

HILLTOPPERS Garden Club

Sharing our gardens during COVID-19

June 2020

A note from our President

Hello Friends,

The program team had the lovely idea for this newsletter which gives a peek at what's going on with Hilltoppers this month. Our hope is that it will help keep us close in these strange times. Ordinarily we would be anticipating our June potluck meeting – conversation, good food, and plans for summer gardening!! Alas, COVID prevents this.

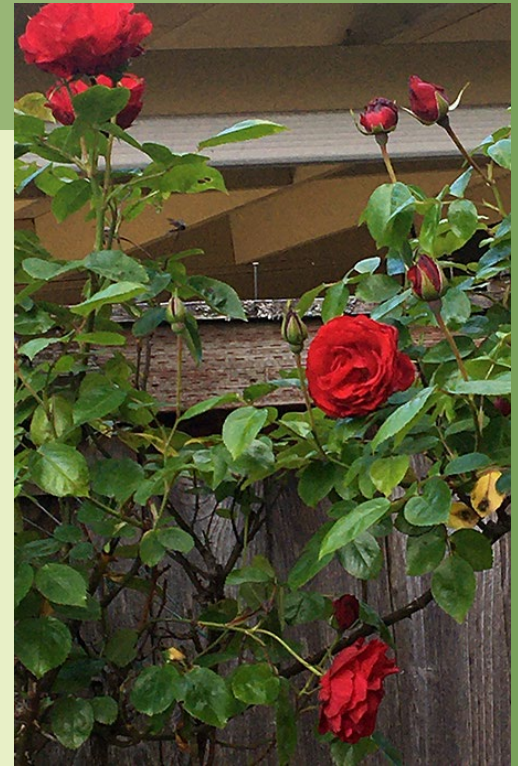
We plan to organize a Zoom meeting for Thursday, June 4 at 10:00 am. A few days before, you will receive an agenda for a short business meeting and a Zoom invitation.

Due to COVID there are many questions as we look to the coming year. A couple of our cancelled speakers are on hold for possible rescheduling. The program team is also exploring ideas for alternative programs that could be viewed and followed by discussion online if we are not yet meeting in person. Any ideas you have are very welcome.

If you would enjoy sharing photos again in an August newsletter be sure to snap some photos of your garden projects throughout the summer.

Stay well.

Carol



CHAR CRAWFORD – This is my favorite clematis, and Jack's favorite climbing rose, "Dublin Bay."

ANN deSMET – Columbines are a favorite of mine.





CAROL ROWLAND –
These rhododendrons have been in our yard
for over forty years! Miss your smiling faces!



CHARLENE TRENT-LEWIS – Allium. Euphorbia.
Snowball Bush - this was my mother's in
Tennessee, all my life. Many years ago when I
drove there, I brought some back, and here it
is. It gets cut each year.
I also did a small design (6 1/2") from some
of my flowers – fennel & columbine black
Barlow.





BARB WILKINS – I made these with succulents from my yard. Enjoy!



SHANNON YOUNG – The garden view that seems sweetest each year is the one from my kitchen sink window, since I've ample opportunity to study and improve upon it. I love the contrast of the Red Ossier dogwood against the white urn and the shades of grey and purple that complement the scene in spring— variegated *Iris pallida* 'Argentea Variegata' and its amethyst bloom that glows in shade, tall 'Black Barlow' aquilegia, classic hellebore orientalis, dainty chives, and carpet forming 'Purple Dragon' lamium.





BARB NELSON –The weeks have been long and I miss my family and friends. I've done a lot of reading by downloading books from the library. Finally it warmed up and I could get out to weed the flower beds. I planted bedding plants and tomatoes.

Photo #1 – First rose of the season, Double Delight.

Photo #2 – An urban hike on Mother's day at Shelton View Forest.

Photo #3 – My indoor plants that bloom continuously.

SUSAN HAWKINS –
My Itoh peony, first peony to bloom.



DIANA BOYLE – It is nice to feel like a part of the group and get to keep up on gardening information and ideas. I have nothing to offer in way of interesting pictures, but some success in reseeding my backyard from my son's dog's damage when they lived here. My son is into native plants so I had to expand the beds in my front yard to give the rosa, three varieties, a place to grow- one whole foot to the front at least, navigating my front yard gardens around the London plane tree roots. With any luck, the plants will continue to send up baby plants that I can donate to the plant sale next year!

MALFRID VINTERTUN—I love it when everything is blooming in my front yard. Wish the flowers would last a lot longer. Hope we can all get together in the Fall. I MISS YOU.

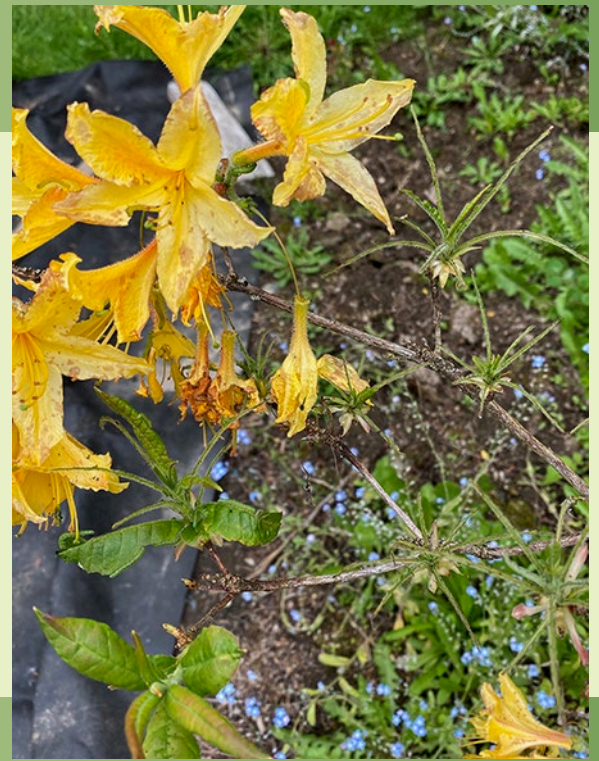


NATALIE STENSETH — The first is a rhododendron in our yard that is almost at full bloom. The next two are from a community garden at my church where I have a small plot because they have a good fence to keep out the rabbits, and full sun which we certainly don't have in our yard. I am growing lettuce, spinach and peas there now, and plan to plant some beans and a tomato plant soon. In our vegetable garden at home I have broccoli, beets, carrots, tomatoes and cucumbers.



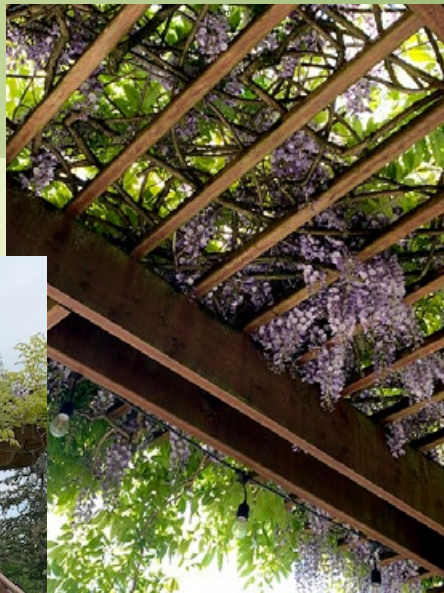


CAROL WHITE – I acquired these hardy lavender African daisies at our plant sale two years ago. I love that the deer don't like them and that they continue to bloom throughout the spring/summer season spreading in size each year. Does anyone know what may be eating my tree azalea leaves? Those little spikey affairs should be full fledged leaves!



JO ANN EVANS – An atlas cedar weeping over pink azaleas makes a lovely welcome during May. In the lower photo, Mother's Day azaleas are in their prime on....you guessed it... Mother's Day! BELOW: Our lot slopes STEEPLY down from the street. Our lower backyard getaway has matured over its 40+ years. I've learned to love moss!





PATTY CARROLL – On Mother's Day, more wisteria blooms were out inside the trellis and it smelled wonderful. It's a nice plant but needs lots of maintenance with pruning and picking up falling flower blooms and leaves. Might have been better further out in garden.

Acer Moonrise were added to my garden this spring. I love their height, color and texture. They add so much to my garden.

My new favorite, fairly cheap find is this solar birdbath fountain. It operates only when the sun is out and attracts so many birds. The spray is higher when a stronger sun is out and the hummingbirds love to buzz through the spray. The towhees take a minute-long bath and are pretty dramatic to watch. The other birds hide in the rhododendron waiting their turn. Lots of entertainment!!



NATALIE STENSETH – Strawberry rhubarb freezer jam

5 cups of chopped fresh rhubarb
2-1/2 to 3 cups white sugar
3 ounce pkg strawberry jello
(I add 2 cups of fresh chopped strawberries)



DIRECTIONS: In a large sauce pan or pot, stir together the rhubarb and sugar, cover and let stand overnight. The next day bring rhubarb and sugar to a boil over medium heat. Boil, stirring constantly for 12 minutes on low heat (I add strawberries after a few minutes). Remove from heat and stir in dry gelatin mix. Transfer to sterile containers and refrigerate or freeze.

JAN WESTFALL — My dogwood tree turns many heads every spring. It has been pruned so many times, but is still massive!

Same with the huge Japanese Maple — it thrives in the wet, acid soil.

And yes, a lot of baking



SHARON HECKEL — Leopard Print dwarf bearded iris 8" tall.

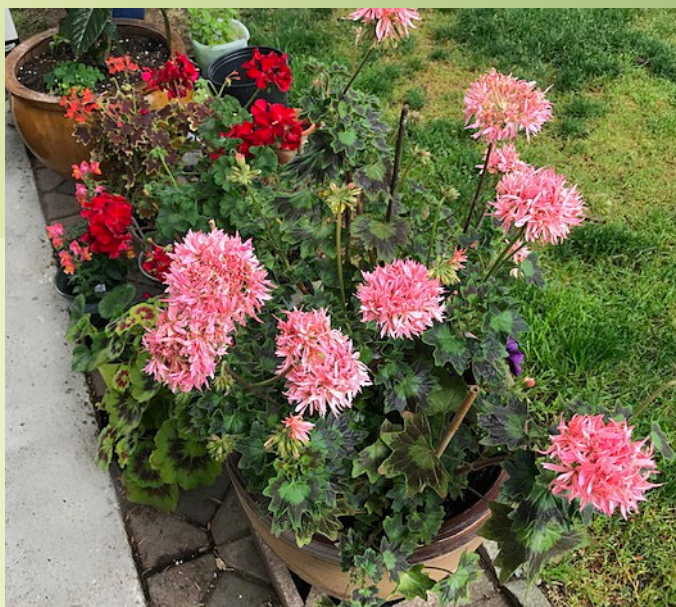
A new bearded iris whose name I do not have.

Lilac purchased many years ago from the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens in Woodlawn, WA.





LINDA THOMPSON – Rich and I have been spending time at Lake Tapps and in Kenmore, and our yards have never been in such good shape by this time in past years. We have our 7 month old Basenji grandpups to "help" dig, dig up and destroy, and eat (especially our grasses), so we keep busy. SPRING THRILLS IN APRIL - Iris japonica from Shyoko's garden, blue anemone, trillium, calla lillies at Lake Tapps, our grandpups.



ELISABETH DIBEH – Clockwise: my favorite geranium I got from Nancy, I have propagated about 26 so far! Notice the clover and poppies around the raised beds, the rabbits eat the clover and leave the veggies alone, it works! A great bed of head lettuces we have been eating and sharing since April. I spend a good portion of my day working in the garden tending our plants. Our son Andy, built us 5 large raised beds which have made gardening easier for our old backs. Our plants are thriving beautifully and we can already harvest some vegetables, especially lettuce, parsley and green onions. Our garden is not all groomed and perfect, we do what needs to be done to get some good produce for our family, but let it not become a bigger job then necessary!





JANIE MATSUMOTO –1. Used to be a pink hanging cherry blossom tree. After incorrectly pruning, or no pruning, the blossoms became white and branches spread up.
2. Rhubarb grown in a square planter.
3. Ceanothus shrub – ever-green, blooms early spring.

