

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#178 Nov, Dec, Jan



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Tend to the Roots ~ Together We Can

Out in the yard trying to put the garden to bed I find myself submerged in all the color. The maples are putting on quite a show - reds, oranges and yellows abound. Have you been enjoying the fall catalogs wondering where you could add a few more lilies, tulips or a new variety of daffodils?

September's district meeting gave us a wonderful gourd speaker who is very passionate about her gourds both large and small. Caroline Erickson taught us how to take a design for the home and with a few additions how it could become a design for the flower show. Thank you to the four members, two who were first time attendee's, who were willing to work on arrangements in front of us all. I hope that they encouraged you all to try your creative side.

I'm looking forward to the trees each club comes up with for our December 1 meeting. Old fashioned, futuristic or retro it is bound to be a wonderland of creativity. I plan on doing all my holiday "baking" during the meeting also, because gardeners are also great bakers!

A big thank you to Kathy Johnson for the awesome job chairing our Garden Therapy project at the Alzheimer's care center. Kathy not only led a team of twelve volunteers but had all supplies and flowers donated. Putting such big smiles on so many faces made our day and we couldn't have done it without her. **Together we Can**

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and continued enjoyment in your gardens and garden clubs.

Linda Maida



UPCOMING EVENTS

District Meetings

Dec 1, 2015
Mar 22, 2016
May 24, 2016
Dryer Masonic Temple
306 134th St S, Tacoma
8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. for entries
10:00 a.m. for meeting

District Board Meetings

Jan 19, 2016
Feb 23, 2016
April 26, 2016
Midland Community Center
1619 E 99th, Tacoma

Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Feb 17-21, 2016
Washington State Convention Center
Seattle

Garden Show Gala

March 21, 2016
Olympia

Hill & Dale District Work Shop

March 30, 2016
Dryer Masonic Temple
306 134th St S, Tacoma

Flower Show School

April 12-14
Kent

WSFGC State Convention

June 7-10, 2016
Embassy Suites, Bellevue

Awards Picnic: TBA

CLUB NEWS!

ROOT N' BLOOM

Root & Bloom started 2015/16 gangbusters with three new members and a great September program. With the demise of Sunbonnet Sue we were lucky enough to get Doris Yuckert as a new member. And both Donna Haley and Gail Aardappel found us on line by Googling garden clubs in the area. Gail also met Rosie while doing a Master Gardner's stint at the fair and Rosie thought she'd be a good fit for R&B. Thank you, Rosie and Google. Root and Bloom is on the *News Tribune* calendar but also, Kathy Johnson updated our website and Karla Stover created a Facebook page.

Our September program was a design challenge in which Linda Maida, Chris Sherrill, and Judy Strickland participated. With identical flowers and containers, they each made different arrangements, all the while explaining their thinking as they designed. Linda swapped containers, changed leaves, and added or took away accoutrements such as contorted willow branches. It was an amazing class for design wanna-bes.



We take roll every month by answering a question. September's was, "With next summer predicted to be similar to that which we just went through, what changes will you make to your garden?" Judy had a really good idea: look at what survived and add more of the same, or work with plants within the same genus.

The October meeting was chock full of house-keeping—things that needing doing. We chose a theme for our Workshop raffle basket, decided on what kind of tree we wanted to make for the December District meeting, voted on a new budget, discussed the Masonic Hall garden, and started a new growing project. We were going to start making things for the room we're decorating at the Meeker Mansion but ran out of time.

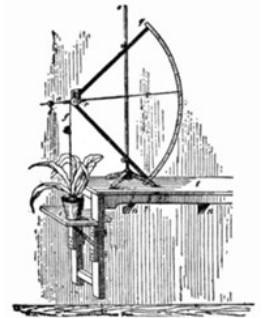


Kathy Johnson gave a great talk on decorative cabbages and kale, and our roll call question was who does what to winterize their gardens. Lots of different ideas there.

And finally, congratulations to Kathy Toups, Kathy Johnson, and Eddie Joe Fueston who all won blue ribbons at the last district meeting. If I forgot someone, my apologies.

Karla Stover, president

The sketch is an old-fashioned plant measurer which I added because it's cute.



COUNTRY GARDENERS

Fall is upon us and we are busy with fall cleanup. Our first meeting in October after a long hot summer kicked off with great attendance and a very nice program about bees and honey. A local man from Mr. Robbins Honey Farm was our guest speaker.



Three of our Country Gardener members went to the Brookdale Care Center recently to help the residents there decorate for the fall season by helping them fill pumpkins with flowers.

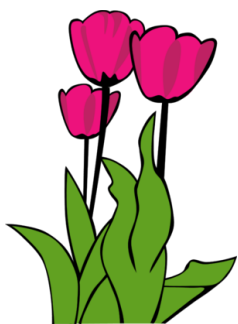
We are looking forward to decorating a tree for the up coming District Meeting in December. And also our next meeting in November and our annual Christmas luncheon in December. Happy Holidays everyone!

GARDEN HOUR

How do you spell relief from the summer heat? F-A-L-L. And that's what the Rowdies did down at the fire hall as we fell back into our monthly meetings for 2015 -2016. We will miss long time garden clubbers, **Pat Corliss** and **Helen Wingren** who are no longer able to attend, but will keep in touch. Many thanks for their dedication and friendship over the years.

The circle of life continues with new member, **Maple Maiden Marty Roper** who opened her home and garden in Sept. Her home is as spectacular as her expertly landscaped yard, rivaling the homes of Sunset Magazine. We poked around the pool and deck, and wandered paths through native plantings and water features, sampling figs and apples along the way. After our tour, we chatted over homemade apple dessert whilst enjoying the view of her favorite maple tree. (The tree is another story, hence the nick name.)

Kudos to **Courageous Carol Burk** who took the plunge at the Sept. district meeting and participated in making her first ever design during the afternoon program. We will be watching for more designs in the future from Carol. Speaking of designs, **No-Nonsense Nita Huber** and **Java-Junkie Jan Hurley** demonstrated their skills as they gave a program on traditional table designs in Oct. And they didn't even seem to mind member input as they worked (always a Rowdy hazard).



Our Mystery Tulip Growth Project got underway in Oct. when members drew numbers to determine their mystery bulb package. They planted their 3 tulips but do not know which one of the nine varieties they have. They will chart the significant aspects of their growth until "the big reveal" at our spring meeting. Things are expected to get really rowdy then as members show, tell and trade their bulbs. The biggest commotion will be over bulb package #10. (Good thing we meet at a fire hall.)

Something new for us is to bring horticulture to each meeting for fussing and discussing. We are learning as we go, and it is fun to see what's growing in each other's yard. **WARNING:** We may be a force to be reckoned with at the next flower show...

Garden Hour Power!
~Karla Hiers

GLOVE AND TROWEL

What was a chilly morning turned out later to be a gorgeous sunny day for our September meeting and lunch on the decks at Lori Kase's beach home. We ferried from Titlow Beach to Anderson Island where she and her daughter, Sheryl graciously greeted us. None of us really wanted to return to real life as we languished on the deck or walked the beach. However, (*sigh*) our ferry (*read coach*) schedule won't change just for us Glove and Trowel princesses.



We opened our meeting with respect to and a little different take on President Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address. 'Ask not what your garden club can do for you -- but ask what you can do for your garden club?'

Thinking ahead to the December district meeting project of decorating a small Christmas tree, we had fun discussing horticultural ideas and ways to make the ornaments. Sheryl's rose idea was particularly captivating.

Because our November meeting is always our annual auction fundraiser, we decided to use the October meeting to create ornaments for our tree. We all brought numerous plant materials and hardworking hands. Michele Candiloro patiently taught us how to create the exotic roses. Lots of fun, laughter and a big mess on Sherry Matthew's floor.

Don't want to make it sound as if all we did at these meetings was just fun and games (maybe it was) -- we conducted the usual business - old and new, etc. We also continue to maintain the butterfly garden as our community project at the soldier's home in Orting.

Barbara Bias, Secretary

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Tomatoes on the window sill are a joy to watch ripen. Don't you just love harvesting your garden veggies? Or enjoying the ones given to you? How many recipes were invented or resurrected from last year for all the squashes and zucchinis given to you? OH, we do become creative!! This year it was green fried tomatoes and green tomato pie.

Yes, some gardeners still have beautiful flowers left from the late summer. Every gift bouquet is joyfully received!! There is not a better house gift than a handful of fresh flowers, right?

SEPT. MEETING: Topic: HERBS

Kathy and Diane Mettler hosting.

- plant them where you can get to them easily. Even indoors, all year round.
- learn to use these gifts that add flavors to the foods. Try something different.
- dry them and use them in teas and infusions. Medicinal properties, too.
- used as fillers in flower pots. Some need control anyway in a pot not to take over.
- some even scare away bugs and slugs
- dried herb flowers or leaves make great arrangements and swags

Amazing!!! That straw colored lawn is now green again and it seemed over night. Dead wood and branches cut out of trees, bushes and roses certainly perks them up and makes them grow better.

OBSERVATION: The best tip for a new beginning flower gardener to have would be to not forget to DEAD HEAD all flowers all the time. And they will continue to bloom till the frost comes.

OCT: Topic: FERNS

Ginny Phillips and Anne Hartman hosting.

- hundreds of varieties.....awesome
- ground covers to tree sizes
- generally shade lovers
- wonderful flower bed "fillers"
- easy maintenance.. Find the ones for your zone.
- The Hardy Fern foundation's FERN FEST first Fri and Sat of June every year.
- www.hardyferns.org

- spore collection for propagation and sharing...fascinating
- THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION is located in Federal Way, WA

After lunch Mary Bewley showed us how to do a design featuring, what else? ferns!!



The coffee and donuts at break time are worth all the effort Dogwood members put into cleaning up Dogwood Park. D.O. T. comes and picks up the piles of clippings and berry vines. Consensus: this was a VERY good year for berry bushes.

A handsome young hiker stopped by and "thanked us for all our efforts." That made our day. Yes, we do like to know our efforts are noticed. Compliments can be contagious. Ha!!

OBSERVATION: What will survive after this dry, dry summer? Blooming seasons and growing times seem to be out of sync this year. Tomatoes, apples, berries flourished but some shrubs started to bloom again after the rain not their time yet. Even the primroses have started to bloom again... (Good year for hay farmers though!!! It didn't get wet.)

NOV: "How to prepare your bulbs for Spring blooming". Meeting place TBA.

Christmas has already got the creative juices flowing for the Dec. District Meeting. Never a dull moment in a garden club. And then our own Christmas party!!!

Sharon Aguilar
aguilar.sharon@gmail.com

SEPT 22 DISTRICT MEETING

The morning program was on gourds - how to grow them and what to do with them. After the presentation folks had a close up view of the many designs and were able to purchase some of the gourds.



The afternoon design program was an adventure as several members were asked to come up and create designs. None of the participants had ever created designs before. The speaker then critiqued their designs and showed them how they could easily change them for a theme or a special event.



AWARDS

Design

Country Gardeners	65 points
Dogwood	7
Garden Hour	1
Glove & Trowel	29
Root & Bloom	57
Best in Show	Linda Maida
Best interpretation of class theme	Linda Maida
Best Miniature	Sherry Matthews
Best Craft	Chris Sherrill
Best Novice	Kathy Johnson

Horticulture

Country Gardeners	103
Dogwood	18
Garden Hour	35
Glove & Trowel	36
Root & Bloom	115
Best in Show	Eddie Jo Fueston
Harvest Award	Kathy Toups

GARDEN THERAPY

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped at the Garden Therapy on Wednesday, October 21st. Twelve amazing women from all five daytime clubs successfully helped hollow out 16 pumpkins and assisted the residents of Brookdale arrange flowers in the pumpkins. Our goals were met when we gave the residents an opportunity to participate, socialize, and be involved with activities related to horticulture. I know that we brightened their day by just watching their faces. One woman did three pumpkins and wished we had more.

Unfortunately we could not take pictures of the residents because of the Hipaa privacy laws but believe me they were pleased. To quote a garden club member she said, "I had a great time...the residents made me smile. It was a pleasure".

The staff at Brookdale also appreciated our group activity; in fact, the director caught some of us outside afterwards and asked if we would go to other Brookdale facilities. She wanted us to do the same activity for them. Thanks again for the great job!



New address for Smoke Signals

**(Washington Garden and Design)
Subscriptions to Dianne Franchini
153 Greenvale Drive
Ellensburg WA 98926**



PUTTING THE GARDEN TO BED... Guest Article by Greg Graves, Old Goat Farm, Orting

It is that time of year when you need to start to put the garden to bed. I've developed a list over the last several years which comes in handy to make sure I get all my chores done. It goes back to when I worked at the botanical garden and needed to stay organized.

- 1 Plant up winter containers. A few strategically placed containers can brighten up the entry to your home or a spot in the garden visible from the house.
- 2 Plant a cover crop. If you have a vegetable garden at home you may want to plant a cover crop that will protect the soil through the winter and also add nutrients when it is turned under in the spring. A good one for this area is Crimson Clover - it gets bright red flowers that add a bit of color to the garden.
- 3 Select plants for fall color. Now is a good time to go to the nurseries and look at the selection of plants are good for fall color. I also take a note book so I can make note of plants I may want to get in the future.
- 4 Selecting plants for winter bloom and fragrance. In the dead of winter it really brightens the day to see a winter blooming plant. A couple of possibilities are Sarcococca and Hamamelis.
- 5 Spring bulbs. Now is the time to plant your sprint bulbs.
- 6 PLANT! Fall is the best time to plant. By planting now the plant has time to develop a good root system for next year.
- 7 Protect tender plants. Many people take their house plants or tender plants out for the summer, but now is the time to take them back indoors. Make sure you clean them first with a nice spray of water or insecticidal soap if there are problems.
- 8 Divide perennials. Lift and divide spring and summer blooming perennials, such as day lilies, poppies, peonies and daisies to name a few. Most perennials benefit from being divided every two or three years.
- 9 Move plants. This is a good time to evaluate plants that may not have been doing as well as expected. Remember the right plant in the right place will be much healthier.
- 10 Weeding. I know this isn't one of the most favorite gardening jobs, but by doing a thorough weeding in the fall you can avoid more extensive weeding in the spring.



11 Rake and clean up. Leaves are easier to pick up when they are dry so periodic cleanups are better than waiting until all the leaves have fallen and become mushy.

12 Lawn It's a little late to sow seed but you can still fertilize. Fertilizing in fall is the best time because the soil is still relatively warm and you can build a better root system than in the spring. I would recommend an organic commercial winterizer.

13 Mulch The final step in putting the garden to bed is to mulch. Composting helps protect the plants from the winter cold.

14 Last but not least, find a good book and go indoors. It's cold out! It's also important to recharge your own batteries the next gardening season.

Dec 1, 2015

Dryer Masonic Center

Non-Judged Show

Entries 8:45 and no later than 9:45 a.m.

“CHRISTMAS GARDEN PARTY”

DIVISION 11 - DESIGN

No artificial flowers or foliage. Fresh plant material emphasized. Accessories allowed unless otherwise stated. NO EMBELISHMENT ON FRESH PLANT MATERIAL. One entry to a class or sub-class. Put your name and club on each entry tag. Designs have 26” of table space unless otherwise stated.

People's Choice: Rosette of Red and Green ribbons

Class 1. “Up on the Rooftop” Tall design

Class 2. “Winter Wonderland” Designers choice

Class 3. “Reason for the Season” Designers choice

Class 4. “New Years Eve” - Exhibitional table setting, type 11, some plant material

Class 5. “Christmas Warmth” NOVICE ONLY Table centerpiece viewed from all sides. A novice is a designer who had won no more than 5 blue ribbons.

Class 6. “Snowflakes” Small - under 8” overall but over 5”

A. Fresh

B. Combination

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Using plant material to combine horticulture, design and craft work to add interest. May be fresh, dried or a combination of plant material.

Class 7. “Winter Berries ” Door wreath or swag, no larger than 24”, ready to hang.

General Rules

1. All entries to be made between 8:30 and 9:45
2. Judging will begin at 10:00AM. Rules for judging will be in accordance with the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows. Standard system of awarding is used, Judge's decisions are final.
3. Entry to include club and exhibitor's name.
4. Members of Hill & Dale District or student judge's requiring credits may enter.

Horticulture Rules

1. Exhibitors may enter more than one exhibit per class, if each is a different genus, species, variety, cultivar, type, size or color.
2. All cut exhibits must be fresh and grown by the exhibitor. Container-grown plants must have been in exhibitor's possession for at least 90 days, combination plantings, in the possession of the exhibitor and growing together for at least 6 weeks.
3. All specimens must be properly named. Include genera, species, and variety if possible.
4. Containers (clear or clear green) glass to be furnished by the exhibitor. Wedging is permitted. Suggested material plastic wrap, Styrofoam-may be visible but not detracting.
5. Only fresh untreated plant material is accepted. No plant material from the state noxious weed list will be accepted.
6. All horticulture exhibits will be classified and placed by committee
7. Scale of points HB pages 297-302
8. Rosette of Bronze ribbons: Best in Show

Design Rules

1. Exhibitor may enter more than one class, but only one design per class.
2. Fresh plant material emphasized and must never be treated, dry plant material may be treated.
3. No artificial plant material permitted.
4. Accessories allowed unless otherwise stated.
5. Scale of points HB page 303
6. Designer's choice: designer has complete choice of components and plant material.
7. Rosette of Purple ribbons: Best of Show Classes 1-4
8. Small rosette of Blue and White ribbons: Best of Show in class
6 a AND 6 b
9. Best novice class 5

Artistic Crafts

1. All exhibits must contain some plant material, fresh and or dried.
2. Artificial plant material in not permitted.
3. Scale of points HB page 304
4. Rosette of Red and White Ribbons

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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.



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

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Dogwood	maintain Dogwood Park, Eatonville
Glove n' Trowel	butterfly garden at Orting Soldier's Home
Root n' Bloom	decorating a room at the Meeker Mansion

See Page 6 for a story on October's project by all clubs.

