



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 19, Issue 2 October 2007

A Word from the President...

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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

INDIAN SUMMER

I love Indian summer. I love the light, the air, the crisp mornings and the cool evenings. I love to watch the plants change their texture and color. I love the Rose Hips, the berries on the Cottoneaster and the Russian Hawthorne, and the seed heads on the grasses. I love the wild dance of the birds as they gobble up their Thanksgiving feast.

I also love putting the gardens to bed for the winter. The work of cutting back, dividing plants, composting and mulching is the last gardening work of the season. I must admit I look forward to winter's rest; reading by the fire in the evenings and watching my hands recover from another year of gardening. Let me just say that the "Foxgloves" worked like a charm, they lasted all summer with the exception of a hole in the pointer finger of the right glove and, thanks to the hounds, a missing pinkie finger in the left glove. I have already ordered a new pair for next year.

I am once again cutting back all the perennials and trimming up around all the shrubs and trees in an attempt to leave very little for the dreaded Voles to munch on in the gardens. I am shoving Giant Destroyers down any Vole hole within ten feet of a garden bed in hopes that they get the message to move on down the road.

Only a gardener would look at my gardens now and say they look beautiful, all cut back with a layer of compost and mulch. But I am telling you they look gorgeous!

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Upcoming Meeting: **OCTOBER 9th, 2007** **"FALL CLEAN UP—WORK DAY"**

Bring a brown bag lunch too!

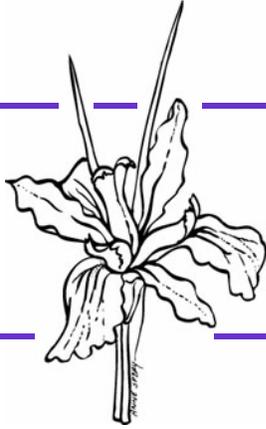
OCTOBER 9th, 2007

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.

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!

Arrive at 9:00am at your designated community garden (9:30 at fire garden). Then head over to the fire building at 11:00 for a program.

Garden Club meetings will be cancelled wherever 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.



Garden Club News

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking of gorgeous gardens, be sure to join in the fun on our October 9th workday. If you didn't have an opportunity to sign up at the September meeting, just show up at one of the gardens at 9:00 to work and laugh with your fellow gardeners. Everyone is welcome and the help is greatly appreciated.

My favorite garden writer of all time is Henry Mitchell. In his essay entitled "The Fifty-Year Itch" he writes: "For fifty years I thought (off and on) about *Allium moly*, a pretty modest yellow cousin of the onion, and when I saw it in other gardens in May I always wished I had planted a few."

"The little bulbs used to cost two cents each, I think. By the time I actually bought some last fall they cost twenty cents each, but what the hell. I planted ten, and they all came up and flowered well. I wouldn't say that this fulfilled a dream of a lifetime, but I do say it's one more thing I have finally gotten around to, and I am the better man for it."

I think I will take Henry's advice and plant a few bulbs this fall, so that in May I will be a better woman.

Peace, Karla

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- Dam Garden – Peggy and Dale Fetchenhier – new members and new coordinators would be welcomed!
- Library Garden – Marjorie Clinton – new plants were put in and the watering schedule was changed as the garden was very dry. Marjorie asked for a thank you note to be sent to the library staff as they have been so helpful.
- Traffic Circle – Irma Wolf – it's doing great!
- Post Office – Karla Briggs – outside of the cigarette butts, it's doing well!
- Evergreen Fire Rescue – Kathi Grider – the garden is in transition with a new chair and members; the plants are all ones that won't promote wildfires as they are low fuel plants; much time and effort and lots of water went into it over the summer; Kathi noted that it really needs a drip system.
- Metro District – Beth Feldkamp – the garden is flourishing and will need thinning in October.
- Hiwan Homestead – Julaine Kennedy – the garden survived the elk and deer but keeping on top of the weeds has taken weekly care; the group is thinking of planting some annuals next year.

Attendees: 35

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hinish

Minutes of the September 11th, 2007 Meeting

Ken Ball called the meeting to order welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the fall. Ken then presented the '07/'08 program schedule (note: the meetings continue to be the second Tuesday of the month; the hard copy of the program schedule mistakenly listed dates for the second Wednesday of the month for the '07 meetings; the '07 meetings are Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11)

Mary DeBaets extended a welcome back and had the new Board members, elected in June, introduce themselves – Mary DeBates, First Vice President, Ken Ball, Second Vice President, Beth Feldkamp, Treasurer, and Pam Hinish, Secretary. Karla Briggs, President, wasn't able to be at this meeting. Mary also announced that Tricia Scott has agreed to be over public relations for the club.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - There was no approval of the June minutes since members only received them today. A thank you card was received from Sarah Hudak. EGC awarded her a \$2000 scholarship and Bootstraps added another \$1000.

Mary provided an update of what the Board has worked on over the summer.

- Incorporation Process – Barbara DeCarpo has volunteered to complete the work on the 501 c3 application! She reported that it is a 15 page application that requires much detail. She asked for a one page description from each committee chair detailing the committee's work.

By laws – the Board approved the by-laws presented by the committee who worked on them last spring. They can be amended at any time in the future. We will ask Liz Alumbaugh (formerly Hamilton) to send them out as an e-mail attachment; you may also contact either Beth or Mary if you would like a copy.

- Seal – our corporate seal has been completed and we should have it for the next meeting.
- Flowers for a Friend sculpture – the Board agreed to have a committee to raise funds (approximately \$25000) to have a life size of the sculpture at the Metro garden. Louise Mounsey needs help in organizing it. Ken Ball did the original small sculpture which EGC presidents keep for their term of office. Karla will be asked to bring it to next month's meeting.

BUDGET REPORT – Beth announced that EGC has \$2644.42 in checking and \$6620.53 in savings. We have no outstanding bills.

Two guests, Penny Lambert and Beth's sister Kathleen from New Zealand, and two new members, Frances McCawley and Susan Jones, were introduced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CHAIRS

- Hospitality – Julaine Kennedy and Bonnie Hisgen – this year's refreshments will be muffins/breads and fruit. The large brunch was getting too complex and time consuming so we are going "green and lean"! A sign-up sheet for bringing the goodies was circulated.
- Publicity – Tricia Scott
- Fire wise Garden – Kathi Grider

Business Membership – Mary DeBaets

- Natural Resources – Marilyn Kaussner – please shred your old membership books as they have identifying information on members; Lee Lambert from Friends of Mount Evans and the Loss Creek Wilderness Area will be providing recycle directories at one of our meetings; on 9/15, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, the Weed Awareness Committee will hold a meeting at the Idaho Springs Community Center.

ON-LINE YEARBOOK – Liz Alumbaugh will be providing the membership book, newsletter, and program schedule on-line. This will eliminate a lot of paper waste and allow for easier updating. If you would like hard copies, please contact any Board member.

WORLD GARDENING – Louise Mounsey and Ginny Cerrillo – donated items to EGC.

COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE

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Over The Garden Fence

I found this delightful article online by Carol who gardens in Indiana in Zone 5. Her blog is at <http://maydreamsgardens.blogspot.com> and she has just written another 15 reasons you might be a gardening geek. Her site is a lot of fun and she invites comments., so here goes.....

You might be a gardening geek if...

1. You get to the grocery store and realize you're wearing a pair of garden clogs instead of regular shoes. Bonus points if you own more than one pair of clogs for gardening.
2. You have at least ten empty clay pots in your garage or shed right now. Bonus points if you always have potting soil on hand, "just in case".
3. You go to baseball games primarily to admire the grass in the outfield. Bonus points if the only version of Monopoly you own is Garden-opoly.
4. Your friends are always telling you, "I was at the hardware store and saw a hoe and thought of you and wondered if you had one like it." Bonus points if you have more than one hoe.
5. You always visit the garden department whenever you go to a store that has one, regardless of why you went to the store in the first place. Bonus points if you visit garden centers in other cities when you are on vacation. And even more bonus points if you've ever helped another customer in a garden center or garden department just because there was no one around to help them.
6. You would consider canceling an overnight business trip because it looks like your night blooming cereus might bloom while you are gone. Bonus points if you have at least one houseplant in a container that measures at least 18 inches across.
7. You purchased your watch from your favorite garden tool company. Bonus points if you have a label pin, brooch, or tie tac that looks like a watering can or other gardening tool.
8. You've spent more than \$10, \$20, \$30 on one trowel. Bonus points if you bought the matching hand cultivator.
9. Your front right jean pocket is frayed on nearly every pair of jeans you own because you wear a clip-on holster to hold your Felco pruners. Bonus points if you have ever realized you were still wearing the holster hours after you had come in from the garden.
10. You own more than one copy of a Rodale book on Organic Gardening. Bonus points if they are just different editions of the same book.



How do you measure up? Give yourself one point for each question that you found yourself nodding and saying "yes, that's me". If you score 1 - 5 points, you're on your way to becoming a true gardening

(Horticulture continued from page 4)

geek; 5 or more points, you are definitely a gardening geek (or is it "garden geek"?)

If you got any of the bonus points, you are automatically a gardening geek, don't deny it!

Still not convinced that you are a gardening geek? Look right now. Do you have grass stains on your pants?

I rest my case.

And no, not all of these apply to me. I've never worn my garden clogs to the grocery store. Really!

Are there any other signs that someone might be a gardening geek? (Other than "you might be a gardening geek if you write a blog post about signs of a gardening geek"?)

*Copyrighted article, printed with permission from the author Carol, September 02, 2007
<http://maydreamsgardens.blogspot.com/2007/09/you-might-be-gardening-geek-if.html>*

Drying & Storing Herbs

How To Dry Herbs

1. Cut healthy branches from your herb plants.
2. Remove any dry or diseased leaves
3. Shake gently to remove and insects.
4. If necessary, rinse with cool water and pat well dry with paper towels. Wet herbs will mold and rot.
5. Remove the lower leaves along the bottom inch or so of the branch.
6. Bundle 4 - 6 branches together and tie as a bunch. You can use string or a rubber band. The bundles will shrink as they dry and the rubber band will loosen, so check periodically they the bundle is not slipping. Make small bundles if you are trying to dry herbs with high water content.
7. Punch or cut several holes in a paper bag. Label the bag with the name of the herb you are drying.
8. Place the herb bundle upside down into the bag.
9. Gather the ends of the bag around the bundle and tie closed. Make sure the herbs are not crowded inside the bag.

10. Hand the bag upside down in a warm, airy room.

11. Check in about two weeks to see how things are progressing. Keep checking weekly until your herbs are dry and ready to store.

Storing Dried Herbs

1. Store your dried herbs in air tight containers. Zip closing bags will do. I like to use small canning jars.
2. Be sure to label and date your containers.
3. Your herbs will retain more flavor is you store the leaves hole and crush them when you are ready to use them.
4. Discard any dried herbs that show the slightest sign of mold.
5. Place containers in a cool, dry place away from sunlight.
6. Dried herbs are best used within a year. As your herbs loose their color, they are also loosing their flavor.
7. Use about 1 teaspoon crumbled dried leaves in place of a tablespoon of fresh

Easy Fall Propagation Techniques

by Michael J. McGroarty

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.



Colorado Blue Spruce
Family: [Pinaceae](#)
Genus: [Picea](#)
Species: *P. pungens*

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Easy Fall Propagation Techniques cont....

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 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.



Cotoneaster
Family: [Rosaceae](#)
Subfamily: [Maloideae](#)
Genus: *Cotoneaster*



Juniper
Family: [Cupressaceae](#)
Genus: *Juniperus*

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>. If you use this article the above two links must be active.

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Evergreen Garden Club
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Evergreen Garden Center Upcoming Events

October 13, 2007 10AM

Houseplant Q & A

Kim Kirkgaard, resident houseplant expert will have all the answers to all the questions that your houseplants always wanted to know but were too afraid to ask.

October 20, 2007 1PM

Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater Contest

Bring in your favorite "pumpkin" anything recipe to be judged by some of the area's finest food critics: Sheri Finn, Owner of Country Road Café; Geno Accetta, Exec Chef at Mandolina's & Carsten Vollraff, Exec Chef at Bistro Blue. A \$50.00 Evergreen Garden Center gift certificate will be awarded to the "yummiest" entry.

October 27, 2007 Happy Trick or Treating Day

10AM Fall Pumpkin Decorating with Marion Buds
Ages 4 and up. Parent must accompany children under 8
Class Fee: \$5.00 Pumpkin provided

11AM Scarecrow Making with Charlotte Gotteib
Ages 10 and up.
Class Fee: \$5.00

1PM Ghostly Treats with Arlene Fitterer
All ages. Parent must accompany children under 6

Please call 303.674.2146 to register for classes and the Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater Contest