



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 12

May 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 Pris4430@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

Spring is "springing!" Our garden work is picking up, both at home and in the Club. Thank you, Irma, for all of your hard work organizing our Spring Clean-Up Day in the community gardens. Call Irma (303-670-3402) if you can volunteer on May 9 and haven't already made arrangements. Our pot luck lunch afterwards will be a wonderful time for sharing.

The Plant Sale is just a month away. Do keep it in mind as your perennials awaken, stretching their stems and leaves up to you. We need donations of plants that have proven they can grow here. If you need help digging, we can help. Sign up sheets will be at the pot luck on May 9. Or, call Trish (303-679-6670), Lori (303-838-8360), or Karen (303-670-3749). This year we will also have a selection of native plants available—remember our March program.

Even as we focus on our many activities over the next couple of months, we must look ahead to next year. By August of this summer we need to have our programs planned and our 2007 Garden Tour gardens selected. So, think about programs you would like and gardens that would be good for our 2007 tour. Who is

interested in heading up the committee to plan the 2007 Garden Tour? Jot down your ideas and give them to any Board member.

Our April program on day lilies was so interesting. I never realized how many varieties existed, let alone how many have won such a prestigious award. Thanks to Fred Barmwater and Jayme Irvin of the American Day Lily Society for such an informative and entertaining program. Remember the Mile High Day Lily Society Flower Exhibit on July 23 and their sale at Tagawa Nursery in Aurora on August 19 and 20.

Thanks, also, to our hospitality committee for another festive table full of delicious food. Jo, those rabbits are delightful!

I know I have said this before, but I am totally impressed with how many Club members take on and fulfill a variety of responsibilities, often very quietly. This culture of responsibility & caring sets EGC apart. Give yourselves a pat on the back!  
Meredith

### *Membership Meeting - May 9, 2006 Spring Clean Up and Workday*

Our community gardens are starting to wake up and it's time for us to help them get ready for summer! We all need to pitch in so that the gardens can be examples we're proud of...and ones the public can enjoy and appreciate as well. Join a crew in one of the community gardens bringing with

you're your tools, gloves, water and sunscreen and then meet at Church for a pot-luck lunch.  
Yeah! It's spring!



# Garden Club News

***Welcome New Members!!! Ann Bolson,  
and Patty Campbell***

## **MAY 9th SPRING WORKDAY AND LUNCHEON**

Tuesday, May 9, is our spring day to "wake up" the community gardens and work up an appetite for our potluck luncheon which follows.

Arrive at 9:00 A.M. at your specified garden. Where parking is limited, suggested alternate parking is noted below. If you wish to drop your dish for the potluck off at the Church of the Hills before going to your garden, do so between 8:30 to 9AM when a hospitality member will be available. If the dish needs to be refrigerated, please bring in a cooler. Also, be sure to leave directions for the hospitality committee if your dish needs any further preparation prior to the luncheon.

If the work in your designated garden is completed early and you have the energy, please stop by other gardens, such as the Dam Garden, to see if any additional help is needed. Hospitality members will come back early from their gardens. If there is nothing left for you to do in any garden, you may wish to come back early to assist them. However, to assure that everyone is back from the gardens which do require more work or which are farther away from the Church, **we will not serve lunch until Noon.**

Presently, the following members have agreed to work in the gardens. Leaders are listed first, and permanent crew is **highlighted**. Unconfirmed and unavailable helpers are italicized. A few members have been reassigned to other gardens-of-need on that particular day. In addition, there may be some non-member helpers, who have been invited by members or whose help has been solicited elsewhere. Be sure to give these new recruits as well as any new member helpers a warm welcome and provide any guidance needed. Guest workers will also be invited to the potluck. So bring a dish for at least 10 hungry gardeners. The guest workers will also be given gardening gloves distributed to leaders in advance by Irma Wolf.

- **Evergreen Metro Water District (dam garden):** **Peggy & Dale Fetchenhier, Joan Reynolds, Chris Gray Lori Lapp, Vivian Michaels,** *Dee Miller, Jo Powers, Juanita Weare, Ann Bolson, Violet Aandres.* Park at dam, Plettner Lane (across the street, uphill from dam parking), or across the street from fire station and stroll over to dam.
- **Library Garden:** **Ken Ball, Linda Ringrose(leader after June), Marjorie Clinton, Irene Clurman,** *Karen Lawson, Dickie Langworthy*
- **Post Office Oval:** **Karla Briggs, Kim Stark, Sandy Swan**
- **Post Office Skinny:** **Louise Mounsey, Sara Sperry,** *Connie Staponski, Marilyn Kaussner(floater)*
- **Post Office Mahonia:** **Connie Staponski**
- **Bergen Park Traffic Circle:** **Irma Wolf (reassigned to Stagecoach garden), Ruth Alford, Marilyn Kaussner (floater), Karen MacFarquhar, Dee Sachs, Eleanor Viergever,** *Mary Pinder, Lois Battle, Lucille Nelson.* Park in the neighboring park SE of circle, or at the park'n'ride lot and walk over. A few spots across from the circle in the tailor/music store lot can also be used if necessary.
- **Evergreen Metro District Building on Stagecoach:** **Beth Feldkamp, Nancy Elliott,** *Irma Wolf, Marilyn Kaussner (floater)*
- **Hiwan Homestead Flower Garden:** **Bev Wickland, Julaine Kennedy, Frances Sorensen, Tina Kellogg,** *Dee Hoaglund, Jeri Dufford, Sheila Henriksen, Toni Yerkes*
- **Hiwan Homestead Herb:** **Priscilla Chapin, Vicki Jones, Meredith Bossert,** *Rebecca Swain, Stan Barrett, Liz Barrett*
- **Fire Training Center:** **Nan Spence, Kathy Grider, Barbara DeCaro**

Bring rakes, shovels, gloves, clippers, diggers, bags or boxes for clippings, kneeling pads or kneepads, hoes, spades, leaf rakes; and a stool if you are assigned to the Stagecoach garden. Identify your tools, as you may be asked to share them with our guest helpers who may not have the appropriate tools.

Have a great time working together while helping to keep Evergreen beautiful!

### *Minutes of the March 14, 2006 Meeting*

Evergreen Garden Club Minutes –Meeting April 11, 2006

Co President, Meredith Bossert called the meeting to order at 9.33am. 38 members were present. Meredith informed members that the three float bowls of flowers on the hospitality table had been brought by Trish Scott to be sold by silent auction. All monies would benefit EGC.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking	\$2056.40
Savings	\$6516.35
Total	\$8572.75

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, a second motion followed and the treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Priscilla.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the March meeting as printed in the Wild Iris. A second motion was made and the minutes were accepted as written by secretary Chris Gray...The only correspondence for the past month was a sympathy card to Kathi Grider and her family following the death of Kathi's Mother in-law. Kathi expressed her thanks to members for the outpouring of sympathy her husband and family had received from EGC members.

#### **Old Business:**

Irma Wolf: Clean up day of community gardens is scheduled for May 9 from 9am to 12 noon. A sign up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for the community garden of their choice. Irma reminded members to bring their own tools and water. Irma informed members that an add will appear in the Canyon Courier inviting members of the public to participate. All workers are then invited back to COTH for a potluck. All members from the public who come to work this day will be given a pair of Lamont work gloves. Irma plans to remind members via email.

**Earth Day:** Is scheduled for April 22, 2006 at Evergreen Lake house. Priscilla reminded all those who had signed up to work that day to be there.

**Plant Sale:** Lori informed members that there are two areas where we are still in need of help.

- Plants are still needed from people's gardens
- People are still needed to work the day of the plant sale

June 13 field trip to the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail: The club is paying for a tour guide for our group. Members will be carpooling from COTH. A sign up sheet for both drivers and those wishing to attend will be circulated at the May meeting. The only cost to members will be a \$5.00 contribution for gas. Non-members will be charged \$5.00 plus the \$5.00 for gas. A picnic pavilion has been rented by EGC at Vail. That day we will have our last meeting of the year and installation of new officers for the coming year will take place.

40th Anniversary Celebration: Bev Wickland gave the report – This celebration will be a garden tea party on Sunday June 25th at the Hiwan Homestead from 1pm to 3pm. More members are needed to sign up for committees. A final count will be needed by clean up day on May 9.

Meredith reminded members that it is time to think about gardens that could be on our '07 garden tour. Give suggestions to anyone on the board.

World Gardening Table – Virginia Cerrillo spoke on behalf of Louise who was not at the meeting.

Virginia encouraged members to take a look at the table and to make donations on the items available for sale. Linda Ringrose made the suggestion that EGC match the yearly amount received in donations for World Gardening. The board will make a further look at this suggestion. A vote by members would be required before this suggestion would be implemented.

Door prizes were distributed and social time with delicious refreshments followed.

Two members of the American Day Lily Society, Fred Barmwater and Jayme Irvin, were the speakers for the month. Members saw beautiful pictures of the daylilies that had won Stout Medals from 1950 to the 2005 winner and learned how hybridizers have made changes in day lilies over the years.



## Over The Garden Fence

By Julaine Kennedy



**The water was frozen but the poor baby hung out, for a while trying to wait for it to thaw. I brought the feeders in and thawed the water.**

**Maybe tomorrow will be warmer!!**

**This picture was taken by Julaine April 25, 2006.**

### Here's the recipe for syrup:

- Use one part of white cane sugar to four parts of water. 1/4c sugar to 1 c of water. It is not necessary to boil the water. The microorganisms that cause fermentation are transported to the feeder on hummingbird bills.
- Store unused syrup in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. This mixture approximates the average sucrose content (about 21%) of the flowers favored by North American hummingbirds, without being so sweet it attracts too many insects.

Hanging a hummingbird feeder means assuming a certain amount of responsibility for the well-being of a fragile and trusting animal. If you are not prepared to follow the rigorous maintenance routine outlined below, perhaps you should consider planting a hummingbird garden instead.

### Cleaning

Experts tell me that hummingbirds will starve rather than consume spoiled feeder syrup, so a dirty feeder isn't likely to cause harm. But it may cost you the pleasure of their company if they abandon your yard for more reliable food sources elsewhere. At least once a month, clean the feeder thoroughly with a solution of 1/4 cup bleach to one gallon of water. Soak the feeder in this solution for one hour, then clean with a bottle brush. Rinse well with running water and refill. Any remaining traces of bleach will be neutralized by reacting with the fresh syrup, and there's no need to air dry before refilling. Bleach is both safe and very effective.

**Every filling**, flush the feeder with hot tap water; a bottle brush can be very helpful. **Do not use soap** - hummers apparently don't like the taste, but bleach will remove it if you have this problem. Visually inspect the entire feeder for black mold; a bleach soak is the best way to remove mold. Discard any unconsumed sugar water - if the birds are not emptying your feeder between cleanings, just partially refill it. If the sugar solution in your feeder turns cloudy, it's spoiled and needs to be replaced. When the temperature is over 80 degrees (F), clean and refill every three or four days. Over 90°F, it might spoil in two days.

From [www.hummingbirds.net](http://www.hummingbirds.net)

For more information visit John & Diane Sears at The Wild Bird Store in Bergen Park.



## NATIVE PLANTS FOR EVERGREEN GARDENS

From the Garden Nan Spence

Natives are "in" in the garden. At the March meeting of the Evergreen Garden Club, our program "Go Native!" was enthusiastically received by the largest audience of the year. Likewise, Evergreen's other garden club, the Moonlight Garden Club, has designated this year as the year to "Plant Native." What has brought about the growing trend toward using natives in our mountain area gardens? It may be that the recent years of drought and watering restrictions have fostered an interest in native plants, most of which require little supplemental water once established. Perhaps, the extraordinary wildflower displays put on by Mother Nature in 2005 has enticed gardeners to attempt to replicate such magnificence (albeit on a smaller scale) in their own backyards. Maybe our increasingly hectic lifestyles have created an appreciation for plants that are naturally carefree. Or perhaps it is our desire to restore, to some extent, the natural environment that our ever-expanding community has displaced. Whatever the reasons, using native plants benefits both the gardener and the surrounding environment.

The local foothills area has such a wealth of natives ...wildflowers, grasses, ground-covers, shrubs and trees... with an array of exquisite foliage, texture, blossoms and berries. They have coexisted with the native fauna and have adapted to the variable microclimates, soils, temperatures and elevations that exist throughout the Evergreen area. They have evolved to withstand anything the natural environment can throw at them...hail, drought, early frost, intense sun, even browsing and trampling by wildlife. In fact, unlike many fussy ornamentals, they like living here! They make gardening easier and less frustrating. At the same time, they help support the diverse community of animals, insects and microorganisms native to our local area.

Natives are becoming more available both as propagated plants at our local nurseries or as seeds through reputable seed companies. Purchasing seeds or plants are the best ways to obtain natives for your garden. Seed collecting and plant gathering is forbidden on certain public lands and a special use permit is required for others. Refer to the Colorado Native Plant Society website for detailed information on the ethics and legality of native plant collection. This website will also provide a comprehensive list entitled "Suggested Native Plants for Horticultural Use on the Front Range of Colorado." ([www.CoNPS.org](http://www.CoNPS.org))

Direct seeding provides a natural look and gives tremendous bang for the buck. Sowing seeds is an excellent way to go if you have a large area to revegetate, such as in the case of new construction. I restored approximately two acres surrounding my newly constructed home in 2001. All grasses and herbaceous plants were sown from seed purchased from Western Native Seed out of Coaldale, Colorado. The Western Native Seed website provides photos and growing requirements for seeds, which can be purchased by individual species or in premixed collections, which have been prepared for the various life zones of Colorado. ([www.westernnativeseed.com](http://www.westernnativeseed.com)) Natives seeds are also available from Beauty Beyond Belief. Based out of Fort Collins, these seeds are available in our local nurseries. Beware, however, of inexpensive "wildflower meadow in a can" products. You may obtain rather "pretty" results the first year because of the high concentration of annuals found in these products. In the following years, the annuals will be gone and the perennials rarely emerge to take their place. Even if they do come up, you will find few, if any, natives. Many of these products also contain plants such as dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and others classified either as invasive or as noxious weeds in Colorado. (Go to the Colorado Native Plant Society website for a listing of plant species to avoid.)

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(Continued from Horticulture pg. 5)

If you want immediate results or to increase your assured rate of gardening success, purchase plants from reputable nurseries rather than plant from seed. As the demand for natives has increased, so has the availability of native plants in Colorado nurseries. If you want to be sure you are purchasing the true natives, purchase plants by their full botanical name rather than their common name.

You don't need acres of land to get stunning results from seeding, nor do you need to replace your entire nonnative garden with new native plants. Sow or plant natives among existing perennials in a garden bed or border. Allow them to fill in spaces between such native shrubs as serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) or shrubby cinquefoil (*potentilla fruticosa*) Or you may want to confine your ornamentals close to your house in your more "civilized" garden beds and sow or plant your natives in the outer sections of your gardens in a more "designed by nature" manner.

The knowledgeable staff at our local nurseries can provide suggestions on how to establish a native plant garden and how to combine natives with ornamentals. Browsing through garden catalogs and websites that offer native plants along with nonnative suited for our high elevation gardens such as High Country Gardens ([www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com)) will give you information on what plants will do well in the various microclimates of your garden and which plants look good in combination. My favorite publication on native gardening is *Native Plants for the High Elevation Western Garden* by Janice Busco and Nancy Morin. It provides much information on natives and recommendations for combining plants with similar growing conditions.

A stroll through the native plant areas of the Denver Botanic Gardens or Vail's Betty Ford Alpine Gardens will also provide ideas for your own garden design. Or simply observe the surrounding environment where you will find native bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*) occupying an aspen meadow along with black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) or Rocky Mountain columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*) growing with Rocky Mountain wild iris (*Iris missouriensis*) beside a shaded mountain stream. Recreating such natural montages in your own garden will reward you with a garden style, which is uniquely Colorado.

#### NATIVES AT THE JUNE 3 PLANT SALE

The preorder of native plants at our March meeting was such a success that we were able to purchase even more for our June 3 Plant Sale at Hiwan Homestead. Along with the wonderful selection of plants from members' gardens, we will have eighteen species of natives. Below is a list of the natives that we plan to have available. (Asterisks indicate plants species that are additions to those offered at our pre-sale.)

**Double Bubblemint**(*Agastache cana*)  
**Windflower**(*Anemone multifida*)\*  
**Dwarf Pussytoes**(*Antenn. parvifolia*)\*  
**Rocky Mt. Columbine** (*Aquil. caerulea*)  
**Winecups**(*Callirhoe involucrata*)  
**Colorado Holly** (*Mahonia repens*)\*  
**Pineleaf Penstemon** (*Penstem. pinifolius*)  
**Rocky Mt. Penstemon** (*Penstem. strictus*)  
**BeeBalm**(*Monarda fistulosa*)

**Sunset Hyssop**(*Agast. rupestris*)\*  
**Pink Pussytoes** (*Antenn.dioica* )\*  
**Barneby's Columbine** (*Aquil. barnebyi*)  
**Yellow Columbine**(*Aquil. chrysantha*)  
**Blanket Flower** (*Gaillardia aristata*)  
**Wild Four O'Clock** (*Mirabilis multiflora*)  
**Yellow Pineleaf Penstem.** (*Penstem. pi.*)\*  
**Little Bluestem** (*Schizachyriu scoparium*)\*  
**Orange Globe Mallow** (*Sphaeralcea munroana*)\*

These beautiful photos were taken by Nan Spence in her garden at 8200 feet.



*Lupinus argenteus* (*silver lupine*)



*Penstemon strictus* (*Rocky Mt. penstemon*)



*Calochortus gunnisonii* (*sego lily*)



*Arctostaphylos ura-ursi* (*Kinnikinnick*)



*Mertensia lanceolata* (*lanceleaf chiming bells*)



*Rudbeckia hirta* (*black-eyed Susan*)

## GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

It's true! Good things do come in small packages...and Sundance Gardens is proof. Not only do our employees and wonderful customers think so, but Sunset magazine, in their March 2004 issue called Sundance Gardens and Landscape one of their favorite independent garden centers in the entire West. It's quite an honor to be recognized by one of America's premier gardening magazines.

Sundance Gardens and Landscape is owned by Dave Thomas, who started the company 30 years ago. His expertise in mountain landscape is unparalleled. Retaining walls, flagstone patios, grass and wildflower seeding, water features of all sizes, tree and shrub planting, irrigation systems, and boulder and rock work are some of the services offered.



**Sundance Gardens and Landscape**  
27866 Meadow Dr. Evergreen, CO 80439 303-670-0358

The garden center has evolved in its 17 years of existence in many ways, but what remains the same is the excellence in plant quality. Sundance only carries plants for our mountain environment, and specializes in drought-tolerant, native, and deer/elk tolerant plants. Most of our plant material is hand-picked for superior quality, and prices are always fair and reasonable.

Conveniently located near downtown Evergreen on the corner of Meadow Dr. and Hwy. 74, don't pass us by. Stop in and see why all our customers are repeat customers.

**Bring in this article for a free 4-pack of pansies.**

### Hospitality Committee for April

Francis Sorensen, Dee Hoaglund, Jeri Dufford, Sharon Eaves

For May Meeting please drop off food at between 8:30 am and 9am in a cooler (Fridge space is at a premium at the COTHs) clearly marking EGC and instructions for food. The Hospitality Committee needs to know what needs to go in the oven and what needs to keep cool until lunch at noon.

**\*Volunteer Opportunity:** The Evergreen Arts Council is hosting the Summerfest Arts and Crafts Fair on July 8 & 9. They need volunteers. If you can help, call Antoinette Bradley at 303-674-0056 or email her at evergreenaca@aol.com. All proceeds earned here are given back to the community as grants and donations to local schools and artistic groups.

Evergreen Garden Club  
PO Box 1393  
Evergreen, Colorado 80437  
[www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org)



*Celebrating our  
40th Anniversary*

## Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

[www.denverbotanicgardens.org](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org)

Colorado Watercolor Society  
Contact: Terrey Harrod, 303-788-1811  
Show or Sale Date: May 25 - June 2, 2006  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mitchell Hall

American Iris Society  
Contact: Steven Blecher 303-798-9103  
Show or Sale Date: June 3 - 4, 2006  
Mitchell Hall 12:30 - 4 p.m. (3rd), 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (4th)

June 4, 2006, Old Garden Rose Show and Sale  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Gates Hall and Garden Court

**June 3, 2006 EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE**  
**10-2pm Heritage Grove/Hiwan Homestead**