



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 19 November 2007

A Word from the President...

Here are Karla's rules for using horse manure:

1. Know your source. Make sure that the manure comes from horses that are being fed quality hay, because what goes in comes out.

2. Use manure that is not mixed with bedding materials. The addition of straw or wood shavings will leach the nitrogen out of the manure and requires a much longer period of time to decompose.

3. Use manure that is well composted. The smell test is the first indication of well composted manure, it should smell like soil and not you know what. If it passes the smell test, the feel test is next: it should be crumbly and break apart easily.

4. There is no exact science to using horse manure. The amount applied depends on the situation. For a new garden bed, I recommend adding a lot, rototilling and letting the bed sit for a season and rototilling again before planting. For an existing garden bed, add composted manure to top dress in the fall, in the spring incorporate into the soil.

5. Reapply every year. In the fall, I cut back the perennial gardens, weed one last time before winter, remove any dead or diseased plants or debris and put a layer of composted manure on every thing. In the spring, I till the manure in around the plants. In the vegetable garden, I thoroughly clean out all of the annual plants and put a layer of composted manure on top of the clean, raked soil. In the spring, I rototill the manure into the soil before planting.

6. Use composted manure on individual plants such as trees or shrubs. I toss a shovel full or two around the base of all the trees and shrubs, especially the roses and new fall plantings. Because of the voles be sure to keep the compost away from the base of the plant about five or six inches.

(Continued on pg. 2)

Inside this issue:

- Club News..... 2
- Minutes 3
- Garden Fence..... 4
- Horticulture..... 6

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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

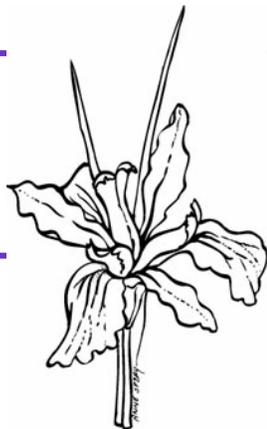
Great Botanic Gardens of the World

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.

Meeting will be at 9:30am
Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway.

****Please bring your plants and contributions for the World Gardening Table. We will also have books for sale from Joan's collection. See you there!**

Meetings will be cancelled if Jefferson County Mountain Schools are closed. This will eliminate any confusion or last minute communications



Garden Club News



A scoop of appreciate to our October hospitality members
Ruth Alford Pam Hinish Vivian Michels Pat Powers Tina Kellogg

A reminder to November's hospitality members.

Irma Wolf Tricia Scott Karen MacFarquhar Claudine Pardi Carolyn Tashdjian

We will have coffee ready to serve at 9:30 am.

Bring a tray of 3 dozen finger foods (cookies, bars, muffins or donuts) ready to set out on the hospitality table.

Please contact Julaine to reserve for December's meeting.

Hospitality Committee: Bonnie Hisgen 303-816-7454 Julaine Kennedy 303-674-6440

Irma Wolf thanks everyone who worked in the community gardens on October 9th.

(Continued from Pres. Message pg. 1)

Following these rules is only one way of using composted manure. Talk with any old gardener for additional ideas. I must at this time provide an alternative view point regarding the use of horse manure. Some gardeners are wary of the potential for weed seeds being spread around with the manure. There is no guarantee that the manure is weed free. I have conducted my own weed trials using composted manure versus bagged compost I purchased from a garden center. Using the manure from my own horses and chickens the results were nearly identical. I applied the manure and bagged compost on separate garden sites in the fall, incorporated it into the soil and let it sit all winter. In the spring I allowed time for any weeds to sprout and grow so I could identify them. The kinds of weeds that came up were nearly all native to my gardening site, so I am assuming they were in the soil and not the compost. There were no more weeds in the manure site than were in the bagged compost site. This is only my experience and using my manure, well not MY manure; you know what I mean.

Managing the noxious weeds in our area is an important part of gardening. Knowing the feed sources of the animals goes a long way toward preventing an infestation of noxious weeds. Horses that are pastured or fed with hay grown in locations that are not managed for weeds can produce manure that contains noxious weed seeds. Manure that is not composted properly can allow those weed seeds to survive the composting process.

The composted manure I use is a combination of horse and chicken. I have gardening friends that use rabbit manure and have good results. I don't recommend using cow manure because sometimes the cows feed is salted.

I have girl and boy manure customers, and an interesting phenomenon is taking place with the boy customers. They have started using the manure on their house plants. They rave about the growth and blooms on the plants and don't seem to mind the manure being in the house. The guys swear there is no odor from the fertilizer but they are guys...

Well, that is what happens when you allow me to work in a public garden. The public asks questions about the load in my pickup truck and the next thing you know the president's message is a load of manure.

Happy Gardening
Karla

Minutes of the October 9th, 2007 Meeting

Our meeting started at 11:30 am after we had worked on all of our public gardens. While we had our bag lunch and other goodies brought by members, we listened to our speaker.

Our speaker was Lee Lambert, Executive Director for Mount Evans & Lost Creek Wilderness. Ms. Lambert discussed and had a slide show showing the problems of weeds invading our wilderness areas. She discussed how they remove the weeds and try to control their spreading. Great slides- and she had great recommendations on hikes and fall color. For Wildflower viewing she suggested Echo Lake to Chicago Lakes visit in July. For Lost Creek area visit in late June for great flowers.

Our business meeting started immediately following our speaker. Karla Briggs led the meeting. Our balances for our Checking account \$2886.97 our saving balance was \$ 6620.59. Karla and Ken Ball were present from the board.

Karla asked for any questions concerning our on-line yearbook reminding our members to keep it secure – not to pass along any personal information from it.

Wild Iris -Karla asked for more “Over the Garden Fence” articles from our club. Karla does Our President’s message and Julianne writes other garden articles.

We had reports from our Community Gardens- all gardens were doing well.

Hiwan- Wonderful-Elk damage helped for cleanup. Needs mulch.

Library-leaving the grasses and shrubs. Could use another couple of hours of work..

Dam Garden-needs more work done. Peggy and Dale were not able to come but had passed on the word that some areas need to have plastic put over the weeds.

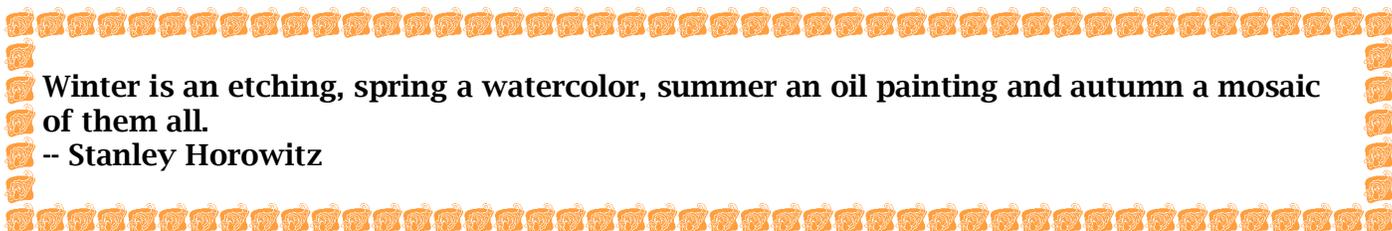
Post Office-Trash problems as usual. Will need more help at a later date.

Firewise Garden-Has some areas that need to be re-done and handled. We need a crew to come back and apply some manure at a later date. Ken Ball discussed a watering plan with the Fire Hall.

Traffic Circle- Good shape finished.

It was discussed about our next months meeting with Payayoti Kelaidis as speaker that we want to open it up to the public and are asking members to bring guests. Because of limited space we may ask for people to RSVP.

Meeting ended at 1:30 pm.
Attendees 30



Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.
-- Stanley Horowitz



Over The Garden Fence *By Tricia Scott*

With the winter looming on the horizon it is a great time to access what needs to be done for next year in the garden and get some of the jobs done that we should all do ... but sometimes do not get to. Throw an extra bucket full of compost on your beds and a bit of mulch as well before saying goodnight to them. I try to gather up all my garden gloves and give them a hand washing. Another thing that is great to do is to gather all your hand tools up and polish them up and coat them with a bit of oil to keep rust away. I know a few gardeners that set up a bucket with sand mixed with oil to put their tools into blade down. I put away all yard tools and get the snow shovels out and ready to do their job. This year I have extra incentive to put anything away that I am not using... a puppy! Sophie is a terror and way too smart for my own good! She really LOVES tool handles. Those lovely wooden handles are delicious bonus for her- sucks for me.

Speaking of snow- when I clear snow I really try to aim my full snow shovel towards my garden beds to give them the moisture and not my driveway. It seems like such a small thing but it really helps those beds. Also great way to cover up an untidy winter mess. My garden this year received more damage than usual (See above for reason!) many plants were flattened or chewed. Sophie's special treat to me was putting her head through the cat door and dropping the chewed bits of my plants on the carpet below for me to examine. I regress... back to solutions for my garden. My husband Malcolm is going to put up an electric fence around my garden beds and the greenhouse. (I forgot to mention that Sophie ate the hose lead to my drip system for the greenhouse.) It will make my gardens free of damage from a particular puppy and perhaps save what is left of my garden. Hope I remember to turn it off when I get in to tidy the beds up.

This time of year I love to settle back by my fire and look very carefully at incoming seed catalogs, garden tool catalogs and plant catalogs. I am not sure if I could live somewhere that I needed to care for a garden year round. The change of seasons and the rest we get that coordinates with our plants resting up for another year of bloom suits me fine.

I hope all of you enjoy your rest from your garden and get a chance to plot and scheme out your next year's garden plans.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!



May your stuffing be tasty
 May your turkey plump,
 May your potatoes and gravy
 have nary a lump.
 May your yams be delicious
 and your pies take the prize,
 and may your Thanksgiving dinner
 stay off your thighs!
 -- Author Unknown

Tina M. Kellogg
Tina@GivenTrees.com

Yes, the white stuff is finally falling here, about three inches so far, and it's just ten a.m. Hopefully there is more to come! I tend to get pretty weepy around the first snow. There's an old Dan Fogelberg tune with a line about the rain turning to snow, that makes me wax nostalgia, but not this year, it's more like relief, relief that the outdoor gardens have completed their cycle. Finally, I can put the shovel down, put away the hoses, and send those dang ole kneepads to the highest shelf in the shed. Finally I can quit beating myself up for not getting more done, not getting those over burgeoning lilies and irises separated and moved. For now, it's time to chill out, no pun intended. My poor house, she never gets the spring-cleaning most other's do. She has to wait...wait until the thoughts of being locked up in this mess for the winter threatens me into action. Now I can get to all those digital photo's I took for the web site, a couple hundred, they're waiting too. Well so much for that long winter's nap, not gonna happen this year.

Along with all the other things put on hold, now is the time to tend to my inner garden. And yes, being that it's been so long, there's a lot of weeding to do. Now it's time to destroy the deeply rooted, thorny weeds and pull the unwanted grasses that continually grow in, blurring my boundaries. Defining more clearly, clean wholesome boundaries as to my purpose and my life's work. What will this new independent garden of mine look like? What kinds of perennials will grow here? What annuals do I fancy *this* year? Can I harvest their seeds for the next season? What amendments do I need to add? Is there enough love and enough patients? You can never add too much gratitude, it disseminates very well in the soils of this garden. Faith, now there's an integral part of my garden, the knowing that these things I plant will grow, and also the knowing that if they don't, in their passing they will leave room for something else, perhaps something better. (Isn't that how we ask, "This or something better?") And, even though this new garden of mine will be fiercely independent, from time to time, I will need to bring in outside reinforcement to add to this already fertile ground. While the garden I build will be self sufficient, there is always room for outsider's friendly inputs. In fact, in the early stages of this independence I suspect I will need more of this support than ever before. But I welcome the opportunity to find myself in this garden, to truly know this inner garden of mine. She'll stand alone, but never lonely, without the needing of others to need, without the sacrifice one only *thinks* they need to make. I am excited about the prospects of this winter's inner garden.

Ah the garden, such a metaphor for life, no matter the situation I can always find a reference in the garden.

"No woman knows herself who has not entered the birth canal of her life—who has not faced the fault lines in the first conditioning that molded her into herself. She who breaks the mold breaks the silences and learns the strength of her own voice."

Delores S. Williams

HORTICULTURE

Winter Gardening with Healthy Indoor Plants

Choosing the right interior plant for a specific space makes all the difference. Just like our exterior landscapes we need a plan that will be compatible with our interior environment. Light intensity, dry air, cold or hot spots and drafts can turn off a lovely poinsettia in a couple of days. Place a cut 15' spruce tree in the west window (it looks so perfect with the view of the beautiful snow covered mountain peaks behind it) and watch its needles quickly pile up on the carpet.

Here are some quick and clean suggestions for picking and promoting healthy interior plants.

Light: Most interior plants originate from tropical or arid regions, much different than any of our homes. First look for plants that will be happy with your home's natural and artificial light conditions. Don't rely on the tag's recommendations until you have mastered in high altitude interiorscape! Cactus and succulents love our dry sunny south/southwest windows. Flowering and other plants with tags that recommend full sun probably will do better with morning to mid day sun. The higher your elevation the better it is to modify full sun locations. North to east interior areas as well or away from the windows (tables, hanging plants etc.) will suit shade loving plants. Insert a plant light bulb in a recessed ceiling fixture for part shade flowering or colorful foliage plants, ex: african violet, begonia, polka dot plant dieffenbachia prayer plant. Purchase locally or cozy-up to someone who has success with lots of house plants in their mountain top homes.

Humidity / Watering: Our homes are not greenhouses and if they were we wouldn't want 80% or more humidity. Many popular interior flowering plants will appreciate misting, pebble trays filled with water & all require good air circulation. Plants that have similar needs can be grouped together to increase humidity and provide a natural look. Use a moisture meter probe, especially with new plants. Probe deep into the pot's soil on all sides to check for moisture. When you do water, be sure the water saturates all the soil. Allow the soil's moisture content to reach a 2 or 3 on the meter. Plants benefit from short periods of drier soil to allow for oxygen in the soil.

Pinching/ Cleaning: Vining plants, ex: most herbs, ivies, peperomia, Fatsia japonica & hoyo will benefit from removing the growing tip(s). Pinch it out to produce two stems that will produce a bushier plant. We do the same thing in the garden by giving a flowering plant a haircut. ex: Cat-mints, daisies, etc. After the first flush of bloom a haircut will clean up a floppy plant and produce a second bloom. Deep water and fertilize. We probably could call this the plant's spa treatment. This brings us to a plant care task that is often overlooked. All plants produce oxygen through their leaves, a benefit to us. Plant leaves also gather grease and dust from the air and when they become grimy like the top of the refrigerator and book shelves they aren't happy campers. Treat a live plant like a plastic one and expect it to look like a dead plant.



(Continued on pg. 7)

(continued from Horticulture pg 6)

The classic example is a ficus tree, a wonderful specimen to bring the outdoors in to the living area. At our elevation it needs a warm to cool location with bright light and no drafts. So east to south exposure works best as long as it's not parked near a heat vent. Or set in further in the room where it receives light from a north to east skylight. At least once a year take in outside and hose the leaves off. So it's winter...invite helpers for coffee. Tote it to the shower stall, secure plastic to the top of the pot (less dirt lost down the drain). Hose under and over the leaves to release dirt, grime and possibly spider mites that have magically appeared due to the plant's condition.

Maybe you can get by with a spritz bath. Lay newspapers around the pot to catch the water drips. Fill a spray bottle with water and drip or two of dish detergent. Fold newspaper sheets (several layers) into fans. Hold the newspaper fan behind a section of leaves and spray under/over the leaves. Repeat from top to bottom including the trunk.

Fertilization/Disease/Insect Control: Fertilize plants during their active growing period or fertilizer with every watering at half strength. I prefer to apply a bloom (higher middle number) formula to stimulate the bloom stage. Then during a rest period switch to a grow (higher first number) formula to provide healthy green growth and stem development. Every 4-6 weeks use Kelp (all three numbers are very low).

Cactus will thrive on regular use of Kelp fertilizer. Switch to a bloom formula to promote bloom. Orchids perform well with kelp-based fertilizers. Just remember to switch formulas for the bloom and rest period. All plants benefit kelp solutions applied to the leaves or drenched in the soil. When a plant is under stress from environmental problems (insect/disease, under watering, overwatering, dry indoor climate, too hot or too cold). Check out the plant for signs of its problems. Here are a few obvious reasons for a plant to need special help:

- brown spots or dry brown edges on leaves
- shriveled or black leaves
- suddenly lots of leaves dropping
- webbing anywhere on the plant (often on the new growth)
- sticky sap on the leaves, your leather sofa and the piano
- interior leaves yellow
- exterior leaves yellow
- white fluffy cotton -like masses in leaf axils
- honey dew and tiny white moth like insects on the underside of leaves
- powdery white patches on leaves

Plant experts know that most plant problems are due to environmental causes such as listed above. Check over your plants often. Catch the problem before it shows up full blown. When a plant is healthy, in the right place and according to the plant's needs it will remain healthy. Introduce a sick plant, hot or cold drafts, and cold winter floor location, hot and dry all day sun area, cold wet soil for extended periods it will need a change. Determine the real cause for decline in health. Use insecticides as a last resort.

We are so lucky to have great floral shops and garden centers nearby. Check out Evergreen Garden Club's business sponsors listed on the club's website. Their staff is trained to help you be successful.

Julaine Kennedy

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



Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events www.denverbotanicgardens.org

Denver Botanic Gardens' 44th Annual Holiday Sale will start this year's exciting holiday season with a wide variety of distinctive and handcrafted gifts that you won't find at traditional shopping centers. Items for sale include custom artwork, hand-knit clothing, handmade bags, natural skin and bath products, gourmet foods, jewelry, folk art paintings and much more. Additionally, Denver Botanic Gardens' Guild will offer their popular assortment of dried flower arrangements, antiques, and the always-requested gourmet herbal vinegars. These vinegars are made from herbs cut here at the Gardens. Admission to the Gardens is free during this event.

Dates: Fri., Nov. 16 - Sun., Nov. 18, 2007

Admission: Free

Members receive 10% off all gift purchases.

Times: Fri., Nov. 16 8-9 a.m. Member-Only Shopping Hour 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Open to the Public

Sat., Nov. 17 8-9 a.m. Member-Only Shopping Hour

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to the Public Sun., Nov. 18 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to the Public

Parking: Free The Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory and El Pomar Room will be closed Thurs., Nov. 15 - Sun., Nov. 18 for the Holiday Sale.

Please e-mail our Special Events Department at specialevents@botanicgardens.org with questions.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Gardens' annual Holiday Sale, please call the volunteer office at 720-865-3565.