



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDalegc.org

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

President's preface

Merry Christmas!

Well, the season is underway, and I hope you all are getting your shopping and decorating done. Along those lines, our centerpiece workshop will help you get your decorating done, and perhaps your shopping, if you are making one for a gift. This lantern centerpiece is going to be beautiful, and our arranging expert, Sally, will show you how to make it fabulously!

Remember to read her "ingredients" list and make sure you and your friend/potential member bring everything you need. We are all supposed to bring a finger food to pass so that we have plenty of snacks that are easy to munch on while working on our projects. If you would like to bring the recipe for your wonderful (as I'm sure they will all be) snack, please do so. We could all use some new ideas for our holiday parties. This should be a fun evening! Let's make sure we make all our guests feel welcome so they will want to return in February for our next meeting.

We are so glad to hear that Mar's husband, Steve is doing so well and will be coming home next week. Also, Kathy is home after her knee surgery. Let's continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. We've also been informed that our dear past member, Marge Gordon is in a nursing home, so let's keep her in our thoughts also.

I hope you all have a warm, wonderful holiday season. Be good, so Santa can bring you everything you wished for!

Happy New Year!

Lisa



December 9 program

We'll be creating a holiday lantern centerpiece. Sally will collect \$5 for a lantern if you haven't ordered yours yet. Bring your own greens and trimmings and we'll all shine a little light on the winter solstice and holiday season.

Sally suggests the following greens: 8 to 10 white pine tips, 20 to 24 cedar sprigs, 6 holly sprigs. She also recommends adding some incense cedar or blueberry juniper. All should be cut 6 to 8 inches long. Don't forget clippers or scissors, ribbon and small ornaments, soaked oasis in a bowl or secured on a plate.

Hospitality will be provided by Flo Holzknacht, Sandy Cusack and Mar Sclawy. But members are reminded that everyone brings a snack to this holiday meeting, and please keep an eye out for visitors and welcome them to the meeting.

November minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Steinkopf at 9:05 pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written in the November Newsletter.

Sally Ouellette, assisted by Lisa, welcomed and pinned returning member Joan Angelo.

Sally related that Mar Sclawy had reported that husband Steve (recovering from a stroke suffered recently in Tunisia) had his first physical therapy session at Beaumont Hospital's Extended Rehabilitation Center and it went well. "He walked today" it was noted.

A reminder about the Cranbrook House Gardens Holiday Table event from November 19-21 was given.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that we send the \$50 membership donation (concluded that we had volunteered for) to the Belle Isle Conservancy.

Information missing in the new Hill and Dale Yearbook for four of our members was included in the November newsletter.

December's program will be a lantern and greens centerpiece workshop. Everyone is to bring a friend/potential member, supplies (to be listed in the December Newsletter) for the project and a snack or appetizer to embellish "the plethora" of goodies expected on the hospitality table. See Angela Paul for oasis, if you need some, as she has some available for \$1/block.

A thank you was given to Carol Smith and Jan and David Henry for the lovely November hospitality table.

A reminder was given to remember to bring little pinecones and walnut halves to the next meeting for December's and January's Garden Therapy Projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm (a 2010 record for briefness)

Respectfully submitted by Ann McMinn (Recording Secretary)

No January meeting

With the garden tucked snugly away and the holidays a warm memory, we'll reconvene in February after a little hibernation of our own.

Please...

Ann McMinn is looking for a sub recording secretary for the February and March board and general meetings. Please contact Ann to volunteer.

...and thank you

In response to a donation we sent to the Memorial Garden for the Fallen, Lynn L. Dinvald, MGC president sent thanks from MGC.

“I would like to thank you for your gift in support of the Memorial Garden for the Fallen. The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs has a landscape design and will be planting a memorial garden at the Center for the Families of the Fallen at the Dover Air Force Base. This building is used by families who come to Dover to receive the bodies of their loved ones who died fighting for our freedom in foreign countries.”

She noted that Delaware is home to the nation’s only stateside military mortuary and every single military casualty, no matter what the rank, branch of service, or manner of death is transported to Dover and prepared for burial.

With an estimated cost of \$125,000 to complete the garden, this is a large project for a state with a membership of 895 in 28 garden clubs. The project has been endorsed by the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Views from the corner garden—Potpourri



My gardens are put to bed for the winter. I moved the three mophead hydrangea plants that were living behind an Annabelle and two larger mophead hydrangeas. These poor little ones were in danger of getting snuffed out by the “front runners.” As you might remember, I also planted some garlic this year. In addition to those tasks, I added two new tulip varieties to the mix: Greigii Ali Baba and Ice Cream.

I’d been admiring the Ali Babas that live over at the Royal Oak Community Center Garden for years. I finally found out the name of the lovelies and ordered some. They’re gorgeous little flowers that only get to be about 9-10” high, have speckled foliage, and rich, deep coral red blossoms. The ice cream variety was a complete impulse buy.

The ice cream tulip is a unique variety and from the photo looks to be quite showy. These late spring bloomers grow to be about 10” high. I can’t wait to see them.

I thought about writing a book review this month on one of my favorite books, *Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln’s Mother & Other Botanical Atrocities* by Amy Stewart. However, I plan to reread it instead. You might want to borrow it from your local library; it’s an entertaining read that takes you into the “dark” side of the gardening world.

Searching for topics to write about for this column sent me bopping around the internet hoping for some inspiration. Instead, I got bogged down reading the garden blogs. I didn’t get a

lot of inspiration, but I found a gazillion blogs. I could spend the rest of my life reading them. However, that doesn't sound like a good idea. Maybe occasionally checking them out would be a better plan, so I'm including a short list of the blogs for you to consider (and then I won't forget where they are). Well, the list looks short but that's because the first one is an actual link while the second one contains about a million links for the blogs.

http://www.gardenrant.com/my_weblog/

http://gardening.about.com/od/blogs/Garden_Blogs_Stay_Informed_and_In_Touch_with_Other_Gardeners.htm

If, during this holiday season, you're at a loss for things to keep you busy, you could always create a container garden for winter. While you consider your options, have fun decking your halls with holly and mistletoe and get together as much as you can with family and friends.

Happy holidays, everyone.

-- Winnie Chrzanowski © 2010

Critter spotting—well, kinda

Groundhogs are hibernating. But it's always interesting to see how folks deal with the pesky critters. Following is a posting from Craig's List in July last year:

We have a very fat, adult woodchuck/groundhog that has decimated our pole bean crop and consumed, in one 24 hour period, our entire broccoli patch, leaving empty broccoli stems as a stark reminder of what might have been.

The animal has been fed organic garden vegetables all summer to date, so I guess you could say he is "organic", for the sake of those interested in organic foods. Pasture raised too, as he's been grazing on the lawn, and probably helping our pet hen (who lives in the same area) eat her organic feed. Like I said, a well fed groundhog.

We have a live-trap set this evening (Saturday) and considering the bait is watermelon, a woodchuck favorite, I'm sure we will have a woodchuck to give away Sunday morning sometime.

It is illegal to relocate wildlife in Michigan and this woodchuck needs to be dispatched humanely. Per the MA Audubon website ""It is detrimental to the well-being of wildlife as well as the public. Unknowingly, sick animals may be transported and released in other locations, causing the spread of disease. Animals released in unfamiliar territory have a hard time surviving. They must compete with resident animals, and they have difficulty finding food and shelter. Furthermore, relocation is ineffective: each time a territory opens, there is always another animal waiting in the wings. ♦

Not wanting the animal to be wasted, the proposition is this. If you want the animal for food purposes, you are welcome to take it, but you must be prepared to dispatch the animal (without damaging the trap or anyone/anything in the neighborhood) and take the carcass with you (you may field dress it if you'd like).

Please email if you're interested and I'll respond asap on Sunday, July 26.

Please remember, relocating live wildlife without a permit is not only cruel but ILLEGAL in the state of Michigan.

Should you be worried that this animal may be a female with young, woodchuck young leave the burrow and disperse to find their own new homes in July.

Thank you, Simon