



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

November 2008

A Word from the President...

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Tina Kellogg

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Bonnie Hisgen
Lucy Ginley

Secretary:

Pam Hinish

Treasurer:

Beth Feldkamp

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 Beth Feldkamp at 303-679-9465 or EGCBeth@comcast.net

Newsletter Contributions are due by the 20th of each month to Liz Hamilton@Liz@Maia-Consulting.com

Newsletter Editor & Website
Evergreengardenclub.org

It would seem as though every month ought to start with "I can't believe its _____ already! But November is one of those months that sneak up on you. After making it through the first couple light frosts where only the tender annuals get bit, we received a long warm spell, allowing ample time to 'finish' a few more crops. I don't recall picking strawberries in late October before, but sweeter they've never been. Last week we enjoyed a medley of potatoes, carrots and cabbage with our corned beef and company, what a treat for the end of the season. This past week we've been eating brussle sprouts. Now there's a tenacious plant! Just about the time I think we're not going to have enough time for them they start swelling on the stalks, and while I did need to keep the water to them it's been well worth every drop. For the first time we'll have several quarts to put up in the freezer. I think cutting the tops off the end of August made all the difference. Still you know the season's change when all these grey rain-turns-to-snow clouds start rolling up and over the peaks. It's November alright, you can hear the wet snowflakes crashing down on the crispy leaves...thunder even, a touch of hail...for sure the season's changing. In all this chaos that is the world right now, it's comforting to know, something's the same.

I used to wax nostalgia about this time of year, sad to see the gardens go, but now I've recognized there's a freedom that comes this time of year; not worrying about what I should be picking or doing when I'm on the computer. It's a relief to be picking beans that will be saved for the seed rather than the long hours of toping and tailing, boiling and bagging. It's nice not having to haul the hose around...as it seemed this year something was always in need of more water. Freedom to choose what to do next, rather than the garden dictating the absolute musts of the day, nice to have time to get to all the pesky indoor chores that are so easily procrastinated on during garden season. Finally the windows in my front room sparkle, my grand kids can no longer write in the dust on the end tables, and I can find exactly what I was looking for in the closet. Order! Yes you might say things are finally in order around here. I take a long sigh and look around, but the devilish side of my brain speaks up and says, "Don't get used to it!" Only a few short months to go and I'll be starting the seeds that create all these 'must do today' lists and start this fast and furious garden season all over again.

Looking forward to the winter Solstice, the return of the light, toasty warm logs in the fireplace and the smell of fresh cut pine brought in to supply 'the need for green' during the short and often cloudy days of winter. Looking forward to see what Lenore Mitchell does with her "Winter Greenery" program on November the 11th. I seldom give thought to all the indoor tropical's that can bring much needed brightening and light inside, rather just looking forward to the huge Christmas Cactus's electrifying pink...but we'll no doubt hear about many, many alternatives for indoor blooms and greens from Lenore, as well increasing both light and humidity, now that's got

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Program: "Winter Greenery" -November 11, 2008

Lenore Mitchell will demonstrate how to brighten homes with indoor plants and will give advice on selecting garden-themed holiday gifts.

She will share her methods for increasing indoor humidity as

Meeting starts t 9:30am.

Please bring your plants and items for World Gardening.

Bring your coffee mug.

See you there!

Minutes of the October 14, 2008 Meeting

President Tina Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:30 and welcomed members and guests including Steve Knapp of the Canyon Courier. Steve will be visiting the community gardens during today's workday and doing a story on Evergreen Garden Club (EGC). Tina thanked Frances Sorensen and Bev Wickland for their flexibility in changing the menu from lunch to breakfast due to the day's schedule change. 40 members were present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Pam Hinish

Ken Ball motioned for the minutes to be approved, Frances Sorenson seconded and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

No new correspondence has been received. A thank you note was sent to Terri Carroll, September's Program speaker, and a sympathy card to Mildred Brown's daughter.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Beth Feldkamp

Balances are \$1981.54/checking and \$13,321.28/savings

Presentation and Approval of Proposed Budget - Beth explained that the community gardens have an overall budget of \$350 allowing each garden a \$50 budget with flexibility between them as some of the hosts cover the garden costs. Lorna Chorn motioned for the approval of the proposed budget, Louise Mounsey seconded, and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Tina Kellogg

Hospitality and door prizes – additional volunteers are needed to bring goodies for the monthly meetings; no door prizes today but a suggestion was made to continue the door prize drawing for all members but allow the hospitality folks bringing goodies to draw two tickets.

World Gardening – Louise Mounsey and Ginny Cerrillo reviewed the history of World Gardening which is one of EGC's oldest projects and benefits children in orphanages in third world countries. Ginny has been the chair of this committee for 3 years and Lucille Nelson volunteered to be the new chair. Tina thanked Ginny and Lucille; Jeri Dufford and Liz Alumbaugh for all their work on the newsletter and Lucy Ginley for her work on the '08-09 EGC directory!

Tina reported that original Board records such as minutes, standard operating procedures, and treasurer's reports are filed in the EGC's filing cabinet in the storage room of the community room where our meetings are held and inquired as to whether members want these records to be posted on our website as well. The membership agreed that the hard copies in the file are sufficient.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 for the fall work day.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hinish

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

William Faulkner

Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.



Over the Garden Fence

by Karla Briggs



THE NOT SO SECRET GARDEN

I think I would be hard pressed to find a person in the Evergreen area that has not seen the community garden at the Evergreen PostOffice. At one time or another most members of our community make a visit to the post office and have an opportunity to see and experience Evergreen Garden Club's not so secret garden.

Our club has been gardening at the post office on and off over the last twenty or so years. The original post office community garden was destroyed when the parking lot was remodeled and there was no attempt made by the federal government to reestablish or recreate another garden. So the "off" period of the garden's history began.

In the spring of 2002 our illustrious member, Louise Mounsey, was approached by two of Evergreen's loveliest citizens with the request that our club once again plant and maintain the garden at the post office. They offered the generous sum of \$3000.00 to get the ball rolling and they wished to remain anonymous. They just wanted to have something beautiful to look at on their frequent visits to pick up and drop off letters and packages. And so the second chapter of the post office community garden began.

The garden site is extremely hot and exposed. The elk and deer make nightly visits to give the garden a good pruning. They never come during the day because they are smart enough to know there are never any parking spaces available. The weeds proliferate and so do the cigarette butts. If I ever catch the persons responsible for using the garden as an ashtray I will squirt them with the hose.

In spite of the hardships, gardening at the post office is glorious. The people make it so. Conversation abounds. People stop to ask gardening questions or to say thank you and let us know how much they enjoy the garden. We usually get a request or two to go and work in other gardens, which we politely decline and refer to local landscape businesses. Once we got twenty bucks from a deliciously feisty senior citizen, to buy ourselves beer when we got through with our work. We tried to decline but she would not take no for an answer and so we accepted her gift as a donation to the garden fund. I went home and had a beer in her honor.

The most often asked questions are as follows: Q. How do you keep the elk and deer from eating the garden? A. We don't. We plant deer and elk resistant plants and plant enough for all to enjoy. Q. What are those tall purple plants? A. Russian Sage. Q. Should those tall purple plants be cut back in the fall? A. Yes, leaving about 8 inches to catch and keep snow cover. Q. Is that horse poop? A. Yes, the finest in town. Q. How much and when should I apply horse poop. A. Amend the soil before planting in a new garden, as much as you can get your hands on. Top dress an established garden in the fall after you have cut back the plants, as much as you can get your hands on. Q. Why doesn't my Iris bloom? A. They either need to be divided or they are planted too deeply. There should be just a skiff of dirt over the rhizomes. And the most often asked question: What is that reddish orange blooming bush? A. An Austrian Copper Shrub Rose.

The rose bush at the post office has a following. People wait and watch each spring for her to regal them with her beauty. She is one of the few plants that survived the demolition, the years of non-care, the drought and the cigarette butts. She alone brings more joy to our community than all the tax refund checks picked up at the post office. She always gets an extra helping of horse poop in fall to keep her crown warm during the winter months.

Sometimes people passing by don't have a question, they have a story, an observation, or thought. It is at those times we gardeners become listeners and friends. I attended a lecture at the Denver Botanic Garden years ago, the speaker was the guy in the red suspenders from the PBS "Victory Garden" program. His talk was about "Secret Gardens" and why they are not a good idea. He felt that when the garden is in the backyard hidden away from the street it doesn't get shared and people lose opportunities to visit. He told us to garden in the front yard out in the open, out in public.

I am most proud of our garden club's community gardens for all of the beauty and connection they provide Evergreen and her citizens. I am most proud of our members who lovingly tend those gardens and the people who visit them.

Here at home I am just finishing up my fall chores. I am waiting for Ed Greene to let me know when that first big storm is ready to blow and I will throw some grass seed around and hunker down by the fire with a good book. Thanks to the amazing Indian summer I will have one of those rare gardening experiences of having actually finished my fall chores. Yippee!

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to be worth it all by itself! A note of thanks for all the work that got accomplished on our October work day; the gardens all look relieved and peaceful. Thank you one and all.

We're putting the phone tree back together, so those of you, who need a phone call rather than an email, please contact Mary Pinder at 303-670-5192 and she'll add your name and number to the list. For those of us who do the email thing on a regular basis, it's too easy to forget about contacting those who don't. So even if you have email, but don't check it every day, please get your name on this list so we don't miss you and you don't miss out on important information about club doings and meetings.

Thanks

Tina

Gardeners' Going Green

It seems like the latest buzz phrase is "going green" in terms of recycling.

We all have items that we either need or need to get rid of, but they aren't appropriate for World Gardening. For example, a member may have horse manure they are trying to get rid of while someone else is needing to amend their garden. Or I am looking for downed trees for a rustic fence, and another member may be clearing their lot. Members could just submit their desires for the upcoming issue with their name and email, and interested parties could contact them directly.

Thank you Karen MacFarquhar for this great idea!

**Sundance
Gardens & Landscaping
27866 Meadow Drive
Evergreen, CO 80439
(303) 670-0358**

Will be closed until March, except by appt. only

Roof Garden Possibilities

Go Green With A Roof Garden

Submitted by Julaine Kennedy

Ancient cultures grew them and the age-old practice is finding new life with the green movement. 1800s, rooftop gardens on the tops of hotels such as the Waldorf-Astoria provided outdoor dining experiences for guests. Living with plants has proven a healthy choice both indoors and out. Green plants clean the air of noxious carbon dioxide emitted from vehicles and provide life-giving oxygen. Green rooftop gardens absorb up to 75% of rainfall reducing runoff and possible flooding of city streets. The hardscape of cities absorb heat-producing, windless summer days. Rooftop gardens growing lush plants reduce the temperature through transpiration. Plants provide a barrier to noise and in a city having a quiet, out-of-doors place to rejuvenate the mind and spirit is a wonderful thing. Planting flora native to a particular area provides natural space for birds and insects, often missing in cities. Architects and landscapers discovered that a garden on the roof extends the life of the roof and boosts the value of the building. It is important to understand that there are two kinds of rooftop gardens. One style of roof garden is a green planting not intended for use.

People will not sit out on a starry evening sipping wine surrounded by lush growth while taking in the breathtaking city view in this style of garden. The green top was planted to help rather than hinder the environment. The second reason for the green top comes down to extending the life of the roof. ways to tackle a global food crisis and the effects of climate change.

Roof garden details begin with consulting an expert landscaper with experience constructing a roof garden. She will know whom to contact concerning weight issues. If you want to be part of the planning and planting tell the consultant. In a high-rise apartment building a committee could be formed to promote the idea, gather all the information, plan the garden with a consultant, and help plant when the time comes. A rooftop garden is no small task with a matching price tag, but the benefits far outweigh the cost.

The world is going green and cities, always on the cutting edge, will not be left behind. Utilizing the vast wasted areas far above the heads of city residents makes sense. Adding more living space surrounded by nature returns a lost element of peaceful living back to the cityscape. Part of the magic of planting and growing comes with the soothing of the soul and smiles of accomplishment. Even if actually doing the planting is not possible, having the option to invite friends to a rooftop garden party is sure to enhance the level of enjoyment. Look into the possibilities of your high-rise home. Perhaps, you too, can jump on the green train to a natural world just above your head.

Excerpts from Lifescrpt.com

Rockefeller Center English Roof
Gardens



From: critterlover@wowway..com **Submitted by: Chris Gray**
To: critterlover@wowway.com
Sent: 10/7/2008 2:46:14 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Please forward on to every dog or cat owner you know.

Please read this if you have pets.

Even if you don't have a pet, please pass this to those who do.

Yesterday, one of our dog agility friends experienced a tragedy and wanted me to pass a special message along to all of my dog loving friends and family.

Over the weekend, the doting owner of two young lab mixes purchased Cocoa Mulch from Target to use in their garden. They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. Their dog, Calypso, decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical when she eats something new but wasn't acting lethargic in any way.

The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure and died instantly.

Although the mulch had NO warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the company's website, this product is **HIGHLY** toxic to dogs and cats. Cocoa Mulch is manufactured by Hershey's, and they claim that 'It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it.'

This Snopes site gives the following information: <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp>

Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

Members please add these to your directory

Vivian Michaels-Anagbiste
30078 Carriage Loop Dr.
Evergreen, CO 80439
3/679-6067
BD 3/16
vivigene@comcast.net

Jan & Gil Schoonveld
1730 Upper Bear Creek
Evergreen, Co 80439
3/674-6865
BD Jan 6/10 Gil 6/16
UBCR@aol.com

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



Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events www.denverbotanicgardens.org

Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

November 07, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

free (Everyone)

Free days for Colorado residents are held throughout the year at both Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield thanks to funding from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

Free Days are for regular Gardens hours only and do not include ticketed events.

Holiday Sale

November 14, 9:00 AM—6:00 PM

free (Everyone)

Start the holiday shopping season with Denver Botanic Gardens Annual Holiday Sale. This holiday event offers a wide variety of products including painting, photography, pottery, candles, gourmet food, and other special handcrafted gifts from around the world.

Trail of Lights

December 03, 5:00 PM—8:30 PM

\$6.00 (Child (4 to 15)) / \$7.00 (Seniors 65+) / \$9.00 (Adults (ages 16-64))

With the Colorado foothills as a backdrop, more than one million twinkling lights will illuminate the beauty of a charming forest path at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield.