



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDaleGC.org

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

May 2011

President's preface

Well, the April showers certainly brought us May flowers! Finally, it seems the weather is cooperating with our gardening plans. If you are working in your garden this week, please remember to pot up some perennials for our plant gala next weekend. This is our only fundraiser for the year, so bring as many as you can and any items we can sell in our tag sale.

We are looking forward to our picnic with the other 3 garden clubs in Farmington Hills on June 25 on the Spicer House patio. We are bringing the main dishes, so get your recipe books out and start planning your culinary delight. Then on September 10, we will be having a horticulture day with speaker, Judy Cornellier and will be having a workshop. The cost will be \$20.

Our state convention is coming up in June and coincides with our regular meeting. Because many people would like to attend the convention, we will be changing our meeting date to the 16th. Please make a note on your calendar so you aren't surprised when you are the only one at the meeting.

I hope all mothers have a wonderful mother's day and have a great week in the garden!

Lisa

May 12 meeting Thursday 7:00 pm

Cheryl English of Black Cat Pottery is a potter and a gardener. She'll speak on *Clematis Care*. Those charming vining plants can pose problems for gardeners who don't appreciate their finicky "cool feet" requirements. Learn how to treat 'em as the glorious bloomers that they are. And maybe Cheryl will bring along some of her pottery plants for those who really don't have a green thumb.

Elections will follow the program. Slate of officers: President, David Henry; vice president, Kathleen Postema; secretary, Sandy Cusack; and treasurer, Angela Paul. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

April 14 meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Steinkopf at 7:35 pm.

Lisa updated the membership about the District I Meeting. She was reminded of the fourth garden club (Finlandia Garden Club) in Farmington at the Presidents' Meeting when talking about the upcoming congregating of "the three." The June 25 four-club Potluck Picnic will be held on the back patio of the Spicer House in Heritage Park instead of at a pavilion. Hill and Dale members are to bring a main dish or entrée. A horticulture workshop is also scheduled for the four clubs on September 10. Judy Cornelier will be the guest speaker/instructor and attendees will take home a project relating to "Extending Your Fall Garden." It is scheduled to begin at 9:30 am with coffee, followed by the morning workshop. Volunteers will be needed.

The slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year includes:

David Henry-President

Kathy Postema (with Nancy Adams helping out)-Vice President

Sandy Cusack- Secretary

Angela Paul- Treasurer



The Plant Gala is to be held on May 14 in conjunction with the Farmington Plant Swap. Members are asked to begin potting up their donations, and tagging them with the necessary information (or just putting a blank tag on if in doubt). A sign- up sheet for the setting up on Friday and for the sale on Saturday will be passed around at the next meeting. Members are expected to participate, as this is our main fund raiser.

Minutes were approved as listed in the April Quail's Tales.

Treasurer Angela Paul reported dues are payable at this time and funds are starting to come in.

Lisa reminded the members about the upcoming African Violet Show on Saturday and the Orchid Show as well.

Garden Therapy Chairman Amy Langdon reported that the children loved the medicine bottle bird feeder project, and happily added the bird to the top of the feeder rather than where intended.

Awards Chairman Flo Holznecht showed off the five awards presented to Hill and Dale at the District I meeting. Awards included Yearbook, Horticulture Book, Website, Newsletter and Photography. Thanks were given to Flo for all her work in preparing the submissions. Peggy Dapkus was awarded a Life Membership at the meeting. Hill and Dale now has 28 Life Members.

A flier was received by Lisa from Jan Dolan regarding the Foundation for Youth and Family's "Back Pack Project." Hill and Dale was asked to donate to this project which supplies weekend food (carried home in a back pack) for children who are involved in the free school lunch programs. After discussion (and monetary tug of war about amount), Ruth Trombley made

a motion that we donate \$150, which will be matched in funds if received by April 15 making a total of \$300. It was seconded by Joann Bryngelson, voted upon and was passed.

Membership Chairman Kathy Postema introduced guest Clarice Bridges, who was guided to us by Farmington Garden Club, and welcomed her attendance.

Hospitality Chairman Peggy Dapkus introduced April's committee which included Ann McMinn, Ruth Trombley, and Katie Wemyss with additional help from Flo Holznecht.

Katie brought slides of past Hill and Dale activities with an invitation to take any that members might like. Prints (4x6) can be made at Walgreens.

Ruth Trombley reported seeing auxiliary member Elaine Gunderson on several occasions (one a surprise) in Arizona. Elaine will be back in Michigan in mid-summer. Flo received a letter from Gladys King. She loves Florida and the weather there. Barb Goff is active in her community garden club in Bonita Springs, Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Proven Survivors returns—Plant Gala May 14

The cold late spring has certainly kept the gardens hibernating late. Still, it's time to dig out any plant audacious enough to poke its nose out of the ground, pot it up and get it to the Plant Gala prep on May 13. We'll be sorting and pricing plants starting at noon and continuing till the inventory is ready to roll out Saturday morning.

Mar will be passing the signup sheet at the May meeting—just the day before we set up so please have one (or more) of these following times in mind before the meeting.

Friday: noon till 3, 3 till done.

Saturday: 8 till noon, noon till close at 2 and clean up.

Please drop off your plants and any gardening related items as early as you can on Friday.

If you can't make the meeting, give Mar a call and let her know when you can work. If you can't work, give Mar a call and have a really good excuse handy.

!!!! *Dues are now due* !!!!!

Coming up

- May 17-18—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.

- June 9-11—Michigan Garden Clubs 80th Annual Convention, "Growing Gardens—Creating Communities" is set for Midland at the H Hotel and Conference Center. See *Thru the Garden Gate* for complete information and registration form.

- June 14, 2011—Brenda Dziedzic, co-founder and president of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will be signing her new book *Learn About Butterflies in the Garden* from 6 to 7 pm at Steinkopf Nursery, 8 Mile and Farmington roads. She'll follow the book signing with a talk about choosing the butterflies you would like to see in your garden and planting the correct plants to attract them. There will be light refreshments and door prizes. Seating is limited so advance registration at 248.474.2925 is suggested.

Critter spotting—Tootsie triumphant

April is the cruelest month, wrote T.S. Eliot. Tootsie and Roxie concur. As near as I have heard, no one thought much of April this year. It was cold; it was cloudy. Nothing was springing into life. Even the forsythia was snoozing unless you forced it in the house.

Nonetheless, as April appeared, so did a muskrat—two doors down. Roxie was intrigued and snuffled over to check out the critter munching in Gary's grass. AHA! It was prey! Unfortunately for Roxie, it was not docile prey. As Rox approached, the muskrat got in a couple licks, er, bites before scuttling into a hole in the seawall. Roxie never barked, yipped or whined, just came trotting back after the unsuccessful hunting foray—with blood dripping down her face.

We were impressed when the 24-hour emergency vets built a massive structure less than two miles from our house. We didn't think at the time that they should be naming a wing after the Sclawy pups, who make a practice of injuring themselves on weekends. We started small with a neighborhood dog's nip on Toots a couple years back. That was just antibiotics.

Now it was Roxie's turn to drop by to have her forehead shaved and a tear in her eyelid mended with glue. The cone of shame was useless. She had it off in less time than it took us to put it on. The forehead trim made her look like a Klingon pooch, though we'd never seen other Klingon pets in any Star Trek adventure.

A week later, as the dogs meandered the backyard looking for something more to do than watch me trim winterkill, an emergency siren began shrieking. Sirens aggravate Toots no end. She races around—inside and out—barking them away with no noticeable results. This time, the siren came on and Toots headed for the street!

All that training with the "pay attention to me" collar went for naught. Toots was irate and heedless of my command to SIT. (She doesn't know a lot of commands.) Up the hill she raced, me in pursuit. But at the top of the hill there was no Toots. Suspecting that she had run across our busy street into the neighborhood across the way, I turned down the drive to grab a car for a search. And there was Toots, making herself way small, curled up—in shock—on the mat outside the garage door. She was half skinned.

Grabbing a blanket and the pooch, we made record time to the emergency vet. Toots was a mess. The vet confirmed that. Punctured lung, bruised liver, half skinned, in shock—maybe not going to make it. Certainly not going to make it without a lot of emergency care.

Well, then, yes. Give her lots of emergency care—even after seeing the estimate for trying to pull her through. Toots spent five days in ICU, wrapped in wet blankets to ease all the road grit out of her skinned side. Surgery to reattach her hide had to wait till that was cleaned up. She wasn't eating till the vet produced baby food meat which I offered on my finger. That was a start.

Finally, surgery to staple her back together and then home, with a fancy cone of shame that could not be shaken, pawed or gnawed off. She was shaved in her middle, looking much like a show poodle with funky hair. A bit tender and impervious to Roxie's invitations to play.

Two weeks later, half the staples came out. A week later, the rest. The scar is long and uncool. But Tootsie's hair is coming back, promising to cover over most of the scar at least. She's back to bossing Roxie, who doesn't seem to mind. We're still waiting for the Tootsie and Roxie wing dedication at the vets'. Meanwhile, we're pleased to have two pooches begging for tummy rubs and a fast game of fetch.

--Mar Sclawy © 2011

Horticulture

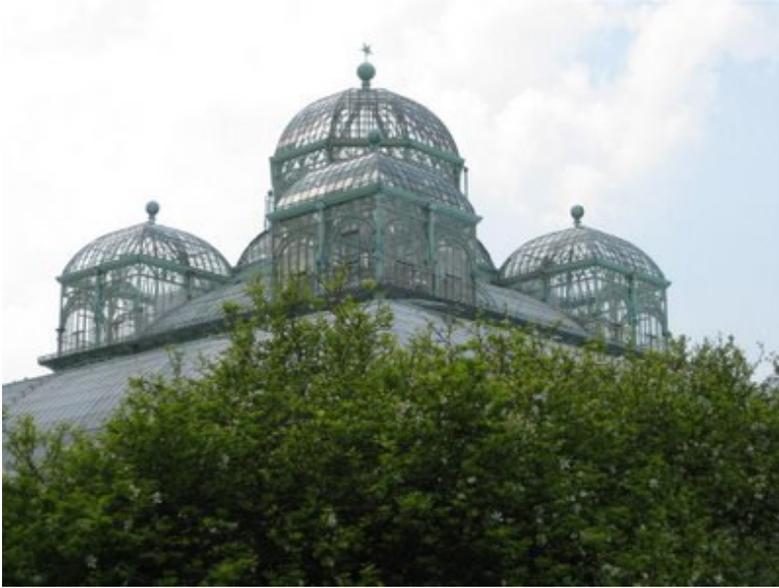
We're looking for a horticulture columnist. Do you have thoughts on hort? Want to learn something new and share it with the club? Let Sally or Mar know. We have a space for you.

Meanwhile, dig up those plants and get them to the plant gala. May promises to be a great time to dig—and plant.

Garden Spotting in lieu of Horticulture

For our world travelers here is a destination for you

Royal Greenhouses of Laeken, Belgium



The Royal Greenhouses in Laeken are normally reserved for the Belgian royal family, but luckily during three short weeks in spring, the general public gets a chance to enjoy this architectural and horticultural treasure. Needless to say, it's a popular tourist attraction, so expect to bump elbows with a few other interested visitors.

