



# Quail's Tales

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

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

April 2014

## President's preface

We're coming up on officer elections in May. (Gosh, that's next month.) We have most of the slate of officers nominated: Nancy Adams, president; Chris Sechler, secretary; Angela Paul, treasurer. The nominating committee has been working on filling the vice-president/program chair office. If you've been waiting for a call, feel free to call a member of the committee and tell them you'd like to run. If you aren't sure you'd be able to produce enough programs for the year, talk to Nancy Adams. She says she has several suggestions that she couldn't fit into this year's schedule. Committee members are Katie Weymss, Chris Sechler and Yolanda Walton

Because Yolanda joined in the middle of the year, her contact info is not in the yearbook. Rather than publish it in the newsletter, which goes to nonmembers as well, I'll have a sheet with her info at the membership table at the April meeting. If you've dropped your landline, or otherwise changed your metrics since the yearbook was published, call me and I'll add your new info to the same sheet.

District 1 meeting is the same date as our meeting. I hope at least some of you are planning on attending both. The theme of the district meeting is birds. Sherry Sanelli asks that those attending dress with a bird theme. Think of Jan Henry's marvelous feather hat with Patrick perched on her shoulder. You don't have to have a live bird, but a pin, a scarf, something bird-ish will be a big hit at the meeting. Take pictures. —Mar Sclawy

## April 10 program—Knowing how to get it done

Before we haul out the bug spray, it's always good to be reminded how vital insects are to plant health and growth (to say nothing of how important plants are to insect survival). Roger Sutherland will do the reminding, focusing on how insects and plants know how to get it done—producing more plants and more insects to their mutual benefit. Sure, bees are great, but they're not the only six leggers that help out in the garden. Maybe we'll even hear about the eight leggers, those scary looking arachnids, which also have their place—outside.

## March 13 meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order by Mar Sclawy at 7:30 p.m. Treasurer Angela Paul presented the treasurer's report. She reminded us that we need to get our checks made out to Hill and Dale Garden Club in the amount of \$25 for the Spring District 1 Meeting. She also informed us that the club received \$615 in memorials for Lu Eaton and asked for suggestions on how the club would like to spend the money.

Before leaving, Joanne Bryngelson donated a teapot to the club. Nancy Adams will shop for a 12-cup coffee pot for the club. Hostesses for the night were Nancy Adams, Amy Adams, Katie Weymss and Gretchen Pugsley.

We were sad to learn of the passing of Jean Moran, a past president of our club as well as former state president.

A motion was made by Chris Sechler, seconded by Eleanore Guirlinger, to send a donation of \$50 each in memory of Lu Eaton and Jean Moran to the State Scholarship Fund. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee. We needed a member at large to complete the committee. Yolanda Walker volunteered.

Gretchen place environmental folders on the back table for those who might be interested. Meeting closed at 9:20.

—Respectfully submitted, Chris Sechler, secretary

## Plant Gala—just around the corner

Given the state of gardens so far (that's the first crocus of the year in Mar's garden on March 30) it's hard to think there will be anything to display at the plant gala on May 17. Still, hope springs. Keep an eye out for anything sticking its nose out of the dirt and plan to pot it up and bring it to the gala.

Schedule will be identifying and marking plants on Friday, May 16, from 1 till done. Saturday will include setting up from 8 to 10, gala from 10 till 2, cleaning up till done. Mar will have a sign up sheet at the April meeting.

Members are expected to contribute plants and efforts to the gala, our only fund raiser to support Garden Therapy and other club activities.



## Coming up—some fast and some with lots of time to plan

**April 26: Gardening and All That Jazz**, sponsored by the Master Gardener Society of Oakland County, at Oakland Schools Conference Center, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, 48328. Program details were printed in the February newsletter. Early bird registration (till March 15) is \$70. Thereafter it's \$80. Registration runs till April 16.

**June 21: 'Mad Hatters' Tea Party Garden Walk.** Gardeners of Northville & Novi (aka The No-No's) will present seven exceptional gardens, four in Novi and three in Northville, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m., rain or shine. Central venue – Northville Art House. Tickets are \$10 (cash or check). More information at <http://www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org/> or

### **June 21: Garden Walk & "Wild Flowers" Breakfast. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. :**

Featuring private local gardens, plant exchange and an optional "Wild Flowers" breakfast talk served in the Crocker House Garden, 15 Union Street Mount Clemens, MI 48043 586-465-2488. Cost of Garden Walk tickets are \$20. Tickets are limited and non-refundable.

Breakfast of home-made scones, hard boiled eggs, fresh fruit and hot Three Wives Tea and orange juice includes an informative talk regarding "Old Secrets of Wildflowers and Plants" with Annick Hivert-Carthew. The additional charge for breakfast is only \$10.

## Horticulture—What WON'T deer eat?

Answer: not much. Especially when the winter is as brutal at this past one was. No way for critters to burrow through the snowpack in search of tasty morsels (about more of which see Critter spotting). Deer, on the other hand, used the snow pack to reach higher on trees and shrubs to strip off bark and buds. With the snow melting, they're returning to their usual browse.

English Gardens has produced a list of perennials that deer disdain—at least when something more to their liking is in the area. Here's a partial list that they provided. It's a start if you're rebuilding your garden and a good map of plants to provide for the plant gala.

Yarrow	Columbine	Larkspur	Coreopsis
Coneflower	Lavender	Russian sage	Oriental poppy
Salvia	Lamb's ear	Thyme	Yucca
Bee balm	Coral bells		
For shady areas consider:			
Monkshood	Foxglove	Bergenia	Cyclamen
Wood fern	Sweet woodruff	Lamium	Bleeding heart
Baptesia	Euphorbia	Brunnera	Blackberry lily
Peony	Hellebore	Primrose	Oenothera

## Critter spotting—Worm moon and other thoughts

The March full moon, I'm told, is the Worm moon because by the time it shines, the ground is soft enough for the robins to feast on worms that are making it to the earth's surface. I had five robins rooting around under the cherry tree last week, far after the Worm moon had waxed and waned. Everything is late this spring.

The redwing blackbirds showed up pretty much on time, their trill in the marsh promising spring was here (wrong) and they were ready to build nests and pitch woo.

The Canada geese showed up this week, quite miffed to find that their landing strip in the lake was still ice covered. One couple was marching over the ice, one giving the other an earful, likely for having returned to a place entirely unsuitable for nest building and egg laying—to say nothing of swimming.

To the right there is Lola, the only opossum I've ever seen out in the day time. Their weak little eyes prefer dusk and dark, but she (I'm guessing here) ventured out in broad daylight to sort through the bird seeds and husks at the feeder. Once she discovered this unattractive but possibly filling stash, she showed up every partly cloudy day to see what she could eat. Came the thaw, Lola was gone, likely searching around in the twilight for something a bit more tasty.



The pooches Roxie and Tootsie are pleased to go on long walks now that the safety paths have reappeared. Best part is that they can now scratch up the dirt after having a satisfying tinkle or poop—just to let their fellow travelers that they've been by.

Toots is usually the first to deliver. As she scratches away, dirt flying, Roxie comes up behind her, hoping to cover her scent but getting a lot of Tootsie dirt smacking her in the face. She's undeterred, makes her own deposit nearby and proceeds with her own scratch. Despite the fact I've just witnessed this dim blonde dog getting a faceful of dirt, I come right behind her with the doggie bag to scoop up the detritus and suffer the dirty consequences of being entirely too efficient (and not too bright) in the cleanup department. It's good to be on the road again.

—Mar Sclawy