

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#197 Aug 2020



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Different times, new ideas

Hello everyone.

I hope you're all safe and healthy. This has been a tough summer but, it's also allowed us to slow down and really smell the roses. I know I've spent a lot more time at home than any other summer I remember. Sadly, it is a good/bad thing. I miss Garden Club, friends, lunches and most of all getting together with family, especially the grandkids.

I know we have had to come up with some new and different ideas for District meetings and the Pierce County Fair. I think they have been great! It allowed everyone the chance to participate in both. I know it was fun and easy to take and send a picture to enter.



I want to thank Kathy Johnson for all her hard work on both endeavors as well as the judges, Sherry, Judy, Linda and Keith for taking the time to look at every entry. They expressed they enjoyed the process.

I am sad to say, it is not looking like we will be able to get together for the rest of this crazy year. So, we are working on an idea for our Sept and Dec District meetings. Something again virtual, so remember to check your emails for all the details.

Stay in touch with your fellow club members, your district friends, we can see each other with masks and from a distance. We need to remain safe and only go and do what is comfortable for each of us. There is the old fashion thing called a phone, we can still pick it up and call. Sadly, I am guilty of not being particularly good at this. Please check your emails, I do send things out occasionally to stay in touch.

Stay safe and healthy, can't wait till we can all be together again. You're all in my thoughts,
Rachel , Hill & Dale Director
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Share Our Knowledge

District Meeting

September 22, 2020

Via Zoom

It's fall and it's time to get together in these "Different Times with a New idea", so we are having our 1st Zoom meeting for our district. Please join us on Tuesday, Sept 22 at 10am until about 12pm.

We will have Alison Johnson who is the Co-President of The Northwest Perennial Alliance, speak and present a garden tour of several northwest homes and answer any questions about perennials. They are a nonprofit volunteer organization for everyone who is passionate about gardening in the Pacific NW. NPA is devoted to teaching, inspiring, and sharing the joy of gardening.



After our speaker presentation we will announce the State and District Awards for the clubs that participated.

If you have not joined a Zoom meeting before and need help in getting set up, please join us on Tuesday, Sept 15 at 10am and we will help you get started.

Please watch your emails for more information.

Hill & Dale District Web Site

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

Our district website is in need of more pictures. We are looking for photos of the district events especially before 2016 to include on the website. Do you have pictures from when the district meetings were held at the Waller Road Grange, at the Puyallup Elks, any Flower Show Schedule cover brochures?? Pictures from the district plant sale, spring flower show in conjunction with the Daffodil flower show, district pictures from the Meeker Mansion, old Pierce County Fair pictures, workshop pictures, arbor day pictures?? Please dig out your old digital cameras and email your pictures to Kathy Johnson, at kathyj16@msn.com, Please include what event it is and the year. Or do you have something else that is noteworthy that you would like added to the historian page of the website. Thanks for your help.

The District website has 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, Regional and 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 and groom your flowers,

Plant Botanical names - cross referenced with their common names,

Sample Horticulture tags – how to fill out your tags for flower show.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have a total of 6 new members for the term 2019-2020.

Country Gardeners	- 1
Dogwood	- 3
Glove & Trowel	- 1
Root & Bloom	- 1

As we start our new year, 2020-2021, let's try and attract some new members to our garden clubs. Let's work on new members after we get back to normal (whenever that will be - don't know when) Happy Gardening to all. Stay safe and enjoy the outdoors. Rosie Trujillo

PHOTOS IN THE ECHO

Hill & Dale District is truly fortunate to have so many creative gardeners who share their knowledge with each other. The 3 main ways that is accomplished is at Club meetings, District Meetings and the ECHO.

The club submissions to the ECHO are entertaining and very diverse and often contain wonderful gardening hints along with some amazing photos.

But have you ever wondered why, if you submitted an article with photos, your photos didn't show up in the ECHO? Here are some guidelines to make successful photos in the ECHO more likely:

- Send photos separately from your dialogue in a jpeg format. They can come in the same email but not on the same page as the dialogue. There are times it is impossible to separate the two. This is especially important if you have a MAC.
- Before sending photos print them out in black and white. While members who receive the ECHO via email get everything in colour the folks who get the Snail Mail version get it in black and white. Often photos do not convert well to black and white—they just become grey blobs.
- Shrink your photos down to about 2 inches by 3 inches and see if it is easy to identify what is in the photo.
- Are they blurry? Out of focus? Too busy?

Photos make a big difference in everyone's enjoyment of the ECHO. Keep sending them!

Anne Hartman, Editor

GARDEN HOUR

In June, we held Garden Hour's meeting at the home of Marty Roper. She has such a stunning variety of beautiful plants and flowers that each time we visit we discover something new.

After lunch and (of coarse!) dessert, we raffled off a large Italian basket filled with enough for a fine Italian dinner party, complete with wine! Congratulations to our newest member, Carmen Neal, on her haul of goodies!

Our annual friendship plant exchange was also held at this meeting. Each Member draws a number from a basket, then based on the number drawn, we take turns picking a plant from the offerings that members brought to share. Each member went home with something new and beautiful to add to their own gardens.



Garden Hour's Dorothy Bean shared some photos of flowers from her garden. She recently had a couple of visitors - a dragonfly as well as a monarch butterfly. She was pleasantly surprised that the monarch stuck around long enough for her to run into her house for her camera.

Speaking of visitors, Sandy Parr also had a couple of visitors in her garden recently. She found two rabbits underneath her bird feeder. She hopes they dined on the celery she set out for them.

Summer is already drawing to a close and fall is right around the corner. When meetings start up again in September, we will have a new (temporary) meeting location that will be announced soon.

Happy gardening!
Sherry Meyer

ROOT N BLOOM

In spite of the pandemic, the Bloomers managed to have two club meetings, a board meeting, and a garage sale.

In June, we met in President Diana Riddle's garage where there was plenty of room to space out. Seventeen members attended and after the usual business the ladies had a lot to share. For many years we have decorated a room at the Meeker Mansion for Christmas. Rosie Trujillo is in charge and told us we are on the docket for the maid's room—assuming the Mansion will be open.

Diana read all the complimentary emails received for the District's virtual flower show. Kathy Johnson did a yeoman's job in getting it on line. Then Kathy let us know that the Pierce County Fair will be a virtual show, too. Jumping ahead, the floral display was awesome.

Also awesome was the job April Devereaux did in putting on line all the photographs, etc. in the historian's albums. No more having to lug around those scrapbooks which went into the garage sale. April also went back to work though she recently told me her hours are being quickly reduced.

Kim Munson, our recycler extraordinaire, now has a YouTube channel for her decoupage items and to demonstrate how she makes her lamps. Type Mrs. Munson in the search spot.



Harriet Miller showed the new *Vision of Beauty* book in which she has a design. She explained how the photographs for submission are taken. There is a lot of competition to get in the book and we're so proud of Harriet.

Eddie Jo Fueston is mourning the loss of her beans. They contracted a virus, not covid 19; they have Curly Top. It's caused by miniscule bugs called beet leafhoppers.

Jewel Thompson said she has been spending her stay-at-home time cooking old family recipes. Her toasted cheese sandwiches are a club favorite.



Norma Humphrey had foot surgery but it hasn't stopped her from making masks to sell. Karla Stover has another book contract; this one is *Wicked Tacoma*. And our secretary, Donna Haley, had to give up the position due to issue with her hands.

It was fun to hear all the news pausing, occasionally, while rain pounded on the roof drowning out the conversations.

On July 8th, the Board met to go over the budget and discuss programs and trips for next year's meetings—if we get to have any.

Our garage sale, which was at Diana's, was a great success and, from what I hear, was a lot of fun. It certainly exceeded expectations.

And finally, some of us, but not enough to make a quorum, met at Lisa Libby's home in Mineral for her August 17th *Friends and Fun Outdoor Market*. The weather was perfect, as was the setting, and there were plenty of vendors to make the drive up worthwhile. Some of us have fond memories of fishing in Mineral Lake.

Apologies if I forgot anything or anyone. Submitted by Karla Stover, Secretary pro-tem.

GLOVE & TROWEL

The Pandemic of 2020 has tried to control lives but we as gardeners know life goes on and mother nature still provides beautiful color and joy to every one of us.



Our president Jan Morgan had a 9 ft Hollyhock grown in her backyard. Alcea is a genus of about 60 species of flowering plants in the mallow family Malvaceae, commonly known as hollyhocks. They are native to Asia and Europe. The single species of hollyhock from the Americas,

the streambank wild hollyhock belongs to a different genus.

This Night- Blooming Cereus, that grows in Linda Pempeck's yard, is so elegant. Night-Blooming cereus is the common name referring to a large number of flowering ceroid cacti that bloom at night. The flowers are short lived, and some of these species, such as Selenicereus Grandiflorus, bloom only once a year for a single night.



Linda Pempeck also shared her picture of her beautiful Day Lily, a flowering plant in the

genus Hemerocallis. It is a member of the family Asphodelaceae, subfamily Hererocallidoideae. Despite the common name, it is not in fact a lily. Gardening enthusiasts and horticulturists have long credited daylily species for their attractive flowers.

COUNTRY GARDENERS

Here we are entering into fall and we are still experiencing the effects of Covid 19. All our gardening plans for the year have had to be cancelled or postponed. We are all growing wearisome of all the restrictions and the daily updates on how the pandemic is not diminishing as fast it should. And yet in all that doom and gloom, our gardens still grow and flourish, and we as gardeners still find enjoyment even amongst the weeds.

Our last official meeting was March 2, 2020. We were, as were the other clubs; looking forward to so many spring activities planned but unfortunately this was about the time when Stay Home policy went into effect. For many of us the last major get together was at the Little Creek Casino for our Creative Adventure Flower Show. We enjoyed a variety of workshops and were able to see how really artistic our members are by viewing many designs and crafts built around the common theme - gardening (and their by-products). A big plus of course was a fabulous lunch at one of the many great restaurants available.

Creative is THE word for 2020. Our gardeners have become very adept at still being able to plan things. They are finding ways to improve their gardens and getting together while still adhering to the social distancing guidelines.

Our club was able to meet at Randie Welcher's "garden" home in June for a brief meeting, lunch and garden tour (which was a great place to show off Randie's creative side). We all brought chairs and formed a circle while Chris Sherrill conducted our outdoor meeting. Randie provided snacks and the ambience (Mother Nature also provided a beautiful spring day).

Later in the summer some of the garden ladies helped with a Farmers Country Market, which was Aug 1st. They had hopes of having a table setup to earn monies for the club treasury; perhaps we can try again in the fall with better results.

Gardeners were very innovative for the Virtual Flower show AND the Pierce County Fair this year. For something that has not been tried before both these events came off very well and garnered a lot of participation. Thanks to all those who participated and especially to the folks who put it all together.



Lorene Jones, one of our newest members, has been working feverishly in her garden. Her labor has paid off, resulting in beans for freezing and cabbages and tomatoes coming on soon. She also has a Lemon tree that she has had for about 12 years. She read that it should be re-potted about every 3-4 years and is hoping that by doing so it will breathe new life into the plant

We are now into August and Chris Sherrill is planning another get-together at her home on August 31st. where, out on the deck, she will serve us ROOT BEER FLOATS...is there ANY reason NOT to attend that event

I know many of our other ladies are still working hard in their gardens or on other creative ways to maintain their sanity during these trying times. Many want to hold get-togethers, please just remember to do so safely.

One last thing, **please stay in touch with people**, in whatever way you can. You may never know just how that one email, phone call, card, wave or smile (yes you can see the smile in peoples eyes) might just be THE thing needed to make someone's day.

Hugs virtually
Kathleen Muckian, Secretary

Country Gardeners installed a sculpture at the Midland community center. This garden bed directly under the eave with no water source has not been conducive for planting so, pictured below, is the solution.

While spreading the red lava rock a member of the community stopped to let us know how much she was enjoying the sculpture, and I think we ended up with a new member for our garden club!

Sculpture and drift wood donated by long time garden club members, Joe Dahlbom and Linda Maida.



PIERCE COUNTY FAIR BEES & HONEY IN 2020!

Our annual tradition of sponsoring the Floral Building here at the Pierce County Fair since 1975 continues. Despite Covid 19, the fair went on virtually. This year's theme "Bees & Honey In 2020!" quickly changed to "Bee Safe In 2020!". The fair board decided in early June that we would probably not be able to do an in person fair and did not want to cancel.



This event brings the community together and show cases all the work of our exhibitors from growing our flowers, baking and sewing our goods as well as the youth raising, showing their animals and completing their yearlong projects. Virtual attendance was 16,506 people, our fair was a success!

Thanks to the members of Hill & Dale District who participated and supported our building with their horticulture, vegetables and design entries. Our judges, Linda Maida, Keith Ripley, Sherry Matthews and Judy Strickland spent about a total of 32 hours judging the exhibits on line.

With member's entries, along with the public entries and a few youth, we had 465 entries. This entry count is higher than last year's because we had a longer period for entries and were able to include Patio Planters, Hanging Baskets and What's In Your Yard which are not normally classes.

People's choice awards were voted on and presented Sunday to an entry in each class of horticulture, vegetables and designs. Several classes had a two-way tie and one even had a three-way tie.

Although we were not there in person we wanted to give our virtual visitors everything that they would have received inside the floral barn. Along with our flower & design slide shows, we had information for the youth on "How to plant & grow Onions, Celery & Pineapple" thanks to Gail Harte, our youth planting chairmen, who took pictures and wrote up the instructions. They also had instructions on "How to make Bee Garden Art", information about "Bee Pollination", "Busy as a Bee Activity Sheets" and a "Good Guy Bee Mask".

Additional information for adults included, "Rose Pruning Tips", "Growing Dahlias", "Plant These to Help Save Bees", "Danish System of Judging", "What the Judges look for when Judging" and a "Hill & Dale Garden Club Membership Brochure".

If you missed viewing our virtual fair or would like to view our flower show again, please visit our district website,
www.hillanddaledistrict.weebly.com

Below: Some of the People's Choice Winners



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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 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.