

# THE ECHO

## Hill & Dale District Newsletter

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

### District Director's Message

Hello Gardeners,

Can you feel the change in the air?? A sweet dampness returns with cooler nights and morning dew, what a relief after those hot, hot days of July and August. This is a productive time for gardening.

Looking back at our May District Meeting and Flower Show, "Gardens Make Memories," we reminisced of the past days with designs, botanical crafts, photos and created new memories. We had 163 horticulture entries, 24 designs and 28 botanical arts. Thanks to all of you that attended and supported our meeting and thanks also to those who entered the flower show. It now seems so far away because of the great summer gardening activities we had.

A HUGE thanks to our committee chairman for all our activities. Chris Sherrill and Jeanine Faulkner for the work planning the bus trip in June. It was fun, educational and we got to do a lot of shopping. We then continued along our path to visit 11 upscale, private residential gardens. Thanks to Mary McBride and Jane Arkush for the time and effort they spent finding these homes and coordinating all the details.

Another summer activity was the Girl Scout Day Camp where 132 girls stopped at our gardening station where Tamara Larson planned and provided all the supplies for their activities. And lastly, we stopped at the Pierce County Fair where Julie Wells, Randie Welcher, Kathleen Muckian, Largo Wales and Bridget Pilgrim did all the planning and execution for another great floral building. With Rachel Jennings leading the way we now have a Trex bench. Thanks to every one of you who has supported our district and, WOW, what a great summer of gardening activities we have had.

With all members surviving the hot days of summer we are now ready for a productive fall season as we travel "Along the Garden Path."

### District Meetings

September 24, 2024

December 3, 2024\*

*\*due to how Thanksgiving falls*

March 25, 2025

May 27, 2025

### Board Meetings

September 11, 2024

October 22, 2024

February 25, 2025

April 22, 2025

### District Garden Therapy

October 24, 2024

February 27, 2025

May 22, 2025

### NGC Gardening School

October 28 & 29, 2024

*See additional Dates to Remember  
on page 8*

## District Director's Message *Cont...*

Traveling around the corner and over the hill into September, we will stop for our "Fall Roundup," an NGC Flower Show and District Meeting on September 24. We will enjoy the "Bounty Gathering" of all the flowers and vegetables, stop along the "Range" for some "Chuck Wagon" and view our "On the Ranch" photos. October 28 & 29 Hill & Dale will sponsor course #2 of our NGC Gardening School Series. This class is open for anyone to attend even if you did not attend class #1, registration is now open.

In Autumn, equal hours of daylight and dark arrives around September 22. The changing light and cooler weather are seasonal signals for plants to shift into winter season modes. Moisture is returning, and the soil will still be warm enough to be pleasant to handle and support root growth. Enthusiasm for gardening is refreshed!!

Let the gardening begin!

Kathy

**Let's Get Down & Dirty**

with

**Gardening School**

**Please join us for Course #2**

**Monday & Tuesday**  
**October 28 & 29, 2024**

**Course Topics**

Plant Diseases, Garden Pests, Irrigation and Water, Lawn Alternatives and Growing Grass, Growing Fruits and Vegetables

Sponsored by Hill & Dale District

Contact Kathy Johnson  
[kathyj16@msn.com](mailto:kathyj16@msn.com)

**Sign-up Today!**

**Gardening School**

**Course #2**

**For additional information or to sign-up, contact Kathy Johnson at [kathyj16@msn.com](mailto:kathyj16@msn.com).**

# FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

## May 28, 2024

	HORTICULTURE	DESIGN	BOT ARTS	TOTAL
ASTER NOTS	<u>.0</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.33</u>	<u>.38</u>
COUNTRY GARDENERS	<u>4.58</u>	<u>1.54</u>	<u>.13</u>	<u>6.25</u>
DOGWOOD	<u>.18</u>	<u>.03</u>	<u>.03</u>	<u>.21</u>
GARDEN HOUR	<u>3.33</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>3.33</u>
GLOVE & TROWEL	<u>3.50</u>	<u>.27</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>3.72</u>
HAPPY THYMES	<u>.03</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>.03</u>
INTERLAAKEN	<u>.18</u>	<u>.43</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>.61</u>
ROOT & BLOOM	<u>6.20</u>	<u>.49</u>	<u>1.90</u>	<u>8.59</u>
OTHER	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>

Award of Merits: Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom; Julie Wells, Garden Hour

Betty Belcher Horticulture: Debbie Spiller, Country Gardeners

Marva Lee Peterschick Flowering Branch: Debbie Spiller, Country Gardeners

NGC Designer's Choice and Ellen Swenson Award: Linda Maida, Country Gardeners

Terry Critchlow Photographs: Linda Rexrode, Root and Bloom

JoAnn Goldman Craft: Kathy Johnson, Root and Bloom

Horticulture 163 Design 24 Botanical Arts Craft 12 Photographs 16



## District 2024 Bus Trip

Tuesday, June 18th, 42 Hill & Dale members climbed on the bus, leaving South Hill Mall around 9:10. We were fortunate to have Harold as our driver again. We were loaded with smiling faces, lunches, drinks, and snacks. Couldn't have asked for better weather too.



We cruised to Port Orchard where our first stop was Elandan Gardens. The owner gave us a short talk on the history of the gardens (it was once a waste dump area!) Over many years it was beautified with bonsai trees, shrubs, ponds and a very full gift shop. We wandered through the gardens taking pictures and enjoying the waterfront view. Some of the bonsai were dated from the 1200's! Some looked like a dead piece of driftwood, but had carefully pruned foliage coming out of the side or top. The gift shop was full of unique gifts and plants.



Our second stop was Brothers Greenhouses. They had a welcome sign out front just for us! We all took in the unique Hobbit House and had our picture taken. They had treats and beverages for us while we browsed and shopped the many greenhouses. Seems like everyone found a "goodie" for their yards.



Back on the road again, we headed for Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor where we had a box lunch in a nice, quiet building. Kathy Johnson took the mic telling us about state convention and the many awards won by our Hill & Dale members. Kathy then gave out the well-deserved certificates of awards during lunch. Thanks to Linda Maida and Jeanine Faulkner for leaving our second stop early by car to set up the tables, sound system and lunch. Jeanine insisted we have linen tablecloths and center pieces on our tables which



was very nice.

After our relaxing and informative lunch, we headed a short distance to Rosedale Gardens. That was a treat with so many displays, plants, and more goodies to buy. Most of us bought something there too.

Around 4:00 we headed back to our cars. I think we all had a great time (and we got away from yard work). I appreciate all those who helped load and unload the bus with our lunches, supplies, and people. There are many behind-the-scene tasks to do and many stepped up to the plate to help. Thanks, Jeanine, for co-chairing this with me—you were a big help!

Our driver, Harold received a well-deserved stuffed tip jar. He was so kind and very gentle with the many plants we bought, placing them carefully in the baggage area of the bus. And he had a few really tight spots to get our bus out of.

I urge you all to visit the places we went; you won't regret it! Kathy, Jeanine, and I received many compliments and thanks for the trip. We all had a good time, learned something, and brought home souvenirs of our adventure.

Chris Sherrill

## District 2024 Garden Tour

For the first time in many years, this summer Hill and Dale District members had the opportunity to participate in two separate tours of upscale, private residential gardens. Mary McBride, Jane Arkush, and Kathy Johnson collaborated to develop these tours and proceeds from tickets sales will fund the Hill & Dale District Youth Horticulture program. For 2024, the program made three awards. You can read more about that in the May 2024 issue of ECHO. The tours were a big hit with members who participated and through their generosity and support, we raised a total of \$980!

Tour 1: Almost 30 members joined the first tour, on June 25 (Fig. 1). We visited five gardens, split between University Place and Puyallup. The Paulsen garden (Fig. 2) in Puyallup was simply stunning, with stone paths linking various “rooms”, ranging from a sunny front patio with a pergola, pond, and waterfall, to a woodland pond and waterfall, shade pavilion, greenhouse, raised vegetable and flower beds, and a tropical area.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

The two gardens in University Place could not have been more different: One was an eclectic collection of native and exotic semi-tropical plants, packed into a small footprint garden that felt a bit wild and untamed, while the other (Fig. 3) was a beautiful semi-formal mix of “English Country Meets Pacific Northwest” with a spectacular assortment of rhododendrons, azaleas, roses, iris, delphinium, clematis, and hydrangeas.

Tour 2: We headed to Gig Harbor for the second tour (July 16), visiting six outstanding gardens. Each garden was very distinct from the others. For example, one garden, situated on five acres of woodlands provided a network of shaded paths, with a Celtic spiral-inspired labyrinth as the center piece of the garden. The Searcy garden (Fig. 4) was a gorgeous collection of highly-varied garden “rooms”, while the Torrens garden was a showcase for metal sculpture artist Tom Torrens’ work. All the gardens were impressive, making for a lovely day.

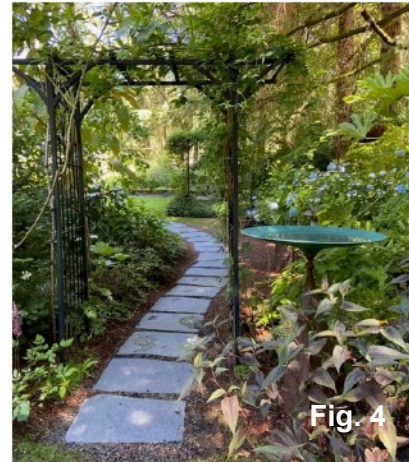


Fig. 4

Be sure to join us next year – you won’t want to miss out seeing remarkable gardens like these! Members who did participate this year had a great time seeing these fantastic gardens and enjoying the company of good friends! And ticket proceeds support a great cause that really makes an impact. Any organization involving youth in Pierce County is eligible to receive this scholarship, so please spread the word for next year! Contact Sherry Hanson, Youth Scholarship

Chair, at [hansonsherry6@gmail.com](mailto:hansonsherry6@gmail.com) for an application.

Mary McBride



# Girl Scout Day Camp

Hill and Dale helped with the annual Girl Scout Day Camp event on Tuesday, July 23 at Camp Curran. Cindy, Kathy, Sue, Tamara, Kim, Jann, Karla, Linda P, Terryann, and Randie were gracious volunteers. This is the second year we have attended camp using the funds we received from WSFGC grants and this year Interlaaken Garden Club donated \$100 to this fabulous event.

We taught 6 classes, 132 kids ranging from age 5 to 13. The day started off by each camper pressing a leaf into air clay and assembling an origami box to put the leaf in so it could be carried around with them because it takes 24 hours to dry.



Next a short walk into the wooded area, where Cindy did a fabulous job helping the kids learn about plants and trees with the plant identifier she made. This identifier had pictures of the different bark on the trees and the girls tried to match the actual bark to the identifier. The scouts then measured a large tree and learned how to calculate how old it was from their measurements.



Then back at our station they finished out the day by planting sedums in snail or clam shells to accent the fairy gardens they were making in another class.



The girls had a fun week at camp and were very enthusiastic as they marched through camp chanting "Taco Bell, Taco Bell, gua-ca-mole, not really sure what it means, must be a younger generation thing!"

Tamara Larson  
Girl Scout Committee Chairman

## Stars, Stripes and Summer



This year we turned the outside of our building into a backyard highlighting all the things a gardener would have in their "Summer Nights" yard. A garden, greenhouse, bird house, hummingbird feeder, and of course a bird bath. To complete our yard as a serious gardener we even had a rain barrel, compost bin and recycling bin showing the public what items they should be recycling. Our picket fences and wooden flower boxes finished off the yard nicely. All this planning and coordinating was done by our fair committee Julie, Randie, Kathleen, Largo, Bridget and Kathy. Thanks also to the members of our district who helped clean, decorate, accept, and place entries, judge, were hostesses, helped with the kid's

planting activity, made pinwheels, and brought lovely horticulture to enter. We had 554 volunteer hours that contributed to our success. Purple Geranium Nursery donated around 300 annual flowers that brightened up the outside of the building. Portland Ave Nursery again sponsored our kid's planting activity with 12 flats of sedums and 3 bags of soil. Lowes provided us with 4 picket fences.

The Pierce County Fair has 10,000 visitors daily, which is a community service project for our district and a great way to let the public know that there are active garden clubs in their area. One special visitor this year to our building was Carol Norquist, our Pacific Region Director from Alaska. She has family members who live in Puyallup and while visiting them she attended the fair, not knowing that our district even supported the county fair let alone sponsors an entire building. Carol was very impressed and excited to see and visit with our members and took lots, and lots of pictures.



Look!! We found some rocks. Yes, they sure did and so did 712 other kids. We have now continued this tradition of hiding 300 painted flower rocks on the fairgrounds for several years, because we wanted to make sure all the kids at the fair visited the floral building. These boys were just as happy to only receive 1 piece of candy and be able to rehire all those rocks to be found again, over and over.

As everyone walked inside the building the comments were, "it smells so good" which it really did, especially if you just came from the cow barns. We had 495 entries of blooming flowers, vegetables, and photos. "Largest zucchini by weight" and "What's in Your Yard" photos continue to be popular. We donated all the vegetables that were not picked up to the Graham Food Bank which was 124 pounds. Inside the hostesses kept busy helping the kids make 300 pinwheels and outside volunteers helped the kids plant sedums in 300 stars and stripe containers.



## Trex Bench Update



*WE HAVE REACHED our 1,000 pound goal.* I dropped the last 140 pounds on Monday the 12th! I want to thank everyone who took the time and effort to collect and get the plastic to me. What each one of you gave personally, or as a club, helped us reach our goal. We couldn't have done it without each piece of plastic. I especially want to thank Tamara (Root & Bloom), Randie (Country Gardeners), and her daughter, Sandra, for having those plastic connections! I was able to pick up the bulk of what was collected from them, allowing us to reach our goal in 6 months. It also allows us to give what plastic is still floating around Tamara's house, as well as mine, to Cross Sound's Club Long Lake to help them get closer to reaching

their club goal. We are planning on putting the bench out at the Pierce County Fair Ground in front of the Floral Barn. Where it will be safe. You all will see it when you bring your entries next year. Before that happens (as soon as I receive it), I will bring it out to our District meeting so you can see what your contributions have allowed us to get. *Just think of all the plastic we have kept out of the landfill.* I hope that you all will continue keeping plastic and recycling it going forward. Thanks again, Rachel Jennings

## Hill & Dale Dates to Remember

### District Garden Therapy

Thursday, October 24, 20204  
 Thursday, February 27, 2025  
 Thursday, May 22, 2025

### Educational Bus Trip

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

### Pierce County Fair

August 7-10, 2025

### Convention

June 2-5, 2025

### NGC Gardening School

October 28 & 29, 2024  
 April 28 & 29, 2025

### Hill & Dale Scholarship Due

February 10, 2025

### WSFGC Grants Due

February 1, 2025

### Arbor Day

April 9, 2025



# Bug Motel Instructions

Needed supplies:

A container of some sort; coffee can, or wood frame with sections or anything that can hold:

- Moss
- Dried leaves
- Fir cones or pinecones
- Sticks
- “Mason Bee tubes” if available

Fill your container with the above items & put outside for new residents.

“Vacancy” sign may help. Enjoy!

Randie, Botanical Arts Chairman



# Let's Get Down & Dirty with Gardening School

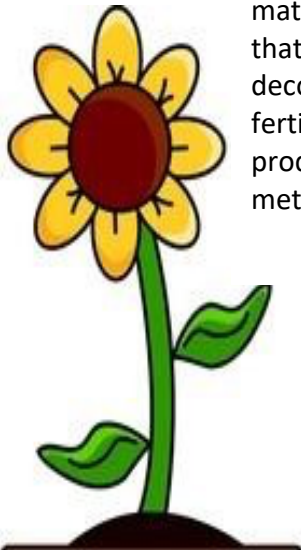


It was with great anticipation that we entered a room of great knowledge ready to start the first session of NGC Gardening School. We were kindly greeted and surrounded by familiar faces and some not so familiar, yet to be comrades in the quest for garden greatness.

Our first speaker Christina Pfeiffer took the boring out of basic plant botany. She made the discovery of the minute world of how leaves, stems, branches, roots, buds and flowers all work together and are equally important to the function of the healthy growing and thriving of our plant world. Photosynthesis and regular watering are not the only attributes to make them grow. Next, we explored the amazing reproduction cycle and the flower and plant roles to produce fruit, seeds, cones and more.

Then, we learned about soils – how it forms, physical properties and more about this living system and habitat. If we aren't satisfied with the soil in our yards, we need to keep in mind that soil texture is not readily changeable but the structure, organic

matter, and pH are attributes that can be improved with methods that aren't that difficult. Also soil building organisms live on decomposing organic matter and help maintain soil structure and fertility. We have the responsibility of mulching, applying garden products with care, watering properly and practicing correct tilling methods. Who knew that soil could be so interesting.



## Getting Down & Dirty at Gardening School

Students brought soil samples from their yard to perform a soil test where we revealed soil type and pH of our important ground basis for stimulating the best plant growth. The science behind the extraordinary things plants do and need was fascinating and fun and this was just our first day of school.

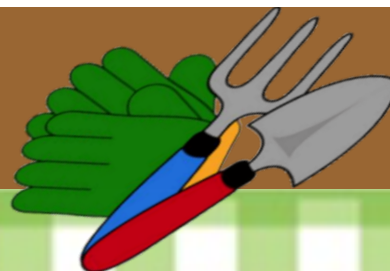
On day two, Alison Johnson shared her knowledge on techniques for growing outdoor flowers. We explored environmental factors of climate, sun/shade requirements and more. Organic gardening with the use of essential fertilizers, deterring pests and weed control was discussed and the harmful chemicals to avoid. Of course, we play an important role in our gardening success with the evaluation and landscape suitability, pruning and training plants with staking, dividing etc.

Our final teaching session was with Kerri Bailey who gave us instruction on plant propagation methods. Whether it is sexual, asexual, sporulation, grafting or other vegetative propagation it all takes special care and knowledge. Even seed collection, storage and germination involve a whole science lesson but Kerri made it all easy to understand. Then, when dividing, transplanting or sowing, timing and location are crucial so again careful planning and research are essential. Best of all, the materials used for propagation do not need to be expensive. The recycling opportunities abound.

Next, Julia Graham shared a presentation on the beauty of coloring your garden with Japanese Maples. We were entertained and wowed by her pictorial summary of the four seasons of beauty and joy this species provides.

Our minds were full of new knowledge, and many were ready to take a final exam to start the journey of being awarded the designation of Gardening Consultant. The entire program consists of four separate two-day courses, and this was the first in the series. Whether you choose to test or not to test, these courses aid in our journey to become more accomplished horticulturists and to develop appreciation of the world of plants. It is not too late to start. Next session is in October and all are welcome.

We tip our bonnets to thank Director, Kathy Johnson, for coordinating the classes and making it happen for all gardeners to grow in knowledge. Kathleen Muckian did a fantastic job of managing the registration of the event. Thank you, ladies.



# Hill & Dale District Awards



The following awards were presented at  
June State Convention  
& June Bus Trip & Luncheon

## National Awards Received

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Appreciation

1st place District, Presidents Handbook

District, Newsletter

District, NGC Gardening Flyer

District, Website

District, Working with Youth, Girl Scouts

Dogwood, Beautification Project

Root & Bloom, Planting Native Plants

Root & Bloom, Youth Education, 4-h

## Region Awards Received

Civic Achievement

Civic Achievement

Flower Show Schedule

Flower Show Schedule

Horticulture Essay

Newsletter, Echo

Youth Activities

Publications

Website

1st place, District Youth P.C. Fair

2nd place, Dogwood Cemetery Flowers

1st place, District

1st place, Country Gardeners, Be A Kid Again

2nd place, Karla Stover, Root & Bloom

1st place, District

1st place, Root & Bloom 4-h

1st place, District Presidents Book

1st place, District

# CONGRATULATIONS!

### State Awards Received by District

Community Service, Special Achievement  
Flower Show Schedules  
Small Flower Show Schedules  
Newsletter, Echo  
Publications  
Publications  
Publications  
Yearbook  
Youth Education  
Website

1st place, Sponsorship of P.C. Floral Building  
1st place, "Here Comes the Sun"  
1st place, "Where Dreams Come True"  
1st place  
1st place, NGC Gardening Flyer  
1st place, Bylaws & Standing Rules  
1st place, Presidents Handbook  
2nd place  
1st place, Girls Scouts Day Camp  
1st place

### State Awards Received by Clubs

Arbor  
Community Beautification  
Community Beautification  
Community Beautification  
Community Beautification Gardening with Native Plants  
Flower Shows  
Flower Show Schedules  
Growing Project  
Growing Project  
Honor Clubs  
Honor Clubs  
Yearbook clubs 20- 29 members  
Yearbook clubs 30- 44 members  
Yearbook clubs 30- 44 members  
Youth Involvement  
Website  
June Willard, staging award  
Helen Wolff, program award  
Helen Wolff, program award

3rd place, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Dogwood  
2nd place, Garden Hour  
3rd place, Country Gardeners  
1st place, Root & Bloom  
2nd place, Country Gardeners  
2nd place, Country Gardeners  
1st place, Garden Hour  
2nd place, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Root & Bloom  
2nd place, Country Gardeners  
HM Garden Hour  
HM Root & Bloom  
HM Dogwood  
1st place, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Midland Judges Council  
2nd place, Hill & Dalers Arrangers Guild  
3rd place, Hill & Dalers Arrangers Guild

### State Awards Received by individuals

Betty Belcher Horticulture Excellence  
Betty Belcher Horticulture Excellence  
Betty Belcher Horticulture Excellence  
Terry Critchlow Photography  
Terry Critchlow Photography  
Phyllis Danielson Exhibition Table

1st place, Karen Silveus, Country Gardeners  
2nd place, Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom  
HM Julie Wells, Garden Hour  
2nd place, Harriett Miller, Root & Bloom  
3rd place, Randie Welcher, Country Gardeners  
1st place Kathy Johnson, Root & Bloom

Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Design  
 Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Design  
 JoAnne Goldman Artistic Craft  
 Carol Klingberg Educational Excellence  
 Carol Klingberg Educational Excellence  
 Carol Klingberg Educational Excellence  
 Landscape Design  
 Ellen Swenson Design Excellence  
 Ellen Swenson Design Excellence  
 Ellen Swenson Design Excellence  
 Brynn Tavasci Recycling Award  
 Brynn Tavasci Recycling Award  
 Brynn Tavasci Recycling Award  
 Horticulture Essay

HM Jeanine Faulkner, Root & Bloom  
 HM Jeanine Faulkner, Root & Bloom  
 3rd place, Kim Munson, Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Madeline West, Aster Nots  
 2nd place, Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom  
 3rd place, Linda Maida, Country Gardeners  
 1st place, Sherre Granger, Root & Bloom  
 2nd place, Debbie Spiller, Country Gardeners  
 HM Debbie Spiller, Country Gardeners  
 HM Debbie Spiller, Country Gardeners  
 2nd place, Jann Walston, Root & Bloom  
 3rd place, Randie Welcher, Country Gardeners  
 HM Karla Stover, Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Karla Stover, Root & Bloom

**District Awards Received**

Honor Club  
 Honor Club

1st place, Root & Bloom  
 2nd place, Dogwood

Most Horticulture Points

1st place, Root & Bloom  
 2nd place, Country Gardeners

Most Design Points

1st place, Country Gardeners  
 2nd place, Aster Nots

Most Botanical Arts Points

1st place, Country Gardeners  
 2nd place, Root & Bloom

Most Horticulture Entries  
 Most Design Entries  
 Most Botanical Arts Entries

1st place, Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Country Gardeners  
 1st place, Country Gardeners

**Past District Directors Awards**

Applies Most Awards, Fran Cissel Award  
 Most Helpful Husband, Mary Bewley Award  
 Best Attendance, Marvel Hood Award  
 Best Design in March, Sherry Matthews Award  
 Civic Development, Judy Strickland Award  
 Most Design Entries, Linda Maida Award  
 Most Horticulture Entries, Rosie Trujillo Award  
 Most Botanical Arts Entries, Linda Maida Award  
 Conversation Award, Kathleen Toups Award  
 Share Our Knowledge, Rachel Jennings Award

1st place, Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Root & Bloom, Ed Larson  
 1st place, Country Gardeners  
 1st place, Donna Haley, Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Country Gardeners  
 1st place Root & Bloom  
 1st place, Country Gardeners  
 Not awarded  
 1st place, Root & Bloom

# Garden Therapy

Garden Therapy was held at Silver Creek Assisted Living in Graham on Thursday May 23rd. Silver Creek has attempted to start a Garden Club of their own, but only one Master Gardener consistently shows up for meetings, so Garden Therapy volunteers jumped in to plant their raised beds.

It was a little windy, so our participation was minimal, but Ms. Pat and Ms. Edie were there to supervise the planting. They desired tomatoes and strawberries they could pick and snack on right at the moment, no preparation required. They also requested fragrant herbs and some flowers to attract the pollinators.

With marching orders in hand, we planted marigolds, snapdragons, petunias, lavender, begonias, sun flowers, tomatoes, sweet peppers, lemon cucumbers, strawberries, lemon thyme, spearmint, and mint in their three raised beds. We had to add their garden art (flamingos, gnomes, lights, and metal flowers) back in once the planting was finished! In October, they would like us to relocate a rose bush.

When we left, there were huge smiles, many thanks, and tears in Ms. Edie's eyes. It was a wonderful time! Thank you to Lisa Libby and Louise Harris for capturing the event in photos.

Thank you to the following Garden Club members who helped make this day so much fun:

- Kathleen Muchian (Country Gardeners)
- Donna Rahier (Dogwood)
- Lisa Libby (Root & Bloom)
- Eddie Joe Fueston (Root & Bloom)
- Lynne Burke (Root & Bloom)
- Linda Pempeck (Glove & Trowel)
- Gina Fenton (Glove & Trowel)
- Louise Harris (Dogwood)
- SammieJo Thirtyacre (Dogwood)

Our next Garden Therapy event will be held on Thursday October 24, 2024 from 10-11:30am. The address is Silver Creek Assisted Living at 17607 91st Avenue E, Puyallup, WA 98375.

Please come on out and join us! SammieJo



# Country Gardeners

## *Quarterly Report*

Since our last Newsletter in April, Country Gardeners were kept busy with contributing plants and manpower to the District Plant Sale on April 27, 2024. Along with our sister clubs, were able to make this sale a great success.

During the month of May, we made plans for our project at the Midland Kiddie Korral. In May, we took part in the District Flower Show, enjoyed helping with Garden Therapy and prepared for a busy June.

Our June meeting was held at Pt Defiance Park, at Owen Beach. Chilly but wonderful day, topped with a guided tour of the Rose Garden, compliments of Keith Ripley. Learned so much of the history of the garden from him.

We had a wonderful time on the District Bus Tour, touring three very distinctive gardens, spending money, have a great lunch and visiting with each other. Thank You's to Chris Sherrill and Jeanine Faulkner for all they hard work and many hours of planning. Members also enjoyed the Garden Tours, 5 in the Puyallup area and 6 in Gig Harbor.



In July, we met on a "very warm" morning at the Midland Kiddie Korral to begin work on the grant project. Approximately 10 of our members, dug holes, planted plants, created container gardens, watered, brought a wheelbarrow and tools for the children to use in the garden, provided a privacy screen and sun sail to provide shade. Since our summer was so hot, we followed up with the daycare, that plants and planters were doing well. We have plans to return in the fall.

Also in July, some of our members were able to tour Ed Hume's Garden. They enjoyed learning about his seed operation and the history behind his gardens, his stories and garden art (including a "garden" commode) At 92, Ed still has fun in the garden.

August was not quiet, as many of us donned our work clothes, grabbed paint brushes, brooms, mops and began the cleanup, setup and decorating the Floral

building in preparation for the Pierce County Fair.

With Spring gone, and summer waning, Country Gardeners set a date for planning next year's activities. On the 19th of August, we got together and shared our ideas for projects, speakers, tours, and other fun activities for the year 2024-2025. We will also set up a nominating committee for the 2025, as this will end the term for our current officers. And since everything goes better with food, we enjoyed a planned potluck to end the year.



In September, we have planned a "mock" flower show complete with judges, to help prepare us for the upcoming District Flower Show "Fall Roundup," September 24, 2024.

And now...the trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go....

Kathleen





# Glove & Trowel

## *Quarterly Report*

We started this quarter on a sad note with the passing of Raunie Grottolo. She was an active member of our club and a dear friend. She is missed.

At our May meeting, Susy Hunt provided clarification on the type of plastic we should bring for the district project. She also brought us a list of adult butterfly and caterpillar plants with resources. Sally Evans told us all about Trilliums with pictured examples. As a club project, we are growing zinnias to use in September. Two members participated in Garden Therapy at Silver Creek for some fun with the residents there.

June found us back at the Ed Hume Seed Company. We had seen his gardens last fall and vowed to be back in the spring to see what's growing. Ed enjoyed telling us about the history of his company and how he got started and, of course, where he is now.

Three members attended the mini convention at Little Creek in Shelton where we enjoyed the flower show, the dinners, and getting to know one another again. And the big ribbon winner, Linda, with Marva Lee award and Arboreal ribbons for her dogwood.

June was a very busy month with the bus tour to Gig Harbor (6 members attended) with great shopping and finding out who won awards for their efforts during the year. There were garden tours: AAUW scholarship for teachers with 5 members and a guest attended; Hill & Dale Garden Tours with 3 members. Gina Fenton gave a talk on Pink Fawn Lilies at our meeting.

June was busy, yes, but in July our club got busy putting on two garden tours. The first, four members opened their gardens for us to look and ask questions and ended at Linda Pempeck's backyard where we had our lunch and were treated with brownies and ice cream by Linda and then had our meeting. The second in August, we visited four more members' gardens, ending at Terryann Westby's, for our meeting and a great lunch with Terryann hosting. We would especially like to recognize Emily Miller at 92, for her fantastic gardens. It was loads of fun seeing how different each garden was. We carpoled to make it easy to park too!

Two members joined 132 girls at the Girl Scout Camp making origami boxes with little plants inside. Seven members turned out to judge, hostess, or work with the children making pinwheels and planting in patriotic colored cups.

Our proud president, Linda, has bragged about our wagon & tractor winning "Cutest Club Entry", Sherry Matthews winning a "Best Rose" Entry, Linda winning "Best of Show" for her lily, and Jan Morgan almost winning a blue ribbon for her giant onion but was beat by rhubarb! Our club is small but mighty!! Next month we will be working on centerpieces for the next district meeting.

Sherry Sinclair



## Gardening Tips

- **Keep checking** your plants for diseases and insects, and treat them when necessary. Slugs are often still a problem and need to be baited or removed.
- **Bring** your houseplants outside to clean, fertilize, and repot them, then bring them indoors for the winter.
- **Continue to harvest.** Winter squash is ripe when the ground spot turns from white to a cream or gold color. Potatoes are ready when tops die down. Store in a dark location.
- **Once the weather gets cooler,** dig and divide your perennial plants and herbs.
- **Mulch** carrots, parsnips, and beets for winter harvesting.
- **Do a final weeding** before winter and clean up any debris from your garden and lawn to avoid disease come spring.
- **Protect tomatoes** or pick green tomatoes if frost threatens.
- **Mix organic materials** into your soil before the ground freezes.
- **Begin reducing water** on trees, shrubs, and vines to harden them off for winter.
- **Don't forget to turn your compost pile** to quicken decomposition! Compost piles need air.
- **Mulch trees and shrubs** with wood chips, ground bark, or fall leaves to protect and nourish the soil.
- **September is a good time to plant** new trees and shrubs for healthy root growth over winter.
- **Plant or transplant** woody ornamentals and established herbaceous perennials.
- **September is the best time to fertilize lawns** for strong roots. Use an organic or slow-release fertilizer that rain won't wash away.
- **Improve poor lawns** with a fall round of core aerating, reseeding, and top-dressing with ¼ inch of compost before October 15.
- **Plant hardy spring-flowering bulbs** such as daffodils, tulips, and crocus; add bulb fertilizer and be sure to water them before the ground freezes. Select big, hearty-size bulbs.
- **Stake tall flowers** to prevent them from wind damage.
- **Dig, clean, and store** tuberous begonias if frost threatens.



### The End of Summer

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"The birds laugh loud and long together  
 When Fashion's followers speed away  
 At the first cool breath of autumn weather.  
 Why, this is the time, cry the birds, to stay!  
 When the deep calm sea and the deep sky over  
 Both look their passion through sun-kissed space,  
 As a blue-eyed maid and her blue-eyed lover  
 Might each gaze into the other's face."

# Root and Bloom

## Quarterly Report

Like the busy honeybees that buzz around our summertime gardens, Root and Bloom members have also been very active this summer.

**District Meeting:** Twenty Root and Bloom club members attended the May 28 District meeting. Everyone had a great time and the club took away four Rosette ribbons from the flower show.

**Annual Bus Trip:** This year's annual bus tour event (Fig. 1) was organized by Country Gardener's Chris Sherill with support from Root and Bloom's Jeanine Faulkner. Judy Strickland and Rachel Jennings provided Harvey Wallbangers, while Tamara Larson and Sue Thompson's treats sustained everyone. Get all the details in this issue of ECHO.



Fig. 1

**Garden Tours:** Root and Bloom's Mary McBride, Jane Arkush, and Kathy Johnson organized two tours of private residential gardens. The tours are described in greater detail in a separate article in this issue of ECHO.

**Meeting Place Update:** Root and Bloom holds its monthly meetings at the Tacoma Sportsman's Club. To show our appreciation to the Sportsman's Club, we decided to spruce things up at the facility (Fig. 2). On July 8, a group of intrepid gardeners braved the 90-degree heat. Led by Club President Lisa Libby (nursing a broken leg!), volunteers Kathy Burwell, Lynne Burke, Tamara Larson, Rachel Jennings, Patty Power, Kim Munson, Sue Jackson, Largo Wells and Lisa's husband Richard worked for four hours clearing out old beds, and creating new planting areas, and mulching existing beds. What a hard-working crew!



Fig. 2

**Annual Summer Picnic:** The Club came together on July 15 for our annual summer picnic (Fig. 3), hosted by Linda Bones. The day was perfect with great weather, delicious (and abundant!) food, and loads of laughs with good

friends. Linda is an exceptionally gracious hostess, with inspiring attention to every detail. From table settings and favors to thoughtful gestures like providing containers for guests to take leftover food home in, Linda made the event truly special. Thank you to Linda from all of us!



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

**Girl Scout Camp:** Root and Bloom members Cindy Swanberg, Kathy Johnson, Sue Thompson, Tamara Larson, Kim Munson, Jann Walston, and Karla Stover joined Hill and Dale friends Linda Pempeck, Terryann Westby and Randie Welcher to lead activities at the annual Girl Scout event at Camp Curan, on Tuesday, July 23 (Fig. 4.). You can read more about this activity in a separate article in this issue of ECHO.

Summer is such a busy time! There is much to look forward to as we move into the cooler days of fall.

Mary McBride



# Late Summer and Into Fall Bloomers

Unscramble these words to solve the puzzle!

- 1. UCRBIAKED \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. AENJEPAS ENSONAME \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. EEDLRBAUB \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. NECO FWRLOE \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. YAHRD INURAEGM \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. RWIILNGH UEIFTRELSBT \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. DLIAAH \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. CGAHETSAA \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. RSPOCOIES \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. EBLAAI \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. NOIABSEG \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. RANEHYGADS \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. YHDRA UAHCIFS \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. ESRAT \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. AEONANTLMR ASEG \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. MESDU \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer Key:** Rudbeckia, Japanese Anemones, Bluebeard, Cone Flower, Hardy Geranium, Whirling Butterflies, Dahlia, Agastache, Coreopsis, Abelia, Begonias, Hydrangeas

# HILL & DALE DISTRICT MEETING and NGC Flower Show “Fall Roundup”

**September 24, 2024 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

*Flower entries no later than 9:30 a.m.*

Dryer Masonic Center  
306 134th St. S., Tacoma, WA 98444



## Programs/Speakers

### ***Please join us!***

David Robson, an NGC Flower Show instructor will be our morning speaker teaching us how to “Groom our Horticulture for a Flower Show.” David loves Hostas, has several hundred in his yard in Illinois and he will share his love of Hostas while we learn about them.

In the afternoon we will enjoy the design program presented by Gina Jogan, who is also an NGC Flower Show instructor from Florida. She will inspire all of us to design and then David & Gina will have some fun with “Design Wars.”

### **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 **Chris Sherrill** know and she will send out a card.  
[smittywalt@centurylink.net](mailto:smittywalt@centurylink.net) or 253.820.5907

ECHO Editor: Sherry Meyer, Garden Hour

ECHO Co-Editor: Karla Hiers, Garden Hour

*Editor’s note: It is our goal as your editors to provide an Echo of excellence. As we have a deadline to meet to ensure a timely delivery to our members, articles submitted past the due date will no longer be accepted. ~Thank you, Sherry Meyer, and Karla Hiers*