



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDalegc.org

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

June 2013

President's preface

I can't believe it, but I had to put the furnace on this morning. It was cold in the house again. Will spring ever get here—not to mention summer. My poppies are late this year, but they have started blooming. I love my poppies. They are such an exotic and beautiful flower. Phoebe *aka* The Distructo Dog did not dig them up, but she killed the hollyhocks with her digging. GOOD THING SHE IS CUTE or her days might be numbered. Well, we have just one more meeting for this year. I hope everyone has a good summer—if it ever gets here! I also hope to see everyone at the installation of new officers. I will not be with you next year, but it has been a pleasure knowing all of you and serving Hill and Dale Garden Club. — Kathleen

DUES ARE DUE. PAY ANGELA AT THE JUNE MEETING

June meeting agenda

1: Installation of officers. Officers are:

President—Mar Sclawy

Vice President and Program Chair—Nancy Adams

Secretary—Joanne Bryngelson

Treasurer—Angela Paul.

Everyone is asked to bring finger food and something to eat it on.

2: Amy Langdon will be passing a signup sheet for bagging assignments for Garden Therapy for the coming year. Sign up early and pick your assignment. Non-volunteers will be assigned a month.

3: Farmington and North Farmington Garden Clubs have suggested another summer picnic for the three clubs to get to know one another better and to consider activities on which they can combine talents. Hill and Dale members will be asked for their thoughts. Mar Sclawy is offering her deck and boat for the picnic, which likely will be held in August or September.

May 8 minutes

The evening began with our speaker for the night, Judy Verglove. Judy showed us how to paint and decorate clay pots. The group was very excited to do the project.

There was no formal meeting. Rather, the group discussed the following issues while they decorated their clay pots.

1. There are still openings available for one day at the State convention.
2. There will be a parade of Presidents and we need someone to represent us in the parade. Contact Mar Sclawy.
3. The plant sale is rapidly approaching and there was a reminder for us to mark our plants that we bring to sell with clear, accurate information.
4. Gretchen has two tickets for the Mother's Day Detroit Tigers game if anyone is interested.

Hospitality was provided by Marcia Stewart and Flo Holzknecht.

Thank you to Nancy Adams for taking minutes in my absence.

—Joanne Bryngelson Secretary

Plant gala's come—and gone—successfully

While we seemed to have fewer plants for the gala this year, we still managed to clear \$884, thanks to all the members who donated their plants, and markers, and even bought soil to put them in. If we had to purchase all those items, our profits would be much skimpier.

Special thanks to Kathy Heckman, who brought her vast knowledge, lots of her special plants and marvelous plant notebook. Others meriting a shout out are members who worked both days and Ann McMinn who designed the signage at the park entrance and the plant tables. Eleanore Guirlinger delivered plants, then went home and dug up more plants when she noted a lack of some plants that she had in her yard. Katie Wemyss chose to thin out a couple overproducing plants types in the Heritage Park gardens just in time for the gala.

Chris Sechler dominated the cash table, pushing shoppers to sign up for the newsletter and to consider joining Hill and Dale. She signed up five shoppers for the email list. If you see them at a meeting, be sure to welcome them and introduce them around.

Boo to those who didn't quite get there—without a good excuse. David and Jan Henry were Racing for the Cure, David contributing extra by carrying his niece for part of the race. That's what happens when you're five.

Committee chairs for 2013-2014

The following members have agreed to chair committees for the coming year. They are:

Amy Langdon and Ann McMinn—Garden Therapy

Jeannine Gundle—Junior Gardeners

Katie Wemyss—Heritage Park Gardens

Gretchen Pugsley—Hospitality
Sally Ouellette and Mar Sclawy—Newsletter
David Henry—Website
Peggy Dapkus—Remembrance.

The following committees have no chairs and will not be active in the coming year unless members volunteer to chair them.

Awards
Horticulture
Membership
Plant gala
Publicity
Yearbook
Trowel and Error

If you're willing to tackle one of these orphan committees, please contact Mar Sclawy.

The Master's Garden: Gardening in Harmony with Nature

Discover ways to save Earth one yard at a time. A day to learn eco-friendly gardening tips and tricks will be held July 13 from 9 am to 4 pm at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, 1390 Quarton Road, Bloomfield Hills (northwest corner of Woodward and Quarton).

Scheduled speakers are Janet Macunovich, columnist for *Michigan Gardener* and owner of Perennial Favorites; Rick Vespa, from English Gardens and host of WXYZ's *Home Gardener*; Mike Stafford, director of Cranbrook Institute of Science; Cyndi Ross, river restoration program manager for Friends of the Rouge; and Bernie Owens, SJ, Manresa's own gardening aficionado.

Highlights will include entertainment by Jill Jack, a garden marketplace, and flower pot raffle with prizes worth \$2,000. Experts will be available throughout the day to answer questions.

Advance tickets of \$30 are available at www.manresa-sj.org. Tickets at the door will be \$35. They include lunch.

Hill and Dale calendar for 2013-2014

Board meetings: July 29, August 26, September 30, November 4, December 2, February 3, March 3, March 31, April 28, June 2.

Club meetings: August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12.

Horticulture— Thoughts for the next plant gala

Gala attendees will take home invaders like lily of the valley and snow on the mountain, even when warned. Solomon's seal was a huge seller. Cup plants are a hard sell, but there's always someone. Sandy's two-toned geraniums are always hot.

Don't be afraid to ask a decent price for a lovely specimen. We all love bargains, but some great plants are bargains even at \$10 or more.

Spring blooming plants aren't readily classifiable as sun or shade as they appear while the trees are pretty much leafless. They need their own table: Spring bloomers.

Mar still can't recognize poison ivy.

Critter spotting—Dog lovers write it down

There's a lot more to dogs than many of us realize. Whether it's fact or fiction, folks love to write about dogs and I, among many others, like to read what they write. If you're ready to hop in a hammock or head for the beach, here are a few dog books to make the lazy summer days even more enjoyable.

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Conceptually, it's hard to get excited by a book written from a dog's point of view. But then there's Enzo, a dog that believes that if he patiently and carefully observes humans, he will become the best dog ever, and may be re-incarnated as a person. His owner, Denny, a race car driver, faces incredible challenges (both professional and personal) with Enzo by his side, lapping up Denny's life lessons at every turn. Devoted to Denny, but occasionally puzzled by his human's behavior, Enzo is an engaging narrator and acute observer of the human condition.

The Genius of Dogs—How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think by Brian Hare and Vanessa Woods. Taking advantage of modern scientific studies, the authors debunk many myths we've learned about dogs and support their premise that dogs have skills that humans refuse to acknowledge. If you have a dog, you likely need no convincing, but the data will still amaze you and make you a little smarter too.

The Story of Rose by Jon Katz. Katz has written loads of books about the dogs in his life. Among his favorites is Rose, a herding shepherd who lives to work. She's no lap pup. Instead, she becomes Katz's reliable sidekick at Bedlam Farm. She's pretty prickly, but her work ethic is amazing...and charming.

Merle's Door by Ted Kerasote. A long-time outdoors adventure writer, Kerasote meets Merle while rafting along a river in the west. This survivor dog that likes to hunt beef calves (among other meals) hitches a ride to Ted's home in a small Wyoming town in the Tetons where the two ski, hike, hunt and confirm they are meant to be together. Merle learns to stop hunting cows and earns his own door to the house. That door gives him the freedom to roam and become his own dog. In recording their 13 years together, Kerasote presents some of those intimate dog-person chats that every dog owner will identify as conversations with their best friend.

Inside of a Dog by Alexandra Horowitz. Living with her own dog, Pumpernickel, observing other dogs that have been subjected to various kinds of training, and reviewing mountains of studies, Horowitz develops plausible theories of what makes dogs tick (and do other things that puzzle the heck out of humans.)

Take a break. Get in touch with your inner dog.

—Mar Sclawy