



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDaleGC.org

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

April 2010



President's preface

Sally says...

While we enjoy all the programs Lisa wanted to see herself we can think of her and drop her a card to tell her how great Luann Linker from Wild Birds Unlimited was. Although we have to be grateful Dave was present to help her with technical problems the program was very interesting. I hope everyone was able to interact with our guests Patrick and Amy. I also hope we have more guests for the butterfly program by Brenda Dziedzic .Why are butterflies important to us? Not because they are pretty flying flowers, but because they are one of the monitors of the health of our environment.

I am looking forward to the district meeting which will be especially convenient for us. While we are there we could evaluate Vladimir's as a possible site should we proceed with a raffle/luncheon type fund raiser.

Have you all noticed the water filter commercial which will take so many plastic bottles out of the equation of the number of bottles circling the earth. Another solution would be to fill our own bottle much like we carry our own coffee cup (I will try to remember and be more diligent about both those little tricks).

Don't get overheated now as we prepare for our proven survivors sale.

Sally



April 8 program

In spring swallows come back to Capistrano; buzzards return to Hinckley, OH; and many monarch butterflies head north to Michigan. In a migration to and from Mexico that encompasses four generations, monarchs find their way to their historic habitats by methods still under study. One student of monarchs, Brenda Dziedzic, co-founder and president of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association and an advanced master gardener, will discuss *Monarchs of Mexico* at our April 8 meeting.

Hospitality will be provided by Carol Smith, Winnie Chrzanowski and Mar Sclawy.

March 11 minutes



Hill and Dale Garden Club
March 11, 2010 General Meeting
Heritage Park Visitors Center

President: The meeting was called to order by President Sally Ouellette at 8:27 pm following a program by LuAnn Linker of Wild Birds Unlimited on “Nesting Habits of North American Birds.”

Correspondence: In the absence of Lisa Steinkopf (recovering from back surgery), Sally relayed the upcoming activities announced through new correspondence. The NGS will be presenting a program on Bees, Nature’s Partner-Plants and Pollinators. There will be a program/lunch (\$25 for each) at the DIA on April 28, 2010 at 10:30 am given by floral designer, Els Teunissen on “Party Flowers.” Call the DIA for more information or reservations.

A clipboard was sent around for members to sign up (and pay \$22) for the District I’s “Around the World” meeting to be held on Thursday, April 15 at Vladimirs on Grand River.

Sally asked if we would again be interested in donating to, and participating in, Farmington community’s Festival of the Arts. It was decided that Katie Wemyss would set up the needed display with the help of Angela Paul and Ann McMinn.

Membership: Associate dues were received from Nancy Goulette. Regular dues of \$25 are now due. The possible \$5 increase in state dues will be voted on in May at the state convention, and adjustments in our dues will be made after that time.

Hospitality: Thanks were given to hostesses Peggy Dapkus, Amy Langdon and Gayle Schwartz for the evening treats, and Amy’s lovely table arrangement.

Garden Therapy: Amy Langdon needs scoops like the ones in Tide boxes for an up and coming project in May.

Remembrance: Chris Sechler is recovering from pneumonia ,Lisa from back surgery

New Business: Katie Wemyss brought some flower arranging needle holders (frogs) to give to anyone needing one. It was suggested recipients give a donation to the club.

A possible three Farmington garden club flower show was suggested by Jan Dolan (member of the Farmington Garden Club) and she would like Hill and Dale to consider participating in that effort. A motion was made by Katie Wemyss, and seconded by Ruth Trombley, that we do so and an “Aye” vote passed the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

DUES ARE DUE. Nancy Adams asks that members pay their dues ASAP so committees can be established and our program book can be printed as soon as possible.



Proven Survivors—May 15

What’s growing in YOUR garden? If it’s back, it’s a proven survivor, and if you have a lot of it, start digging it up for the perennial plant sale. Kathy Heckman, former member and gardener extraordinaire, has agreed to help with plant ID and set up on Friday, May 14. She’s also offered to help dig up your extras if you need a little help.

We’ll be passing a sign up sheet at the April and May meetings for working hours. Friday hours for identifying and pricing will be 1 to 5. Saturday’s hours will start at

8 with staging; sale is set to start at 10 and run till 2. Those hours break down to five two-hour shifts. Early signers up get their pick of shifts. All members are expected to help out with this major fund raiser for the year.

In conjunction with this year's plant sale, we will be offering a tag/garage/flea market type sale, hopefully to add to the profits of the perennial sale. We ask that items to be donated be clean, in good shape and be related to gardening in some way. Suggestions include baskets, vases, planters, garden tools, flower arranging items, decorations, etc. If you have an item (basket, etc.) that could be embellished with ribbons, birds, etc. to make it more appealing, please bring it to the April meeting. Ann McMinn will lead decorating assignments for those disinclined to fancy up their own contribution. If you can enhance it yourself with your personal goodies and talents, please do so and bring it along with your plant donations the day before the sale, May 14.



Native plant festival

With space in your garden from sharing out your Proven Survivors, we are offered an "early-bird" session at the Native Plant Festival, sponsored by Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy at the Paint Creek cider mill 4480 Orion Road, Rochester. Festival details:

Saturday, June 5

Early-bird opening: 8:30 - 10am

Sale opens: 10am

Educational sessions and family activities: 11am - 2pm

Coming up

- May 25 etc.--Evenings in the Garden series at Tollgate, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Class fee is \$20. For detailed description and registration form see www.msue.msu.edu/Oakland and click on upcoming events.

May 25- Container Herb Gardens; Paula Krause

June 3- Hydrangeas: Classic Beauty; Cheryl English

June 10- Small Fruit Production; Bob Tritten

June 24- Butterfly Gardens; Brenda Dziedzic

July 14- Dramatic Garden Lighting; Sue Grubba

July 27- Native Plants for Wet and Dry; Ruth Vrbensky

August 11- Ornamental Grasses; Kim Roth

August 24- What's Wrong with My Tree?; Mike Barger

August 31- Putting Your Garden to Bed the Right Way!; Gail Morrell

- June 5—2010 Proven Winner Consumer Day 8:30 to 3 at Four Star Sigler Facility, 1199 E. Sigler Road, Carleton, MI 48117. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch, beverages and \$5 off a \$10 purchase at the plant sale. Registration closes May 26. For more information see www.pwfourstar.com or call 734.654.6420.



*View from the corner garden—MAYPOP (*Passiflora incarnata*)*

Maypop. I like the name. At first blush, it evokes images of lovely, brightly colored lollipops. Further thinking about the name takes me to the positive side of spring and says that this plant will pop in May. If I travel over to the negative point of view, the name reminds me that it may pop if I'm lucky. Last year, we planted one of these maypops in the sunniest spot in our garden. It grew pretty well. But, did it come back this year? Will my maypop pop in May? I don't know as I haven't cleared out that part of the garden yet. So, while I'm waiting for the mystery to unfold, I decided to read up on this passionate plant. Here's what I discovered.

The maypop, also called the purple passionflower, true passionflower, wild apricot, and wild passion vine, is just one of about 500 species of flowering *Passiflora*. The majority are vines though some are shrubs. Although *Passiflora* are mostly tropical, the *P. incarnata* is a common species in the southeastern US. This perennial vine freezes to the ground each winter and then reshoots, flowers, and produces edible fruit. Of all the varieties, *P. incarnata* is the hardiest species and is native to Kansas and Pennsylvania. It withstands cold down to -4°F before its roots die.

Dare I hope to see my maypop vine produce bowl-shaped, 1" to 2" creamy white blooms with blue-purple filament accents this July? A lovely, decorative vine covered with these unique flowers and complemented by long, dark green compound leaves would look great climbing the trellis and decorating the side of my house. This plant could become a noxious weed or very invasive since it grows in part shade/full sun, doesn't need a lot of water, and will live in just about any soil. Its pH requirements range from 6.1 to 7.8. However, given all that, the large, intricate flowers with prominent styles and stamens and a lovely aroma should outweigh those negative factors.

Plus, *P. incarnata* produces an egg-shaped fruit that is edible and has a sweet-tart guava-like flavor. The fleshy fruit, itself called a maypop, shows up as an oval yellowish berry about the size of a hen egg. Green at first, the fruit becomes orange as it matures. Few pests bother the fruit, but apparently, it's quite popular with bees, birds, and butterflies. I don't think we would eat it, but we might attract a few more of our winged friends to the neighborhood.

But, the *P. incarnata* continues to surprise me. Dear readers, please continue reading and I'm sure you'll be just as surprised as I was.

According to www.wikipedia.com, "*P. incarnata* leaves and roots have a long history of use among Native Americans in North America and were adapted by the European colonists. The fresh or dried leaves of maypop are used to make a tea that is used to treat insomnia, hysteria, and epilepsy, and is also valued for its analgesic properties." However, the passion flower or its fruit are more popularly associated with sex or romance. At one time, a soft drink called Purple Passion existed and was thought to enhance those activities. But that's not the case.

The "passion" in "passion flower" refers to the passion of Christ in Christian theology. As pointed out in several website articles, 15th and 16th century Christian missionaries "adopted the unique physical structures of this plant, particularly the numbers of its various flower parts, as symbols of the last days of Christ and especially his crucifixion." (www.Wikipedia.com) According to www.botany.com/passiflora, "the outer ring consisting of 10 tepals (petals and sepals are collectively known as tepals) are said to represent the ten apostles who witnessed the crucifixion of Christ and within this circle of petals there is a ring of filaments, which allude to the crown of thorns. In the center, there are five stamens representing His wounds and three stigmas representing

the nails. The leaves and whip-like tendrils represent the hands and scourges of Christ's persecutors.”

I've no doubt given you too much to read and ponder, so I'll stop now and let you (and me) get back to playing in the dirt. --Winnie Chrzanowski © 2010

Critter spotting—Spring critters return and Roxie moves in

Critter signs of spring are upon us. The blackbirds have returned to the marsh. Even if the overwintering birds mostly disdained the seed feeder, suet feeder, heated bird bath and Tootsie tufts of fur for nesting material, the returning birds seem grateful for help with feeding and housing the kids. In fact, the blackbirds seem to have attracted more finches and cardinals to the al fresco dining room.

The diving ducks dropped by on their usual migration before continuing to their summer home.

Geese are fighting for good nesting sites. We're hoping that the egg addlers are keeping their eyes peeled for those same sites and will continue the reduction of the Canada goose population in our neighborhood.

At least one swan couple is back, hopefully not the dreaded Bruno the Enforcer swan or his similarly inclined offspring who chase PWCs up and down the canal.

There are two pretty good-sized holes in the front garden though no critters have poked up from them yet—at least not when I'm looking.

On the homier front, Tootsie the Wonder Dog acquired a little sister, Roxie, in early March. Roxie seems to be a combination spaniel and something else. Folks at Almost Home, the Southfield shelter that rescued her, called her Blondie as her silky fur in almost platinum—quite a change from Tootsie's coarse red pelt. She's almost as tall and long as Tootsie, though she weighs only half as much.

Tootsie spent the first week of sisterhood indoctrinating Roxie into the family hierarchy. Steve and I are pretty sure we're the top ranked dogs (though our relative positions seem to change, depending on who's dishing out dinner or offering a walk). Tootsie wanted to make sure that Roxie knew who came next. Roxie seemed quite willing to acknowledge Tootsie's place. When she tired of Tootsie's asserting dominance (pretty quickly), she sat down.

Not a total tyrant, Tootsie shared out her toys (well, not the fox) without a whimper—even when toys that Toots has had for a couple years with few signs of wear became scattered piles of fluff and squeakers under Roxie's gnashing teeth.

Just when they finally had the dog equivalent of a pecking order pretty well in mind, Roxie was spayed, and came home from the vet's with a list of rules governing her next two weeks. Unfortunately, neither Toots nor Roxie reads and their command of English is quite limited. No matter how many times we remonstrated with them about racing and tumbling, they continue. The vet recommended the Cone of Shame for Roxie, who is far too proud and agile to abide it. Meanwhile, Tootsie, who endured the Cone with a certain air of resignation and equanimity awhile back, grows jealous. The adventure continues—outside ... and in. --Mar Sclawy © 2010

