

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#195 Dec 2019 ~ Feb 2020



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Welcome to 2020 everyone!

I can't remember a wetter beginning to a new year but, here we are. I hope everyone's Holidays were everything you wanted them to be. There have been a few days of sun - just enough to allow us to pick up the mess made from wind and rain.

I'm looking forward to our month of March. It's going to be a very busy one. March 9-10th we have our State Flower Show and Springboard meeting at Little Creek Casino in Shelton. It's close by and a fun place. I hope to see many of you there.



On March 24th we have our District Meeting, "Orbiting Into 2020". This show will also include Botanical Arts Horticulture like Arboreal- winter interest and dried flowers/foliage, seedpods, glycerinated and pressed plant material. Start collecting and drying your items now. The morning and afternoon programs once again will be fun and informative as always. Morning speaker will be Julie Graham she is a member of the Northwest Perennial Alliance and in the afternoon, we will host the Tacoma Ikebana designers. The flower show will highlight the excitement of spring visiting your yards. Can't wait to see what you all bring to share.

Then we have "Garden Passions", our famous Workshop! Once again we have great programs. I know Linda Maida has been working hard to put it together for all of us. Don't forget to be working on those raffle baskets for workshop. Can't wait to see what each club comes up with. Thank you for all your support

Sincerely,
Rachel Jennings, District Director

CLUB NEWS!

DOGWOOD

Greetings gardening enthusiasts! I'm seeing and feeling the first faint stirrings of Mother Nature here, with bulbs springing up, increased bird and rodent activity, and gorgeous sunrises. Some of us are seeing the first spring bulbs pop up out of the ground in lonely, unlikely places. Over here at my place, we regularly have a goose-pocalypse in our pond.

Here's all the good dirt from the Dogwood Garden club! We had a good turn out for the December 3rd District meeting, with a record 9 members attending and plenty of swags for our table! We are now the largest club in membership in the district, due to our growth over the past year. All were so pleased when our member Linda Evaro won the district "floral design every month for a year" raffle!

Our Dec meeting was held here at Faerie Circle Farm, with Crystal Dorsey and Sharon Van Eaton hosting. It was a very well attended meeting with 26 members in attendance. The assorted potluck dishes made for a delectable feast!

Members Nancy Schank, Mary Bewley, Diane Mettler, Ginny Phillips, and Crystal Dorsey shared Christmas ideas from the garden as our program.

Nancy brought a beautiful cutting in a mason jar vase, Dianne gave us a very cool ornament idea, Mary had an adorable use for old bowling pins, Crystal created a holiday decoration out of fir branches and a dress form. And Ginny

showed us how to flat, long stemmed leaves like yucca to manipulate into loops and sail shapes to use in designs or arrangements or even to

to decorate packages – something she learned at the Dec 3rd District meeting.

Also at the Dec meeting, it was decided to grow amaryllis bulbs and try getting them to re-bloom as a club group project. Bulbs were distributed to those interested in trying at the Feb meeting, but here is a picture of member Ginny's results who already had some bulbs.



Ginny suggested a Facebook page she follows called Garden Answer, who had posted a video on growing and caring for Amaryllis.

In Jan, Diane and Kathy Mettler were our hostesses at the Eatonville Visitor Center. Member Mary Bewley gave a presentation on making design components, and members shared things happening in their gardens.

Our February meeting was hosted by Kathy Mettler and Mary Bewley at Kathy's home (with delicious lasagna and apple crumb cake – yum!). Those members who signed up for the amaryllis project received their bulbs, and we got our calendars updated for all the exciting garden events coming up in March. Our program was a presentation by member and local expert Nancy Schank, who walked us through the do's and don'ts of pruning hydrangeas.

Hope you all enjoy the last of the wintry weather planning your spring gardens. I, for one, am filled with anticipation to see what I can accomplish this year!

~ Crystal Dorsey

ROOT & BLOOM

From these pictures, it's not hard to tell that the Bloomers enjoyed the plants at Wright Park's Seymore Botanical Conservatory where we took a field trip in November. And it was lovely to be in a sunny, warm environment. A visit in late autumn meant there were both fall and Christmas flowers on display. Also, the Conservatory store, which is devoted to all-things-horticulture, is enjoyable anytime, as some of the ladies discovered when they made a few purchases, i.e. investments for their future gardens.



In December we always have a potluck followed by an afternoon playing Floral Bingo courtesy of Harriett Miller. Everyone brings food, everyone brings a prize, and everyone wins something.



Our January meeting gave us the effervescent personality and floral arranging skills of Keith Ripley. With a theme of, "It Floats," he made creative uses of driftwood and roots, among other things. ..

Also in Feb, Root & Bloom participated in 4H Super Saturday. One of the 4H adults told me the garden club projects are the children's favorites because there aren't a lot of things planned for the little kids - the Clover Buds - and, in addition to trying to teach them something, each child has their project to take home.



Kathy Johnson, Bridget Pilgrim, Cindy Swanberg, and Karla Stover were the volunteer Bloomers. They helped the 5 and 6 year olds cover toilet paper rolls with lard, roll them in bird seed, and tie them to sticks to hang outside for both the seed-loving and the fat-loving birds. One little girl didn't like getting her hands gooey and one little boy was very interested in learning to tie a knot. Velcro has replaced shoe laces.

The older children glued painted clothes pins on pots which they planted with Violas courtesy of Portland Avenue Nursery who also donated a bag of potting soil. The project would have been more successful if the glue hadn't been so goopy. In addition to the clothes pins, Bridget had a container of cones to add, and she had glitter glue which was really pretty. She also had some coloring books for the Clover Buds who didn't like putting their hands in the lard.

Cindy brought a Tablet and showed pictures of birds from her yard and played bird songs, that is, the sounds of various birds singing. Kathy took all the pictures here. We were pretty Tired when all was said and done. And now, with

HILL AND DALE ARRANGERS GUILD

A workshop will be held on Botanical Arts Plaques and Collages on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at the Midland Community Center, 1614 99th St, Tacoma, at 10 a.m.. This is a fun and artistic way to display plant material as a wall hanging or on an easel as art work. Your creative self unleashed!

All are welcome to come and learn about these Botanical Arts designs.



the Hellebores in bloom and bulbs pushing their way up, it's on to spring, which according to comedian Robin Williams, is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

Respectfully submitted: Karla Stover

Save the Dates!!
August 6-9, 2020
Pierce County Fair, Graham, WA
www.piercecountyfair.com

Mon, Aug 3 ~ Open & clean floral building
Tues, Aug 4 ~ Set up & decorate
Wed, Aug 5 ~ Entries accepted & judged

We will need help from ALL Garden Club Members with:

Cleaning the building	Placement
Setting up & decorating	Youth Entries
Classification	Hostesses
Kids Planting Activity	

Please save your old shoes/boots for our Kids Planting Activity. We will paint them and the youth will plant them with succulents. Please bring shoes to the March and May District Meetings.

Be prepared to sign up to help out at the District Meeting on Mar 24.

Questions? Call Kathy Johnson 253.847.4933 or Sherry Matthews 253.845.2555

Hill & Dale District Web Site

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



COUNTRY GARDENERS

We ended 2019, on a happy note with our Christmas potluck and the making of Christmas centerpieces to be taken to Heartwood Extended Healthcare in Tacoma. I hope the residents enjoy the centerpieces as much as we enjoy putting them together. We also used the opportunity to have our holiday potluck, so much food! Ending our day by wishing all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

But that was not all; Chris Sherrill and Gail Harte decided that perhaps one last field trip might be in order. So on December 18, 2019 we gathered



again (those who were able to meet) and went to the W.W. Seymour Conservatory at Wright Park in Tacoma. The Conservatory was decorated beautifully for the holiday and it also gave us a chance to share our knowledge of the plants with each other (and other guests). If you have not been, it is an amazing place to visit! They will shut down for a few months, to do some necessary renovations, but will open again in summer. Hope you get a chance to make a visit there. But that was not all to our trip, we then ventured on to Washington Floral, again what an amazing visit this was; just going through the doors was breathtaking.

Ladies were allowed to wander, as they like and then gathered their purchases and off we went to lunch, a perfect end to a perfect day!

Now here we are beginning a bright New Year and decade, with lots of gardening projects planned for the year. Our first meeting of the year was held on January 6, 2020. It was good to get back into our normal routine.

We have many projects that we are working on and ones that are still in the planning stages. During the end of last year, the club decided to do a "continuous" work project involving propagating hydrangeas. There should be some interesting outcomes to the project. Some members started right away with cuttings and others began after the new year. So we should have different stages of growth and are keeping a journal of our efforts.

Also last year, as many of you may remember, the visit from the Columbia Crest School District gave us all an insight on what children can do with gardening projects. These children are amazing in their efforts of recycling and repurposing the garden. They started from scratch and built a garden that produces fruits and vegetables that go back to the school and community, they also have an entry to the NGC this year. We hope to hear more from these awesome kids in the future.



Coming soon will be the Northwest Flower and Garden Show to be held in Seattle, February 26 thru March 1, 2020. Many of our members already have their tickets and are looking forward to all the events surrounding the show and even perhaps a "ladies night out". Following close behind will be the *Creative Adventure* Flower Show, this year being held at the Little Creek Casino Resort in Shelton on March 9 thru 11, 2020. Don't forget to sign up early for the classes being held, I'm sure they will fill up fast.

We are also collecting shoes of all shapes and sizes (except sandals) for Gail Harte's Pierce County Fair project this year. We will need approximately 300-400 shoes. Donations accepted. For the workshop in March we are planning on entering a basket, ???? And we are working on field trips and even talking of a bus trip this year. The year is filling up fast and it is only January. I'm sure I have forgotten something, but I do know that we have a lot of exciting things happening in 2020!

Respectfully submitted: Kathleen Muckian

GLOVE & TROWEL

The fall months of Nov and Dec brought many activities to Glove and Trowel Garden Club. A team of woman led by Barbara Bias went to the Randa Conroy's home and helped her husband put the flower beds to rest for the winter months.

In November 19th. we had our annual auction meeting. Members bring things from home and the items are auctioned off within the club. It is always amazing how someone's junk is another person's treasures. The Club raised \$464.00. We all laughed and enjoyed that day with our dear friend Esther VanNoy. Little did we know she would pass away that night in her sleep. Esther was very active in The Garden Club, The Rose Society of Puyallup, and a past member of The Iris Club.

Glove and Trowel made Hydrangea Wreaths to be sold at the December 3rd District Meeting. This project was led by Sherry Mathews.



Our Dec meeting was our annual cookie exchange meeting. Jan Morgan led a group of ladies to decorate the daughter's room at Meeker Mansion in Puyallup Washington.

Our members shared many ideas on how to recycle items into our everyday life. Use panty hose to store onions over the winter months. Use the cord handles on paper bags to tie plants up on stakes. Put broken Styrofoam in the bottom of flowerpots for good drainage. Barbara Bias is the chair for this committee.

Glove and Trowel is looking forward to the first spot of spring when the crocuses show their stems soon to be followed by hyacinth, daffodils, and tulips.

Linda Bond



Pierce County Fair Planning Meetings

Join us for our first meetings to brainstorm and plan for the Fair.

Monday, March 16, 2020 @ 2 p.m.
Midland Community Center

Thursday, April 16, 2020 @ 10 a.m.
Pierce County Fair Grounds Floral Building.

Please start thinking of how we can decorate and incorporate kid's activities with this year's theme. Looking forward to your ideas and help!

Bees & Honey in 2020



INTERLAAKEN

Nov and Dec were busy months for Interlaaken Garden Club. One week alone, there were two opportunities for garden clubbers. The first organized by Joyce Komnick, was a program held Nov 18 at Washington Floral where **Bob Andren**, floral designer and decorator for the Governor's mansion in Olympia, gave a program sharing tips and ideas while entertaining Interlaaken club and sister club AsterNots along with invited guests including members of the Tacoma Garden Club.

The adventure continued with a field trip on Nov 20 to the Tacoma Metro Parks new green house with lunch out afterward.

The district meeting in Dec brought the creative ones going. The effort and opportunity to display and sell magnolia leaved wreaths which last forever! An earlier workshop was held to pick the magnolia leaves and another to assemble the wreaths.



We also went out to lunch at Johnny's Dock for Christmas. This is our splurge luncheon and was well attended.

Our friend and co-president Gloria Wing passed away and her funeral was held in Dec. She was creative, fun, enthusiastic and a longtime member. Gloria will be sorely missed and her passing hits the heart of our club. In Jan the passing and funeral of our dear member Mary Ann Harrison hit our club again.

We do not have a Jan meeting but meet instead in June when the weather is more predictable. We were so right on this year with the snow!

We are excited to have our Feb meeting which we are sharing with AsterNots who are providing lunch as a thank you for our Nov program hospitality.

We are encouraging our members to sign up for workshops and attend the state meeting in March. The plan is to meet and carpool for a good time.

Judy Swortz, President.

GARDEN HOUR

Things have been hopping down at the fire hall this season. Nov found us busy at **Karla "In-Hiding" Hiers** house making the Apres du Jardin bath collection for the Dec district sale. Thank you to **Krueger Crafty Chris**, **Kalamity Kay Stoves**, **Sherry "Merry-Maker" Meyer** and **Mary "Where's My Jacket" Wambold** for your ideas and helping hands. And to all the garden club Rowdies who



donated the materials. Not to be outdone was the crew making the Xmas centerpieces for the district meeting. Thank you to all the club members who came together at **Java-Junkie**

Jan Hurley's garage for this annual project. Yep, we're a busy bunch!

Nov also found us trekking down en masse to Vassey's Nursery in Puyallup for an excellent presentation on shrub pruning and tool maintenance. They also showed us how they make their beautiful Xmas hanging baskets. Hmm, maybe we should give that a try next year...they were pretty cool. Just sayin'.

Another cool thing, besides the weather, was that we were able to donate \$300 to the local Salvation Army and \$100 to the Fireman's Benevolent Fund from the various fundraisers we have had over the past year or so. We enjoy helping others while making new garden club friends and learning new crafts. Thank you to all who purchased Xmas centerpieces. These funds added to our ability to make the donations. Blessings abound all around!

And regarding Xmas, the dark Dec days didn't dampen our spirits when it came to our annual Xmas potluck. This is the time of year when families follow certain traditions and it has become our tradition to remember the residents of Puyallup Valley Enhanced Residential Care Facility with personalized Xmas cards and candy. These folks have challenges in life and may not get many visitors let alone be remembered during the holidays. We love brightening up their world even if only for a moment. Thank you **No-Nonsense Nita Huber** for being our candy lady and Xmas card sheriff.

Another bright spot was at our Jan meeting with fireman Phil Herrera dropping in to give us an update of the new fire hall to be built over the spot on which we are currently meeting. Looks like big wheels do turn slowly, so instead of having to vacate our cozy “cave” (as the firemen call it) next month, they are letting us stay till our last meeting in June. Score!



We also scored another fund raiser: a silent auction. There was a modicum of decorum as members jostled for position to get their bids placed under the items they wanted—hoping to not be out bid. I don’t know what the final total was but we sure had fun and no one was injured in the fray!

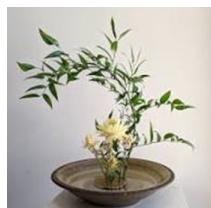
*We had cookbooks and crystal and crocks,
Corkscrew willows, fancy ribbons, and rocks,
Plus vases, putting cases, and a tiny geese flock,
Kitchen ware, bird care, artwork for bare spots,
Then puzzles, and planters, and a red tea pot.
Yep, just a few of the treasures at auction we bought!*

Karla In-Hiding” Hiers

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

District Meetings;	Dryers Masonic Hall 306 134 th St S, Tacoma Mar 24, May 26, 2020 9 a.m.
District Board Meetings:	Midland Community Ctr 1619 E 99th St, Tacoma Apr 28, 2020 10 a.m.
Workshop	Mar 31, 2020 8:30 a.m. Dryers Masonic Hall
Arbor Day	Apr 16, 2020 11 a.m. Frontier Park, Graham
Bus Trip	June 23, 2020 Trip to Lake Wilderness Arboretum & Squak Mtn Garden Ctr.

Hill & Dale District Meeting



Tues, March 24, 2020

10:00 am – 2pm

Dryers Masonic Hall

306 134th Street South

Tacoma Washington 98444

Orbiting Into 2020

The morning program will be presented by Julia Graham of Northwest Perennial Gardens.

Our afternoon design program will be on Ikebana, which is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Members from the Tacoma Chapter of Ikebana International will show us some differences between their styles of designs based on the different schools with the Japanese influence.

Some schools of ikebana stress classical styles; others focus on contemporary forms, and some blend the two. Of the hundreds of schools of Ikebana, each one takes its own approach to arranging flowers.

Dec District Meeting

Each club had a table to sell wreaths, swags, and more for holiday decorating.



GARDEN THERAPY

We had a wonderful time at Garden Therapy Thursday February 27, 2020 at Silver Creek Retirement and Assisted Living. The residents created their own succulent gardens to bring cheer to their personal living areas.

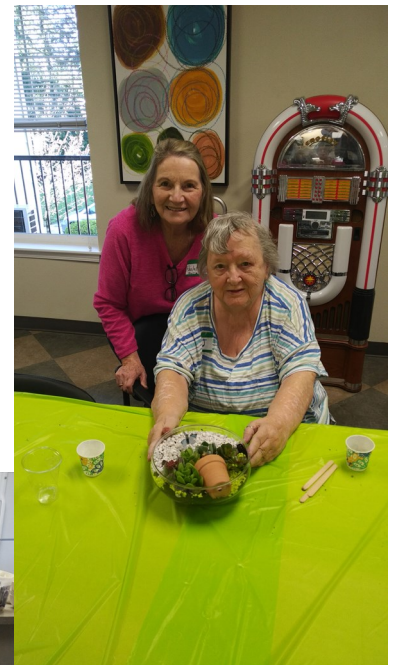
There was a great turn out with 9 members from our Garden Clubs providing assistance, conversation, and friendship to 15 delightful residents who excitedly joined us for garden craft fun!

The adorable container gardens included an assortment of indoor succulents with a variety of textures, colors, shapes, and sizes. The succulents were graciously donated to us by Jen Wells from Sweet Succulents, located at 4412 354th St. E., Eatonville WA 98328. Her phone number is 253-533-8393. Please think of her when you want to add indoor or outdoor succulents to your home or garden. Her selection is breathtaking!

A big "THANK YOU" to these lovely ladies for all their help and friendship at Garden Therapy: Debbra Edwards from Happy Thyme, Bridget Pilgrim and Rosie Trujillo from Root N Bloom, Patti Johnson from Happy Thymes, Patti Isom and Chris Sherrill from Country Gardens and Lisa Libby, Paulette Quirie and SammieJo Thirtyacre from Dogwood.

Our next Garden Therapy event will be Thursday May 28, 2020 from 9:00-10:30 at Silver Creek Retirement and Assisted Living located at 17607 91st Avenue East, Puyallup, WA 98375. Please come join us; we always have a great time!

Until May,
SammieJo Thirtyacre, Lisa Libby, and Linda Evaro - Dogwood





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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