



Quail's Tales

President's Preface

March, 2008

March—in like a lion, out like a lamb, or so the saying goes. Hopefully the snowy beginning points to a milder finish. And the first day of spring is March 20. I just looked at the calendar to make sure.

Soon a nominating committee member may be calling you. Consider now what position you would like to fill. Answer that phone.

As our membership decreases we need to recruit new members, consider consolidation with another club, or ??? Any thoughts on the matter?

Sign up Thursday for the District I spring meeting "Simply Buzzing into Spring" on Tuesday April 15 at the Club Venetian, 29310 John R (north of 12 Mile) in Madison Heights.

The MGC annual meeting "Walk on the Wild Side" will be held one day, May 19th at the Holiday Inn in Ann Arbor.

See you Thursday.

— Sandy C

March 13 meeting

Tea Thyme with Pat is on the agenda. Patricia Sagert is certified as a tea etiquette consultant by the Protocol School of Washington. She's also been a member of the Herb Society of America for 19 years and has written articles about tea for the Michigan Herb Association. Last year she put in an herb garden at Meadowbrook Greenhouse. A collector of Yixing tea pots, Pat will combine all her areas of expertise in her presentation to us, starting at 7 p.m.

Bring your yearbooks to the meeting. We'll clean up any typos that escaped the eagle eye of Nancy Adams. We've found only one so far.

Minutes of February 14 meeting

We'll review them at the March meeting.

Garden Therapy

Let's Make It Green: Bagging the week of March 31 to April 4; classroom week of April 7 to 11. Committee: Marge Gordon, Nancy Adams.

Coming Up

March 31—deadline to register for the District 1 spring meeting, Simply Buzzing Into Spring. Details elsewhere in the newsletter. Turn your money in this meeting .

April 6—It's Dahlia Day from 2-4:30 at the Taylor Sportsplex, 13335 Telegraph, between Eureka and Northline roads in Taylor. Sponsored by the Michigan Dahlia Association. Event is free.

April 10—State Board meeting in Lansing. District 1 Director Virginia Froehlich will make arrangements for Sandy or any board member who would like to attend and learn more about the workings of the state club.

April 15—File those taxes early and spend the day at the District 1 spring meeting.

April 21 Lathrup Village Dr. David Michener speaking More Garden, Less Lawn 6:30 in the community room of the village Municipal Building. (\$5 donation)

May 8 -10—Flower Show School will be held at the Radisson Detroit-Livonia. Since the club voted to provide a year's subscription to the National Gardener for all members, this is the chance to learn about judging flower shows right near home. And remember Sally Ouellette is getting the horticulture so may need your assistance with bulb blooms and broad leaf evergreen branches.

May 19—MGC state convention in Ann Arbor.

June 13-14—Livonia Garden Club presents "Bookworms," a standard flower show at the Livonia Civic Center Library atrium, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

October 7—District 1 fall meeting.

District 1 spring meeting April 15

Simply Buzzing Into Spring is the theme of the District 1 spring meeting at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile in Madison Heights. Morning session speaker is butterfly maven Brenda Dziedzic, expert in butterflies and their preferred habitat. Afternoon speaker is Toshi Shimoura, Japanese-style flower arranger. Lunch is included, all for \$22. Pay at the March meeting.

Horticulture

Here are the awards we received at Ford Field District 1 flower show "**Tropical Breezes**".

Lisa 8 firsts, 3 seconds and an award of merit in horticulture, not including my first in the branches and honorable mention.

other arboreal awards went to-Sally and Amy and Gretchen

Gretchen 1st in the Buffet table class and Table Artistry Award

Sally - Hm in the pedestal class "Gifts from the Sea" and 2nd in petites "Voodoo"

Marcia- Honorable Mention for table for 2 "Coral Reef" (We must say this was a tough class, they were all good)

Even though Hill and Dale provided 28% of the horticulture entries where were the rest of you Hill and Daler's?

Lisa

Visions of Beauty calendars for 2009

2009 Visions of Beauty calendars will be available for purchase at the District 1 spring meeting. District 1 Director Virginia Froehlich is taking orders for both the pocket size (4" by 6") and the large 5 ½" by 8 ½" size. Prices are based on quantity so call or email her if you're interested. Best guess so far is about \$4 for the small calendars and \$6 for the large. And another reason for Hilland Dale pride, two of our members, Nancy Passfield and Sally Ouellette have designs in the calendar

Critter spotting

It's been a sparse season for spotting this winter. Tracks I spot, with the able assistance of the ace tracker Tootsie, our terrier mix, who feels compelled to stick her nose into each animal, human and tire print that she encounters on our morning constitutionals.

The chipmunks and squirrels have traced paths through the front yard garden and Tootsie believes she must investigate each one. She's pretty darn indiscriminate though. I've seen her relentlessly track herself and me when she encounters our tracks on the way back from our early morning walk.

I've met a lot of neighbors and neighbor dogs since Toots came to live with us. So if domestic critters count, I've spotted a fair number—from pudgy Margie the chihuahua, Oscar the bichon and Porter, whom I've heard, more than seen as this furball comes hurtling off his front porch in a vain attempt to intimidate us with his ceaseless yapping.

Keeping down the bird population is a hawk that regularly perches in a tree in the hedgerow between our house and neighbor Ron's. Ron stationed his Christmas-gift bird feeders near the hedgerow—as all the bird books suggest—so that the birds will have ready access to the shelter of the hedge plants. Maybe the hawk read the book. He sits in that tree, scaring off the birds and turning the squirrels that live in the tree into total twitches—doubly bad moves when a hawk is looking for a snack.

The brave birds that make it to our feeders have developed whiplash from grabbing a seed or suet piece and snapping around to look at the sky. Cloudy days are worse with no shadows to announce a predator above.

The good news is that bird song is becoming a regular part of the early morning walk these days. It's a nice addition to the toot of the early Amtrak train as it pulls out of Pontiac.

--Mar Sclawy © 2008