



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris Volume 18, Issue 15 December 2006

A Word from the President...

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EGC 2005-2006 Board Members Presidents:

Nan Spence

Vice Presidents:

Chris Gray
Sheila Henriksen

Secretary:

Kim Stark

Treasurer:

Priscilla Chapin

The **Wild Iris** is a free monthly publication for members of the Evergreen Garden Club.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from Sept. to June at Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:15 am. All are welcome.

For **membership** information please contact Priscilla Chapin at 303-697-4140 or Prisc4430@aol.com

Newsletter Contributions are due by the 20th of each month to Karla Briggs at karla@tuppersteam.com

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Evergreengardenclub.org

It is hard to believe that the holidays are here again. Didn't we just take down the wreaths and pack the decorations away? Yet it is time to deck those halls once more. How I wish I had a few little elves to help me!

Before leaving town for Thanksgiving, I spent several hours in my garden and in the surrounding woods gathering materials to use in my holiday decorating. I find special joy in discovering what remains in the garden which can be worked into holiday arrangements. Silky blue-gray lamb's ears, red and gold Himalayan border jewel and red twig dogwood branches are some of my favorites. From the woods, I've brought in several baskets of pinecones and three wheelbarrows full of Douglas fir and Colorado blue spruce branches to make swags for light fixtures and arrangements for both indoors and out. Aside from these staples, I never know what natural treasures

I will bring back home. This year my bounty included a bird's nest and an antler. The gnarled branches of mountain mahogany also caught my eye even though I am not quite sure what to do with them. Perhaps my very favorite plant to use in holiday decorating is bearberry or kinnikinnik with its diminutive shiny foliage and its tiny red berries. At this time of year, some of the foliage has turned varying shades of red which serves to make it look even more seasonal. Because this native ground-cover grows in long runners, it can easily be fashioned into wreaths and garland or small sprigs can be tucked in anywhere you would normally use holly or boxwood.

One of the major objectives of my walk in the woods was to select this year's tree. It is now marked with red ribbon for my husband to chop down and haul to the house on his trusty tractor. After several years of having a tree which was just too large for us to handle, I have agreed to a twelve-foot maximum height. (Although I may need to also cut down a smaller tree for the overflow ornaments.)

(Continued on pg. 2)

December 12, 2006 Pot-Luck Holiday Party

What better way to get into the spirit of the holidays than with a party!
Bring a favorite holiday side dish or dessert to share... and wear something festive. Let's just have fun!
***Please bring the recipe or list of ingredients. It helps with allergies and those who**

The meeting begins at 9:30 am at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway. Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots, etc. for the World Gardening Table...and your coffee mug. See you there!

Garden Club meetings will be cancelled whenever Jefferson County Mountain Schools are cancelled because of inclement weather. This will eliminate any confusion and need for last minute communications about weather cancellations.

Garden Club News



Have a Very Merry Holiday Season
&
Happy New Year!

Special Thanks

I would like to extend a very special thank you to those members who are taking time out of their busy schedules to serve on the special committee formed to investigate and resolve current administrative issues facing our club. Thank you Ruth Alford, Ken Ball, Stan & Liz Barrett, Barbara DeCaro, Sheila Henriksen, Vicky Jahn, Julaine Kennedy, Claudine Pardi, Linda Ringrose and Irma Wolf for your dedication and service to our club.

(Continued from Pres. Message pg.1)

I hope I have time to put up the tree and make use of gathered materials. Doesn't it seem that each year gets busier than the last?

I should not complain however, I have more time than many of my friends who seem to be baking and cooking from Thanksgiving through New Years. Being a glaring exception to the rule that "good gardeners are also good cooks," I have never expended much time or energy creating large holiday meals or baking dozens of cookies. I'm the one who always contributes the wine or, at the very most, a salad to holiday festivities. This year, however, I plan to amaze my in-laws by making a dessert to bring to our holiday meal. Liz Barrett shared the recipe for the Chocolate Éclair dessert which she brought our November meeting. Did you get to taste it? It was simply melt-in-your-mouth perfection. I will let you know how my attempt at recreating it turns out.

Perhaps my culinary ineptitude is why I am so appreciative of all of our members who step up to volunteer to bring such delicious food to our meetings each month. Thinking back, one of the few compliments I remember receiving on my own culinary attempts occurred at the very first Evergreen Garden Club potlucks I attended nearly ten years ago. Nora Bunyard was our President then. Although I merely brought a salad, Nora was kind enough to praise that salad in her next President's Message. Perhaps the positive experience I had back then will inspire a new member to come to this year's holiday potluck on December 12.

I am certainly looking forward to our holiday gathering. Last year, after planning our celebration at the Botanic Gardens, I could not attend as I was recovering from surgery. I truly missed having the opportunity to spend a portion of the holiday season in the company of other members of our club.

This year, our current Vice Presidents, Sheila Henriksen and Chris Gray, have arranged our December get together. I do not know what all they have planned for us; but I know that whatever these creative women plan in conjunction with our three hospitality experts, Jeri Dufford, Frances Sorensen and Bev Wickland, it will be surely be a highlight of the holiday season.

I realize how hectic this time of year can be, but I hope that you can join us on December 12. Remember to bring a holiday side dish or dessert. More than likely, I'll bring a salad!

Wishing each of you a joy-filled holiday season.
Nan Spence

Minutes of the November 14, 2006 Meeting

President Nan Spence called the meeting to order at 9:30.

General Announcements-Nan said the Garden Club's snow cancellation policy will coincide with the Jefferson County Mountain School District's cancellations with respect to snow days and meeting cancellations. She also pointed out that various EGC notices are posted on the white board in the front of the room.

Hospitality-Bev thanked everyone who brought food to this meeting and mentioned the December pot luck, read the names of those offering to help set up and clean up.

Wild Bird Center Open House-Nan thanked all who participated in the event; John Sears read the names of each volunteer and thanked them all personally. He then presented a check to EGC for our portion of the proceeds.

December Pot Luck-Sheila discussed the December 12th pot luck protocol. The EGC will provide the main dish and all members are encouraged to bring a dish that is traditional to their family's celebration. There will be a small silent auction for items donated from some of our business members.

The New Members-Priscilla welcomed one new member.

Treasurer's Report-Priscilla reported the amounts in the EGC accounts, asked for and received approval for the Report. The Operating Budget was also approved.

Secretary's Report-Kim reported from whom thank you cards had been received, asked for and received approval of the October Minutes.

Natural Resources-Marilyn provided additional information regarding noxious weeds and handed out pamphlets on where/how/what to recycle. She also has a binder with photos of noxious weeds and stated the Weed Awareness campaign needs volunteers.

Earth Day-Nan asked Mary to say a few words with respect to Earth Day. EGC participates in Earth Day and will be needing volunteers. More information is to follow.

Shirt Order-Trisha said today is the final day to order an EGC denim shirt and noted that Winter Fest is this Saturday.

Nan introduced Linda Ringrose; she is our historian, photographer and scrap book-keeper.

World Gardening-Ginny addressed the issue brought up at October's meeting with respect to donated items bearing a "suggested donation"; she stated the EGC board had discussed it and voted against it. She also stated that plants brought to the meeting but not sold, are donated to the Seniors' Resource Center and are much appreciated.

Speaker and Program-Sheila introduced David Smith from Timberline Gallery and he gave his presentation, "A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words".

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

Attendees: 49

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Stark

Reminder Concerning Parking at Our Monthly Meetings

Please keep in mind that Evergreen Fire Rescue is providing temporary close-in parking spaces for those members who would experience difficulty in walking from spaces further from the entrance to the building. These spaces are marked with orange cones which you can pull in between to park. For members who are carrying large items into the meeting, such as decorations, food, or world gardening items, you may pull up to the entrance at the front of the building to unload and carry your items in, then move your vehicle to a parking space when you are finished. This also applies on leaving the meeting with items which you are unable to carry to your parking space. This should alleviate any parking concerns. However, please let one of our officers know if you encounter any situations that remain a problem and we will work to get it solved. Thank you for your cooperation and for your thoughtful consideration the needs of other members.



Over The Garden Fence

By Julaine Kennedy

Winter in Evergreen arrived early this year. Over the past few years the November & December weather reports often reported storm fronts that never materialized. It is difficult to get into the Christmas spirit when t-shirt weather is still hanging around. BUT it was so easy to attend the cookie exchange and holiday parties back then. There was no need to wear long underwear, or clamp ice guards on your cross-country boots to arrive safely at your destination. And then set off the fire alarm when you overheated.

One year I remember a traffic jam at the foyer closet as people struggled to recover their coats, boots, hats, walking sticks, and mittens. Brave souls opted for one last drink of antifreeze before heading for their cars that were parked over the hill and through the woods. Those were the good 'ole days. Garden chores pretty much shut down just in time to begin addressing greeting cards and shopping for holiday gifts.

So this year will be a good change for us. It's ok for one year if you don't get the garden hoses drained and safely stored. You will still have a successful garden season even if you didn't get the ½ acre of irises divided and replanted. Hopefully you had mulch material available to spread around trees, shrubs and over-wintering flower beds.

I have begun my annual trek for dried grasses, branches etc. They make wonderful quick and easy arrangements inside and outside our home. By mid December I hope to have trimmed a few junipers branches and pruned some rose canes that have wonderful rose hips on them. I have had my eye on a patch of deep red- branched shrubs in a ditch near by. It wouldn't take many to tie up with a special holiday bow for another spot of holiday cheer.

I can't let the year come to an end without thanking our officers and committees for their energy and ideas. Each year Evergreen Garden Club provides so many great opportunities for our members and community. Many thoughtful hours go into planning our programs and activities. Thanks too, to new members who have joined us recently. Please take time to meet our new members. During the next 6 months there will be opportunities for old and new members to come together with brand spanking new ideas. Let's listen to one another, get to know one another. It takes a committee to start a project and the whole membership to make it successful and fun.

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Forest Heights Lodge is a non-profit residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed boys located in Evergreen, Colorado. The residential program, which includes an on-ground school, admits boys between five and fourteen years of age, and enables students to return to a less restrictive environment generally within 18 to 24 months. Founded in 1955, the program has developed a treatment model unique to residential treatment and has an international reputation. Basic concepts since inception have been: Close, personal relationships are what pull children back to the healthy relationships. The child must develop trust in order to grow.

Thanks to Peggy & Dale Fetchenhier, the Evergreen Garden Club has had a long history with Forest Heights Lodge. This year Peggy & Dale and their group of volunteers will continue the tradition of sharing in their holiday party by bringing a plant & cookie for each boy. Peggy & Dale have been educating the boys about plants over the years, and the boys have developed a genuine interest in learning how to care for their plants.

HORTICULTURE

Boughs of Evergreen: The Holidays Approach

It's almost time to start decorating with boughs of evergreen. Which brings us to what the holidays really means. Here in Colorado we're blessed with lots of blue skies throughout the year, but many places aren't. And trimming a house with evergreens during the holidays is all about appeasing the sun so that it will return.

A woman living in Sweden shares that her life sure goes inward during the winter. No light. No wonder people living in those cold, northern climes of Scandinavia and Germany revere plants that stay green year round. Word is the early people believed evergreens stored the power of the sun.

Sheryl Ann Karas, author of "The Solstice Evergreen," says mid-winter marked the year's turning point for our ancestors', people whose only world was the natural environment. Survival then was based on noticing the interdependence of everything around them.

Karas, a Jewish woman who became fascinated with the Christmas tree, researched cultures all over the world and found most festivities included boughs of evergreens. From sprigs to branches to entire trees, evergreens represent the never-ending cycle of the natural world everywhere.

And at some point when the wreath was created, its round shape further symbolized the on-going cycles in the natural world.

Mistletoe is another Christmas greenery, and kissing under a sprig in a doorway is an old Scandinavian custom. When enemies met under mistletoe in the forest, they would lay down their weapons and maintain a truce until the next day. And the Druid's medicinal lore says that mistletoe produces fertility.

This time of year is indeed a time to honor green.

Submitted by Kathi Grider

GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Tatonka Farms, Inc.
Owners: Patty & Greg Dierksheide
10871 Hwy 73
Conifer, CO 80433
(303) 816-4312
www.tatonkafarms.com
patty@tatonkafarms.com

Tatonka Farms is a family owned business since 2000 in a quaint country neighborhood setting. They started with 1 greenhouse in 2000 and have upgraded to 3 greenhouses at the present time. The owners grow all their products at 8300' in elevation. Growing at this elevation produces flowers that are hardier and will endure the dramatic changes in temperatures that we're exposed to in the mountain communities. Greg is the experienced horticulturalist nurturing plants from rooted cuttings.

They specialize in two growing seasons per year, a spring/summer season of 6" geraniums, 4" annuals and 12" hanging baskets and a fall/winter season of poinsettias, winter wreaths and bulbs. The retail store is open the second week in April for the annual sales and November 17th at 9a.m. for the fall/winter season. They offer a 10% discount on pre buy orders in April. All merchandise purchased at this time will be held until the final frost date which is usually Memorial Day Weekend.

The Dierksheide's are proud to sell 70% of their product to local non profit groups, which includes Evergreen Palms, Conifer High School Choir, Platte Canyon Choral Group and ten local churches. They are hoping to expand their current operations to trees and shrubs in the future.



GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS**Evergreen Garden Center**

Owners: Ron Sigg & Pam Selman
26479 Hwy 74 -
P.O.Box 370
Kittredge, CO 80457
303-674-2146 Garden Center
303-674-7160 Bulk Materials Yard
rons@evergarden.net
pam@evergarden.net
www.evergarden.net

Ron Sigg oversees the design/build side of the house, which has a fundamental commitment to sound design principles. Form will follow function supported by strong construction techniques thus creating a functional design that is aesthetically pleasing. A high standard of warranties is set to conform specifically to the conditions and materials used in each landscaping project. Free landscape consultations are available upon request.

The materials bulk yard has a great selection of materials ranging from sand, soil, mulches, stone and decorative boulders to enhance any landscaping project you could imagine. Winter hours for the bulk yard are 8-4:30 p.m. Monday –Saturday. Deliveries can be scheduled by calling the bulk yard at (303) 674-7160. If you get the phone recording the bulk yard attendant is either making deliveries or is assisting another customer in the yard, please do leave a message and they will return your call promptly.

The garden center is artfully orchestrated with a holiday theme for every season by Pam Selman. Stage crews are behind the scenes creating state of the art displays fit to bless any Broadway production. The festival of Christmas Trees is currently on parade at the nursery. The garden center offers quality native plant material as well as a full compliment of gardening supplies to assist you in beautifying your landscape. Fresh cut trees, wreaths and garland are available for the holidays. Plan a family outing to select a tree, drink cider or hot chocolate, select that special gift and live to celebrate the spirit of giving. Special tree orders are being taken along with set-up and removal of Christmas Trees. Call the garden center for special requests at (303) 674-2146. Winter hours are 9-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and Sundays from 10-4 p.m.



Rustic Tree



White Christmas Tree

Evergreen Garden Club
PO Box 1393
Evergreen, Colorado 80437
www.evergreengardenclub.org



***Celebrating our
40th Anniversary***

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.denverbotanicgardens.org



2006-2007 Blossoms of Light

Denver Botanic Gardens turns into a winter wonderland as it is blanketed in dazzling holiday lights which highlight the natural beauty of the Gardens.

Over one million colorful lights draped in elegant designs will illuminate the plants and hardscapes throughout a new path at the Gardens. A variety of entertainment will be held each evening in the All-America Selections Garden outdoor heated tent, Mitchell Hall and also strolling around the Gardens. See the sparkling lights magically transformed into shimmering snowflakes through the lenses of our 3-D HoloSpex glasses.

Many new features have been added to this year's spectacle, including waterlily sculptures that will illuminate the Monet Garden Horseshoe Pool. Additionally, some of the 26 sculptures from the Living Bronze Sculptures by Robert Wick exhibit will be lighted and will incorporate elaborate seasonal plantings. Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting will be introduced to the display this year, with energy-saving displays in the Water-Smart Garden and Woodland Mosaic, highlighting the Gardens' commitment to conservation and sustainability. LED lights use 80% less energy than normal lights.

Indoors in Gates Garden Court, a captivating display of seasonal plants will be on display. Piping hot beverages will accompany savory snack offerings. There will be several food stations located throughout the Gardens. The Gardens' Conservatory will be closed during Blossoms of Light.