



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 19, Issue 1 September 2007

### *A Word from the President...*

#### EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB IS GOING GREEN

Welcome everyone to the 2007/2008 Garden Club year. The first and biggest announcement for our club is that we will be putting our yearbook on line. The Evergreen Garden Club yearbook has traditionally been printed and handed out to members at the September meeting or subsequently as new members sign up during the year. The cost of the yearbook has been one of our largest annual expenses and requires frequent updates, additions and deletions. In an effort to cut costs, use less paper, and make the job of updating easier, we will have our yearbook online. Anyone interested in printing out any portion, for instance a membership list or calendar of programs, they can at anytime print the information from their own computer. For those members that do not have access to a computer, the club will print out any or all information in hard copy form. We hope that with some instruction from our Diva Web Master Liz, we will all find this a change for the better.

I look forward to hearing about the tales from each of your gardens this season. What a gift the rain has been. There has been an outpouring of positive comments from people about the beauty of our community gardens. The efforts of all the members who have worked in the gardens this summer are truly appreciated. My own home garden continues to survive despite the hounds and a construction project.

This year we have an exceptional calendar of programs. Ken Ball did a magnificent job of recruiting speakers and subjects. I encourage the

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#### Upcoming Meeting: **SEPTEMBER 11, 2007** **"Mount Goliath and the M. Walter Pesman Trail"**

Shirley Johnson and Susan Jones open the 2007-2008 Evergreen Garden Club program series with an up close (and high) look at this piece of earth, as close to Heaven as we can get. While the peak and trail are easily accessible seasonally, attendees will enjoy a visual tour through the alpine and sub-alpine tundra, grand mountain vistas, and sculptured, grizzled beauty of the Bristlecone Pine.

*See page 7 for full details.....*

**Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am.** Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for the World Gardening Table.... And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug. See you there!

*Garden Club meetings will be cancelled whenever Jefferson County Mountain Schools are closed because of inclement weather. This will eliminate any confusion or the need for last minute communications about weather cancellations.*

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#### **EGC 2007-2008 Board Members**

##### **President:**

Karla Briggs

##### **Vice Presidents:**

Ken Ball

Mary DeBaets

##### **Secretary:**

Pam Hinish

##### **Treasurer:**

Beth Feldkamp

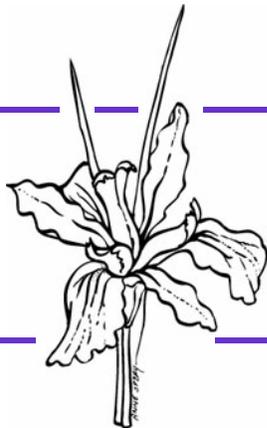
The **Wild Iris** is a free monthly publication for members of the Evergreen Garden Club.

**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 Beth Feldkamp at 303-679-9465 or EGCBeth@comcast.net

**Newsletter Contributions** are due by the 20th of each month to Liz Hamilton@Liz@Maia-Consulting.com

**Newsletter Editor & Website**  
EvergreenGardenClub.org



# Garden Club News

*(Continued from page 1)*

members to bring guests to our programs to share the knowledge and the fun.

I would like to thank the board members of our 2007/2008 Evergreen Garden Club for all the work they have done this summer. I would also like to thank Barb DeCaro for her invaluable help with our incorporation process. Our club is incredibly fortunate to have such talented, giving people.

As our growing season comes to a close, I give thanks for another year to work in the garden.

Love, Karla

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

**Please enclose a check payable to:**

Evergreen Garden Club, P.O. Box 1393, Evergreen, CO 80437

Membership extends from June to June, and includes the Wild Iris newsletter and participation in club activities.

**Membership Categories:**

Individual \$25.00    Family    \$35.00    Business  
\$ 55.00

For more information regarding membership visit our website [www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org) or call Beth Feldkamp 303-679-9465 or [egcbeth@comcast.net](mailto:egcbeth@comcast.net)

### WHITE MULE DEER FAWN

This image circulated around Evergreen e-mail last month and while there was no credit to the photographer I hope they do not mind us sharing this image with members.

Photographed by  
Brook Forest Road



## *Minutes of the June 12th, 2007 Meeting*

Karla called the meeting together and welcomed all members and guests.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Karla Briggs

- The EGC Board met and adopted the new by-laws. They will now go to Fred Wells for review and then to Barb Scripps who will then send them on to the State.
- Beth and Karla will be obtaining a new EIN# and Bank Account today to separate the new incorporated EGC from the previous.
- A new proposed budget will be presented and voted on in the fall due to some of the unknown's in the incorporation process.
- There is no liability waiver needing members' signatures; the by-laws address indemnification.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Beth Feldkamp

- Current balances of \$6620 in savings and \$578 in checking.
- Thank you to Louise and Julaine for hosting the successful plant sales!
- Dues for the upcoming year are due now (\$25/individual, \$35/family, \$55/business); please also fill out and send in the membership form as it serves as the basis for the membership book!

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Pam Hinish

- No correspondence was sent out the past month.

**FIRE WISE GARDEN** – a dedication for the Fire Wise Garden is being scheduled. Pam will be sending Nan Spence a letter recognizing her work on the garden and inviting her to continue to participate on it as well as to attend the dedication.

**BOOTSTRAPS** – Sarah Hudak of Evergreen High School received a \$3000 scholarship from EGC.

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN REPORTS**

- Julaine is the new coordinator of the Homestead Herb Garden and requests that you let her know if you are on the committee
- The Fire Wise Garden needs a new coordinator – please let IrmaWolf know if you are interested. Also, if you are interested in being assigned to a garden, please let Irma know.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- All paying members get to vote on Garden Club issues (this is different from some 501c3's where just Board members can vote). The membership approved a motion to allow voting privileges for our two honorary members as well.
- The Nominating Committee thanked the outgoing Board members with gifts of lovely flowering plants which were the center pieces for the meeting.
- Discussion regarding whether we can hold any public venues before we get our 501c3 status. Since we are incorporated we do have some protection and indemnification. Officers will be talking with our CPA and attorney about insurance issues and will bring this to the full membership in the fall.
- No garden tours are planned at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

The Next Evergreen Garden Club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 11th, 9:15 at the Fire and Rescue Station. Have a great summer!

Submitted by Pam Hinish, Secretary.



## Over The Garden Fence *By Julaine Kennedy*

### **Minding the Soil**

Gardeners spend a lot of time and money on gardens. My very favorite garden task is shopping for plants!! Pretty simple and enjoyable task when one thinks about the rest of the garden chores. Oh, I love to weed and deadhead too. I get lost in nature's surprises as I get close up. Recently I was weeding and found tiny white eggs lined up a blade of grass. I didn't take time to figure out who they belonged to but decided to leave them there. One of my favorite is the lacewing insect eggs. They look like a bunch of miniature ku-tips.

Master Gardener training got me hooked on the study of soils. Crazy huh, what's to get excited about looking at dirt, mud, a mound of sand or a clump of hard clay? Soil provides a home for plant roots and living organisms that are constantly moving around, eating and digesting food in the soil. All of this activity enriches the soil. We help build the soil by adding compost, manures and organic fertilizers. Colorado State University Extension Services recommends soil testing prior to creating a new garden plot or lawn. A homeowner may suspect disease, insects or unhealthy plant material; a soil test may help solve the problem.

Soil test information is available through the Jefferson County Extension Office in Golden; or you can go on the internet to [www.ext.colostate.edu/menugard.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/menugard.html) to download the soil test application. A routine test costs \$20.00 for each sample. Results are emailed/mailed back within a couple of weeks. You will collect soil samples and provide information: ex. what is growing on the areas sampled, how often it is watered, how long you water each time, what you have added to the soil and what you plan to grow. If you currently use fertilizers and/or have treated the area with insecticides they want to know what you used & and how often.

We sent in two samples. 1st sample was a bed we been amended every year. The 2nd site was part of our meadow. Grass and wildflowers have been growing there for over 20 years. Two years ago we dug up a small area for a garden plot and added three-way mix. The following spring we planted vegetables in that plot. Within a week the plants withered and died.

The 2nd sample's texture came back as sandy loam and a high pH. Organic matter was low. This was the new garden bed where the plants died shortly after planting. The 3-way mix had more sand than we expected. That test made sense. We are adding organic matter and hope by next spring the soil will have improved. The 1st sample was much better (pH 6.5, loam soil and fertility was high). Adding compost and organic fertilizers each year has increased the soil's fertility.

CSU recommends retesting every 5 years or when there is a major change in plant growth or chemical damage to the soil. It was worth the money spent and the effort to prepare the samples.

Julaine Kennedy <http://www.twocrowsmarketing.com>

*(Horticulture continued from page 6)*

the cutting. Leave this heel on. It represents a wounded area, and the cutting will produce more roots because of this wound.

Once the weather gets colder and you have experienced at least one good hard freeze, the deciduous plants should be dormant and will have dropped their leaves, and you can now propagate them. Just make cuttings about 4" long, dip them in a rooting compound and stick them in the bed of sand. Not everything will root this way, but a lot of things will, and it takes little effort to find out what will work and what won't.

This is a short list of just some of the things that root fine this way. Taxus, Juniper, Arborvitae, Japanese Holly, Blue Boy/Girl Holly, Boxwood, Cypress, Forsythia, Rose of Sharon, Sandcherry, Weigela, Red Twig Dogwood, Variegated Euonymus, Cotoneaster, Privet, and Viburnum.

Immediately after sticking the cuttings thoroughly soak the sand to make sure there are no air pockets around the cuttings. Keep the cuttings watered once or twice daily as long as the weather is warm. Once winter sets it you can stop watering, but if you get a warm dry spell, water during that time.

Start watering again in the spring and throughout out the summer. The cuttings should be rooted by late spring and you can cut back on the water, but don't let them dry out to the point that they burn up.

By fall you can transplant them to a bed and grow them on for a year or two, or you can plant them in their permanent location. This technique takes 12 months, but it is simple and easy.

Michael J. McGroarty is the author of this article. Visit his most interesting website, <http://www.freeplants.com> and sign up for his excellent gardening newsletter. Article provided by, <http://gardening-articles.com>.

### **Black-eyed Susan (Thunbergia alata) —Beth**

I ran into Barbara DeCaro at the farmer's market



this summer and she was admiring this Black Eyed Susan, when she decided not to buy it I did. It has been in bloom all summer.....and has been my favorite plant it gets oohs & aahs!

**Plant Type:** Perennial, Climber

**Environment:** Suitable for the home or a greenhouse

**Description:** Slender vine with flowers ranging in color from white to yellow and orange to red.

### **Hollyhocks —Liz**

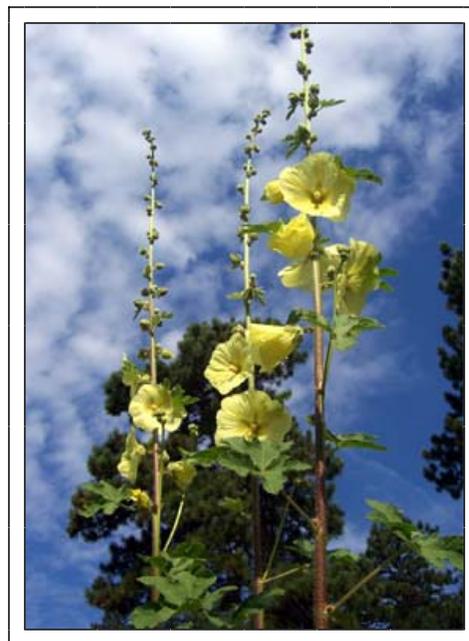
I figured we should be able to grow hollyhocks at 8,600 ft but have not had any luck in the past. The snow came before I ever managed to get a bloom. These plants were grown from seed planted in the ground last spring (06), they never bloomed last year but came back strong when the snow melted and had lots of flowers this year.

**Plant Type:** Hollyhocks are herbaceous biennials or short-lived perennials.

**Environment:** Hollyhocks prefer rich, well-drained soil and full sun. Light shade is tolerated but wet winter soil is not.

**Hardiness**

**Zones:** Hollyhocks are hardy in zones 2-10.



Please submit your favorite photos to share with members. E-mail them to [Members@EvergreenGardenClub.org](mailto:Members@EvergreenGardenClub.org) with a quick blurb!

# HORTICULTURE

## Easy Fall Propagation Techniques by Michael J. McGroarty

(Printed with permission from his website)

As a home gardener, fall should be a very special time for you. Fall is the best season of the year for plant propagation, especially for home gardeners who do not have the luxury of intermittent mist. The technique that I am going to describe here can be equally effective for evergreens as well as many deciduous plants.

The old rule of thumb was to start doing hardwood cuttings of evergreens after you have experienced at least two hard freezes. After two hard freezes the plants are completely dormant.

However, based on my experience it is beneficial to start doing your evergreen cuttings earlier than that. So instead of doing "by the book" hardwood cuttings you're actually working with semi-hardwood cuttings. The down side to starting your cuttings early is that they will have to be watered daily unless you experience rain showers. The up side is that they will start rooting sooner, and therefore are better rooted when you pull them out to transplant them.

To prepare an area in which to root cuttings you must first select a site. An area that is about 50% shaded will work great. Full sun will work, it just requires that you tend to the cuttings more often. Clear all grass or other vegetation from the area that you have selected. The size of the area is up to you. Realistically, you can fit about one cutting per square inch of bed area. You might need a little more area per cutting, it depends on how close you stick the cuttings in the sand.

Once you have an area cleared off all you have to do is build a wooden frame and lay it on the ground in the area that you cleared. Your frame is as simple as four 2 by 4's or four 2 by 6's nailed together at each corner. It will be open on the top and open on the bottom. Just lay it on the ground in the cleared area, and fill it with a coarse grade of sand.

This sand should be clean (no mud or weed seed), and much coarser than the sand used in play box. Visit your local builders supply center and view each sand pile they have. They should have different grades varying from very fine to very coarse. You don't want either. You want something a little more coarse than their medium grade. But then again it's not rocket science, so don't get all worked up trying to find just the right grade. Actually, bagged swimming pool filter sand also works and should be available at discount home centers.

Once your wooden frame is on the ground and filled with sand, you're ready to start sticking cuttings. Wet the sand the day before you start, that will make it possible for you to make a slit in the sand that won't fill right in. In this propagation box you can do all kinds of cuttings, but I would start with the evergreens first. Taxus, Junipers, and Arborvitae.

Make the cuttings about 4" long and remove the needles from the bottom two thirds of the cuttings. Dip them in a rooting compound and stick them in the sand about an inch or so. Most garden centers sell rooting compounds. Just tell them that you are rooting hardwood cuttings of evergreens.

When you make the Arborvitae cuttings you can actually remove large branches from an Arborvitae and just tear them apart and get hundreds of cuttings from one branch. When you tear them apart that leaves a small heel on the bottom of

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**EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB PROGRAMS – 2007-08****SEPTEMBER 11, 2007****"Mount Goliath and the M. Walter Pesman Trail"**

Shirley Johnson and Susan Jones open the 2007-2008 Evergreen Garden Club program series with an up close (and high) look at this piece of earth, as close to Heaven as we can get. While the peak and trail are easily accessible seasonally, attendees will enjoy a visual tour through the alpine and sub-alpine tundra, grand mountain vistas, and sculptured, grizzled beauty of the Bristlecone Pine. The program will feature an introduction to the newly completed Dos Chappell Nature Center at the foot of the trail, and the six interpretive Gardens surrounding the Center. Perhaps a summer, 2008 tour of the Trail and Center is in order?

**OCTOBER 9, 2007**

**FALL CLEAN UP DAY** – During the luncheon, Lee Lambert will provide a brief discussion on noxious weeds and their effect on the native ecosystems of our region. The most recent brochure on weeds will be available at the meeting.

**NOVEMBER 13, 2007****"Great Botanic Gardens of the World"**

Join us as we greet Panayoti Kelaidis, Denver Botanic Gardens Director of Outreach and former Curator of the Alpine Gardens, in a visual Journey of some of the most gorgeous horticultural gardens in the British Isles, Europe and Africa. Panayoti has, over his 28 years at Denver Botanic Gardens, elevated DBG to one of the foremost and respected gardens in the world. He has been part of Colorado's "Plant Select" program since its inception. This magical photo journey will show us Great Gardens from a Great Master's point of view.

**DECEMBER 11, 2007****ANNUAL MEMBER PARTY****JANUARY 8, 2008****."Garden Photography"**

Professional garden photographer, David Winger, has packaged up a sure shot packet of information on how to best take garden photos. David's work may be seen in Sunset Magazine and various Sunset books, Fulcrum Publishing books, and other major publications. He was author/editor of The Xeriscape Plant Guide and co-author of Xeriscape Colorado, The Complete Guide. Learn how to 'pop' that color and 'peg' that focus. And, see some gorgeous landscapes, too.

**FEBRUARY 12, 2008****'Veggies Organic Style'**

Fresh from the garden, free from unknown chemical applications, YUM! Evergreen Garden Club member Tina Kellogg will give attendees insights about organic gardening. Learn, first hand about how to successfully grow healthy goodies in our environment.

**MARCH 11, 2008****"Making a Splash with Water Gardens & Water Features"**

This seminar will explore all types of water gardens and water features from container gardens and pondless waterfalls to larger, natural ponds. Tim Boettcher, President of True Pump & Equipment, Inc. will present valuable information on the natural ecosystem of ponds as well as the design, installation and maintenance of all types of water features. Tim will also highlight the unique and exciting opportunities water gardens provide for aquatic plants and fish.

**APRIL 8, 2008****"Gorgeous Grasses"**

Capture the spirit of the prairie in your garden by incorporating the splendor found in grasses. Ornamental grasses complement the expansive beauty of our region: the vast grassland of the High Plains of the Southern Rockies. Discover ways to accent soften or naturalize your garden with the textural artistry of

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Evergreen Garden Club  
PO Box 1393  
Evergreen, Colorado 80437  
www.evergreengardenclub.org



## **EGC, Inc Programs cont.**

*(Continued from page 7)*

this diverse and graceful group of plants! Susan Yetter of *Papa Piedra & Mama Tierra*, (Designer, Horticulturist, Educator and Consultant) will share her knowledge, insight, and fabulous photos of ornamental grasses in the landscape.

**MAY 13, 2008**

**SPRING 'GET THE GARDENS GROWING" DAY**

**And, a special, important presentation by Einar Jensen of Evergreen Fire Rescue on Defensible Space**

Our host, Garden Club Member, and will give us all fresh insights on this important, life saving topic. Living in this special place requires special attention to critical landscape and building construction details. Einar has compiled several simple steps to make our living more care free.

**JUNE 10, 2008**

**"The Art of Botanical Illustration"**

Sharpen your pencil! Evergreen Garden Club's own Jo Powers became a 'Certified Botanical Artist' after formally studying the art for several years at the Denver Botanical Gardens. We are privileged to have such talent in the club membership! Jo will guide attendees through the significant and important history of botanical illustration. We will also view some of her personal accomplishments.