

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#191 Dec 2018, Jan, Feb 2019



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Sitting here watching the snow and dreaming of spring. Thinking about the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. It is a wonderful chance to plan your gardens.

Upcoming events are plentiful. We have Gala and Workshop to be followed by the Convention.



My thoughts as my term ends in June. I have had a great time and have made many friends. Garden Clubs and gardening in general provide planning, exercise and a love of the outdoors. It is the greatest way to meditate and be alone in your private space. I know how much I love to be outside just alone with nature.

So much is happening in the world around us and the retreat of a garden to look forward to is sublime. Sitting in a lounge chair with a soft warm breeze and perhaps a beverage of your choice, I can think of nothing better.

Hill and Dale has a standard flower show at the March 26th District Meeting. Give it some support and bring all you can within the schedule,

I regret that I will not be able to attend. I am going on the 50th anniversary trip we have had planned for a while now, We had a couple of destinations changed that could not be delayed. I am sure Rachel and Kathy will have all in hand. Don't have too much fun without me. See you in May!

Kathy Toups, District Director

CLUB NEWS!

DOGWOOD

WELL, WHERE DO WE BEGIN WITH ALL THE WEATHER DRAMA THAT HAS BEEN HITTING SOME PEOPLE?

JANUARY: No snow. All green outside, gardens and gardeners just laying back resting in-between wind storms that laid out lots of dead branches and fir boughs all over the place. Kathy and Diane Mettler hosted the meeting with 20 members including some new members.

Chris Bivens, a very talented + professional artist, gave us inspiration to use those unusual items we may have around us and think of putting them in the garden to elicit added meaning that the plants alone cannot give. We call it Garden Art!

He not only told us to think of color combinations, but kinds of materials that will withstand the weather and / or time. His creativeness is awesome. Lunch was provided

A monster white amaryllis from a bulb that Diane brought back from Holland was in bloom. Never had we seen one so big. Every member was encouraged to participate more in ALL projects that the club was starting.

Comments were made of the creativity done on the Ginger bread "Chicken House", entered in the district competition. Fantastic work level.

FEBRUARY:

SNOW.....MORE SNOW.....
CLOGGED UP DRIVEWAYS.....COLD.....
BEAUTIFIUL TO LOOK AT.....SNOWED
AGAIN.



Sharon Aguilar and Nancy Schank were going to have a Valentines party meeting. Well.....that had to be cancelled, and the program with Sue Goetz, was also going to be postponed because of the Flower Convention in Seattle.

The February program was going to be on the care of house plants. (Sounded a bit boring until the internet provided some information on the plants that I have.) Holy Cow!! I didn't realize I had such jewels and what they did for the atmosphere of the rooms and why they have survived for so many years.

The internet can tell you 10 plants that survive in zero sunlight such as bathrooms. 12 house plants for positive vibes, 12 air purifying plants and plants that are hard to kill. Most of us don't think about the importance of the pure air that plants can help with in our rooms.

The latest "Better Homes and Gardens " March magazine has excellent advice on house plants. It even emphasizes the placement in North, South, West or East windows for better growth. Check which they like. Many are happy to be clustered together for humidity around themselves. (Ferns, Begonias, Orchids can handle low light of north facing windows.)

Despite the cold, the daffodils are about to pop. Only 20 days til Spring. Ha!!!! hard to find some ground to plant another bulb that doesn't have a mole tunnel running through. We gardeners never get to rest nor do we want to....

MARCH:

MEETING AT EATONVILLE CONVENTION CENTER with Sue Goetz, author of "The Herb Lover's Spa Book", will be the speaker. Public invited. Lunch provided. Hostesses will be Lisa Hoversten and Sherry Hanson.

Bueno, Hasta la Primavera... Sharon Aguilar

GARDEN HOUR

Garden Hour has a busy calendar! In November we made 20 Christmas centerpieces to sell at the November District Meeting.

For December we wrote Christmas cards and enclosed candy to each resident at Puyallup Valley Enhanced residential Care. And we visited residents at P.V.E.R.C. with platters of Christmas cookies.

We'll have a bake sale at the District Meeting on March 26th.



We were delighted to receive a grant from Tacoma Garden Club for \$150 and we'll donate \$150 from our club to do a planting in front of the Edgewood Fire hall.

We'll help the Edgewood Nursery pot plants for customers at their annual potted plant event in May and we will provide centerpieces for the May 28th District Meeting.

In June we will wrap up the year with a Friendship Plant exchange among club members & then tour Sandra William's yard.

GLOVE & TROWEL

November: The gingerbread house project was challenging with many volunteers' hours of ingenuity, trials, misfortunes and success. We continue to savor our delight with the outstanding results. The treehouse went on to live and be admired at Peoples Retirement Community. Until 2 1/2 weeks later when an errant sprinkler system failed and gave it a lethal bath. The Fire department disposed of it along with the drenched lobby furniture.



For Meeker Mansion, we purchased and planted two new boxwoods and we decorated a room for Christmas.

Penny Pines received another \$68.00 donation from us in honor of Lori Kase.

What does adding several hundred dollars to a club treasury sound like to you? We hear it as another surprising success at our annual fund raiser auction. (*Sorry, we don't accept loan applications.*) Many of us buy each other's "stuff" and some of us make cash donations.

Another successful annual event is our December Cookie Exchange & Social. All seventeen of us showed up to bring two dozen cookies each; to eat for dessert and to take a variety of many cookies home. Yikes, here come the holiday pounds! We also bring warm items/clothing for the Freezing Nights program.



It was a cold, muddy and interesting January day (15th) when nine of us visited Ostrom's Mushroom Farm. Along with new knowledge, we each went home with a box of crimini mushrooms.



Our 4-H Super Saturday event is another fun annual project for us in January. It is Chia-type socks for the youngsters this time - decorated with, e.g., - earrings, trinkets, buttons, pipe cleaners, etc., etc. and grass seed.

In February, we will be doing artsy stuff, i.e., rock painting followed by Tagro in March and then in April, spring container gardening with master gardener, Susan Wiggly. May is "yet to be revealed" and June is a potluck picnic at Barb Patterson's home where we discuss ideas for next year's programs.

Submitted by Barbara Bias

ROOT 'N BLOOM

It's February and we should be out in our gardens; don't think so this year. We got hit with a huge snow storm, lasting days in some areas. We are still trying to recover from sno-zilla as I write this article.

I remember reading that the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, predicted an early spring. He was wrong around here!!!! My hellebore's and primroses are buried in snow. So, how is your garden doing??? We must now move ahead and be ready to celebrate Spring with weeding and planting new stuff when the snow goes away and see what damage has been done to our gardens.

Some club members enjoyed visiting the Tacoma Home & Garden Show plus venturing out to the NW Flower & Garden show in Seattle shopping for those great new things that we really

wanted but probably don't need; however, fun was had by all that braved the trip. A couple of the club members also participated in Garden Therapy.

December's District meeting was great fun, seeing how each club decorated their gingerbread houses. Root N' Bloom was the big winner. Our club had so much fun decorating our gingerbread house; it was a team effort.

December was enjoyed by our annual Potluck with good homemade food and playing floral bingo. Additionally, we delivered requested items to Orting Veterans Home. In January, Vicky Hurley from Portland Nursery gave a presentation on unique container planting with finds from yours or someone discard pile; also shopping for inexpensive but astounding items to use in containers. Club members will now go on the hunt and do some unique planting.

February will bring Bryn Tavasci, who will demonstrate how to reuse materials that we normally toss away. Her creative ability turns garbage into some fascinating creations. March will be learning about the care of Fuchsias. Stay tuned for April & May exciting programs.

Getting your garden in order early will help make the spring a little less hectic. Here's a few hints;

- order summer-flowering bulbs & seeds
- clear up flower beds & borders
- clean your greenhouse.
- sow seeds that need a longer season
- hunt down garden pests early
- install water butts
- move deciduous shrubs
- finally, fix fences, gates & trellises



Happy Spring to all, enjoy it, and now looking forward to Summer.

COUNTRY GARDENERS

What a great District Meeting in November looking at all the cute and creative gingerbread houses. Our own Gail Harte demonstrated how to make a pretty green wreath too.

Country Gardeners hope you all had a pleasant and fun Christmas Season



We started 2019 with our meeting January 7th when member Randi Welcher showed us how to make cute board plaques using rocks, twigs, etc.

Due to the snowy weather our February meeting was canceled.

We look forward to member Roxy Giddings giving a talk about Familiar Birds of Puget Sound Country at our March 4th meeting. In April we will have a field trip to Portland Avenue Nursery.

Country Gardener's Linda Maida will be chairing (for the 12th year) the 2019 Workshop. This workshop is certain to be so much fun and educational. The raffle baskets are always a hit! Thanks, Linda for all you do for our club and the district.

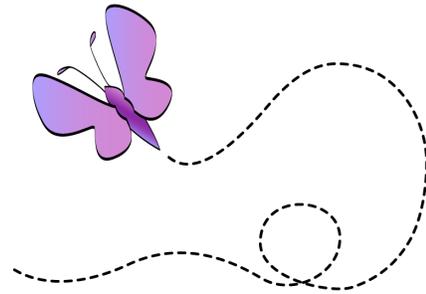
The upcoming March 26th District Meeting will be a needed and fun activity after a snowy and gloomy winter. Our Roxy Giddings will be a speaker and we all look forward to participating and viewing the flower show as well as visiting with our gardening sisters. See you there!

Hill & Dale District

Presents

"Wings & Things"

An NGC Standard Flower Show



Tuesday, March 26, 2019

10:30 – 2pm

Dryers Masonic Hall
306 134th 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



March 26 District Meeting

The morning Program speaker will be Karla Lorenz from Heath and Heathers Nursery. She will be talking about using Heath and Heathers in our gardens. Heath and Heathers Nursery is dedicated to providing gardeners with



hundreds of varieties of plants that they ship plants to all 50 states Their stock is very versatile and hardy.

Located in Shelton they have one of the largest selections of different varieties available in the world with over 900 different cultivars in their personal collection. Heathers have a tremendous range of foliage and flower colors. They provide color in the garden even during the darkest days of winter. Karla will also be bringing plants for sale.

Roxy Giddings will speak in the afternoon about Birds. She is a member of the Tahoma Audubon Society and will share her slide show with us. The society makes a positive difference in the lives of people, birds and wildlife in Pierce County, while protecting habitats for future generations.



District Garden Therapy

BINGO, or "flower bingo" as we call it was fun for all. The residents of Brookdale love playing bingo. We know because some skipped out on us in November to play bingo instead of making our grape vine wreaths so to keep them happy this time we played bingo.



We had 11 residents join in the fun hoping they had the lucky card. One woman actually asked another resident to move out of the chair that she sits in while playing bingo. These same ladies play bingo three times a week, for cookies, chips and dimes but enjoyed our houseplant prizes very much.



Chris even asked if you could win more than once, so we had to make up rules on the spot. June had some trouble reading the flowers on her sheet because when she heard we were playing bingo she left in such a hurry she forgot her glasses and the pillow for the back of her wheel chair. Thanks to these garden club members for supporting our projects and putting smiles on the ladies faces.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

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|--------------------|---|
| District Meetings; | Dryers Masonic Hall 306 134 th St S, Tacoma March 26, May 28, Sept 24, Nov 26 |
| Arbor Day | April 10, Frontier Park, Graham |
| Workshop | April 30, Dryer Masonic Hall |
| Gala | Mar 18-20, Red Lion, Olympia |
| Convention | June 4--6, Red Lion, Olympia |
| Awards Picnic | June (date & place TBD) |
| Pierce County Fair | Aug 8-11, Frontier Park Graham |



NEW MEMBERS!

Country Gardeners

Devieux Hauge
Kathleen Muckian
Helen Wilson

Dogwood

Crystal Dorsey

Happy Thymes

Jeannie Dougherty
Jean Dutton
Debbra Edwards
Diana Wilson

Root & Bloom

Kim Munson

An Irish Blessing...

*May the road rise to meet you,
and the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face
and the rains fall softly on your fields.*

And until we meet again

May God hold you gently in the palm of his hand.

Happy St Patrick's Day!!



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 & groom your flowers,
Plant Botanical names - cross referenced with their common names,
Sample Horticulture tags – how to fill out your tags for flower show.

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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.