



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS

MAY 2017

Dear Members,

I hope all is well and your gardens are coming to life. I think it is exciting to see the first green leaf appear. This month, after a hardy breakfast provided by hospitality, we are going to go work in the area gardens. If you do not have a garden, please contact Lynn Dimmick.

Don't forget about the seed packing party at the Fire Training Center. Annell will have some refreshments. It will begin at 9:00 on May 4th.

Looking ahead to June; please bring any divided plants that you do not want to the meeting in June. The proceeds will go to Echo.

One last thing; if you would like to have your garden on the tour for 2018 please let Gloria Owens know.

Enjoy your gardens and remember "Earth Laughs in Flowers" (R.W. Emerson).

Joan

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
MAY 9, 2017**

**BERGEN PARK FIRE
HOUSE
9:00 a.m.**

**MAY MEETING
WORKDAY FOR ALL
EVERGREEN PUBLIC GARDENS!**

**BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED BY
THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**



Evergreen Garden Club
April 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President, Joan Evashevski at 9:30 a.m. Board members present were 1st Vice President, Lindy Doty, 2nd Co-Vice President, Annell Hoy, Treasurer, Jane Wingquist, Secretary, Gloria Owens, Past President, Susan Blake. Absent: Linda Berteau.

The President announced the April birthdays: Chryl Twilley, Ivy Parish, Louise Mounsey, Jo Overton, Rose Zinn, Bev Wickland, Jean Lipson, Steven Parks, Jeff Davidson and Cindy Gibson. New guests Chris Graham, Teresa Martin and Lauraine Dalton were introduced by Marva Zima.

Announcements: On Wednesday, April 12th at 3:30p.m. Jennifer McGrath and her Girl Scout Troop will be at the DAM garden planting Johnny Jump Ups. Laramie Master Gardeners in Cheyenne WY will be having a Wild West Gardening Conference, April 22 -23. Cost: \$30; registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Secretary: Gloria Owens announced there is a correction in the March minutes. The hospitality center piece for March was donated by Leslie Jordan. She asked the membership to approve the minutes as amended. Approved. Ten birthday cards were sent to those listed above. The secretary announced the passing of her husband March 22nd and thanked the Evergreen Garden Club for the floral arrangement, cards and meals provided by the board members.

Treasurer: Jane Wingquist reported EGC expense reimbursement forms needed to be filled out by the respective gardeners within 30 days from purchase of plants and supplies. She also called businesses regarding the 501.C3 exempt status at Home Depot and Staples have accepted our tax exempt status in their system. Other suppliers are being contacted. Jane reminded the membership dues of \$25 are now being accepted for the coming year. The current checking balance is \$2,147 and the current savings balance is \$16,830.

1st Vice President: Lindy Doty announced the May 9th general meeting will be a work day for all the Evergreen public gardens. Breakfast will be provided by the Hospitality committee. Lindy also asked the membership to vote on program for the June 13 general meeting. The consensus is program to be on "grasses."

2nd Co Vice President: Annell Hoy announced waivers need to be signed by gardeners working on respective gardens liability related to accidents. Also, addendums for the EGC directory were available at the welcome table to add to their membership directory.

As Hospitality chair she announced anyone interested in purchasing aprons, visors or T-shirts to promote the EGC gardens were to contact her. The hospitality center piece was donated by Annell Hoy.

Natural Resources: Mary Dickoff stated to avoid voles eating plants that metal mesh baskets can be purchased at any Dollar Store. Baskets are to be put into the earth and plants planted in the baskets. She also announced to avoid using chemicals on plants.

Public Gardens: Lynn Dimmick stated gardeners are to bring their garden tools/supplies to their respective gardens and to sign up for a respective garden. Susan Blake asked each garden to be responsible and take photos for publicity purposes.

Nominating Committee: Annell Hoy announced all positions for the coming year are filled except the board still needs someone to be Tech Officer.

Earth Day: Diana Aldridge stated everything is ready for the April 22nd Earth Day at Evergreen Lake House.

Rodeo: Annell Hoy announced walkers are needed for the June 16 rodeo parade to carry banner and distribute seed packets. She obtained a vintage truck with a flatbed to carry plants and tall grasses representing and promoting the garden club. Louise Mounsey, honorary member will ride with the driver of the truck.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The program is Colleen Kulesza speaking on "Habitat Hero. . . Wildscaping a Bird Friendly Garden." She announced the Evergreen Audubon meets the first Thursday of each month at 29997 Buffalo Park Road. The Audubon also maintains the Nature Center at Evergreen Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Owens, Secretary



Walden Park 23



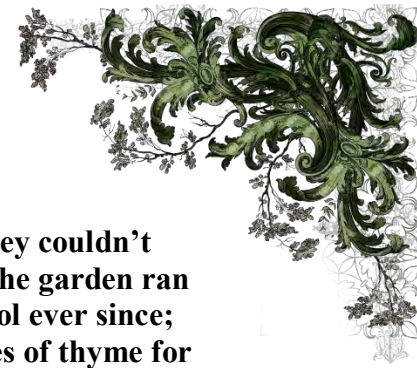
Peggy and Dale and that Dam Garden

It is 1996, give or take a year, and the Evergreen Metro District has just redesigned their downtown Evergreen water plant and are looking at a great big pile of bare dirt right next to their new building. Maybe they could throw down some grass seed and maybe the Evergreen Garden Club could do, what, keep it mowed for them? When the club was presented with that juicy offer they counter-offered with the prospect of a horticultural vision designed by a team of 6 designers including Dale and Peggy Fetchenhier, with 20 years of Evergreen gardening experience already under their belts, and some vision from artist Tom Ware, who served on the EMD board. They could see boulders, benches, sculpture, views of the dam, and a natural garden with greenery and drifts of flowers in every nook and cranny. For the garden club and the metro water district, this was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

For the past 20 years, The Evergreen Metro District has been very protective of the garden and generously supplied the funds, water, and installation of the irrigation system, hardscaping, and those beautiful flagstone benches while Peggy and Dale organized workday parties (25 volunteers showed on many work days!) to plant over 6 types of trees, 20 kinds of bushes, 5 ground covers, 5 grasses, 2 vines, and lots and lots of perennials. Each one was carefully selected for its xeric and deer repellent qualities or because it was dear to their hearts, like the Harrison Yellow rose Peggy brought from South Dakota. They shared a bit of what they've learned over the past years –

- When a plant is doing well – let it run!
- Peonies will grow into glory in one area and dwindle just a few feet away.
- As trees grow they'll turn your perfect sunny spot into your perfect shady spot.
- Grasses and yarrow make for months long winter interest.
- The lupines in bloom will stop traffic!
- Your neighbor's clover and dandelions will find your yard.
- Russian sage (plant more than one) for gorgeous late summer blooms.
- Beware of flowering chives – give 'em an inch and they'll take a mile.
- How to deal with elk visitors – “Oh, we just plant enough for them and us.”





Dale and Peggy shared a few memories – The drought year of 2002 when they couldn't bring themselves to water the garden while everyone else was conserving - the garden ran amok with opportunistic sprouting roots and they feel it's been out of control ever since; Vivien Michaels, for years, tenderly, tenaciously picking through the patches of thyme for anything that was not thyme, and that wildly emotional moment when they were cruising by doing their usual quick look of the garden and spied a woman furtively clipping every one of the glorious magenta peonies to the ground!

The garden and plants are sweet friends now. And while Peggy and Dale have made the very hard decision to step down and have passed their garden trowel to our intrepid Anell Hoy we will still find them at the dam garden among those admiring folks strolling through, pausing to ask a question, saying, "Thanks," or just enjoying a little sit down while, hopefully, pulling a dandelion or two.

A final bit about our friends. . .

Of course, Peggy and Dale Fetchenhier would take on the challenge of one of the largest and most front-and-center gardens in Evergreen. Both came from the Midwest and neither can ever remember, as kids, when their families didn't have a big garden – Peggy's grandparents were South Dakota farmers and Dale came directly from a farm in Minnesota where they grew corn and peas for Birds Eye. In 1966, Dale was working for Excel, Public Service Company of Colorado, when he got a wild hair and built a house in Evergreen (I-70 was barely on the map). Peggy joined him in 1973 after meeting on April Fool's Day. They commenced to raise two sons, Scott and Jeff, and then they took on the dam garden. (And probably some other stuff, too).

Thank you, Dale and Peggy, on behalf of the club, the community, visitors, and those lucky elk.



Written by Lynn Dimmick

The EGC APRIL PROGRAM –
“Habitat Hero: Wildscaping 101
Learning How to Create a Bird-Friendly Garden
Presented by
Colleen Kulesza – Evergreen Audubon



Six Ornamental Native Grasses for *Dry Conditions and Higher Altitudes*

The Front Range and Eastern Plains of Colorado are part of the short grass prairie that lies in the rain shadow of the Rocky Mountains. This is a high and dry steppe climate dominated by short grasses of inches in height that include buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) and **blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)**, the state grass of Colorado. The area is semiarid and the average annual rainfall is 10 to 15 inches.

Gardeners growing native gardens should understand the differences in rainfall where these grasses are native and plan supplemental irrigation accordingly. **Generally among the natives, the taller the grass, the more water the plant requires.**

Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Native Perennial
Height: 24 to 36 inches
Spread: 18 to 24 inches
Full sun
Moisture: Moderate to dry
USDA zones 3 to 9
Blooms mid to late summer



A lovely, tough-as-nails prairie native offering grey-green leaf blades that turn bold shades of purple, red and orange in autumn.

Blonde Ambition blue grama grass
Bouteloua gracilis 'Blond Ambition'

Native Perennial
Height: 12 to 30 inches
Spread: 12 to 30 inches
Full sun
Moisture: Moderate to dry
USDA zones 4 to 9
Blooms mid to late summer



Seed Head



Tended Garden Setting

Natural Setting with Companions

Side oats grama grass
Bouteloua curtipendula

Native Perennial
Height: 12 to 24.5 inches
Spread: 12 to 24 inches
Full sun
Moisture: Dry to medium
USDA zones 4 to 9
Blooms July to August

**Native prairie grass noted for one-sided
seed head arrangement**



Seed Head



Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

Native Perennial
Height: 24 to 36 inches
Spread: 24 to 36 inches
Full sun; tolerates light shade
Moisture: Dry to medium
USDA zones 4 to 9
Blooms August to October



Natural Setting with Companions

Mexican hair grass or Silky thread grass
Stipa tenuifolia

Native Perennial
Height: 12.5 to 18 inches
Spread: 12.5 to 18 inches
Full sun
Moisture: Dry
USDA zones 5 to 10



Blue Oatgrass
Helictotrichon sempervirens

Native Perennial
Height: 24 to 36 inches
Spread: 24 inches
Full sun
Moisture: Dry to medium
USDA zones 4 to 8
Blooms June



Seed Head



Blue Fescue
Festuca glauca elijah blue

Native Perennial
Height: .75 to 12 inches
Spread: .50 to .75 inches
Full sun
Moisture: Dry to medium
USDA zones 4 to 8
Blooms June - July



Seed Head

Although not native, Karl Forrester grasses do well in the landscape (and even better when provided extra moisture). They are deer and elk resistant.



Companion plants blend beautifully with ornamental grasses.



Companions don't always have to be plants!



Grasses are a natural for mass plantings. Remember plant 1/3 to 2/3 (one should dominate) if mass planting with companions.



Unless they are diseased, leave seed heads intact. They add winter interest and feed the birds!



Grasses should be cut back in early spring to promote the best growth.



When it's Time to Divide!



When it's time to divide, grasses will often die out in the middle, forming a distinct donut shape.

You do not have to wait for this to happen to divide your grasses.

Divide in Spring by digging up the entire plant



Cut a section that seems vigorous



Separate it from the rest of the plant and re-plant



**ANNUAL JOINT PLANT SALE
FOR FRONT RANGE
ORGANIC GARDENERS
(FROG)**

**SATURDAY MAY 20, 2017
9 AM - 1 PM**

**PRESBYTERY HALL
1710 S. GRANT
DENVER, CO 80210**

*The Annual Joint Plant Sale for
FROG*
(Front Range Organic Gardeners) and the Rocky
Mountain Unit of the Herb Society of America is

Saturday, May 20, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the
Presbytery Hall, 1710 So. Grant, Denver 80210.

These two groups together provide a broad range
of plants including heirloom tomatoes, peppers,
other vegetables, a wide variety of herbs, annuals,
perennials, and maybe a few shrubs & trees.

For updated information, go to
<http://www.gardenfrog.org/> or e-mail
frogardeners@comcast.net. You may also contact
Meredith Bossert at MTN87frog@gmail.com
or 303-697-4534.

Thank you for your support
in the past and at present.

Love Blooms Here



wildflower

wild flower -flau(e)r

1. a flower that grows in natural places without being planted by people
2. Someone who travels to many different places and can flourish anywhere.

May your *Life*

be like a

Wildflower...

growing *Freely*

in the

Beauty & Joy

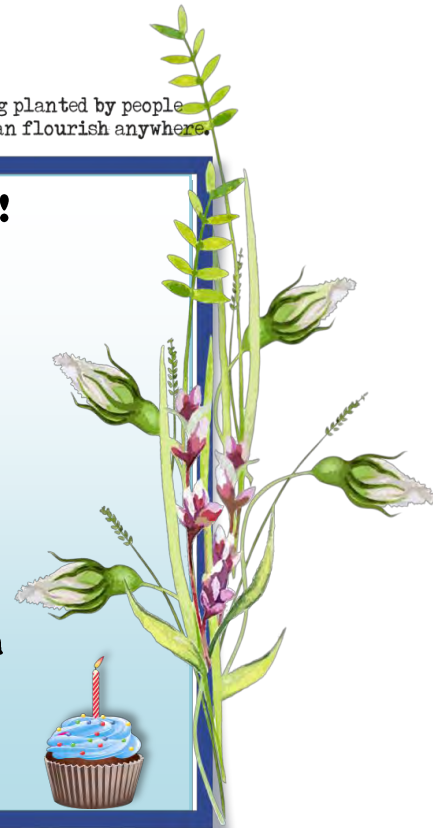
of each day.

~ NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB



MAY BIRTHDAYS!

**Barb Steger
Annell Hoy
Susan Pensiero
Joy Young
Karen Force
Sharon Faircloth
Paul Luzetski
Gloria Owens
Michelle Manquen
Sharon Eaves
Beth Feldkamp
Linda Berteau**

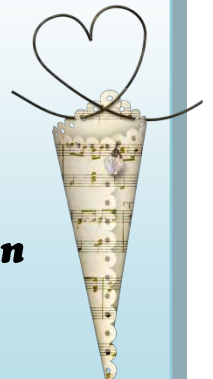


**IT'S A SEED PACKING PARTY!
COME HELP US PACK SEEDS FOR THE RODEO PARADE**

THIS THURSDAY MAY 4

**9:00 AM till done or Noon
AT BERGERN FIRE STATION**

Please bring a pen and 1 teaspoon measuring spoon



GS Troop 1503

*Lead by Jen McGrath
&
Marlo Naumer*



**Bergen Valley Elementary 3rd Grade
Brownie Troop helps EGC Members
plant Johnny Jump Ups In the
Dam Garden for Earth Day!**





Pictures by Susan Blake



EGC HAT \$25.89
One Available!



Visors are \$17.89 (10 Green; 10 Lime Green)

Aprons are \$14.75 each

After pre-orders, there are 6 visors available
and 3 aprons

Contact Annel Hoy for information on purchasing

All items are payable to Annel Hoy

Annel517@yahoo.com



WE NEED EGC MEMBERS TO WALK IN THE RODEO PARADE!

JUNE 16, 2017

Walkers are needed for the June 16 rodeo parade to carry the EGC banner and distribute seed packets. Annel Hoy has obtained a vintage truck with a flatbed to carry plants and tall grasses representing and promoting the garden club.



Please contact Annel Hoy if you are interested!

Annel517@yahoo.com

Hummers are here!

A note from CSU CCC Extension

Every April that familiar buzz makes us smile! After their long journey from wintering in warmer climates, the Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds are now frantically searching for food. Male hummingbirds arrive first to establish their territories; a good food source helps them choose a desirable site.

We're in luck since they generally nest at elevations above 6,000 feet! No need to buy the powdered hummingbird nectar mix – instead, make homemade hummingbird nectar. **All you need is 4 parts water to 1 part white granulated table sugar – boil the water, stir in the sugar until completely dissolved, and let it cool.**

Adding more sugar DOES NOT HELP the hummers; in fact too much sugar can cause liver damage. Don't use dye, food coloring or commercial nectars — they have chemicals the birds don't need and could be harmful. **DO NOT USE HONEY** – it will quickly ferment and become poisonous to the birds. Make sure your feeder has some red trim to attract them, and keep feeders clean. Of course there are many native wildflowers that they are attracted to as well; feel free to contact me for more information.

Christine M. Crouse
Director/Agent, CSU Extension in Clear Creek County
303-679-2424 (Office)
Christine.crouse@colostate.edu

May 25, 2017 ** Spice up Your Life with Herbs ** 6 pm - 7:30 pm
Join CCC MGs to learn about growing, harvesting, preserving, and cooking with herbs.
RSVP by the Monday prior at www.georgetownheritagecenter.org
Held at the Georgetown Heritage Center

June 29, 2017 ** Mountain Composting ** 6pm - 7:30pm
RSVP by the Monday prior at www.georgetownheritagecenter.org
Held at the Georgetown Heritage Center



*Mom -
Of all the things that ever grew because of you...
We may be the most grateful!*

Happy Mother's Day!

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

