



Quail's Tales

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

September 2011

President's preface

It looks like Labor Day weekend will have both a blast of summer and fall preview all in one. I will once again plan to divide up some of the hostas. Hopefully this year the weather will be better and I actually get to execute the plan. It's also going to be a fall filled with garden related meetings. Both the District 1 Fall Meeting and Central Region Convention are coming up. I may try to make it to part of the Convention this year as it will only be in Michigan once every seven years. I hope to see a few familiar faces there. —David Henry

September 8 meeting

Chris Bunch, executive director of Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, will deliver the basics of the mission of land conservancies and how they help maintain nature in its simplest form close to where we live and work. He'll touch on native plants, their contributions to our environment and their battle with foreign invasive species to maintain the ecology of our area.

August 11 meeting minutes

We didn't get them in time to print them so we'll hear them at the meeting.

Autumn Tapestry

The 79th Central Region Convention is in Grand Rapids from Oct. 2 to 4. Michigan hosts this event only once every seven years so here's a nearby chance to meet members from throughout the region. Former District 1 director and Farmington native, Florence Smith is regional director, so this event is a chance to honor her as well. District 1 will be well represented in the programs.

"Guests Near and Far, Present on Our Table," will be the topic for Carol Brodbeck at Monday's lunch program. "Fabulous Fall: Flowers Fun & Fancy," is the presentation of Sherry Sanelli, District 1's current director.

Tuesday's breakfast centerpieces are in the capable hands of District 1's Creative Flower Arranging Guild. Speaker for the breakfast is Dr. Richard Peters; his topic: "Dahlia—a Passion."

Other District 1 stalwarts on the agenda: Pauline Flynn will conduct a workshop and Edie Ho and Karen Jencks will run the raffle.

Rooms are available at the Crowne Plaza at a cost of \$99.

Registration has been extended until September 12. The registration form appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

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. Registration is closed but we hope to hear favorable reports about the project and plans for more.

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.

Horticulture— Exciting echinaceas (and thanks)



Yes, there are more echinaceas, or cone flowers, than you can count. Remember when there were pink and white and that’s where our choices ended? But, we were happy, the butterflies were happy and we didn’t know any better.

Now, a new cultivar is introduced every five minutes. Maybe I’m exaggerating a little, but it seems that way. They’ve come up with brighter pink, lighter pink. Doubles, pom-poms, and double-decker flowers. The hybridizers have been very busy. Let’s talk about a few I’ve had good luck with and haven’t been returned to the nursery for us to replace when they didn’t survive our Michigan winter.

Hot Papaya! Yes, it’s beautiful and a sizzling red-orange. It has a pom-pom on top and is fragrant, too. What more could you ask for? How about **Cheesier?** We didn’t have luck with Mac and Cheese and Tomato Soup a couple of years ago, so we’ll see how this one does. I brought one home and it is beautiful in my butterfly garden. I’ll let you know next year if it’s still there. It’s a beautiful, bright yellow-orange.

I also planted a **Red Knee High**, which is much darker than Kim’s Knee High. As its name implies, it is a very short cultivar, compared to the original. I also planted a **Coconut Lime**. It has a pom-pom on top also and is a chartreuse green. Who wouldn’t like that?

If you can include **Harvest Moon, Summer Sky, Sundown,** and **Sunrise** in your collection, you won’t be disappointed. All were hybridized by Richard Saul, and they are called the Big Sky series of echinacea. I’ve had **Sunrise** for years and it is a beautiful yellow and is quite tall. These are just a few of the many varieties out there to try.

The best thing about echinaceas is the fact that they are butterfly magnets. If you grow some butterfly bushes and a few cone flowers, you will have even more beauty as the butterflies flutter around and nectar on your plants. Another great trait of cone flowers is their long bloom season. They start blooming mid-summer and don’t stop until the frost stops them. The key to

growing great cone flowers is well-drained soil. They do not want to sit in water, especially over winter. They don't need a ton of fertilizer, either. Then, the seed heads bring the wild canaries and other birds to feed on the wealth of seeds left after the flowers stop blooming. I don't think you could ask for more from a species of flower.

Get out there and buy some cone flowers for your garden. You won't be disappointed and the birds and butterflies won't be either! Happy planting! —Lisa

Also, (the thank you part): Sending my warmest thanks for the fabulous dragonfly yard sculpture I received from the garden club as my outgoing president's gift. I've enjoyed it all summer as it floats and turns in the wind. I also love the hummingbird sun catcher. I really appreciate the thoughtfulness of the gifts. I enjoyed serving you as president and thank all who helped me during my term of office, especially those who tried very hard, sometimes with little success, to keep me on track. Thank you all again. Fondly, Lisa



Critter spotting—Prey

Gosh that title sounds menacing—and totally out of character for two pooches, weighing 20 lbs (Roxie) and 23 lbs (Tootsie). But then again, it depends on the size of the prey. As I reported earlier, Roxie started out the season running the Canada geese off her property and those of her buddy, Dan, next door. The geese didn't exactly RUN, but they did meander back into the water ahead of her furious onslaught. So she must be a bird dog, we thought. Small but definitely a bird dog. She proves it by disturbing the finches as they munch on seed heads and pods this time of year.

And what of Tootsie, the terrier mix? Folks think that terriers are so named because they tend to be headstrong and unmotivated to compromise (no relation to current politicians, I'm told—and they are cuter). Actually, they're named for *terra*, earth, as they were bred to hunt vermin that threatened food stores in cellars and warehouses. They'd ferret out the free loaders and kill them, run them to ground if they escaped from the building. They're ratters—and we are fortunate not to have any rats in the neighborhood. So the birds came and went under Roxie's demanding assaults, while Toots stood around and observed. She wasn't sticking up for the geese or the little 'uns, but she wasn't inclined to chase them either.

Then, this summer, Tootsie took to pawing near the back door under the deck. No hole there, but she kept probing. When we'd let the dogs out, she'd head for that same spot, same pawing, nothing to show for it. Then it became harder to lure her from that area. So?

So, one day, as I'm cleaning up the usual dog deposits around the yard, I find near the back door under the deck, part of a chipmunk. Mostly skin, quite stiff, not a very recent trophy it seemed. Into the bag with the dog doodles it went. It took Tootsie a few days of searching to abandon hope of seeing her prey again.

There must be other chippers around, however, as Toots still heads for the same spot, same motion, no new results. --Mar Sclawy © 2011



Keep on scrolling...

...Registration form for the Central Region meeting is on the next page ↓

**Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Meeting
 "Autumn Tapestry" - October 2-4, 2011
 Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5700 28TH Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI
 616.957.1770**

Registration Form - Deadline: September 12, 2011

Please print

Name _____
 Name Preferred on Name Tag _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip+4 _____ - _____ Phone (_____) _____
 Email to confirm only _____

Your status (Check all that Apply)

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| National Officer | Regional Officer | State President |
| National Chairman | Regional Representative | Former Regional Director |
| Past State President | Club President | National Life Member |
| Club Member | Regional Life Member | Spouse or Guest |

PRE-CONVENTION TOURS ON YOUR OWN SEE MAPS TO LOCATIONS.

Frederik Meijer Gardens is a sculpture park, many international gardens, children's garden, and much more. Tour bus departs Crowne Plaza Hotel at 11:20am, Sunday, Oct. 2.

Tour cost (includes: transportation, admission and tram fee) \$ 25.00 \$ _____

Tri-Refresher attendee registration cost is \$135.00, which includes

Sunday evening meal/speaker. Must attend to recertify \$135.00 \$ _____

FULL TIME REGISTRATION (For those not attending the Tri Refresher)..... \$150.00 \$ _____

August 31 or after = \$180.00)

No refunds after August 31, a \$10.00 check processing fee will be charged if refunded.

WORKSHOPS MONDAY AFTERNOON \$15.00/each

FIRST CHOICE WILL BE GIVEN TO FULL TIME REGISTRANTS SPACE LIMITED.

Monday 2:30-3:15 Contrived Flower, Pauline Flynn = \$15.00 \$ _____

Monday 2:30-3:15 Flower Pounding, Mary Van Tassel = \$15.00 \$ _____

Repeat: 3:15-4:00 Contrived Flower, Pauline Flynn = \$15.00 \$ _____

Repeat: 3:15-4:00 Flower Pounding, Mary Van Tassel = \$15.00 \$ _____

Workshop Total \$ _____

Total Registration \$

Note: Check here for Vegetarian meals

Please indicate any dietary restrictions due to allergies, or for medical reasons: _____

**MAKE ROOM RESERVATION WITH THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL DIRECTLY (Phone: 616.957.1770)
 Rate: \$99.00 + TAXES (SINGLE OR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY). Mention "Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.
 Central Region Convention." **To guarantee a room book by AUGUST 1, 2011.**
After August 2, rooms may not be available due to limited space.**

**Make check payable to: MGC, Inc. Central Region Convention 2011
 Mail this form and check by September 1, 2011
 To: Deannie Picciotti, 2394 Sunset Bluff Dr., Holland, MI 49424-2235**