



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 6 June 2005

A Word from the President...

Inside this issue:

Club News 2
Garden Fence 4
Minutes 5
Horticulture 6

EGC 2004-2005 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 wegridders@speedtrail.net

Newsletter Editor & Website
Liz Hamilton liz1001@earthlink.net
editor@evergreengardenclub.org

Dear Members,
This is my last President's message for my term as President for the last two years. Upon reflection it has seemingly whizzed by! It feels like only yesterday I was in the parking lot at the Jailhouse Rose Garden for our June 2003 meeting and was being handed a bunch of boxes belonging to the club containing "important stuff"!

I took on co-chairing the Garden Tour of 2003 and numerous projects that were on the go and dove in. The blessing of it all was I was given a capable, caring and fun board to serve my term with. Beth, Joan, Karla, Lori and Louise deserve a huge "THANK YOU" and congratulations for all their efforts and support given to our wonderful club and myself.

I am currently writing a manual for the incoming Presidents Jean Todd

and Meredith Bossert to help guide them through all the duties that lay ahead. Please, from time to time, approach all our board members and ask if there are any gaps that need to be filled. Our board needs the constant support of all our club members to assist with calls, errands, etc. It will help our board members to know all of us are there for them.

I want each of you to know how important this club is to me and that the friendships that I have been given through this club I treasure and thank you for. This club is an asset to our community and all of you make that happen. Congratulations to all our members for another successful year in our club history.

I thank you all and will see you at our June meeting!
Tricia

Membership Meeting - June 14th, 2005

Greenhouses and Birdhouses

We will close out our year with a tour of our members' greenhouses and a tour of the most fantastic bird habitat in the area. Birdhouses, feeders and plants that attract birds abound at this Ornithological paradise. Please bring your lunch (beverages will be provided) & we'll lunch together at Karla Briggs' home and say au revoir until the 2005 EGC Garden Tour!

We will meet at Church of the Hills at 9:15. Organize carpools, and depart promptly at 9:30. See you there!



Garden Club News

WELCOME New Member!! Connie Staponki

2005 Garden Tour



If you haven't already signed up....we still need volunteers!

Evergreen Garden Club Presents

6 Fabulous Gardens
Beauty, Education, Art, and Master Gardeners

Saturday June 25th 10am - 3pm

Adults \$15.00

(Children 10 and under \$5.00)

Tickets available until June 24th at:

**Sundance Nursery
Evergreen Garden Center
Tatonka Nursery
Holly Berry
Petals on the Parkway
Stems**

**Evergreen Wild Bird Store
For more information**

visit us at

www.evergreengardenclub.org

Or call 303-679-6670

On the day of the Tour tickets will only be available at the tour gardens.

Proceeds Benefit the Bootstraps Scholarship Program Evergreen

From our friend Niki Hayden at Front Range Living

Garden Tour 2005

A Two Day Event 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday June 18 & 19th 2005

(Rain dates: June 25th and 26th)

Tickets \$20.00 Covers both days

Available at all the Gardens during the tour and selected retail locations thru June 17th
The Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties

My Favorite Flower (or is it flowers?)

Can you imagine asking a chocoholic what their favorite chocolate dessert is? Being a chocoholic, anything in dark chocolate is wonderful. Also, asking me "what is my favorite flower?" is also a difficult question. The best answer is one that I was taught in business school at CSU. My professor insisted the best response is "it depends." If you're talking about fragrance, then freesia tops my list of aromatherapy flowers although there are many others that are right up there. Then again if you mean my favorite for grace and artistic appeal, I love lilies and iris of all types. When I was a little girl, my favorite flowers were lily of the valley, pansies and violets. When I learned the art of cake decorating, I loved making roses, pansies, violets and lilies to adorn the cakes.

But now that I've spent the last 22 years living among the wildlife at 8,000 ft. here in Evergreen, I have an entirely new appreciation for what my favorite flowers have become. Oh, I still love the ones I mentioned. I've planted lots of things in my mother's flower beds in Ohio and if I'm lucky, I'm there when they bloom now and then. Being a CSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, I'd have to describe any flower that qualifies as xeriscape is a good thing, especially those that the locals (deer and elk) don't eat.

After spending small fortunes at local nurseries on flowers that need lots of TLC, I've given up on feeding the locals. I too have fenced in a part of my yard to protect a part of my little world from nightly invasion. Still, I keep going back to my old standbys that seem to thrive in my yard with little care.

Although I have many that I could name, there are two that must be my favorites because I keep adding more. Neither stimulate exotic thoughts or memories. In fact it is quite the opposite. Both decorate my garden and don't ask a lot from me, in fact nothing at all. Both don't require supplemental watering and never get eaten by the locals, excellent qualities in my book. giving me much piece of mind. Both flowers also look great cascading among the rocks. You can see both in the photo of my side yard.

The first is the blue-purple cascade, Turkish Veronica. This ground cover just spreads and spreads and has beautiful little flowers. Contrast this with the soft, silvery, gray-green leaves of Partridge Feather. It is the light mounds seen in the photo. Each leaf resembles feathers and thus the name. It has small yellow blooms during the summer but the bloom is not the main reason for wanting this flower. Partridge Feather grows in any type of soil and once established, you can forget it and it will grace your garden forever. I have in it a berm at the top of my driveway where it is windy and dry and yet it continues to provide decoration season after season and never ever shows a sign of locals foraging on it. Give these two a try if you haven't already. While they don't repel the locals, both flowers will give you lots of enjoyment with little effort.

In closing, thank you to the many garden club members who responded to my plea and adopted my green friends, my house plants. No one had to meet an untimely demise since I couldn't take them to my new abode in Punta Gorda, Florida (southwest Florida). I'll proudly wear my Evergreen Garden Club denim shirt there and know it will be a conversation piece.

Nancy Prafke



** Note: Nancy moved in May, and somehow found the time to share this with us. Thank you so much Nancy, we will miss you! Keep in touch!



By Karla Briggs

Over The Garden Fence

ACCESSIBLE GARDENING

Last fall I took a horticultural therapy course. We met at the Craig Rehabilitation Hospital in Denver. The course was one of those experiences that educated me on many different levels. The instruction included the obvious information about adaptable garden tools and spaces, accessibility and inclusion. All of that was good and useful information, but the most profound instruction came from the people we met who were patients at the hospital and participants in the horticultural program there.

We met with the patients one afternoon to have them to tell us about their gardening experiences and show us some of their projects. All of the people we talked with planned to continue to garden after they returned home. They had learned how to adapt their individual abilities to the chores of gardening using tools that had been reconstructed to allow working from a wheel chair or with impaired mobility. They had the opportunity to garden in raised beds at different levels to discover the height that was the most comfortable and productive. They had the use of a work space at the hospital that was specifically created to accommodate wheel chairs, walkers, braces and prosthetics. Everyone looked forward to getting back to or beginning working in the garden.

All of the practical information and tools were exciting but the opportunity for people to reconnect with the emotional aspect of gardening was inspirational. As gardeners, we know how working the soil is therapeutic. The sights, smells and feel of dirt, seeds, plants and water reach a place in our souls that needs to be touched and tended. As each person told their gardening story, sharing a very personal private account of how a changed physical or mental condition required learning a new or different way to return to an old and familiar activity; the students in my class sat almost motionless with the exception of the tears that rolled down our faces. We recognized the desire to get outside and mess around in the garden and how if that was not an option anymore our gardening souls would ache with longing.

Reggie is a quadriplegic whose body cannot garden. I was embarrassed to wonder how he participated in the activities. I felt as if I was placing an additional limitation on him just by thinking he would not be able to participate. Reggie told us about being a young boy who loved to dig holes. His father was never happy to discover his son's holes, usually dug in the most inconvenient places, and so his grandmother would follow him around and fill in the holes or as many as she could find, thereby reducing the amount of scolding Reggie would receive. "The smell of the dirt," he said, "that is what I missed the most." Reggie's aid stands at the ready and follows to the letter his instructions to her about the size of pot, kind of seed, depth of planting, amount of water and placement on the windowsill. If she dares to improvise on his instructions, she will be asked to undo what she has done. Reggie has a specific plan in his mind when he gardens and he wants the finished product to resemble the picture in his head. Don't we all!

Last week I had knee surgery. I am unable to kneel or bend my leg past a 90 degree angle. I have spent the days since my surgery reinventing my gardening technique. Mostly it is just reminding myself to take it easy and being extremely appreciative of my raised garden beds and the full mobility of my arms and hands. I spend most of my time sitting next to my work area, very close to the ground, so the smell of the dirt is always with me as I work. To Reggie I would say this, "You remember the best part of gardening: the smell of the earth, where a plant's life begins."

Karla

Minutes of the May 10th, 2005 Meeting

Following a morning of doing 'Spring Cleaning' to our local gardens, the members met at Church of the Hills for lunch and a brief meeting. Beth Feldkamp was not present due to a death in her family. We missed her.

Treasurer Lori Lapp reported that we have \$44.09 in checking, \$6409.83 in savings, for a total of \$6453.92.

Secretary Joan Reynolds read a Thank You from one of our World Gardening recipients in a country that no one had heard of.

Louise Mounsey encouraged members to do some shopping at the world gardening table; it appears that she will surpass her record breaking total from last year in funds collected. Thanks to all that have donated and to those that have purchased.

Chris Gray reported that Earth Day went well, she thought, but could have used more volunteers to 'man the table'. We had an exceptionally good location this year, we suspect due to Mary Dickhoff, the Earth Day coordinator. Chris has written up suggestions for upcoming years to be filed and reviewed for upcoming Earth Day events.

Our next meeting will be visiting members' greenhouses and a special bird habitat. Members are to meet at Church of the Hills at 9:15. We will organize ourselves then carpool to the various locations, leaving promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Tricia announced that membership dues are due, single members are \$20, family membership is \$25. Please pay Lori promptly! Those that didn't have money with them are asked to mail their dues to P.O. Box 1393, Evergreen, CO 80437-1393.

President Tricia Scott requested that all committee chairpersons review their needs and attempt to project what their expenditure will be for next year for our new Treasurer and next year's budget. The 40th Anniversary Committee meeting will be held at 10 a.m. May 10 at the library.

Next were elections. Chris Gray has graciously volunteered to take over the Secretary position. Nan Spence and Kathi Grider have stepped up to be co-Vice Presidents. After making close to 100 phone calls, Tricia has been unable to get anyone to commit to some of the committee chairs and board positions to be filled. Tricia circulated a poster with unfilled committee positions to be filled in. Julaine Kennedy encouraged members to step up and take their turn after complimenting the current board for their hard work. Nominations from the floor were then accepted. Irma Wolf nominated Meredith Bossert as President, noting what a thorough job she did for the Garden Tour 'top 3' lists. She accepted after Tricia talked Jean Todd into sharing the presidential duties with her. Priscilla Chapin agreed to be the Treasurer (again). The slate of officers was reviewed, nominated and approved by the membership. Chris Gray led us in a lively Australian song of thanks to those that will be our new board.

The drawing for door prizes was held and the meeting dismissed. A Garden Tour committee meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Reynolds
Secretary

Elk-Proofing Your Garden—Hope Springs Eternal!

By Linda Wells Ringrose

Lurking about in our neighborhoods all winter, all those elk and deer have built up hefty appetites for your new spring garden. So, did you plan on expanding your garden this year, visions of beautiful flowers filling your head? Is there any hope for optimism? The answer is “maybe”. It depends upon how much effort and expense you are willing to bring into play.

From personal experience, knowledge gained from Garden Club members, and internet research, here are some great ideas, starting with the most effective.

Deer Fencing: This method is used by most people on our garden tour. Do an internet search on “Deer Fencing”, and many products will pop up. (The rest of the world doesn’t seem to understand the concept of elk.) The fence should be 8 feet high, and can be made of chain link, wood, polypropylene mesh (www.bennersgardens.com), etc. Check out Julaine’s garden on the tour.

Scarecrow Sprinkler: This is what I use, and like it so much that I now have two. This gadget has a farm-type sprinkler, combined with a motion sensor, which even works in the dark. If an elk wanders into the sensor area, a 3-second burst of water shoots out, which may or may not hit the elk, but does frighten her/him away. You place the sprinkler so that the sensor covers an arc of plant life that you want to protect. Then you set the sprinkler to cover an arc and distance, not as large as the sensor area. Mine is set up to just miss the front door, so that I can sneak out and run sideways without getting wet. They should be placed so that the plants to be protected are *in front of* the sprinkler. In my yard, this covers the main walkway to my front door so that unsuspecting visitors, the UPS man, and my ex-husband always get wet. They all have the option of going around back of the sprinklers, but most people don’t catch on. There is an 8-second pause between bursts, so one can always trigger the sprinkler, pause, and then dash for the nearest tree, or for the front door. The main disadvantage of this device is that sometimes I forget to turn it back on after I have been gardening, and the elk are always lying in wait, watching me. Details are at the Contech web site, www.scatmat.com/Products/Scarecrow/.



Elk & Deer resistant plants: The Garden Club has a huge list of deer resistant plants—ask one of the board members. The High Country Gardens catalog also indicates which plants are deer resistant. Pictured are catmint (nepeta) and lavender. (www.highcountrygardens.com) The catch with this method is that, if hungry enough, elk will eat almost anything.



Deervik Scentags: Joan Reynolds suggested this one (www.deervik.com), though she hasn’t tried it yet herself. The product is a paste-like substance into which one dips a scentag. This is then placed on or near your valuable plants. It claims to be more rain-resistant and longer-lasting than repellent sprays, not to mention cheaper.

(Continued on pg. 7)

Bobbex Deer Repellant & Plant Nutrient: This is sprayed directly on the plants, and smells very bad. Even though they claim it is long-lasting, won't wash off in the rain, they don't really define "long-lasting". I tried this and hated it because of the revolting order, the need to apply this stuff often, and the expense. I am lazy. Two bottles of concentrate will pay for one Scarecrow Sprinkler.

Floral Wire, heavy gauge: This idea comes from Trisha Scott, who heard it from someone else. Just stab a few straight pieces of wire through a plant and into the dirt. The wire should be just a bit taller than the plant. Then when an elk goes in for the big bite, the wire pokes her/him in the nose, and eventually he/she will give up, or so the theory goes. This sounds perfect for the plants that the elk always go for in my garden when I forget to turn the ScareCrow back on!

There are an abundance of web sites on keeping critters out of your garden, without harming them. Just do a search on "deer repellent", "deer fencing", or anything that strikes your fancy. I hope these ideas allow you to expand your gardens this year with success! Good luck!

From www.deervik.com

Why is Deervik better than other deer repellent products on the market?

- Easy and fast to apply with color coordinated scentags.
- Not a spray. Deervik is a paste-like substance. Dip a scentag in Deervik, place on or near your valuable plant and you are done.
- No need to reapply as the plant grows. Even new blossoms will be protected with Deervik.
- Safe to use with edible plants. There is no need to apply Deervik directly on the plant. A small amount near the plant will do the job.
- Works in winter. Deervik will not freeze and will protect hydrangeas, yews, rhododendrons, etc. from deer nibbling.
- No milky residue on plants as with some sprays.
- Bio-degradable
- Longer lasting and more rain resistant than sprays.

Inexpensive, only \$14.95 for 16 oz. This will cover an average garden through an entire season.

**Note: I ordered this on May 2nd. They are experiencing delays...3-4 wks. You can order 10 additional for \$3.95. I sure hope it works! Here are two more. Any feedback would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Beth

Not Tonight Deer!

Deer Repellent

NOT TONIGHT DEER® is the natural deer repellent which uses simple food products to drive deer away. Without using harmful chemicals, NOT TONIGHT DEER® protects flowers, vegetable gardens and other deer taste treats. One 6 ounce bag of powder makes five gallons of solution (covers 5,000 square feet) which you sprinkle on your plants. This makes it one of the most economical deer repellents on the market.

Tested and used by the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in deer infested Mendocino California, it has proved its effectiveness throughout deer country.

BR2642 Not Tonight Deer, 6 oz (.4#) \$9.95

BR2643 Not Tonight Deer, 5 lb (5.3#) \$59.95

www.nottonightdeer.com

Deer Out. www.deerout.com

Deer Out is a revolutionary new product, with it's carefully chosen patent pending all natural ingredients and custom blend of 100% pure essential oils. We are certain that you will be pleasantly surprised by it's peppermint fresh scent and astonished by the results! •**Deer Out** is super long lasting and can last up to 3 months or more! •**Deer Out** won't wash off!

(The custom blend of oils work their way into the soft tissue of the plant). •**Deer Out** has a pleasant Peppermint fresh scent.

•Our 40oz spray bottle is "very cost effective". (You get 25% more product for the same price or less than most leading brands!)

•There is no mixing, and convenient ready to use sizes. (Concentrates available for larger applications.)

•**Deer Out** can be applied on Flowers, shrubs, edible plants, fruits, vegetables, & all forest and fruit trees.

•100% all natural ingredients!

•100% Money back guarantee!

Evergreen Garden Club

PO Box 1393

Evergreen, Colorado 80437

www.evergreengardenclub.org



*Celebrating our
39th Anniversary*

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.botanicgardens.org

American Iris Society

Mitchell Hall

June 4, 2005 - June 5, 2005

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Included with entrance to the Gardens

Please contact Betty Roberts at 719-282-9642 for show times and general information.

Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society

Mitchell Hall and Classroom C

June 18, 2005 - June 19, 2005

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Free with Gardens admission

For more information, contact Jeff Dunbar at 303-320-0417

Water-Smart Gardening Exposition

Admission: Denver Botanic Gardens/Centennial Gardens

June 25, 2005

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Various levels

Learn how to grow fabulous gardens in Colorado's finicky climate at Denver Botanic Gardens' third annual Water-Smart Gardening Expo. You will have the rare opportunity to tour eight low-water/no-water gardens with the Gardens' own expert horticulturists.

Get answers to your questions about irrigation, plant choice, landscape planning, turf and groundcovers, pruning, hardscape, mulching and more. In addition to tours from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Denver Botanic Gardens, explore low-water gardens at Centennial Gardens and three private gardens