



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris Volume 18, Issue 12 February 2006

A Word from the Presidents...

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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

Newsletter Editor & Website
Beth Feldkamp 303-679-9465
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Thanks, again, to the Evergreen Fire and Rescue Administration and Training Facility for providing the lovely venue for our January 10 meeting in this new community facility in Bergen Park. Thanks also to Frank Dearborn, Evergreen District Fire Marshal, for taking care of all the details necessary for a successful meeting. Club members are asked to consider the offer of using this facility in exchange for helping the Fire Department develop the small, xeric garden near the entrance.

Rocco Snart, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, presented a very informative and (unexpectedly) timely program, tailored to our mountain area. Thanks, Rocco, for an entertaining and educational presentation, as well as the valuable, detailed handouts.

Election of the officers for next year occurs in May. Jeri Dufford, Nancy Elliott, Frances Sorensen, Bev Wickland, Patsy Langworthy have generously volunteered to

serve on the nominating committee called for in the by-laws to obtain the consent of members to be nominated for office. Thank you, ladies.

We hear that members are unwilling to fulfill elected offices. If so, should Club members re-assess what they expect? Perhaps this nominating committee could also talk with members about their concerns regarding leadership positions. Creative ideas may emerge that will help members be more willing to consent ahead of time. EGC sponsors many excellent and worthy projects. Is it possible, however, that the Club has taken on more responsibilities through the years than the current membership can maintain? We urge Club members to think about these issues, share your ideas with the nominating committee or board members, and volunteer what you can.

Membership Meeting - February 14, 2006 Roses are Red.....and other colors, too

The art of growing roses in Evergreen is not for the timid heart, but gardeners will hear tips and tools to help meet this challenge at Evergreen Garden Club's meeting on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Mary Kirby, a consulting rosarian for the Rocky Mountain District of the American Rose Society and a

master gardener with the Jefferson County CSU Extension Office, will explore rose cultivation, particularly shrub roses. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen.

See you there!

Garden Club News

Welcome New Member!!! Margorie Clinton

February Hospitality Committee workers are: Nancy Elliott, Jan Brown, Dee Hoaglund, Bev Wickland
 Food Providers are: Nancy Elliott, Jan Brown, Peggy Durham, Karen MacFarquhar, and Vivian Michaels
 THANK YOU!!



Pete's Home!!! Captain Peter Gray, son of Chris Gray our club's secretary, returned home from Iraq this month. We are grateful for his safe return, and rejoice with his family. We asked Pete's mom, Chris to share some information about Pete's service while in Iraq, and she kindly obliged. Thank you for your service Pete and welcome home!



While in Iraq, Pete served as the Environmental Science Officer for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Georgia. He was chiefly concerned with assessing and controlling environmental factors, which cause disease among the 3500 soldiers in the brigade. This often included performing chemical and bacteriological water tests, inspection of dining facilities and waste management areas, educating soldiers and Commanders on prevention measures, and surveying and spraying for mosquitoes and sand flies to control Malaria and Leishmaniasis. To help the Army determine the risk to soldiers from sand fly bites, which can result in Leishmaniasis, a skin disease, he collected and shipped specimens for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Approximately 4,500 flies were collected from the American installations in Diyala Province. To assist with the efforts to rebuild Iraq, he lent service to the Civil Affairs teams by providing water lab results and performance reviews of newly constructed water treatment plants. Pete called Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warhorse home for 12 months but made regular trips to four other FOBs and two smaller sites in downtown, Ba'Qubah, 30 miles northeast of Baghdad.



Minutes of the January 10, 2006 Meeting

Co-President, Jean Todd called the meeting to order at 9:32 at the Evergreen Fire & Rescue Training Facility. Eventually, 46 members were in attendance. Jean explained that the reason for meeting at this facility was because the Fire Department is quite proud of their new facility & wants to have everyone see it. They had done some last minute cleaning & preparation to ensure everything was perfect for our meeting. The Fire Department also wants us to plan & plant and maintain a 'fire wise' garden near the front entrance in exchange for allowing us to use the facility in the future for our monthly meetings free of charge. This would also include use of their kitchen. The garden would be xeric and low maintenance and the Fire Department would pay for the plant materials. They would also share in the watering of the garden. The landscaping is not yet completed around the building and questions such as watering systems, etc. are still unknown. Particulars, such as storage of records, and other items that we currently store at Church of the Hills will be addressed when this offer is formally discussed. Since our program was on Fire Wise Landscaping, it was also appropriate to have the meeting in this stunning new facility. Visitors were introduced. Trish Scott had brought a lovely houseplant to be silent auctioned off to benefit the Garden Club.

Treasurer, Priscilla Chapin read a solicitation letter from the Senior Resource Center for the general area asking for a donation. Discussion followed and it was decided to stay with our previous decision to not donate to groups that are not gardening related. A letter will be sent to this organization telling them why we decided not to contribute. Priscilla reported that we have \$7215.31 in Savings, \$178.43 in Checking for a net worth of \$7393.74. She commented that this was after making our \$2,000.00 donation to Evergreen Scholarship/Bootstraps for a scholarship to be awarded this spring to an area High School student for their college education. Our donation is matched by 1/2, making the total scholarship \$3,000.00. Jo Powers, the chairperson for this committee commented that the reception in June is always delightful and meeting the recipients rewarding.

Joan Reynolds, acting Secretary read correspondence from Chris Gray, (an e-mail) our regular Secretary telling us that her son, Pete had arrived safely from Iraq in Fort Benning, Georgia. Joan also read a Holiday card from the Evergreen Library, a thank you note from Evergreen Scholarship/Bootstraps, and a Christmas card from June & Bill Andrews. June is a former member that has recovered from lung cancer. She has moved to 6557 S. Reed Way, Unit B, Littleton, Co 80123 so that she won't have to use oxygen full time. Her greeting noted that the garden 'sold the house'. There were also several letters from recipients of our World Gardening Fund. Joan also reminded us that it is past necessary to 'winter water' our gardens.

Jean then asked for volunteers for a nominating committee for next year's officers. Priscilla Chapin has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. The following volunteered or were persuaded to form the committee: Jeri Dufford, Frances Sorenson, Bev Wickland, Patsy Langworthy, and Nancy Elliot. They were thanked in advance for their help.

Tricia Scott passed sign up sheets around for various tasks for the Plant Sale to be held June 3, 2006 at the Hiwan Homestead Museum Grove.

Bev Wickland passed around a list of past Presidents, hoping to learn the whereabouts of any of them. Members were asked to note any information they may have so that an invitation can be sent to them for our 40th Anniversary. We will celebrate this event at Hiwan Grove on June 25. It was decided to keep the celebration to Garden Club members, not opening this up to a public party. Jean announced that Trisha will have a size medium (men's sizing) Evergreen Garden Club work shirt available at the next meeting for members to 'size up' if they wish to order one. The cost is \$30.00 each. We then took a break for refreshments.

Nan Spence introduced Rocco Snart, Jeffco Wild Fire Mitigation Specialist and also a member of the Golden Volunteer Fire Department. Rocco gave a fabulous presentation on how fire travels and continues burning and how we can make our homes less vulnerable and more desirable for the Fire

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Over The Garden Fence *By Karla Briggs*

PLANTS ONLINE?!

Catalog and online shopping for plants can be convenient and fun. It also provides the gardener with a much larger variety of plants than can be found in retail nurseries. Those hard to find plants or rare plants are now within our reach--how grand. But I say to you "caveat emptor", buyer beware! There are some pitfalls that gardeners need to know before they venture forth into the catalog and online shopping network.

The first pitfall is the beautiful close up photos of the plant that give the impression that the plant is much larger than in real life. Sometimes the plant photos are actually bunches of plants instead of a single specimen. If the plant is one that you are unfamiliar with, additional research to discover the actual size and color is helpful. Gardening books or Google's image-search are good resources. My favorite resource book is "Gardening by Mail", by Barbara J. Barton. Once you determine the true size and color, you can make a decision about whether to purchase one or three of a plant.

Size is another concern; it is difficult to know exactly what size plant you will receive in the mail. Be sure to notice the pot size you are ordering and be ready to still be surprised how small most of the mail-order plants are, compared to plants in the same size pots available in the nursery. Sometimes the mail-order companies will substitute plants depending on their availability or stock. Remember that in our neck of the woods smaller plants will take longer to get established and start growing. Some mail-order plants will require a season or two to reach their full potential.

Ordering bare root plants is also tricky business. A bare root plant doesn't look like much, just a bundle of dry brown sticks. Bare root plants will take an even longer time to become established, although with certain hard-to-find plants it can be worth the wait. I purchased some bare root peonies many years ago and the plants have been healthy, faithful growers every spring.

You need to be aware of growing conditions and planting zones for the mail-order plants you want to buy. Sometimes it is hard to figure out this information from the catalog or online descriptions. Most catalogs have a zone map or guide somewhere in the pages, often near the order form. Web sites vary; some sites are designed with educational information that is easy to get to and others, well... Check out several web sites and compare. Burpee's web site, burpee.com, is a good one for additional information.

Order early for the best selection, some popular plants sell out by March! Most companies ship plants according to the destination planting zone. If you receive your mail-order plants too early to put them in the ground or during the week that you have no time to work in the garden be sure to UNPACK, store and care for them according to the instructions provided.

Exercise some restraint when ordering plants from a catalog or online. Remember you need time and space to plant what you buy. When the plants are not right in front of you it can be hard to imagine just how much twenty-five plants are. Purchasing mail-order plants can be expensive; you have to pay for the convenience and the price of a gallon of gas. So it is probably wise to limit your purchases to those plants that you can't get locally.

I still love to go to the nursery to shop for plants. I want to hold and smell the plant, pick out the best ones of the bunch and have a real live person to talk with and ask questions of. But I am making my way into the twenty first century and keeping an open mind to this new fangled technology. Besides, I will take a plant any way I can get one. If it comes in the mail, that's just fine with me.

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Department to defend in case of a fire. Rocco gave a fabulous presentation on how fire presentation on how fire travels and continues burning and how we can make our homes less vulnerable and more desirable for the Fire Department to defend in case of a fire.

Rocco's presentation was tailored to our area with photos of local fires and homes. Frank Dearborn, Evergreen Fire Marshall also answered many questions about the Evergreen area laws & preferences for the Fire Department. Rocco gave some phone numbers that are worth noting:

In case of an emergency, call 911 OR call (303) 674-3411 – the direct line for dispatch. If you would like a free inspection with suggestions on how to better maintain your property from fire, you can call Rocco at (303)271-4902. The State Forest Service will also conduct such an inspection for a fee. They can be reached at (303) 279-9757. Rocco had a table full of related handouts for us with 5 different CSU Extension brochures, as well as the new Jefferson County Emergency Preparedness Guide. Rocco answered MANY questions throughout his presentation from members and was a very knowledgeable and friendly speaker that kept the Garden Club entertained and learning more about wild fire, how it is fought & what we can do to make our homes safer.

Following the program, door prizes were awarded and Fire Marshall Frank Dearborn conducted a personal tour of the facility for those interested.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Reynolds, acting Secretary

Note: Joan sent an email with the current addendum to our membership list. For those who don't get email, I will have a few copies at next meeting. New members who do not have their membership books see either Jean or Priscilla at the next meeting.

Happy Valentine's Day

All roses symbolize love, but their colors have special meanings. Use the handy rose color chart below to choose the shade that best matches your feelings.

Red

Love, passion, respect, courage

Yellow

Joy, friendship, freedom

Pink

Happiness, gratitude, appreciation, admiration

Cream

Thoughtfulness, charm, graciousness

Orange

Admiration, fascination, enthusiasm, desire

White

Innocence, purity, secrecy, reverence

HORTICULTURE

February's Favorite: Cyclamen From In My Garden By John Cretti

As the month of February has rolled around, it's time to think about a meaningful gift for your favorite Valentine. Instead of the traditional bouquet of cut, long-stemmed roses, why not give a gift that keeps on growing and flowering. Among the prettiest of flowering houseplants, the cyclamen is like a bouquet of butterflies in winter. Its flowers can continue to appear for two to three months.



Like butterflies in flight, cyclamen blossoms are beautiful in winter

Cyclamen Flowers

Cyclamen flowers resemble butterflies perching on stems. They are held high above thick, dark green leaves that are streaked with silver. The blossoms appear to nod, facing downward, and the petals open and sweep up like the wings of butterflies. They come in a variety of flower colors, including red, pink, salmon, white, and purple, as well as bicolor blooms.

Cyclamen Care

Often sold as "florist" plants, cyclamens have developed a reputation of being short-lived. With the proper care, however, they can last for many years, blooming annually. My aunt has the knack of growing these plants within the confines of a warm home environment. Her secret is to grow them in the coolest part of the house, where temperatures are 45-50F at night and 65F or lower during the day.

I like to locate plants in bright but indirect light and prefer an east windowsill right above the kitchen sink. I keep the soil mixture uniformly moist and apply a soluble plant food at half strength every 2 weeks.

Summer Dormancy

During the summer when it's hot, my aunt cuts off all the foliage, reduces watering, and lets the plants go dormant. The summer dormant period is natural and vital to the cyclamen's growth. For three or four months in summer, the plant will lose its leaves and need minimal care. During that time, the potted plant looks like a pot of soil. Water it just enough to keep the soil from getting bone dry, maybe once a month. This period not only allows the plant to rest, it also allows you to remove any insect-infested leaves and flowers. In September, start watering more and bring the pot into a bright location. It will be flowering by winter.

GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STEMS FLOWER SHOP

29007 Upper Bear Creek Road
303-674-4995

Stems Flower Shop, located at the Lake Center on Upper Bear Creek Road, is about to put forth abundant spring growth. In March, Stems will be moving next door into the space now occupied by KD Moore Gallery. This move will allow Stems to branch out to approximately 2000 sq feet. According to Dore Huss, shop owner, Stems will be offering the same expert floral arrangement services, but expanding on the shop's foliage and orchid department, as well as the selection of preserved, dried and silk botanicals. The larger space will also enable Stems to offer classes on topics such as orchid care, floral design and creating soy candles. Dore would welcome suggestions from club members about what services and items they would like Stems to offer.

Anyone who has visited Stems, either at its first location in Marshdale or its current location, knows that to wander through Stems is a trip into floral enchantment. I know I can hardly wait to see what Dore and the staff at Stems Flower Shop has planned to delight our senses at the new location!

When you can't make it in to the shop, you can now place your orders online. Visit the beautiful website Dore has created at www.stemsflowershop.com.



HIWAN HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

4208 S. Timbervale Drive
303 674-6262

As a member of the Evergreen Garden Club, perhaps you have worked in the flower garden or the herb garden at Hiwan Homestead Museum, but when was the last time you ventured inside this Evergreen treasure? If it has been a while or if you have never been inside for a tour, set aside an hour to take a fascinating journey back to a time when Evergreen served as a peaceful weekend or summer getaway for the Denver Community.

The 17 room log lodge, restored to an era spanning 1890 to 1930, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The guided tours along with an historical library, educational programs and changing exhibitions are sponsored and maintained

by the Jefferson County Historical Society. The Evergreen Garden Club designed and maintains the two gardens at the front of the Museum where we have planted flowers and herbs which are suited to our mountain environment.

Hiwan Homestead Museum is featured in the January 2006 issue of Front Range Living. You can read this article authored by Niki Hayden at www.frontrangeliving.com/

John Sears of Evergreen Wild Bird Store suggested this amazing weather website at the last meeting. It includes astronomy and a whole lot more than just the weather! www.wunderground.com
Thanks John!

Evergreen Garden Club
PO Box 1393
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www.evergreengardenclub.org

*Celebrating our
40th Anniversary*

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.denverbotanicgardens.org

Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society

Contact: Marc Wilson, 303-799-9058

Show or Sale Date: **March 25 - 26, 2006**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mitchell Hall, Gates Hall and Garden Court, Lobby Court