



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 17, Issue 5 January 2004

### *A Word from the President...*

Dear Members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed this holiday season so far. I have been working way too much at Petal's doing lots and lots of floral arrangements for the holidays. My shift tomorrow is 8am -11pm!! We hate to turn anyone down... can you tell!

I really enjoyed our December meeting, great fun with great food as well. We have so many excellent cooks in our group. We also have a lot of talented people as far as decorating their wreaths. I think everyone went home with a wonderful addition to their homes.

I am looking forward to a new year ahead... 2004. It is hard to believe where this past year has gone. I usually try to plan out goals for the

next year for myself. A lot of them usually involve what next for my garden. Getting the greenhouse up is one of my goals. A new garden bed and making a memory garden as a tribute to my sister is another. I hope all of you had time with your family and friends over the last few weeks and were able to get in touch with others far away. I miss old friends and family members this time of year and my phone bill confirms that!

We shall see you at next months meeting. I am sure we will have another great program to look forward to.

All my best to all of you,  
Tricia

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#### **EGC 2003-2004 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@msn.com

**Newsletter Editor & Website**  
Melinda Stroupe 303-526-0485  
editor@evergreengardenclub.org

### *Membership Meeting - January 13th, 2004*

#### **What's Bugging Your Plant?**

CSU Urban Integrated Pest Management Agent, Mary Small, will present a program on identifying and diagnosing disease and pest management for plants. Mary heads up the Jefferson county Extension Office Clinic. Residents can take plant samples in for identification or diagnoses of plant problems. Mary and the Master Gardener Clinic workers are a wealth of information. We are

fortunate to have the clinic and Mary so close at hand.

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



# Garden Club News

## Community Garden Update: Bergen Park Traffic Circle

Since the traffic circle was established in the Spring of 2001, it has had no irrigation system. We've depended on Mother Nature, and when she let us down, we have used hand and hose watering from water at the nearby liquor store.

Irma Wolf has been coordinating with the Evergreen Metro District (EMD) and Jefferson County to get a water connection to the circle via an under-pavement sleeve and pipe. The EMD waived the \$5800 tap fee; the County waived their permit fee and will assist in digging the two holes for boring machine access by a private contractor. The contractor must extend a pipe from the nearby fireplug to the garden curb, an estimated cost of \$500-\$1000--source of funds yet to be determined.

The cost of the plumbing fixtures at either end will then be waived by the EMD in exchange for one or two garden club members maintaining the two irrigated planter gardens in front of the EMD building on Stagecoach Blvd. The initial replanting at EMD's expense can be done with the help of several of our members, but if you are interested in maintaining the planters thereafter, let a Board member or Irma know. The EMD has been generous with our requests so far, and it would be nice if we could return the favor in this way.

The oldest living thing on earth is 12,000 years old.  
It is the flowering shrubs called Creosote Bushes.



## Ten Tips for Household Plant Care

1. Plant roots need air as well as water. -This means letting the compost dry out a little so air can permeate the compost, so learn how to water properly.
2. Most plants will go through a dormant period in the winter. -This means less water, less fertilizer, and slightly lower temperatures.
3. Accept that some plants will not live long. -The popular gift plants, such as Gloxinia and Exacum will die down within a few weeks.
4. Really try to give as much humidity as possible by using one of the following methods:
  - group your plants so they will create a microclimate of their own..
  - place plants on humidity trays
  - mist them in the morning so they have time to dry before nightfall.
  - use a humidifier.

*(Continued on cover page)*

## *Minutes of the December 9th, 2003 Meeting*

President Tricia Scott called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM. There were 23 members in attendance. She wished everyone a happy holiday & thanked the membership for their pot luck foods.

Tricia reported that Don Stewart would not be able to make his presentation on the Chelsea Flower Show tour due to technical difficulties. He will get them solved & possibly do his presentation in January. Tricia also reminded members that we are planning a plant sale this next year & even though our gardens are covered in snow, to please begin thinking about it. We will most likely use our 'free day' at Hiwan Homestead Museum and hold the sale there. Tricia brought a lovely evergreen centerpiece for a silent auction from Petals on the Parkway which the members could bid on throughout the morning. She also announced that Irma Wolf would be playing Christmas music on the piano for us as we decorated wreaths & made other centerpieces.

Treasurer Lori Lapp was unable to attend the meeting, but had gotten the report to Tricia. We have \$41.68 in checking, \$9048.14 in savings for a total of \$9089.82.

Secretary Joan Reynolds had heart warming thank you letters from seven beneficiaries in India & one in Mexico from our World Gardening donation last year.

Vice President Karla Briggs invited members to help themselves to a box of dried hops flowers she brought from her garden to share.

Louise Mounsey reported that there were many generous & varied items for sale on the World Gardening table & thanked those that donated them.

Dale Fetchenhier reported that anyone that wanted to is welcome to join in the Forest Heights Lodge cookie & plant donation party this afternoon at 3:00 PM. Bev Wickland had arranged for cookies to be made & thanked those that so thoughtfully helped out.

Irma Wolf reported that she had a response from the State regarding the water at the Roundabout Garden in Bergen Park. The State agreed to waive the fees & extend the pipe under the road. They also agreed to supply a crew to dig two holes for the water lines to go through. She had requested that they supply various plumbing & piping materials. This request was denied & Irma thinks this may be what Gerry Shulte at Evergreen Metro Water district would supply in exchange for the care & re-doing of two gardens at the Metro District's main office property. She will continue to investigate.

The minutes for the last two meetings were approved as printed.

Tricia then noted that the furnace at the Church was not functioning properly - and that they are trying to fix it. She then pointed out all the craft items for sale that had been brought in by Bev Wickland, Irma Wolf, Tricia Scott, Karen Macfarquhar, Julaine Kennedy & Linda Ringrose.

She announced that we would do the drawing for the door prizes after lunch & invited everyone to continue shopping & decorating their wreaths.

The 'business meeting' part of the morning concluded at 10:13 AM.

Tricia made several bows & added them to the World Gardening table goods, as well as assisted members with making bows for their creations. Members browsed & made lots of purchases from the various crafters & worked on creating many lovely wreaths as Irma played wonderful music to keep us in the mood.

Lunch was served around 11:15; our leftover entrées that the Club had provided were donated to a Community Dinner at the Church of the Hills planned for later that night.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Reynolds



*By Julaine Kennedy*

## Over The Garden Fence

Our holidays have been pretty quiet, thanks to both of us passing a head cold back and forth. We do look forward to celebrating with our family over New Years and will not complain that it is too cold. And we are glad to see patches of snow in the garden. While truly slowing down I discovered a new fascination for watching the bird feeder. Whilst standing at the kitchen sink I found myself forgetting the chore at hand. Sylvia and Bill Brockner, I thank you for your passion for the birds. It was a rewarding sight to see busy birds scratching around in the cold garden mulch looking for a few leftovers. I mimicked their motions, imagined what they were thinking and added more seed for our resident squirrel just hoping that he would share the bird feeder. I can't tell you who they were, there were some little ones and some very big ones. There's hope for me yet...if this cold gets another chance I may even get the bird book out.

Our gardens are tucked in and resting for a spell. I've added additional mulch and pine boughs to areas where the sun warms up the soil. As I picked up a spare mulch bag from the garden bed I was surprised to see that in October I had picked that spot forgetting that bulbs were planted there. The mulch and penetrating sun had created a microclimate. Poor little bulbs were pushing their anemic leaves through the soil and mulch. I've read them a bedtime story and they are safe and sound in the depths of the ground.

It is good for us to have seasonal changes too. It is easy to get sucked into the go-go world. For many of us it is difficult to physically and mentally get off the merry-go-round. And so as we look out on our sleeping garden beds, consider the advantage of seasonal changes that provide downtime for plant material and wild animals to rest and renew. It's our opportunity to snuggle under the mulch, relax by the fire, read a few good books, and prepare for Spring. Granted many of you have commitments that do not allow a long hibernation...but even an hour every other day will provide a better bloomin' time in the future....maybe even many more seasons than you thought possible...take care of yourselves.

**White Flower Farm** is growing. They will again carry **Shepherd Seeds** and soon will have seeds from **Johnny's Selected Seeds**. I found a cosmos mix that is new.. The collection includes the fluted 'Seashells', ruffled 'Psyche' variegated 'Candy Stripe', and big, rich-hued 'Versailles'. It's a great mix of pink textures and hues, **Speciality Cosmos Seed Collection-- 10.95/pkg**. I will add a couple packages of yellow cosmos for contrast...Cosmos are lovely cut flowers and like so many other annual flowers the more you cut the more they produce. This past Fall I cut my last bouquet of snapdragons the week after Thanksgiving.



*(Continued on page 5)*



Light up next summer's garden AND fill your house with bouquets from **White Flower Farm Zinnia Extravaganza Collection** --10.95/pkg. The collection is a 25% savings on the cost of the individual packets. Included in this very special collection are Cactus-flowered Mix, "Benary's Giant Mix", "Yoga", "Persian Carpet", 'Summer Pinafore', and "Cupidon Elite Mix. One of my goals for 2004 is to get lots of zinnia plants started indoors. I love 'em so much and usually buy packs of starters too late in the season and they burn up on my hot-hot hillside. Plus, I want to try some unusual ones such as Green Envy and Pinafore zinnias. .

Several years ago Renee Shepherd sold the seed company to **White Flower Farm**. In '97 she started Renee's Garden [www.renee'sgarden.com](http://www.renee'sgarden.com) and is worth a visit to her site. It appears that a selection of her seeds are being carried by **White Flower Farm**.

**Nichols Garden Nursery** [www.nicholsgardennursery.com](http://www.nicholsgardennursery.com) in Albany, Oregon has been in business for fifty years and is known for their complete selection of herbs and vegetables as well as perennials, ground covers and ornamental grasses. They were the first company to sign "The Seed Pledge" an agreement to not use or offer for sale genetically modified seeds or plants. Right in time for the 2004 growing season they are announcing '**The Bountiful Container**' by Rose Marie Nichols McGee, president of **Nichols Garden Nursery**, and Maggie Stuckey Workman Press published this complete guide to food gardening in containers is the key to growing a wonderful variety of vegetables, herbs, edible flowers and fruits on your deck, patio or balcony. It's available from Nichols or your favorite bookstore/garden center.



**Botanical Interest Seed Company** [www.botanicalinterests.com](http://www.botanicalinterests.com) out of Broomfield, CO is another great source for gardeners and the seed packets can be purchased at local garden centers. This year I see they have several new entries in the organic seeds. **Echinacea angustifolia**, is listed and is a variety of choice for herb gardens. This one is more potent and commonly used to make teas, ointments and capsules. They also are carrying a grape-like cluster tomato that is heralded as very sweet, '**Tomato Sweetie**'. Add '**Marigold Lemon/TangerineBlend**' to your must have list for eatable flowers. Sounds like this one will do very well in low mounds of aromatic foliage and citrusy petite single flower heads. Curtis Jones, president of **Botanical Interest Seeds** is passionate about seeds. Just explore his seed packaging. On the front of each package are hand drawings of plant. Detailed information about the plant appears on the backside....information that many of you know, but how wonderful to give as a gift to all the new gardeners that are cropping up. Carefully open the package according the instructions on the package and inside even more seed-starting information as well as more about the plant. I believe **BI's** seed packets will show up as collectibles in the years to come. Well, did I tweak your interest to explore for Summer 2004? I know that many of you have already received many catalogs...for the rest of you, check out the web and visit your local garden centers. Dreaming is good for us, especially when it's about our hobby and greatest healthy pastime.

# Evergreen Garden Club

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*Celebrating our  
38th Anniversary*

*(Ten Tips for Household Plant Care... Continued from page 2)*

## HORTICULTURE

5. Look for trouble whether it may be insects, over-watering, over-fertilizing, etc. Catch a problem in the beginning and it is correctable. Prolonged problems can be incurable and deadly.
6. Group plants together. They look better, will grow better and it raises the humidity.
7. Repot your plants every year or two. Fresh soil will often perk up an ailing plant. If necessary when repotting, go up one pot size.
8. Choose the correct plant for the location provided. Don't try to force a shade-lover to live in a full-sun situation.
9. Use the proper equipment. You can always do a better job caring for your plants with the correct equipment and it makes it easier:
  - Use a watering can with a long, narrow spout to water instead of a jelly jar, etc.
  - Use drip saucers to keep water from spotting furniture.
  - Keep a supply of potting soil, fertilizers, pesticides, pots, tools, scissors, etc.
10. Learn about each plant's specific needs. Buy books, go to the library, look on the internet, and come and see me at Evergreen Nursery.