



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS

October, 2014

October Meeting!

We will meet for breakfast and a business meeting at the firehouse at 9:30.

Please note that we are now starting our social time at **9 am**. We have way too much to discuss to be starting at 9:15!

After the meeting we will prepare the public gardens for the winter so please dress for the weather and for dirt! Bring clippers, trash bags, brooms, water etc

If you are not assigned to a garden, please contact Lynn Dimmick, our Public Gardens Coordinator.

mobile, 303-518-1693

home 303-670-0108

We are hoping to enjoy great Fall weather!

Hello to all,

My neighbor is moving to Canada and can't take her orchids with her. (She also has a few misc. houseplants to give away). She would Love to donate them to someone who loves orchids!

Please contact me if you are interested...

Rebecca Swain
303) 918-9386

Next Meeting
Tuesday
October 14th, 2014

Bergen Park Firehouse
Social Time 9:00-9:30
Meeting at 9:30 am

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Margo Constable
Marva Zima
Laura McReynolds

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



WeeScapes, Women and Wine
(A fairy garden frolic at
a Borgata an Italian Village)

*Join WeeScapes and a Borgata in one of the hottest trends in gardening -
 Fairy Gardening*

October 16, 2014 (Thursday) @ 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
ADULTS ONLY CLASS
Groups Welcome!
27182 Main St., Conifer, CO 80433
(in the Safeway Shopping Center)
Light snacks and wine provided.

Participants will create their own whimsical fairy garden, consisting of a stone path leading to an arbor where their adorable angel vine intertwines. A bird bath and wheelbarrow to decorate for the holidays or any day and a splash of color along with a carpet of baby’s tears. Also includes a colorful container (your choice) and all other necessary materials. Many other adorable items will be available for purchase too, along with cute holiday decorations. Guided instruction included in fee.

The class will last approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hours
\$60.00 per person
(VISA and MasterCard accepted)
CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED

All reservations require pre-payment of \$30.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE CONTACT:

Karen Belmont—WeeScapes
#303-549-8026
Email: Weelandscapes@gmail.com
www.weescapes.com

OR

Pennie Gaudi—a Borgata
#303-653-6422
Email: Pennie@aborgata.com
www.aborgata.com



Mia is excited the fairies are coming!



Triple-decker Bulb Planting Class!



Plant some spring cheer. Come learn how to layer bulbs in a pot for a spring bulb "sandwich" garden. Daffodils, snowdrops, and grape hyacinth are a beautiful combination and great for spring balconies and patios.

Join us for this informative presentation and then make your own planter to take home and overwinter. Instruction and material fee \$40 per container. This 1 hour class to be held Saturday, October 18 at 9 a.m.

Class size is limited, reservations must be pre-paid. Call or stop in for more information or reservations: 303.670.8211, 27945 Meadow Drive.

Custom classes & parties: Want to put together a group event? Friday night ladies night creating terrariums? Kids birdhouse decorating birthday party? Get a group (6-12) of friends together and give us a call! We have lots of ideas and would love

If you would like to include information in the Wild Iris, please send an email to editor@evergreengardenclub.org

or contact Lucy Ginley, cell 303-881-2150 or email lginley@comcast.net

Visit us online at www.evergreengardenclub.org

Evergreen Garden Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization

Kelly Grummons tour of cactus collection at Timberline Gardens for Evergreen Garden Club on June 10, 2014...Along with EGC Business Meeting Minutes

Kelly Grummons, owner of Timberline Gardens in Arvada, started off describing his background and explaining his long-time special interest in cactus. His business is focused on sustainable gardening practices, such as moving away from the use of Canadian peat moss and supporting sustainable alternatives such as coconut fiber, charcoal and expanded shale. He is excited about the recent introduction of a new turf grass, African dogtooth grass, which uses 20% of the water that Kentucky bluegrass requires (it grows up to 6000' elevation). He is working on hybridizing manzanitas, desert salvias, and desert willows, as well as cactus.

His breeding work with cactus is focused on developing spineless, re-blooming, cold hardy cultivars. One way to tell if a cactus is cold hardy is to observe its form as winter approaches. Cold hardy cactus will deflate and the pads will lie down during winter.

He fielded many questions from the group and provided many tips for growing cactus:

Hardy cactus, agaves, and yuccas require lean soil and good drainage. A slope is ideal. Rock garden soil mix works well (loam, pebbles, and a small amount of compost).

Containers are good for cactus because they are dry and weeds are easier to manage. Pots that can stay outside all winter without cracking have been fired at high temperature (2300°). These high-fire pots can be identified by their thick, brown clay and they are often made in Vietnam. Cactus in pots should be protected from fluctuations in temperature during the winter. They should be kept dry and frozen. If grown in pots, cactus will need some fertilizer. The fertilizer should be rich in calcium. Seaweed fertilizer is good. It should be applied once per month in June, July and August. If the cacti are overfed, they will become 'fat' and will be susceptible to winter damage. They should be kept dry in the fall, in preparation for winter.

Indoor cactus should be fed whenever they are growing, once per month. Christmas cactus are epiphytes (air plants) and don't require fertilizer. Indoor cactus benefit from time spent outdoors in summer. The first week outside should be in shade and then the cactus can be gradually exposed to the sun. Tropical indoor cactus need a nighttime minimum temperature of 60° (Arvada has good conditions).

Cactus can be propagated by cuttings. Small cuttings should dry for 3 days. Big cuttings should dry for 2 weeks. Hormone treatment can be beneficial.

Recommendations for 7000' elevation:

mountain ball cactus

coryphantha/beehive

pineapple/missouri pincushion

hedgehog/Colorado prairie hedgehog

prickly pears with smaller (under 4") pads are more cold hardy

Opuntia fragilis

Opuntia montanum

Opuntia swerniana

Cholla are less hardy - snow leopard grows up to 7800'

An old clump of opuntia can be rejuvenated. After 5-6 years, the center of an opuntia will tend to die out. If the center is crunchy, then those pads are dead and the plant needs rejuvenating. If the new growth is small, it is also time to rejuvenate. Take cuttings from the green living pads at the edges, allow them to dry out for several days and form callus tissue, and then plant the cuttings. If pruning an older cactus, cut at the joint.

After talking for a while, Kelly took the garden club on a walk through the operations area. Some of Timberline Gardens' land is being used by Maxfields, a startup company that is producing sustainable, high quality soil amendments. We saw some potato cactus that were being bred for improved flower color. Potato cactus were recommended for high altitude.

Kelly showed us some of his display beds and special collections in the very far end of the retail space. He was proud to have received a number of plants from Maryann Haycock, an amateur hybridizer who did notable work with penstemons and daylilies. He also is growing some plants he had received from Claude Barr, internationally renowned plantsman and the author of Jewels of the Plains. The third and last bed is composed of plants newly acquired from New Mexico.

Kelly sells cold hardy cactus primarily through his website ColdHardyCactus.com

Evergreen Garden Club Meeting Notes - June 10, 2014 – at Timberline Gardens; Arvada, CO

Membership renewals are due in May to Anell for \$25/year.

2015 will be the 50th anniversary of the club. Garden tours will be in July. Other possible events, too.

Share your garden with other club members this season on Tuesdays. Contact Lucy.

We thanked Barb Steger for her marvelous tenure as EGC President and as a "thank you", gave her a card with gift certificate to Timberline Gardens.

Susan Blake agreed to be our newest President and was unanimously voted in. Our Board for 2014/2015 shall be:

President = Susan Blake

Co-Vice President = Anell Hoy

Co-Vice President = Paul Luzetski

Treasurer = Patti Stefaniw

Secretary = Jean Lipson

Emails and phone calls amongst the Board and Committee Members, as well as the general membership, shall happen during our club's Summer season hiatus, as needed.

End of meeting. Happy Summer!

Evergreen Garden Club

September 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by co-vice president, Paul Luzetski; our new President, Susan Blake, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Other board members in attendance included, Annell Hoy, co-vice president, Jean Lipson, secretary, and Patricia Stefaniw, treasurer, and Louise Mounsey, Member Emeritus.

Thirty five wonderful members were in attendance, plus we welcomed Elaine Morse, who attended our meeting for the first time.

Due to the late delivery of the June minutes, all members present were given a copy of the June meeting minutes. In order to allow adequate time for review, approval of the minutes will be conducted at the October meeting. A rough draft of the proposed budget, the treasure's report, and a list of the club members celebrating birthdays during the month of September were presented by our treasurer Patti Stefaniw, via a Power Point, using our club's new technology equipment. Discussion of listed items took place as needed. Patti reported that we had a balance of \$2,065.08 in our checking account plus a savings balance of \$11,516.56. The final budget for the 2014-2015 year will be available for a vote at the October 14, 2014, general meeting. She also stated that \$1,600.00 was budgeted for our new technology equipment and to date we have spent \$1,223.64, leaving a balance of \$376.36.

Paul Luzetski reported that our Evergreen Garden Club web site is being reconfigured making it more user friendly plus easier to read.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Publicity committee: no report

Hospitality committee reminded members who were present to please sign up to bring refreshments for future meetings. Annell also reminded members that **beginning with the** October meeting members will gather for refreshments and socializing, however, the business meeting will begin at 9:30.

The Welcoming committee will be manned by Cindy Gibson and Marva Zima.

Community Gardens Lynn Dimmick reminded everyone that the Public Gardens will be put to bed after our brief October meeting. She stated that the Public Garden at the Traffic Circle in Bergen Park needs extra help. Please talk to Lynn after the meeting if you think that you would be interested in helping out, call/email her. The same holds true if we want to sign up for an additional garden or switch to a different garden.

Natural Resources: Mary Dickhoff reminded everyone that this is an important time of the year to pay close attention to noxious weeds and PULL THEM UP ROOT AND ALL due to the fact that with all the rain we had it has enabled them to propagate more fully. As they begin to wither they their drop seeds, the wind scatters the seeds, thus causing an even broader range of these horrible weeds.

Thanks go to Cheri Luke and Margo Constable who have volunteered to be our back up photographers for Susan Blake who is now our president and is unable to shoot candid shots and run the meeting at the same time.

This summer our little Garden Gnome has made his rounds to our various garden club members and was greeted with shouts of joy and a ton of smiles! We hope to keep him garden hopping until the snow flies! Suggestion: keep a "running email list" of homes he has visited in order to prevent duplicate visits. FOR EXAMPLE: Lucy Ginley starts the Gnome visits by putting him at Paul Luzetski's home. Lucy will send an email to all club members telling of the escapades that she and Gnome had. When Paul discovers the Gnome he sends him to visit Louise Mounsey and then will write an email telling of his visit and press "REPLY TO ALL" After Louise discovers the Gnome she will send him over to Meredith Bossert's house, and will write an email and press "REPLY TO ALL." Meredith will continue this process and so will each person after that. This will prevent repeated visits, plus if he appears to be MIA (missing in action), we can track him down by contacting the last person he visited.

50 YEARS AND GROWING The Evergreen Garden Club will celebrate 50 years of working the soil in the Public Gardens in Evergreen and showing everyone what types of flowers can and will grow at 7500 feet. We have worked on beautiful spring days, in the blistering hot summer sun or in downright frigid temperatures not to mention being caught in rain showers. We pull weeds, cut back plants, dig up plants that have seen their better days, then lovingly water and tend to new plants and rejoice as they to become breathtakingly beautiful flowers

Louise Mounsey and Gretchen Stoeppelwerth were the co-founders of the Evergreen Garden Club. Today, Louise is the sole surviving member and we want to thank her for being a visionary garden leader. It's because of her fortitude and leadership skills that today we have become a successful garden club.

Various ideas were discussed on how best to celebrate our community efforts in foothills gardening. Membership input is desired and it was suggested that folks should call with ideas, or else email their ideas so that can a list of ideas can be presented to the voting members in November.

Suggestions, pros, and cons are as follows:

- Evergreen Lake House would be an ideal location to have the Expo
- We must get on the Lake House calendar ASAP
- An Expo celebrating 50 years of gardening in the foothills... free info on deer/elk resistant gardening and how to grow plants at 7500 feet
- Time frame for Expo: between Memorial Day and Father's Day
- A private party just for our members celebrating 50 years
- Have a \$10.00 entrance fee. Ads for the Expo could emphasize entrance fee and items for sale to maintain our club's community endeavors, etc.
- Downside...too much money
- Would the community pay money to attend such an event
- It was noted that if we were just doing a garden tour there would be a charge for the tickets

- Publish a 50th anniversary book, 50 years of Gardening with Evergreen Garden Club, to sell at the Expo. Susan Blake was the chief coordinator of an EGC book that was previously published. Perhaps we could tap into her expertise. This book could possibly be for sale at the Expo.
- Features of the book could show 50 years of gardening with EGC; including pictures of public garden sites before they were established and how they appear today; helpful hints on gardening at an altitude; recipes featuring produce grown at an altitude
- Do an Expo and Public Gardens tour
- Solely an EGC Expo and no Public Gardens tour
- Downside: public always looks forward to the garden tours therefore the interest in EGC will dwindle if no garden tour
- Public Garden info at the Expo
- Do an Expo and feature plants that grow at 7500 feet
- Do it on a Thursday evening
- Downside: a low turnout due to the fact that it is a weekday night.
- Recruit volunteers to help with things needing to be done (people power)
- Barb Steger working on shirt ideas with the logo" 50 years and Growing embroidered on the shirt for members and to sell at the Expo
- Landscapers present xeriscape garden ideas
- Ask business retailers to donate items and raffle that item off at a silent auction
- Ask business retailer's to buy a booth space and display items
- Ask artists and sculptures to donate a work of art and do a silent auction
- This must be an event that will be geared to all men, women, and children.

The Expo committee must be firmed up and ready to take action on our celebration by December 1 at the latest so info can be presented at the December meeting.

With no further business needing to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 10:35.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Lipson, Secretary