

# THE ECHO

## Hill & Dale District Newsletter

A member of National Garden Clubs &  
WA State Federation of Garden Clubs

### Dates to Remember

#### September 2025

**September 23** NGC Flower Show &  
District Meeting

#### October 2025

**October 23** District Garden Therapy

**October 25** ECHO Articles Due

**October 28** District Board Meeting

#### December 2025

**December 1** WSFGC Awards Due

**December 2\*** NGC Flower Show &  
District Meeting

#### February 2026

**February 1** WSFGC Awards Due

**February 10** District Youth Grant Due

**February 24** District Board Meeting

**February 25** ECHO Articles Due

**February 26** District Garden Therapy

#### March 2026

**March 24** NGC Flower Show &  
District Board Meeting

**March 15** WSFGC Grants Due

\*Due to Thanksgiving holiday

### District Director's Message

Hello Gardeners,

Do you enjoy the blooms of bulbs in the spring? Well September through mid-October is the best time to plant bulbs. You want to get the bulbs in the ground a few weeks before the ground freezes, so they have a chance to establish roots. Our first predicted frost date is October 22, which is based on information collected at our nearest climate station right here in Puyallup at the McMillin Reservoir. Different areas throughout town or your backyard might have a microclimate, so use this date as a flexible guide.

I am excited that together we will continue this journey of promoting our love of gardening. I am proud of what we have accomplished working together and look forward to working again with everyone to make the upcoming two years successful.



Dig, Plant and Grow will be our emphasis for 2025 - 2027. Wanting to learn about gardening is why people join a club, so .... we will garden. My theme will be "Gardening Along the Garden Path". This year we plan to have more hands-on activities, to learn from one another and to encourage connections among club

members through gardening fellowship. We've also added new features, such as "Gardening Tips" and a "Horticulture Hot Line". Before we move too far forward, let's reflect on the fantastic activities we enjoyed this summer.

# District Director's Message *Cont...*

First, we started with our Annual Bus Trip in June with Chis Sherrill and Jeanine Faulker leading the way. We headed north to visit and shop at the Bainbridge Island Nursery where we also learned about the heritage of the nursery and then off to Bloedel Reserve to tour the great gardens. In the month of July & August we were able to visit a total of 11 different, unique, and some over the top private gardens. This was possible because of the hard work and organization of Mary McBride, our chairman. Another summer activity we stopped "Along the Garden Path" was the Girl Scout Day Camp where 167 girls visited our station and enjoyed making a crazy "Fun Factory" mostly out of recycled material. Our chairman, Tamara Larson, planned and gathered all the supplies for their activities. Then before we could rest it was time for the Pierce County Fair in August. Our Floral Barn was fabulous where we again won The Washington State Commissioners Black & White Rosette Ribbon for the best building on the fairgrounds. This would not have been possible without the help of many, many and many people. Julie Wells, Randie Welcher, Kathleen Muckian, Largo Wales and Gale Harte did all the planning and many hours of work for another great floral building.

Thanks to every one of you who has supported our district activities and, WOW, what a great summer we have had.

I invite you to join in for the next 2 years of gardening and friendship by participating in the district activities and meetings as well as your club's projects and events.

With cooler weather at least planned for the fall, we are ready to begin "Gardening Along the Garden Path".

Let the Gardening Begin!

Kathy



## 2025 GIRL SCOUTS DAY CAMP

This year at Girl Scout Day Camp we helped 170+ Scouts make a crazy arrangement with mostly recycled materials. We facilitated 6 classes ranging from age 5 to 13. There were 14 stations where the Girl Scouts made different flowers and embellishments to create a floral design.

Tamara Larson



## BUS TOUR 2025: Educational & Entertaining

On Tuesday, July 24th, the sun was shining as 45+ members climbed aboard our charter bus at Puyallup's South Hill Mall for the annual bus tour. Our driver, JB, assisted us in getting our supplies loaded as well as happy anxious club members.

Our first stop was in Gig Harbor where we picked up several Aster Nots from the peninsula area. Thanks to Judy Strickland and her crew for serving up drinks and snacks. Then on to Bainbridge Island to Bainbridge Gardens and Nursery. Owner Donna gave a short talk on the history of the nursery when her grandfather had the place a hundred years ago. He brought pine tree seeds from Japan, planted them on the premises and there are many still living to enjoy. The property was taken care of by friends when her family was interred during WWII. They were given the land back and today it thrives as a successful garden center. Stop in if you are on Bainbridge Island. It is a nice place to wander and purchase plants. Then we were given tips on planting containers by one of the employees. While we shopped, lunch (from Sweet Dahlia Deli) was setup buffet style with delicious sandwiches and salads. Awards were given out by Kathy Johnson and then we hopped on the bus for our next stop.



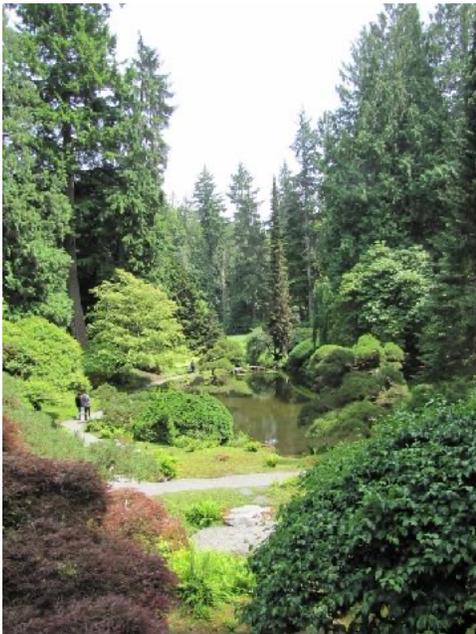
Participants boarding bus in Puyallup



Speaker from Bainbridge Gardens teaching potting of summer flowers

Down the road, we entered Bloedel's Reserve for self-guided

tours. If you have never been there, take a day and go! The various gardens are so beautiful and interesting, and of course, checking out the mansion is a treat too.



The Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island views

So then it was back to Gig Harbor to drop off the Aster Nots, but not until we had a drawing for a few prizes and more snacks. Then on to South Hill Mall to find our cars and go home. It was a long, fun day. I hope all club members enjoyed it. Chris Birka from Country Gardeners will be bus tour chairperson for the next two years, and we know she'll do a great job.

Many thanks from me to Jeanine Faulkner for co-chairing this project the last couple of years with me. Thanks also to Rachel Jennings, Kathleen Muckian, Kathy Johnson, Judy Strickland and the gals who helped Judy with drinks and snacks.

Chris Sherrill  
2021-2025 Bus Tour Chairman

# District Awards 2024

The following awards were presented  
at  
WSFGC June Convention &  
June Bus Trip & Luncheon



## National Awards Received

### Certificate of Commendation

Flower Show Achievement Award "Fall Roundup"	District
Flower Show Achievement Award "Frogs Come Croakin"	District
Membership Awareness, Meet & Greet Booklet	District
Membership Awareness, Echo	District
Membership Awareness, Stars, Stripes & Summer Nights District, Fair	

### Certificate of Appreciation

Community Beautification Project, Milton Center	Garden Hour
Wildlife Survival, "Unleash the Wild"	Root & Bloom

## Region Awards Received

Flower Show Achievement Award, "Fall Roundup"	1st place, District
Flower Show Schedule, "Gardens Make Memories"	1st place, District
Garden Therapy	1st place, Clubs Garden Hour
Garden Therapy	1st place, District
Horticulture Essay, "Scotch Broom"	2nd place, Karla Stover
Newsletter, "Kathy's Korner"	2nd place, District
Publications, Membership, Meet & Greet Booklet	1st place, District
Youth Event, Environmental Education	1st place, District
Youth Event, Horticulture Education	1st place, District
Website	1st place, District

## State Awards Received by District

Community Enhancement Special Achievement P.C. Fair	1st place
Flower Show, "Fall Round Up"	1st place
Flower Show, "Frogs Come Croaking"	2nd place
Flower Show Schedule, "Gardens Make Memories"	1st place
Flower Show Schedule, "Frogs Come Croaking"	2nd place
Flower Show Schedule, "Fall Round Up"	3rd place
Flower Show Staging, "Frogs Come Croaking"	1st place
Flower Show Staging, "Fall Round Up"	2nd place

Garden Therapy, "Silver Creek Assisted Living"	1st place
Membership Awareness, Flyer	1st place
Membership Awareness, Meet & Greet	1st place
Newsletter, Echo	1st place
Youth, Girl Scouts & Smokey Bear	1st place
Youth, Girl Scouts Day Camp	2nd place
Youth, Smokey Bear 1st Grade	HM, Penelope Cheetham
Youth, Smokey Bear, 2nd Grade	HM, Willow Krueger
Youth, Smokey Bear, 3rd Grade	HM, Anais Hub-Leach
Youth, Smokey Bear, 4th Grade	HM, Kanadi Wanner-Wood
Youth, Smokey Bear, 5th Grade	1st place, Brooklyn Prock
Website	1st place

**State Awards Received by Clubs**

Community Beautification Milton City Hall	1st place, Garden Hour
Community Enhancement "Unleash the Wild"	1st place, Root & Bloom
Club Longevity	60 years, Country Gardeners
Club Longevity	40-years, Happy Thymes
Honor Clubs	3rd place, Root & Bloom
Honor Clubs	HM Glove & Trowel
Honor Clubs	HM Garden Hour
Therapy Gardens	1st place, Garden Hour
Yearbook Clubs 20 -29 members	HM Garden Hour
Yearbook Clubs 30-44	3rd place, Root & Bloom
Website	2nd place, Root & Bloom

**State Awards Received by Individuals**

**Members/District Apply For**

Berta Deming Blue Ribbon Award	1st place, Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom
Berta Deming Blue Ribbon Award	2nd place, Linda Bones, Root & Bloom
Horticulture Essay, Scotch Broom	1st place, Karla Stover, Root & Bloom
Horticulture Essay, Lovely Lavendar	2nd place, Tina Moore, Dogwood
Landscape Design, Plan Only	1st place, Sherre Granger, Root & Bloom

**Flower Show Rosette Ribbons**

Betty Belcher Horticulture Award	3rd place, Dorothy Bean, Garden Hour
Terry Critchlow Photography Award	2nd place, Rachel Jennings, Root & Bloom
Terry Critchlow Photography Award	3rd place, Linda Rexrode, Root & Bloom
Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award	1st place, Kathy Johnson, Root & Bloom
Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award	3rd place, Jeanine Faulker, Root & Bloom
Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Floral Design	2nd place, Jeanine Faulker, Root & Bloom
Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Floral Design	HM, Jeanine Faulkner, Root & Bloom
JoAnne Goldman Artistic Craft Award	1st place, Linda Bones, Root & Bloom

JoAnne Goldman Artistic Craft Award  
Carol Klingberg Educational Award  
Carol Klingberg Educational Award  
Marva Lee Peterschick Flowering Shrub/Tree Award  
Marva Lee Peterschick Flowering Shrub/Tree Award  
Swenson Design Excellence  
Ellen Swenson Design Excellence

2nd place, Kathy Johnson, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Linda Pempeck, Glove & Trowel  
3rd place, Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Linda Pempeck, Glove & Trowel  
3rd place, Dorothy Bean, Garden Hour Ellen  
1st place, Donna Haley, Root & Bloom  
3rd place, Jeanine Faulkner, Root & Bloom

**District Awards Received**

Honor Club  
Most Horticulture Points  
Most Horticulture Points  
Most Design Points  
Most Design Points  
Most Botanical Arts Points  
Most Botanical Arts Points

1st place, Glove & Trowel  
1st place, Glove & Trowel  
2nd place, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Country Gardeners  
2nd place, Root & Bloom  
1st place, Root & Bloom  
2nd place, Happy Thymes

**Past District Directors Awards**

Most Horticulture Entries, Rosie Trujillo Award  
Most Design Entries, Linda Maida Award  
Most Botanical Arts Entries, Linda Maida Award  
Applies Most Awards, Fran Cissel Award  
Most Helpful Husband, Mary Bewley Award  
Best Attendance, Marvel Hood Award  
Best Design in March, Sherry Matthews Award  
Civic Development, Judy Strickland Award  
Share Our Knowledge, Rachel Jennings Award

Root & Bloom  
Root & Bloom  
Root & Bloom  
Root & Bloom  
Fred Welcher, Country Gardeners  
Country Gardeners  
Jeanine Faulker, Root & Bloom  
Dogwood  
Sherre Granger, Root & Bloom



## 2025 SUMMER GARDEN TOURS

Back by popular demand, Hill and Dale District members once again had the opportunity to participate in two separate tours of upscale, private residential gardens. Members purchased 62 tickets, and through this support, we raised \$1,210 for the Hill & Dale District Youth Horticulture grants program!

**Tour 1:** Approximately 35 members enjoyed the first tour on a warm July day. We visited six gardens, including four utterly fabulous gardens on Fox Island, and two more stunners in Gig Harbor. We saw quite a range in these gardens, from a small but creatively terraced multi-level urban lot garden to a sprawling over-the-top three-acre garden that featured a pond and large waterfall, a beautifully restored and vintage Airstream trailer, a two-story luxury-appointed treehouse, and lots of well-defined garden areas, with roses, conifers, and shade loving plants. The Gig Harbor gardens were also especially lovely. The Reuter Garden (Fig 1) featured a riot of colorful perennials and many whimsical touches throughout, such as a cute playhouse for the owner's children, and little paths leading to many secret garden rooms.



Fig 1. Colorful perennials were the signature of the Reuter Garden in Gig Harbor.

**Tour 2:** We headed to Olympia for the second tour (August 12), with about 20 fearless gardeners (Fig 2) braving the almost 100-degree heat! We visited five gardens on this tour. Everyone noted how very different each garden was from the others. For example, one garden was a perfectly manicured, weed-free picture of perfection, while the next was a wild and carefree place, giving a very natural look. We ended the day at Dorrie Carr's house. Dorrie is the WSFGC president, and she invited us to stop by to meet her and dip our toes in the water at the beach behind her house, while enjoying some ice-cold lemonade and appetizers. It was the perfect way to cool off after a really hot day! Don't miss out next year – everyone who went had a great time! Ticket proceeds support a great cause that really makes an impact. Any organization involving youth horticulture in Pierce County is eligible to receive this scholarship, so please spread the word for next year! Contact Mary McBride, Youth Scholarship Chair, at [marymcb@gmail.com](mailto:marymcb@gmail.com) for an application.



Fig 2. District members stop for a photo with tour host Marilou Rush.

Mary McBride  
Youth Scholarship Chair





## What to do on a 92-degree day in August except lay around in your “Blue Jeans & Country Dreams”

Well, that was the theme for the 2025 Pierce County Fair. Although our Hill & Dale members were certainly not just laying around. We had lots of excitement, and traffic inside the building. Our hostesses with some of them dressed up greeted all the visitors and encouraged them to enter our people's choice awards. This year we had two additional Special Entry categories like decorated country hat, boot and a decorated galvanized bucket with youth entering vegetable creatures. Plus “the rocks” that all the kids attending the fair know about. When you find 1 of our 300 hidden rocks return it to the floral barn and get a piece of candy. They enjoy rehidng the rocks just as much as the candy. Entries were up this year with 564 adult and 142 youth entries. Any vegetables not picked up are taken to Harvest Pierce County where 136 pounds were donated.



A highlight and very nice award for the many, many volunteers was being awarded Washington States Black & White Commissioner Rosette Ribbon. “Hill & Dale Floral Show won for their "ownership" of their assigned area. Members went above and beyond making their floral show area a fun and educational destination on the grounds.”

All of Hill & Dales 6 clubs participated this year in the fair. 631 hours were volunteered before, during, and after the fair to once again have a lovely and inspiring building. From the Hostesses to the adults helping the kids' plant and helping the kids make a Blue Jean Keychain all day long in the building. Those that sweated in the high temperatures to clean, set up everything and then take it all down, thanks so much for your efforts, time and hard work. Our worker bees were Randie Welcher, Julie Wells, Kathleen Muckian, Largo Wales, Gail Harte, Sherre Granger, Tamara Larson, Sue Thompson and Kathy Johnson. Recruited were brand-new members Joni Lund and Kathy Woodruff. They worked so hard the first day I did not think they would return but they did and are hooked now. Helping to come up with the fantastic ideas was Debra Devine and her daughter Margarita, who would have thought to hang a clothesline off our building with Blue Jeans on it! The Floral Barn had a country wagon out front, a tire swing on the building with a window, and even clouds floating above. 12 head less men greeted visitors walking up the ramp and another 8 headless men were hanging around the tree thanking visitors as they left. The waist band of each headless man was planted with flowers.

Please support the businesses that donated to us, Purple Geranium Nursery donated 780 annual plants, which were used as part of our decorations. Portland Ave Nursery again sponsored the kids' planting sedums in cowboy boots lined with bandanna sacks and Wilco donated 7 bales of straw to be used for our building.



## Dates to Remember for 2025-2026



### District Meetings

Tuesday, September 23, 2025  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025  
Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

### District Board Meetings

Tuesday, August 26, 2025  
Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

### District Garden Therapy

Thursday, October 23, 2025  
Thursday, February 26, 2026  
Thursday, May 21, 2026

### Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25, 2026

### Educational Bus Trip

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

### Girl Scouts Day Camp

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

### Pierce County Fair

August 6-9, 2026



## MEET 'N GREET/ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Hill and Dale will have another Meet 'n Greet scheduled for September 12, 2025 from 10am to 12pm at the Midland Community Center. This will give perspective new members an opportunity to learn about each club, ask questions and meet the Presidents or their representative of each club.

We are also planning a Membership Drive table to be setup at Portland Avenue Nursery on September 13, 2025 from 10am-4pm. We did this in March and the results were good, even if the weather was not, so we thought we would give it another try. If you have members that would like to join us at PAN on the 13<sup>th</sup>, this is voluntary and does NOT require an all-day shift. We appreciate any time you can spare.

If you know of someone that is interested in learning more about becoming a garden club member, please invite them to join us.

If you have questions please contact Terryann Westby...[terryann.westby@hotmail.com](mailto:terryann.westby@hotmail.com) or Kathleen Muckian...[nmuckian@comcast.net](mailto:nmuckian@comcast.net).

Thank you, Kathleen

Let's Get Down & Dirty

with



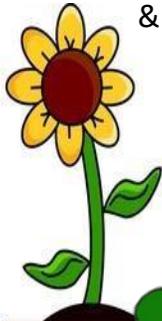
# Gardening School

Please join us for Course #4

**Wednesday & Thursday  
October 29 & 30, 2025**

**Course Topics**

Outdoor Identification of Plants, Growing Woody Ornamental, Plant Classification & Nomenclature, Styles of Gardening, Edible Gardening, & Pruning Techniques.



**Sponsored by  
Hill & Dale District  
Tacoma, Wa**

**Save the Dates!**

**October 29-30 2025 Course #4**

# How to Enter an NGC District Flower Show

- **Schedule**, List of what may be entered and is different for each show. It has general rules and specific rules for each Division of Horticulture, Design, Education, and Botanical Arts, The Botanical Arts Division also includes Horticulture, Designs, Artistic Crafts and Photos. Schedules are emailed to all district members one month before the flower show and all members are encouraged to enter.
- **Entry time**, For all divisions is between 8:30 and 9:30 am the day of the show at Dryers Masonic Center. Please allow yourself enough time, entries are not accepted after 9:30 am.
- **Horticulture Grooming**, Cut flowers in late evening or early morning cutting at an angle. Examine your specimen carefully and remove dead or bug nibbled leaves, any insects, spider webs or debris. Place your entry in a clear glass container of appropriate size and proportion to your specimen. Remove leaves as needed as they are not allowed in the water, except for *Gladiolus*.
- **Entry Tags**, Are available at your club meetings, on the district website to be printed out on cardstock and available the day of the show. It is recommended to fill out entry tags in advance. Help is available if needed at the classification table on the day of the show. See sample below.
- **How to fill out the Entry Tags**, First refer to your schedule. If you are entering a China aster find that listed in the schedule. The September show has it in Division I because it is horticulture. Then it is under Section A, Class 2. The botanical name is *Callistephus chinensis*. On entry card you will write in after DIV 1 SECTION you would write in A, CLASS 2. In the middle you write first the botanical name, *Callistephus chinensis*, since you can not write in italics you underline the entire word capitalize the first letter of the first word only. Enter the common name China aster in parentheses. Fill in your name & club name, fold up on line and paper clip it folded up. Do not cover up JUDGED BY.
- **What's Next**, After you have finished your entry, it is left at the classification tables in the first room of the show. Please do not gather around the door, others are trying to enter. Please then go into the lunchroom to sit and visit, please do not go into the flower show room to look. Viewing time is available at lunch.
- **Hill & Dale Ribbons**, Our district uses colored dots to represent the ribbons. Blue 1st place, Red 2nd place, Yellow 3rd place and White Honorable Mention.

<b>HILL &amp; DALE DISTRICT OF GARDEN CLUBS</b>			
DATE _____			
DIV ____ SECTION ____ CLASS ____			
<b>VARIETY / CLASS NAME</b>			
enter Botanical Name, capitalize first word only and underline entire name			
enter Common Name, in parentheses			
1ST	2ND	3RD	HM
JUDGED BY _____			
<b>FOLD ON THE DOTTED LINE</b>			
-----			
<b>EXHIBITOR</b>			
NAME _____			
CLUB _____			

**The concept is to show the most “perfect” exhibit compared to its ideal type, in reference to color and form, as well as maturity, not too early, but not past it’s prime, going to seed.**

# FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

## March 25, 2025

### Echo FS Results

27-May-25	Hort	Design	Bot Arts	Total	Year Totals
Aster Nots	1.83	0	0	0.83	2.32
Country Gardeners	6.41	1	0	4.4	20.6
Dogwood	0	0	0	0.33	0.36
Garden Hour	1.9	0	0	0.47	4.17
Glove & Trowel	16.77	0	0.44	7.15	34.46
Happy Thymes	0.36	0	0.81	0.99	9.25
Interlaaken	0		0	0	0.37
Root & Bloom	11.61	0.58	0.48	6.57	44.15
<b>Total Entries</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>		

WSFGC Betty Belcher Hort	Keith Ripley Country Gardeners Rose
WSFGC Marva Lee Peterchick	Sally Evans Glove & Trowel Azalea
NGC Award of Merit Sec A	Tamara Larson Root & Bloom Iris
NGC Award of Merit Sec B	Julie Wells Garden Hour Poppy
NGC Award of Merit Sec C	Keith Ripley Country Gardeners Rose
WSFGC Carolyn Erickson	Kathy Johnson Root & Bloom Space Shuttle
WSFGC Ellen Swenson	Kathy Johnson Root & Bloom Space Shuttle
WSFGC Terry Critchlow Photography	Nancy Velazque Happy Thymes Moon Garden
WSFGC C. Klingberg Educational	Cindy Swanberg Root & Bloom Cosmic Crisp

May Total Entries per club	Hort	Design	Bot arts
Aster Nots	3		
C Gardeners	28	7	
Dogwood	0		
Garden Hour	16	2	
Glove & Trowel	76		4
Happy Thymes	1		1
Root & Bloom	137	5	9
Others		2	



# JOIN A GARDEN CLUB TODAY...

New to gardening? New to the area?

Want to know more about joining our garden district?

## *Hill & Dale District of Garden Clubs*

*Come to our  
Meet & Greet  
Friday, September 12  
10am -12pm*

**Southeast Community Center**  
**1614 99<sup>th</sup> St E Tacoma**  
off of Hwy 512 and Portland Ave

**We are starting new clubs in  
the Tacoma, Puyallup,  
Sumner, Graham areas and  
an evening club.**

**Come see what garden club  
is all about!**

**Help select what day &  
location to meet!**



Questions?? Or more  
information

Contact Kathleen 253-841-1807  
[nmuckian@comcast.net](mailto:nmuckian@comcast.net)

Contact Terryann 253-209-3463  
[terryann.westby@hotmail.com](mailto:terryann.westby@hotmail.com)



*Let the Gardening Begin*



# Country Gardeners

## Quarterly Report

We have had a busy late spring and summer. In March, we were busy creating the centerpieces for the District Flower show, making 21 total centerpieces that included uniquely fashioned pendants for the judges, which were generously provided by President Randie Welcher and her husband. Jewelry making is just one of their many talents. The club was also lucky enough to have two members come away with awards from the flower show; Lorene Jones winning the NGC Arboreal Award, NGC Growers Choice Award and WSFGC Betty Belcher Award and Randie Welcher winning the NGC Educational Award and WSFGC Carol Klingsberg Award, along with many of our members entering and winning their horticulture entries.

In April, many of us participated in the Second Annual (in many years) Plant Sale. Again a huge success and we are all looking forward to next year.

We were not idle in May; members participated in the NGC Horticulture Flower Show honoring Eliza Meeker and held at the Meeker Mansion in Puyallup. Preparing for the District Meeting and Flower show and again two of our members came away with awards; Keith Ripley for WSFGC Betty Belcher Award and Debbie Spiller winning the WSFGC Brynn Tavasci Recycling Award.



June was also a busy month with the garden tours, both district and club, which many of our members took part in and were thrilled with. Kudos to Mary McBride for all her hard work organizing, and then came the Annual Bus Trip, which again was a success, largely in part of our own Chris Sherrill and Root and Bloom's Jeanine Faulkner...great team ladies! We also found time to work with the children at the Midland Kiddie Korral to create "Gnome Gardens", with help of R&B members, Tamara and Sue, this project completed our Grant Award. But most of our energies went into the June Convention. Even with her health issues plaguing her, Linda Maida and Debbie Spiller, helping to get her back and forth to appointments; these ladies did NOT let anything stop them. They both, along with many other sister club members, did themselves VERY PROUD with a VERY SUCCESSFUL 2025 convention. The club started early in the year by helping create the centerpieces for the tables at the convention, and ended with many of our members attending the festivities. And by all accounts, it was a grand time! And the Bus Trip Wowed us again this year.



Now in late July and early August, club members went on to help with the planning, cleaning, decorating, accepting entries (daycare kids entered again), hostessing and kid's planting for the annual Pierce County Fair. What a job!

Even with all this activity, we still found time to enjoy potlucks, tours of local nurseries, sharing and other garden related activities. AND we aren't done...now comes the 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, with ALL the planning and decorating, etc. BRING IT ON!!!

Kathleen Muckian





# Dogwood

*Quarterly Report*

It's the dog days of summer as I write this. Temps are pushing into the 90s. It would be an ideal time to sit back in the shade with a tall lemonade, but the Dogwood Club hasn't slowed down all summer.

We took part in the Pierce County Fair, helping where needed, including assisting children that planted up their own creations on succulent Thursday. Members also attended both the district garden tours, which were filled with ideas and inspiration — and maybe a little temptation to stop for more plants on the way home!

What has really kept us busy is keeping the newly planted trees watered at the Dogwood Park. With thirsty young plants and no water on the site, this has required dedication of many, regularly bringing hundreds upon hundreds of gallons of water to the park during these warm times. I'm happy to report every bit of it has paid off — the trees are thriving despite the heat!

On a much more somber note, we are saddened to report that the Dogwood Garden Club lost two members this summer. Julie Vaughn from Graham, passed away in June, far too young. She was a quiet, kind soul that will be missed. Then, in July, we also said good-bye to Mary Bewley. Mary's decades of contributions have shaped both the Dogwood Club and our District. Their absence leaves a hole in many hearts.

To end on a more up-beat note, the club has not one, but two new "co-presidents", Beth Runyon and Geneal Palmer. With their leadership, the club is in wonderful hands heading into the new year. Our first fall meeting will be in Mineral, hosted by Tina Moore at her gorgeous lavender farm, Lavender Passion Flower Farm. If you're ever in the area, it's absolutely worth the trip.

For me, this time of year is all about dahlias. They are blooming faster than I can cut them. (A happy problem!) I hope your gardens are also exploding with bounty. Enjoy these last dog days of summer!

Kathy Mettler





# Glove & Trowel

## *Quarterly Report*

At our June meeting, Terryann hosted a potluck meeting at her lovely home and spacious deck. We installed our officers for the 25-27 sessions: President, Linda Pempeck, Vice President, Terryann Westby, Secretary, Gina Fenton, & Treasurer, Sherry Matthews. Thank you to Sherry Sinclair for keeping up the gardens at Trinity Lutheran Church.

I need to back up here for a moment to the May District meeting and flower show. One of the judges was heard to say that this was one of the largest shows she had judged and how well it was presented along with the quality of specimens.... Nice to hear, huh? Great job for all who helped make it happen. Of the 276 show entries, Glove & Trowel had 73 horticulture entries, 1 in education, 3 in photos and 1 in crafts. Let's do more - yes?

State convention in June - Wonderful World of Color theme. I know I am not the only one to be so enamored with these beautiful solar totems. They were inspired by the artistry of Sally Evans; and painted by Fran Cissell, Terryann Westby, Paula Olsen, Ruth Prins, and Sally Evans, to present to the eight districts' presidents. Five of our members attended this convention. Congratulations to Linda Pempeck who won two state awards, one for her Kousa Dogwood and the other for "Vote for Seed Saving" educational.

In June we ordered up a perfect sunny day for a long visit to Point Defiance rose gardens. Then enjoyed a leisurely picnic at the park tables. We brought sack lunches and Linda brought cake for dessert. Talked about everything and nothing and didn't even have a regular business meeting. Being among friends and flowers - what better can one ask?

Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Linda and Terryann along with eight other district members joined approximately 179 Girl Scouts for "Fun Factory" (Willy Wonka Meets Weird Science). They all worked in stations to help make crazy straw flower arrangements with mostly recycled materials. In fact, the arrangements indeed found their "Wonkiness."

August: Imagine only a 1/3 of an acre on which to start growing cucumbers to sell as pickles! Hazel Duris did, on that little part of their chicken farm, and now look at the success she, and now, her children achieved: Duris Cucumber Farm! It was fun to visit and to learn how to make our own pickles to take home. We introduced our newest member, Lynne Stallcop, who also attended this event.

Moving along to September. We are excited to go to Gina Fenton's home to make hypertufa troughs and planters.

**Happy Fall to Ya'all!**

Barbara Bias





# Root and Bloom

## Quarterly Report



It does sometimes seem to me as if there's a song for every occasion. Right now, we are leaving "Summer time and the living is easy" and skedaddling on into fall when "The autumn leaves caress the leaves tenderly." Be that as it may, and as always, the R&B group has been busy.

During our June meeting at Kirk Heinz's Eatonville home, a good time was had by all as witnessed by Kim Munson (right). And we made good use of the unique setting and installed new officers, President, Mary McBride, with Vice President Lynne Burke, Secretary Trisha Tibbitts, and Treasurer Tamara Larson all continuing for a second term.



Kim Munson enjoys the zipline at Kirk Heinz's home.

Then in July our new president continued a tradition started several years ago of hosting a summer picnic. As we acquired new members, the club voted to meet year around and now, each summer, one member invites us to enjoy her

gardens and hosts a meeting/picnic. The food, the weather, and Mary's beautiful yard combined to make a lovely day.



Root & Bloom members enjoy a potluck lunch at our summer picnic.



Mary's patio provided a pleasant place to sit and enjoy the garden.

We also had good weather and a good time in July at Camp Curran, helping the Girl Scouts make Wacky Arrangements.

R&B's Tamara Larson was in charge and she spent many months collecting aluminum cans, chenille stems, mylar balloons, and other strange, weird, and wonderful stuff, and many more hours cutting it all to size. It was such a fun day and one girl told me how nice we all were.



Wacky arrangements



Tamara Larson working with a budding designer or, perhaps, gardener.

Throughout the summer, various R&Bers went on the bus trip, participated in garden therapy, took the gardens tours, and played Flower Bingo with residents at the Orting Soldiers Home. The only fly, or perhaps flies in the ointment were the awards. The *Washington Garden and Design* magazine had the wrong name under the essay award winner and our Pollinator Garden was completely omitted. Nevertheless, our members always do us proud. At the May district meeting, Tamara won NGC Award of Merit for her Iris; Cindy Swanberg won the WSFGC Carol Klingsberg Education Award for her Cosmic Crisp display and Kathy Johnson's "Space Shuttle" design won the WSFGC Carolyn Erickson and WSFGC Ellen Swenson award.

# Root and Bloom *Cont...*



With the District gearing up to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, some of us met and went through boxes of ephemera, trying to decide what best shows the things we've done since R&Bs inception—not an easy job. That's about it. And so, as yet another old song goes, *See you in September*.

Karla Stover



Please join us as we celebrate

## Hill & Dale District of Garden Clubs

### 50th Anniversary

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

We will have a NGC Flower Show, history of how the district started, a vintage fashion show, along with Elvis performing.

Mark your calendars now and don't miss out!

# Gardening Tips

By Chris Sherrill

## PREP IN FALL FOR SPRING PLANT SALE

Many of the plants we sell at our Plant Sale are perennial divisions from members' gardens. But because spring is so busy, some club members can divide and pot up their perennials in fall. To ensure the plants survive winter, members can now sink the labeled pots in the ground to their rims in a protected spot. In the spring the gardeners can simply pull up the pots and their donations are ready to go. Plants overwintered this way tend to have less transplant shock.

### *More Gardening Tips...*

- **Plant hardy spring-flowering bulbs** such as daffodils, tulips, and crocus; add bulb fertilizer and be sure to water them before the ground freezes. Select big, hearty-size bulbs.
- **Mix organic materials into your soil** before the ground freezes.
- **Do a final weeding before winter and clean up** any debris from your garden and lawn to avoid disease come spring.
- **Once the weather gets cooler, dig and divide** your perennial plants and herbs.
- **Keep checking your plants for diseases and insects, and treat them when necessary.**
- **Divide peonies and iris.**
- **Stake tall flowers** to prevent them from wind damage.
- **Continue to harvest.** Winter squash is ripe when the ground spot turns from white to a cream or gold color. Potatoes are ready when tops die down. Store in a dark location.
- **September is the best time to fertilize lawns** for strong roots.
- **Plant or transplant woody ornamentals** and established herbaceous perennials.
- **September is a good time to plant new trees** and shrubs for healthy root growth over winter.

*My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece. -Claude Monet*



# KRITTER KOMEDY KWIPS



The house sign says, "WELCOME." Princess the cat says, "GET OFF MY LAWN!"

SammieJo Thirtyacre - Dogwood



Harper says, "OMG! The things I put up with...I can hardly BEAR it!"

Ginny Philips - Dogwood



Brighton vies for the French poodle next door... "Ooo-la-la, Elle est tres jolie!" (Translation: "She is very pretty!")

Dorinda Jenkins - Garden Hour



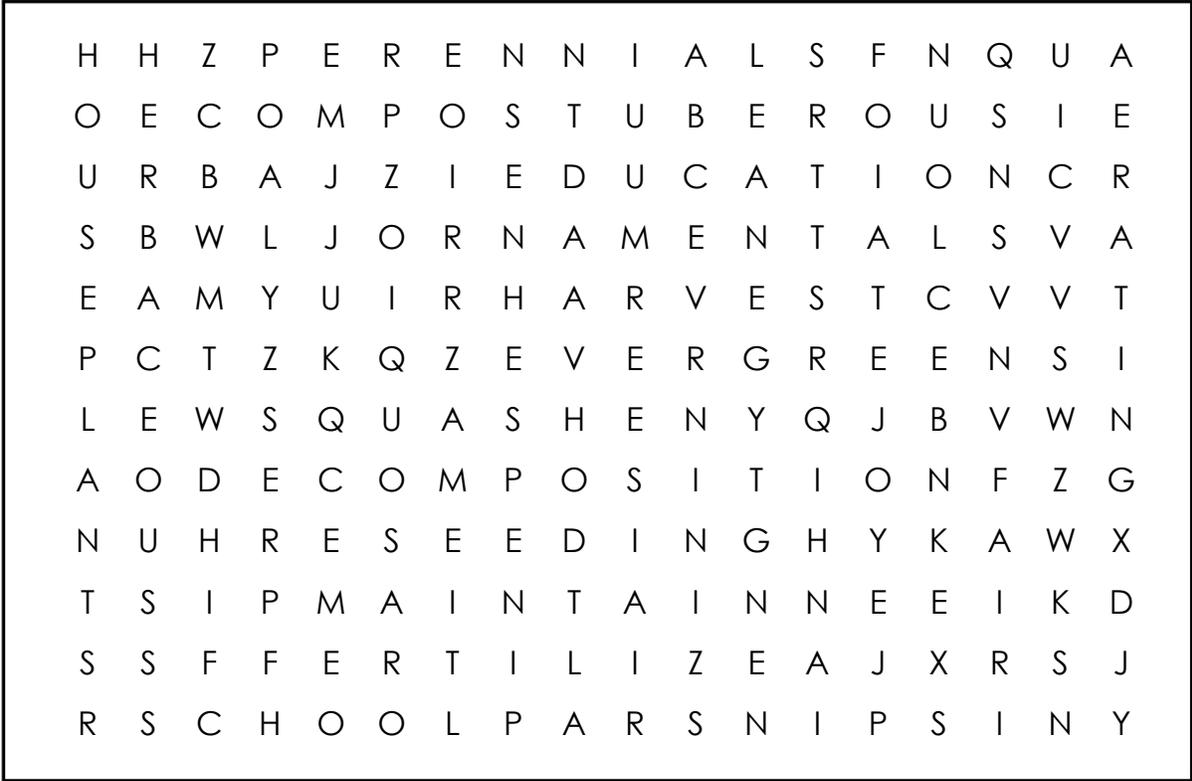
Garden Mascot Toby sighs, "Yes I know--I'm as pretty as a peacock!"

Barbara Samora - Dogwood



# JUST FOR FUN WORD SEARCH

## Welcome Fall



Find the following words in the puzzle.

AERATING  
COMPOST  
DECOMPOSITION  
EDUCATION  
EVERGREENS  
FAIR  
FERTILIZE

HARVEST  
HERBACEOUS  
HOUSEPLANTS  
MAINTAIN  
ORNAMENTALS  
PARSNIPS  
PERENNIALS

RESEEDING  
SCHOOL  
SQUASH  
TUBEROUS



# HILL & DALE DISTRICT MEETING

## 50th Anniversary Celebration

September 23, 2025 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*Flower entries no later than 9:30 a.m.*

Dryer Masonic Center  
306 134th St. S., Tacoma, WA 98444



## Programs/Speakers

***Please join us!***

### Hill and Dale District Celebration Program September 23, 2025

The September 23, 2025 district meeting will be something completely different. It is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Cheers to 50 Years! We are going to devote the day to celebrating our history, our accomplishments and our friendships. Instead of a horticulture morning speaker, district members will stage a multi-media presentation with photos, music, an overview of five decades of gardening and reminiscences from some of our long-time members. There will be a fashion show with looks from the past 50 years. Each club is preparing a history display. The decor and the treats promise to be dazzling. We will also have one of our spectacular NGC Small Standard Flower Shows including horticulture, design, and botanical arts. Flower show entry information can be found on the Hill and Dale website under the Flower Shows tab. In the afternoon Elvis aka Danny Vernon will put on a show just for us. Please come join us for a day of well-earned fun.

Cindy Swanberg  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director

#### MISSION STATEMENT

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.** Provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

#### SPREAD A LITTLE SUNSHINE!

Do you know a member who could use a cheerful note or card? Let Kathleen Muckian know and she will send out a card.

[nmuckian@comcast.net](mailto:nmuckian@comcast.net) or 253.841.1807

ECHO Editor: Sherry Meyer, Garden Hour

ECHO Co-Editor: Karla Hiers, Garden Hour