



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDalegc.org

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

May 2013

President's preface

Early spring and baby leaves—just starting to come out. Nature giving exciting examples of what she's all about. Spring's a special child of Nature—just waking from her sleep, speaking life's beginnings, sowing seeds which fall shall reap. Her arrival always brings us hope as she speaks of things to come. Body and spirit feel renewed by the warming energy of her sun.

--poem by Theta Burke

WELL FINALLY, spring has sprung! My forsythia bushes are blooming. My purple hyacinths and yellow daffodils are showing off their beauty. Happy days !! Time for me to prep the beds and clear out the left over debris from last autumn and winter. Spring is such an invigorating season. ENJOY !!!

—Kathleen

May 8 meeting

Judy Verglove will show us how to paint a pot. She'll provide four basic colors: black, white, blue and yellow (Go Michigan, I guess, though you can make green with blue and yellow.) If you want to paint a pot, please come equipped with a clay pot (preferably 6 or 8 inches, but 10 inches will work), a foam brush (you can buy them at Home Depot, Lowe's and other paint sellers) and an apron, old shirt or other grubby gear to catch the splashes.

Elections will follow the program. Nominated are
President—Mar Sclawy
Vice President and Program Chair—Nancy Adams
Secretary—Joanne Bryngelson
Treasurer—Angela Paul.

Gretchen accepted awards for Hill and Dale at the district meeting perhaps she will bring them Thursday. Marge Mcgoff gave an interesting and informative program about her experiences in Africa as she interpreted them in floral designs and a slide show.

April 11 minutes

The evening began 7:30 p.m. with a very informative program by Brenda Dziedzic about Butterflies in the Garden. Brenda had a beautiful colored video about her butterfly garden. She had hand outs with good information. She had various items for sale including her recently published book on butterfly gardens.

After Brenda's presentation, President Kathleen Postema called our April Meeting to order.

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Angela Paul and accepted.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted.

Angela Paul stated that the board members at their April board meeting recommended we make a cash donation (amount yet to be determined) to the Michigan Garden Club Scholarship Fund in honor of the following members for their work and efforts to install the Blue Star Memorial in downtown Farmington.

They are Nancy Adams, Amy Adams, Gretchen Pugsley, Jeannine Gundle and Sally Ouellette. The members voted to agree.

There was discussion on the plant sale we are having May 17 and 18. A sign up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for a work time. Members were encouraged to participate in our only money making project for 2013.

The May meeting will have terracotta pot painting led by Judy Verglove. Hospitality for May will be provided by Marcia Stewart and Flo Holzknicht.

There was discussion about the June meeting potluck and installation of officers. An informal vote was taken to determine that the food items should be finger food. Chris Sechler will oversee the beverages and paper supplies.

The meeting ended at 9:30.

— Joanne Bryngelsdon, Secretary

Plant gala's here: May 18

We hope those perennials are all potted up to give them a little while to look perky after the transplant. We want them looking their best for the gala.

Please plan to bring your plants after 1 on Friday, May 17. They should be potted, rather than in bags, though we all know how some of those plants can't bear to be separated from the family and will fit only in a bag.

If you're short of pots, call Mar. She has lots.

Please identify your plants and mark if they prefer sun or shade or go either way. Let's use S for sun and D for dark. Popsicle sticks from a craft store make great plant markers, and there will be Sharpies at the check in center for any last minute identification issues.

Following is the work schedule for the plant gala. Those who signed up at the April meeting are listed in regular type. Those who weren't there have been assigned a work time **in bold type**.

If the time is not convenient, please trade with someone else. As you can see, we are in desperate need of workers for the early set up on Saturday from 8 till 10. And since most sales occur between 10 and 12, it would be great if some of the noon till 2 folks could come earlier or we're likely to lose sales.

Of course, if you really enjoy the gala experience, you're welcome to work as long as you want.

Friday May 17

1-3

Angela Paul
Marcia Stewart
Amy Langdon
Joan Angelo
Kathleen Postema

3-5

Shirley Perkins
Eleanore Guirlinger
Gretchen Pugsley

Saturday May 18

Set up 8 till 10

Sandy Cusack
Lu Eaton
Jeannine Gundle
Sally Ouellette
Linda Talacki

Sales 10-12

Joanne Bryngelson
Nancy Adams
Amy Adams
Katie Wemyss

Sales and Cleanup 12 till done

Joanne Bryngelson
Peggy Dapkus
Nancy Adams
Chris Sechler
Flo Holzknacht
Katie Wemyss
Shirley Perkins
Eleanore Guirlinger
Diane Dunn

Looking for a few good folks—committee chairs for 2013-2014

In the past couple years, members have been upset that the same people were assumed to be chairs of standing committees for the coming year and were not asked. For the coming year, Mar Sclawy is asking anyone interested in heading up one of the listed committees to let her know by the end of June. Committees without volunteer chairs will not be activated for the 2013-2014 year. You may see some old-time committees that have been inactive for awhile. If you miss them, sign up to chair them.

Awards

Garden Therapy

Heritage Park Gardens

Horticulture

Hospitality

Junior Gardeners

Membership

Newsletter—Sally Ouellette and Mar

Nominations

Perennial plant gala

Publicity

Remembrance

Trowel and Error

Yearbook

Website—David Henry

Working Together to Grow Together

Michigan Garden Clubs holds its 82nd annual convention in Holland, MI, on May 29-31. Registration form appears in the spring issue of *Thru the Garden Gate*, and was reprinted at the end of the April newsletter. It can also be found online.

Horticulture—Deer dinner—or not

Katie Wemyss spotted an article in the *Free Press* awhile back that discussed what plants deer love and which ones they can do without. It seems that deer avoid plants with leaves that are fuzzy or aromatic, tough, spiny or bristly.

While no plant is off limits to a really hungry deer, they really go for phlox, azaleas, chrysanthemums, clematis, daylilies, hostas, hydrangeas, leaf lettuce, petunias, strawberries and ornamental sweet potato vines.

To keep the critters at bay (always recalling that they will eat tree bark if they're hungry enough), garden with marigolds, peonies, yarrow, bleeding heart, many hellebores, English lavender, weigela, Japanese painted ferns, daffodils and ornamental grasses.

You can start battling the deer with the book *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants*, by Ruth Clausen, (Timber Press, \$19.95). Now all we need is another book to contend with the bunnies. They had a fine banquet on the crocuses this year.

Critter spotting—and smelling

There's nothing like a roll in the poo, or some other noxious stinky pile to put a big smile on our pooches' pussies. We knew they were working up a good pelt of smelly stuff by the ecstatic look on their faces as they rolled around in the yard after the final snow melt. But we didn't realize how smelly they really were until a short relative came for a visit.

She announced as soon as she greeted her furry cousins that they smelled. Well, they are dogs, we noted. Dogs or not (and they surely are dogs), they smelled—and bad, she insisted. Since her nose is much closer to the ground than ours, and her sniffer has not exhausted itself with years of inhaling all sorts of interesting and exotic scents, she was far more sensitive to their odor than we were.

Besides, we've been living with them for years. Their scent is part of the house—sort of like cigarette smoke when we still practiced that stinky habit.

The visitor came and went without further comment (more about her visit in the future—maybe) on dog odor.

However, on their next trip to the kennel for their 3F treatment (face, feet and fanny), we added in a request for a bath and trim. They were almost fragrant—until their first trip to the yard after their return.

There were no visible temptations for them, but their noses (also more sensitive than ours) found some intriguing smells out there that had them bending that shoulder to the ground and tumbling into whatever it was that had them returning to the house well rid of dog shampoo smells and totally returned to that familiar – and oddly welcome—dog smell.

—Mar Sclawy