



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDalegc.org

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

Presidential Preface

February 2011

February~the month of love and hearts and flowers, and of course, don't forget the candy!

Next month, I'm meeting with the North Farmington and Farmington Garden clubs to talk about an event we are planning together to take place in late September. Our combined flower show with them was so successful, we've decided to collaborate on another event. "Combining our forces" so to speak seems to be the best way to allow us to have success with large events. Planning events together also allows us to get to know each other better. It's an all around "win, win" situation for all.

On a sad note, a dear friend of mine and a former 20 year garden club member of Hill and Dale, Barb Glaser passed away in January. She will be greatly missed.

This month, we have a wonderful speaker coming from the Detroit Institute of Art, to talk about art and flowers. Please come and enjoy the program. Just a friendly reminder~ We need to make sure any guests we have feel very welcome. Please greet anyone you don't know and those you do. We want to be known as the friendly garden club that visitors will want to come back to and bring their friends.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Lisa

February program

Bring spring in a few months early with "In Full Bloom: Flowers and Plants in Art." Ann Johnson will speak on flora featured in selected works in the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Brush up on your arranging skills or just admire the work of others in arranging and painting.

Hospitality will be provided Sally Ouellette, Lisa Steinkopf and Gretchen Pugsley.

December minutes

The December meeting was devoted to holiday décor. There was no business meeting.

Proposed by-laws amendments

According to the by-laws, they may be amended at any general meeting after notice of proposed amendments has been given in the newsletter and at prior general meetings. Because members have expressed reluctance to undertake all duties of officer positions, it is proposed to amend the by-laws to permit two or more members to share duties of one position and to allow new members to volunteer for officer assignments without having served on the board. It is therefore proposed to amend the by-laws as follows:

Amend Article IV, Section 1 to add the following to the end: The duties of the office of president and vice president-program chair may be shared by two or more members if they are so elected.

Amend Article IV, Section 3 to delete the second sentence, which now reads: A member must serve as a board member a minimum of one year before holding elective office.

These amendments will be discussed at the February meeting and voted on after further discussion at the March meeting.

Garden therapy wish list

Garden therapy needs paper towel cardboard tubes for the March project and empty small medicine bottles for the April project. Please bring these items to the meeting. Baggers for the March project are Peggy Dapkus (chair), Kathy Postema and Mar Sclawy.

Farmington clubs consider more joint events

Following the success of the jointly sponsored flower show in September, Farmington Hills, North Farmington and Hill and Dale garden clubs are exploring more shared projects. Members of the three clubs met recently to discuss what other projects they could work on together while maintaining each club's full plate of community garden and education commitments. Talks are preliminary, but the expectation is that each club will provide its own enthusiasm and different projects to attract other club members to lend a hand or back or time to lighten the load.

Shared programs are also on the list. Even recognizing that two clubs meet during the day and one in the evening, members hope that well known speakers and exciting programs will invigorate all members and potential members to expand the clubs.

Coming up

- February 19: Landscaping with Native Woody Plants, 10 am till noon, UM-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center. Gain insights into why native plants matter, what habitats they prefer, and how to choose the right plant for the right place. \$10 for members of stewardship Network or Wild Ones, \$15 for others. Register online at www.StewardshipNetwork.org. Select "Lakeplain Cluster" from the menu under "clusters" or call 734.996.3190.
- March 4 – March 12: Michigan State College of Agriculture and Natural Resources co-sponsors a wealth of seminars on environment, horticulture and related topics. Check out the full calendar at <http://anrweek.canr.msu.edu/uploads/files/18/2011%20ANR%20Week%20program.pdf>.
- April 14: The District I spring 2011 district meeting at the Dearborn Inn, hosted by the Garden Club of Dearborn. The gathering will feature a spring floral demonstration by Thomas Figueroa, Michigan Vice President of Nordlie, a wholesale supplier of fresh and artificial floral and design goods, and will include vendors, and, of course, luncheon. Registration materials will be going out mid-February.
- May 27-18L Junior League Gardeners plan a standard flower show at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. May 17 includes a subscription wine and hors

d'oeuvres party, \$20. May 18 show will be open to the public free of charge from 10 am to 4 pm. Flower arranging lecture at 2 pm will be presented by Marge McGoff, international flower arranger and judge. \$5 at the door. For info please contact Patti Schollenberger at 313.622.8732 or pschollenberger@aol.com or general chairman, Joan Micou, at 313.886.6999, jmicou@sbcglobal.net

Remembrance

Barb Glaser, Hill and Dale member for more than 20 years, died recently. She was an avid needle work artist until arthritis overcame her. She was a long-time chair of the Remembrance committee.

Views from the corner garden—Michigan Conservation Stewards Program wants you!

Want to help protect the great outdoors that we all love so much? Want to learn more about Michigan's unique landscape and what we can do to preserve and protect it for upcoming generations? Read on.

I completed this course in 2007 and can say with confidence that it's a worth-while endeavor—especially if you're interested in helping to preserve and maintain our natural environment. So take a look at the following announcement, request a brochure, and come join us for interesting topics, a comfortable learning environment, great snacks, and a terrific way to give back to the community.

Michigan State University Extension offers Michigan Conservation Stewards Program in Oakland County: Winter 2011 session scheduled for February 26- April 25, 2011

Are you looking for a great opportunity to learn about conservation and natural science and assume leadership roles through volunteering your time, knowledge, and skills in conservation management in your community? Individuals who take part in the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) can learn how to effectively take part in informed, scientifically based conservation and resource management and work to sustain healthy ecosystems across Michigan.

Michigan State University Extension and its partners are offering this volunteer training and leadership program designed for individuals who are interested in natural resource conservation and ecosystem management, natural history, outdoor recreation, natural areas, the region's environmental issues and challenges, and strategies to help restore and conserve ecosystems in Oakland County.

Topics include Conservation Heritage, Ecological Foundations, Making Choices to Manage Natural Resources, and Managing Forestlands, Grasslands, Wetlands, and Lake and Stream Ecosystems. There will also be a volunteer expo highlighting conservation opportunities available in southeastern Michigan. The series of classes, led by experts in various fields of conservation and natural resources, will include lectures, interactive learning and field experiences. The registration fee is \$275 per participant.

This intensive 10-week program consists of nine Monday evening classes (6-9 pm) and three Saturday field sessions (9am-4 pm) from February 26 through April 25, 2011. Monday evening sessions are held at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford. Saturday sessions will be held at the MSU Tollgate Education Center, Indian Springs Metropark, and Independence Oaks County Park.

Program partners include Michigan State University, the Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Clinton River Watershed Council, the Stewardship Network, and ITC Transmission.

Become part of the network of dedicated, well-prepared volunteer Conservation Stewards who understand, actively contribute to or lead significant conservation management activities on public and private lands.

Obtain a brochure and an application packet online at <http://www.oakgov.com/msu/> or call 248.858.0887 for more information or to request an application by mail. The deadline to submit applications is February 4, 2011 (But if there's room, they may flex a bit.)

—Winnie Chrzanowski

Critter spotting—Training days—Part 1

Tootsie the Wonder Dog and her trusty sidekick, Roxie the teacup Saluki, have been in training in various guises since they moved in with us. Tootsie moved in three years ago last November. Until recently we had her certificates of training completion hanging over her bed: Invisible Fence identification, West Bloomfield dog obedience class. It was all very academic, and not particularly successful as Toots failed to hear the invisible fence boundary warning, blasted through it, got shocked and resolved never to leave the deck again.

Roxie moved in almost a year ago, in March. She looks like a Saluki, but she's only about a foot high and weighs 18 pounds. She thinks of herself as a full size Saluki, a sight hound of prodigious athleticism. She runs in great bounding arcs. (She can keep up with the yellow lab next door.) Actually, she's pretty darn clumsy by any dog's standards; still she can roll out from under any attack that Ms. Toots chooses to launch when observing less than stellar dog behavior. Toots's standards must be very high as we often have no idea what sets her off into a fury of furry remonstrations with the smaller dog.

One bad habit that Tootsie hasn't drummed out of Roxie (in fact, she indulges in it herself) is taking off after any other dog they see on the street. They take deep offense at any dog that trots by on the safety path in front of the house. They bark at neighbor Ray's SUV as Ray pulls out of the driveway. Roxie has fits when the yellow lab meanders into our yard. While scrabbling at the front door, she leaps half again her height at the sight of a squirrel at the bird feeder. They don't like folks walking down the frozen canal. And woe betide anyone thoughtless enough to drive a snowmobile down the canal. They get an earful. Actually, WE get the earful as no one on a snowmobile can hear two dogs barking their brains out inside a house more than 100 feet away.

Thus, we decided it was time for more organized training. Now some folks call it a shock collar. And the folks who do the training call it a "reminder." At low voltage (er, reminder strength), it delivers only a tingle. Of course, that's what we tried it at on our hands before buying into the program. And the dogs did pretty darn well at tingle level—until one of the aforementioned events occurred, at which time they still went ballistic. We took them to reminder class—group. I thought Tootsie was doing pretty well, but the trainer told me that she (and thus I) were not. Taking the remote control, he buzzed the heck out of Tootsie until she reluctantly conceded that "heel" meant walking near MY heel, not me near hers. (We'd tacitly agreed that as long as she wasn't pulling on the lead, she was doing OK.)

We resumed our training, but when that trainer and his dog took up a position next to Toots, she snapped. She was taken out of training and I was warned that they couldn't have a vicious dog attacking another dog in regular group. If she snapped again, she would be put in vicious dog class with other vicious dogs (sounded like a recipe for disaster to me) and have to wear a muzzle. I'm pretty sure she wasn't snapping at the dog; she was peeved at the trainer, who deserved a good air snap for what he'd just put her through.

We have credit for three more lessons for each of Roxie and Tootsie, but we haven't scheduled them yet. But they did learn something neat at dog camp—about which next time.

—Mar Sclawy © 2011