



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 8 November 2005

A Word from the Presidents...

Inside this issue:

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

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

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What a wonderful turn out we had for our first meeting of the year. Thanks to all who helped us get off to a good start. John Sears presented an interesting and educational program on birds and their migration. It will be more interesting to watch the birds this fall with this new knowledge. His gifts for door prizes were lovely. And, of course, we appreciate his business membership in Evergreen Garden Club and the support that represents. Thanks, John.

Next we meet at the various community gardens for our **fall clean-up on Tuesday morning, October 4 at 9 AM**. Our gardens definitely need a lot of attention, so please help as much as you can. If you have not signed up to work on a specific garden, call Irma Wolf at 303-670-1995 to find out where your help is needed most. Bring your work gloves, gardening tools, sunscreen, water. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. We will **not** go to

the Church of the Hills afterwards. "Murder in the Garden" is the title of the unique presentation on October 11, our regular meeting at Church of the Hills. Ann Ripley, mystery author and garden columnist, will discuss how her passion for gardening drives her plots. Her books are available at bookstores, including Hearthfire. Meredith & Jean

Membership Meeting - October 11th, 2005

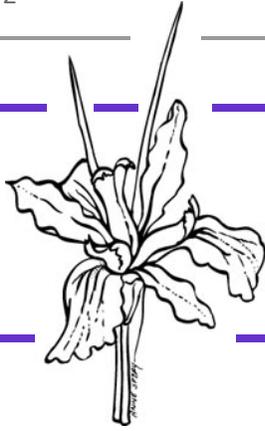
Murder in the Garden!

Meet Colorado garden mystery author and garden columnist **Ann Ripley**. Ann is the author of nine gardening mysteries featuring TV garden show host Louise Eldridge. Ann will discuss how her passion for gardening drives her plots, including that of her newest- **Summer Garden Murder**. She will also pass along some of the bits of gardening advice which are interspersed within

her storylines. Books will be available for signing and purchase.

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

See you there!



Garden Club News

WELCOME!!! New Members: Patsy (Cortland) Langworthy, Dickie (Cortland) Langworthy, Lyn C. Wood, Barbara DeCaro

WHAT THE FETCHENHIERS DID ON THEIR SUMMER VACATION!

As gardeners, summer is our busy season. Our own gardens demand our time and attention every day and so it is with great awe that I report to you about two of our beloved members' summer project.

Peggy and Dale Fetchenhier have been members of EGC for fifteen years. They have served on the board, organized the member plant sale, coordinated the annual holiday cookie party for the boys at Forest Heights Lodge, and they are the designers, builders and overseers of the Dam Garden. Outside of our garden club they create the fabulous decorations for the Mt. Evans Hospice annual Benefit Auction/Dinner, Peggy serves on the board of Forest Heights, Dale is the treasurer for Evergreen Lutheran church and Peggy is the Minister of Music at that same church. To say that they are involved and giving to their community is an understatement.

This summer they designed, planted, and supervised the creation of a new landscape at Evergreen Lutheran Church. ELC has been involved in an expansion project to accommodate the growing community of members it serves. A new landscape plan needed to be developed and executed to accompany that building project. Peggy and Dale had to learn the ins and outs of working with the powers that be at Jefferson County, use their already finely honed diplomatic skills to relate with the neighbors and find unique and creative ways to stretch a dollar and organize people to haul, dig, plant and water the new landscape. On September 18, 2005 ELC celebrated the dedication of the new building and beautiful grounds.

The new landscape is xeric, deer and elk resistant (sort of), and utilizes the existing site as well as a newly developed site. The plantings provide a visual barrier and have four season interest--of course four seasons in Evergreen consist of early winter, winter, late winter, and summer. To view this lovely landscape, take Hwy 73 south to the leaning bell tower and turn left, you're there!

Congratulations to Peggy and Dale for creating another beautiful garden for the people of our community, and **thank you** for all that you do to make Evergreen the spectacular place we call home.

Kudos to Irma!

I happened to be in the Library and lo and behold I came across a wonderful display of quilts. Upon further observation..... there were these two wonderful quilt squares from our very own Irma Wolf!!!

"Goldfinch"



"Canada Goose"

Member update: Sara Sperry has had her first appointment with her orthopedic surgeon since the fusion of her ankle. The cast Sara was in was taken off, her ankle again X-rayed, and Sara reports that her doctor was pleased with what he saw. Her ankle is mending in the correct position.

Bev Wickland is scheduled to have her foot X-rayed on Sept 27. At present, Bev is in a non-weight bearing cast so she is very confined as to what she can do. Bev sounds well and is very up beat. She is keeping herself very busy with projects.

All members of EGC wish both Sara and Bev all the very best and God's speed as they recuperate from their injuries. We all hope they will be back in the garden with all of us soon.

*** Job Opportunity**

For the past 3 years I have been a personal gardener for a beautiful estate in Kerr Gulch. I'm not going to be able to do it next year, and am looking for someone to replace me. The pay is excellent, the working environment is beautiful, and the work is easy. It is just weeding, dead heading and some planting one a day week from April thru Oct. Anyone interested call Priscilla Chapin at 303-697-4140

Fall Quotes:

The foliage has been losing its freshness through the month of August, and here and there a yellow leaf shows itself like the first gray hair amidst the locks of a beauty who has seen one season too many. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes

October gave a party;

The leaves by hundreds came -

The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,

And leaves of every name.

The Sunshine spread a carpet,

And everything was grand,

Miss Weather led the dancing,

Professor Wind the band.

~George Cooper, "October's Party"



By Karla Briggs

Over The Garden Fence

WILD FLOWERS

Beth Feldkamp is the inspiration for this article. This summer she and a neighbor decided to plant a swath of wild flowers in the draw that connects their properties. Beth got the idea from a garden on one of the club's previous tours.

The homeowners had a patch of ground tilled, planted with wild flower seed, and with a considerable amount of supplemental water the seed germinated and the effect was stunning. The flowers produced a wave of color and texture that continually changed through the season as different species in the seed mix bloomed.

Beth and her neighbor set out to recreate this vision in their own yards. The result, however, was not the lush wave of flowers blowing in the breeze they had hoped for. The seed germinated but the plants were stunted and a bit on the pale side. The extreme, prolonged heat of this summer could be a factor, but with the amount of water the plants were getting they should have done better. Perhaps the plants would have gone through the growing, blooming, and setting seed stages more quickly as the heat signaled the plants to get going, don't waste any time, it's gonna be a hot one, but then they would have been more vigorous.

So after all the ruminations about weather conditions and water, they were left back at the beginning, the soil! Or, I should say, the lack of soil. The property is a rocky hillside with little natural topsoil. The ground was sprayed with Round Up to kill the existing weeds and grasses that could choke out the newly planted seed. An additional six yards of topsoil was added, which sounds like a lot, but for the size of the area to be planted probably not enough. The missing component was amendment, some sort of compost to replace the nutrients stripped away by the Round Up and to help retain the moisture in the soil. I hate to beat a dead horse, but, a good lashing of horse manure would have saved the day. It was decided to put a layer of compost on the site this fall allowing it to seep into the ground with the winter moisture and hopefully provide nutrients and tilth to the soil.

To review the process for planting a wild flower garden: Choose a sunny or lightly shaded location for the wildflower garden, a little protection from wind is helpful. Eradicate the existing weeds and grass on the site. Add additional soil to the site if needed. Till in lots of compost to provide nutrients and help the soil retain moisture. Spread good quality wild flower seed as early as possible in the season, the cold snaps in the late winter and early spring are helpful in germination. Because it is advantageous to plant early, preparing the site is best done in the late summer or early fall when the ground is workable and the compost has the winter months to feed the soil. Provide a thin layer of mulch to hold the seed in place and prevent the birds from eating too much. The mulch also helps keep the soil cool and moist. Once the spring snow and rain has dwindled, provide supplemental water to keep the site moist until germination. After the seed has germinated, cut back on the water to allow the surface mulch or soil to dry a bit, but NEVER let the soil around the roots of the plants dry out. At the end of the growing season, allow the spent flower heads to reseed the site and add more compost. It has been my experience with wildflower seed mixes that they have a lifespan of three years. The first year is mostly annuals blooming, the second year is reseeded annuals and the biennials blooming, and the third year is the most glorious with a proliferation of blooms and foliage. At the end of the third growing season, the site needs to be re-tilled and re-seeded or it becomes rangy and wild in appearance as the flowers die out and the weeds and grasses move back in.

My thanks to Beth and her neighbor for sharing their gardening experience with me. We all benefit from each others' failures as well as successes in the garden. Beth, don't worry, next spring your wild flower garden will rival Monet's.

Karla Briggs

Minutes of the September 13, 2005 Meeting

Jean Todd called the meeting to order at 9.33am. 47 members were in attendance..... Jean announced that EGC Membership books were ready for pick up for those members who have paid their dues. Jean informed members that Liz Hamilton will be webmaster for the EGC web site and for the Wild Iris monthly newsletter, Beth Feldkamp serve as editor and will be responsible for the mailing of the newsletter to those members who prefer the newsletter by slow mail instead of via email. Treasurer Priscilla Chapin reported that we had \$1567.48 in the checking account, \$9512.86 in savings. The gross income for our garden tour was \$3925.00, expenses were \$752.28 leaving us with \$3172.72 profit. Priscilla asked that any members who had paid their dues but had not received a membership card in the mail to see her after the meeting.

Secretary Chris Gray reported that a card had been sent to Bev Wickland who broke her foot recently; a sympathy note to Bud and Juanita Weare following the death of Bud's Mother and a card to Sara Sperry who underwent surgery to fuse a broken ankle.

Correspondence received: A thank you note from Jenny Ford, one of the home owners on the garden tour, for the sundial she had received from the EGC.

Thank you notes were from the president of Evergreen Scholarship/Bootstraps, Inc and from the recipient of the Bootstraps scholarship that the EGC funded.

New members and guests were introduced. New members: Patsy Langworthy who moved to Evergreen from Dallas and her daughter-in-law Dickie Langworthy also from TX, Barbara DeCaro who moved here from California, and Lyn Wood from Evergreen. Guests: Nana Kurtz who moved here from Illinois where she has been a master gardener for 10 years, Shanna Gibson from San Antonio, TX, and Vivian Nichols.

President Jean Todd told members that the Co-Vice Presidents are responsible for the educational programs for EGC meetings. Vice President Nan Spence then directed members to page 17 of the new directory where detailed descriptions of the programs that have been planned for the coming meetings can be found. Nan also pointed out to members that a new committee - Natural Resources - has been formed.- Nan will chair this committee. The purpose of this committee is to disseminate information and serve as a resource for current info on issues which affect the conservation of the natural resources in our community including preserving forest lands, native vegetation, water quality, wildlife and the elimination of noxious weeds. Nan also announced that volunteers are needed at The Lake House on Thursday September 15 to assist with 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders from Evergreen Montessori school who have a field trip scheduled there. Nan informed members that EGC has many new business members this year. Nan asked that members support these businesses whenever possible.

Jean told members that a sign up sheet for the community gardens was circulating among members. Irma wolf has volunteered to coordinate work at the community gardens. Oct 4 is garden clean up day for community gardens this year. Members need to bring their own water, sunscreen, gardening tools, work gloves, large trash bags and a sack lunch if desired. Oct 11 will be the garden club monthly meeting at Church of the Hills.

Louise Mounsey spoke about World Gardening and the great contribution EGC makes to this organization. Last year EGC set a record for the amount donated to World Gardening. The total for the year was \$462.50. Louise also reminded members that today the World Gardening table is full of plants for people to purchase.

Old business issues: Tricia Scott will again order EGC logo shirts if members wish to purchase these. Cost is minimized if shirts are ordered in quantity.

(Continued on page 7)

HORTICULTURE

Raccoons are cute but can be pests

By Marcia Tatroe DenverPost.com

A friend in Denver was being driven to distraction by the destruction in her garden. Pots were overturned and scattered, transplants dug up and tossed aside with alarming regularity. She put the plants back into the ground, and they would pop out again within days or sometimes hours of rescue.

It wasn't until she installed surveillance cameras that the culprits were exposed. A family of raccoons had moved into the neighborhood. My friend had been fertilizing her potted plants and transplants with fish emulsion. The raccoons were determined to find those dead fish, no matter how well buried.

I have my own trials and tribulations with raccoons. They start eyeing my concord grapes the minute fruit forms. Even so, suburban raccoons are picky eaters. Until the grapes ripen they throw a few test clusters on the ground every once in awhile in apparent disgust. After the grapes turn purple, nightly feeding frenzies ensue.

A jam-making neighbor moved away, so I no longer pick these grapes. I would be happy to share the bounty with these masked marauders, if it weren't for their toddler-style eating habits. Like their human counterparts, raccoons refuse to eat the seeds or the skins. They suck out the juice and the flesh and spit out the residue. Every morning for a month in late August and into September, I wake to a patio littered with hundreds of grape carcasses.

Overindulging in fruit appears to have a laxative effect on raccoons, whose toilet habits are as unrefined as their eating practices. They leave piles on top of the shade cloth that covers the arbor. This rains down at inopportune times, such as during dinner parties, giving new meaning to the phrase "reign of terror."

If the droppings fall during the night, my dog is happy to clean them up when she goes out for her morning constitutional. Raccoons carry a whole host of nasty pathogens. A sick dog inevitably means she's found a cache, which has led to at least one visit to the vet for a course of antibiotics.

Raccoons also routinely dredge the pond for goldfish, snails and tadpoles. Thankfully, they aren't very efficient at catching fish, but they do a lot of damage to the plants during these nocturnal swims, overturning pots and smashing foliage.

I awoke in the middle of the night recently as one of my cats threw himself at the screen, hollering like a banshee. Sure enough, three raccoon youngsters had climbed the juniper outside the window. All three had their noses pressed against the screen with expressions on their faces that clearly said "What!" Only when I shined a flashlight out the window did they decide to retreat.

I do admit to having mixed feelings about these destructive garden guests. Undeniably cute, one of my favorite sightings was as I turned into our driveway one night and saw in the headlights, five little raccoon faces peering out of the storm drain. If only they would eat slugs.

(continued from Minutes pg. 5)

Jean informed members of 7 or 8 bronze Wild Iris pins that have been custom made by Ken Ball and donated to EGC. The pins can be purchased for \$25.00. All monies will be donated to the EGC scholarship fund.

Ken Ball informed members that because of the increase in activity of his business, he no longer has the time to devote to the garden at the library. An updated brochure on this garden needs to be addressed by the board.

The plant sale is scheduled for June 3, 2006. Tricia, Karen and Lori will coordinate the plant sale. By December '05, all committees need to be in place. Julaine has volunteered to do pricing of the plants at her house. Jean would like to see more publicity given to the plant sale. The Evergreen Chamber of Commerce has a community calendar that will enable the EGC to use this calendar to advertise upcoming club events.

The business meeting adjourned.

Kathi Grider introduced John Sears, owner of the Wild Bird Store in Bergen Park. John and his wife Diane opened their store last December. John has a background in horticulture and as well is very knowledgeable about birds. He gave us a very informative presentation on Bird Migration and Creating a Wild Bird Habitat. John and his wife Diane are both new members of the EGC. Their wild bird store in our area is a great addition to our mountain community.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Gray

Evergreen Garden Club

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*Celebrating our
40th Anniversary*

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.botanicgardens.org

Pumpkin Festival Location:

Admission: Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

October 8, 2005

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

\$5 for Adults, \$3 for Children (3-15 years) , Children in costume get in FREE!

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield presents the 17th Annual Pumpkin Festival!

Come trek through five acres of pumpkins in search of your perfect pumpkins. Plenty of great crafts and food will be for sale, and kids will enjoy a variety of events developed just for them. And if the mood suits you, make it a full day of family fun and stop by the Corn Maze right next door!

Free Days Location:

Admission: Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

October 13, 2005 & October 17, 2005

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM