



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 3 March 2005

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### EGC 2004-2005 Board Members

#### President:

Tricia Scott

#### Vice Presidents:

Karla Briggs

Beth Feldkamp

#### Secretary:

Joan Reynolds

#### Treasurer:

Lori Lapp

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 Lori Lapp at 303-838-8360 or membership@evergreengardenclub.org

**Newsletter Contributions** are due by the 20th of each month to Kathi Grider at 303-670-6909 or wegriders@speedtrail.net

**Newsletter Editor & Website**  
Liz Hamilton liz1001@earthlink.net  
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### *A Word from the President...*

Dear Members,  
March is coming to us...will it come in like a lion and leave like a lamb or the other way around? With Colorado it could be a bit of both within a short span of time- like a typical day here!

I was sorry to have missed the whole presentation of Priscilla Spears. What I did get to see, I saw a great deal of knowledge of her subject and passion for it. I am certain that each member got to gather a much better grasp of our plant world.

At our March meeting we will be having Niki Hayden showing and discussing Heritage Gardens. I know several of our members have first hand experience of seeing and hearing Niki and they are excited about her coming to us. It will be a nice reminder to us of what is laying underground cold and waiting for us in our own gardens.

March, the month of St.Patrick's Day when we try to believe there is a bit of Irish in all of us! I think it is the determination and luck of the Irish I try to believe in. I do

### *Membership Meeting - March 8, 2005*

#### *Heritage Gardens*

Niki Hayden, editor of "Front Range Living Magazine" will present a slide show and talk on heritage gardens. Niki is the author of several books on Colorado Front Range gardens and their history. Her books will be available for purchase at the meeting . Niki is a delightfully entertaining

have the Irish background on my Mother's side in my family. Her maiden name was McIntyre. My Grandfather was straight from Ireland and a Methodist minister. He was strong willed and known for his convictions and despite his faith more than a bit superstitious. I think I carry some of those traits with me. I sometimes try something in my garden that I have been told will fail. I hope for some luck and try to defy the beliefs of others. It has given me some major failures and some unbelievable successes. I think sometimes it can be more than luck, even a green thumb that can carry me through!

I wish for all of us the luck of the Irish in our gardens this year and the belief in ourselves that sometimes trying something that defies the odds can bring great lessons and great pleasures if successful.

See you at our next meeting!  
Tricia

speaker and her slides are dreamy.

See you at 9:15 at Church of the Hills on Buffalo Park Rd. Remember to bring your plants and cuttings for the World Gardening table, and your coffee mug. See you there!



# Garden Club News

## *My Favorite Flower.....by Linda Ringrose*

When I moved to Evergreen in 1975, from the high desert of California, I thought Indian Paintbrush came in red, tending toward orange. Yes, we had flowers in the desert, all of which bloomed vigorously in the early spring, for about two weeks! What a pleasure it was to move to Colorado, and have wildflowers blooming in my yard all summer!

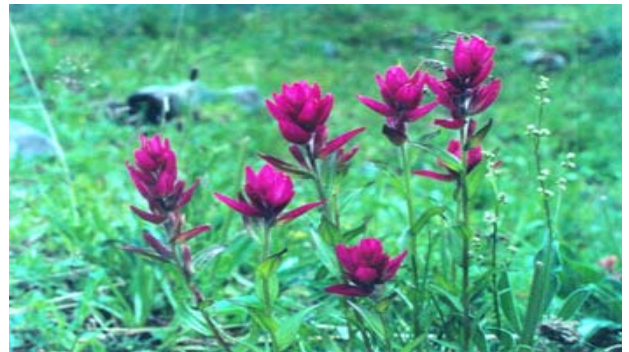
Once I started hiking and climbing fourteeners, I was amazed at the variety of colors of Paintbrush. The first yellow Paintbrush I saw was at the lower end of the Mt. Goliath Trail (aka, the M. Walter Pesman Trail), near the bristlecone pine forest on the Mt. Evans Road. I was so excited, I circled the plant, and plopped right down on my tummy to get this picture. According to *Meet the Natives, A Beginner's Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers . . .*, by M. Walter Pesman, this must be a ! Western Yellow Paintbrush.

The variegated pink and fuchsia photos were taken at over 10,000 ft., near the West Fork of the Cimarron River, in the mountains east of Ridgeway. According to Pesman, the Rosy Paintbrush range from brilliant rose to dark purple.



I have often hiked across high alpine meadows, thick with Paintbrush in many colors, more beautiful than I could ever have imagined.

On a hike to Silver Dollar Lake, off the Guanella Pass Road, there was a patch of peach-colored Paintbrush, some of which had yellow tips. A trail toward Jones Pass, west of Empire, starts in a veritable swamp of Paintbrush in all shades of pink.



Wildflower photo tips: When I got my first real camera, a 35 mm. with a macro lens, I went berserk taking pictures of wildflowers. I think it is a good place to start perfecting your photographic skills, because you are focusing on a single object, rather than a landscape view. Once I figured out the lighting

and composition that I liked, I could expand to bigger subjects, carrying along the techniques that I had learned.

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

## *Minutes of the February 8, 2005 Meeting*

President Tricia Scott called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. 22 members were present. Treasurer Lori Lapp reported that the club has \$122.58 in checking and \$6858.8 in savings for a total of \$6981.38.

Secretary Joan Reynolds read a thank you card from Barb Hadley, president of Evergreen Bootstraps, regarding our recent \$2000 donation for the scholarship fund. Joan also updated members on June Andrews and Ken Ball. Joan had visited Ken and found him to be doing quite well. She had talked to June a few weeks ago, and she sounded just like June. Jeri Dufford reported that she had taken a meal to her and found her close to normal.

Karla Briggs was not present due to illness; Beth reported that our future speakers are on track. She suggested that members may wish to bring their checkbooks for the March meeting as our speaker, Niki Hayden, will have her books available for sale.

Priscilla Chapin's new neighbor, Sandy Swan, was introduced. Also, members Sheila Henrickson and Junaita Zellner were welcomed. We hadn't seen their faces for awhile and their presence was acknowledged.

Louise Mounsey reported that past club president Anne Sperry has had a cochlear implant surgery and can now hear! She hopes to return to Garden Club soon. She had dropped out because of her hearing difficulty. She had sent some plants for the World Gardening table, which had already been taken.

Tricia brought up a possibility of the Garden Club having a permanent phone number with a recorded message saying what was currently happening. TENAS has one that is unlisted and costs \$16-\$17 per month. This was discussed and further information will be gathered. Tricia also reported that she had spoken to Zuni signs about a banner. Zuni suggested a 2-sided banner with the garden tour on one side and the plant sale on the other with our website and phone number listed on both sides. They suggested placing it on the hillside near Christ the King Catholic Church rather than pay someone to put it up over downtown Evergreen. It was noted that permission must come from Jefferson County or the state to post a banner above the lake. The 2-sided banner would be good for both our main fundraising events and, with the phone number and website information on it, no yearly alterations would be necessary.

Regarding the Garden Tour, the Reeds on Upper Bear Creek will be out of town on June 25 and think their garden will be barely blooming at that time. We have not yet heard from the Schoonvelts or the Kelloggs but the other garden tour gardeners had responded to the questionnaire sent to them saying June 25 was good for them. Irma agreed to follow up. Tricia again started circulating the garden tour sign ups.

Tricia then read a letter from the woman in charge of the high school work day. It explained in detail the requirements for the re-painting of our directional signs that we use for the Plant Sale and the Garden Tour. The high school also asked if we had any other work that the students could perform.

Tricia then informed us that we could no longer store our signs at the church. The fire department has recently done an inspection and the signs had to be removed within seven days. Priscilla Chapin graciously agreed to store them temporarily. We need to be thinking of a permanent place for them to be stored.

Tricia announced the volunteers that had signed up for bringing food for the March 8 meeting. There is a woman named Mary that had signed up for that meeting and we could not decipher her last name. The door prize drawings were then held and we followed with a break to eat the many offerings that members had brought.

Priscilla Spears then gave a most fascinating talk regarding the reclassification of plants. It is based on the DNA and computer assistance that was not available when plants were originally classified. She explained how much plants had evolved since they were first single cell and survived only in the water. Her knowledge and easy usage of the different types of plants astounded us all!

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Reynolds, Secretary

(Continued from My Favorite pg. 2)

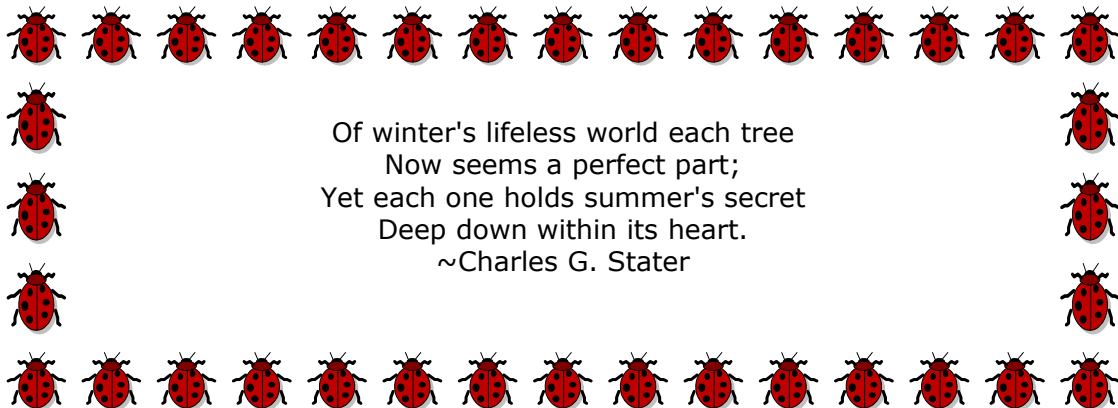
Once you find a really striking flower, walk around it a few times to decide on the best view. Take pictures from several angles, using different settings. Usually, one must get down on one's belly to get the right perspective. Remember to pick out any dead leaves and twigs that you don't want in the picture. I prefer taking pictures on a sunny day, with the flowers backlit. I use a lens shade or a helper to shade the lens to avoid "sun flare" on the picture. People may think you are crazy taking a picture into the sun, but, what do they know?



The yellow paintbrush picture is a perfect example. The black background resulted from a shady spot behind the flowers. Often photography books advocate taking flower pictures on a cloudy day, but I prefer bright, backlit sun bursting through the flower. The colors come out crisp and bright, and the flower just jumps out at you on the finished photograph. The two pink Paintbrush photos were taken in cloudy conditions, and it is difficult to get the colors to come out right. But if you are out in the back country, you find some great flowers, and there is no sun, go for it anyway! You are not likely to be back in that spot with a cloudless sky

any time soon. Keep taking lots of pictures, and learn to ignore your hiking companions as they lose patience while waiting for you!

"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."


  
 Of winter's lifeless world each tree  
 Now seems a perfect part;  
 Yet each one holds summer's secret  
 Deep down within its heart.  
 ~Charles G. Stater





## Over The Garden Fence *By Julaine Kennedy*

What a glorious winter we are having. We have had great Rocky Mountain sunny days and cold cloud-less nights for star gazing. So far we have had moisture levels that winter watering has been minimal for established plants. Occasionally, I have shoveled snow onto the sunny exposed gardens. The snow melts so quickly when the sun hangs out for several hours. This is the time of year to watch for garden areas that are exposed to lots of sun. Additional mulch may be required for tender perennials and plants that have been in the ground for less than three years. An exception to this concern would be fleshy ground covers such as sedums and ice plant. Too much moisture + organic mulch leads to plant root for these guys.

It's time to start thinking about planning for seed starting projects. There are so many interesting things to try---new varieties, methods and maybe even trying some plant breeding. You may like to check out <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/boulder/AG/productionag.shtml>. This site comes from CSU Boulder County Extension, Ag Production. There are several links that will lead you to vegetable growing, best soil temperatures for specific vegetables, small acreages and current drought information.



Do you like seed catalogs? Here are a few online catalogs that you probably haven't received in the mail: <http://www.takii.com/> <http://www.sakata.com/> <http://www.territorial-seed.com/>. I just want to make sure you have some new literature to read when the snow days arrive!! If you grow from seeds and don't have this book **The New Seed Starters Handbook** by Nancy Bubel, you are missing out on a lot of good advice.

There is a new orchid book out from Timber Press. **Growing Orchids in Your Garden** by Robert G.M. Friend. I checked it out from the Denver Library after seeing the section on temperate gardens. Hum, temperate gardens include northern hemisphere gardens where it is common for the temperatures to drop below freezing and snow cover for several weeks in the winter. Well, the temperate information was pretty brief, but I know there are many of you who would love browsing this book for the photos and general information about growing orchids in pots and growing orchids indoors.

*(Continued on pg. 6)*

*(Continued from Over the Garden Fence pf. 5)*

My goodness, this year is going fast. Today I had a call from the American Cancer Society inquiring about Evergreen Garden Club's plans for sponsoring a Relay for Life team. I believe we could sponsor 2 teams if we start planning now. The date is not solid yet, but the event will be in late July. I would like to hear from you. We had so much fun last year. Email me [jubo40@comcast.net](mailto:jubo40@comcast.net). Julaine



A garden, then, is a finite place, in which a gardener (or several gardeners) has created, working with or against nature, a plot whose intention it is to provide pleasure; possibly in the form of beauty, possibly in the form of cabbages - and possibly, beautiful cabbages.

~Abby Adams

# HORTICULTURE

## **Illuminating Weeds**

### **Denver Botanic Gardens to Host First-ever Invasive Species Botanical Illustration Exhibit February 11 - April 25, 2005**

Weeds as fine art? Invasive species are not generally thought of as worthy of painting, however a new art exhibit at Denver Botanic Gardens titled "Illuminating Weeds" will display unique botanical illustrations from 15 botanical illustration artists and featured artist Annie Chappell in a variety of beautiful mediums, while educating the public about local invasive species.

#### **INSIDE GARDEN TREASURES**

Forcing branches of flowering trees and shrubs is an easy way to bring a little spring into your home while it's still cold outside. Forsythia and pussy willows (*Salix caprea*) are the easiest to force, but you can try it with many other shrubs and trees too.

You'll need:

VERY sharp scissors or garden shears  
vase or bucket to hold what you cut  
warm water  
hydrogen peroxide or a floral preserver

Cut your branches on a warmer, sunny day that is above freezing. You'll want to cut when they are about 6-8 weeks away from blooming for the best results. Cut the branches on the diagonal with very sharp shears. You want a clean, quick cut. Immediately place them in a lukewarm vase or bucket of water. Cut above a bud, the larger buds are usually the flower buds. Cut about a 12 inch length. Place the bucket in a cool location such as a garage or covered porch overnight, still keeping the ends in the water. In the morning, cut a tiny bit off the ends again, and then make a 1 inch vertical slit up from the bottom of the branch, to allow more water in. Bring the flowers inside to a room that is about 70 degrees. Add a couple drops of hydrogen peroxide, bleach or a floral preservative to the water and change it, adding drops to the new water, every few days. The tips should NEVER become dry. Also, keep the vase out of direct sunlight. The amount of time till bloom will depend on when they are cut, and how large the buds are. Both pussy willow and forsythia will take anywhere from 2 to 8 weeks to bloom, depending on the bloom size.

You can dry the pussy willow if you wish. As soon as they bloom, place them in a vase with NO water to air dry. You can use them in dried arrangements as an everlasting, once they dry. If you keep them in water they will root, and can replanted once there is a root system formed if you don't wish to dry them.

Evergreen Garden Club  
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Evergreen, Colorado 80437  
[www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org)



**Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events** [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org)

**Denver Orchid Society**

Admission: Mitchell Hall  
March 12, 2005 - March 13, 2005  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Free with Gardens admission  
For more information, contact Patricia Schillereff at 303-796-9686.

**Denver Rose Society** Location:

Admission: Mitchell Hall  
March 19, 2005  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Free with Gardens admission  
For more information, contact Mary Kirby at 303-278-3521.

**Rocky Mountain African Violet Council**

Admission: Mitchell Hall, Gates Hall and Garden Court  
March 26, 2005 - March 27, 2005  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Free with Gardens admission  
For more information, contact Allison Brigham at 303-236-3465.