



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



JANUARY 2022

Happy New Year!

Gardening is so many things – among them it is an amazing world of people and plants. An art form all its own, and a community of like-minded spirits.

I am thankful to have found such a community of people in Evergreen.

May all your garden dreams come true for 2022!

“One kind word can warm three winter months.”

Chinese Proverb

Peace, love and gardens,
Cherie

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY

January 11, 2022

CHURCH OF THE HILL

28628 Buffalo Park Rd.

Evergreen

9:00 am Social

9:30 am Meeting

JANUARY'S PROGRAM

HONEYBEES: WHAT WOULD
YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

By

Dr. Theodore Ning, Colorado State

Beekeepers Assoc. VP &

Co-founder of Evergreen Bee


Buddies





**PLEASE NOTE!
THE JANUARY MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT
CHURCH OF THE HILL
28628 S. BUFFALO PARK ROAD
IN EVERGREEN**

JOIN US FOR THE JANUARY PROGRAM!
HONEYBEES: What would you like to know?
Dr. Theodore Ning, Colorado State Beekeepers
Association VP and Co-founder of the
Evergreen Bee Buddies,
will talk about his serious and challenging hobby as he
deals with bears, disease, and climate change.



Best Wishes to all our
EGC January Birthday
Boys and Girls!

EGC HOLIDAY PARTY 2021



Pictures by Hannah Hayes





As always, the EGC December Holiday Party was enjoyed by all. A sincere 'thank you' and loads of gratitude to the Board, our amazing Hospitality Team, and all involved in the planning and coordinating of this celebration of friendship, food, fun and games; and of course, your generous donations to EChO Food Bank!



Old Trees

By Hannah Hayes, EGC Natural Resources Chair

I grew up with a giant landmark tree in my front yard. It was a misplaced planting that happened innocently when my dad lovingly purchased the young sapling, but it was way too precious and treasured to ever be cut down. It had to be pruned often. It arched over our front walk in a magical way. Our house and its tree were eventually scraped to make way for someone else's new structure with a much larger footprint. I guess that was the first tree I loved.

It took me a lot longer to learn to love trees in the wintertime. Maybe it was the 1972 Fleetwood Mac album "Bare Trees" with its beautiful cover that awakened me to their beauty. Maybe it was a Robert Frost poem. My appreciation of trees in winter has only grown with my knowledge of Nature.

Winter affords a unique time to study some of the more subtle features of your trees. Here's a link to a 16-minute silly and informative YouTube video www.youtube.com/watch?v=2btKzRlplcQ about a discovery process for learning about trees in winter. Filmed in the UK, the author highlights shape, bark colors and textures, and buds and twigs.

Closer by we are lucky to have a very special landmark tree—the Colorow Council Tree at Rooney Ranch. The tree is believed to have been a Ute gathering place for more than 400 years. It's a scrappy looking ponderosa pine with a partially hollow interior that has an incredible view along the hogback of the Dakota Ridge. Chief Colorow met with Alexander Rooney at this very tree to negotiate a peace treaty. The Rooney family eventually added a patio around the tree and offers it for gatherings of local groups. It is also known as the Lighted Tree.

Do you have a favorite winter photo of a local landmark tree or perhaps a bare tree in your yard that's been revealed to your newly educated eyes? Please send photos to Julie Ann, our technology person, at jacourim@centurylink.net for publication on our Facebook page or email list.



**LOOKING FOR A WAY TO RECYCLE YOUR
LIVE OR ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE?
MAKE SNOWFLAKES OF SPRUCE!**



A forest in cross-section, for celebrating mid-winter. Call them what you will, conifer flakes, stars, or snow crystals are embellished here with rose hips, jujube fruit, or pine cones. They can be hung or laid flat as a support for a stout candle.



An elegant and longer lasting version is made with pinecones; if hung outdoors, they will last all winter. Pinecones are attached with a toothpick, into a pre-drilled piece of wood. Hang on a garden shed, barn, garage or even a fence.



Everything is forged, except for the drill; ideally a couple different sizes of drill bits and toothpicks. Home Depot cuts live trees down to size and puts the scraps in a bin, free for the taking. Alternatively, for those of us who enjoy pruning trees, any sizeable, discarded branch will do. As a time-saver, pre-cut log rounds can also be purchased at Hobby Lobby. Drill holes all around the circumference for pushing in conifer fingers, as well as sharpened stalks and pine cones that have had toothpicks inserted. Glue will add support if the holes are not the perfect size.



Many different types of conifers to choose from.


FOR the BiRDs!



Lyn Gilliland's No Melt Peanut Butter Suet Cake (Compliments of Dwight Gilliland)

- 1 cup Lard
- 1 cup Crunchy Peanut Butter
- 2 cups Quick Oats
- 2 cups Cornmeal
- 1 cup Flour
- 1/3 cup Sugar
- 1-2 cups Birdseed

Melt lard and peanut butter together; then stir in remaining ingredients. Let cool and then work it into wire cage made for suet or squish onto pine cones and hang outside for birds and squirrels. The recipe doubles easily.



Worth repeating!
Recipe Submitted by past
EGC Member
Lynn Dimmick



PLANT AN EVERGREEN SCREEN



Plant an Evergreen Screen

- 
1. *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Filifera Aureomarginata'
 2. *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Mother Lode'
 3. *Berberis thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy'
 4. *Dicentra spectabilis*
 5. *Thuja occidentalis* 'Golden Globe'
 6. *Pinus sylvestris* 'Hillside Creeper'
 7. *Picea abies* 'Nidiformis'
 8. *Thuja canadensis* 'Golden Splendor'
 9. *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Filifera Aurea'
 10. *Abies balsamea* 'Hudsonia'
 11. *Thuja occidentalis* 'Snow Tip'
 12. *Thuja occidentalis* 'Emerald Green'
 13. *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Blue Rug'
 14. *Taxus media*
 15. *Thuja occidentalis* 'Sunkist'
 16. *Pinus banksiana*
 17. *Juniperus scopulorum*
 18. *Pinus mugo*
 19. *Pinus ponderosa*
 20. *Spartina pectinata* 'Aureomarginata'
 21. *Pinus koraiensis* 'Morris Blue'
 22. *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Golden Mops'
 23. *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Boulevard'
 24. *Thuja occidentalis* 'Skyrocket'
 25. *Picea pungens* 'Globosa'
 26. *Pinus sylvestris*
 27. *Thuja canadensis* 'New Gold'
 28. *Thuja occidentalis* 'Rheingold'

Something to Crow About



By Anne Raver

Big and black with dark, stout beaks, American Crows are highly intelligent... and they sure do make a lot of noise.

I've always had affection for crows. I like their raucous caw-caws across the fields in fall, their fearless mobbing of predators—squirrels, snakes, hawks—too close to their nests in spring. I like their strut, their “what’s it to ya” attitude. Even when they bully my beloved woodpeckers from our suet feeders and proceed to peck out half the fat with their strong beaks, I don’t yell at them and bang on the windows as I do with starlings. But as Dr. Kevin J. McGowan, a biologist and an ornithologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology who studies the behavior of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*), asked me, with some irritation, “Why is one bird eating out of a feeder raiding, while another is simply eating?” It’s all about attitude. And the more we learn about crows, which are members of the same genus as ravens, the more fascinating they become. Scientists now think that crows and ravens, which have large brains for their size, are as intelligent as some primates. They make tools, are highly socialized, recognize faces, communicate food sources as well as

danger zones to one another, and appear to grieve for lost members of their families.

My affection for crows began in the 1950s with Petie, my oldest brother Carroll’s pet crow, who would ride around on Carroll’s shoulder and squawk “Hell-lo! Hell-lo!” to anyone who caught his black, beady eye. Carroll had a job after high school at the local A&P grocery store and found this crow in the parking lot one afternoon, dragging a broken wing. I can’t remember whether he taped up the bird’s wing or asked our vet to do it, but Petie was soon installed in the henhouse, where he liked to perch in the open window my brother had surrounded with chicken wire and startle people with his sharp “hell-lo!” It was impossible not to squawk “hell-lo!” back and feed Petie something—a couple of ripe sour cherries plucked right from the tree, the last of the french fries from Twin Kiss, maybe even one of the potato chips my mother doled out like our weekly allowance.

Petie’s wing healed eventually, and he flew off one day. I hope he was able to make it in the wild world. Crows lucky enough to survive



being shot by hunters, eaten by hawks or owls, or killed by disease can live for 20 years. But that's rare. McGowan, who has studied crow behavior since 1988, has banded more than 2,000 nestlings around Ithaca, New York, in the past 22 years, collecting data on topics from crows' mating and raising their families to forming territories and protecting one another.

We've had a long association with crows and ravens. *In the Company of Crows and Ravens* by John M. Marzluff and Tony Angell (Yale University Press; 2007) tells how crows and ravens flew across the Bering Land Bridge from Asia and Europe 2 to 3 million years ago. The first humans came to North America a mere 30,000 years ago. Ravens and crows were already partnered with wolves, who left plenty of carrion for them to eat. Humans provided even more food as they hunted, fished, and sowed seeds. As agriculture evolved, crows gobbled up the earthworms and other insect larvae turned over by plows, pulled up tender corn seedlings, and raided berry patches. So farmers turned to killing them, even dynamiting their roosts. And though crows and ravens are now protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, they still can be killed during hunting seasons or if crop damage or health concerns allow special permits for their removal.

Crows mate for life, McGowan says. When a partner dies, the survivor will look for another mate or go home to help its parents raise the next generation. Many crows don't mate until they are 3 or 5 years old, so they stick around to help build the nest and feed and protect the mother and her brood. The crow's nest is not a home for crows so much as a "baby basket," McGowan says, built of tightly woven sticks

and twigs, high in the trees. It's lined with mud and grass, with a bowl of soft material, such as cedar or grapevine shavings or animal fur. And it's vacated as soon as the young outgrow it.

Raising a family takes about four months, from egg to fledgling, and, McGowan says, about 50 percent of crows make it out of the nest, which is a decent survival rate among birds. Squirrels love to eat the eggs, hawks and owls eat the nestlings, and raccoon go for both. But a fledgling huddled on a branch or in the grass is also vulnerable to cats, snakes, raptors, and foxes. "More than half of these survive to be 1 year old, an incredibly high survival rate for birds," McGowan says.

Crows roost together at night, unless they are breeding, and birds at these communal sleepovers can number in the thousands. A roost in Fort Cobb, Oklahoma, a center of peanut production, was estimated to have 2 million crows in 1972. Just why crows congregate in such large numbers, McGowan says, is a matter of conjecture, but they probably do it for multiple reasons. Perhaps there is safety in numbers. Large roosts are often near food sources, such as landfills or agricultural fields. And interestingly, crows are increasingly roosting in cities, which are warmer than rural areas, rife with trash cans and Dumpsters, and illuminated at night.

So rather than looking on crows and ravens as sinister, as Alfred Hitchcock made them out to be in *The Birds*, or pests that eat too many of our crops—they do love corn seedlings, but they also eat countless corn earworms and other insect pests—why not think of them as the intelligent, social creatures they are, who love to play, preen, joke around, and defend their young as much as we do? ■

Indoor Food Growing for Beginners



Growing peas indoors with shop lights.

Can you grow vegetables indoors year-round?

Yes! Lots of them.

I discovered the world of indoor food growing completely by surprise. I've always [started seeds indoors](#) for transplanting outdoors in late spring but one year the weather was not behaving.

So, instead of transplanting some pea plants outdoors, I just let them continue growing indoors.

Much to my surprise, my [indoor pea seedlings kept growing](#), forming vines around my grow light shelves, and eventually flowering and producing pea pods. Amazing!

Until then, I would have never thought it was possible.

Since then I have grown dozens of different vegetables, herbs, and some fruits in my house without any special equipment beyond basic [fluorescent shop lights](#).

And (bonus) it doesn't require any more space than houseplants so it's totally do-able in apartments or the corner of a living room.

But, while you can grow many things, we have to manage our expectations. Some veggies are simple, others are challenging or impossible. And, except for [leafy greens](#), sprouts, and [microgreens](#), most food crops grow much slower indoors.

This has a list of [fast-growing crops to grow indoors](#).

Start with the Easy Ones

Anything we grow for edible leaves or stems are the easiest because they can be harvested at any time.

Cool-tolerant, leafy, salad greens like spinach, kale, or arugula grow quickly (4 to 6 weeks) and easily in compact spaces. They are reliable and easy to do.

Slow-growing foods like tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers must flower and fruit and require more space and optimum conditions over a longer period of time to reach harvest.

Producing a giant cabbage or ear of corn would be an indoor garden feat so don't believe the crazy claims you read online. Just stick with the proven easy-growers and you'll be enjoying salads grown in your home in no time.

To get started, I'll show you the basics, list which seeds to try, and show you my low-cost setup including the lights I like (cheap).

Indoor food growing is a really fun way to experiment with plants and enjoy some of the best salad greens ever, perhaps with a few cherry tomatoes on top.

Plant Choices

What vegetables can be grown indoors?

Many different veggies, herbs, and fruits can be grown indoors anytime including winter. But you do have to choose the right plants and provide the right conditions.

I'll show you what I have had success with.

1 Cool-tolerant Veggies

- **Moderate Light - 12 Hours a Day**
- **Recommended temperature: 60°F/15°C**

I've generalized the recommended temperatures since we can't provide a different environment for each crop. If your room stays around the average room temperature of 70°F/20°C, it should be fine. If it's a bit lower, even better.

- Arugula
- Beets (greens, tiny roots)
- Broccoli (stalks, greens only)
- Brussels sprouts (stalks, greens only)
- Carrots (tiny but sweet)
- Kale
- Leafy greens (not head lettuces)
- Mache (corn salad)
- **Microgreens** (edible seedlings)
- Mustard greens
- **Peas**
- Radish
- Sorel
- Spinach
- **Swiss chard**
- Watercress



2 Herbs

- Moderate to High Light 12-16 Hours a Day
- Recommended temperature: 70°F/20°C

Herbs really do prefer life outdoors and most like a lot of sun. But, with good lights and patience you can grow several varieties indoors. It may be hit and miss, but if you like the challenge, go for it.

I find basil does best with its roots in water for a while instead of trying to grow it in a pot.

- Basil
- Oregano
- Peppermint
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Spearmint
- Thyme

This has more tips on [growing herbs indoors](#).



3 Warmth-Loving Vegetables

- Full Sun or Lights 14-20 Hours a Day
- Recommended temperature: 70°F/20°C
- Eggplant
- Tomato
- Strawberry
- Peppers
- Citrus trees | Dwarf varieties (start with a grafted tree)



I have not tried growing strawberries or peppers indoors but I have seen others succeed at it.

Cucumbers are another option for advanced / patient growers. The bigger the fruit, the longer it will take—and usually much longer than it would outdoors.

Plus, any crop that fruits will need some sort of assistance with pollination when growing indoors. This can involve moving pollen from flower to flower with a fine paint brush, or shaking flowers to ensure pollen reaches the stigma.

I rate these ones as mostly for fun rather than food of any substantial volume.

Look up what you're growing for specific pollination advice.

This is helpful for knowing **which fruits and vegetables need pollinators to fruit.**



Fast-Growing Indoor Vegetables: Ready in 30 Days

PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 16, 2021 👑 BY MELISSA J. WILL

Follow the links highlighted in green for more detailed information and product sources or visit [Fast-Growing Indoor Vegetables: Ready in 30 Days | EOD \(empressofdirt.net\)](#) to read the entire article, resources and disclosures

The easiest **vegetables to grow indoors** are the **fast-growing** ones. Whether it's spinach, arugula, kale, pea shoots, or delicious microgreens, these crops are low-maintenance and can be harvested any time.

If you are new to indoor food growing, see [How to Grow Vegetables Indoors \(Easy Beginner's Guide\)](#) for recommended supplies and beginner tips.

Quick Indoor Vegetable Growing

I started experimenting with **indoor vegetable growing** years ago and since then have tried all sorts of organic crops from simple leafy greens to giant cucumbers and beefsteak tomatoes.

While it is fun to experiment, most **indoor food growing** is neither economical nor practical. We're much better off growing outdoors where nature does a stellar job providing the essential growing conditions (air, nutrients, water, light).

The problem with indoor food growing is, larger, slow-growing crops need a lot of time under the right conditions to flower and fruit. It takes long-term, consistent care and patience to get to the finish line. Don't get me wrong—it's quite an accomplishment—but not a viable way to grow much food.

The good news is, there is another group of vegetables that is **faster** and easier to grow—right in your living room, requiring nothing more than some shelf space and **simple shop lights**.

These are the **cool season crops** like lettuces, arugula, and spinach, which do not require pollinators, are entirely edible, and can be harvested at any point in the growth cycle.

If you're interested in actually filling a salad bowl with homegrown food—**grown indoors at any time of year**—this is the place to start.

Fast-Growing Vegetables to Grow Indoors

The vegetables that are easiest to grow indoors are **edible leaves, stems, roots, and immature flowers**. Because we harvest them before they ever flower or fruit, no pollination is required. And they can be consumed at any time.

These are many of the same **cool-tolerant crops** that we grow outdoors in spring and fall.

The time to harvest depends on what you're growing them for: sprouts, microgreens, shoots, baby greens, or larger stems or leaves.

Lettuces & Salad Greens



If you love baby greens in salads, soups, or stir-fries, these are the ones to grow.

I like to sow a new tray of seeds every few weeks for continuous harvests. There are complete instructions in my ebook, [Growing Salads Indoors](#).

Some of these crops are “[cut-and-come-again](#)” meaning you can selectively harvest outer leaves while the rest continue to grow.

These seeds are sold individually and in variety packs like [Mesclun Mix](#) containing an assortment of leafy greens that grow nicely together.

To keep it simple, a room temperature around **70°F (21°C)** is fine for both starting the seeds and growing the plants.

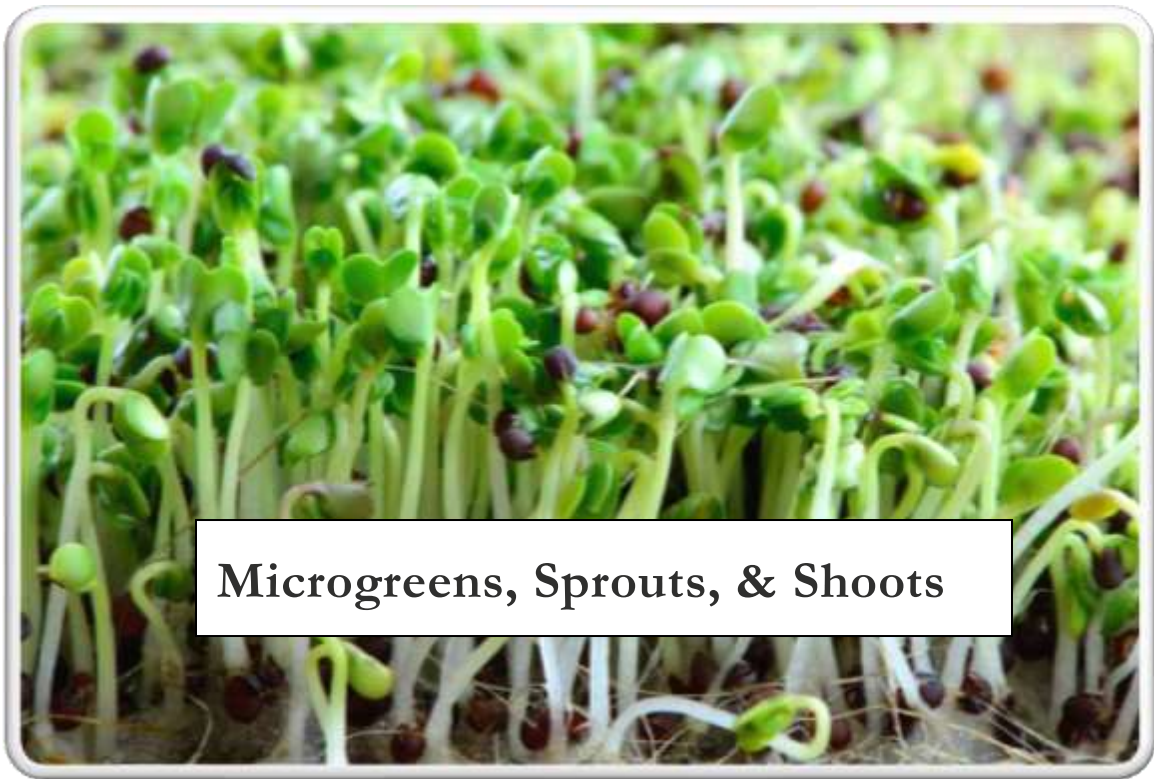
Here are some suggestions:

- Arugula
- Chard
- Kale
- Mache corn salad
- Mizuna
- Pak choi
- Spinach
- Tatsoi

Any leafy (not head) lettuces

- Oakleaf lettuce
- Buttercrunch lettuce
- Red oak leaf lettuce
- Green oak leaf lettuce
- Black-seeded simpson





Microgreens, Sprouts, & Shoots

What's the difference between sprouts and microgreens?

- Sprouts are basically germinated seeds. You eat the seed, root, stem, and underdeveloped leaves, usually grown in dark, moist conditions (water).
- Microgreens are planted and grown in soil (or growing medium). They are the edible seedlings of herbs, vegetables, or edible flowers. They are larger than sprouts and smaller than baby salad greens.

Many of these options are the same as the Lettuces & Salad Green group. They are just harvested earlier on.

Both microgreens and sprout seeds are sold individually and in variety mixes. They may include vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers and may be mild or spicy.

Microgreens and sprouts are traditionally grown indoors so your seed packets will have instructions.

Seed options include vegetables, herbs, and flowers:

- Amaranth
- Arugula / Rocket
- Basil
- Beet
- Bok Choy
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Celery
- Chard
- Chia
- Chives
- Clover
- Corn
- Cress
- Endive
- Fennel
- Fenugreek
- Flax
- Kale
- Kohlrabi
- Mizuna
- Mustard
- Parsley
- Purslane
- Radish
- Shungiku
- Sorrel
- Sunflower
- Tatsoi
- Wheatgrass

Pea shoots are the tender stems and leaves of a pea plant with the flavor of peas and pods. I also [grow peas indoors](#) to maturity and you can harvest lots of shoots along the way.

You can also grow [garlic greens](#)—the leafy stem that sprouts from garlic cloves. Used like onion scallions, they offer a lovely garlic flavor to food dishes.

Buy Seeds

These links go to [Botanical Interests](#) (US Shipping only).

You can find [Canadian seed companies](#) here.

- [Microgreen Seeds](#)
- [Seeds For Sprouts](#)





May all your garden dreams come true!
Please send any corrections or submissions
for the Wild Iris to louiseheern@gmail.com
Wishing you all a Healthy and Happy New Year!



BEAU JO'S PIZZA

BASKIN ROBBINS

CHOW DOWN

**DAVID HANNA, CALDWELL
BANKER**

THE EVERGREEN GALLERY

FRAMES FOR ALL REASONS

THE HOLLY BERRY

NELLYBELLE GENERAL STORE

PRIME LENDING

STEMS

STEVEN PARKS GOLDSMITH

SUNDANCE GARDENS

THE VILLAGE GOURMET



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RENEW!

**Membership dues are now (past) due
for the 2021-2022 year!**

**Please send checks to EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB,
PO Box 1393, Evergreen, CO 80437**

You may also PAY ON LINE at our website:

<https://www.evergreengardenclub.org/membership-details>

Personal yearly membership is \$30.00

Family membership is \$40.00

Flowers that even Darwin can't explain!
Mother Nature never fails to impress...



A Holiday Repeat!



Hooker's Lips (*Psychotria Elata*)



Dancing Girls (*Impatiens Bequaertii*)





Laughing Bumble Bee Orchid
(*Ophrys bomyblifera*)



Flying Duck Orchid
(*Caleana Major*)



Swaddled Babies
(*Anguloa Uniflora*)



Angel Orchid
(*Habenaria Grandifloriformis*)



An orchid that looks
remarkably like a tiger

White Egret Orchid
(*Habenaria Radiata*)

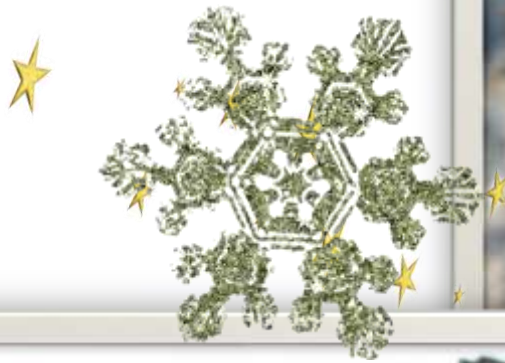




Parrot Flower (Impatiens
Psittacina)



Happy Alien
and his Friends!
(Calceolaria Uniflora)





An Orchid That Looks Like A Ballerina



The Darth Vader (Aristolochia Salvadorensis)



Dove Orchid Or Holy Ghost Orchid (Peristeria Elata)



**Monkey Face Orchid
(Dracula Simia)**



**Moth Orchid
(Phalaenopsis)**

May God grant you always...

**A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering Angel, so nothing can harm you,**

**Laughter to cheer you; Faithful family &
friends near you.**

Submitted by EGC Member Joy Young

