Rachel presented the State awards that were won in 2016. We look forward to winning more awards this coming year; we just need to work a little harder.



Some of the awards won by our members.

Judy S. discussed the new tag and readiness of the entries items for district flower shows. It's all new to us, however it is now a State requirement. It seems like we learned quickly, since we had many entries at the Sept. District Event, winning many ribbons.

We reported on our growing project (African violets and Chrysanthemums) It wasn't good – maybe 2/3 people had live African violets



most of them died!!) The Chrysanthemums did fairly well (more alive than dead!!) We had fun each month reporting the progress of these plants. !!

Our club enjoyed doing a Bounty Table at the District Event, bringing home grown veggies, fruit, applesauce, and jams/jellies that were for sale. I purchased apple-cinnamon jelly, that I have enjoyed each morning on my toast. Thanks to the person who made it!



Our October meeting brought us Orchid expert Ron Harding, who spoke on how to take care of those orchids purchased at the grocery store. We learned how to make them happy, so they can bloom for us during the year.

We will see what happens in the following months. Some of us came away with some new orchids to add to our collection and awaiting the blooms. After a delicious lunch, we all left with full bellies, orchids and whatever raffle prize we had won.

November's meeting will bring Debbie Spiller from Black Lake District. She will give us her perspective on how to recycle cans and create a floral arrangement for the home and then adding unexpected elements, making it into a floral design worthy of entry into any District Event.

We are now looking forward to the December District Event, with the competition of the decorated dress form. At our last meeting we came up with some great ideas (but I can't tell) on how to dress this mannequin, with hope of another good competitive event.

The following months we will be playing Floral Bingo, learning about Miniature designs and going on a field trip. Also, looking forward to Spring, after whatever Winter brings us.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah & Happy New Years! Submitted by Rosie Trujillo

## COUNTRY GARDENERS

Hello FALL!

The September meeting was a fun time seeing our gardening friends and hearing about their garden adventures. The program for the day featured the Fairy Garden projects started in the spring. What a showcase of different creative designs and ideas. The challenge we know is nurturing the gardens through the winter. Our next showcase of them will be in the spring. This will certainly challenge our gardening skills.



The fall District Meeting was well attended by our members. They participated in the Design and Horticulture Show, with two of our members receiving top awards. Marilyn Goddard received the Award of Merit for her Rose and Gardenia entries in Horticulture and Linda Maida received the

Phyllis Danielson exhibition table award and the Betty Belcher and NGC Award of Design Excellence for creative design, with artichokes from her home garden.

The October meeting was a guest day event. Our guests and members were treated to a special program presented by Helen Wilson from the WSU Pierce County Master Gardeners. The program subjects were getting perennial gardens ready for winter and incorporating hard scape into gardens. Helen shared her expertise in a question and answer session. The day was a great success. Gifts of little pots of Hens and

Chicks were sent home with all who attended. Thanks to Linda Maida for the Hens and Chicks.

Country Gardeners are happy to welcome two new members. Debbie Spiller sponsored by Linda Maida and Theresa Zimmerman sponsored by Randie Welcher.

Patty Swanson and Randie Welcher participated in Garden Therapy at the Brookdale Gardens. A big shout out to all the participants.

Gale Harte is putting together a December Holiday Center Piece making and potluck party. The center pieces will be donated to a local retirement home.

*Happy Gardening from the County Gardeners!!*

## HAPPY THYMES

Our club's desire for new members has apparently rooted and been traveling throughout many neighborhoods because over the last year or so, women from Brown's point, Tacoma, Federal Way and Buckley have bloomed bringing new zest, enthusiasm and knowledge to our Puyallup garden club. We are delighted to welcome Annette C., Kathy W., Mellodee G-E, Heather K. Becky Kelly, April M. and Rosana L. Also, Patti J. who has already agreed to assume position of vice president. They are all vibrant with ideas for our club. What a delightful bouquet!

During the summer months, the club meets at member's homes. This gives us an opportunity to share our gardens. In July, we met at Rosana Letourneau's home where we planted basil in pint jars. Ana had all the supplies and served a delicious cheesecake. We toured her garden and were amazed by the gigantic rhubarb plants, cultivars that came



from Rosana's husband's family. Mr. L's great uncle planted the rhubarb over a hundred years ago. It has leaves the size of car hoods and stalks big as pogo sticks. Ana says it makes luscious pies!

In August we toured Cathy Pitts's garden which is artfully designed and situated on lake Tapps. If there is a cultivar, shrub or tree that Cathy does not have it would be a surprise. Our speaker Nancy Mantee, a Master gardener, gave a talk on vegetable and fruit pairings with foods. In Sept. we met at Renette Harvey's home. Master Gardener, Sandra Kanga presented an extensive talk on how to root shrubs with a focus on Fuchsias. It was very informative and everyone went home with starts in the growing containers Sandy provided.

In October, seven members traveled to the Ostrum mushroom farm in Lacey and toured their facilities. It was fascinating to learn the science involved in the process. As you will see in the photo, the mushrooms grow in tiered rows that reach about fifteen feet high. In semi darkness, the pickers are scrunched between rows not more than three feet wide and must reach across to harvest the mushrooms.



Our club anticipates many more new and interesting experiences.

Cordially,  
Renette D. Harvey  
President, Happy Thymes Garden Club

## DOGWOOD



FALL.....OK, IT'S FALL..... where did summer go? But aren't the colors of Fall amazing? A painters pallet.

The hot, hot weather changed our style of living and caring for things. Natural disasters were abundant, thick air with smoke kept us indoors, and last minute vacations were thought of.....and, oh ya, water the plants or the garden.....everything needs a ink.....beware of fires.....and on it went.

FALL came with a little (and I do mean little rain shower). It cleared the air, school started and we were kick started into planning.

Fairs kept some members busy..... How Mary Bewley can make, transport and get a Design into the Fair in one piece is amazing! And every year she gets more ribbons for her creativity.

### MEETINGS

#### September:

Kathy Mettler's home with Greg Graves, from the "Old Goat Farm" telling us how to "get our gardens ready for winter". He always has plants that are appropriate for planting now to make the garden special. What a wonderful source of information!!!

Brainstorming with a flood of ideas came about when we heard Dogwood had to make 13 centerpieces for Hill and Dale District meeting on the 26th of Sept. Sharon Aguilar's chicken house was once again the site of mass creativity with straw bail making which became a base for the Autumn Barn Dance theme inspiration. What a joy to work with those cooperative, worker bee members.

#### October:

Lynn Smith's home had a house full for the meeting...Lots of Fair news and District engagements. Thanks to Kathy Bowman and Mary Bewley our youth programs are well organized, well attend and full of gardening experiences. Their program is filled with hands on activities in the dirt.....ha!! They well deserve the awards given to them for their work.

Steller Jays are fighting over the walnuts they have decided to hide in my flower bed. One hides it and the other is watching and comes and digs it out. They looked like squirrels, storing food for winter.



The hot summer seems to have done some real damage to various shrubs. My Rhodies didn't get enough water in spots.

But the Geraniums that were planted in the Spring are still blooming their little heads off and showing no signs of stress of hot or cold weather. (they came from Canada)

#### November:

FIELD TRIP to "Windmill Gardens". Flower arranging from professionals who will show us the tricks of the trade as well as current trends. Love field trips!!!

Reporting:  
Sharon Aguilar



# DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

Sept 26, 2017

## HORTICULTURE

Horticulture Excellence		Phyllis Brabec	Root & Bloom	
Betty Belcher WSFGC		Phyllis Brabec	Root & Bloom	
NGC Arboreal Award		Donna Haley	Root & Bloom	
Award of Merit	Section 1	Judy Strickland	Root & Bloom	Annuals/Biannuals
Award of Merit	Section 2	Marilyn Goddard	Country Gardeners	Perennials
Award of Merit	Section 3	Phyllis Brabec	Root & Bloom	Bulbs, Etc.
Award of Merit	Section 4	Eddie Jo Fueston	Root & Bloom	Fruit & Veggies
Award of Merit	Section 5	Marilyn Goddard	Country Gardeners	Roses
Growers Choice Award		Phyllis Brabec	Root & Bloom	Container Plants
H & D Harvest Award		Eddie Jo Fueston	Root & Bloom	

## DESIGN

Ellen Swenson WSFGC: Phyllis Danielson Table Setting: Table Artistry WSFGC

Designers Choice NGC:	Linda Maida	Country Gardeners	
Carolyn Erickson WSFGC	Kathy Touns	Root & Bloom	All fresh

CLUB POINTS	Horticulture	YTD	Design	YTD
Country Gardeners	170	170	39	39
Dogwood	35	35	2	2
Garden Hour	21	21		
Glove & Trowel	33	33	12	12
Happy Thymes	14	14		
Root & Bloom	322	24	24	24

YTD = year to date



## DISTRICT GARDEN THERAPY

Our first garden activity this year was held at Brookdale Courtyard and went very well. This new location was great with friendly residents, it was much easier to carry on a conversation with them. Doris, who is 88 years old told Linda that they could be friends. She has no family in the area so Linda plans to visit her when in town. Carol, like several ladies made more than one pumpkin floral design but was concerned because Joe did not want anything on the table except the salt & pepper shakers. Most of the arrangements were placed on the dining room tables as a centerpiece although a few people wanted to take them back to their own rooms. One 4-inch pumpkin had 11 flowers placed in it with some greens, so a couple of designs were made only of greens. Smiles, smiles & smiles were on all the faces.



## Arbor Day, April 28 2017 Planting a tree at Frontier Park in Graham



Arbor Day in 2018 will be Wednesday, April 11th. We will meet at 11:00 AM in the parking area near the Homer Ec Building. We will again be planting a Flowering Cherry Tree at Frontier Park. They seem to want us to be consistent. We'd enjoy someone from each club attending our short "planting". As you can see in the photo above we had a great turnout of members in 2017. The park crew will have the location and hole prepared for us! Come join us! Mary Bewley, Chairman

### Feeding tips for your favorite fliers in the Fall

You can never go wrong with black-oil sunflower seeds. In fact, most seed eaters, such as house finches and chickadees, prefer it. If you do want to add some white millet to your mix, make sure that it's no more than 10 to 15 percent. It will get kicked to the ground by messy birds, but that's just fine for juncos and native sparrows, because they prefer to eat on the ground. Suet is a high fat, high calorie food to get the birds through longer nights and colder temperatures. Hang your suet feeder in a tree near a window so you can watch nuthatches, woodpeckers and chickadees enjoy this high energy treat.

### Simple Suet

Here is an easy recipe that attracts many kinds of feathered friends:

2 cups peanut butter	1 cup uncooked oats
1 cup Special K cereal	1/2 cup honey
2 small boxes of raisins	

Mix all ingredients in a bowl and put it in your refrigerator for an hour or so. Then form it into balls for your tray feeder.



## Decades of Dance

Hill & Dale's September flower show was inspired by the popularity of "Dancing with the Stars." Dancing styles are as beautiful and varied as our world of flowers seemed like a perfect pairing. From Waltz to Jive, Samba and Tango's table settings and creative designs, the talented exhibitors gave us a wonderful Dance of Designs. Thirty classes of horticulture were filled with one hundred and fifty seven exhibits of the finest our summer gardens had produced.



Cathy Pitts and Cheryl Burner both deserve a medal for their hard work at the classification table! Root and Bloom worked their magic on placing all the horticulture exhibits. Thanks to Craig Toups for making new risers to help show off the horticulture entries.

Decades of Dance was a labor of love for Sherry Matthews, Judy Strickland and Linda Maida all NGC judges who wrote the schedule using our new 2017 NGC handbook. Lisa Libby created the final schedule. Thank you Lisa!

Chris Sherrill supplied the dancer that led you into the show room flower. Debbie Spiller painted the flamingo dancer at the entrance welcoming all inside. Kathy Johnson and Harriet Miller spent the afternoon photographing all of the top exhibits, Kathy will also write a book of evidence of our show.

Hill & Dale members, you are the reason Decades of Dance was so successful, I keep saying together we can and this is more proof that yes, we do!

Linda Maida



## UPCOMING EVENTS for 2017-2018

### District Meetings

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

- November 28, 2017
- March 27, 2018
- May 22, 2018
- September 25, 2017
- November 27, 2018

### District Board Meetings

Midland Community Centre  
1619 E 99th St, Tacoma

- October 24, 2017
- February 27, 2018
- April 24, 2018
- August 28, 2018
- October 23, 2018

### Arbor Day

- April 11, 2018

### District Workshop

- April 30, 2018

### Bus Tour

- TBD 2018

### Pierce County Fair

- August 9-12, 2018

### ECHO Deadlines

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

## DISTRICT MEETING

Dryer Masonic Temple, 306 134th St S, Tacoma  
November 28, 2017 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for entries  
10 a.m. for meeting

Winfield Giddings will be critiquing our photos for our morning program. Photos will be projected onto the wall while he points out what is good and how to improve on them. Please submit your photo for our program educational. These photos will not be judged. Below are some tips for taking good photos.

**Strategy:** Go through your garden once to photograph the 'big picture' and then go through again for individual flower portraits

**Composition:** **What is your subject – what do you want to convey?**

- Mood (cheerful, somber, dreary, mystical, nostalgic, stark, tranquil, etc.)
- Where do you want viewer's eye to go in frame?

**Elements of Composition – similar for all art forms**

- Simplify/Crop in viewfinder; fill the frame (but don't crowd)
- Distance between you and subject- (once you have found your subject take a step in or zoom a little closer)
- Try different angles/positions
- Backgrounds as important as subject-check for distractions in background/edges
- Avoid distractions. Eyes go to brightest spot or point of greatest contrast or color
- bright lights in background
- Rule of thirds-divide your image into a grid of 9 squares-3 horizontal and 3 vertical
- Power Points-where the grids intersect. Best place for emphasis (like center of flower)
- Subject off center
- Subject facing/moving into frame
- Groups of 3/triangles; odd numbers better (5 objects better than 4)
- Find a place for your eye to rest-give the viewer a way to move through the frame
- Lighting (direction, character, intensity, color)
- Choice of colors and their combinations-complementary colors ( ex: purple/yellow)
- Let conditions dictate what you shoot (wind, sky in or out)
- Horizontal (restful) vs Vertical (more dynamic)
- Look for Shapes, Color, Texture, Lines, Patterns
- Western eyes move left to right – don't block left side of image. Eyes need to move around image and have place to rest (your subject).
- Look behind you-there may be a better photo there!
- Keep an open mind – your best shot might not be the subject you came to photograph.
- Slow down! You will see way more photos if you take your time.

**Specifics for Garden/Flower Photography:**

**Select your subject carefully.** Look at several flowers before selecting your subject. Look for a flower in the best possible condition (no dead leaves, minimum of spots, etc). Look for patterns.

**Cleanup** Before you take your picture, look for anything distracting that you can physically remove from the image (weeds, dead leaves, part of the flower with lots of spots, etc.).

**Background is as important as your subject.** Try to find a complementary and non-distracting background. This can be very challenging in a garden, but the angle of your shot can get rid of a lot of distractions (dirt, people, fences, telephone wires, etc) that take away from your subject. You want viewer's eyes to remain on the flower and not wander off to something else in the photo. The eye goes to the brightest spots in your photo first, so it is especially important to avoid bright objects in your background.

**Crop out anything that distracts from your subject.** Most photos of flowers do not lend themselves to standard picture sizes – especially if you are trying to get the whole flower in your photo. This leads to greater potential for distracting elements. IF you know how to crop a photo, consider a different crop (example: 4x4 instead of 4x6) for a dahlia portrait, or panoramic (long and narrow) of a garden.

**Keep your subjects away from the edges of your photograph.** What you see in your camera's viewfinder is often more than what the camera actually includes in your picture. Most of you will have 'guide lines' that shows you how much of what you see in the viewfinder will actually be in the photo. It is important to give your subject 'room to breathe' -- be sure there is enough space on all sides. It is very helpful to look around all the edges of your photo before snapping that button to make sure nothing is being cut off.

Best time to photograph flowers is on a bright overcast day – eliminates distracting shadows – and early morning (least amount of wind).

Tripod – I rarely use a tripod, but I almost always do with flower photography. Close ups of flowers are extremely challenging to photograph.

#### **LIGHT Direction of Light – Placement of sun in relation to your subject**

- Front – good detail /flat (no 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension or texture)/watch for your shadow!
- Side – Adds depth and drama/Best for texture/window light
- Back – Very Dramatic/Rim Light/great for translucent subjects (ex: flowers with hairy stems.)

#### **Quality of Light**

- Magic—early morning/late afternoon (shortly after sunrise and before sunset)
- Dappled – part shade/part sun – AVOID!!
- Bright Sun –strong shadows/wait for clouds to diffuse light to avoid shadows
- Shade – no direct light on subject; light reflected from light source; deeper the shade the more blue tones
- Overcast – soft diffused lighting/low contrast/no shadows/more saturated color-great for people, animals, plants
- Fog/mist – dramatic
- Heavy Cloud Cover – less light – find something colorful

#### **Greatest challenges for garden photographers**

- Wind – blurs flowers; early morning often best
- Even Lighting (overcast); avoid dappled light; watch out for shadows
- Flowers are often not the shape of a viewfinder (see point on cropping)

#### **Learn from Others**

- Look at other photos and art forms
- Research online (flickr etc); garden books

There is an exception to every rule! Seize the moment! You will never be able to go back and get the exact same photograph

Info provided by Kathy Admire/Kathy Admire Photography  
[www.kathyadmirephotography.com](http://www.kathyadmirephotography.com)  
[kathy@kathyadmire.com](mailto:kathy@kathyadmire.com)



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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.*

### **District Meeting, Tuesday, November 28, 2017**

Winfield Giddings will be critiquing our photos for our morning program. Photos will be projected onto the wall while he points out what is good and how to improve on them. Please submit your photos for our program educational. These photos will not be judged.

***For more photo information please check with your club president who received some guidelines at the September board meeting. Some of the info is on page 10 & 11.***