



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDalegc.org

Hill and Dale is a member of Michigan Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs

October 9, 2008

President's Preface

This is the time to get your gardens ready for the coming winter. It is also the time for dividing your overgrown perennial plants. Plant exchanges are being held in Redford, Novi and at Farmington Hills City Hall.

In November Hill and Dale garden Club will be celebrating 50 years as a federated club. We would like to have a celebration. More to follow.

Green Sale is also planned for this year. Bring your questions and answers to the Board meeting

District 1 Fall meeting "A Harvest Happening" is scheduled for October 7, 2008. We will be carpooling to Crystal Gardens in Southgate 16703 Fort Street (734-285-2210) Between Eureka Rd and Pennsylvania Rd

Peggy Dapkus

October 9 meeting program

Karen Auch will give us some alternatives to a boring landscape in her program "Shrubs beyond Yew" maybe we could ask her what to do with the ones we have that are beyond us

Minutes of September 11 meeting

Heritage Park visitors Center

Heritage park Gardens: The gardens are looking great. Katie thanked Sandy, Jeannine, Kathy, Angela Peggy, Ellie. Chris, David, Shirley, Eleanore, Sally, and Linda for the help in making the gardens look so good. Katie is willing to plan work sessions for days or evenings.

Phone Tree: Eleanore reminded us that Peggy should be called first then Eleanore will call her phone tree. For Remembrance it was decided that a members spouse and children will be remembered with a rose that will be delivered to the funeral home.

Hostess Committee: Ellie Case thanked her committee and explained her beautiful arrangement consisting of flowers from her yard and treasures picked along the roadside.

Junior Gardeners: The children will be making a corn husk doll at the library on October 11th. If you have saved corn husks for this project please bring them to the District 1 meeting. Mushroom cartons will be needed for an upcoming project, so we are all asked to save them.

Library: Lisa Steinkopfis in charge of our clubs books. Some were destroyed due to a flood in Lisa's basement. Sally will talk to Lisa to see what was salvaged and what needs to be replaced or updated.

Our 50th anniversary: Michigan garden clubs is interested in more information concerning our plans. Gretchen and Carol are researching locations for our celebration They have spoken to Glen Oaks but found that they are very expensive. They will continue to work on this.

New Business Gretchen brought in three of her gardening mystery books to share. She suggested they be passed from one member to another until all members have had a chance to read them and then they can be returned to her.

A suggestion was made that the club pay the dues the first year for new members another suggestion was that we spend more money on programs. More about this in the future

Respectfully submitted

Chris Sechler

Coming up

- **November 3 board meeting**—Carol Smith and Sandy Cusack are providing snacks for the meeting.

Recycling opportunities expand

The Recycling Authority for Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, South Lyon, Novi, Walled Lake and Wixom has expanded the items that can be recycled at the curb on trash days. As of October 1, in addition to items currently recycled, residents in those communities can recycle at curbside: ● Pizza Boxes ● All Plastic Bottles ● Ceramics ● Drink Boxes ● Plastic Bags ● Bulky #2 Plastics. For more information on preparing waste for recycling, check out the authority's website: www.RRRASOC.org. Phone is 248.208.2270.

Remembrance

Thinking of you cards were sent to Lou Eaton(for her surgery) and Jean Moran (for her back problem) Eleanore

Garden Therapy October project is Mr. Pumpkin head

Chairperson: Jeanine Gundle Committee: Angela Paul and Peggy Dapkus

Horticulture

Do you know where the largest compost heap in the world is located? Answer next month along with report from the fabulous Biltmore Estate

This 'n' that

☺ District 1 Director Virginia Froehlich passes on the following recycling tidbit: Becki Bayley, chocolatier with Dove Chocolate Discoveries receives deliveries in large styrofoam coolers. She wonders if we might use them for storing temperature sensitive bulbs. Contact Becki at 734.525.8260 or by email at musicaldaisy@yahoo.com.

☺ MGC new sletter is now available online at www.michigangardenclubs.org. If you don't have internet access, bring the matter up at the next meeting. Perhaps we can find volunteers to print and copy the newsletter for Hill and Dale members at club expense.

Critter spotting

At the birthday celebration of an long-time (“old” seems too close to the truth) friend, whose wife is the president of Michigan Nature Association, I met Fred Dye, a trustee of the association, which accepts donations of natural areas and maintains them in their natural state for the benefit of Michigan residents and visitors.

What a great idea. But I've often wondered how trustees of such areas address the endless change that nature imposes on its “undisturbed” property. That led me to quizzing him on managing critters in a nature conservancy. Specifically, his thoughts on dealing with deer. He conceded that he'd been one of the trustees who voted to ban any hunting and trapping on conservancy lands. Yes, the deer could be a problem.

(According to the Free Press and various TV stations, Rochester Hills reported the highest number of deer-car collisions of any city in Oakland County this year to date—and we've just opened bow and arrow deer season, when deer are particularly unobservant of traffic patterns while looking for love—apparently always on the other side of the road.)

Deer are a problem in Fred Dye's own backyard in Rochester Hills.

To keep deer from his kitchen garden, he'd erected a five-foot fence to keep them out. We both had a chuckle over his naiveté in choosing that inadequate solution. So then he and his neighbor built an eight-foot fence. That had done the trick (“Deer just can't clear an eight-foot fence”) and they now harvest bountiful vegetables from their gardens.

But fencing an entire conservancy area seemed far too daunting (not to say pricey) as a deer control method. To say nothing of dealing with the deer that live within the fenced environs. (I've heard of one extremely rich—and anal—conservancy that did fence its property, then tranquilized and sterilized all the deer on the inside. I heard it happened in California, not too surprising.)

So Fred and I concentrated on thinking of alternatives to fencing in dealing with hungry, ubiquitous deer.

We discussed trapping, though he had to concede he'd not seen a live trap that accommodated deer, and he vetoed my suggestion that a deadfall might be acceptable.

Aren't the deer destroying conservancy understory? I asked him. While mature trees can often withstand winter depredations of hungry deer, I hear that deer will gratefully munch to their roots those tender tree-lets that are supposed to lie in wait for the giants to die and then take their place. He acknowledged that that could be a problem, yet unresolved.

What about other critters. Specifically, groundhogs. Live traps were the best he could offer. Yeah, but...I protested. If you trap a wily groundhog (and that is NOT easy, as all groundhogs are wily), and move him down the road a piece, there's generally another groundhog sitting on the edge of the recently vacated property noting that there's now an empty nest that's probably pretty well fitted out for the new groundhog on the block. Did he have any other suggestions?

Actually, no. When it comes right down to it, Fred Dye thinks that every critter has a right to live as best it can. He agreed that others do not share his opinion, but so far Michigan Nature Association continues its hunting and trapping ban on property it's responsible for.

For more information on Michigan Nature Association, including its properties and activities, check out www.Michigannature.org.

