

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#207 - Dec 2022 - Mar 2023



Happy 2023 everyone!

I hope that your Holidays were full of good health and loved ones. I'm sure that you all have the itch to get out and play in your yards and start those seeds for spring planting.

Looks as if Mother Nature has some other plans and surprises for us. She's bringing back freezing temps and threw some snow in there. Well, I'm still getting those seeds started and I'll be as ready as possible to plant those new babies out as soon as weather permits.



This is going to be an exciting year for our clubs and district. Our clubs are getting new Members! With them comes new excitement and ideas. In June I step down and Kathy Johnson takes over. Along with Kathy comes other members taking on new positions and bringing new ideas, speakers, programs and great flower shows.



Speaking of flowers shows, the schedule for the March show was sent out with the ideas and titles for you to participate in. Come and enjoy seeing what some of our members come up with in design, photos, and botanical art and enjoy the great speakers and company of fellow gardeners. It is always a feast for our eyes.

Here's to the sun and warmth to come join us in our lives and gardens. See you all at our next district meeting March 28th.

Rachel, District Director.

DISTRICT MEETING

March 28, 2023

Dryer Masonic Center

306 134th St S, Tacoma

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

Meeting 10 a.m. To 2 p.m.



Please join us on Tues, March 28th for our District Meeting!

Our afternoon Design program will be on Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

Members from the Tacoma Chapter of Ikebana International will show us some differences between their styles of designs based on the different schools with the Japanese influence.

Some schools of Ikebana stress classical styles; others focus on contemporary forms and some blend the two. Of the hundreds of schools of Ikebana each one takes its own approach to arranging flowers.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hill & Dale District has more new members! Let's all welcome them!

Country Gardeners
Dogwood:
Interlaaken

Becky Brenner
Creig Kuwitzky
Barbara Janes
Kristine Moulinet
Trish Tibbitts
Sharleen Lott
Sherre Granger
Linda Rexrode

Root & Bloom



Save The Dates

August 10-13

Pierce County Fair

Meetings via Zoom

ID #622 744 7615

Please join us for our first meetings to brainstorm and plan for the fair.

Friday, March 17th 10 a.m.

Friday, March 24th 10 a.m.

Friday, April 21st 10 a.m.

Please start thinking of how we can decorate and incorporate "Experience the Magic" which is this years theme.

Forage for Spring Mushrooms!

Thurs, March 16 at 2.p.m. at the Eatonville Branch of the Pierce County Library, 205 Center St W the Puget Sound Mycological Society Past President Marian Maxwell will



explain the basics, including the season for mushroom hunting, permits required, the most sought after spring mushrooms, cooking, dangers and where to find these spring treasures.

ROOT & BLOOM

It's probably not possible to have too much fun but if it were, that would be a good description for the Bloomers. Under President Lisa Libby's guidance we have great meetings plus opportunities to participate in various other activities.

Our elves, Sue Thompson and Tamara Larson, worked with children in the Gingerbread House during the Meeker Mansion Christmas open house. Rosie Trujillo served cookies inside. Our club has a 14 year (or so) relationship with the Mansion with many members responding to its needs when requested.

At the Nov. meeting we had our own Flower Design competition with Judy Strickland as commentator. Three members volunteered or were chosen and they picked an assistant for their team. Each team had the same flowers and created a design. Kim Munson and Patty Power won and a good time was had by all.

In Dec. we had our meeting and an amazing Christmas party at Linda Bone's beautifully decorated house. Pat Yager provided an 'inspiration'. After a potluck we played a party game Kathy Johnson brought which kept us laughing for more than an hour.

In addition to monthly club meetings, Lisa had other things the members could do if so inclined: a trip to the Bellevue Botanical Garden of Lights followed by dinner at a pizza parlor. Or making wreaths at Eatonville's Schacter Nursery with members of the Dogwood club, followed by lunch. This has become a favourite yearly event among the Bloomers. And Rachel Jennings has been able

to keep her wreath and redecorate it for Valentine's Day. We also had a workshop in Jeanine Faulkner's garage getting ready for the District Meeting's holiday boutique.



4H Super Saturday was Jan. 28 and the Bloomers put on 2 workshops. "All About Bugs" for the Cloverbuds chaired by Jeanine Faulkner and assisted by Jann Walston and Sue Thompson and "Open-air Terrariums" chaired by Karla Stover and assisted by Cindy Swanberg and Jeanine.

While showing large coloured pictures of bugs Jeanine talked about their anatomy, eating habits, benefits to gardens and other things. She had bugs in resin cubes for the children to look at and 2 projects for them to make on their own creepy critters. It was an outstanding program.

Members started the plants, saved various plastic containers that the children planted in and donated decorative stones for drainage and little toys for decorations. Portland Avenue Nursery donated potting soil. We made it a learning experience, first about the three R's - reuse, repurpose and recycle - and talked about the importance of drainage.

Back to club meetings - in Jan. Art Chmura, a Dahlia Hall of Famer from the Federation of NW Dahlia Growers, put on a power point presentation. Fair warning! The organization has a tuber sale planned at Portland Ave Nursery later in the year.

Our FB page continues to attract new members. Right now we are up to 33 folks with new ideas and new friends.

Karla Stover, Secretary

INTERLAAKEN

Interlaaken Garden Club meets mostly in homes. But when we go out it is an event to remember!

We attended the Steilacoom Historical Museum Tea held Feb 25, 2023. Members Peg Warren, Karen Hanson, Joyce Kommic and Judy Swortz were all were vintage clothing, hats and jewelry, just as the invitations said. Sue Goertz was the featured speaker sharing sharing information about gardens through the millennia: What is a Garden - Past, Present and Future.



Ambitious folks! Our garden club members, Karen Hanson, Ming Jacobson and Denise Mayer went to the Billy Frank Nature Centre in Olympia.



They strolled about 2 miles looking at birds (the reason for going) but saw 200 green tree frogs, more wildlife and a mink! It was an amazing trip topped off with a hamburger, fries and a coke!

METAL MAGIC

Sponsored by Hill & Dale District
May 20, 2023
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$45 per person includes:

- * **Supplies for your metal design**
- * **Coffee and pastries**
- * **Afternoon lunch**

Program highlights:

Talented designers and experienced welders to help you create a metal design and turn Scrap into Art!
Please bring gloves and your imagination.

You can also bring metal pieces if you wish to include them in your design.

Registration and questions:

Contact Jeanine Faulkner
253.579.6018

wjeaninec@hotmail.com
18917 72nd Ave Ct E
Puyallup, WA 98375

Deadline for registration is May 1, 2023



COUNTRY GARDENERS

Well, here we are entering into a brand new year and Country Gardeners, as well as many of the other clubs, are looking forward to our meetings, programs, field trips and catching up with members we have not seen since last year.

We ended our year on Dec. 5, 2022, with our annual Holiday Potluck again hosted by Chris Birka. Her home accommodates us all very well, and since it is held in Dec., we are all warm and cozy inside. After the potluck, we all joined in to make 40 'goodie' bags for the children at Midland Kiddie Korral. They were taken on the following Wed. to the daycare where they were distributed by the teachers. Several members met there and along with the goodie bags, we assembled, with the help of the little ones, Christmas door swags that they would take home. This was a lot of fun and helped to bring everyone into the spirit of Christmas.



During the month of Dec. a group of Country Gardeners took their final field trip for 2022. Chris Sherrill made arrangements for us to visit the WW Seymour Conservatory to view the poinsettias. It was recently remodeled and besides the poinsettias, they have a great number of plants that are unusual and may not normally be seen when visiting your local nursery. Afterwards, several of us went to lunch to continue visiting.

Because of the snow in Jan. 22, we decided to err on the side of caution and not have our regular Jan. meeting. Surprise! NO SNOW! We may rethink that idea when we plan for 2024.

So Feb. was our first meeting of 2023 and because of a conflict of interest at the Midland Community Center, we are now meeting on the second Monday of the month.

We have many activities to look forward to, as well as all the hints and tips shared by our members for our gardens. Debbie Spiller presented our first program of the year. She had members decorate birch branch wreaths in either Valentines or St Patrick Day themes. There were spring ones, too.

Our first field trip will be in March to visit Jason's Nursery in Yelm and then to Chris S home for lunch.

Feb. is also the month for the NW Flower and Garden show in Seattle. A few of us



travelled north to see what the "trend" for gardens will be in 2023. Margie Knudson was lucky enough to be photographed with Laura, the Garden Answer Lady on YouTube. People stood in line for hours just to meet her!



This will also be an election year so we have a nominating committee chaired by Chris S to search for new officers.

Besides all the club activity we also have a lot going on in District to look forward to beginning in Mar. with the Flower Show School

Mar 6-8 and then our District Meeting Flower Show on Mar 28.

Two months almost gone and it seems like we have already hit the ground running but the cold temperatures and snow flurries remind us that we are still in winter.

Kathleen Muckian, Country Gardeners

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Greetings Gardeners! Here's the news from Dogwood since my last report in Oct. 2022 The quickening season is upon us. I just started a bunch of seeds this past weekend... and then we got SNOW! Ha! Well, the seeds are indoors and will be sprouting up soon in anticipation of spring. I'll be crooning to my little plant babies in no time, embarrassing my children and loving every minute.

All meetings from Nov. on have been held at the Ohop Grange, to which our club will be donating each time we use their venue to meet.



Welcome Nancy Schank as our new birds and gardening – renamed to “Building Habitat for Birds” – chairperson. She has introduced a new plant significant for birds at each meeting. In Nov. it was “Edward Goucher” Abelia, a semi-evergreen, fall bloomer, loved by butterflies and hummingbirds and grows to 5-6 ft. In Dec. she showed us Camellia Sasanqua “Yuletide”, also loved by Hummingbirds, has red flowers which bloom gradually Nov. through Dec., likes morning sun and partial afternoon shade and is pretty deer tolerant. In Jan. it was Mahonia hybrid “Charity”, a relative to the native Oregon Grape, blooms now until March, is evergreen, tolerates drier soil, likes some afternoon shade, grows 8-10 ft tall, is very hardy and deer tolerant. Hummingbirds love this plant! A close variety to this is “Winter Sun”. In Feb. it was Flowing Quince “Double Take Scarlet”, which is thornless, has red blooms in the spring, and sometimes repeats its bloom in the summer. It is of modest size, 4-5 ft tall and wide, small birds like it. It tolerates shade and is drought tolerant as well. It bears no fruit and rabbits like to nibble on the lower branches.

Welcome Melody Stalk as our new historian. She is busy organizing all the historical garden club items turned over to her, and makes our lovely name tags as well! Sherry Hanson stepped up as our new Youth Gardening chair. She will be our representative with the Eatonville schools and keep us informed of their gardening activities, facilitate their garden scholarship applications, and report on how our donations to the schools are being distributed and used.

Rosemary Nordstrom volunteered to be our new Awards Chair taking over from Pam Waring. Tina Roy is our new raffle chair, and will be conducting our future raffles and keeping funds collected as petty cash, which may be used for miscellaneous things. She'll keep us posted on the balance and consult with the board for any expenditures.

The Dogwood Park committee meets monthly outside the regular garden club meetings and works with WSDOT in maintaining and improving the park. They are planning a spring clean-up on Sat, Mar. 25th from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm and all are welcome to come lend a hand!

Garden Therapy was finally able to meet again at the Silver Creek Facility in Dec. to make wreaths and again in Feb. to pot up some bulbs for the residents to enjoy in their rooms.

Thank you to all our members for your increased involvement in our club! Many hands make light work! Keep in mind our annual plant sale is scheduled for May 6th at the Visitor Center as you start seeds (maybe start a few extra? Wait, what? An excuse to buy more seeds!) or your spring clean-up.



Our programs for this period were:

- Nov - Mason bees by Teri Johnson (with a member winning mason bee cocoons and a bee house!)
- Jan - Local birds and their importance in our backyards and how to care for them by Kecia Cole, the owner of 3 franchises of Wild Birds Unlimited.
- Feb - Fascinating information about bats and the important role they play in keeping our gardens healthy and how to attract them by Dogwood club member Fawn Bauer.



And of course, in Dec. we had our annual holiday gift exchange, potluck and donation to the Eatonville Food Bank (and Carolyn McKelvie apparently can name more Christmas songs than anyone else in attendance, for which she received a prize).

Here at Dragonfly Gardens, I'm looking forward to more light in each day, more eggs each week from my little backyard flock, and plant babies to sing to, however poorly.

May the joy, colors, and sounds of the of the fast approaching springtime put a smile on your face and a spring in your step!

~ Crystal Dorsey

GARDEN THERAPY

For our first Garden Therapy event of 2023 we went to Silver Creek Assisted Living in Puyallup on Thursday, Feb 23. We potted a handful (6-7) Blue Magic Dutch Iris bulbs in individual pots to bring some spring colour and beauty of the outdoors indoors for the residents. SammieJo and Jane arrived early for set up and found 3 lovely ladies waiting for Garden Therapy to begin! They were excited we had come and were looking forward to another visit from the volunteers.

We had 8 residents join us for planting, laughs and great conversation. One resident took her potted bulbs to her apartment and returned with a pathos clipping she had been rooting in a cup of water, wanting to know if we could add some soil in a tiny pot she had. We upgraded her little pot to one of the ones we brought and potted it up nicely. She was so excited and grateful for the help. Come to find out, this resident is a Master Gardener. She took her test in 1999. We told her she should be leading us in Garden Therapy events!

As we were visiting with those who participated, we discovered the gentleman who attended is also a Master Gardener. 2 out of 8 of our participants were master Gardeners - isn't that fantastic?!

Penny Swanson potted up some bulbs for another resident who wasn't feeling quite so perky but really wanted to join us. Penny dropped the pot off with the lady before we left for the day.... Such a thoughtful gesture!

Jane Smith gathered the remaining Dutch Iris bulbs and dropped those off with another resident who desired to plant them in an outdoor planter at Silver Creek. That will make a bright Spring additions for sure.

I'd like to give a shout out to all of the wonderful volunteer garden club members who participated in Garden Therapy this month. It was such a pleasure to meet them and I enjoyed our conversations with them and the residents.



Thank you to Jane Smith, Loise Harris, Penny Swanson and Paulette Quirie from Dogwood; Eddie Fuestion from Root and Bloom and Kathleen Muckian from Country Gardeners. I sure appreciate you all. Please enjoy the photos from Garden Therapy.



Please consider volunteering at our next Garden Therapy event on Thursday, May 25, at Silver Creek Assisted Living located at 17607 91st Ave E, Puyallup.

I look forward to seeing you then!

SammieJo Thirtyacre
Garden Therapy

CLUB PRESIDENT REPORTS

COUNTRY GARDENERS

At our Nov meeting we welcomed new member, Becky Brenner, sponsored by Lorene Jones. We now have 24 members!

In Oct, Chris Birka, Paulette Mears and their committee took Chris' cider press to the Midland Kiddie Korral to help the children make old fashioned cider squeeze. Our next project will be helping the children make Holiday door swags to take home along with a 'goodie bag'.

Our Nov meeting featured Linda Chulker-Scott, Master Gardener, speaking on Native and Non-native plants. Chris Sherrill organized a visit to Emerald City Orchids.

Our Dec meeting will be a field trip to the WW Seymour Conservatory.



Patti Isom

GARDEN HOUR



Our growing project for this year will be Angel Trumpet plants (Brugmansia). Our programs so far have been growing giant pumpkins (Joel Holland), lasagna planting (Sandy Parr and Dorinda Jenkins) and hypertufa pots (Shannon Addison).

We helped the residents of the Puyallup Valley Enhanced Residential Care make pumpkin arrangements.

In Dec. we will have our annual club potluck and will be signing Christmas cards with candy treats to give to the 51 residents.

Julie Wells

HAPPY THYMES

In Oct. we met at a member's home to help in her yard which has been neglected due to health problems. Afterwards we had a potluck lunch and meeting.

In Nov. our main item was to revise our Bylaws and Standing Rules of Order.

Our Dec. meeting was a fun time with games, a gift exchange, awesome food and Christmas caroling. A great way to end the year.



Cathy Pitts.

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 articles 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 jpg format. They can come with the dialogue to show your preferred placement but also send them as separate jpg's. There are times it is impossible to separate the photos from the dialogue.
- 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



NEW FEET WITHIN MY GARDEN GO

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)



New feet within my garden go,
New fingers stir the sod,
A troubadour upon the elm
Betrays the solitude.

New children play upon the green,
New weary sleep below;
And still the pensive spring returns,
And still the punctual snow!

GLOVE & TROWEL

We met at the home of Sally Evans for our Dec. meeting and lunched on some delicious soups (2) and Christmas cookies that everyone brought. Then we all gathered around the dining room table to make gnomes (2 each). We made cone shaped hats out of felt in Christmas colours, glued them on pine cones and added a wooden bead for the nose. They turned out so cute. Everyone brought donations for the women's shelter in Tacoma which included personal care products and baby items.

Our club did not meet in Jan. In Feb. we met at Emily Miller's home and planned what we will make for table decorations for the Mar. District meeting. Bird houses will be given to the judges presiding that day.

Mack from Greenman Microgreens brought many different microgreens to demonstrate how to grow them and provided samples for us to taste. Emily's family provided lunch of crab salad and several desserts. Several of us put some microgreens on our salad to try them out. They were very tasty! Mack also brought several types of microgreens that we could purchase to take home. It was a very informative meeting.

The Mar. meeting was at Fran Cissell's home and she served yummy soup! Rainie brought cupcakes.

We made spring decorations for our tables at home using red and green cabbages as a flower holder (with a plastic cup to hold the water). They were fun to make and turned out really cute!

Sherry Sinclair, Secretary



DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar 28, 2023	District Meeting
Apr 25, 2023	District Board Meeting
May 29, 2023	District Meeting
June 3-4, 2023	Pt Defiance Flower & Garden Festival
Aug 11-14, 2023	Pierce County Fair

Apr 28, 2023 *ECHO articles due
send to GardenGirl8717@gmail.com*

Anne Hartman, Editor
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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 or 253.820.5907

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.