



# Quail's Tales

[www.HillandDalegc.org](http://www.HillandDalegc.org)

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

August 2011

## President's preface

It's hard to believe that in another month summer is winding down. Given how much of my spring spruce up of the garden beds I still have left to do it doesn't seem possible. At this point I've given up on planting annuals for the year. At least one pot from last year had a couple surprise return visitors, so it got put out. The lavender and hydrangeas are about the only things blooming now. The weeds are doing great as usual —David Henry

## August 11 meeting

Without a hospitality chair for the coming year the board has decided that the volunteers for each meeting will be responsible for all aspects of food and drink as well as a centerpiece. The park has agreed to provide space for us to store the coffee and tea pots between meetings. This first meeting is potluck. Each member is asked to provide something tasty (preferably finger food) for this meeting as well as plates and cups. Volunteers for the rest of the year will be recruited at the meeting. Those not attending will be assigned.

As more people choose condo living with its limited space for gardening, Kathy Takenago has the perfect topic to keep our hands in the dirt. She will speak on "Gardens for Small Spaces," with suggestions for changing any available bit of dirt into next spring's special space. As always, we'll gather around 7 with the program due to start at 7:30, followed by the business meeting.

## June 16 meeting minutes

The informal meeting was informally called to order by President Lisa Steinkopf at 7:48 pm. She reminded the club about the four-club picnic on Saturday, June 25 and asked those attending to please sign up on the list at the membership table.

Sally Ouellette was acknowledged for doing the hospitality table arrangement in the loving cup trophy (was presented to Hill and Dale in 1966) that Katie Wemyss found in her stored goodies. The cup will be passed on to the new hospitality person for future use.

The informal meeting then concluded, and Lisa thanked the club and the board for all the work and help she received over the year. In appreciation, gift flowers and stamped bricks were given. Installation of the new officers and chairmen followed led by Jan Henry who creatively linked the new positions and duties to a dragonfly and hummingbird theme. Gifts likened to the theme were presented. Respectfully submitted, Ann McMinn, Recording Secretary

## Coming up

- September 10. The Farmington garden clubs reprise their group effort with a “make and take” horticulture event 9 till noon. The program features Judy Cornellier of Telly’s Garden, speaking on “Extending Your Fall Garden.” Following her presentation will be two workshops: create a fall dried flower arrangement, hosted by Florence Smith, and build a drop-in fall garden container, hosted by Lisa Steinkopf. Program cost is \$20. Fill out the form included in this newsletter and bring your check, made out to Hill and Dale, and choice of workshop to Angela at the August 11 meeting OR send the form and check to Mar no later than September 1.

## *About those dues...*

Dues are past due. Anyone who hasn’t paid dues by the time the yearbook goes to press will not be listed in the yearbook.

## Thanks

In response to our gift to Kathy Heckman for all her help at the spring plant sale, we received the following note:

Thank you for the gift you sent me. I was surprised when I received it. It was nice of all of you to send it to me. I like getting together with my friends at your garden club. The garden sale is a fun time for me. Thank you for asking me to be a part of it with you. Your gardening friend.

## Keep an eye on your stuff

Katie Weymss reminds everyone that leaving purses and other tempting things in sight in your car is asking for a broken window and the removal of your stuff. Please take it with you when you leave the car or stow it out of sight.

## *Horticulture— says the dictionary*

Hawr-ti-kuhl-cher

Noun

1. The cultivation of a garden, orchard, or nursery and cultivation of flowers, fruits, vegetables or ornamental plants;
2. The science and art of cultivating such plants.

That’s what Lisa would be writing about if only Sally’s computer hadn’t blown up just before printing. Look for her column next month.

## *Critter spotting—Geese redux*

What a lovely paddle on the lake awhile back. Water was still. Boats were docked. There were no Canada geese! How could this be? I reported earlier in the year that I’d seen only a few goose families on the lake, thanks to the MDNR’s egg addling strategy. And then those few disappeared.

In the past we’ve had goose roundups. When they’re molting, geese can’t fly. Goose wranglers (I’m guessing at this; I’ve never seen the event) herd the geese into (something) and ship them off to places that want more Canada geese. (This is an interesting thought to those of us who know no one who wants a single goose in their sight, let alone a container of them.)

My sister, visiting from Cleveland (and an expert on deer that walk upon her front porch for a better shot at the day lilies), sighted a flotilla of geese heading up the canal. I was chagrined, but thought they must be heading for neighbor Jerry’s orchard where they fatten up on windfalls while preparing for the least mileage they must cover to reach water unlikely to freeze over the winter.

And that was that. No more goose reports—till this week. There were two dozen geese in our yard. Pecking at weeds (we have no grass) and pooping. I called to the pooches: GEESE. Go get 'em. Tootsie has never been much interested in goose getting. She ignores them—and me. But Roxie, the teacup Saluki (or maybe not), has always been an avid goose chaser. For a little thing she can run like the wind straight at them, driving them ungracefully into the water.

This time...she gazed upon them from the deck. I pointed them out. She gazed. I pointed her head. More gazing. Does this dog need contacts? It took me running down the steps hollering GEESE to pique her interest. Meanwhile, the geese appeared to be snickering, all the while eating and pooping. The geese at least had heard me, seen the dogs and were strolling toward the canal, shooting a backward glance to see if anyone (or thing) really cared about their invasion. At last, the message registered. Off Rox went like a shot.

We got a little flurry of feathers from slow movers, but the brighter geese (oxymoron?) had already reached the safety of open water when Rox pulled up at the seawall. They haven't been back—at least when I'm looking.

--Mar Sclawy © 2011

Keep on scrolling...

...Registration for the fall workshops is on the next page ↓



The Farmington Area Garden Clubs  
cordially invite you to attend:

**Extending Your Fall Garden**

**September 10, 2011**

**Spicer House\* (Vagnozzi Center)  
Heritage Park, Farmington Hills  
9am -12 noon**

**Speaker: Judy Cornellier of Telly's Garden  
"Extending Your Fall Garden"**



**Pick A Workshop**

- 1- Fall Dried Flower Arrangement (Florence Smith)  
or
- 2- 'Drop-in' Fall Garden Container (Lisa Steinkopf)

**Program Cost - \$20**

**Registration Form - Deadline- September 1, 2011**

**Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail -(for your confirmation only) \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop—Mark your choice**

1-Fall Dried Flower Arrangement \_\_\_\_\_

2-'Drop-in' Fall Garden Container \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$20 check payable to: **Hill & Dale Garden Club**

Mail this form & check by September 1, 2011

TO: M. Sclawy, 2777 Middlebelt Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Questions—Call Diane Hague, 248-788-0506