

THE ECHO

Hill and Dale District

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

#208 - Mar 2023 - May 2023



WOW! WOW!

I can't believe that four years have come to an end for me being your District Director. These years have been scary, sad, exciting and rewarding to be a part of. We have been able to come through and out of these four years bigger and stronger. We have many new members - how exciting is that?! They bring such great enthusiasm and ideas. Let's make sure we soak those ideas and enthusiasm up and run with it!

We've come back this last year so strong, still having four great district meetings a year. I so enjoy the meetings, seeing all of you and hearing what your clubs are doing. The programs Kathy and Pattie have worked so hard to bring have been interesting and fun. The flower shows have wowed us. There are the most amazing gardeners, designers and just plain creative members in our district.

I wish to thank all of my amazing committee chairs that stayed on for the extra two years with me. I could not have gotten through this without each and every one of you! I feel we would have felt like we missed out on the fun and benefits had we not stuck it out together.

Thank you to each and every one of you that just plain stepped up to help without being on a committee,. You helped where ever and when ever you saw something that needed to be done. Bottom line.... We have an amazing district full of hard working, helpful members

Kathy Johnson and her board will be taking over the job come June. I know they will do a fabulous job and keep this district strong as they move through the next two years. And I know that you will all continue to support them the same way you have done for me.

Thanks for the memories!

Your grateful and thankful District Director
Rachel Jennings.



DISTRICT MEETING

May 23, 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.

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



Save The Dates

August 10-13

Pierce County Fair

Please join us this year while we

*“Awaken your Senses
To the Magic of Gardening”*

Thursday, Aug 3rd, 9 a.m.

Clean the building and enjoy a potluck lunch together

Monday, Aug 7th, 9 a.m.

Start decorating the building

Tuesday, Aug 8th, 9 a.m.

Finish up

Wednesday, Aug 9th, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Entries accepted

At the May District Meeting please be prepared to sign up for a hostess shift and a kids planting shift.

GARDEN THERAPY

Thursday, May 25th

10 - 11 a.m.

Silver Creek Assisted Living Center
17607 91sst Ave E, Puyallup

COUNTRY GARDENERS

Well, it is beginning to look a little more like spring, with a few sunnier and warmer days coming more frequently. I know we are all looking forward to that since we have so many garden related activities planned for the next few months.

In March, we held our regular meeting after-which, Lisa Libby from Root & Bloom came to share her extensive knowledge of Gourds. She gave us a brief history of the gourd, then told how they are grown, or where they can be purchased, how they are cleaned and the supplies used, then how we can use them in our home decor or designs. Lisa makes it all look so easy, but I don't think this is a craft for the faint of heart, it take patience and labor. Wonder what creation we would "see" in that gourd we picked from our garden?

In March, we also visited Jason's Nursery in Yelm (thanks to our Field Trip coordinator, Chris Sherrill), it was a beautiful almost spring day for the trip. Several of us, some for the first time visit, came away with gorgeous plants for our gardens and even houseplants for inside. They did caution us on not setting things out too soon, since I think we were still expecting freezing temps. We had expected to see a demonstration on planting our baskets, but unfortunately the speaker had taken ill. Hmmm, guess we will just have to make another trip back.

When we had all our monies spent, we drove over to Chris', as she just lives around the corner, for lunch and an afternoon of visiting. She has a beautiful location for just hanging out and since the day was so gorgeous that is what we did. We toured her garden as well and I think I might have seen a "Sasquatch" foot print or two?

March was also our first District meeting of the year, which is always fun to see and visit with other garden club members. This meeting was also the Flower Show, and Country Gardeners were NOT disappointed. We had

several members showing their designs and horticulture, even coming home with awards. Horticulture awards were taken by Karen Silveus --Betty Belcher and Gail Harte--Marva Lee Peterschick award. Debbie Spiller took the Ellen Swenson Award in the design category. Congratulations to ALL who participated and won.

During our April meeting we announced those candidates selected for New Officers taking effect in September. Those individuals are: President--Randie Welcher; Vice President--Margie Knudson; Secretary--Nelvina Heck; and Treasurer--Linda Maida. We will vote on those nominees during our meeting in May. We thank those ladies for stepping up and look forward to where their leadership will take us. Fun times ahead, I know.

During this meeting we also prepared pots for a planting project we are doing for the children at the Midland Kiddie Korral. Chris Birka and Randie Welcher brought empty four inch pots that we wrapped in colorful tissue and they will then be planted during our May meeting. Debbie Spiller and Randie Welcher already have plants donated. Our plans are to take them to the children on May 16, 2023.



Chris Sherrill is already putting plans together for club field trips, as well as the District Bus Trip in June. She is working on a trip for us later this month to the Purple Geranium Nursery and we also confirmed our last meeting in June will be a field trip to Pat Bergford Garden in Olympia and then to Debbie Spillers for food and conversation...a great combination. So in

between now and June, there are so many places we would like to visit and Chris is narrowing down the list...so many places, so little time. Gardeners lament.

That brings us to May, we know for sure that we are taking part in the Metal Magic event on the 20th the District Meeting and Flower Show on the 23rd and Garden Therapy on the 25th.

On Memorial Day weekend, Country Gardeners will have a booth at the Farmhouse Country Market. We did this last year for the first time and it turned out to be a great fundraiser for the club; so, we are striving for even better results this year. No matter, we will have fun just the same. Please come join us at:

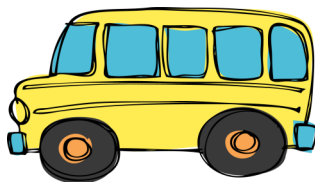
FARMHOUSE COUNTRY MARKET

1417 - 138TH Street South

Tacoma, Washington

May 26-29, 2023---10:00 am to 4:00 pm

LET'S BOARD THE BUS!



June 20th Bus Tour plans so far:

- Board the bus at the Pro Bass shop at 80th & Hosmer, Tacoma. Leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. on June 20th.
- Travel to Olympia to tour the capital ground where Brent Chapman, Operations Manger and a fellow employee will guide us through the rose garden, sunken garden, etc.
- Travel to Brewery Park, Tumwater Falls for a box lunch picnic and awards presentation by Kathy Johnson. Afterwards we will tour the gardens and the historical Schmidt House and its gardens.
- On to Lael's Moon Gardens in Rochester to view the nursery and shop.
- Return to our cars about 5-5:30 p.m.

Harold, who was our driver last year will, will get us safely to our destinations.

Once price has been determined we will begin taking reservations. If you bring a guest they will be charged \$10 more. More info at the May District meeting along with a sign up sheet.

GLOVE & TROWEL

Our March meeting at Fran Cissell's home started out with cutting cabbages for our table design project. Everyone brought fresh flowers and greens for the task. They all turned out so different and it was a fun project.

Six members took home bird houses that Sherry Sinclair's Life Partner made. Everyone would paint and decorate and bring them to the March 28 District meeting. They made great decorations for the judges tables, too. Our club also made the table center pieces for the District meeting with pansies and some colourful spring accents.



Sherry Sinclair brought one of her blooming African violets that was propagated last year as part of our club project for the year.

April's meeting was at Sherry Matthew's home. A new slate of officers for the coming term was presented by Jan Morgan. They are Lind Pempeck, President, Susy Hunt, Vice President, Sherry Sinclair, Secretary, and Raunie Grottole, Treasurer. The slate was approved by unanimous vote. Susy Hunt gave a program on ?/Birds, Butterflies & Bats in My Yard. We planned to sit in her yard and witness some of the activity but it was too cold. Some time this summer we will visit her yard.

The By-Laws were reviewed changing our meetings to begin July 11– June 30 with no meetings held in Jan, or Feb.

Our May meeting will begin at Jan Morgan's home where we will have a brief meeting, and lunch and then off to Lakewold Gardens for a tour.

Four to six of our members will attend the convention in June.

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB



Spring greetings fellow plant lovers! Here's the news from Dogwood since February. The March meeting was held at DeGeode Bulb Farm in Mossyrock, with a program on cleaning and sharpening our tools presented by Marsha Manley of the Mossyrock Garden Club. The April meeting at the Kjelstad-Burwash Farm which hosts the GRITS – “Growing Relationships In The Soil” – program associated with the Eatonville School District, with director Tod Morrish speaking about their program.

Nancy Schank shared a Western Red Cedar, Thuja Plicata, “Forever Goldy”. These are slow growers and like sun/partial shade, height 12-15 ft., 4ft wide, and gold color all year round, and donated it as a raffle prize to the club.

Garden Therapy took place on February 23rd at the Silver Creek Facility with several members present to work with 11 residents planting bulbs for their rooms.

The way each of Eatonville's elementary schools is planning to use our donations:

Columbia Crest is purchasing heirloom seeds.

Eatonville Elementary is planning on using the money to support a 1st grade science experience in their greenhouse.

Weyerhaeuser Elementary is planning on doing a greenhouse activity this spring or they may have students do some plantings at the front of the school.

The Dogwood Park committee held a very successful spring clean-up on Saturday March 25th from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm with many members including several husbands helping! The committee applied for and won a \$1,000 grant from the WSFGC (Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs) for upgrading the plants at the park. Dogwood Garden Club contributed \$200 toward the same.



Our plant sale is Saturday May 6th, please come out and support our club with donations in exchange for plant babies, books, and garden art!



Here at Dragonfly Gardens, our seedlings are coming along nicely, we've almost completed the preparation of the beds for planting, and we're looking forward to getting them in the ground next month. We've also welcomed the first batch of goslings – there's usually 3-4 pair of geese that hatch out their babies around our pond. Happy spring!

~ Crystal Dorsey

ROOT & BLOOM GARDEN CLUB

Our member, Linda Bones, created this beautiful dress for the Northwest Flower and Garden Show.

After having to cancel the February meeting due to broken pipes we were glad to meet again and to welcome Lance Smith from Featherhaven , a “compassionate care, rehabilitation and release” center in Enumclaw. Lance created a Power Point presentation just for us and was a delightful speaker, especially when he started imitating various local birds.

Our yearbook lists opportunities to enjoy every month and in February several members carpoiled to the NW Flower & Garden Show. Also we were pleased to have Eddie Joe Fueston as Root & Bloom’s Garden Therapy representative at Silver Creek Retirement and Assisted Living center.

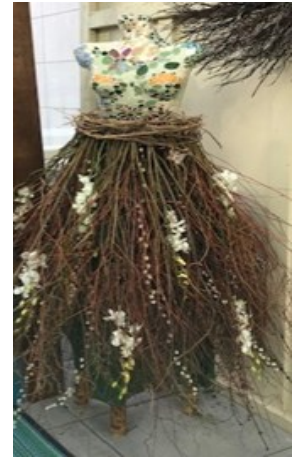
In May we took a field trip to Orting’s MicroGreen Greenhouse. This is a unique urban agriculture operation which uses a hoop greenhouse. The company caters to the restaurant trade but also sells to the public. Its website lists everything available for purchase and that includes pint containers of edible flowers.



The Tacoma Tree Foundation has had a lot of giveaway events this spring and in addition to scoring for her own yard, Karla Stover was able to get some trees for the Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club to help fill in where the picnic area had been damaged.

Tamara Larson and Lisa Libby also donated trees and on a windy, cold day a group of members celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting--dare I say ‘party’--- followed by non-alcoholic libations at IHOPS. This spring has been tough on gardeners but the Bloomers persevere.

Karla Stover, secretary



SAVE THE DATES!

We are excited to be able to work with our local Girl Scout Troops. We are planning on attending two different events and work with the girls on garden related projects.

Please sign up to help at our May District Meeting

Tuesday, July 25th at Camp Curran near 128th & Canyon Rd
Sunday, October 22nd at the Floral Building, Frontier Park



Girl Scouts®

MicroGreen Greenhouse Tour with Mack McLaughlin

At our April meeting, Root & Bloom Garden Club had the pleasure of touring the MicroGreen growing operation in Orting Valley. The owner has created a lucrative business of growing and selling his “produce” to the finer restaurants in mainly the greater Seattle area. I found his venue by talking to the Farm12 Restaurant in Sumner/Orting as they are one of his very pleased customers. It is quite a special niche to have your plate garnished, salad enhanced and your food seasoned with the tender young plants.

Mack starts his process in his original 10x12 greenhouse where he prepares the trays (the plastic containers that the pastries are sold - cut in half) and fills them with dirt. He then lays a generous amount of seed on top and waters the plants with a solution of food-based hydrogen peroxide diluted with water. No extra dirt is added. Just seeds on top of dirt.



Next, he moves the trays into the larger greenhouse where he sets commercial baking sheets covered in seed trays aside for germination. After just 3 days' time, the sprouts had made tremendous progress and were almost ready to come into the light for further growing. Mack set up a watering and heating system that is not hard on the pocketbook as to not offset his profit margin and overall cost to his customers. He freely shared information about his seed supplier, resources for learning about microgreens and other valuable knowledge that he has learned along the way.



Once we entered the larger growing operation, Mack invited Jeanine Faulker to pick some blossoms off a cabbage plant for us to taste. Tamara Larson enjoyed the taste along with most of the Root & Bloomers in attendance. I am not a fan of any vegetables in my diet and I even found the taste to be pleasant.

From here Mack shared tastes of many of his micro-greens to include fennel, beet greens, onion, arugula, chick peas, borage, nasturtium, fennel, mizuna mustard and more. Root & Bloom members Linda Rexrode, Kathy Johnson, Cindy Swanberg, Patty Powers and Penny Swanson from Dogwood Garden Club enjoyed the feast.



We were amazed at how quickly Mack turns his seeds into profit. He and a partner plant on Saturdays and by Thursday or Friday of the next week, they are delivering their orders to restaurants and other customers. The plants are delivered still growing in their container so that all of the color, texture, and flavor of just picked produce are in prime condition to add to recipes and plates.

All of his produce is grown to order with a few extra's for the master chef to sample... that's called marketing at its best. Some of his offerings are seasonal but most "staples" are grown year round.

His edible flowers are also delicious. He sells fuchsia, wisteria, columbine, mini carnations, fruit blossoms and buttons (mum family) and more. The colorful edible flowers add an exotic flair to the plate. At the end of our tour, we were able to purchase sample-sized trays of produce to take home. Rosie Trujillo was just ecstatic to take some home to serve to her husband.



Mack also sells growing kits on his website. As we share the joy of gardening, this is a nice treat to try out. This fieldtrip was enjoyed by our members. Here is his information for everyone.:

Greenman Microgreens
Mack McLaughlin
www.greenmanmicrogreens.com
(253) 444-8470
Book your trip!
~Lisa Libby, President



LOST! Missing card table. Black frame with teal coloured vinyl top. Please call Chris Sherrill at 253.820.5907 if you know where it is.

DISTRICT CLUB PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

ASTER NOTS--FRANCINE MINOR

February 22, 2023: Field trip to Sunny Crest for a program on houseplants and soil.

March 28, 2023: Clerking for the District Flower Show

April 11, 2023: Potluck to be held at Nancy Lindley's to plan book for next year.

COUNTRY GARDENERS--PATTI ISOM

December, 2022: Country Gardeners went to Kiddie Korral and helped the children make Christmas swags to take home. The children were also given little goodie bags to take home. We also took a field trip to Seymour Conservatory to enjoy the Poinsettia display

FEBRUARY, 2023: Debbie Spiller held a class on decorating wreaths for Valentines, St Patrick's or Spring whichever we chose.

MARCH 22, 2023: Lisa Libby joined us and shared her knowledge of gourds, from growing to designs. Field trip to Jason's Nursery in Yelm, then on to Chris Sherrill's for a light lunch and a tour of her garden. We also Welcomed Debbie Malone as our newest member

APRIL, 2023: Plans are being made for a planting project for the children at the Kiddie Korral in May.

DOGWOOD--KATHY METTLER

Dogwood members are now meeting at the Ohop Grange, great step for us as we have grown too large to meet at member homes. Membership is now at 36. Speaker topics have been: Birds, Mason Bees, Bats and caring for our tools. Field trip to DeGoedes in Mossyrock in February. In April, we will have a trip to a local farm that has become part of the agriculture program for the Eatonville School District kids. We contribute financially to this youth program.

Two members have accepted positions for District offices, Sammie Jo Thirtyacre for Secretary and Lisa Libby as 1st Assistant. Dogwood Thanks them.

GARDEN HOUR—JULIE WELLS

Since November, we have had a program about Hypertafa Pots with Shannon Addison and prepared cards and candy to give to the PVERC at our annual Christmas get together. A programs by Kathy Mettler on Bonsais and a Master Gardener program on Organic Pest Control were presented. We are growing Trumpet flowers from starts and are in the process of thinking about who will receive monies from our club for donations. We are also planning a Silent Auction in the spring. Starting in May, we received a \$300 grant from Tacoma for planting, approximately 5 flower pots for the Milton Senior Center. We are currently working on upgrading our Garden Hour Gazette with more participation from our members. Sherry Meyers is our publisher. We are having a "pot and planting" event on April 20, 2023, at Mike's Garden Center.

GLOVE AND TROWEL--LINDA PEMPECK

We meet in member homes and in December we met at Sally Evans' home for a soup lunch and making Santa gnomes out of pinecones. Sally had a tree covered in ornaments she has collected over her lifetime. We had to guess how many were on the tree...just over 400. It was beautiful. We also brought items for the YMCA Women's shelter.

No January meeting. Judy Strickland shared her knowledge about preservation of plant material for flower shows, as well.

February 2023: we met at Emily Miller's new home. She now has lots of room for us and her niece and cousin fixed a wonderful lunch for us. Our program was on Micro Greens by Mack Greenman from Orting with lots of samples for tasting. We learned how to grow them, eat them and how and where they market them.

March 2023: Our meeting was designing in cabbages with fresh flowers. We were all unsure about doing a design in a \$4-5 cabbage but loved them when we were done. Some folks even salvaged cabbage for slaw later. We met in Fran Cissell's car showroom with restored cars in prime condition to admire. We have been busy making the centerpieces and judges gifts of birdhouses for our March District meeting. We are also celebrating Emily Miller's 91st birthday and her 42 years of gardening.

April, 2023 Our meeting program is going to be Suzy Hunt giving us information on attracting birds with attractive plants.

INTERLAAKEN-JUDY SWORTZ

Interlaaken has been very busy. After our Christmas party in December we did not meet in January. In February we visited the WW Seymour Conservatory at Wright's Park to get a little green while we survive the winter.

In late February several of us attended the History of Gardening workshop sponsored by the Dupont Historical Museum. We enjoyed an English tea while wearing vintage clothing, hats and jewelry. We enjoyed Sue Goetz' presentation about the history of gardening and the types of gardens popular during different eras. She also discussed the concept of 'what is organic'. There was a Q&A afterward. Educating ourselves in many ways is what we are all about.

This past month we have worked with the City of Lakewood regarding the relocation of the 60th Anniversary Blue Star marker installed 15 years ago. It will be placed in the new parking lot of Lakewood Gardens at Veterans Drive and Gravelly Lake Drive in Lakewood. That means that at the beginning of Veterans Drive and at the end of Veterans Drive leading into the VA Hospital at American lake there will be Blue Star Memorial Markers. We applied for a WSFGC grant for a Blue Star Marker Landscape effort but have not heard anything yet.

We met at the Horace Tyler Masonic Hall in University Place in March. We had a small flower show clerks class at the end of the meeting with Aster Nots members joining us. We discussed the flower show including horticulture, design, education and botanical arts. Many of us went to lunch afterwards just to visit. We will have a joint meeting with Aster Nots in April. In May we are visiting an orchid greenhouse and are looking forward to both events.

We have not lost our enthusiasm for garden club although many of us are at number 11 of a 12 inch ruler.

ROOT AND BLOOM-LISA LIBBY

At the January meeting we had 30 members present and a few guests who later joined our club. We have increased our number of hostesses to accommodate our growing club.

4H Super Saturday was January 28th with two classes; Jeanine Faulkner lead an activity of bugs and Karla Stover's group made terrariums. Cindy Swanberg, Sue Thompson, Sharleen Lott and Jann Walston volunteered to help.

Several members enjoyed a day at the NW Flower and Garden show in Seattle.

We have dual growing projects going on for 2022-2023. We are continuing our dahlias from see adventure. We originally didn't expect blooms in the first year of growing but had a nice surprise. Now they have wintered over and we will see what returns.

For 2023-2024 we started Green Rose Plants from seed. The growing instructions don't project a large return on the investment but hey, we are Root n' Bloomers, why not try?!

Our January speaker was Art Chmura who is Hall of Famer in the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers. He took the mystery out of dahlias and the ins and outs of classification and entering them in the Puyallup Fair or other dahlia shows.

Judy Strickland shared her knowledge about preservation of plant material for flower shows, as well. Kathy Johnson discussed kitchen waste in the garden for our conservation topic. She talked about coffee grounds, egg shells and banana peels among other things.

Our February meeting was a day that was just not meant for meeting. First, the Master Gardener speaker had to cancel, so a friend from Dogwood, Fawn Bauer was to come to speak about bats. Then, the night before meeting the Tacoma Sportsmen's Clubhouse had a water pipe burst and other issues arose, so all plans were then canceled. That doesn't stop the progress for us though, and we will invite Fawn to come back in May.

Eddie Joe attended Garden Therapy on February 23, and had a blast.

Kathy Johnson and Cindy Swanberg reconnected with the Pierce County Library. We are planning to plant a pollinator garden in a small space at the library on Meridian in Puyallup, South Hill.

National Garden Club Flower Show School in early March attracted some members partaking in the educational journey. Several members, along with Kathleen Muckian from Country Gardeners, managed the kitchen and served an outstanding lunch each day for the event. Judy Strickland and others give big kudos to the team.

Dorrie Carr visited our March meeting and it was quite pleasant to visit with her and hear about her state duties and gardening adventures.

Lance Smith from Featherhaven shared his amazing knowledge of Spring Backyard Habitats and the Basics for Native Songbird needs. We especially loved how he could mimic many of the bird's songs.

Root & Bloom volunteered to paint approximately 300 rocks for the Pierce County Fair project. Some have already been gathered, cleaned and/or painted some to start. There will be some work parties to paint them together.

Trees were donated for planting at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club to commemorate Arbor Day. On April 18th, we will carry our shovels and plant them with great pride.

On April 21st and 22nd we are hosting our annual plant and yard sale in my backyard. We get a good amount of traffic with the opening day of fishing season activities at Mineral Lake. Come see us.

We are watching for FFA Sales at Schools and sharing our knowledge on Facebook (Root & Bloom Garden Club Tacoma). It's a great way to communicate with our gardening friends.

We have gained three new members: Linda Rexrode, Sherre Grainger and Largo Wales.

Anne Hartman, Editor
8717 210th St E
Graham, WA 98338



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.*