

Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS



FEBRUARY 2021



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY - February 9, 2021

Business Agenda: 9:15 am

Regular Meeting: 9:30 am

Due to COVID restrictions, our monthly membership meetings will continue to be held virtually (via the internet) using ZOOM.

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

**SUCCESSFUL PLANTS THRIVING
IN OUR EGC PUBLIC GARDENS**

**Presented by
OUR GARDEN LEADERS**

Discussion starts at 9:30 am

Evergreen Garden Club Minutes

General Business Meeting

January 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President, Cherie Luke at 9:15am on Zoom. Attending were Helen McLeman, Treasurer, Donna Moore, 2nd Vice President, Janice Theobald, Secretary. Absent was Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer.

President's Report

Cherie read our mission statement. We acknowledged January birthdays. Our club is still in need of a publicity and photograph chairperson, please volunteer! We also need 2 more volunteers to share their garden for our 2022 Garden tour.

2nd Vice President's Report

The directories have been mailed. There are a few corrections that will be sent out via email to everyone. We have two members renewing their membership and we now have 69 total members.

Treasurer's Report

Helen reviewed the financial statement with everyone. Not much change. We received a check for \$500 for the Flowers for Friends garden. This is to cover the cost of maintaining that garden.

Secretary's Report

December minutes have been approved by the general membership as reported in the Wild Iris. A special thank you to Julie Ann Courim and Cherie Luke for their hard work on the January 2021 Wild Iris.

Technology Officer's Report

No report at this time.

Guest speaker John Zabawa A special thanks to our fellow member, John Zabawa for his very informative presentation on vegetable gardening at high altitude. A question and answer session followed. John's presentation will be posted on our website for others to enjoy. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Theobald, Secretary
Evergreen Garden Club

Evergreen Garden Club

President's Letter

Hello EGC Members,

Each year the National Garden Bureau selects a perennial of the year. The 2021 perennial of the year, I'm happy to report, is **Monarda**, also known as Bea Balm or Wild Bergamots.

Colorado's variety of this native plant is **Monarda fistulosa** which grows in the foothills along roadsides and in meadows. Each July I see large areas of it growing in Elk Meadow.



The flowers are loved by bees and hummingbirds and the hybrids come in a variety of shades of pink, red, purple, and violet.

It is part of the mint family of plants which makes it resistant to browsing by deer, elk, and rabbit. It is very easy to grow and should be planted in full sun to light shade with evenly moist, well drained soil.

Peace, love, and gardens,

Cherie Luke

EGC President



Tiny House Plants That Prove Bigger Isn't Better

by Jamie McIntosh

Houseplants filter our air, raise the humidity in our environment, and add a touch of nature to our surroundings. However, not everyone has room to cultivate a fiddle leaf fig or an areca palm plant indoors. Grow one of these cute small indoor plants in a teacup, on a ledge, or anywhere you need a green boost.



African Violet

African violets (*Saintpaulia*) were the "it" plant for your grandparents, but they are enjoying a resurgence, spurred perhaps by fun and funky new varieties with ruffled or picotee blooms and variegated foliage. One thing that hasn't changed is the compact size of African violets, and their free-flowering nature. These plants like tiny pots, which spurs blooming. Keep your African violets moist and pot-bound, give them bright light, and feed them with a balanced flower fertilizer to keep them performing all year.



Air Plant

Few plants are as forgiving as those in the *Tillandsia* genus. These epiphytes live perched on branches in frost-free environments, taking the moisture they need from the air using specially adapted scales on their spiky leaves. Mount them on driftwood, arrange them in a basket, or create a soil-free mini terrarium for these mess-free plants. They grow very slowly and need little more than partial sunlight and a weekly dunking in water to stay hydrated.

String of Pearls

The *Senecio* genus of succulents gives us so many interesting leaf forms, including the string of pearls *S. rowleyanus*, which so closely resemble every kid's least favorite veggie (but isn't at all edible). The plant's unusual leaf form helps it thrive in its native South Africa, where the spherical leaves both maximize water retention while minimizing leaf surface area that would result in water lost to evaporation. String of pearls will trail daintily from a small hanging container in a warm room with filtered light; snip off the pearls as needed to shape and keep in bounds.



Purple Shamrock

The *Oxalis* genus contains several hundred clover species, some of which are weeds, and some of which are highly ornamental. The burgundy or red cultivars, which may produce yellow or white flowers, often appear in garden stores around St. Patrick's Day. Plants grow six inches tall and eight inches wide in containers, which you should keep on the dry side.



Scotch Moss

A patch of bright green *Sagina subulata* 'Aurea' conjures up notions of garden fairies, gnomes, or any woodland creature who might like to nestle in the ethereal mossy foliage of this one-inch tall plant. As a Scotland native, Scotch moss prefers the cool, moist conditions of its homeland. Frequent misting will keep your moss perky and bright. Indirect light from a north-facing window will help to maintain the chartreuse color without scorching the plant. If your moss produces tiny white flowers, you'll know you've mastered its growing requirements.



Baby Tears

Everything about *Soleirolia soleirolii* is cute: the common name of baby tears elicits that "aww" reaction, and the myriad of tiny leaves gives character and charm to this easy houseplant. Grow baby tears in a small terrarium or under a glass cloche in bright filtered sunlight to give this small plant the humidity it craves to stay lush.



Woolly Thyme

Wherever you need a pick-me-up of aromatherapy, place a container of *Thymus pseudolanuginosus*. The soft, fuzzy leaves are so touchable and release a savory burst of thyme scent with every pinch. The slow-growing plants only reach three inches in height and creep slowly to form a dense, woolly mat in a full sun container (and may even flower). Water woolly thyme sparingly, when the soil's surface is dry to the touch.



Donkey's Tail

Sedum morganianum is the perfect houseplant for that person who has a bright sunny spot that has room for a small trailing or creeping plant. The fleshy, succulent leaves of the donkey's tail are a clue to the drought tolerance of this plant. You should grow donkey's tail in a sandy cactus potting mix to prevent root rot. If you accidentally break off one of the stems, don't discard it; donkey's tail is easy to propagate with cuttings. Just insert the cut end into some soil, and place under a clear enclosure until it forms roots.

Venus Flytrap

Venus flytrap plants are sometimes billed as a novelty plant for kids, but with a little care, they make the perfect small houseplants. The leaves of *Dionaea muscipula*, with their teeth-like raspy edges, are equipped with trigger hairs that, when touched twice, snap shut on prey insects like those pesky fruit flies you've been trying to get rid of. These quirky plants have some equally quirky growing requirements: They do well in a peat moss growing medium, and being sensitive to minerals, need distilled water. Add bright light and cool winter temperatures to ensure a long life for your Venus flytrap.



What's Going On In Our Gardening Community



COLORADO GARDEN & HOME SHOW February 13 - 21, 2021

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **2021 Colorado Garden & Home Show** is taking place **virtually** this year. sponsored by Bellco Credit Union. Get ideas, inspiration and advice for your home from more than 400 companies participating in the **FREE Virtual Show**.

Research, compare and choose from thousands of products and services, and take advantage of show-only specials!

[CLICK HERE TO SHOP NOW!](#)



GILPIN EXTENTION TREE, SHRUB & PERENNIAL WILDFLOWERS SALE!

Order: Nov 2, 2020 - April 15, 2021!

This year the tree sale includes some native wildflowers! Pre-order trees, shrubs, and native perennial wildflowers.

Order now, pick up will be in late May (perfect time to plant in Gilpin). Supplies are low this year, so order soon!

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE 2021 SEEDLING, TREE, SHRUB & WILDFLOWER APPLICATION](#)



LANDSCAPING WITH COLORADO NATIVE PLANTS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE February 27, 2021

Tickets from **\$10** (Financially impacted by COVID) to **\$60** (Pay It Forward to COVID registrants)

Keynote: A Western Perspective on Native Plants; A Career Bringing Natives from Habitat to Market

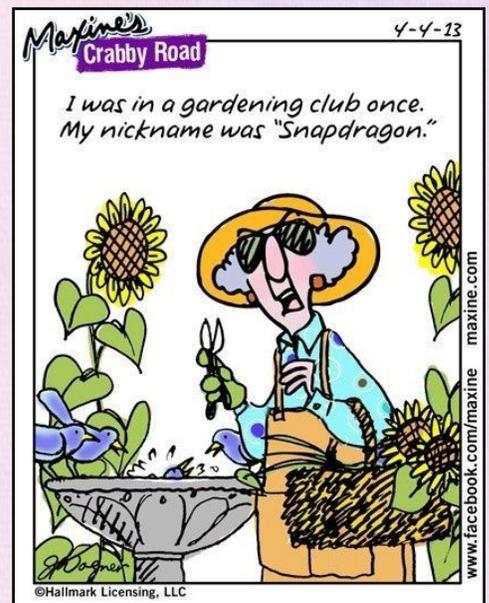
by **David Salman**

Chief Horticulturist for High Country Gardens
Waterwise Gardening LLC.

David Salman has spent over 35 years in the retail greenhouse and mail order catalog businesses and participated in bringing native plants to the gardening public's attention.

He will explain how native plant collections transition from the wild into home horticulture, how some of his introductions were discovered and the future importance of expanding our native plant palette into mainstream availability and use.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE NOW!](#)



FireWise Plant Material

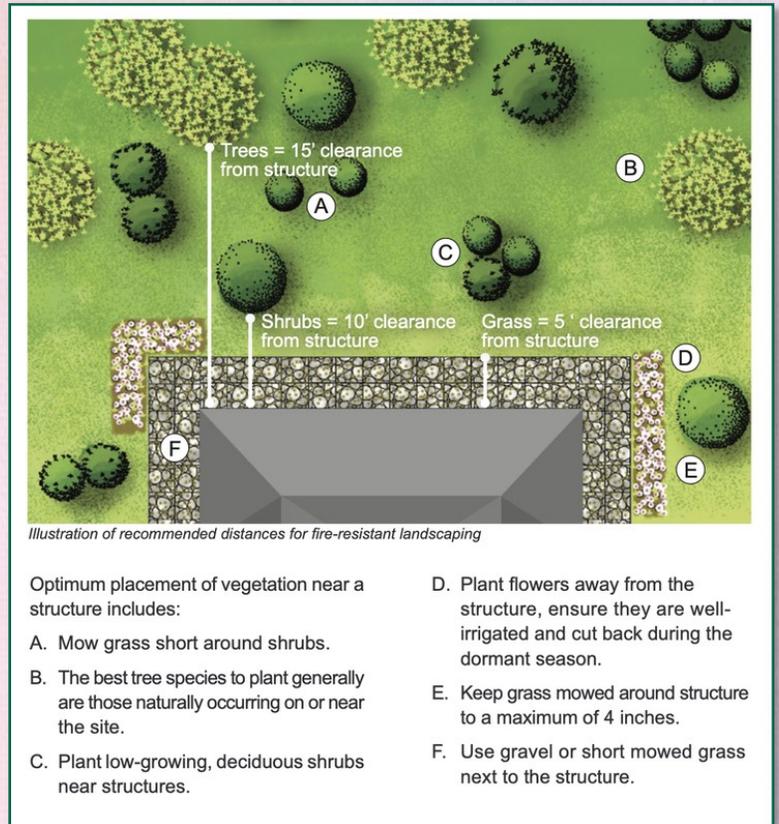
by F.C. Dennis - CSU Extension Office

Creating a “defensible space” around your home is one of the most important and effective steps you can take to protect you, your family and your home from catastrophic wildfire. Defensible space is the area between a structure and an oncoming wildfire where nearby vegetation has been modified to reduce a wildfire’s intensity.

Many people resist creating defensible space around their homes because they believe these areas will be unattractive and unnatural. This is far from true. With careful planning, FireWise landscaping can be aesthetically pleasing while reducing potential wildfire fuel. It can actually enhance beauty and property values, as well as personal safety.

Consider the following factors when planning, designing and planting the FireWise landscape within your home’s defensible space:

- Landscape according to the recommended defensible-space zones. That is, the plants near your home should be more widely spaced and lower growing than those farther away.
- Do not plant in large masses. Instead, plant in small, irregular clusters or islands.
- Use decorative rock, gravel and stepping stone pathways to break up the continuity of the vegetation and fuels. This can modify fire behavior and slow the spread of fire across your property. It is highly recommended that the first 3-5 feet away from the house be gravel, flagstone, pavers, or some other non-flammable material.
- Incorporate a diversity of plant types and species in your landscape. Not only will this be visually satisfying, but it should help keep pests and diseases from causing problems within the whole landscape.
- In the event of drought and water rationing, prioritize plants to be saved. Provide available supplemental water to plants closest to your house.
- Use mulches to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. To reduce fire danger, it is best to use a non-organic mulch such as pea gravel or stone, but leaf mold or compost is also acceptable. Mulch can be organic or inorganic. Do not use pine bark, thick layers of pine needles or other mulches that readily carry fire.
- Be creative! Further vary your landscape by including bulbs, Garden art and containers for added color.



Plants for a FireWise Landscape

Many native plants are highly flammable during different seasons of the year. At such times, left unmanaged, they can accelerate the spread of a wildfire through your neighborhood, threatening homes, property and lives. All vegetation, naturally occurring and otherwise, is potential fuel for fire. Its type, amount and arrangement has a dramatic effect on fire behavior.

There are no truly “fireproof” plant species, so plant choice, spacing and maintenance are critical to defensible space landscaping. In fact, where and how you plant may be more important than what you plant. However, given alternatives, choose plant species that tend to be more resistant to wildfire.

General concepts to keep in mind when choosing and planting FireWise species are:

Quick Facts

- FireWise landscaping can be aesthetically pleasing while reducing potential wildfire fuel.
- Plant choice, spacing and maintenance are critical.
- Your landscape, and the plants in it, must be maintained to retain their FireWise properties.



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www.ext.colostate.edu



- A plant’s moisture content is the single most important factor governing its volatility. (However, resin content and other factors in some species render them flammable even when the plant is well watered.) Conifers tend to be flammable due to their oil and pitch content, regardless of their water content. Deciduous plants tend to be more fire resistant because their leaves have higher moisture content and their basic chemistry is less flammable. Also, when deciduous trees are dormant, there is less fuel to carry fire through their canopies.
- In some cases, there is a strong correlation between drought tolerance and fire resistance. For example, a plant may shed its leaves or needles during extreme drought. Other drought-tolerant species may have smaller leaves or thick, succulent leaves. These plants offer less fuel or have a higher moisture content, both of which help reduce fire hazard.
- There also appears to be a correlation between a plant’s salt tolerance and natural fire resistance. Plants adapted to salty conditions, and actually growing in salty situations, may better resist burning.

Plants that are more resistant to wildfire have one or more of the following characteristics:

- They have high moisture content (succulents and some herbaceous species).
- They grow slowly and need little maintenance (do not need frequent pruning).
- They are short and grow close to the ground (wildflowers and groundcovers).
- They can resprout following fire, thus reducing relandscaping costs (aspen trees).
- They grow without accumulating large amounts of combustible dead branches, needles or leaves (example: aspen).
- They have open, loose branches with a low volume of total vegetation (examples: currant and mountain mahogany).
- They have low sap or resin content (examples: many deciduous species).

Don’t Forget Maintenance

A landscape is a dynamic, constantly changing system. Plants considered “fire resistant” and that have low fuel volumes can lose these characteristics over time. Your landscape, and the plants in it, must be maintained to retain their FireWise properties. Be aware of the growth habits of the plants on your land and of the changes that occur seasonally. Keep a watchful eye for the need to reduce fuel volumes and fuel continuity.

- Remove annual, herbaceous plants after they have gone to seed or when the stems become overly dry.
- Rake up and dispose of litter as it builds up over the season.
- Mow or trim grasses to a low height within your defensible space.
- Remove plant parts damaged by snow, wind, frost or other agents.
- Timely pruning is critical. It not only reduces fuel volume but also maintains healthier plants.

FireWise Plant Examples

The following examples were taken from a master list prepared by Phil Hoefer (retired) Colorado State Forest Service. Click on the following link for the complete list: [FireWise Plant Materials - 6.305 - Extension \(colostate.edu\)](https://colostate.edu/extension/6305)

ACHILLEA LANULOSA



NATIVE YARROW is a fire resistant perennial that thrives in dry to moist growing conditions. Blooms for weeks from early to late summer and is drought, heat, deer and rabbit tolerant. Thrives in full sun but light shade is tolerated.

AQUILEGIA (spp., coerulea, chrysantha)



COLUMBINES come in a wide variety of color and bloom profusely for 4-6 weeks from mid spring through summer. They perform best in full sun to part shade and prefer average to medium moisture.

GAILLARDIA ARISTATA



BLANKET FLOWERS are a perennial wild-flower that blooms from late spring to fall. They are heat and drought tolerant and require little care. Native plants, they thrive in full sun, in dry to medium soil.

IRIS GERMANICA



BEARDED IRIS are ravishingly beautiful and come in endless variations. Drought tolerant once established, they are profuse bloomers from late spring to early summer, and tolerate light shade but prefer full sun/medium water.

LUPINUS



LUPINE vigorously grows up to 3-4 ft. tall. They are perennials blooming late spring to early summer. Ignored by deer they thrive in full sun but appreciate afternoon shade. Lupine are fire resistant and require evenly moist soil.

THYMUS SERPYLLUM



CREeping THYME is a dwarf, sub-shrub that blooms from early to mid summer. A full sun lover, this plant is drought tolerant. Grows up to 1-2 in. tall, and will spread over time. Virtually pest and disease free.

SHEPHERDIA ARGENTEA



SILVER BUFFALOBERRY is a native shrub that attracts bees. Pea-sized bright, red berries mature in the fall and are edible, but sour. Great for erosion control and thrives in full sun or light shade. Tolerates poor, dry soil.

ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URS



BEARBERRY is a slow-growing, creeping shrub that flowers mid to late spring. A full sun to partial shade lover, this plant is easily grown in dry to medium infertile soil. Drought and wind tolerant once established.

POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA



SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL is a bushy deciduous shrub that blooms from late spring to the first frosts. Performs best in full sun or part shade. Drought and poor soil tolerant. Virtually pest and disease free as well as deer resistant.

Create a Pretty Decoupage Planter Pot



by Susan Goode



Firstly decide on your pot to cover and then the colors and patterns of your fabric that you feel blend well together. I chose mixture of floral, lines dots and gingham thin cotton fabric.

I used a pack of 100 cotton bundle of 15 cm x 15 cm pre cut for sewing patchwork.

Using a foam sponge applicator I smear Mod Podge onto the plant pot working from

the bottom upwards. I place the fabric on its side to create a diamond shape with the squares as I feel it looks preferable to just rows of squares, but it is a personal choice.



Continue by also sealing each piece of fabric over the top to secure in place. This helps to coat it with protective layer and harden surface making it more durable. Make sure there are no gaps in between fabric and the overlap is as minimal though as you can get it to prevent too many lumps or ridges.



Continue around the pot choosing patterns and colors to stick on that create a vibrant mix of tones and patterns making sure no two pieces are next to each other that are same.

Along the rim i took the fabric and folded it over the edge in to the inside and also ran a layer of paint inside so it continued the pink theme inside not all the way but as much as would be showing .



The Last Word



Gourmet Chocolate Dessert Board

Make a Gourmet Chocolate Dessert Board for a decadent valentine treat with an array of Ghirardelli chocolates, fresh fruits, and nuts.

Ingredients:

- ♥ 2-4 bars of Ghirardelli chocolate
- ♥ 1 cup Strawberries
- ♥ 1 cup Raspberries
- ♥ 1 cup Blackberries
- ♥ 1 cup Cherries
- ♥ 1/4 cup Pistachios
- ♥ 1/4 cup Marcona Almonds
- ♥ 1/4 cup Almonds
- ♥ 1/4 Cup Pecans
- ♥ Mint Sprigs

**Best Wishes to
all our members
celebrating
February Birthdays!**

Club Needs...

**We are still looking for
a Photographer
& Publicity Person.**

**Please email
egclubinc@gmail.com
if you are able to lend a
much needed helping hand!**

*"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ...
a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining
to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."*

- Barbara Winkler



Please send any corrections or submissions for the Wild Iris to louiseheern@gmail.com