



# Quail's Tales

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

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

November 2012

## President's preface

October has come and gone, and with it the haunting and ghostly feelings that October always brings. It closed with a full moon that brought out all the witches and goblins on Halloween night. When I was little (and one of the goblins), one house quite a distance from mine would pass out miniature loaves of Wonder Bread. All the kids would race to that house first to get one of those little loaves. One year, the people ran out of the bread and how disappointed we were not to have that precious bread.

The leaves are almost all down and all the summer patio furniture is stored away for another year. I still have a few plants to cut down and the lawn girls from Two Bags and a Mower have to come and blow my leaves into the street.

I look forward to Thanksgiving when I will feast at my sister-in-law's house. Then I will have only one more radiation treatment. Yahoo! Then I will be done.

I also look forward to a healthy and merry Christmas and a happy new year and wish it for all friends in Hill and Dale. Thank you again for all the prayers and good wishes.

--Kathleen

What goodies are these? Fruit or vegetable?



## November 8 meeting

Speaking of nestling in with a cup of tea, a cup of hot chocolate may be even more tempting. Find out why at the meeting where Connie Marcangelo will discuss "The History and Making of Chocolate."

District meeting theme Water

Chris ,Katie , Gretchen and Jean @ Vladimirs      One of Pauline's designs used soaker hose



## October 11 meeting minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Postema at 7:30 p.m. Minutes were approved. Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Katie Wemyss reported that the preceding Thursday she and her crew had help from several volunteers from Alcoa Co. Katie was very happy for the help, and they assured her that they would return in the spring.

Mar Sclawy asked for a volunteer from our club to work with the other Farmington garden clubs to maintain the new Blue Star Memorial in downtown Farmington. Ann McMinn volunteered to take on that job.

Gretchen Pugsley explained the table centerpiece and decorations were done in pink in honor of our president Kathleen and "Cancer Awareness Month."

A thank you note from Kathy Heckman for the gift of money was read. Kathy stated that she bought hostas for her garden.

Members were reminded of the District 1 meeting on October 17 at Vladimer's restaurant. We have 14 members registered to attend.

Membership announced that we had two new members: Diane Dunn and Lois Rose.

We sang Happy Birthday to Ruth Trombley, 91 years young.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10, followed by speaker Dr. Chip from Home Depot.

—Joanne Bryngelson, Secretary

### Horticulture—

#### Crocosmia in garden at Heritage park



They are a genus of flowering plants in the iris family, Iridaceae. It is native to the grasslands of Cape Floristic Region, South Africa. They can be evergreen or deciduous perennials that grow from basal underground corms.

Crocospmia are winter-hardy in temperate regions. They can be propagated through division, removing offsets from the corm in spring. So look for some of the interesting plants we maintain in the gardens at spicer house

**Garden therapy** remember non styrofoam egg cartons and 6inch branches, raffia peppercorns and allspice for the **December project** a no melt frosty the snowman Committee : Ruth and Sally

## Critter Spotting— Le Chien Francais

We're recently back from a trip down the Seine from Paris to Honfleur and then a hop to the beaches of Normandy and Mont St. Michel in Brittany. My pitiful French got a whopping hand up from the French who almost invariably switched to English either because they admired my attempts but couldn't understand me or were appalled by the strange sounds issuing from my mouth.

Whatever the case, the trip was fun and gave us a chance to observe a culture that is even crazier about its dogs than we are in the US.

Folks take their dogs everywhere—to shops, to restaurants, to almost anywhere that people go. Signs don't say No Dogs Allowed (or offer a picture of a dog with a red diagonal line across it). Worst thing is a picture of a dog without a leash with a red diagonal line across it. As near as we could tell, this was merely a suggestion, as lots of dogs trotted obediently and leashless next to their owners within sight of such a sign.

Maybe because Paris is such a large city, filled with apartments, tiny dogs seem to proliferate. Maltese and other similar breeds are wildly popular. Guide books used to warn visitors to keep an eye out for mounds of dog poop everywhere, since curbing one's dog was one of the finer points of civilization that had not appealed to the French.

Now that's all changed. Everywhere there are dog poop bag stations, offering free "sacs" to all dog walkers passing by. (I brought sacs home for Roxie and Tootsie as souvenirs. They were not impressed, not even with the French printing on them.) Since the French are more likely to use re-usable bags for their retail purchases, it might simply be that before the appearance of the poop bag stations, folks didn't have the plastic bags that we US dog owners save up for our dogs. In any event, it is now possible to enjoy the sights of Paris rather than keeping eyes cast down for the piles that used to litter the sidewalks.

Dogs and their folks are everywhere, not just in town. Concale is a center for oyster growing along the coast of Brittany. Passersby can frequent any number of stalls along the water, all with various kinds of oysters on the half shell available for a quick snack or leisurely slurp. And of course the dogs were along for the walk on the beach. With the weather brisk, most of the tiny dogs had on their winter coats. Though they were mostly furry dogs, their coats weren't their natural winter coats, but human-made coats, the most amazing being a slick leather jacket. One traveler thought at first that the poor dog had a bad case of mange, given the lack of hair on his back. But it was just its stylish winter apparel.

We haven't told our dogs about the elevated position of pooches in Paris, but they seem to have tumbled to it somehow. Their requests for daily walks have turned into insistent demands to get out into the bracing air. We're resisting, but we're also imbued with that great affection for dogs that we picked up on vacation.

—Mar Sclawy



Cafes and markets allow dogs



sac dispenser



Tuileries Gardens(dog friendly) and Louvre

Below hotel check in

