

THE ECHO

Hill & Dale District

A member of National
Garden Clubs and WA State
Federation of Garden Clubs

#210 Sept - Oct 2023



Hello Gardeners,

As the daylight hours decrease and the sun sets lower in the sky the quality of our gardening light is reduced. October days were marked by falling leaves; November days are marked by precipitation and is often the wettest month of the year. But...there's still a bit of good gardening to do. One more time clearing fallen leaves, a few bulbs left to plant, perhaps even another mowing of the lawn.

September found us heading down the path for our first district meeting and NGC Flower Show this term. Tammy from Earthworks Nursery was our morning speaker about Fuchsias and you all received a small start to take home and grow into a lovely hardy fuchsia to plant outside and enjoy. I hope your plants are doing well and still alive. Mine is and that's exciting.

In the afternoon Hill & Dalers presented our program on Botanical Arts and the different ways of entering horticulture and design within that division. We all enjoyed the NGC Flower Show that Country Gardeners sponsored for the district. Thanks for a good show and all your time and effort that went into it!

"Along the Garden Path" club auction of garden items will take place at our November 28th District Meeting. This is a club fundraiser so don't forget your cash or checkbooks. We would like to collect \$68.00 in donations at this meeting to support the Penny Pines Program which goes with our Flower Show Theme of "Green Trees and Falling Leaves". Please also bring a canned good item to support NGC Plant America, Feed America and our local food banks.



If you can leave the leaf debris in your garden beds do so to protect the pollinators and other beneficial insects. Winterize patio containers and baskets and continue to plant spring blooming bulbs until the ground freezes. Our garden activities will slow down and come to a rest for the duration of winter depending on our weather conditions.

Let the Gardening Begin!
Kathy Johnson, District Director

PENNY PINES

Saving Forests \$68 At A Time



National Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service are proud to have formed a partnership sustaining our national and urban forest through this reforestation/forest education program. We can participate in a meaningful and practical conservation project by contributing to a Penny Pines plantation as part of the costs of replanting replacement trees indigenous to a particular damaged area. Whether by fire or by other natural catastrophe, pine trees and other trees are replaced. You may designate a specific state/ forest/ or a person you wish to benefit from this contribution.

The forest service will do the planting, using your donation together with federal funds, and will provide the plantation with the same protection from fires, insects, and disease given other forested areas. The plantations are a part of the regular national forest reforestation program planted on burned-over and brush-covered areas which are potentially productive timberlands. Planting sites are selected by the supervisor of each national forest. These plantations provide soil protection, watershed protection, soil stabilization, future harvestable timber, as well as beauty and shade for recreation.

There are currently about 130,000 acres of Forest Service land in Washington State that need to be restored after recent fires. The cost of seed and seedlings for that work over the next 3-5 years will be at least \$100,000. Washington and Oregon are grouped together to make region 6, and you can see your donations at work by visiting forest service tree nurseries and seed collection facilities. You would be welcome to arrange a visit to a Forest Service nursery located in Coeur d'Alene, ID. or Central Point, OR. The Washington Department of Natural Resources grows some Western Red Cedar for reforestation in the Olympic National Forest at a large nursery in Olympia. Seeds are extracted from the cones at a Forest Service facility in Bend, OR and a facility near Cottage Grove, OR is an important part of the reforestation program for some tree species.



COUNTRY GARDENERS

Here we are just weeks away from Halloween and only few weeks since our first meeting in Sept. Where is our time going!! We had our first meeting on Sept 11, 2023 under the guidance of Randie Welcher as our New President. It was a great showing, having 21 or our 24 members in attendance and welcoming our newest member Brenda Bloomfield. Total now 25.

Country Gardeners hit the ground running when it was decided that our club would be involved in hosting the Flower Show for the first District Meeting of the year 2023-2024. Linda Maida, as Chairman, gathered a committee together to design the schedule... "Be a Kid Again". It was a very busy few weeks, but everyone stepped up and played a roll in making the show a success; from designing schedule, setup and decorating, clerking, placement and of course tearing everything down. OH NO! did I forget to mention all the entries... Horticulture, Design, Botanical Arts and Photos. Yet again Country Gardeners showed what gardening is all about by submitting entries in most, if not all, of the categories, winning several awards and blue ribbons.

We are now back on track with our regular meetings and programs. At our Oct meeting, we were pleased to Welcome Mack McLaughlin, from Greenman Microgreens. Several members had an opportunity to hear him speak at other meetings and to visit his growing operation. He and his wife Mary, were very interesting, sharing their knowledge and tips on growing microgreens...did you know that cantaloupe can be a micro green?? They shared with us many samples that members were able to try and purchase. If you have the chance check out the ECHO issue #208, Mar-May for a great in-depth article on his growing operation written by Lisa Libby. Or visit Farm12 in Puyallup, where you can try his "produce" first hand.



During our next meeting in Nov we will be planning and assembling supplies for the holiday project we will do with the children of Midland Daycare for the holidays. Our current plan is to assemble swags for the children to adorn with ornaments and ribbons as they choose; all of this to be done in early Dec. We will also make up goody bags to distribute to the children just before Christmas. Also during our Nov meeting we will be working on our donation for the auction to be held during the Nov 28th district meeting. We have several suggestions and which one we choose will be a surprise and will be fun putting it all together.

We will end our year by having our annual club potluck at member Chris Birka's home in Dec. This is also the time we will put the goody bags together for the children. We had quite the assembly line setup last year. We are looking forward to all the fun, and maybe a game or two, again this year. Chris is always the gracious hostess.

In closing, several years ago, actually 23 to be exact, while I was working an email crossed my desk. It was sharing 5 Great Lessons – Some Important Lessons Life Teaches You. Not usually accustomed to sharing this kind of email, I thought them important and shared with my co-worker, never expecting to see this again. This is one of the lessons I would like to share with you all.

Country Gardeners cont...

.....A Nurses story: During my second month of nursing school, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely, this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last questions blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would be counted toward our grade? "Absolutely," replied the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello". I've never forgotten that lesson....I also learned her name was Dorothy.....

I've tried to remember this lesson and am forever grateful to my co-worker for the friendship she has given me all these years...her name, Chris Sherrill. Thank You for saving this email all these years and for sharing Country Gardeners with me. Some people cross our paths and change our whole direction.

Kathleen Muckian

GLOVE & TROWEL

The Sept meeting began at Emily Miller's home. It was reported that seven members participated in the Pierce County Fair and three won top awards for their entries. Two members will give a talk each month using the Great Plant Pics.org poster(s) as a resource. It was announced that Suzy Hunt is the new Backyard Wildlife Project coordinator. All members will be collecting plastics described on the Hill & Dale website as a district project. Our club supplied baked goods to the sale table at the district meeting and sold them all! We had a seed saving program given by our president, Linda Pempeck with quizzes and handouts for success.

Our Oct meeting began at the Hume Seed Company parking lot where we met Ed Hume for a tour of the gardens and a fun question and answer time with Ed. He is a very informative speaker. We wrapped up the meeting with a group photo.

We continued our meeting at Fran Cissell's home with Fran's famous corn chowder for lunch. The afternoon was planting of rose hips in bananas as seen on YouTube. Everyone took their project home to bring back next meeting to report the results. Will we have some new rose starts? We'll see! We've also added 5 new members.



Two members will be helping the Girl Scouts on Oct 26. We discussed changing our bylaws to increase the number of members allowed. A vote will be held in Nov. As of Dec 5 our meeting location will change to the Southeast Tacoma Community Center at 1614 99th St E, Tacoma. The Nov meeting will be at Sherry Matthew's home with a tour of Julia Graham's yard after lunch.

Sherry Sinclair, Secretary

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

	Horticulture	Design	Botanical Arts	Total
ASTER NOTS	1.33	2.33	0	3.66
COUNTRY GARDENERS	6.25	2.37	2.62	8.62
DOGWOOD	1.51	.03	0	1.54
GARDEN HOUR	3.28	.28	0	3.56
GLOVE & TROWEL	4.88	.50	.33	9.27
HAPPY THYMES	0	0	0	0
INTERLAAKEN	0	.12	.18	30
ROOT & BLOOM	6.48	.84	.25	7.57

Award of Merits: (4 awarded) 2 for Jan Walston, 1 for Sue Thompson, Root & Bloom and
1 for Roxy Giddings, Country Gardeners

NGC Arboreal Award: Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom

NGC Grower's Choice Award: Kathleen Muckian, Country Gardeners

Ellen Swenson Best Design & Carolyn Erickson All Fresh:

Debbie Spiller, Country Gardeners

Hill & Dale Harvest Award: Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom

Ellen Swenson Flower Arrangement Award, Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Design Award, NGC Award of Design Excellence, NGC Designers Choice Award:

Debbie Spillier, Country Gardeners

Judith Juno Petite Design Award: Sherry Matthews, Glove & Trowel

Carol Klingberg Educational Award: Linda Maida, Country Gardeners

Terry Critchlow Photograph Award: Randie Welcher, Country Gardeners

Carol Klingberg Educational Award: Madeline West, Aster Nots

Joanne Goldman Artistic Craft Award: Keith Ripley, Country Gardeners

See pages 6 & 7 for pictures of the winners





Cindy Swanberg
Root & Bloom



Randie Welcher
Country Gardeners



Roxie Giddings
Country Gardeners



Cindy Swanberg
Root & Bloom



Kathleen Muckian
Country Gardeners



Linda Maida
Country Gardeners



Keith Ripley
Country Gardeners



Cindy Swanberg
Root & Bloom



Debbie Spiller
Country Gardeners



Sue Thompson
Root & Blooms



Sherry Matthews
Glove & Trowel

GARDEN HOUR HAPPENINGS

We had a welcome back meeting in September with some bagged gifts and an introduction program about seed sharing. President, Julie Wells, brought several small manila envelopes to share with the whole club for collecting seeds during the time when we clean up our gardens for fall. Then two of our members taught us how to enter flower shows and fill out our floral cards and about the different programs offered.

We were also pleased to welcome three new members at our September meeting - Sandra Sadig, Karlie Chetuik and Jill Lewis.

Our October meeting was a continuation of our horticulture sharing and a report on our trumpet growing plant project. We also had a presentation by 3 of our members on how to decorate medium size pumpkins with succulents.

On October 23rd we travelled to the Puyallup Enhanced Residential Care center to help the residents decorate small pumpkins with flowers and greens for their rooms and office area. Following the pumpkin decorating we shared cookies and pictures were taken. We left with smiles and joy amongst us all!



Julie Wells

Just for Fun

I	K	T	B	M	K	M	Q	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	M	U	E
F	F	P	T	D	V	R	L	L	Z	G	D	F	W	Z	G	V	G
S	U	R	E	I	H	E	L	J	Y	T	H	F	K	P	M	T	R
Q	L	N	E	N	L	K	I	N	X	S	W	H	E	T	C	O	E
R	M	P	D	E	N	Q	L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	L	E
B	Y	R	M	R	Z	Y	K	Z	Y	Z	G	K	T	D	Q	E	N
A	U	U	B	F	A	I	P	L	A	N	T	I	N	G	Z	A	S
L	B	N	B	F	R	I	N	I	Y	M	U	L	C	H	C	V	K
Y	Z	I	M	X	U	O	S	G	N	Q	H	A	S	Q	N	E	J
N	K	N	T	O	O	L	S	E	Z	E	A	C	L	X	I	S	U
D	S	G	C	E	E	N	F	T	R	G	S	L	G	X	P	T	G
F	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S	G	Z	F	B	U	L	B	S	D

Find the following words in the puzzle:

bulbs
freezing
frost
fundraiser
greens
planting
pumpkins

harvest
landscape
leaves
mulch
pennypines
pruning
tools

ROOT & BLOOM

Our club has increased from 27 members in early 2022 to 41 members today! It has grown like plants propagate through friends inviting friends and creating more relationships through our many activities. To help pull us all together and have a handy guide to upcoming meetings and member information, Lisa Libby made a beautiful new Yearbook for Root and Bloom. On the cover is a design done by our own Jeanine Faulkner. The book includes monthly meetings and activities and much more.

Our August meeting was held at the Old Goat Farm in Orting. Although it was a smoky day, it was an educational and beautiful outing with the owner, Greg Graves, giving us a tour.



Our last Growing Project has culminated after two years. Led by Rachel Jennings and using her bathroom as a greenhouse, she started dahlias from seed. Members got to grow dahlias and were surprised and delighted by all the different colors!

Our next Growing Project is led by Mary McBride and it is two different shade lilies, *Erythronium Revolutum* "White Beauty" and *Erythronium Californicum* "Pagoda". Both are native to the Pacific Northwest. We will be taking photo evidence of our growing projects and documenting their progress.

Jann Walston won an award at the Puyallup Fair in the Creative Design Division but she went even further by using all recycled material for her scarecrow.

From pool noodles to plastics to reused stuffed animals, her scarecrow is completely constructed from all used material. She had great help from her granddaughter which made it twice as much fun!

Our club members were very impressed and strongly encouraged Jann to enter her "friend" in the Recycled Art Award category.



Root & Bloom, cont....

At our last meeting we were introduced to Big Leaf Maple Syrup making and how it is done. Jeff Power, son of member Pat Power and brother of Kim Munson, showed us the time-consuming process. It takes a lot of attention to detail to produce maple syrup that is delicious and very valuable due to its limited quantity. Big Leaf Maples Syrup has a niche market for ingredients such as cocktail drinks and other flavorings. Thank you Jeff, for this interesting look at how trees provide for us!



On Oct 17, Root and Bloom Garden Club completed the planting of the new Pollinator Garden at the South Hill branch of the Pierce County Library. This project started before the pandemic and involved writing proposals, agreements and grants. Research was conducted learning about native pollinator plants, culminating plans for educational opportunities and creating detailed landscaping plans. Finally, in late fall 2023 we added compost and mulch and planted almost 100 mostly native plants with the help of more than a dozen volunteers. Cindy Swanberg, Kathy Johnson and Sheree Granger were instrumental in getting this beautification project off the ground. Adding beauty and educational opportunities to our communities meets our club goals and is beneficial to all involved.



Before



After



Cascade Water Alliance offers a garden hotline where you can have your landscape and gardening questions answered for free by gardening experts. Visit cascadewater.org to learn more.

Garden Hotline ~ Monday to Saturday ~ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ~ 206.633.0224

DOGWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Hello fellow gardeners! Our sunny, warm days are mostly over and as we transition to fall it is time for Dogwood to meet again. We are looking forward to meetings, programs, field trips and catching up with friends.

Our Sept meeting was a final hurrah to summer. Kathy Mettler hosted the meeting on a beautiful day outside in her garden. After a business meeting and lunch, Diane Mettler presented a program on flower arranging. Diane provided instruction and tips using flowers from her garden and Kathy's garden. She wowed us by showing everyone how to use a hydrangea blossom as a frog for flower arranging. It was a lovely day to be outside and nice to see everyone after our summer break.



The Oct meeting was at Shining Star Christmas Tree Farm, located on Meridian, just outside Eatonville. Hugh and Rhana Messer, the owners of Shining Star, graciously provided their remodeled barn for our meeting venue. It was a beautiful meeting setting. We learned taking care of Christmas trees and getting them ready for the u-cut tree season involves a lot of work. After the presentation we enjoyed sack lunches and then had an opportunity to take a walk around the tree farm to look at the Douglas, Noble, Fraser, Nordmann and Grand fir trees. We took a sneak peek at the holiday gift shop, and Shining Star shared their special holiday plans which start on Nov 2nd.



We are looking forward to our Nov meeting, a field trip to Farm 12 in Puyallup. In Dec we will celebrate the holidays at the Ohop Grange with our annual Christmas luncheon.



Tired of throwing plastic in the garbage? Hill & Dale District is collecting plastic with the goal of earning a Trex Bench. Save those bread bags, baggies (as long as they have been washed out and did not contain meat), plastic film from paper towels and toilet paper, bubble wrap, shipping envelopes, etc. Have your club president bring the plastic to the district board meetings.

If you have questions please contact Rachel Jennings at 253.906.5981.



plastic film recycling challenge/info sheet



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

How does the challenge work?

- Register on NexTrex.com to obtain access to the Trex Portal
- Determine a six-month collection time period.
- Collect a minimum of 500 lbs. or 40,500 plastic film and bags
- Weigh and record amount of film recycled each month
- Deliver the collected plastic film to a participating retailer (see list) for recycling
 - Stores prefer smaller and more frequent amounts in the provided bin.*
 - Please contact store ahead of time with larger amounts.*
- Report recycling totals at my.trex.com

What does Trex provide?

- Up to three recycling bins
- Posters

What can I win?

- If goal is met or exceeded, group will receive a Trex bench

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Paper wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

register on the website: NexTrex.com

FALL GARDENING TIPS

- Finish weeding and mulching to protect the soil from compaction
- Clean up any fruit that fallen on the ground to prevent disease and pest issues.
- Pull dead vegetable plants and put them in the compost
- Rake up leaves that have fallen on the lawn and pathways
- Mulching your garden beds helps to keep earthworms warm so they can continue to break down organic matter in the upper soil layers. Any fall leaves can also be mulched by a lawn mower and spread throughout the garden beds to replenish nutrients
- Leaves can be left in the garden beds to decompose and provide nutrients that will keep the soil healthy. It will also provide a habitat for beneficial insects
- Protect sensitive perennials from the winter frost by adding a layer of mulch around the plant. You can mulch with leaves, bark and even straw
- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens such as azaleas and hydrangeas for propagating
- Depending on how cold the winter will be, you may want to dig up your tubers after the foliage has died back and store them in a dry place over the winter. If you decide to keep the tubers in the ground, add a layer of mulch over the are to protect them from a hard freeze
- Transplant geraniums from outside containers to smaller pots and overwinter them inside

GARDEN THERAPY

On Thurs, Oct 26, 2023, we held our Garden Therapy event at Silver Creek Assisted Living facility in Puyallup. We decorated flower vases with tissue paper and a glue concoction so they looked like stained glass. We added fall colored flowers and the residents were able to take their creations to their living space to enjoy.

Due to a new activities director not knowing we were coming there was no publicity about our event. However, being resilient and resourceful, we prevailed! Paulette Quirie went downstairs to meet and greet residents and bring them up to the activities room to participate.



One lovely resident, Cleora, who always participates in our events was confined to her apartment so we decorated a vase, filled it with flowers and delivered it to her apartment for her to enjoy. It was decided by the Garden Club members in attendance that we will bring the craft supplies back again in February, along with another craft option, with hopes of better attendance.

I wish to extend my heart-felt gratitude to Jane Smith, Paulette Quirie and her husband Ken, Dogwood, Kathleen Muchian and Randie

Welcher, Country Gardeners, Lynne Burke and Eddie Joe Fueston, Root & Bloom and Raunie Grottolo, Glove and Trowel. Without the helpful hands and giving hearts of our amazing club members, we could not host successful Garden Therapy events. I appreciate each and every one of you

Thank You!

SammieJo Thirtyacre





SAVE THE DATE!

Hill & Dale District will be having
a plant sale on:

Sat. April 27, 2024 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

United Methodist Church

1919 West Pioneer, Puyallup

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.

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

CONCRETE LEAF RECIPE

Tools Needed:

- Bag of concrete (60#) usually under \$5
- Wheelbarrow
- Water
- Hoe/Shovel
- Mound of dirt
- Plastic garbage bag
- Gloves
- Rhubarb leaf
- Something to scoop concrete like an empty plastic gallon flowerpot
- Makes about 6 leaves
- Cut leaf from plant an hour before making the mold so it can wilt a bit

Instructions:

- Empty concrete into the wheelbarrow
- Add and mix water slowly until consistency is like a thick brownie recipe - not runny!
- Scoop concrete in container, dump carefully onto leaf. Pat down into desired shape, about 1" thick in the center.
- Let dry for 24 hours and gently flip over and continue to dry. May pull out the leaf gently.

Enjoy!

Randie Welcher

Botanical Arts chairman



ECHO Editors:

Anne Hartman, Dogwood

Sherry Meyer, Garden Hour

HILL & DALE DISTRICT MEETING

NOV. 28, 2023 - 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

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

Dryer Masonic Center

306 134th St S, Tacoma, WA 98444

We have invited Dana Kelley Bressette, Manager at Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery in Gig Harbor, to discuss **Conifers in our Landscape and Beyond.**

Dana has a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Washington State University and a Master of Science degree in Urban Horticulture from the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture.

She previously worked for the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, at Point Defiance Greenhouses and at the W. W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory. She likes to plant native plants and fruit trees and berry plants on her own property and grows a vegetable garden every year.

Hill & Dale Designers return again for a fabulous presentation on Non-Floral Designs. These designs will bring winter interest into your home using branches, conifers and broadleaf greens but **NOPE, NO FLOWERS.** It is wonderful to enjoy the natural colors of our changing seasons.



BUTTERFLY PUDDLING

To ensure healthy butterflies in my backyard I fill a clay pot saucers with clean river sand and water. Replenish the water as needed. These pictures are from my garden. Susy Hunt



Males often go 'puddling'...a gathering of wet muddy places to get necessary salt for mating, a "salty butter" passed on to females. Dung heaps, carrion or salty people may also be visited; by the fellas for the same reason. Moths haunt these places by night.

Though compound eyes cannot make out detail, they can see "hidden" ultraviolet colors in other b-flies to distinguish sex &/or species in special UV flowers for nectar.

On mornings, cloudy days, or when temp is below 80 degrees basking is essential to warm up flight muscles. Wings are spread open or folded toward the sun to absorb heat.

Long double tubed tongue (proboscis) uncoils to drink the depths of flower nectar, rotten fruit, dung or other X-rated fluids.

A male's search for females from a perch or active patrol is lifelong. Some court with touching or unique fluttering. Mating happens often and can last from 10 minutes to hours and can even occur in tandem. (and it's a short life!).

*From the Painted Ladies Butterflies of North America
By Millie Miller and Cyndi Nelson*

HILL & DALE DATES TO REMEMBER

Board Meetings

Feb 27, 2024

Apr 23, 2024

Sept 5, 2024

Oct 22, 2024

Feb 25, 2025

Apr 22, 2025

District Garden Therapy

Feb 22, 2024

May 23, 2024

Oct 24, 2024

Feb 27, 2025

May 22, 2025

District Plant Sale

Apr 27, 2024

Apr 26, 2025

Flower Show School

Mar 12 - 14, 2024, Course #4

Mar 12 - 14, 2024 Course #4

Hill & Dale Scholarship Due

Feb 10, 2024

Feb 10, 2025

District Meetings

Nov 28, 2023

Mar 26, 2024

May 28, 2024

Sept 24, 2024

Dec 3, 2024

Mar 25, 2025

May 27, 2025

Educational Bus Trip

June 18, 2024

June 24, 2025

Pierce Cty Fair

Aug 8 - 11, 2024

Aug 7 - 10, 2025

Installation Convention

June 2 - 5, 2024

Mini Convention

June 11 - 12, 2024

WSFGC Grants Due

Mar 15, 2024

Mar 15, 2025

WSFGC Awards Due

Dec 1, 2023

Feb 1, 2024

