



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDalegc.org

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

August 2012

President's preface

Well, another year begins for Hill and Dale Garden Club. We have made one change in the vice president position. It is now shared by two members—Jeannine and Katie (sharing the work for the position and allowing Jeannine to take off for Florida for much of the winter).

It has been a hot, dry month and my plants and flowers are barely hanging on to life. I had three green cherry tomatoes and one early girl tomato disappear overnight. Some thirsty critter got to my plants. DRATS!

Some of my fall flowers are already blooming. Strange growing season.

Hope this year will be productive and interesting. See you at the Longacre House for the first general meeting only. --Kathleen

August meeting at LONGACRE HOUSE

Helping us re-learn what garden club is all about, Gretchen Pugsley will outline garden club structure from the national down to Hill and Dale. Amy Langdon will explain what Garden Therapy is all about and what those related arcane terms mean. Jeannine Gundle will talk about Junior Gardeners.

Tradition continues as members contribute their favorite snacks to kick off the new year. Please bring your own plate, silver and cup and—of course—a snack.

PLEASE NOTE MEETING PLACE CHANGE FOR AUGUST ONLY.

Blue Star Memorial dedicated

The Blue Star Memorial marker was unveiled at noon on July 20 at Memorial Park in Farmington.

Diane Hague of North Farmington GC welcomed Jean Goetz, State Blue Star Chair, and Nancy Stark, State President. Girl Scout Troop 44149 presented the colors. Lisa Steinkopf presented the invocation.

Presenting the marker to Mary Engelman, Executive Director of the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, were Diane Hague for North Farmington GC, Joann Jenkins for Farmington GC and Lisa Steinkopf for Hill and Dale.

Chuck Wilder, USN (RET) of American Legion Post 346 played taps.

All three Farmington garden clubs contributed to purchasing the memorial and planning the dedication. We live in peace and prosperity thanks to those who have served the US in the armed services over more than two centuries. Several Hill and Dale members attended the ceremony.

Dues are OVER due. Pay Angela or Peggy \$25 or risk not being listed in the yearbook.

June minutes

The meeting was called to order by president David Henry at 7:40 pm. David thanked his outgoing officers and presented them each with a beautiful handmade gift of thanks.

Mar Sclawy presented David with a certificate from District 1 for first place award in photography.

Kathleen Postema presented David with a metal decorative bird statue for his gardens.

Mar Sclawy installed the 2012-2013 officers for the organization. Presenting them each with an appropriate gift related to their office. The new officers are as follows:

President, Kathleen Postema; vice presidents and program chairs, Katie Wemyss and Jeannine Gundle; secretary, Joanne Bryngelson; treasurer, Angela Paul.

Mar presented David with his president's pin and Kathleen with hers.

Angela Paul presented the treasurer's report and noted that the plant gala was \$950.50.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

--Joanne Bryngelson, secretary

Awards, awards, awards

Flo Holzknecht keeps us winning awards at the district and at state. If you're taking pictures in the garden, be sure to send Flo copies of your snaps (jpg or 5x7 prints preferred) and identify the flowers, botanical names please.

Coming up...

...a full year of entertaining programs. Keep an eye out for specifics in the yearbook and newsletter. Meanwhile, meeting dates for the coming year are:

<u>Board meetings</u>			<u>Club meetings</u>			
August 27	October 1	October 29	August 9	September 13	October 11	
December 3	February 4	March 4	November 8	December 13	February 14	
April 1	April 29	June 3	March 14	April 11	May 9	June 13

Horticulture Fernwood Garden

Lisa and I will take turns doing the Hort column but let me tell you why I picked Fernwood. In guild I have to do a talk about tiny plants. Why? What are they good for? Just look

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is such a treat! Located in Niles, there are at least 10 different trails featuring ponds, a river, ecology, grasses, wildflowers, butterflies and more. There are perennial, annual, Japanese, boxwood, herb/sensory and fern gardens. This year a Railroad Garden was added by the renowned architect and naturalist, Paul Busse. The elaborate 3-D Railroad garden has over 510 feet of railroad track, a seven foot waterfall, a covered bridge, mountain tunnels, a train depot, a local mill replica, and 12 fairy tales homes to delight visitors of all ages. The structures are made of all natural materials, including moss, twigs, leaves, bark, vines and seeds(tiny things make great displays)



Fernwood began as the private residence and gardens of Kay and Walter Boydston. A range of gardens was made on the land: Native Plant Garden, Bauer Terrace, Discovery Garden, Japanese Garden, Memorial Garden, Moore Woodlot, Hosta Bowl, Ravine Garden, Winter House, Fern Garden, Summer House, Wildflower Garden, Boxwood Garden, Emma Watson Lilac Garden, Herb Garden and South Vista Garden(Niles ,Michigan)

Closer to home you might try Tour at Cheryl English's home

August 18, 2012 (Saturday), 10:00am-2:00pm: Annual Spring Garden Tour. Cheryl's life-long love of Clematis and more recent obsession with native plants are both immediately apparent as you arrive at her garden. Designed as a teaching and learning space rather than a design show-stopper, her garden includes over 50 Clematis, representing over 10 species as well as large-flowering hybrids, and over 170 species of native plants, ranging from Spring ephemerals to large trees. Take advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with some of the lesser-known small-flowering species Clematis varieties and the beauties of our native flora. Cheryl's garden has been recognized by her neighborhood association this year and was featured in the July 2009 issue of *Michigan Gardener*. More recently, she penned an article on native plants for the May 2012 issue of the same publication and is working on an article on non-vining clematis to appear in *Michigan Gardener* in 2013. The tour also features locally-created garden art and refreshments, live music, a brief presentation on Backyard Birding by Tim Hanks of Bird Homes by Tim and a Hypertufa Planter Workshop led by Chris Hopp of Farmbrook Designs (*requires prepaid registration*). All events take place at 3903 Grayton St., Detroit, MI 48224; contact Cheryl at (313) 885-3385 (o), (313) 690-3385 (m) or cenglish@blackcatpottery.com Sally

Critter Spotting—Groundhog redux again (for Pete's sake)

What's to say? All my hopes that constant pooch patrols would send the resident groundhog(s) packing have themselves packed up and left town. As the biggest rodent in the area, groundhogs seem to have that same playful instinct (read merciless teasing) of their squirrel (smaller rodent) brethren.

Roxie and Tootsie regularly patrol the groundhog hole under the shed. So maybe that resident has moved on. Still, a smallish groundhog was spied close to the house. As the leashed dogs and I rushed the door, it dove into a pile of cement blocks under the deck, remnants of an overambitious groundhog Maginot line that was just as ineffective as the big French version. Come to think of it, the Germans just ran around the French Maginot line; this groundhog dove INTO one of those groundhog-sized holes in a cement block. The failed barrier became its refuge. Ah, the irony.

We didn't see it come out and have faint hopes that the rascal was trapped and succumbed. There's nothing to suggest this unhappy (for the groundhog) conclusion, but Roxie and Tootsie (and I, too, to tell the truth) can dream.

Meanwhile, another smallish groundhog has developed a taste for the rampant duckweed in the backyard. Roxie cries to take it on. I remain firm.

Rox isn't allowed in the front garden, so it was Steve who announced a fat and aging silverback has been basking on the garden steps. A lumbering groundhog munching her way through the English-type garden that serves as the front yard might explain the waving plants in the absence of wind.

The battle wages. We don't even bother to keep score. —Mar Sclawy © 2012



Fairy garden!