



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 20, Issue 8 May 2004

A Word from the President...

Dear Members,

I cannot believe May is here! Where did the winter go... or has it yet?

I have been out in my greenhouse potting up plants for our garden club sale and planting seeds. It has made me feel that it is truly spring!

This week that I type this is Prom week for Conifer and Evergreen, another sure sign of spring. I will be making wrist corsages and boutonnières for the prom goers. I get a laugh out of it. The young men call up confused and not sure of the dress colors etc. and the girls call up so sure of themselves as to what their young man will be wearing. Usually with the guys there are Mothers involved in the calls. Sometimes we do not hear from the young man at all! And we never seem to hear from one single Dad!! It is fun to see them all coming in so excited.

I am asking again of all you to be sure to sign up for our committees and to see if any of you would like to take on a position as a officer for our club. Louise, Marilyn and Francis are the ones to call if you want to take on a position or can suggest anyone.

Kathi and Beth are still looking for articles for our newsletter. If you have seen something of interest to the club in a magazine or newspaper, copy it and pass it along. We also enjoy any of our members with writing talents at writing to send us articles as well.

Next months meeting will be our garden cleanup. Please be at your garden (if you have not signed up call me for a garden) at 9am with tools, gloves, kneeling pad, sunscreen, hat and a drink. After cleaning up at approximately 11am head over to Church of the Hills for our meeting

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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 - May 11th, 2004

Garden Clean-Up Day & Topiary Designs

Members should report directly to their gardens on May 11, at 9 am, and then go back to the church for lunch at 11:00 am and Tricia's Topiary design presentation.

As we gardeners anxiously await the See you there!

last frost of the season, we can busy ourselves with getting started on a "green" project for the patio.

Topiaries can be trained to create unusual decorative items in and out

of the garden. With a good squirt from the hose the topiary creations can be brought back inside for the winter to extend their life. Tricia will teach us techniques to create and maintain our designs.



Garden Club News

Columbines

Columbines, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, or "the fiary flower" have been grown for centuries. They are a beautiful and unique flower that comes in many colors, heights and variations of bloom. In 1900 Mrs. William Starr Dana said of the wild columbine: About the columbine there is a daring loveliness which stamps it on the memories of even those who are not ordinarily minute observers...it's jewel-like flowers gleaming from their lofty perches with a graceful insouciance (carefree, indifference).

Columbines do best in fairly moist soil and in partial shade, however, they will grow in sun if the soil is on the moist side and the climate is not too hot. Think about growing them in-between bleeding hearts but remember that they do need space...about a foot between plants. You can purchase bare root plants, but they can be planted from seed too, though it's germination time is long and often irregular. Columbines are hardy to about -25 degrees. After columbines bloom the first time, cut the stems back to encourage a second bloom. Try to keep the plants from drying out and the foliage will stay nice. It's attractive, and some varieties are variegated, but by August you'll need to cut it back if it looks too rough. Some tall varieties do need staking. Use a simple method of placing a branched twig about 2-3 foot long in front of the plant. It blends in with the stems and keeps them from falling over.

Under ideal conditions columbines will reseed, some better than others. The seed heads are very obvious and easy to collect after the second bloom if you wish to do this instead of allowing them to reseed. Columbines are known for cross-pollinating with each other so your seed may not come true to color.



Here are several heirloom varieties to look for: Left: Nora Barlow is a double columbine from as long ago as the 1500's. It's true to seed IF it's kept away from other Columbines. It has rose pink petals with a touch of green at the base.

Ruby Port dates back to 1600 and was often found in monastery gardens. It's double blooms are a dark ruby shade and the stems are tinged with burgundy.



Irish Elegance goes back to the 18th Century and is fairly unusual. It's actually of Dutch origin but was



given the name because it has lovely white flowers that are tipped in green.

One last note: Columbines are not edible and shouldn't be chewed or ingested. Their toxicity is fairly low but it's better to be cautious.

Minutes of the April 13th, 2004 Meeting

Garden Club President Tricia Scott called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. There were 33 members in attendance.

Treasurer Lori Lapp reported that the club has \$317.79 in checking and \$7851.78 in savings for a net worth of \$8,169.57. She also reported that 20 members have paid their 2004-2005 dues. The rest of the members are asked to pay their dues as soon as possible, and at the latest by the June meeting, to insure their inclusion in the membership booklet. Dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families and \$50 for businesses. Members are asked to check the latest roster to make sure their information listed is correct.

Secretary Joan Reynolds was on vacation so Kathi Grider took minutes at the meeting.

Louise Mounsey reported that over \$300 has been raised this year for the World Gardening fund. She thanked everyone who brings items for the World Gardening table and everyone who buys them. Next month's meeting on May 11 is a garden clean-up day followed by lunch and a topiary presentation by Tricia Scott. Members signed up to help with a particular garden. Those who signed up for food are asked to bring a salad and the board will provide the rest of the lunch. Members should report directly to their gardens on May 11, then go back to the church for lunch and Tricia's presentation.

This year's nominating committee consists of members Francis, Marilyn Kaussner and Louise Mounsey. Anyone interested in a position is asked to contact one of the committee members. The club is trying to consolidate all of its property, including garden club signs, in one location at the church. More storage is available since the club library has been dismantled. Anyone who has been storing property for the club is asked to bring it to the board's attention as soon as possible.

Volunteers needed:

- Tricia reported that there are nearly enough volunteers from the garden club for one team to participate in the American Cancer Society's 2nd Evergreen Relay for Life on July 17 and 18. The board is still hoping two teams can represent the garden club. People can also sign up for luminaries in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of those who have passed away. The luminaries will form the word "Hope" on the hillside and be placed around the relay track.
- Not enough members volunteered to staff a table at this year's Earth Day so the club will not participate. Tricia thanked those who were willing to help.
- Marilyn Kaussner asked for Master Gardeners to help with the Noxious Weed booth at the April 24th Earth Day event. The MGs will help identify weeds.
- Another weed day will be held at the Lake House on June 12. Back-up help is needed. Contact Marilyn or Cathy Sheldon if you can help with this effort.
- Volunteers are needed for Mother's Day weekend and plant sale May 6 - May 8 at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Volunteers receive a 10 percent discount at the sale. Call (720) 865-3565.
- A volunteer is needed to coordinate the "Mahonia" garden at the Evergreen post office. If you're interested in this "easy and fun job," contact Tricia.

Irma Wolf announced that 10 students from Evergreen High School will be helping with the new garden at the Metro District Office on April 14. Anyone interested in participating was asked to bring gardening tools and join in. She thanked Ken Ball for helping her meet with the Metro District and for drawing up the professional plans for the garden. In exchange for the garden and its maintenance, the Metro District Board approved putting in a water source near the Bergen Park roundabout. A water tap will be installed across from the traffic circle in a few weeks.

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(Continued from Minutes pg.3)

Evergreen Garden Club's Plant Sale will be held at the Hiwan Homestead grounds on June 5. A short meeting of those willing to assist in the sale was held following the club meeting. Anyone having extra plants is asked to pot them for the upcoming sale.

Miscellaneous –

- Since several members have greenhouses and others use a variety of grow lights, etc., a program on their successes and challenges was suggested for next year. Members are asked to take photos as their projects progress and to consider sharing their experiences and ideas during next year's program.
- Because so many members are involved in other organizations, a special interest table will be set up at the garden club meetings for the distribution of information and requests for assistance.
- Urban Farmers has offered to spray garden club members' trees for \$8 per tree. Call (303) 853-8585 ext #204, Bret Lynch, if you are interested. Be sure to tell him you're a club member.

Following a short break, Vice-President and Master Gardener Karla Briggs (filling in for Jefferson County horticulture agent Robert Cox) gave an excellent, yet sobering, program on the Mountain Pine Beetle and the IPS beetle invasions along the Front Range, including a discussion of symptoms and controls. Following Karla's program, photographer Wes Zickefoose gave a short slide presentation of his flower photography.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Grider

(Continued from Pres. Message pg.1)

and program. I will be doing a topiary demonstration over our lunch. Our club will provide a lunch supplemented with salads brought by our members who signed up to provide food.

It will be a busy and productive day. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there. Happy Spring to all of you.

Tricia Scott

Happy Spring!

There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter. ~Rachel Carson

Tea for plants?

-Damping off can be a real problem when growing plants from seeds inside. Take 3 tsp. of dried chamomile and steep it in 6 cups of boiling water. Allow it to steep while it completely cools off. Water the seedlings the next 2 or 3 times with this tea until they look healthy again!

BLOW FLOWERS

As a child we called the trumpet vine, "Blow flowers." My grandmother would fix us a bowl of dish soap and water and we would blow bubbles with the flowers. They have a sweet taste to them. This is a very fond memory as a child, one that I also shared with my own daughter. We grew up on a farm in Ohio and the vines grew wild. ~Kim, Old Garden Treasures





Over The Garden Fence

By Julaine Kennedy

It is the second week of April. I am itching to get my fingers in the garden rather than sitting here in front of the computer. This is the time of year for mountain gardeners to get their kicks reading garden publications, attending garden center open houses, garden shows and exploring our own landscape for signs of Spring.

Today our garden is covered in a blanket of protective snow that surprised us overnight. Last week I covered the open soil with additional organic mulch. I used anything I could find to create a barrier between tender plants just beginning to stir. The weather change started with a few tiny sprinkles, then sunny skies, then sprinkles turning to crunchy pellets, then a dust of snow. Day two arrived with real rain showers mixed with a brief hail offering and another dust of snow. This is just the kind of spring moisture we have been waiting for. Friday 9th overnight lows were dropping low enough to affect the tender new buds of shrubs and trees. By Easter Sunday morning the overnight low registered 17 degrees. It was the lowest since March 30th. We received over 7.5 inches during the three day storm.

I prefer to reflect on the good stories of weather than lament on the doomsday of the drought. There is no doubt that we are still experiencing overall drought conditions. Several years of weather patterns make up the total picture. Our landscapes are stressed today and have been for several seasons. Every season we encounter abnormal weather patterns it will cause additional stress. So the good news for Spring 2004 is that as the soil warms up and growth begins in all plant material, there currently is moisture to help create feeder roots. These roots are the new life of plant material and without healthy feeder roots no matter how much rain and watering we do in the summer it will not allow for good plant growth.

Our local garden centers are also waking up to spring with early offerings of trees, shrubs, hardy perennials and annuals, and seeds and vegetable starts. Gardeners have begun their spring trips to the garden center to be inspired for the coming season. Each week as we get closer to May and June there will be exciting discoveries.

I visited Evergreen Nursery to check on the hanging baskets that they are known for creating. Folks, they are bursting with color and healthy growth. They are ready for you to come in and choose your favorites. The staff will mark them sold and care for them until later this Spring. This year's annual basket picks include new and exciting textures and colors. Here's a hint of the choices. There is a sun basket highlighting heat-tolerant purple daisy flowers, *Osteospermum*, *Sopranoä Purple*. It is supported by a profusion of trailing *Nemisia*, *Sunsatia*[™] *Banana*. The delicate flower heads of light and medium yellow create contrast with the ruffles of double *Supertunias*[®] in purple and variegated purple.



Osteospermum

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Nemesia



Supertunias



If Yellow doesn't strike your ncy check out the spirited trailing cranberry Nemesia with Lobelia in a new color called Lagunaä Sky Blue, a turquoise shade and topped with an upright Verbena, Babylon® White.

Sun/shade baskets are overflowing with two shades of red and a white ivy geranium. Shade baskets will light up cool spots with white, pink and lavender impatiens surrounded by Lamium, White Nancy or white Bacopa. Check out the Calibrachoa Superbells™ baskets. It's not over yet imagine dark leaved clover with green edges teamed up with the bright yellow Creeping Jenny. It's going to be a great gardening season, I can hardly wait.

Tips from Old Fashioned Living...



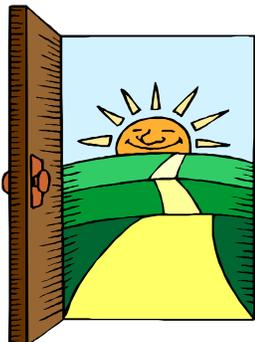
-The plastic lids on coffee cans or other products can be painted with honey or a commercial sticky solution, and they can be hung in greenhouses to catch aphids. If the lids are washed regularly they will last a long time and can be reused over and over.

-A gardener from Wisconsin had trouble with rabbits eating their vegetable crops and had tried every solution they read about but none worked until they tried plain ground black pepper. They sprinkled it around all the plants and on the plant itself.

Buy the cheapest variety of pepper (dollar stores are a good place to look) and reapply when it's washed away by rains.

-The mesh bags that onions are sold in work great for hanging herbs to dry. Place the herbs inside the bag and hang somewhere dry with good air circulation until they dry. Crush while still in the bag and they will fall out onto the counter or plate. Store in a covered container.

Deter Deer: One couple from Louisiana couldn't even keep the deer out with an electric fence, but baby powder did the trick. They sprinkled it on the ground outside the rows of vegetables. They applied again after rains. The deer stayed away! This tip was from 1984, so the baby powder probably contained talc. You can find this in dollar stores and pharmacies fairly cheaply.



Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.
~W. Earl Hall

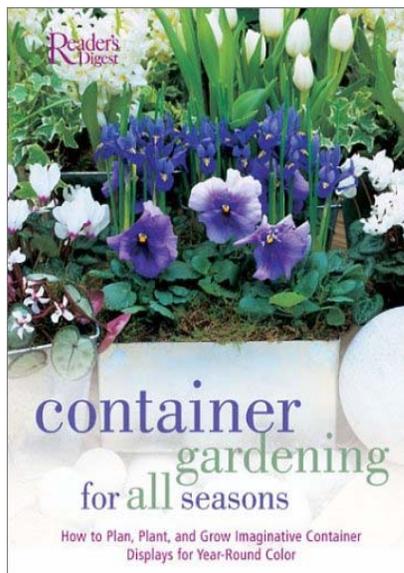
HORTICULTURE

Container Gardening for All Seasons is a great garden dreamer's book. Frankly I have resourced a lot of container gardening books over the years and didn't feel that there was much more that could be written about containers and a gardener's passion to create the unusual. But I pulled the book from the shelf and was I surprised. To do, to do, how much time can I create to do what I found between the covers.

I love wall pots, wicker, clay, glazed, porcelain, metal, glass. They were designed to hang on a wall, why not lay on a shelf or ledge? The photos of zucchini squash & nasturtiums flowing out of the 'prone position' wall pots are just great, especially if you can lay the pot on a ledge or shelf above eye level. Envision morning glories or alyssum, or lobelia spilling out and over the ledge.

There is a section on lower level walkout areas. Many of these areas fit the shady, protected plant types. Fuchsias and trailing begonias in hanging baskets or in pots perched on wall shelves. Rough hewed boxes, dug out logs or alpine troughs filled with pansies, orange money flower and ivy. Start with a tall pot containing Dwarf Pampas Grass, Cortaderia selloana 'Pumila' and add several more pots of different shapes and heights to the vignette that add texture and color to the design.

Several years ago in this column I suggested a Roman era container called turf seat. The seats were created using a pot, hollowed out rock or wood and planted with fragrant mat-forming herbs such as thyme, sage or chamomile. They were placed in strategic areas for people to sit and relax. Hill-sides of the amphitheaters were planted so that people lounged among the scents of thick matted plants. (In our arid climate this would be considered extravagant and a waste of water resources. The turf seat is a wonderful alternative. A quote from Container Gardening will hit home with many of you who really miss a lush blue grass lawn, "Next year I am going to plant a lawn in a box. I'll put it on wheels so I can have it by my chair....so I can take off my shoes and let my feet relax in the grass."



We all wish we could have more shade plants in our western gardens. Most shade plants need consistent moisture. Consider planting up many shade lovers pots such as nicotiana, ajuga, scented or ivy geraniums, busy lizzies, lobelia, bamboo, cranesbill geranium, lady's mantle, and oatgrass (Ciuca). Plan to use polymers in the soil to keep a consistent moisture level. The key to the polymers is to use only use the recommended amount, use a moisture meter and be sure you get them distributed in the root zone or a bit deeper. When you water be sure to saturate all of the soil. The polymers will take up as much water as possible at that time. When the soil begins to dry out the polymers will release water. Limp plants can be a sign of over or under watering...check with the meter and probe in several spots.

Our mountain gardening season is short fill the earth and pots with dancing colors, outrageous combinations and unexpected surprises at every nook and cranny.

Evergreen Garden Club

PO Box 1393

Evergreen, Colorado 80437

www.evergreengardenclub.org



*Celebrating our
38th Anniversary*

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.botanicgardens.org

Plant and New Book Sale

Friday, May 7, 2004

8:30-10 a.m. members only; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. open to the public

Saturday, May 8, 2004 8:30-10 a.m. members only; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. open to the public

The Plant and New Book Sale is one of the Gardens' most popular annual fundraisers and the official kick-off to spring. Over 85,000 plants are for sale including water-smart plants, annuals, roses, water plants, perennials and more. Horticulture experts are on hand to answer questions throughout the day as well.

American Iris Society

Location: Mitchell Hall

Date: May 29, 2004 - May 30, 2004

Time: 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Admission: Included with entrance to the Gardens

Please contact Betty Roberts at 719-282-9646 for show times and general information.