

# THE ECHO

## Hill and Dale District

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

#192 Mar, April 2019



### THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As my term is coming to an end, I want to express how much I have enjoyed working with all of you.

Garden Clubs and gardening in general provide planning, exercise and a love of the outdoors. I know how much I love to be outside just alone with nature. Along with this pleasure, Spring has recalled the pain and aches of allergies, planning a new design, doing a load of weed pulling and then reminding yourself how much you love aspirin.



So much is happening in the world and most of it around us is worrying. This makes the retreat of a garden so important. Watching the birds at the feeder, the dreaded squirrels training the new pack of babies, new growth and flowering plants bring joy even when they are challenging.

Hill and Dale will have a standard flower show at the May District Meeting. There should be a yard full of possibilities so check them out. Remember to carefully read the new schedule some changes are afoot.

Several other Flower shows are also being held as the year winds down. So important to support them also.

All clubs have been busy this past year at their meetings. These suggestion from our members and the reports at District of the increased attendance for hands on projects have been Inspiring.

Don't forget the Convention coming up in June!

Congratulations to the new board which will be installed noon at the May meeting,

Kathy Toups, District Director Hill & Dale.

# CLUB NEWS!

## DOGWOOD

APRIL MEETING WAS GREAT!!!!!! Held in Mineral, WA, in front of the lake and lodge, the many guests shared their knowledge of birds while they enjoyed the view. We had an amazing time!

Diane Mettler had some recorded bird calls and tested us to see if we could recognize what bird was singing. Amazing how many members pass the test. That was fun.

Kathy Mettler is off on a tour of Japan with Greg Graves from The Old Goat Farm and a couple of dozen other folks. We are eager to hear of her adventures and observations, especially how she managed to walk up a 1,000 steps to a temple ..... And walked back down!!!

Spring has arrived and everything is popping. And there are plant sales galore to tempt us. If you read all those Spring Catalogues you have probably decided what shrubs and plants to put in the holes left by dead plants from the bitter Feb cold and snow. Some Rhod ..... ies just didn't make it.....

Sorry to hear that the Windmill Nursery in Sumner will be closing - condos and apartments going in its place. Boo Hoo!!! I guess that means people will only have plants in pots on their balconies.....shades of Europe!

Look for fiddle head ferns to eat right now... (like asparagus) and Miner's lettuce which is very tender and very special, after the rains.....Sun comes out and it is gone. I haven't tried chickweed yet....but it looks SO GOOD.

I can't believe I am standing here watching the grass grow tall before my very eyes. Too bad we can't make sour krout or silage with that tender stuff.... It is so lush!

Those who helped in "Dogwood Park clean up" get gold stars in heaven and the doughnut lady, too. Luckily, a little outside help came along for clean up. The 500 daffodils that were planted in the fall have made it special.



We are looking forward to Hill and Dale District Workshop April 30th.

Our May 9th meeting is a field trip, this time to DeGoede's Bulb Farm in Mossyrock.

And May 3rd is our annual Plant Sale at Eatonville High School Gym. Lots of great buys including our juniors selling veggie plant starts.

STARTER TIP: Fill a flat bottom Ice cream cone with starter dirt

Plant seeds.....beans, carrots, peas or ? Chilis ? Add water

Keep in green house or house till seed sprouts

Plant the whole thing in the ground. The ice cream cup dissolves and you have a neat plant.....no dirty mess.

Be sure and enjoy the May Day Queen and King Coronations, May pole dances and dances celebrating Spring - long time traditions not to be missed.

JUNE13...Our meeting will be with Melody Stalk about "What you can eat in your back yard."

We are sorry to say that Kathleen Owen is moving to Montana with family. Her wonderful creative ideas have inspired us to make the "gorgeous" dress form Lizzy....with cedar boughs and pampus grass under skirt, and the Ginger bread chicken house, too.....Her amazing creativity on the honorary quilt given to Mary Bewley will not be forgotten. Kathleen, we will miss you dearly.

All of a sudden, so much going on....start gardening, planting, pulling weeds, pruning, weeding, planning, buying, looking for new things, ..... enjoying the sunshine when it comes out for a change...oh, dear....not enough energy for it all....

HASTA PRONTO

Sharon Aguilar

## GARDEN HOUR

The short dark days of winter are made brighter each month when the Rowdies gather down at the Edgewood fire hall.

November found us busy getting our Xmas projects in order. **Java Junkie Jan Hurley** had quite the crew of elves gathered in her garage making Xmas centerpieces for the November district meeting. Imagine a group of lively ladies; jostling and jabbing for cuttings and candles, bling and bobbles, picks and glue sticks all while gabbing and gulping treats and eats. Sounds like holiday cheer to me.

And as if that weren't enough, Jan demonstrated her swag...ahem; I mean her swagmaking skills at our November meeting. BUT wait! Not to be outdone was **Hurricane Sandy Parr** who began her half of the program exclaiming, "I love weeds!" She then proceeded to show us her skills in transforming them into really nice wreaths.

Interspersed throughout her demonstration was her repeated reassurance that, "I'm not crazy, I just like weeds." Who would think that an eye sore weed (to some) could be transformed into a thing of beauty for others? Thanks ladies, for sharing your creative talents with us.

With the holiday season in full gear, we held our annual December potluck with the firemen. We had more food than firemen, but hey, that left more goodies for us! At this time, we also wrote each resident of Puyallup Valley Enhanced Residential Care facility a personal Xmas card and stuffed it with a candy bar. This is an annual tradition we all look forward to and the residents are very appreciative. The days of winter may be dark, but we take joy in spreading a little light into their lives.

And what could bring more light into our lives, but the happy twitter of our local bird population. **Kecia Cole** of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop put on a very fun, informative presentation on our feathered friends. We learned, "A fat bird is a healthy bird." Too bad for us humans it doesn't work that way.

Nita is heartbroken. Kecia covered everything from scaring away crows using a fake "dead" one, to deterring squirrels, raccoons, rats and bears from our feeder using hot pepper seeds mixed in with the bird seed. Here's a fun Kecia tip: make your own hummingbird protein meal using a banana in the feeder. The banana will attract fruit flies, a favorite snack for hummers. They will go bananas over your feeder (and you'll go bananas if the little buggers get in your house). I once had a hummer fly into my kitchen. They're hard to get out of the house, too! I didn't ask Kecia about that, but I'm sure she would have had a good solution.

After her PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Cole handed out bird themed calendars and free samples of suet, with and without the deterrent hot sauce, that we will "paint" onto tree trunks, branches, or whatever. What fun! So here's another fun fact in rhyme:

*A robin eats a lot--that's true  
Gosh, how much? -- I wish I knew.  
How many worms slurped in a day?  
Just how many would you say?  
To count the worms one robin eats  
would stretch an amazing 11 feet!*



March arrived with a bang as designer extraordinaire, **Debbie Spiller**, gave us a detailed design program matching the schedule for that month's district flower show. And what great patience she exhibited with all the questions we threw at her! Afterwards, several members received the fruit of her labor taking home the designs she created. What fun.

Another fun program was given in April by Master Gardener **Joe Freeman**. He didn't know what he was getting into when he agreed to do a question and answer clinic. Most of the questions and answers were lighthearted and helpful; however, he did deliver some awful, news. Someone needs to call **Doris Yuckert**. We learned **No-nonsense Nita Huber's** apple tree has cancer. There is no hope of recovery. The family has been called. Prayers have been sent. What more can be done?

Then we learned **Digger Dorothy Bean's** daffodils have a virus. Egad! There is no cure, but there is hope they will recover given time and a nutritious diet. However, hope has run out for **Delta-Dawn Larsen's** rhodie.

Joe delivered the bad news that her beloved has reached the end of its lifespan. "Plants, like people do have an expiration date," he explained as gently as was warranted. Dawn took it like a trooper saying, "It's ok. I'll leave the dead branches. They look like art." Doris Yuckert, your mission has been laid out before you.

**Ko-Ko Karla Hiers**  
Secretary

## ROOT 'N BLOOM

The last newsletter report hangs heavily. Just when we all should be talking about our gardens, we are mostly breaking for summer so we can work in them\

In March, master gardener Virginia Ferguson was our guest, putting on a Power Point presentation about fuchsias and bringing plants to sell. She was an informative speaker and the photographs were diverse.

Fuchsias are not just about buying starts at Fred Meyer and having them planted. Somewhere back in the late 1600s a French monk and botonist discovered the plants on the Carribean island of Hispanola and named his discovery after the German botonist Leonhard Fuchs, (hence the spelling) and introduced them to European gardeners.

There are approximately 110 species and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. On April 20th, the Tahoma Fuschia Society had its annual plant sale and one species for sale had been started from a variety which had come around the horn to Puget Sound approximately 180 years ago.

Some fuchsias are hardier than others, some have tubular blooms, and others have clusters. Most are in the red-pink-purple spectrum but *Fuchsia hybrida* has yellow caps .



We are also getting ready to elect new officers so the slate was presented. Our ladies, as usual, stepped up to the plate ("slate" and "plate" unintentional poetry). Our retiring president, Rachel Jennings, had a sign which read, "Work With Me." It's a good reminder to be thankful for those who volunteer.

Anyway, May is sort of a mystery meeting involving old shovels, and June will find us at the Old Goat Farm with credit cards at the ready. As I type this, I'm wearing a sweater, but the plants seem happy in the cool moist weather.

April found us at the park department's greenhouses. If the flowers in one of Tacoma's many parks or which cascade from various hanging baskets along Ruston Way, or grow profusely in Wright Park's Seymour Botanical Conservancy seem unfamiliar, there are two good reasons.

First, in the case of the dahlias, at least, growers from all over the country send their newest tubers to Tacoma's Metropolitan Park Department to be grown and tested after which they are destroyed, and, two, some of the plants came from Amazon's biosphere ( otherwise known as "a mature, if unusually well-manicured jungle" ) in Seattle.

The greenhouses for Tacoma's park district aren't easy to find. They sit on a hill next to the Land Fill which is between Orchard and Center Streets. There are no directional signs from either street. They were moved there in December 2017 from their previous location adjacent to Point Defiance Park through an agreement with the city. Funding came from taxes, donations, and foundations.



Front and center at the new site "is a 6,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, steel-framed greenhouse. Its windows are insulated polycarbonate, an extremely resilient type of plastic, and it has an automated climate-control system that monitors the weather and adjusts heat, lighting and ventilation accordingly." Park officials think the building "will save Metro Parks money on water and energy, as well as long-term maintenance."



Of course, there's more than one greenhouse, and Root & Bloom members were lucky in that the day we visited, the dry, almost warm weather made it easy to tour them all. And we learned all kinds of disparate facts. For example, though some of the small pots had Tagro in them, even Tagro potting soil is too heavy to be used on its own. It has to be amended. Instead, the parks department orders soil from SunGrow which is sold at retail under the name Black Gold. Also, staff and volunteers fertilize weekly using Root Shield fertilizer available from Arbico Organics, and start plants, such as poinsettias, six months in advance of when they will be needed.



As we toured, staff and volunteers were looking at wish-lists provided from the various parks. R.O.T.C. members regularly come in to help, and at-risk students come in for career training.

Volunteers are always needed. For information on tours or volunteering, Tyra Shenault 253-404-3975 is the contact. At the end of our visit we were each given a plant, albeit rather sickly looking, and which the staff couldn't identify. And a good time was had by all.

Karla Stover

## COUNTRY GARDENERS

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Workshop and the May 28<sup>th</sup> District Meeting. The Country Gardener's first meeting of spring, April 4<sup>th</sup>, started at Portland Avenue Nursery.

We toured the grounds with one of their knowledgeable employees giving us tips on planting vegetables in containers. Then we all had a chance to shop and ended up at the Midland Community Center for our business meeting and snack.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> we all met at Chris Birkas home to make Easter centerpieces for Heartwood Nursing Center. We all contributed baskets, grass, decorative picks, twigs, eggs, candy, etc, and before we knew it, we had 36 pretty centerpieces made. They were immediately delivered to Heartwood by Paulette Mears and Randie Welcher.



We are looking forward to the Workshop that our own Linda Maida is working so hard on.

Our May meeting will be a relaxed open conversation/question time about our gardens and the upcoming District Meeting. We will share gardening tips and questions and learn from each other. An open trunk plant swap will follow.

## GLOVE & TROWEL

March: We planned our centerpieces for District Flower show and discussed our basket theme and items for the annual workshop.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest is the recipient of this month's Penny Pines donation. You may already know why the Penny Pines donation is \$68, however, some of us did not and now we do.

According to an online article: *"At the start of the program in 1941, seedlings could be produced for about one cent each. Approximately 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. For \$68.00, seedlings for ten acres could be purchased..."*



TAcoma GROw = TAGRO.  
Two fun and entertaining representatives joined us for a program with samples and handouts about their five products; how they are made, certified and used in gardens/yards.

April: Raffle Basket items were collected and now await presentation at workshop. Our azalea centerpieces were outstanding at the March 26 district meet.

Susan Wigley, our favorite Master Gardener, always has limitless in-depth answers to gardening questions. Specifically, this time, about container gardening for spring and summer.

May: We will be buying and planting new flowers for the Meeker Mansion containers. And our new officers will be installed. Jan Morgan, president; Randa Conroy and Michele Candiloro, co-vice presidents; Linda Bond, secretary; Sherry Matthews, treasurer. Rocks, rocks, rocks to paint is our program.



June: Yum - good food and fine friends ... our potluck meeting and social is always well attended. We also spend time offering ideas for next season's programs. Barbara Bias



## Hill & Dale District

### *"Crazy Daze Of May"*

An NGC Standard Flower Show

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019**

**12:30 – 2pm**



Dryers Masonic Hall  
306 134<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Tacoma Washington 98444  
253-537-9928

Admission is free and open to the public

Member of National Garden Clubs Inc

Pacific Region Garden Clubs Inc

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

Hill and Dale District of Garden Clubs

6 Clubs

128 Members

**Looking for sources for  
gardening tips and ideas?  
Check these out!**

**BinettiGarden.com** - Marianne Binetti is a frequent speaker at local nurseries. Check her websites for dates, times and locations. She also leads garden tours around the globe.

**OldGoatFarm.com** - If you haven't visited The Old Goat Farm in Orting you are missing one of the northwest's hidden jewels. And they are frequent speakers at garden clubs and also lead tours around the globe.

**The CreativeGardener.com** - Sue Goetz is a well known speaker and author of everything you need to know about herbs.

## DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW RESULTS     MARCH 26. 2019

### HORTICULTURE     All WSFGC Awards

Betty Belcher Horticulture Award	Jan Hurley Garden Hour
Horticulture Excellence Award	Jan Hurley Garden Hour
Award Of Merit Section A (Bulbs)	Margie Knutson Country Gardeners
Award of Merit Section D (Perennials)	Judy Strickland Root & Bloom
Grower's Choice	Kim Munson Root & Bloom
Marva Lee Peterchick Arboreal	Jan Hurley Garden Hour

### DESIGN

Ellen Swensen Design Excellence	Debbie Spiller Country Gardeners
Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Design	Debbie Spiller Country Gardeners
Design Excellence	Debbie Spiller Country Gardeners
Designer's Choice	Margie Knutson Country Gardeners

### BOTANICAL ARTS

Terry Critchlow Photograph Award	Donna Haley Root & Bloom
Botanical Arts Horticulture	Linda Maida Country Gardeners
Carol Klingberg Educational	The Girls of Country Gardeners

CLUB POINTS	Horticulture	Design	Bot Arts	Photos (YTD)
Country Gardeners	68 (307)	55 (96)	33 (74)	8
Dogwood	0 (105)	4 (6)	0 (0)	11
Garden Hour	53 (156)	0 (2)	4 (4)	0
Glove & Trowel	0 (43)	8 (29)	5 (8)	0
Happy Thymes	0 (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0
Root & Bloom	58 (309)	16 (32)	27 (73)	13
Other	10	4	4	0

Number of entries: Horticulture 169   Design 26   Crafts 3   Bot Arts 17

## Hill & Dale District Web Site

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

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

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.

**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.





## District Garden Therapy



Our next activity will be Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Brookdale Courtyard in Puyallup. We will be helping the residents make terrariums for their rooms. We would like each club to be represented by one of their members.

Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported these activities for the last four years. Without your help these projects would not have been successful.

Please help me welcome and thank Linda Evaro & Sammie Jo Thirtyacre who will be our chairpersons for the next 2 years.

Please continue to support these ladies as they plan our District Garden Therapy programs.  
Kathy Johnson

## Save the Dates

### Aug 8-11, 2019



Mon, Aug 5, Open & Clean out Floral Building  
Tues, Aug 6 Finish Cleaning & Decorate  
Wed, Aug 7, Entries accepted, & Judged

We will need help from **ALL** Garden Club Members with:

Cleaning the building	Registration
Classification	Placement
Youth Entries	Hostesses
Kids Activity	

Please be prepared to sign up at our District Meeting on May 28.

Any questions, please call Kathy Johnson 253-847-4933 or Sherry Matthews 253-845-2555

## ARBOR DAY

This year's Arbor Day planting took place at Frontier Park on April 17th. Those attending were:

- Garden Hour Dorothy Bean, Chris Krueger, Kay Stokes
- Glove & Trowel, Sherry Matthews
- Country Gardeners Roxy Giddings, Gail Harte
- Root & Bloom, Kathy Straub, Kathy Johnson, Bridget Pilgrim, Mr Pilgrim
- Dogwood, Mary Bewley

The Flowering Cherry tree was purchased at Todd's Nursery in Orting. Lynn Smith from Dogwood picked up the tree at Todd's and delivered it to the Fairgrounds. It is located in a planting area next to the Children's play area which is very busy year round.

We know it will be a pleasant addition to the location. Thank you to all clubs who have donated to our District treasury for this worthy activity.

Mary Bewley, Hill and Dale District Arbor Day chairman

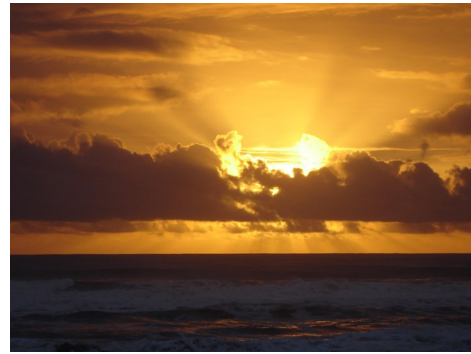




## UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

District Meetings;	Dryers Masonic Hall 306 134 <sup>th</sup> St S, Tacoma May 28, Sept 24, Nov 26
Convention	June 4--6, Red Lion, Olympia
Awards Picnic	June (date & place TBD)
Pierce County Fair	Aug 8-11, Frontier Park Graham

## In Memoriam



Garden Hour lost two members in February;  
Pat Corliss and Carol Giese.

Pat will be remembered for her talent in design. She had a wealth of knowledge which she gladly shared giving us several design programs.

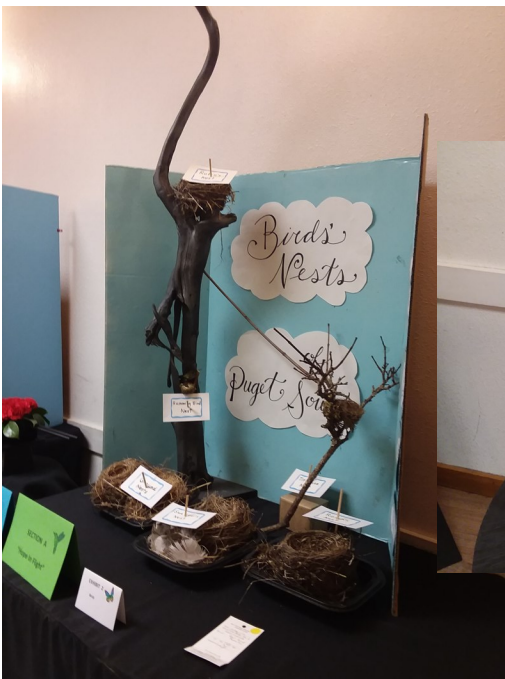
Carol Giese will be remembered as our Sunshine lady. Although she battled with post polio symptoms, she was always warm and welcoming with her gentle ways and smiles.

Both of these ladies memories will live on as inspirations to us to tend our friendships as carefully as we tend our gardens. We were blessed to have been part of their lives.

Garden Hour Members



## Photos from March 26, District Flower Show





### 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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