



Quail's Tales

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

www.HillandDalegc.org

President's preface

Volume 1, Issue 3

When the snow has disappeared, do you ever notice people moving slowly around their garden with their faces facing the flower beds and lawns? They are the true gardeners looking carefully for anything that is really green. Years ago a neighbor asked me if I had lost something when she saw me bending toward what looked to her like a brown flower bed. I explained that I was looking for an inch or two of precious daffodil leaf, venturing out into the end of March coolness. It's an annual joyful occasion and we have arrived!!

April 9, 2015 Program

Two years ago, one of our spring programs included a wonderful lady, Judy Vershave, who showed us how to paint and decorate clay pots. There have been many requests for a repeat performance, so Judy has agreed to visit us again during April...and she is bringing a friend who is also an artist. (I remember how busy we kept Judy last time with consultations on colors, designs and techniques!). Judy asks that we each bring an unused 6-inch clay pot, 2 or 3 various sized paint brushes and a jar (with a lid) for water. Hill and Dale will supply newspaper for the table and paper towels. Please remember to dress down (or bring an apron) to avoid paint on your favorite clothing. If the evening of April 9th is only half as much fun as Judy's first time with us, it will be just great. See you there!



May 14, 2015 Program

One of the many great gems in the Novi, Michigan area is located on Meadowbrook Road just north of Twelve Mile Road. The property previously belonged to a wealthy family who owned a moving company. In 1987, the 160 acres were sold to Michigan State University and is now used for educational purposes, research, and as a conference center. In 1993, Roy Prentice became Farm Manager of this facility and he will be with us for our May 14 meeting. He works with a Tollgate volunteer membership of over 200 and will tell us about what will be happening at Tollgate this summer – it's a busy place where there is even a beekeeping school. Please join us in May for this wonderful program!!

Nancy~

In Memory of Toshiko K. Shimoura



Toshiko K. Shimoura

On February 28, 2015, Toshiko K. Shimoura passed away at the age of 88. Toshiko was born and raised in Fremont California. She interned at Topaz, Utah relocation center during World War II. She was the proud attendee of Michigan State University and graduate of University of California-Berkeley, Class of 1949 with a Bachelor of Science in microbiology. A dedicated community leader and volunteer for the Japanese American Citizens League Detroit Chapter for over 60 years. A professor and mentor in teaching and demonstrating the art of Ikebana flower arranging, and founding member of the Ikebana International Society-Detroit Chapter. She was recognized for the promotion of Japanese culture in the United States as the recipient of the Foreign Minister's Commendation by the Government of Japan in 2014. Memorial Service were held March 26, at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made In Memory of Toshiko Shimoura to the: "Ikebana International Society- Detroit Chapter #85", c/o Stephanie Green, 9000 E. Jefferson Ave., Apt. 23-3, Detroit, MI 48214 -or- the "Japanese American Citizens League- Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund", Japanese American Citizens League, Attn: Business Office, 1763 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

International Flower Competition and Exhibition at Belle Isle June 16-21, 2015



Things to Remember

A new garden show in Detroit? A city known more for cars than carnations will be hosting a six-day international flower competition and exhibition June 16-21, 2015. It will be quite a grand event to fit a suitable title – the World Cup of Gardening. Gardens and landscapes will be showcased from award-winning designers from around the world. Premiering in Detroit on the grounds surrounding The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory on historic Belle Isle, this event is poised to become one of the premier gardening events in the world and a one-of-a-kind experience in the United States. The list of high quality show garden junkies who will design 10 x 10 metre show gardens: Gabrielle Pape, Germany; Kazuyuki Ishihara, Japan; Nico Wissing, ND; John Cullen, USA; Lucciano Giubbiliei, Italy; Andy Sturgeon, England; Helen Dillion, Ireland; Jim Fogarty, Australia; Xanthe White NZ; Leon Kluge, S.A; Jihae Hwang, South Korea.



*Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory
Belle Isle, Michigan*

- ◇ The Nominating Committee (Katie Wemyss and Chris Sechler) are seeking candidates for the office of President, Vice President, and Secretary. Please contact the committee with the prospective nominees.
- ◇ **Membership Dues are Due!** Membership dues are \$25.00 for active members, \$40.00 for couples and \$40 for associate membership. Please forward all payments to Angela.

Tips to Get Your Garden Ready



1. Order summer-flowering bulbs and seeds



This is the perfect task for a wet and windy day! Summer-flowering bulbs such as [Lilies](#), [Gladiolus](#) and [Ranunculus](#) can be planted in early spring for a colorful summer display.

2. Clean flower beds and borders

Remove leaves and other debris from your flower borders and lawn. Now is a good time to cut back the old dead growth of deciduous grasses and herbaceous perennials



3. Identify and remove garden pests



Hunting down and removing hibernating pests can save a lot of trouble in mid spring through summer. Take a closer look at the crowns of your perennial plants and you may find slugs, snails and aphid colonies sheltering from the

winter. Be on the look-out for the white vine weevil larvae, which live in the compost and feed on plant roots. Destroy any you find and be prepared to treat for vine weevils this year, using parasitic nematodes or chemical drenches.

4. Install water butts

Install water butts in your garden to collect seasonal rainfall. Not only does this help the environment but rain water is good for watering ericaceous plants such as [Camellias](#), Rhododendrons and [Blueberries](#) (tap water is often slightly alkaline).

When installing a water butt make sure it's positioned below a downpipe to capture the most of the rainfall.



5. Move deciduous shrubs

If you have a badly placed deciduous shrub, now is the time to move it whilst it's dormant. Choose a still day to prevent the roots drying out. Take a wide berth around the shrub when digging it up and try to take as much of the root ball as possible for the quickest establishment in its new location. When planting shrubs in their new position, place them at the same level they were previously in the soil, and remember to water them in well afterwards.



6. Clean gardening tools

Caring for your [garden tools](#) not only helps preserve them, it saves you money in the long run and helps prevent the spread of disease. Dirty secateurs may introduce bacteria and fungi to fresh pruning wounds. Sharpening your tools will also improve their performance; they'll be easier to work with and will give cleaner pruning cuts.



7. Create a composting area

Set up a compost area in your garden. This could be a ready-made compost bin or you could build a compost bin using spare bits of wood. Not only will you have somewhere to put your garden waste but your plants will benefit from the rich compost created when it all breaks down! Make sure you have a good mixture of grass clippings, vegetable peelings, paper and woody prunings. You will need to turn your compost with a garden fork each month to keep it aerated.



Meetings and Events for Spring 2015



*Crocus's growing at Heritage Park
Photos by David Henry*



April 6 – Registration deadline for District 1 Meeting

April 9 – General Meeting, Spicer House @ 7:00 p.m. Judy Vershave – flower pot painter. Bring new clay 6-inch pot, paint brushes and a jar with lid for water.

April 11 - Fairy Gardening Workshop @ 11a.m. Telly's in Troy. \$5. Register at (248) 689-8735

April 11 – Gardening in Containers Workshop @ 1 p.m. All locations of English Gardens. Free

April 16 – District 1 meeting, It's a Garden Party so we're encouraged to wear a party or gardening hat or flower in your hair.

April 25 – Gardening & All that Jazz hosted by Master Gardener Society of Oakland Cty at Oakland Schools Conference Ctr. includes breakfast and lunch, a garden market, door and raffle prizes and live jazz. More details at www.mgsoc.org

May 8 – 50th Anniversary Ikebana Celebration, 1-3 p.m. Hosted by Ikebana International Detroit Chapter at Southfield Unitarian Universal Church. Free demo. Register: www.ikebanadetroit.com (248) 684-2460.

May 1 - Board meeting, Spicer House @ 7:00 p.m.

May 11 – 18, National Garden Clubs 2015 National Connection – Louisville, Kentucky

May 14 - General meeting, Spicer House @ 7:00 p.m.

May 15 – Hill and Dale Plant Gala Setup, Heritage Park

May 16 – Hill and Dale Plant Gala, Heritage Park

Hospitality Assignments

April 2015

- Katie Wemyss, Amy Langdon

May 2015

- Sandy Cusack, Amy Adams,
Nancy Adams



Hill and Dale Garden Club
www.HillandDalegc.org

Thank You

Contributors to this Issue

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