



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 17, Issue 7 March 2004

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

#### Inside this issue:

Club News .....	2
Garden Fence.....	4
Minutes .....	5
Horticulture.....	6

#### 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

Dear Members,  
As a snowstorm approaches I am writing this. I am looking forward to some moisture. Any kind of wet is a good thing for all of us.

This month's meeting will feature Dore Huss of "Stems" giving us her expertise on floral arrangements. It will allow us an opportunity to see what we might be able to create with our own garden's flowers.... or what we could order from Dore!

At our next meeting I will be asking for volunteers to sign up for our various committees that need to be filled for next year's term. As I commented at the meeting, it is a huge task to call everyone and ask this of them, especially during the summer months when everyone takes vacation. I think that we need to have this taken care of before we end our year. It will allow the incoming board and our officers more time to concentrate on

other projects. Getting commitments from committees and the membership dues coming in late holds up our membership booklet each year. We barely make the deadline each year to have it printed in time for our first meeting.

As a member, I ask you to consider paying your dues soon and checking our membership booklet and the addendum to ensure we have your information correct for next year's booklet. It would save us hours of calls and also corrections. We would all really appreciate your help with this.

On a totally different subject, last evening I went to the kickoff for "The Relay for Life." It was a great event. As I mentioned at our last meeting, as a club we are trying to form a team. If you are considering taking part, please ask Beth or myself for

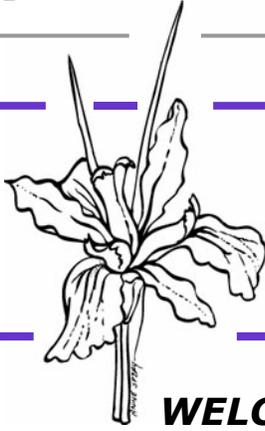
*(Continued on pg. 2)*

### *Membership Meeting - March 9th, 2004*

#### **Grab a Vase**

Dore Huss, owner of Stems, a Flower Shop located in Marshdale, will present her own unique style of arranging cut flowers in unusual and clever containers. Dore's flower shop is a pure delight to visit. The shop is decorated like a potting shed with displays of plants and flowers inspiring each person that walks through the door. Dore will share some of that inspiration with us.

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

**WELCOME!!! New Member**

Welcome to our newest members Dee & Cindy Hoaglund. Please make a special effort to seek out our new members and show them our Evergreen Garden Club hospitality! Dee joined as a family and her daughter will be coming to help us in the community gardens!

## **AN HERB OR A WEED?**

Purslane (*Portulaca oleraceae*), is a potherb, an annual succulent, a green, and to many, a weed. But it's been found to be a source of Vitamin A, C and E, plus contains an omega-3 fatty acid. It also has only about 15 calories per serving! We owe it to ourselves to find out more about this herb that most of us yank out of the ground by the handfuls!

You can eat the wild purslane that you find in the garden or flower beds if you are absolutely sure it has not been exposed to chemicals of any kind. However, the cultivated varieties are often larger and more tender. You'll need a sunny position that is well-drained. Purslane is very drought tolerant, but plant it in good, fertile soil with compost added for the juiciest stems and leaves.

Purslane is best when it's young and tender. Grow it in pots or shallow wide containers and harvest as needed, using mostly top leaves and stems. Once the plant blooms it won't be as tender and tasteful. Just a note-don't confuse purslane with Moss Rose, *Portulaca grandiflora*, an annual that is grown for it's rose like blooms.

Purslane can be added to soups, similar to the okra is used. You can also add it raw to salads. The crunchy tangy taste is really a great addition. In Mexico it is traditionally added to eggs and omelets. Substitute purslane for the spinach in a Bacon Spinach Salad recipe. It's also great in any type of Greek salad that includes olive oil and feta cheese. You can substitute the succulent leaves for cucumbers in your favorite dill pickle recipe.

From Old Fashioned Tips! <http://oldfashionedliving.com>

*(Continued from Presidents Message page 1)*

details...we may still have to ask Joan for any of the bigger questions.  
Looking forward to seeing each of you.  
Tricia

**Denver Orchid Society**

## *Minutes of the February 10th, 2004 Meeting*

Tricia Scott called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. There were 35 members in attendance.

Tricia gave Treasurer Lori Lapp's report as Lori was slightly delayed. We have \$493.39, \$8850.49 in savings for a total of \$9343.88. Tricia noted that newer computer accounting program is needed, as our current one is unregistered and a bit out of date.

Secretary Joan Reynolds read a thank-you note from Melinda Stroupe and a thank you note from Glenn and Alice Slanec (Parents of Kathy Heyvaert - one of our Artists in the Garden from last summer's Garden Tour that recently passed away.) She also read a note from Patty Prisbey-Campbell (Bill Campbell's widow) that said that Patty was hoping to have a garden party in Bill's honor and memory early this summer. She said that she might need to call on Joan's "expertise" for guidance in preserving Bill's lovely gardens. Joan then suggested that the Garden Club offer a clean up day to Patty to help her get the gardens shaped up for the growing season. The response was overwhelming and enthusiastically received by the members. Joan will contact Patty to offer our assistance. Joan also discussed the possibility of the Garden Club having a team for the American Cancer Society's 2nd Evergreen Relay For Life on July 17 and 18, 2004. She explained that each team member would be expected to raise at least \$100.00 and that we would take turns walking the track at the high school from 4 p.m. on July 17 through 8 a.m. on July 18. There seemed to be general support for this as well. Teams are made up with 8 to 12 members.

Beth Feldkamp, co-vice-president, reported that Karla Briggs is in Antarctica, 'playing with penguins' and that our programs are on track.

Tricia then announced that our plant sale would be held at Hiwan Homestead Museum Grove on Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with set up at 9 a.m. Member Caroline Van Kleydorff, who volunteers with the Historical Society at Hiwan, explained how excited The Homestead is that we are having our plant sale there. They hope we can be there on a bi-annual basis for our sale. Tricia said she would have sign up sheets at the March meeting for members to offer to dig plants, donate plants, price, etc. Bev Wickland has graciously volunteered to co-chair the event. Another co-chair is needed. A location will need to be found to gather all the plants together before the sale for pricing.

Tricia announced that the Church of the Hills is having an open house on Sat., April 3, to show off all the wonderful improvements made to the church. Tricia will make an arrangement for this occasion from the club, which they will also be able to enjoy the next day, which happens to be Palm Sunday.

Trish announced that April 14 is Evergreen High School's Community Service Day and that we have been offered students to do any work we need done. It was decided to have them come to Evergreen Metro's offices to remove plantings or move plants in the planters there and amend the soil.

Irma Wolf reported that she and Ken Ball had just met with Gerry Shulte at the Water Board before the meeting to discuss the supplies, fees, permits, etc that have been waived at the Round-about Garden to get water to this site. At this point, it appears that we still need a contractor to trench the line in across the street and a plumber to do the physical plumbing. Members were asked for their input and recommendations in trying to locate gratis work.

Tricia then suggested that all committees for the following year be in place before the June meeting, as it is so difficult to reach people over the summer. She will have sign ups next month to get these positions filled. She suggested that if no one is willing to fill a position, that perhaps that task or committee should be eliminated.

Jo Powers reported that she had a call from Bootstraps, the organization that oversees the scholarship program. Since we have upped our donation to \$1500, (which will be supplemented by \$750.00 from Bootstraps) they wanted to know if we wanted to fund two scholarships or one larger one. It was discussed and voted on to have one scholarship for a total of \$2250.

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

(Continued from Minutes pg.3)

Ken Ball was thanked for making replacement shades for the new windows in our meeting room for slide presentations.

Bud Weare briefly discussed the meeting regarding Ron Lewis' new "pond" that is for supplemental water for his latest proposed development near Marshdale. One hundred people showed up on a snowy night to show their interest in this use of water. Bud encouraged members to talk to him following the meeting if they wanted more information and to individually write to the county officials with their comments. The names and addresses will be published in the March issue of the *Wild Iris*. There will be an official hearing and Bud will keep us informed when it is scheduled.

Tricia announced that the Garden Club is invited to have a table and participate in Earth Day, April 24, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Evergreen Lake House. A chairperson is needed if we plan to have a table.

Lyn Barrie reminded us all to vote in our political party of choice's caucus on April 13. She stressed that we need to make our concerns known and support those that help our environment.

Visitors were introduced. The business meeting ended at 10:25 a.m. After the break, it was announced that Lynne and Steve Hollon's son, John, was killed in a car accident. They were on our Garden Tour in 2001 and also graciously allowed us to use their yard and spa room to price and store plants before our last garden sale.

It was also announced that Jacque Morris, a member for many years, had fallen and broken her hip. Joan said she would get appropriate cards out to Jacque and Lynne.

Ken Ball then gave a spectacular slide show and program on low water usage grasses. He entertained us and taught us to remember the little details. His slides showed examples of various grass mixes appropriate for different situations he has used for clients and made seeding an area appear really easy! His handout included several mixes he has devised, or ones that are available already mixed. As always, Ken taught us that being conservative with water usage need not be a barren, ugly landscape, but rather a colorful or natural look that blends in well with surrounding terrain and offers beauty for the eye as well as erosion control. His generously shared knowledge resulted in lots of questions, which he answered honestly, expanding our possibilities through responsible gardening.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Reynolds

The Jefferson County planner in charge of the special use permit application for the Meadowview Reservoir (case#03-121508PA) is John Wolforth. The most effective approach is to write him at:

Planning and Zoning Department,  
100 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 3550,  
Golden, Co. 80419-3550. Or e-mail him at: [jwolfort@jeffco.us](mailto:jwolfort@jeffco.us); or fax: 303-271-8774.

The major points should be that the reservoir may be in conflict with the newly revised Evergreen Area Community Plan; that it is a commercial enterprise on land zoned for agriculture; that it does nothing to protect dwindling ground water sources for surrounding wells--in fact, it is purely a business venture taking up 10 acres of precious meadow lands for the purpose of supporting a housing development (35 houses plus individual wells and septic systems) that would dominate the rest of the meadow and further deplete the supply of ground water.

For more background information, see the Canyon Courier articles by Bonnie Skopinski, Feb 4 and Feb 11. These are good summaries of the issues, although Bonnie was deceived by the Reservoir Co., who told her it was a non-profit company. It is a mutual company (like State Farm Mutual), owned by shareholders, but it certainly is a for-profit enterprise. That's the only reason it's being built; namely, to support further development and to sell water augmentation rights. Call me if you have any further questions~ 303-679-8889.  
Bud



---

## Over The Garden Fence

*By Julaine Kennedy*

Yes, we are on the downside of the winter season. Obviously it is still too early to plant tomato seeds etc. but we know we will be seeing spring's parade down in Denver by the end of this month. It has been good to have early winter snow. South facing garden areas should be checked for plants that have experienced frost heaving. Planted areas that have barren soil need mulch or pine boughs during this period of winter. The days are getting longer (longer periods of heat rays from the sun) and the winds pick up during March-April. An extra blanket of organic matter will also slow down early growth of bulbs and perennials which is a good thing to this early in the season of unseasonable weather.

Check for the depth of moisture around newly planted shrubs, trees and perennials...pick a day when temps are above 45 degrees and the soil is not too frozen to allow water to penetrate. This is a great time to use a soil needle applicator. If your garden hoses were not drained before freezing weather, lay them out in the sun for a few days, then keep the hose supple by storing it in the garage. It is during this time of the year that quick connect faucet adapters are a lifesaver. No need to grapple with the faucet spigot and hose. Twisting and turning in hopes of getting the two pieces to align correctly before you holler, Uncle! Just add the appropriate adapter (male or female) to the hose end & spigot. Snap/click the ends together and turn on the water!!!

I recently spent a day at Jeffco Master Gardening and heard Dave Leatherman, Colorado Entomologist talk about Colorado weather, insects and introduced plant species. He has a concern about drought predictions. Although we are fortunate to have had more moisture earlier this year there is still trouble on the home front and forests. Colorado is among many states that have had several years of difficult weather issues.

Probably the most serious moisture problem occurs when spring rains do not occur and the feeder roots do not develop. Then we dance and pray for the rains that finally show up midsummer. The plants are stressed from the heat of summer and the soil is cracking dry. By this time it is too late for the plant to develop roots needed to take up the moisture. Another example of insufficient spring moisture occurred during the 2003 March Snowstorm. All plant material was technically in a drought state. Healthy trees and shrubs usually survive heavy snow falls because they have adequate food storage in the trunk and branches. Drought stress causes the plants to be brittle and hundreds of hardwoods and pines were damaged. And a secondary problem developed when broken limbs and topped trees were victims of insects and disease.

Leatherman says that historically a drought could be long term...as long as 50 years. His message to all of us is to protect what we still have through proper water management, mulching and watch closely for stress symptoms and signs. He isn't discouraging new landscape planting and gardens. We just need to remember to choose the right plant for the location, amend soil for plant needs and best water conservation, and be a good caretaker. Thinking of adding new garden and landscape areas? Be wise and create small areas that have good visual appeal and can be managed well to sustain good plant growth.

The update on fire protection for our mountain homes included a reminder to all mountain

*(Continued on pg.6)*

(Continued from Over the Garden Fence Pg.5)

dwellers to read CSU County Extension Fact Sheets.(6.302-6.309). <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/pubnatr.html> Forestry 6.302 Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones,6.303 Fire-Resistant Landscaping, 6.304 Forest Home Fire Safety 6.305 FireWise Plant Materials, 6.306 Grass Seed Mixes to Reduce Wildfire Hazard, 6.307 Vegetative Recovery after Wildfire,6.308 Soil Erosion Control after Wildfire,6.309 Insects and Diseases Associated with Forest Fires

I am concluding this column with a few plants from Plant Select 2004 that are worth trying in our area. Please note the hardiness zones and realize that these are recommendation and often times we have microclimates that will allow a plant to adapt to higher elevations.

**Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*)** This is a native wildflower from the Southwest that produces a succession of dark-eyed, yellow daisies over a compact rosette of foliage. The flowers exude a rich chocolate aroma in the morning hours. Does best with minimal water once established. Chocolate Flower is a Perennial Zone 4-9 and has the ability to reseed. It grows 10-20" tall and when established fills an area about the same size. It is a summer long bloomer from Spring through Fall Plant it in full sun to partial shade. Once acclimated it prefers minimal water. **Plant Select** lists this plant as one that grows in poor soil...I would still amend with a bit of compost, considering our rocky soils and drought conditions.



**Sea Foam Artemisia (*Artemisia versicolor*'Sea Foam')** This is a vigorous, attractive ground cover with lacy, mounding, silvery blue foliage. We all know that Artemisias are a great companion to showstopper plants such as Rudebeckia, Coreopsis, and Asters. Sea Foam is a clump forming, yet noninvasive perennial that would be suitable on a rocky slope or as an edging plant that would accommodate a mature height of 6-12". One gallon plants should be about 24-30" apart. Amend rocky soil with compost and plant in full sun to partial shade. This is a good xeriscape plant and it has great winter interest.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 4b-8 (up to 7,000').



**Sunset Foxglove (*Digitalis obscura*)** This is a dwarf selection 14-24" with evergreen willow-like foliage. The trumpet shaped flowers are a burnt sienna color. Plant it in full sun to partial shade. Once established it does best in garden loam, clay or sandy soil and prefers moderate to dry soil.

**Hardiness:** USDA zones 4b-9 (up to 7,000').

Looking ahead to our March meeting I see that Dore Huss is going to entertain and educate us on cut flower arranging. You will not want to miss this opportunity...another Evergreen businesswoman with talent and enthusiasm. This definitely will be a breath of Spring for all who attend.

# HORTICULTURE

## STUPENDOUS LILACS

By Priscilla Chapin

With the coming of spring, the yard starts bursting forth with bloom and fragrance. The early bulbs are the first to poke their heads above ground, and then come the later bulbs along with the bloom of the fruit trees and the shrubs. Of the ornamental shrubs my favorite is the lilac. As anyone who has seen my lilacs in bloom knows that I have many and that they do me proud by blooming profusely as long as Mother Nature has been kind and not hit them with a late hard freeze, which does happen once in awhile, but usually they bloom very well.

Lilacs are among the oldest, hardiest and best-loved ornamental shrubs for the garden. According to the International Lilac Society, the Persians collected a lilac native to western China possibly as early as the 1200s. Europeans were introduced to the lilac in the 1500s. Immigrants and missionaries brought the fragrant plant to North America in the 1600s, while American and Canadian pioneers planted lilacs as they moved westward across the continent. A favorite of Victorian gardeners, the genus *Syringa* has grown considerable-- there are now 1,800 named cultivars to choose from.

Lilacs have an alluring history. The Victorians believed that while lilac blooms suggested youthful innocence; a bouquet of purple lilacs revealed the first emotion of love. Whichever is your preferred bloom color, the highly feminine lilac is a gift to the garden – one that's equally cherished as a star in the woody mixed border or a graceful addition to any floral arrangement.

### LILAC GROWING TIPS:

1. **Good soil:** Lilacs generally require a 100-sq.ft. area per plant to properly grow to their potential. When lilacs are crowded, they tend to grow tall and flower only at the top of the plant. Make sure your lilacs are planted away from exposed, windy area. I've been successful with planting them as a hedge by keeping the suckers cut out and the base of each plant to 6-8 main trunks, letting 1-2 new ones each year to replace old ones I take out.
2. **Good drainage:** Lilacs hate "wet feet" and won't thrive if the roots remain wet. If you have heavy soil, create a mound 3-4 ft. wide and 12-15" above the ground level using topsoil, compost or sand—any medium that will drain well. Do not use peat moss because it holds moisture and is acidic. Don't use pine needles for mulch because they are also acidic.
3. **Sunlight:** Lilacs require a minimum of 6 hrs. of direct sunlight per day to properly set buds. Less sun will diminish the plant's productivity.
4. **Pruning and fertilizing:** Consider using a fertilizer with a 5-10-5 composition, which will encourage blooms over foliage. Apply at the base of your shrub in early spring; if you are able to mulch around the base, it will help reduce heart stress and reduce the need for watering. Annual pruning isn't mandatory, but cutting off faded blooms within a week after they spent will allow new shoots to grow. A light dressing of lime at the drip line will help to keep the soil neutral.
5. **General care:** Lilacs sucker heavily and it is advised to cut them out once or twice throughout the growing season, allowing only 1 or 2 new shoots to mature to replace the old ones that should be cut out. Keep the base of each plant free of growth. The suckers can be dug out and moved to another spot producing another plant in time.

*(Continued from Horticulture pg.7)*

Keeping the suckers out and deadheading prevents the plants energy from being drained away from the main trunks. Lilacs produce buds for the next years bloom immediately after blooming, therefore pruning must be done then or else you will be cutting off next years

blooms. Once established, lilacs are very drought tolerant. I only water my hedge a couple times over the summer and the other bushes a couple times a month during the growing season.

**Why don't my lilacs bloom?** The most asked question. Be patient—most lilacs will not bloom for the first three to five years. The old rule is 5 yrs or 5 ft. It's best to purchase container, rather than bare-root plants. Make sure your lilacs receive at least 6 hrs. of sunlight each day. Avoid too much nitrogen in the fertilizer you select. You can also add a small quantity of lime to improve the pH level of your soil.

**Most Fragrant Lilacs:**

Glory (dark purple, single)  
Frank Klager (dark purple, single)  
Krasavitsa Moskvyy (white, double)  
Maiden's Blush (pink, single)  
Pink Elizabeth (pink, single)

**Darkest Lilacs:**

City of Kalamara (dark violet, single)  
Glory (dark purple, single)  
Hallelujah (dark violet, single)  
Frank Klager (dark purple, single)  
Volcan (dark purple, single)

The attached picture was taken last June of my Lilac hedge which consists of 14 bushes. I started with only 3 bushes some 30 yrs ago and every spring I divided them and planted them along the fence and they filled in to create this beautiful hedge. I have 26 lilac bushes all together, most are the old fashion purple color, a couple white ones and a couple that are real dark purple. As I said above I keep the suckers out of them and keep the base of each plant to a controlled number of trunks and Mother Nature does the rest. I have no problem with the deer or elk eating them, but then they are tall and bushy.

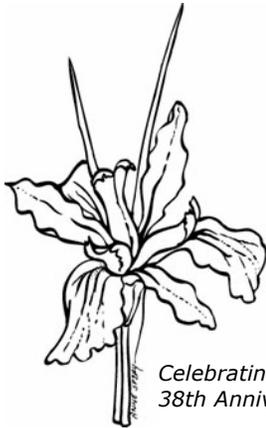


# Evergreen Garden Club

PO Box 1393

Evergreen, Colorado 80437

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



*Celebrating our  
38th Anniversary*

## Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

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

**Date:** March 13, 2004 - March 14, 2004

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Mitchell Hall

Free with Garden admission

For more information, contact Patricia Schillereff at 303.796.9686.

### **Rocky Mountain African Violet Council**

**Date:** March 20, 2004 - March 21, 2004

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Mitchell Hall, Gates Hall and Garden Court

Free with Garden admission

### **Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society**

**Date:** March 27, 2004 - March 28, 2004

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Free with Garden admission

For more information contact Rebecca Spurling at 303. 988.3693.