

# THE ECHO

## Hill and Dale District

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

#190 Sept, Oct, Nov 2018



### THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



***Frost on the pumpkin this morning - a sure sign fall is upon us.***

Time to put the gardens to bed and shop for spring. The Northwest Flower and Garden Show is a good source for plants, seeds and seminars. It is also an adventure and fun day.

There are some things to remember. It is the time for the Holiday Show which includes the Board Meeting for your officers. Reports will come.

The November competition is in full swing. Gingerbread Houses are under construction and we are looking forward to a great variety to vote on.

Now is the time to offer suggestions for the rest of the year and the new Director Rachel Jennings will also be on the lookout for ideas.

Keep up on the awards to apply for. Check the Coral book, it has all the awards to choose from.

Once again it has been an adventure to be your Director.

Kathy Toups  
District Director Hill & Dale.



# CLUB NEWS!

## DOGWOOD

SEPTEMBER MEETING: What a GREAT MEETING!. Super attendance. We enjoyed a field trip to the wonderful succulent nursery, KRISSEY'S KREATIONS owned by Krissy Shields. Linda Miada gave us some great tips on how to handle the flower entries for the district meeting.

Decorative squashes and mini pumpkins with succulent arrangements on top lined the table. Krissy told us to glue a bed of moss on the top of the pumpkin then glue on the succulent arrangement and "voila"....a beautiful design. The succulents will live and grow through the moss. UNBELIEVABLE.....the displays were awesome.



### WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT AUTUMN?

- Leaves falling like snow during a gentle breeze
- The painter's palette of colors
- Green tomatoes on the window sill
- Friends garden produce shared (what's your favorite garden veggie?)
- Surprise veggies growing in the compost pile (reread Cyndi Stuart's courageous composting)
- Preserving, canning, jamming

The poinsettia competition with surviving plants, is still on to see who will have blooms in December. Surprisingly, there are quite a few healthy specimens. December will be challenging!!!

OCTOBER MEEETING: Lincoln Mettler (guru of honey makers) told us about those wonderful bee pollinators . And the nasty yellow jacket bee that will actually kill a honey bee.



Bee keeping and honey making is not an easy task. And it is so important to our lives and well being. (pardon the pun) It is not an easy subject to be covered in one hour. Our hostess, Lynn Smith made pots of hot soup which were fantastic on the Autumn day.

The Jr. Garden Club leaders are doing a marvelous job and have 20 members this year. GOLD STARS to Kathy Bowman and Mary Bewley for their dedicated work with these youngsters.

What will you do differently for next years garden? We've had 2 dry summers. How can we better prepare for the next? Do any of you plant veggies late Fall to be used early Spring? garlic or onions?

Did you know that the American robin can have up to 3 broods in one season? Whoow!!

Hasta Pronto  
Sharon Aguilar reporting.....

## GARDEN HOUR

Things are up and running down at the fire hall. In September we welcomed another new member, **Jan Sweeny**, to our band of rowdies. That's five newbies since January. We look forward to sharing fun times with our new fiends, I mean friends.



Fun times should abound with our new club project this year. Members will follow the National Wildlife Federation's guidelines for getting our yards certified as natural wildlife habitats. This is a win-win for us and the critters who call our neighborhoods home.

Members will figure out ways to provide food, water, cover, and places to raise the young. They also will learn about sustainable gardening practices like soil and water conservation, controlling exotic species and organic practices. By spring we hope to have all our yards certifiable.

Also new this year is our plan to beautify a bare area at the fire hall. "**Hurricane**" **Sandy Parr** has applied for two grants to help fund this undertaking. She also single handedly took on the local government (hence the nickname) and got permission for this project. We will be teaming up with Jose from Edgewood Nursery when things are ready to roll.

We had a wonderful program in October presented by sisters Robin Wilkson and Margie Brubaker from the Puyallup Valley Fuchsia Society. Margie trimmed up a hanging basket fuchsia which she will store over the winter and revive next spring. We were all amazed that we could save our lovely summer baskets instead of throwing them out to the compost pile



Robin Wilkson

Robin gave us tips on growing, fertilizing, and selecting hardy fuchsia to grow in the ground. One key tip was to not prune off the dead stems in the fall even though they look ugly. Instead, in April after the last frost, you may cut back the dead stems to about 6 inches when you see new growth starting. At this time you can prune out all the old weak growth and dead stuff.

After their demonstration, the sisters gave us four hardy fuchsias for lucky members to take home along with several handouts. What a great surprise!

And another surprise was that it was Garden Hour's 70th anniversary. We celebrated this milestone with cake and ice cream. I, myself was surprised when "**No Nonsense**" **Nita Huber** claimed emphatically that she is not one of the founding members. How can that be??? (I should be nice to Nita; she brings the coffee to every meeting.)

The days are gettin' shorter,  
More time to sit and dream;  
And cozy up with a cup  
Of Nita's coffee with some cream.

Karla Hiers  
Secretary

## GLOVE & TROWEL



Last year's Christmas at Esther Van Noy's home for our Soup and annual Cookie Exchange.

Each month we meet in each other's home. We all take turns as three different assigned members of us bring and serve our lunch. We most certainly enjoy fulfilling our social activities each month.

In September, we happily welcomed our new member, Linda Bond, who is full of ideas, eager to participate and also socializes well.

Master Gardener, Deb Bronken presented us with a fun program about herbs for our September program. She brought numerous plants for Show & Tell & Smell and then gave them to us to plant at home. Deb created a lovely large container-design using various herbs, which we took to Lois Harrison who recently lost her husband.



October: The ever-accommodating Sue Williams at Watson's arranged for a demonstration of beautiful fall and winter planter combinations and landscaping ideas. We appreciated her four-page handout, which included more detail about the plants to use in containers and general garden knowledge.

We continue with activities such as 4-H and Meeker Mansion by planting and maintaining their

planters and a room decoration for Christmas.

Future programs include our annual fundraiser auction in November, December is Cookie exchange, January - Ostrom's farm tour, followed by rock painting and artsy stuff, Tagro and then spring container gardening with master gardener, Susan Wiggly. May is "yet to be revealed" and June is a potluck picnic at Barb Patterson's home where we develop our ideas for next year's programs.

Oh my, and now much to do about Gingerbread! Oh, goodie... more socializing!

Barbara Bias

## ROOT 'N BLOOM

Root N' Bloom is ready to tackle the rainy winter months with some fun programs for our club members. The October meeting got us in the spirit of the upcoming holidays with a great meeting, and having a home-cooked lunch provided by 3 of our members. After lunch we decided it was time to get serious. Some of the members hollowed out small pumpkins and created floral centerpieces (which went to local Nursing Homes), while others enjoyed painting rocks with Christmas in mind.



Now we look into future months. November will bring our much needed skills, as we decorate a Gingerbread House for

competition at the upcoming District meeting. Everyone at RNB is excited about this District meeting. We will all be winners!!! but, there will only be one top winner. Who will that be ??

In Dec we will have our Christmas Potluck and will be playing Floral Bingo, while looking forward to some good food and fun. We will also be shopping for items to be delivered to the Orting Veterans Home in Dec with some of the members delivering these gifts and joining them in playing bingo. Thanks to the other clubs that are active with these much deserved veterans.

In Jan we will be doing a Horticulture/Educational Tour to Portland Ave Nursery and having an afternoon of fun planting in containers. In February will be doing an Educational on Recycling; how to reuse material we normally throw away. Stay tune for the balance of 2019.

I leave you with this question: Do you need some motivation to perform fall garden care? Well, just think of all the joy your planting beds will provided you during the spring and summer, from flowers to veggies. Don't you want more of the same next year? Assuming we all do, there are those laboring tasks we can undertake in autumn to help our landscape get off to a good start once the warm weather returns. So, let's take a brief look at some of the simple chores we should be performing in autumn from fall garden care and lawn work to winterizing trees and shrubs and cleaning up our equipment.

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle - a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl, and the anticipation nurtures our garden dream.



Rosie Trujillo, Root N' Bloom

## COUNTRY GARDENERS

What a beautiful fall we had! Seems like the colors were more vibrant than ever. Country Gardeners created the center-pieces for the Sept District meeting with great success and lots of compliments. Thanks to President Patti for putting up with all the mess at her house. The painted concrete pots with kale and pansies were unique and well received. And didn't we all enjoy seeing the creative designs done by some district meetings attendees that day too? And the flower show.....wow



In Sept we finished up the Midland Community Center landscape clean-up project by weeding, pruning and planting new shrubs along the west side of the center. We will be adding a new feature by the front door soon.

Thanks to our Gail Harte for chairing this big project hauling, purchasing supplies and disposing of all the yard waste.

At our Oct 1st meeting, Vicki Hurley from Portland Avenue Nursery spoke on preparing our gardens for winter with emphasis on cutting back, cleaning, mulching, and planting bulbs.

One of our dearest, longtime members, Marilyn Goddard, passed away Oct 6th. She will forever be in our hearts as an excellent gardener and sweet lady. We always enjoyed her horticulture (especially her roses) at our meetings as well as at the district meetings. We will surely miss her.

## District Garden Therapy

Nov 12th will be our next meeting when we will be creating our gingerbread house for the Nov 27th district meeting competition. It will be a fun meeting with gingerbread the item of the day.

At our Dec meeting at Chris Birka's we will be making dining table centerpieces for Heartwood Nursing Care Center.

***Happy Thanksgiving to you all!***

Chris Sherrill, VP Country Gardeners

### JUDGES CORNER – Oct / Nov / Dec - 2018

**Why have a flower show?** A flower show is a capsule education in horticulture and design. To obtain such information elsewhere would require you visit many gardens. Flower shows are aimed at our garden club members that wish to share and show their superior efforts. Those that enter a show need to have a knowledge of judging to select the best possible blooms and designs for exhibiting.

**Why are flower shows judged?** Judges set the educative quality of a show by their choices. The judges have taken their love of the art of growing and creating to join others to study their "hobby". Through this study, knowledge is obtained to share with all that have this same love or "hobby". Through the judging process, the exhibitor will learn, enjoy the pleasure of accomplishment, and seek further perfection in future endeavors.

**What are you bringing to the November 27, 2018 Flower Show?** In Section A. Conifers – branch no longer than 24" should include several nodes, apical tip and may be exhibited without water. Section B. Broadleaf Evergreens – Class 10 – there are too many to name – call me, Sherry or Linda if you have a question on this. REMEMBER – trim bug bites, give your exhibit a bath – clean is best. DIVISION V – Botanical Arts – opportunity to be creative with your growing products.

Judy Strickland, Linda Maida, Sherry Matthews  
Hill & Dale District Judges



they put smiles on the residents that participated.

Also pictured is Tokiko, who is a resident at Brookdale and has attended all of our sessions throughout the 2 years. Faye enjoyed making and adding everything to her wreath and Kay had to remind her more than once she would have to stop! It weighed about 10 pounds! She did not want to keep her wreath so it was hung in the entryway for all to enjoy.



Another lady instead of using one pick per wreath, because we had plenty, decided to use about six or seven in her creation and no fresh flowers. Several residents walked into the activities room when we first started and then realized it was not bingo. They usually play every Wed at 10am but when we attend, bingo is postponed or cancelled. We encouraged them to join us but no, they wanted to play bingo.

Chris's resident, Barbara, excused herself to use the restroom, stating as she walked out someone else can do it. Later we found that she had gone to play Bingo instead of our garden activity. They wanted to play bingo so bad these older ladies pushed some tables together in the dining room and played any way. As one of our members stated, "Even though not many participated in this project those that made our wreaths were very pleased - you could see it in their eyes."

## HILL AND DALE SCHOLARSHIP

The Hill and Dale Scholarship for 2018 was awarded to Carl Hedemann, a Middle School teacher at Columbia Crest School in Ashford, Washington. He has established a Gardening project which draws participation from the entire school population, grades K-8 .



His Middle School students do the construction and maintenance of the planting beds and have recently added a chicken coop to the garden. In the spring they will purchase chicks or eggs to start production. The

produce from the garden is incorporated in the school lunch program.

It is a perfect example of our Scholarship donations encouraging the education of Horticulture in our youth.

Submitted by Mary Bewley  
Dogwood Garden Club



## Why Design

Garden club members grow wonderful flowers. It doesn't matter if you put several in a vase, make a table centerpiece, or just put a couple on the kitchen windowsill. Using the principles of design takes them to the next level.

Hill and Dalers meet the first Thursday at the Midland Community Center 1614-99th St E Tacoma (just off of Portland Ave) Join us at 10 a.m. and learn how to make your home designs shine.

At the September meeting our afternoon program was volunteers from the audience creating beautiful designs with all the wonderful flowers and foliage members had brought. .



# DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

September 2018

## HORTICULTURE

WSFGC Betty Belcher Horticulture Award  
H & D Harvest Award

Chris Sherrill Country Gardeners  
Sandy Walker Country Gardeners

## DESIGN

WSFGC Ellen Swensen Design Excellence  
WSFGC Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Design  
Hill & Dale Novice Award  
WSFGC Recycling Award

Debbie Spiller Country Gardeners  
Sherry Matthews Glove & Trowel  
Linda Bond Glove & Trowel  
Debbie Spiller Country Gardeners

## BOTANICAL ARTS

WSFGC Terry Critchlow Photograph Award

Donna Haley Root & Bloom

## CLUB POINTS

	Horticulture	Design	Bot Arts
Country Gardeners	175	41	3
Dogwood	104	2	
Garden Hour	89	2	
Glove & Trowel	43	21	3
Happy Thymes			
Root & Bloom	196	16	16

Number of entries: Horticulture 169 Design 26 Crafts 3 Bot Arts 17



# UPCOMING EVENTS for 2018

## Hill & Dale District Web Site

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

### District Meetings

Dryer Masonic Temple  
306 134th St S, Tacoma  
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for entries  
10:00 a.m. for meeting

- November 27, 2018

The morning Speaker will be Gail Harte, a member of Country Gardener, who will speak and demonstrate on how to make Christmas swags and wreaths for your home.

Afternoon program will be judging of the Gingerbread houses.



### NEW MEMBERS!

#### Country Gardeners

Maria Buchanan  
Cindy Edmon

#### Dogwood

Julie Nash  
Marcia Burroughs  
Chris Bivins

#### Garden Hour

Jan Sweeney

#### Glove and Trowel

Sheryl Gustafson

Did you know that our district has a website that you can go to for lots of additional information? Our website is there for anyone looking to join a garden club but it also has resources for all our current club members.

Just scroll across the top for Events, Echo Newsletters, Photos and Links to National, Region & State websites.

New this year, click on the "more" tab and find:

- Garden Resources** - do you have a question and would like some help?
- Horticulture Grooming** - how to condition & groom your flowers,
- Plant Botanical names** - cross referenced with their common names,
- Sample Horticulture tags** – how to fill out your tags for flower show.

### NOVEMBER DISTRICT MEETING

At the November District meeting Ways & Means is having an indoor garage sale such as we had last year, with emphasis on Christmas items.

Last year we made \$204.00 so let's see if we can equal or top that.

Thank you all!  
Karla Stover  
Ways & Means Chairperson



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### SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE!



Do you know a member who could use a cheerful note or card? Let **Doris Yuckert** know and she will send out a card.

[dyuckert@centurylink.net](mailto: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.