



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 17 February 2007

A Word from the President...

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EGC 2005-2006 Board Members Presidents:

Nan Spence

Vice Presidents:

Chris Gray

Sheila Henriksen

Secretary:

Kim Stark

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 Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway 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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When I took on the role of Evergreen Garden Club President, I made a strong commitment that I was going to work very hard in tribute to those who held this office before me and to make the current members of our Club proud of my efforts. As the year has gone on, I increasingly realize what it takes in terms of time and energy to live up to this commitment. My husband and my friends outside of the Garden Club tell me that I am taking my Presidency of our Club more seriously than I took being President of a mid-sized corporation, a position I held for over fifteen years. It is hard to explain to anyone not in our Club why I feel such a strong dedication. But, within this Club, there is no need to explain. I know that so many of you feel the same way. Throughout these past months, I have seen much evidence of true dedication.

The women who make up your current Board exemplify that dedication to an amazing degree. This year the Evergreen Garden Club Board was caught by surprise by administrative and organizational issues concerning both liability and club structure. With extreme grace and show of dedication, these women accepted and addressed the situation. A call went out from the

Board in November to all members asking volunteers to become part of a Special Committee that would assist the Board in handling these matters.

The notice made clear that this was going to be a very serious committee, with a purpose not nearly as much fun as planning a Garden Tour or a Plant Sale. (Planning those events is hard work also. But, believe me, they are a "walk in a garden" compared to delving into the realm of insurance, liability and regulatory compliance.)

As a testament to how very dedicated our club members are, a group of eleven emerged to take on the task. Appropriately, the Special Committee was made up of very special people. Thank you Ken Ball, Liz Barrett, Stan Barrett, Barbara DeCaro, Sheila Henriksen, Vicky Jahn, Julaine Kennedy, Claudine Pardi, Linda Ringrose and Irma Wolf. Thanks also to all of the many members who could not be part of the committee but provided us with important information and expressions of support.

The make-up of the committee was ideal. Within the group were three past presidents, two current board members, long-time members, new members, a

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February 13, 2007 The Plants and Flowers of Shakespeare

Shakespeare like you have never thought of him before! Andrew Pierce, born in Canterbury England is an internationally known horticulturist, lecturer and author. Andrew now lives in Evergreen. He will be here to delight us with his slide presentation. Andrew's own garden was featured in the book titled the American Man's Garden and in "Fine Gardening" Magazine.

SPECIAL FORMAT FOR FEBRUARY 13 MEETING

We will begin promptly at 9:30 with our program "The Plants & Flowers of Shakespeare" by Andrew Pierce. Guests are welcome to join us for this program followed by a refreshment break. After the break, we will hold an important business meeting which will be open only to current paid members in which we address current administrative issues. The meeting, if necessary, will be extended until 12:30. In March, we will resume our normal meeting schedule.

Garden Club News

February Hospitality Committee: Mona Bedell, Chris Gray, Lorna Chorn, Claudine Pardi, Vivian Michaels, Jo Powers, Pam Hinnish.

Joan's husband Rich would like to donate some of her plants. They will be on the World Gardening Table at the Feb. 13th meeting to benefit the Joan Reynolds Memorial Fund. This fund benefits the Mountain Hope Cancer Center, and the Bootstaps Scholarship Fund through the Evergreen Garden Club.

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retired tax attorney, members with connections in both the local insurance and legal communities, and also one of the most hard-working, and diligent women I have ever met. (If you haven't had an opportunity to get to know Sheila Henrikson yet, make it a point to do so. She is truly a wonderful person.) Each committee member brought his or her own areas of expertise and own perspective to the situation. However, all were cognizant of the importance for coming up with viable solutions that would enable our club to continue with its long rich legacy of engaging in civic, charitable, educational and social activities.

The past two months were spent researching club records, assessing our current situation and examining options for future action. We also met with attorneys, insurance agents and CPAs. It was a wonder we had any time left to spend with our families during the holidays! But our mission was successful. As I write this President's Message, the committee is preparing to report its findings to your Board.

Prior to our February 13 meeting, we hope to inform all members, by email or post, on the findings of the Special Committee along with Board recommendations for actions. On February 13, the business portion of our meeting will be dedicated to expanding on this information by explaining how our club will benefit from acting on these recommendations and what working to resolve our current situation will mean in terms of Club commitment of time, cost and impact on club activities. We will be asking for your support on moving ahead. Please plan to attend this members-only meeting.

Working together, we can all look forward to a very strong and bright future for the Evergreen Garden Club for many, many years to come.

Thank you all for your dedication.
Nan Spence
President

Steamboat Springs Lures Another Member What is it about Steamboat? (Aside from World Class Skiing, beautiful vistas, the James Brown Soul Center of the Universe Bridge and small mountain town charm) which continues to lure our members away. First Jean Todd and now Connie Staponksi! Perhaps they can get together to start a Steamboat Springs auxiliary of the Evergreen Garden Club. However, I am sure Connie will be too busy in her new position as Planner in the Routt County Planning Department. Congratulations Connie! Connie has been an invaluable asset to the club, especially this past year. Her assistance on getting the Fire/Rescue garden up and running, her tireless work as Business Member Coordinator as well as her cheerful personality are all going to be missed. Thank you Connie and the very best of everything in your new home and new career. ~ Nan Spence

Minutes of the January 9, 2007 Meeting

Nan began the meeting at 9:35 AM.

Welcome-Nan welcomed all members and guests and asked Fran from Hospitality to say a few words. Hospitality is in great need of members' participation and both Fran and Nan asked for more involvement from the membership in the upcoming months.

Treasurer's Report-Priscilla provided the current balances in the EGC accounts and asked for the financial statements to be approved and accepted which they were.

Secretary's Report-Kim asked for and received approval of the November Minutes as published in the Wild Iris and provided the names of people to whom flowers had been sent and from whom cards had been received.

World Gardening-Ginny noted there were still a few Christmas items yet on the table along with some nice gardening books, and that a nice amount was raised last month although she did not have the exact figures.

Silent Auction-Sheila read the names of the business members who provided donations for the Silent Auction for the December luncheon. They were: Connie Staponski on behalf of Evergreen Garden Center, John and Diane Sears of Evergreen Wild Bird Store, Dore Huss of Stems, Patty Dierksheide of Tatonka Farms, and Ken Ball of Mountain Spirit Studio. The Silent Auction raised a fine amount which was donated to World Gardening. Sheila also noted Thank You cards had been sent to our participating business members.

ECHO- Linda Ringrose provided an update on our successful ECHO food drive, and gave addition information about the ECHO Food Bank so members could take donations there on their own. Nan added we had a very good response last month and noted how very thankful ECHO was for both our generosity and also for the work we do in the community gardens. Nan announced the Board's decision to not make the food drive a part of our monthly meetings, but rather part of our celebrations, such as last month's holiday party.

Natural Resources/Earth Day-Marilyn said she had brochures on invasive plants and also the recycling brochure. Earth Day is April 21st and EGC will possibly share a table with a few other organizations. Nan noted that Connie from Evergreen Garden Center decorated our table at last year's event and that it was beautifully done.

Business Members' Announcements-Connie said she had been talking to Dore at Stems about the February feature and said that both Sundance Gardens and Indian Hills Nursery would like to be featured once they have reopened.

Special Committee Announcement-Nan stated that in November a Special Committee had been formed to address the issues of EGC's insurance liability and IRS compliance. They have been hard at work gathering information which will be presented to the Board before the February membership meeting. All members will be notified of the issues, options and recommendations as to what steps EGC need to take, via email and/or regular mail. Nan noted the agenda for the February meeting will be reversed so that our speaker will be presented first and the members' only meeting will take place afterwards. She asked we all be on the lookout for this information.

Garden Tour-Nan stated the Board is in agreement we should not start planning this year's garden tour until the insurance issues are resolved. She also asked that anyone desiring to chair the event please contact her before the February meeting.

Special Announcement-Nan then announced our member, Peggy Durham, has been newly elected to be president of the local Audubon Society. Nan noted both organizations have very close ties.

Speaker/Program-Sheila introduced our speakers from the Big Tomato, who spoke on hydroponics gardening.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Attendees: 38

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Stark

Please contact Kim Stark with any changes to the Minutes.



Over The Garden Fence

By Karla Briggs

WHAT ZONE ARE WE IN?

The question of what USDA zone our area resides in has always been a matter of interpretation. Depending on altitude, exposure and microclimates on a particular growing site, the hardiness zone can range from 3 to 5; zone 3 being a safe bet and zone 5 being a risky proposition. Now, with global warming and milder winters, the National Arbor Day Foundation has put out its own unofficial revision of the hardiness-zone map. The new Arbor Day map has placed most of the country in a warmer zone. According to the new map, our area lies safely in zones 4 and 5 with the only area rated zone 3 at the top of Mt. Elbert. To compare the USDA map with the new Arbor Day map, go to the web site, arbor-day.org/media/zones.cfm.

What does this mean for us as gardeners in the real world? Probably not much with the exception of interpreting the 2007 garden catalogs that are being delivered to our mailboxes. Most catalogs give a hardiness zone recommendation with the plant description and generally it is good to follow that advice. This year it may be wise to note that most catalogs are suggesting zone pushing, asking us to take a chance on a plant that traditionally has been put off limits by the old USDA zone map. It is not unusual for gardeners to want (covet) a plant that might not over winter in our environment but now we are being given permission to go ahead and give it a whirl. I would suggest letting the cost of the plant decide whether or not it is worth the risk. For example, a \$35 Peony is an expensive experiment compared to a \$7 Agastache.

When purchasing plants at garden centers this spring ask a staff person which plants have been successfully grown in our area. When you decide to try a zone 5 or even a zone 6 plant, and I know that you will, give some thought to the microclimates in your yard and plant them in the warmer, more sheltered spots.

As with any new plant, make sure to amend the soil before planting, dig a hole twice as wide as the container size, water in well and mulch around the new plant to maintain moisture and temperature levels. New plants require supplemental watering during their first and sometimes second growing seasons to become established. Don't forget winter watering for the new plants, winter is the time when we are most likely to lose plants. This winter has been an exception and only Mother Nature knows for sure if this is going to continue or if we will go back to a milder winter in 2007/2008.

Climate changes add to the interest and challenge of gardening. Do not fear them but instead embrace them, roll the dice and plant that climbing rose bush you have had your eye on. Good Luck!

In closing I would like to add a note about the death of our friend and fellow gardener Joan Reynolds. Joan and I shared a planting style she termed the "crama jama method".

This method does not allow for a spec of dirt to show in a garden. This spring when my gardens start to fill up with all the plants that I have crammed and jammed in, I will think of Joan and smile. During the service for Joan I watched the photo montage, including the many photos of garden club activities. I listened to Liz and Tricia as they gave beautiful, loving testaments to Joan. I looked around at all the familiar faces of my gardening buddies who made food for the family and ventured out on that snowy day to say good bye to Joan and hug Rich. In those moments I realized that the reason for our club's 40 year existence is the tradition of support and genuine caring the members have had for one another. To be a part of such tradition is a privilege.

Karla Briggs

In Memory of Joan Reynolds

June 4th, 1954—January 16th, 2007

Dear Garden Club Members:

On behalf of my sister Kathy and Rich Reynolds, I want to thank each of you for your kindness and support following Joan's death. Your prayers, calls and gifts of food were appreciated more than you can know. I know that Joan cared about you all and she was proud to be associated with the Garden Club. Thanks also for the commitments many of you have made to help get Joan's garden up and running in the spring. I can't think of a nicer way to honor her. We were happy to meet so many of you at the memorial service. This has been such a great loss for us all ? it still doesn't seem real.

I hope you will understand my using this method to reach you all; it seemed the only way I could reach all who need to be thanked. We appreciate all the help and support you have given Joan during the years, particularly this past year when her health was so tenuous. When your gardens bloom, and your projects begin, we hope you will think of Joan. Take care of yourselves, take care of Rich, and take care of each other; in memory of Joan.
Sincerely,

Joan was such a dedicated member and served the garden club for over 15 years. Therefore the members would like thank her for all of her contributions and dedicate this issue to her.



I recall a day last summer working in the Hiwan Homestead garden with Joan. She said she had to be on the look out for a gal coming to the parking lot to pick up some dresses. Sure enough a car pulled up. Joan dusted off her jeans, whipped out a moist towel for her hands and went running out to her car. She loaded them into the gals car. It was a Brides dress along with three bridesmaids dresses. Not skipping a beat. She came running back to the garden to continue working with me. Now that's multi-tasking.
That was our Joan. ~ Bev Wickland

My name is Julie Schmidt. I've been a member of garden club for a long time, although have been remiss about attending meetings in the last few years. I knew of Joan and always admired her many talents and enthusiasm for whatever project(s) in which she was involved. I was saddened by her passing. I was able to get in touch with Louise Pearsall an RN, who now lives in Mittagong, Australia. Louise helped take care of Joan when the Pearsall family lived in Evergreen. Following is the e-mail message I received from Louise yesterday.

"Susan Baker forwarded your e mail with the sad news of Joan passing. She was such a sweet person and very ill with liver, lung and heart problems. She made me my costume for when I was a docent at Hiwan Homestead museum as a thank you for when I looked after her when she had her heart surgery and again after her cerebral hemorrhage. She was such a keen gardener, did you know her garden appeared in a coffee table book on beautiful gardens of Colorado? I am sad to hear she has gone." Louise Pearsall

I was do devastated to hear of her passing. I have been in California at my daughter's home, so coming home to this was so sad. Joan was always so gracious....that I think is a key word that best describes her. She and my late husband, Bill Campbell, were dear friends. They shared such enjoyment of their gardens. After Bill passed away I was in a car accident and broke my arm, shoulder, and hand. Joan came and helped me by pruning roses, fertilizing, and weeding.....Bill had a LOT of roses that required more attendance than a one armed gardener could give, but Joan was a veritable one woman rose saver! Her kindness and her ability to share loss were indeed the sunshine needed to make hope grow.

Joan and I were going to attend the Denver Rose Society program in October. Bill's daughter, Heather, was the guest speaker. Heather invited people to come dressed in costume...as their favorite rose...in keeping with the season. Joan described to me in great detail what she was going to wear.....as she was coming as "Victorian Memory", Bill's favorite rose. Alas, when I called to set a time to pick her up, she was to weary to go, but what fun we had getting her outfit together.

When I think of Joan, I am so reminded of Kipling's "Glory of the Garden". I know that she is enjoying the magnificent splendor in God's garden.....and she and Bill don't even have to pull weeds. ~ Patty Prisbrey

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Members Tributes to Joan

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My first memory of Joan was around the first time I attended Garden Club. Joan and Liz were in charge, and I was so impressed at how quickly and efficiently the meetings ran. But what really amazed me was what happened afterwards. We had been talking during the break and Joan mentioned that they had made pomanders the month before. I said that I thought that would be fun to do. Julaine Kennedy was in on the conversation and we also discussed making chocolate leaves to decorate cakes, etc. Well, the very next day, here come Joan and Julaine – to my house – a person they didn't know at all, with instructions on making pomanders and a feather to spread chocolate. I think it's one of the most incredible examples of true hospitality and welcome I have experienced. ~ Peggy Fetchenhier

Joan and I have had a bond ever since she joined the club many years ago; we had several things in common. We both liked the Victorian style, a cottage garden and roses and were determined to grow them here. We would compare notes on our roses and visit each others gardens often. We both knew our way around a sewing machine, needle and thread. However, her skills as a seamstress were far better than mine. I admired the ease at which she made many wedding gowns and bridesmaids dresses, to be able to do that, she had talent.

Over the last few months it seems most of our conversations took place via email or in the isles at the Vitamin Cottage store which is where our last conversation took place. It was the first week in January when we ran into each other there. We were talking about our recent heavy snows. She told me once again how much she appreciated my offer I made her a few weeks earlier to help her put her gardens to bed for the winter and now wished she had taken me up on that offer. Her eyes filled with tears as she stated that Rich's back was bothering him and she verily had the strength to climb the stairs and that they didn't get her pots moved from the deck to underneath and now they were buried under feet of snow. As I embraced her and I told her not to worry that as soon as the snow melted I would come over and help her move them so she get started on them for the spring. She loved to start her own seeds for her pots and grew far more than she could ever use and many ended up in the compost pile. She wiped her tears away and gave me one of her pretty smiles and said that even though her treatments weren't working she just knew they would find something that would help her and she would be ready for spring. She stated she needed to finish up her shopping and get home for she was tired and needed a nap. We hugged each other and said our good-byes and would see each other next week at the club meeting. She never made the meeting and I never got to see her smile again.

Joan, my dear heart you are truly going to be missed and your graciousness, generosity and kind-heartedness will remain with me and everyone who was blessed by your being. With every rose that unfurls in the spring, it will remind me of you and your beautiful smile. Till we meet again my dear friend, I miss you. ~ Priscilla.

I will remember Joan's laugh, her hugs and huge smile. I will remember many plant shopping excursions together- deciding how the best way to sneak in all the plants home under our husbands watchful eyes! I will remember Joan being there for me in the aftermath of my sisters death. I will remember Joan's positive attitude the day before her death and at other times as well. I will miss her. ~ Tricia Scott

One of my favorite memories of Joan speaks loudly of both her generosity and her teachings. Soon after I met Joan, she invited me to her home to see her gardens. I was new to gardening in Evergreen, and was eager to learn everything I could. Joan's gardens were lovely, but what delighted me most was the shovel and empty pots she had sitting out when I arrived. She proceeded to go about her property digging up numerous plants for me to take home. When I expressed my appreciation, she told me "plants are meant to be shared, and there will be a day that you will share your garden with others. Plants are like friendships they need to be tended and to grow."

I will always remember her words of friendship and wisdom. ~ Karen MacFarquhar

My personal memories of Joan: I never asked a garden question be it the name of a certain plant, or what to place in my North garden that she didn't have an answer. I was always "blown away" with her total gardening know-ledge and her willingness to share. She was truly a "shining star" of the Evergreen Garden Club and will be sorely missed. The old saying "bloom where you are planted" most certainly applied to Joan. ~ Love, Frances Sorensen

If a person needed a hug for any reason, you could count on Joan for that. It was her way of saying "hello." In fact, you could count on Joan for any help or assistance on any subject, project, or problem. She was always available. She was also one of the members that was instrumental in bringing back the EGC plant sale--always yearning to educate and commiserate with the public. ~ Irma Wolf

I first met Joan in 2000 when she was a docent on the garden tour for my garden. I remember thinking how knowledgeable she was and how much I had to learn. I had seen her garden years before when her garden was on the tour. It was quite beautiful. When I joined the Garden Club in 2001, she was always so gracious and welcoming. Several times when we happen to work

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Members Tributes to Joan

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side by side at the "dam" garden, she would fill me with information on the plants. Several years ago when she was doing the wedding of her nephew in her garden, I had stopped by to pick up a pillow she had made for an old wicker chair I had. Her garden was absolutely stunning. She proudly showed me around and offered me starts of many of her plants. She had such great spirit and a soul full of kindness and goodness. We are so lucky she touched so many of our lives, and she will missed so much.
~ Sharon Eaves

When I join The EGC just a little over two years ago, Joan was on The Board as the secretary. I think it was Joan's beautiful curly hair (something I always wanted as a kid), her friendly manner and her ever ready laugh that attracted me to Joan so much. At the end of the '04-'05 Garden Club year, I took over from Joan as secretary and it was during this take over period that Joan really helped me. When I went over to her house to pick up the 'secretarial goodie box', Joan made it very clear to me that should would be so happy to assist me at any time, all I had to do was to give her a call. And call upon Joan's help I did - several times. The time period that I was probably most grateful for Joan's help was when my husband, Chuck, and I traveled to Ft Benning, GA to await the arrival of our son to return home from Iraq. During this time, Joan took minutes at the monthly meeting and submitted the minutes to Beth for inclusion in the Wild Iris.

Joan was a beautiful person, both on the outside as well as on the inside. The EGC has truly lost a wonderful member in the very sudden passing of Joan Paulette Reynolds. ~ Chris Gray

My very first contact with the Evergreen Garden Club occurred as a long phone conversation with Joan over a decade ago. Joan was the Club's President then and I was thinking of joining. Soon after, when the club was planning its 30th anniversary event Joan encouraged me to come because she thought I would like the group. Although, I still had a few years before I could become active in the club due to a demanding career, Joan continued to stay in touch with me. I am glad she did, because the club and Joan came to mean so very much to me. Joan encouraged my involvement and gave me support, especially this past year as President. I hope that I can follow her example and encourage new member's to join, actively participate and to grow to love our club.

Joan would often begin her long and heartfelt emails "My Friend" and end them with the closure "Fondly, Joan." That's how I will always remember Joan—fondly, as my friend. ~ Nan Spence

I never met Joan Reynolds face to face. But when I was thinking about starting a garden, a mutual friend suggested I phone her and ask for advice. We spoke for close to an hour, and I thought it was marvelous of her to be so open-hearted with a complete stranger. She offered anecdotes about what worked and what didn't, and we commiserated about the difficulties of amending rocky Evergreen soil. She also gave me many suggestions about native plants, especially ones that might survive both deer and unpredictable weather. Nothing I asked stumped her, and her joy in gardening inspired me to give my impossible project a try. I will continue to think of Joan whenever I am in my garden, especially in spring. ~ Irene Clurman

We often said that we never finished talking, and it did seem that way. We would just pick up where we left off and continue the ongoing conversation. Neither of us were aware this talk would end so abruptly.

Now is the time to start assessing the health of house plants--what cuttings should be taken and started in water or soil--what seeds will be started--when and how many?

Always the tried and true and always something new and exciting to try. We would order packets of seeds to share, and see who had the best luck with them. She was so proud of her greenhouse and the wonders she produced there. Her caring of Gracie and Hershey and sharing of her herb and flower gardens with them was well known.

I can close my eyes and see "Louise's Garden" and smell the roses and see the perkey little blue and pink Forget-me-nots and see "Louise's Poppies". Everything was thriving and striving for a little space.

We will forget-you-not forever, Joan ~ Louise Mounsey

I first met Joan when she came to a Garden Club meeting when I was President. I was coming to the end of my second term and was looking for a good candidate to take the gavel. We put out the request to the members to let the board know if anyone would take on one of the positions the following year. Joan came up to me during the break, and said; "I am interested in taking on the Presidents position." I think that was the first hug we exchanged of a many over the years. She was the best friend a girl could ever want, and I will miss her, her smile and her laugh, terribly. - Liz Hamilton

The brass ring stands out in my mind as an image of Joan. She often advised us to grab that brass ring! Meaning to live life to the fullest. She certainly did! She set the example for the rest of us. I wonder if some of our talented artists would want to use this concept in some way to keep that part of her legacy visible? ~ Meredith

Evergreen Garden Club
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***Celebrating our
41th Anniversary***

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.denverbotanicgardens.org

Available Tours October-March
Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory
11 a.m. or 1 p.m. - Saturday and Sunday

Call our Information Desk at 720-865-3580 to reserve your place on the tour.

The Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory, a Denver landmark, is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Tours will be offered of the vast collection of exotic plants, as well as highlights of the compelling architectural features. Engineers celebrate the conservatory's innovative architecture, which features one of the best displays outside of the tropics.

Free Day Feb. 19th