



Quail's Tales

www.HillandDaleGC.org

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

December 2013

President's preface

It keeps on happening. It's December. The garden should be sleeping and we should be resting from putting it to bed. But there are those million things to get in place before the holidays are upon us. What the heck. Let 'em come. Enjoy your friends and family and all the joy the holidays bring. We'll take our annual winter break in January and reconvene in February with lots to accomplish, as detailed in the November minutes below. -Mar Sclawy

December 12 program and agenda

Get those creative juices flowing, and your baking and cooking skills spiffed up. Sally Ouellette will oversee creation of a holiday centerpiece. Bring your own greens and decorations and call Sally if you want to buy some hardware for the centerpiece. Sally recommends you bring a frame of some sort, greens snips, gloves and 36 to 48 greens tips. She suggests 12 cedar, 12 fir, 12 white pine, 12 port orford cedar, 6 incense cedar or 6 pieces blueberry juniper as possible combinations.

No business program. All members are asked to bring something tasty to share.



November 14 meeting minutes

The November meeting began with the speaker, Joe Derek, a naturalist who worked at Heritage Park. Joe was very informative and fun to listen to. His home is on 10 mile Road where his yard is a natural habitat for various creatures, including birds, and contains beautiful wild flowers, trees and a pond. He had great stories about the different creatures that visit him and also his neighbors' reactions to his "natural" yard. A real inspiration.

The meeting followed our speaker. The meeting was called to order by President Mar Sclawy at 8:30p.m.

The meeting was held at the Nature Center. Hostesses were Angela Paul, Joanne Bryngelson and Mar Sclawy.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved. Angela Paul presented the treasurer's report it was approved. We had one guest, Chris Topalian, Shirley Perkins's daughter.

Mar announced that the board meetings would be bi-monthly due to the lack of business that needed to be acted upon every month. Hill and Dale will not host a district meeting in 2014. Mar and Nancy Adams have been invited to attend a luncheon with the Farmington Garden Club. Mar suggested that it was time we looked into having a yearly budget. Mar asked each committee chair who spends club money to come to the February meeting with how much has been spent and on what over the past year.

Mar raised the question of the value of continuing to do Garden Therapy in the schools. Katie Wemyss stated that it was indeed a very valuable service to the children that we reach monthly.

There was discussion again on our lack of membership growth. Since there are three garden clubs in Farmington/Farmington Hills it is not surprising that membership size is a problem. Jan Henry noted that younger people are more likely to use Facebook and other social media to plan their days and keep in touch. She suggested social media might be a better tool for reaching new members. Mar asked her to bring to the February meeting some suggestions on using social media to promote the club and membership. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend to our meetings.

Chris Sechler has agreed to take over the secretary job. Thank you to everyone. You are a delightful group and I have learned so very much about gardening in my short time with you. My new address is

6404 Deerfield, Spruce, Michigan 48762. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Bryngelson, recording secretary



Horticulture—Christmas legends

You'd think there'd be lots of legends surrounding Christmas flora. And maybe there are. If you know of any, bring them to the December meeting and we'll share while working on our holiday decorations.

Critter spotting—Ditto those legends

I've heard that on Christmas Eve, animals can speak. Actually, I think they speak all the time. We just don't understand them the other 364 days a year. On the other hand, Toots and Roxie are as vocal and incomprehensible on Christmas Eve as they are the rest of the year. Obviously, someone in the house is not doing her part.

I'm suggesting we all pay close attention to the critters around the bird feeders (not just for birds as we all know) and in the house on Christmas Eve. If you happen upon a conversation, let us know in February. I promise to report all such observations in a future Critter spotting, which will be a little longer than this one. Merry Christmas and keep those ears tuned. —Mar Sclawy

In case you couldn't make it to Farmington GC table fundraiser here are some pics

