

Hill and Dale

Garden clubbers enter double anniversary year

By LORRAINE McCLISH  
Hill and Dale Garden Club celebrates a double anniversary as it enters the new season under Elaine Gunderson, president of the 100-member club. Members join with sister clubs throughout the state to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Michigan Federation of Garden Clubs, while entering their 20th year of giving garden therapy classes to those in special education classes in Farmington Public Schools.

Local residents will be seeing the new trees on both private and public properties through the work of Gretchen Pugley and her horticulture and conservation education committee. One golden crabapple is destined for planting in Cloverdale's new Sensitivity Garden, a see-touch-smell plot on the grounds where members meet students each month in their garden therapy sessions.

THE PLANTING of golden crabapple seedlings is on the agenda for all garden therapy students this school season, set by Mary Bahna, who heads up the therapy classes this year. Garden therapy was brought to Farmington area handicapped in 1960 by Alice Burlingame, who writes

"Down to Earth" for Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. It is now a mandate for membership that every member contribute in some way to the garden therapy classes. A something-new for garden clubbers in the state this season is working toward buying an 80-acre plot known as Grass Bay, along Lake Huron in Cheboygan County. The property is now owned by Michigan Nature Conservancy and will be taken over by Michigan Federation of Garden Clubs, managed and maintained as a nature preserve. Nancy Passfield takes double duty for the club by acting as liaison to the federation on the Grass Bay

project, and heading up the federation's District I meeting, which Hill and Dale members will host this fall. HILL AND DALE's flower show for the season is set for the first part of May, with a double twist this time around, headed up by Grace Bulman and Nancy Goulette. It will be the first time it will be given in private homes. Two members of Hill and Dale will be opening their homes, one with contemporary, the other with traditional furnishings, for the show with a Shakespearean theme called "As You Like It." Another something new this season is the club's sponsorship for one of its

members to attend one of five schools, conferences or workshops offered throughout the state. Mrs. Gunderson is the grant recipient for the first such workshop of the season. She will attend the 41st Conservation Conference at Higgins Lake this fall. MRS. GUNDERSON's vice presidents for the season are Katie Wemyss, Mrs. Bahna and June Pheil. Secretaries are Penny Stairs and Pat Reed. Treasurer is Barb Goff. Sandy Denton heads up Junior Gardeners this season, which patterns its meetings, projects and shows after its parent club.

Marsha Stewart is in charge of arranging workshops for special interests of the members. During the first meeting of the 1980-81, season members paid tribute to Chris Smith and her committee that worked throughout the summer caring for Farmington Community Center flower gardens, an on-going contribution to the center from the club. The women decorate the center for the winter holidays and in the next few weeks will be holding workshops to help furnish table decorations for the center's fall benefit, a luncheon and fashion show set for Sept. 18 in Vladimir's.

Fall class registration opens Sept. 4 at the Y

Registration opens Thursday, Sept. 4, in Northwest Branch YWCA, 25940 Grand River, for the fully scheduled program which will begin the week of Sept. 15. Programs for teens, adult men and women will include bridge, guitar, piano, photography, soft sculpture, silk-screening, a number of art classes, a legal workshop, drivers training, and a variety of dance lessons. Specialized programs for women include powderpuff mechanics, aerobic dance, belly dance, ballet, physical fitness, exercise for expectant mothers,

and emotional fitness. The "Ladies Day Out" agenda lists a variety of activities from learning how to upholster to a session on herbs. Preschool activities offered will be school readiness, art, ballet, and parent and tot swimming. Programs for youth from 6-13 years include pioneering, art, cooking, cartooning, gymnastics, tennis, ballet, junior theater and Girl Scout Junior badge workshops. Registration information is given by calling the Y, 537-8500.

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