



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDaleGC.org

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

September 2013

President's preface

Fall is upon us (sorta). Days grow shorter, nights a bit cooler, and it's almost time to clean up the gardening tools and tuck them away for the year. Under *Coming Up*, below, you'll find some activities to help prepare for the next gardening season, which will doubtless be upon us before we're ready.

Another way to prepare is to pull a few leaves or take photos of plants that you've been wondering about. We have some great plant experts in the club who can likely help us quell that inner fear that we're breeding a garden of vicious invaders. Or if it turns out that we are harboring such plants, it'll be the right time to consider dealing with them in fall clean-up. I for one have this marvelous cup plant. Everyone adores it—but me. This fall it's falling to the pickaxe—at least that's the plan. A pokeweed that I thought I'd exterminated last fall proved to have another life in several different places. It's due for another whack.

It's so much easier to identify those rascals in the fall. In the spring, everything holds promise, and I'm reluctant to give up on young plants early. Now's the time. Have at 'em.
—Mar Sclawy

September 12 meeting agenda



A new member of Hill and Dale is always a joy. Just imagine how that grows when the new member offers to present a program for us. **Lois Rose** is an African violet grower and she's going to tell us some—or all—of her wisdom about the long-time favorites. Perhaps we should bring what we need to take some notes. Refreshments at 7; Lois Rose at 7:30; business meeting after.—Nancy Adams, program chair.

Gretchen Pugsley will provide a short overview of the Environmental Studies School, coming October 24 and 25 in Pleasant Ridge. This session will be on "Land." There will be speakers on soil, fracking, water resources—toxins, urban agriculture, planting for conservation, and much more. There will be a field trip to Toll Gate Farm as well.

Hospitality will be provided by **Shirley Perkins, Diane Dunn** and **Eleanore Guirlinger**. Gretchen reminds those providing hospitality to check on supplies before cleaning up and advise the next month's team of any supplies that need replacement. October's team is **Ann McMinn, Amy Langdon** and **Flo Holzknicht**.

If you can't take your turn, be sure to trade with someone who can.

August 8 minutes

The meeting was held at the home of **Katie Wemyss**. We had a delicious pot luck dinner. The meeting was held during dinner and the following business was done:

There were 15 members present. President **Mar Sclawy** called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Mar presented **Kathleen Postema** with her past president's pin.

Kathleen then pinned Mar with her president's pin. The group presented Kathleen with a gift of appreciation for her work as our president. It was an indoor fairy garden.

Gretchen Pugsley is preparing our new yearbook. It will be ready at the next meeting.

There was a request for a volunteer for the chair of Membership. **Joan Angelo** agreed to be membership chair.

Treasurer **Angela Paul** reported that all dues are paid, and we have 27 paid members.

Angela gave the Treasurer's report. It was approved.

A motion was made by **Gretchen Pugsley** and seconded by **Ann McMinn** to have a display at the next Festival of Arts in spring 2014 and spend up to \$50 for supplies. Motion carried.

Joanne Bryngelson volunteered to do the display for the event.

Nancy Adams agreed to audit the treasurer's books.

We shared ideas on attracting new members. Everyone was encouraged to bring a guest to the next meeting.

Katie Wemyss was thanked for being our gracious hostess. Meeting adjourned. We then toured Katie's garden and then car pooled to Kathy Heckman's garden for another tour.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Bryngelson, secretary

Good news!

As of this writing both **Chris Sechler** and **Lu Eaton** have battled back from serious health problems that wrecked much of their summer. Consider dropping them a card or making a call to see how they're doing.

Kathleen Postema reports that her fairy garden is thriving despite the envious eye that her Westie puppy, Phoebe, casts upon it.

Coming up—Getting organized for fall and spring

September 7-8: South Eastern Michigan Dahlia Society is holding its 61st annual show at the Orchard Mall, 6445 Orchard Lake Rd. in West Bloomfield. After a juried competition the hundreds of prize winning flowers will be displayed at noon on Saturday. Club experts will be on hand to discuss dahlias. Cameras are welcome. No admission charge.

September 13-15: Gourd festival Imlay City

September 21: Farmington Hills Beautification Commission is hosting a Plant and Seed Swap from 8:30 to 10:30 am in the Heritage Park Visitors' Center parking lot. Master gardeners will be available. First chance to plan your 2014 garden update.

October 1-2: Course 1 of Landscape Design School in Ann Arbor. For more information call Chairman Mary Pulich at 734.476.2453.

October 8: Janet Macunovich will speak on Shade Gardening, a Practical Approach, at Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford. Register online at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/ShadeGardening>. Admission is \$20. Register ahead of time to ensure receiving the printed materials and having a space. Second chance to plan your 2014 garden update.

October 23: District 1 fall meeting will be held at Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Details and registration info will be available at the October meeting, maybe even the September meeting.

April 24-25, October 23-24, 2014: Last two Environmental School sessions in District 1.

Horticulture— Mulberries

Lucky us. We paid big bucks to have an insect-infested mulberry tree cut down last year, only to have its sister/brother/offspring tree that grows nearby produce a bumper crop of berries this year. Half the driveway was littered with squashed mulberries, staining the asphalt deep purple, and threatening similar staining to feet and vehicles passing by.

The old mulberry tree produced sufficient berries for the birds to make a mess of neighbor Susan's car (that "staining" thing), but none were in picking

range. This year the remaining tree dropped its branches as well as a load of those berries. They look like skinny blackberries. They have an acceptable taste, but I don't see mulberry jam for sale at the Oakland County farmers' market and think I know why. Birds, squirrels, the dog walker and I all had a go at eating them off the tree, but I didn't see any creature with a bucket to gather them in. I think their major charm is being available for the picking by passersby.

Here's a brief rundown on the scientific side, thanks to www.botany.com/morus. Commonly known as mulberry trees, these deciduous (leaf-losing) trees grow wild in North America and Asia. Mulberry trees are long lived and often rejuvenate themselves even after falling to the ground because of decay. A dormant bud near the base of the old tree may germinate or a strong, young stem may sprout. Trees that have been blown down and have some roots showing may continue to grow and fruit for many years.

Mulberries are able to grow in climates with long, hot summers and they are suitable for growing near the sea as long as they are sheltered from winds. They are able to withstand the atmospheric impurities found in cities. Mulberries produce male and female flowers in clusters, in the spring and early summer. The female flowers are followed by edible berries. The fruits of the mulberry trees aren't grown commercially because they are too soft and insipid for the market. (Aha!)

Mulberries sometimes produce male and female flowers on separate trees. Fruitless male trees are the ones sought after for shading and growing near paved areas, since there is no fruit to fall and cause stains.



Mar forgot mulberry is an important food source for silkworms so it is historically important too....the Silk Roadsally

Critter spotting—Smorgasbord

It's almost time to clean out the garden, but the bees and goldfinches aren't ready to give up on the bounty still clinging to drooping stems. I read that bees are in decline. I'm thinking maybe they just all moved to the cup plant in the garden. Bees are swarming all over it. Take a look below.

The finches prefer the sunflowers. They have a lot to choose from. Those prolific plants have established footholds in all three of the gardens this year. Perhaps the finches think of their multiple locations as dining out on occasion. It's sure to mean even more sunflowers to yank out next spring. Butterflies have found the butterfly bushes. All sorts of midges and other tiny critters manage to find room at the table among their larger fellow diners.

Even the pooches have found another source of snacks besides their boring food dishes. The mail carrier has taken quite a shine to them, leaving biscuits in the mail box on occasion. And when they encounter each other on their appointed rounds, pure joy—and a biscuit. Thus, the sight (even the sound) of her truck stops them dead in their tracks—once they've arrived at her truck. There they sit till she fishes out their snack. Then she's off, and Tootsie is barking madly after her: Come again soon.

--Mar Sclawy



Cup plant diner



Waiting for the mail carrier



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

'Gourd'ous Fall

District 1 & MAAJ Joint Fall Meeting

Grosse Pointe War Memorial

32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236, 313-881-7511

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2013

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Deadline for registration: October 15th, 2013

9:15 a.m – Registration, Coffee and shopping

10:00 a.m. – Meeting

Hosted by the Pointe Garden Club

Morning Program – *“Vivacious Vines - Growing Gourds, Squash and Pumpkins.”* Rhonda Porzadek will talk to us about Gourds, Squash and Pumpkins, both growing them and crafting with them. Rhonda has taught workshops and classes on gourds and has been involved with the MI Festival of Gourds in Imlay City since its inception.

12:15 p.m. – Luncheon

Afternoon Program – *“Gourds, Pumpkins and Apples, Oh My!”* – We will be inspired with creative designs by Lynn Fronk, a FS Instructor from Ohio. Lynn is always a favorite among students, has spoken in many states and at National Organizations, including the National Flower Arrangers. Lynn served on the NGC Flower Show Committee for many years and was the Design Instructor Chairman.

2:45 p.m. – Adjourn

The registration form (enclosed) should be returned to Carol Olson, Registrar, 24350 Sherman St, Oak Park, MI 48237-1861, 248-541-6427, with check payable to MGC, Inc.-District 1.

Questions: Sherry Sanelli, 586-752-3734, SSanelli@att.net

Please join us for an inspiring and ‘gourd’ous day filled with spectacular designs, shopping, social time and a delicious luncheon, all shared with your garden club friends.

