

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

##179 Feb, Mar, Apr



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Tend to the Roots ~ Together We Can

I'm looking out the window wondering what kind of water plants I can grow in the marsh that was once my side yard. Oh dear, that means a new bunch of garden catalogs to study. Seriously I worry how many of our trees and shrubs can survive having their feet and ankles wet for so long. On the upside the mountain looks majestic with its layers of snow and the weeping pussy willow is showing color.



Life is sweet because of the friends we make in garden club and what we share, a passion for horticulture, design and our environment. To many it's all about the plants, others thrive on the creative challenge of designing.

Regardless we can and do come together to appreciate the strengths of each. "Very Barry", our 32nd workshop is an example of what we achieve

when we meld our strengths together and create a special day to share both with our fellow gardeners around the state.

Linda

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Meetings

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

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

Red Lion, Olympia

Hill & Dale District Work Shop

March 30, 2016

Dryer Masonic Temple

306 134th St S, Tacoma

Flower Show School

April 12-14, 2016 Kent

Mad Hatter Tea Party

April 20, 2016

WSFGC State Convention

June 7-10, 2016

Embassy Suites, Bellevue

Awards Picnic: TBA

CLUB NEWS!

ROOT N' BLOOM

It seems like forever since an *Echo* article was due— nearly four months since the last board meeting and going on three months since the District meeting. November was a busy month for the Bloomers. Kathy Toups was chairman for decorating the Meeker Mansion. We were promised the small parlor and Kathy was ready with ideas then, at the last minute, the mansion people switched our room. Kathy came up with new ideas and called a work party and then the mansion people called her saying the decorating had to be done almost immediately. It was a rush but she and her committee came through and did a great job.

Our speaker that month was Diane Franchini and boy did we have fun. Not only did we have a short lesson on table settings for competition, she also taught us fancy ways to fold table napkins. As if this wasn't enough, we had a work party at Diana Riddle's house to complete our tree for the district meeting.

As a club, we do as much as we can for others, but in November, one of the members who couldn't attend the December district meeting made an anonymous gift so one of our members who had never gone before could go. We drew names and Lou Bell won. What a lovely gesture.

Another inner-club-kindness happened at our January meeting which, considering what a fiasco we had going on, was really cool. Our scheduled speaker was Karla Lorenz from Heath and Heather Nursery in Shelton. We invited two other clubs for a potluck and to hear her speak but no one responded. Then 12 Bloomers said they couldn't attend for various reasons. Karla didn't want to drive down to speak to so few people and I had to cancel her. That left us with no program. Kathy Johnson to the rescue. She brought the ingredients for the same suet cakes the district will be making at the Alzheimer's home. We had a great time and here's the cool part. Member Bernice Watts takes care of one of her sons who has Parkinson's and usually has to leave right after lunch and miss the afternoon activities. She

had been telling us about how much pleasure the birds at her feeders give her (12 hummingbirds— wow!) and when she had to leave early in January, Rachel Jennings told her she would make her some suet cakes.



shutterstock - 106133177

After the February meeting we're going to visit Bernice's yard to see her birds and Rachel will take along the suet. What nice members

we have.

I don't remember which website suggested the following—Pinterest or some such. It might be worth a shot.

Karla Stover, president

Sprinkle baking soda on a flat pan under your household plants and pour some vinegar on it. The mixture produces carbon dioxide that will stimulate the growth of your plants.

GARDEN HOUR

"I don't mean to disturb anyone, but there's a body at the front door," one of our members calmly announced in her demure little voice. "Is it dead?" someone inquired. "Well, I don't know. It's not moving," came the worried reply. Yep, never a dull moment down at the Edgewood fire hall. But wait, I've gotten ahead of myself.

Back in November master gardener, Bonnie Holbrook from the Pierce County Noxious Weed Board spoke on replacing invasive plants with natural plantings. She had goo-gobs of slides and suggestions for our area given the changes in climate and last year's drought. We learned about plant selections based on: adaptability, sustainability, and low maintenance. Whether planting on a slope or in the shade, whether dank or dry, or as hot as Hades, she had a native plant for every environment.

"Did you poke it?" another one asked. "Oh no, I didn't want to touch it," she said looking more and more distraught. "He *is* wrapped in a blanket, but he's *not* moving," she added emphatically. Darn, I really need to stay focused on this article.



December found us fighting off the chill with our annual soup and salad pot-luck lunch with the firemen. Before lunch we held a raffle where "**Maple Marty**" Roper won a Coleman camp stool complete with garden tools and treats.

Later, we addressed and stuffed Xmas cards with candy for residents of Puyallup Valley ERC, (formerly Valley Community Inn) using the proceeds from the Xmas centerpieces sold at the district meeting. Thank you to all who purchased a centerpiece helping to make their holiday bright.

"Should we call 911?" several members now chimed in. A debate ensued. "Well, the firemen will find him when they return from their call," a deceptively sweet voice from the front of the room replied dryly. So with this voice of reason, we continued on with the January meeting. Yep, never a dull moment...

In fact, Atsuko Gibson master gardener from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, gave a riveting presentation explaining how they collect specimens from around the world to propagate by seed or by cloning. She also gave tips on the peculiarities of rhodies, i.e. are they happy? Several members won free passes to the garden during her "pop" quiz.

FINALLY, now about that body...shoot, I've run out of space.

To be continued...

Karla Hiers

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB:

What a hoot!! DRUNK FLOWERS! We learned on our field trip to Todd's Nursery in Orting in Nov. that to slow down Paper White's rank green growth to add the right proportion of alcohol to the water and it slows down the rank behavior. Hummm?? isn't that fun?

We all got Paper Whites. I planted mine, with no alcohol and they misbehaved and got rank but did bloom lovely surprises. (I didn't follow directions!!) It took less than 6-8 weeks for them to bloom. No dirt needed, just water which should be changed every 2 weeks.

Before planting, bulbs can be kept in frig. for 4-5 weeks when you are timing their blooming time. Bulbs need to be firm, never mushy. Fruit jars are good containers to keep the stems upright with glass rocks or pebbles or rocks in the bottom.. Pebbles are easier to clean. One inch of water at the bottom maintained at that level is all that is needed. Such a fun thing to do for ALL ages.



In December we shared garden tips that have served us well:

- Dead head. Keep at it and there will be flowers all summer.
- Plant garlic in Oct. Nov for early Spring use.
- Rotate crops every year
- When someone says, "it's invasive", they are probably right
- Some veggies actually become better after the first frost, like Kale, cabbage, carrots, parsnips.
- Onions contain a mild antibiotic that fights infections, soothes burns, tames athlete's foot.
- Tulip bulbs can be substituted for onion in a recipe. (that one I have got to try???)
- Using smaller pots of flowers inside a decorative pot, then when spent move to back of garden and add some new potted plants.
- Old golf caddy on wheels used to cart around shovels, rakes, tools, etc. Small pockets are handy for small tools.

- Rose cutting planted with fertilizer, covered with quart bottle, watered, done in the Spring.
- Black garden cloth down between rows of berries, then covered with straw by Feb keeps weeds down..

Christmas gift exchange with gardening theme still a favorite part of December meeting, besides the potluck. Gardeners are such good cooks!!

The January meeting got us in the mood to look at grafting trees and plants. Many advancements have been made in this field. I personally remember my father's struggles and successes with apple trees over the years.

WHEN TO PRUNE: What is your purpose?

- During winter dormancy the most common.
- Summer pruning is for corrective pruning.
- Flowering tree pruning is done after flowers fade.
- DO NOT PRUNE IN THE FALL
- Keep pruning tools sharp
- Check on-line pruning diagrams.

Truly such an important thing to know about your gardening to keep it healthy and, of course, looking good.

FYI: Cisco says that MARTAGON LILIES will provide exotic-looking flowers for 80 years..

Happy Pruning/trimming!

Sharon Aguilar
Dogwood Garden Club

GLOVE AND TROWEL

The Christmas tree ornamentation became our focus for our club's entry in the District Meeting Flower Show on December 1, 2015. Since September, we have been gathering many ideas to ensure the decorations were strictly botanical. Then in October, we traipsed about parks and yards to gather horticultural materials and buckets of oak leaves from which we created small dried "roses". Big thanks to Michele Candiloro for her skills and leadership and for making us proud of our little three-foot tree. This was an enjoyable and interactive project for all of us.

Our annual fund raiser auction in November always brings out the best and worst (giggle) in us and, of course, lots of humor and a few serious haggling's. The homemade jellies, cookies, pies are good sellers; plants do well, and even silver trays--plus, everything else in between. Sheron Taylor-Price suggested an idea for our community project with the 4-H group in January. We will teach the children how to make her tiered dish gardens.

Cookie time! Christmas time! Annual cookie-exchange time in December! Oh so many cookies



to share and take home. Our group is blessed with numerous great cooks whether preparing sweets or whole meals for our meeting lunches in each other's homes. Of course, we still take care of club business. We donated

one copy each of the *Frightened Frog* to Spinning and Stewart elementary schools in Puyallup.

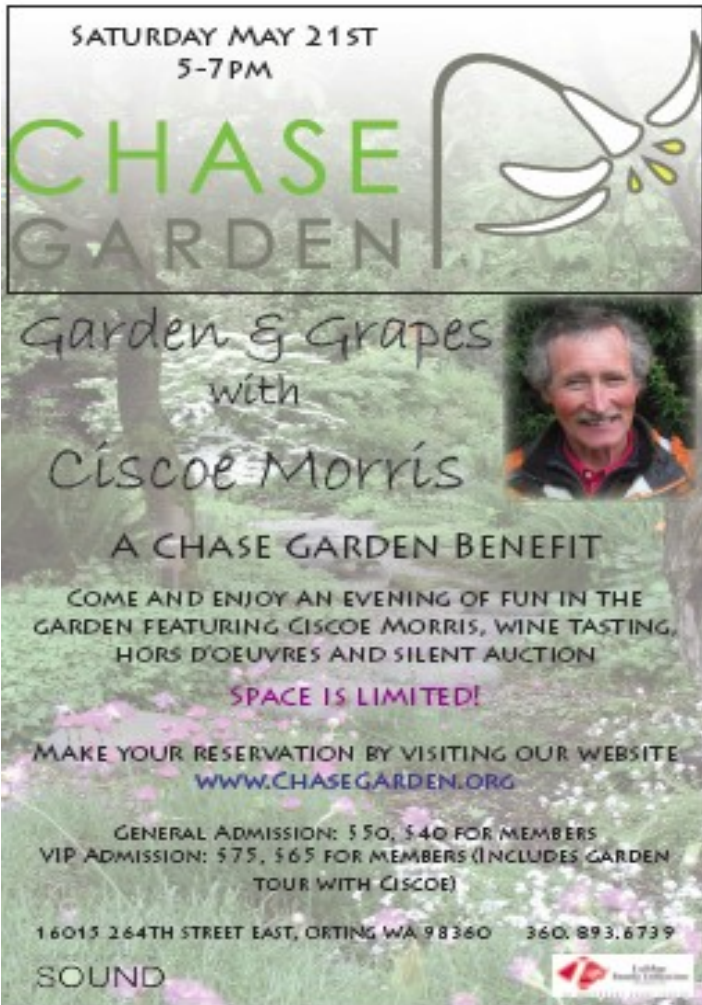
In addition, we brought and donated warm items for the Freezing Nights program sponsored by the Puyallup Homeless Coalition.

Pruning time? Or is it? Pamela Draper, from the "WSU Pierce County Master Gardener Program" spoke to us about pruning at our January meeting. Before she started her presentation, she had gathered her cutting specimens from just outside in the surrounding woods. She demonstrated correct methods of pruning, the tools to use--and not to use, and when and where: all with great passion and deep knowledge.

Our business meeting included finalizing the plans for the Saturday, January 30 community project for the dish gardens and hanging friendship balls with the 4-H youngsters.

We look forward to February when we will do our version of Design-A-Rama.

Barbara Bias, Secretary



DISTRICT WORKSHOP 32

We have been offering a day of horticulture and design programs, a great lunch and the opportunity to meet and visit with other garden club members from around our state for thirty-two years. This has been possible by all of us working together, supplying salads and cookies, manning the kitchen and helping with all the details necessary to make this happen. **Together We Can!**

This year we will again offer a raffle basket provided by each of our clubs to help with expenses. Root & Bloom will work the kitchen and Country Gardeners will assist in other areas.

The addition of raffle baskets last year was well received and with all club members helping to fill those baskets this year should make it another success.

DISTRICT MEETING MARCH 22, 2016

The morning program for the March District meeting: Three gentlemen from the Puyallup Rose Society will show us the proper way to plant, feed and prune roses with some humor along the way!! These three gentlemen have just as much knowledge as Susan Goetz and Marianne Binetti.

Mike Peterson & Bill Wilson have held office in The Pacific NW District, The Puyallup Rose Society, American Rose Society Horticulture Judges, The Valley Rose Society and they are Master Rosarian. Bill Wilson was one of the co-founders of the Puyallup Rose Society.

Dan Simmens is currently second Vice President of the Puyallup Rose Society, newsletter editor and a Consulting Rosarian.

** Remember your donations to the ways and means table will go toward paying for our bus trip in June

The place to be ~

The Mad Hatter Tea

Tea, sandwiches and sweets

Program includes "The Not Ready for Tea Time Players" demonstrating their Mad Hat creating skills~~

LIVE ON STAGE

Who will win the coveted title of "The Best Hat Decorator of 2016"

Will it be.....

Tory Bennett ~ Fran Cissell ~

Judy Strickland ~ or Daphne Ruxton???

*April 20, 2016
Grace Lutheran
Church
22975 24th Ave So
Des Moines WA 98198*

*Doors Open 11:00 am
Tea 11:30 am*

*Donation \$20
Contact Brynn Tavasci
or Diane Franchini
for more information*

*Make donation checks
payable to Chinook
District Judges Council*



*Peoples
Choice
Award for
best
attendee's
hat or
apron!*

*Drawing
opportunities
and silent
auction for
added fun!*

Sponsored by Chinook District Judges Council in support of Washington State Federation of Garden Club's 2017 Pacific Region Convention

STARRY STARRY NIGHT HOLIDAY SHOW



Some of the ladies enjoying the holiday show

The state holiday show was held in Olympia and many Hill & Dale members attended and enjoyed the day. Judy Strickland, Chris Sherrill, Mary Bewley, Sharon Burlingame, Gail Harte, Fran Cissell and Linda Maida all entered design classes.

Margie Knudson, Gail Harte and Chris Sherrill had outstanding horticulture entries. It was rewarding to have so many individuals contribute, I thank you all.

Linda



Entries by Chris Sherrill



DECEMBER 1, 2015 DISTRICT MEETING

All the clubs participated in creating a unique table top Christmas tree with ornaments made from natural elements.

The **People's Choice Award** went to Root n Bloom (shown at right).

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

DRYER MASCONIC CENTER
306 134th St. S. Tacoma 537-9928
MARCH 22, 2016

COUNTRY GARDENERS GARDEN CLUB
ENTRIES 8:30 to 9:45 AM

DIVISION 1 - HORTICULTURE

Horticulture entries must be grown or in an exhibitor's possession for three months. All plant material must be properly groomed, conditioned and named. More than one entry may be made in each class or subclass if of a different named variety or color. Wedging is permitted; a small inconspicuous piece of material may be used in the neck of the container only to prop or wedge the exhibit upright.

EXHIBITOR WILL FURNISH THEIR OWN CLEAN, TRANSPARENT CONTAINERS
PUT YOUR NAME & CLUB ON EACH ENTRY TAG

Rosette of Bronze Ribbons: Best Bulb Section 1

Rosette of Peach, White & Green Ribbons: MarvaLee Peterschick WSFGC Award Best
flowering branch Section 2

Rosette of Orange Ribbons: Award of Merit Section 1

SECTION 1 "FIRST COLOR"

Class 1 . DAFFODILS, *Narcissus* 1 stem

- a. Trumpet, trumpet equal to length of perianth
 - 1. all 1 color
 - 2. bi-color
- b. Short cup, cup not more than 1/3 length of perianth
- c. Long cup, cup more than 1/3 but less than equal to length of perianth
- d. Doubles
- E. Any other

Class 2. TULIPA, Tulip, 1 stem with some foliage attached

- a. single
- b. double
- c. any other

Class 3. ANY OTHER FLOWERING BULB a. 1 stem if large flower

SECTION 2 "BLOOMING BUDS"

Class 4. FLOWERING SHRUBS OR TREES, 1 stem or spray not over 24"

- a. ,*Pieris*, Andromeda
- b. *Rhododendron* , Azalea, 1 spray
- c. *Camellia* foliage attached
- d. *Chaenomeles*, Flowering Quince
- e. *Forsythia*
- f. *Rhododendron* 1. One collar (whorl) 2. Any other
- g. *Skimmia*
- h. Any other

"SPRING HAS SPRUNG"

DIVISION 11 - DESIGN

No artificial flowers or foliage. Fresh plant material emphasized. Accessories allowed unless otherwise stated. One entry to a class or subclass. Put your name and club on each entry tag.

Rosette of Purple ribbons: Best of Show Sherry Matthews Award Classes 1-4

Small rosette of Blue and White ribbons: Petite Award in class 6

Rosette of Purple and Cream ribbons: Novice Award in class 5

Class 2. "Dancing Colors" - Designers Choice

Class 4. "Kaleidoscope" - Designers Choice

Class 5. "Up Pops Spring" - NOVICE ONLY- Designers Choice A novice is a designer who has won no more than 5 blue ribbons.

Class 6. "Bits of Spring" - Small design over 5" but under 8" Petite Award

Call Sherry Matthews 845-2555 OR Linda Maida 389-2609 between March 9th to the 16th, with the design classes you are entering. We need to fill these classes so consider doing several.

Editor: Anne Hartman
annehartmansdesk@comcast.net
PO Box 478
Graham, WA 98338

MISSION STATEMENT



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

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Glove & Trowel:** donations of the Frightened Frog to Spinning and Stewart elementary schools in Puyallup
Donations of warm items for the Freezing Nights program sponsored by the Puyallup Homeless Coalitions
- Root n Bloom:** decorated a room at the Meeker Mansion for Christmas

New address for Smoke Signals

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