



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 13

April 2006

A Word from the President...

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EGC 2005-2006

Board Members

Presidents:

Jean Todd

Meredith Bossert

Vice Presidents:

Kathi Grider

Nan Spence

Secretary:

Chris Gray

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 Church of the Hills, Buffalo Park Rd, Evergreen at 9:15 am. All are welcome.

For **membership** information please contact Priscilla Chapin at 303-697-4140 or Priscilla4430@aol.com

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

Newsletter Editor & Website

Beth Feldkamp 303-679-9465
brucebethf@comcast.net

We will certainly miss Jean and her wonderful contributions to the EGC. Her leadership has been invaluable this year. She asked me to tell you that she wishes the club all the best. She will remember fondly all the great members, the wonderful times everyone had, and the getting very dirty together.

Congratulations and thank you to our newly elected board for the 2006/2007 year! Nan Spence and Kathi Grider will be our co-presidents; Chris Gray & Sheila Hendriksen will take on vice-president and program responsibilities together. Our new secretary is Kim Stark. Priscilla Chapin continues as our treasurer. The club is in good hands. Many thanks to our nominating committee (Jeri Dufford, Nancy Elliott, Frances Sorensen, Bev Wickland, Patsy Langworthy) for a job well done. On behalf of the whole Board, thank you, again, for our lovely Irish moss plants.

Thanks to Irene Shonle, director of the Gilpin County Cooperative Extension Office and the Native Plant Master program, who presented a most educational and entertaining program on native plants. Her pictures were lovely and the information was so helpful. For more information, go to:

<http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/gilpin/MG.shtml>

Planting natives is an effective way to support our local ecosystem and reduce water use. Thanks to Nan for organizing the ordering of native plants for EGC members and the plant sale.

This month we need to finalize our plans for our spring clean-up in the 8-9 community gardens on May 9. Contact Irma Wolf to volunteer—303-670-3402. As your perennials peek out of the ground this month, do keep the upcoming plant sale in mind. We're looking forward to the program on day lilies!

Meredith

Membership Meeting - April 11, 2006

Moving Beyond Orange—Daylilies of Distinction!

The Stout Medal, the Best of the Best award, is given each year for the best daylily judged in a national poll. American Day Lily Society members, Fred Barmwater and Jayme Irvin will show us these winners and tell us how hybridizers have pushed the daylily to its current forms.

The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Church of the Hills,

Remember to bring your plants & cuttings for the World Gardening Table, and your coffee mug.

See you there!



Garden Club News

• Welcome New Members!!! April Tracy, Mary Dickhoff, Dee Sacks, Debbie Dawson, Dee Kirby



Hospitality Committee for April

Tricia Scott, Lucille Nelson, Jo Powers

Food Providers Louise Mounsey, Patsy Langworthy, Fran Wafer, Dee Miller, Lori Lapp

Here is the poem that many of you requested, that Jean toasted us with at her farewell meeting. When we repeat this toast Jean, we'll raise a glass to you!

Irish Drinking Toast

There are good ships and there are wood ships
and ships that sail the sea,
but the best ships are friendships
and may they always be!



Thanks to Jessie & Bob Davis these beautiful cedar slat-sided planters will be available to our members for \$25.00. They fit securely over railings, making your potted plants safe from accidental tipovers. The bottom fits deck railings up to 5-3/4"W, and can easily be moved; weathers beautifully. Measures 8"W x 6"D inside X 30" long.

For more information or to place an order, call Jessie & Bob Davis 303-674-2883

Minutes of the March 14, 2006 Meeting

Co president, Jean Todd called the meeting to order at 9.33am. By the time our speaker began the presentation, 62 people, members and guests were in attendance – a wonderful turnout. Jean brought to the attention of members the two fresh flower arrangements that Trish had brought in for silent auction – all proceeds of which would benefit EGC.

Treasurer's report as presented by Priscilla Chapin

EGC Checking: \$393.19
EGC Savings: \$6,716.06
Total: \$7,109.25

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made. A second motion followed. The report was accepted as presented.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Chris Gray read a Valentine Card sent by the people at Bootstraps. The card thanked EGC members for the scholarship that the club makes to a graduating student each year. A motion was made to accept the Feb minutes as presented in the "Wild Iris." A second motion was made and the minutes were accepted as written.

Irma Wolf gave a report on the community gardens that garden club members maintain, especially during the summer months when routine maintenance and watering of these gardens takes place. Irma has a sign up sheet for people to volunteer to help in these gardens.

New Business:

Co vice-president, Nan Spence, made mention of the "Business Member Spot Light," a new feature on the EGC website and also a new feature every month in the "Wild Iris" where two EGC business sponsors will be highlighted. Connie Staponski from Evergreen Garden Center informed members that this business was striving to become an integral part of community development. Classes would be offered at the garden center. Sign up for these classes is available on line as well as at the Garden Center itself.

Earth Day: Scheduled this year April 22 at The Lake House from 10am to 4pm. Nan Spence is coordinating the EGC booth. Nan still needs 2-3 people for the 2pm to 4.10pm shift. One more person is needed from 9am to 11.30am. The EGC booth will have a poster with pictures of all community gardens that EGC maintains and community members will be encouraged to come help on our clean up day. New member forms will be available. This year, the EGC booth, the Colorado Master Gardener (CMG) booth and the Native Plant Society will have adjoining booths at the fair.

Plant Sale: Trish Scott gave members an update on the plant sale preparations. The plant sale is scheduled for June 3, 2006 from 10am to 2pm at Hiwan Homestead. And already, the club has received offers from '05 garden tour participants to pot some plants for this year's sale. This year, the club will be using Little Valley Wholesale Nursery to purchase native plants. Advance plant sales are being offered to garden club members. The club will be purchasing plants in 2 1/4" pots for \$1.00 and will be offering these plants for sale at \$2.00 each. Orders to purchase these plants will be taken today at the meeting or members can mail a check and completed order form to Nan Spence within the next couple of days. Time for ordering these plants is quickly running out. Karen Macfarquhar has volunteered to make mini posters advertising the plant sale.

Members who work the EGC booth on Earth Day will hand out these posters. Connie Staponski is endeavoring to have a coupon available at the EGC booth on Earth Day that would be good at all local garden centers for a future plant purchases as these nurseries.

Jean Todd introduced Jesse Davis. Her husband will be making 10 cedar planters to be offered for sale at the June 3 plant sale. These sturdy planters fit over the average deck railing.

Lee Lambert, executive director of Friends of Mount Evans & Lost creek Wildernesses was present at the meeting. Nan Spence informed members that Lee had a video that could be viewed by members after the business meeting.

Update on the 40th anniversary celebrations: Bev Wickland gave this update. This invitation only event will be held on June 25th at the Hiwan Homestead grounds. The event will honor all past presidents. All those attending will be asked to wear a garden hat and a flower will designate the year the person became a member. The committee is presently trying to find the video that was made at the 30th anniversary celebrations. The committee is also seeking pictures from two of the original gardens that the club members maintained: The planter that was built by The Lions Club. The small rock garden that was built by the people at the art gallery in the downtown area, perhaps somewhere near the present Evergreen National Bank.

Anyone with any information on these gardens is asked to contact Bev or any member of the 40th anniversary committee.

World Gardening News: Louise Mounsey invited all present to take a look at the table during the break. As always, all proceeds will help World Gardening people.

Club Elections and News: The nominating committee was introduced by co president Jean Todd - Frances Sorensen, Jeri Dufford, Bev Wickland, Patsy Langworthy and Nancy Elliott. Members applauded the great job these members had done. Nominations for the EGC Board positions for 2006 - 2007 Garden Club year were introduced to the members:

CoPresidents: Kathi Grider and Nan Spence
CoVice Presidents: Shelia Hendriksen and Chris Gray
Treasurer: Priscilla Chapin
Secretary: Kim Stark.

No other nominations were received from the floor. A motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee was made. A second motion followed. The motion carried and the slate of officers for next year's Garden Club Board was accepted.

Co Vice President Nan Spence made the announcement that Co President Jean Todd would be moving to the Steamboat Springs area with her daughter and her family. This would be Jean's last meeting before she left the Evergreen area. Jean will be greatly missed by all. Frances Sorensen thanked the current board members for their hard work and an Irish Moss plant was presented to all board members.

Door prizes were distributed and the business portion of the meeting concluded. Members and their guests then enjoyed refreshments and some social time.

Featured Program: Our guest speaker for the meeting was Irene Shonle. Irene is CSU extension agent for Gilpin County and co head of the Native Plant program for Jefferson and Gilpin Counties. Irene presented a very informative program on Native Herbaceous Plants for the mountains to the delight of all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Gray



Over The Garden Fence

By Karla Briggs

V IS FOR VOLE

What are those mounds of dirt and tunnels running through our property? Why are all the ground cover junipers dying out? Where did my trees and shrubs get what appears to be rope burn around their trunks? The answer to all of these questions is "voles".

Voles are small rodents that live at elevations of just below 5,000 feet to above timberline in the western half of Colorado. They are especially prolific in grassy areas, along streambeds, and in Lodgepole and Ponderosa pine forests. Hey! Wait just a minute; that's where we live.

Over the last two years, vole damage in our area has increased dramatically. The time period coincides with the end of our severe drought. With the increase of moisture, the grasses, trees and shrubs become a veritable feast for voles. With an abundant food source available, their population has exploded and evidence of their destructive feeding habits is everywhere.

As with all wildlife, they can only be managed and never completely controlled. Managing voles requires thoughtful persistence. Reducing the damage that voles cause can be done with habitat modification, exclusion, repellents, trapping or poison grain baits.

Voles do not hibernate, they are active day and night, they breed and reproduce year round and females may become pregnant at three weeks of age. Their home range is $\frac{1}{4}$ acre or less where they construct surface runways and underground tunnels with multiple burrow entrances. One burrow may house several mamas and papas and all of their offspring.

Voles can damage a plant's root system by burrowing underground and eating the roots. They can girdle a tree or shrub by eating the bark from the ground up to about 18 inches on the trunk and branches. They damage grass or lawn areas by digging runways and burrows into the root systems.

To reduce the amount of damage to trees and shrubs, trim, mow or remove the grass from around the base of the plant and pull the mulch away about 4 or 5 inches. Pick up any broken branches or debris in the area. This reduces the amount of food available and doesn't allow the vole to burrow right up to the tree or shrub. To protect trees and shrubs, wrap the trunks with chicken wire or plastic cylinders 3 to 6 inches below the ground and up to 18 inches above the ground. Remember to remove and reapply the protective barrier each year to allow for growth.

To protect grassy or lawn areas, frequent mowing during the summer months and right before the snow starts in the fall reduces the habitat for voles. Voles prefer a thick matted grass to burrow through. Mowing and raking reduces the amount of grass and also allows the burrow entrances to be spotted.

Voles are a non-game wildlife in Colorado and may be captured or killed when they create a nuisance or cause property damage, according to the state Dept. of Wildlife. Trapping voles can be effective in small areas. Use a

(Continued on pg. 6)

HORTICULTURE

Community Garden Care by Irma Wolf

One of the best exposures for the EGC is the maintenance of Evergreen's community gardens. We are judged by how the gardens look, and we are well known throughout the community by our dedicated care. Maintenance is not only a May and October obligation, but periodic care is necessary from June through September.

Your leader (if any) and any member of the maintenance group can suggest a schedule for the summer. However, if any one member sees an immediate need for care, call the leader, or each other, to meet as a group at an earlier date, or simply do a little weeding by yourself any time your schedule permits.

Know who your leaders and helpers are:

Presently, the following members have agreed to care for the gardens (leaders are highlighted).

- Evergreen Metro Water District (dam garden): Peggy & Dale Fetchenhier, Joan Reynolds, Chris Gray, Lori Lapp, Vivan Michaels
- Library Garden: Linda Ringrose, Marjorie Clinton, Irene Clurman (no leader)
- Post Office Oval: Karla Briggs, Kim Stark, Sandy Swan
- Post Office Skinny: Louise Mounsey, Sara Sperry (Leslie Keithline—sprayer)
- Post Office Mahonia: Connie Staponski
- Bergen Park Traffic Circle: Irma Wolf, Ruth Alford, Marilyn Kaussner, Karen McFarquar
- Evergreen Metro District Building on Stagecoach: Beth Feldkamp, Nancy Elliott
- Hiwan Homestead Flower: Bev Wickland, Julaine Kennedy, Frances Sorensen, Tina Kellogg
- Hiwan Homestead Herb: Priscilla Chapin, Vicki Jones, Meredith Bossert (on occasion)
- Fire Training Center: Nan Spence, Kathy Grider, Barbara DeCaro

If you'd like to be assigned to one of the above gardens, contact the appropriate leader, or Irma Wolf, and let them know they can count on you.

Things to remember when caring for the gardens (that you probably already know):

- It's best to weed after a good soaking, but of course if you have your monthly day or date already set and Mother Nature hasn't cooperated, do the best you can on that designated date.
- Get the whole weed out, root and all, or you'll see it peeking out again next month.
- Follow your leader's advice on care, or if a leader is unavailable, use your best judgment, or come to a consensus with your group re any action to be taken.
- If new or replacement plants are needed, contact your custodian (garden owner) who may have a budget for same. If not, consider using leftover plants from the June plant sale, or splitting up existing plants that are doing well in that garden; or donate a healthy prolific plant or two from your own garden.
- Some gardens need hand/hose watering and have no automatic sprinkler system. So if replacing a plant or filling a space, make it xeric and non-edible by wildlife; replace plants in Spring or early Summer if possible, so roots get a good foothold, and water often for the first month.

Thanks everyone who is presently caring for our community gardens. And remember, anyone is welcome to help at any garden whenever they can spare the time, even though you're not assigned to a garden or a schedule. Your help is very much appreciated and needed.....and what a better way to get to know your fellow members.

INDEED---PULL A WEED!!

(Continued from Over the Garden Fence pg. 4)

mouse trap with oats and peanut butter bait and place the trap at the entrance of a burrow. Check the traps daily and dispose (yuk) of the carcass. Trapping voles is best done in the fall and winter when they are most active.

Using poison grain baits is a more risky proposition. Most poison baits are restricted use, which means you must obtain a private license from the EPA to purchase and use the product. Some poison baits are available in garden centers or hardware stores for general use by the public. READ and FOLLOW the label instructions to the letter regarding use and disposal of the container. Use the poison baits in the

fall before snowfall because moisture will leave the bait ineffective. When using poison bait, the vole will sometimes come out of the burrow to die, in which case the carcass becomes a huge risk to other wildlife, domestic animals and humans. Frequently check around the burrow area for poisoned carcasses.

Controlling voles with fumigants has a varying degree of success. Using moth balls or cotton balls soaked in an aromatic oil can serve as a deterrent and cause the voles to abandon that burrow but they will move on, and not very far, to create a new burrow. Predator urine can also be an effective vole repellent but I have never been able to get a fox or coyote to leave a urine sample for me to use.

There is a device that is available at hardware stores that can be placed on the exhaust pipe of a gasoline engine with a hose attached to run down into the entrance of the burrow. There is some question as to how long to keep the engine running to fill all the tunnels with exhaust and sometimes the area where the voles are residing is not accessible to a motorized vehicle. Which leaves us with the "Giant Destroyer", a gas bomb that looks and smells like a large firecracker that is lit and placed in a burrow entrance. The main entrance is then covered with dirt and as the very visible gas fills the tunnels it will escape out of the secondary entrances and they can be covered with dirt to hold the gas below ground to do its work. This has been my method of managing voles and I have no way of knowing how successful the "Giant Destroyer" has been to date. I am waiting for spring and then I will evaluate the damage this winter as compared to last. I purchase the "Giant Destroyer" at Home Depot in the gardening section.

Voies have natural predators: the fox, coyote, bobcat, owl, hawks and even a snake or two. These animals should be revered and protected. A golden retriever can be a natural predator if he is not eating horse poop or getting a belly rub, which means he is on the job a very minimal amount of time.

To conclude: v is for vole and l is for luck. Good Luck and Happy Hunting!

Karla



SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Some people like to talk to their plants. Now, students at Singapore Polytechnic say they have created a plant that can communicate with people -- by glowing when it needs water. The students said on Tuesday that they have genetically modified a plant using a green fluorescent marker gene from jellyfish, so that it "lights up" when it is stressed as a result of dehydration. The light is hard to detect with the naked eye but can be seen using an optical sensor developed in collaboration with students at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. The development of such plants could help farmers to develop more efficient irrigation of crops.

GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



The Evergreen Library, part of the Jefferson County Public Library, is a wonderful place to "Discover the Possibilities." Conveniently located at the intersection of Highway 73 and Buffalo Park Road, the Evergreen Library offers 23 computers for easy access of library materials and the Internet. There are comfortable seating areas, two study rooms for small group work and an inviting room featuring a large fireplace—the perfect place to curl up with a good book.

The Library offers more than a million books, DVDs, books on tape and on disk, magazines (older copies check out), high-speed computers (including Wi-Fi access), in-depth research

tools, free classes—Computer and Internet Basics—and free programs for all ages.

The Online Library lets you view the library catalog from home or work, read magazines and newspapers online, and access a variety of subscription databases for information ranging from how to create a mailing list to the latest medical information. And the Online Library gives you access to your personal account, so that you can put books on hold, renew materials you have already checked out and keep track of what you've read.

The Evergreen Library, like all the libraries in Jefferson County is a valuable source for horticultural information. You will find books, magazines, videos and DVDs about gardening and plants—all available for check out. We also have materials on xeriscape and high-altitude gardening. Can't find something you need? Ask us, we will find it for you or purchase the item.

Our friendly, knowledgeable staff is ready to help you with any inquiry. Visit the Evergreen Library to "Discover the Possibilities" waiting for you. <http://jefferson.lib.co.us>

GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

tupper's team @ re/max

Tupper's Team @ Re/Max Alliance Evergreen

30480 Stagecoach Blvd.

303-670-6358

www.TuppersTeam.com



Tupper's Team has been helping nice people buy and sell beautiful homes and gorgeous land in the Evergreen/Conifer area for over 30 years. And they understand that landscaping not only adds to the enjoyment of property but adds value as well.

From potted plants on a deck or patio to extensive gardens showcasing the many interesting varieties of flowers that proliferate in our foothills area, surrounding yourself with plantings is a joy. Whether you simply clean the slash and fallen branches from around your home (an activity strongly recommended by the Forest Service for fire mitigation), grow herbs and vegetables in a garden plot, or create appealing landscaping that complements your home's setting, your efforts will pay off handsomely when it comes time to sell.

Stop by the offices of Tupper's Team at the ReMax Alliance building in Evergreen at the intersection of Evergreen Parkway and Stagecoach Blvd. or call them at 303-670-6358 or, best of all, visit their website at www.TuppersTeam.com for all your real estate needs.

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

Denver Allied Artists Guild
Contact: Eleanor Hargrove, 303-757-4451
Show or Sale Date: April 12 - 19, 2006
Mitchell Hall

Denver Rose Society
Contact: Kathy Stollenwerk, 303-777-0371
Show or Sale Dates:
April 22, 2006, Symposium
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Gates Hall and Garden Court

North American Rock Garden Society
Contact: Randy Tatroe, 303-699-8958
Show or Sale Dates:
April 22, 2006
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mitchell Hall

Jeffco Garden Club Events and Plant Sales

May 6 Sidewalk Plant Sale, downtown Golden 303-279-7871