



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 18 November 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](mailto:EGCBeth@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Contributions** are due by the 20th of each month to [Liz.Hamilton@Liz@Maia-Consulting.com](mailto:Liz.Hamilton@Liz@Maia-Consulting.com)

**Newsletter Editor & Website**  
[Evergreengardenclub.org](http://Evergreengardenclub.org)

#### TWO GERMAN GARDENS

The late Christopher Lloyd writes, "Plants exotic, by definition, are not of the place we garden. They have the capacity to transport us to somewhere unfamiliar and flamboyant". That is exactly how I felt while watching and listening to Panayoti's presentation at the November meeting. I was transported to the exotic locations he had visited and I didn't have to go through security at DIA. His program reminded me of my own travels this summer to Germany and the gardens and gardeners I met and fell in love with.



My first observation of Germany was that the entire country IS a garden. From the impeccably manicured countryside, the overflowing window boxes that adorn the finest hotels to the lowliest of barns, and the lovingly tended gardens of guesthouses and private homes, there was no place we traveled where a garden did not exist. But there were two special gardens in Germany where I left my heart; one was the Schwetzingen Castle Garden in Schwetzingen very near Heidelberg.

The Schwetzingen is a recently restored Rococo-era garden that is a wonderful example of the commitment of the Germans to public landscape. The garden is so vast one could spend a lifetime exploring and enjoying all that it has to offer. A garden as old and historic as this one has layers of transformation and stories of evolution. As you enter through the middle building you are standing at the entrance of a formal French Garden in the Baroque style with all of its breathtaking symmetry. The main path pulls you west toward the very center of the entire garden. On every side there are fountains and sculptures acquired by kings and beyond the open landscape lies the closed landscape filled with trees and hedges, acres of emerald green grass, lakes and ponds, bridges and buildings--oh my gosh, the buildings. There is a Turkish Mosque and Greek Temples and groves dedicated to the Greek gods. There is a bath house, an observatory, an orangerie, a temple of Botany and a recreated ruin of a Roman waterway. Amid all of this grandeur, plantings of trees, shrubs and English border gardens filled with jewel-toned

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

### *December 11, 2007 Annual Member Party*

Come join the fun and celebrate the season with your fellow gardeners! The gathering will be informal and give us an opportunity to have a show and tell. Bring a story or question from the garden to share, any pictures are always welcome, feel free to brag about any successes or rant about any disasters. The collective experience and knowledge of

our intrepid little group should be enough to answer any questions or solve any problems you might have.

**Meeting starts at 9:30am**  
**\*\*Please bring your plants and contributions for the World Gardening Table. See you there!**

# Garden Club News

*Welcome Returning Members: Paul Luzetski, Stan & Liz Barrett, Dwight Gilliland*

## Evergreen Garden Club Hospitality Bites

**Holiday Party Potluck December 11, 2007 9:30 am**  
**yummy food, door prizes, conversation unlimited and much more!!**  
 Oh, what fun it is to see a table top of specially prepared dishes from our membership.

*December's hospitality members* (many of you signed up at the November meeting) for the rest of the members... please bring a dish for the Buffet Table  
 Your favorite holiday breakfast dish, fruits, breads, holiday desserts  
**Please bring your dish ready to serve.** Coffee, punch, plates and utensils will be provided.

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

## Forest Heights Lodge

Evergreen Garden Club has enjoyed a Christmas celebration for over 30 years with the boys from Forest Heights Lodge. Forest Heights Lodge is a Residential Treatment Center for boys, (approximately ages 8-14). Each year in December, several members of Garden Club go to FHL for a Christmas party. We bring a plant for each boy and a large cookie for each of them and the staff. Generally, we bring a cactus plant, because shortly after we are there, many of the boys go home for Christmas, so they need a plant that can survive for a while without much care (if any). At the party, we talk about whatever plants we bring and leave them an information sheet on how to take care of them. The boys are usually at FHL for 2-3 years, so often, several of the boys will bring plants to the party that they had received in a prior year to show us. Last year we talked about grafting, and actually grafted 3 different types of cacti together. It will be interesting to see how it did. One of the boys took on the tasks of taking care of it. These are bright, inquisitive kids who love to learn – and share lots of information with us as well. It is a delight to share our love of plants with them. We are taking them a variety of succulents and cacti this year.

**The party is Dec. 11th at 3pm.**

**Thank you to the "Big" cookie bakers: Sandee Ball 303-403-1434,  
 Juanita Zellner 303-679-1996, Lucille Nelson 303-674-4148,  
 Carolyn Taschdjian 303-668-6932, Sharon Eaves 303-674-0434,  
 Lynn Dimmick 303-670-0108 and Liz Barrett 303-816-1092.**

**The boys really look forward to this so, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Peggy and Dale 303-674-4759 [dmfetche@juno.com](mailto:dmfetche@juno.com).**

# Minutes of the November 13th, 2007 Meeting

Karla Briggs called the meeting to order at 11:00 after the program presentation by Panayoti Kelaidis.

WELCOME: Karla welcomed all members and introduced guest and past president, Anne Spery.

SECRETARY REPORT: Pam Hinish reported on correspondence received. Minutes were approved with the correction on the spelling of Jo Powers' name.

TREASURER REPORT: Beth Feldkamp presented the proposed budget in the new one page format. The budget year runs from September '07 to September '08. Jo Powers asked if the amount for the scholarship could be increased. This was not possible since this is paid in '07 and we had no fund raiser. The budget was approved. Please let Beth know of any expected expenses. A check for \$308.76 was sent to World's Children, Inc. for World Gardening.

501c3 APPLICATION UPDATE: Barbara DeCaro will have the completed application for the Board's review and approval at their December meeting. It will then go to Fred Wells for a final review before submitting. Karla thanked Barbara for all her work on this.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE: Beth and Liz Hamilton Alumbaugh are working on streamlining processes. Jeri Dufford will be working with Beth on the Wild Iris. Chris Gray and Lorna Chorn also volunteered to assist.

FOREST HEIGHTS HOLIDAY PROGRAM: Forest Heights is a residential treatment program for boys with emotional and mental difficulties. EGC has a long standing tradition of providing a holiday program for the residents of Forest Heights, providing plants and BIG cookies (each boy is only allowed one cookie). Peggy and Dale Fetchenheir organize the program and this year's will be on December 11 at 3:00 (after the Dec. EGC general meeting). A sign-up sheet was circulated for cookie bakers.

COMMUNITY GARDENS: Kathi Grider reported that the Fire Wise group is spreading manure on the garden after today's meeting and invited anyone interested to help.

WORLD GARDENING UPDATE: Ginny Cerrillo explained that the World's Children organization funds orphanages throughout the world. A table is provided at meetings for members to donate plants and gardening related items. Members are encouraged to take items they like and leave an appropriate financial donation.

A table of gardening books that belonged to Joan Reynolds was donated by her husband Rich. Members were asked to take any and leave a donation for the club.

THANK YOU to Karen MacFarquhar for the great members name tags! Please let her know if you need one.

DECEMBER MEETING: The December 11th meeting will be a potluck. A sign-up sheet was distributed.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Hinish

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Last year we donated food and sundries to the Evergreen Christian Outreach food bank. I hope we can do this again this year. Last year, little baby Charlotte was about to make her appearance and I missed the Christmas party! Margorie Clinton (I think) graciously took the food to EChO. This year, there are no new babies, so I should be able to truck the food over to the food bank at the Church of the Transfiguration. The TOPS group I belong to has challenged itself to donate 500 lbs of food by Christmas!

This year is especially important as the food bank in Evergreen as well as those in Denver are at the lowest they have been in 7 years, as we were told by an EChO representative. Last year, I know they wanted ham for Christmas--they can take fresh ham, as they have refrigeration as well as a freezer.

Linda (See the Echo latest needs list pg.4)

*(Continued from Pres. Message pg.1)*

flowers are woven in. The entire garden is in harmony, it is as if each designer and gardener took the others' hands and held onto them as they created their own work. Usually when I drag Tupper through a huge public garden he keeps up for about the first 30 minutes and then finds a bench in a shady spot to sit with my purse and take a nap. But that was not the case with Schwetzingen. He kept up every step of the way, even when I stopped to talk baby talk to the swans and geese. We visited the garden in the fall and it was lovely. If I am ever fortunate enough to visit again I would like to go in the spring to see the garden when it is just waking up.

The second German garden that holds my heart is at the home of Birgit Guebert in Butzbach. Birgit lives on the middle level of a three story home, her bachelor brother occupies the top level and her son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons live on the lower garden walkout level. The family shares the garden and its care. There is a grassy area for kicking around a soccer ball, an area to grow vegetables, an area for the roses and perennials and shrubs and trees sprinkled about. There are tables and chairs for people to gather and drink beer, Erdinger being the house favorite, and laugh and talk into the night. Whether you enter from the house or the side gate the moment you are standing in the garden you know it is a loved place, an outside room where the family and their friends love to be. There is no formality of design in this garden, just comfortable walkways that lead you through the well-tended plantings, to the small greenhouse and the football watching room. Everything a person could want from a garden is there and if I am ever fortunate enough to visit that garden again I would go any time--it was that lovely.

Here at home, winter has arrived. A layer of snow covers the gardens and the annual icicle is starting to grow on the greenhouse gutter. Along with my fall application of manure on the vegetable garden, I added some leaf mold worked into the soil around the Rhubarb plants. I mention this because the Rhubarb plants are from Louise Mounsey's garden and the leaf mold came from Joan Reynolds. This summer when Beth, Trish and I were helping Rich go through and clean out Joan's vast collection of garden pots and paraphernalia, we discovered two unmarked buckets whose contents were a bit scary at first. Upon closer examination we determined we were looking at leaf mold and I brought it home, stuck it in the greenhouse and promptly forgot about it until it called to me one day and I decided that Louise's Rhubarb plants were the perfect recipient of such a valuable gift. Louise and Joan were the best of friends and gardeners, so I continued the tradition of their gardening together. I did a little research on leaf mold and here is what I learned: leaf mold adds nutrients to the soil and it is used as a mulch or compost. You can make your own leaf mold with fallen leaves; make sure the leaves are not from trees that have been sprayed with any insecticides. Leaf mold takes about a year to break down, but if you run a mower over the leaves before you gather them up you can cut the time down to about six months. A chicken wire bin makes a good leaf mold container, although in our arid climate you might need to add some water to keep the leaves wet during the decomposing process. I don't know where Joan collected her leaves or how long they had been stored before I got them, but I do know that they smelled like soil and were aged to perfection.

I look forward to our December potluck party. The gathering will be informal and give us an opportunity to have a show and tell. Bring a story or question from the garden to share, any pictures are always welcome, feel free to brag about any successes or rant about any disasters. The collective experience and knowledge of our intrepid little group should be enough to answer any questions or solve any problems you might have.

I just received my first seed catalog in the mail, so I must go and begin dreaming of garden 2008!

Peace,  
Karla

## **EVERGREEN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

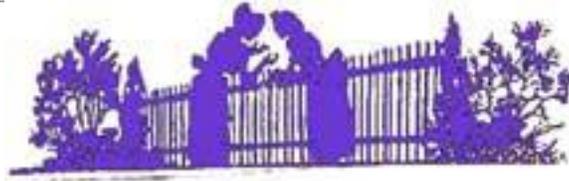
### **FOOD ITEMS**

SUGAR	COLD CEREAL	MAYONNAISE	COFFEE	CHILI BEANS	SPAGHETTIOS
CAN CORN	JELLYPOPCORN	PINTO BEANS	TOMATOES		KIDS SNACKS
CAN RAVIOLI	CRACKERS	TUNA HELPER	CAN CHILI		SALAD DRESSING
KETCHUP	CAN FRUIT	SOUP (Not Tomato)	CAKE MIXES		REFRIED BEANS
POTATOES	PASTA RONI	KIDNEY BEANS	JUICE		HAMBURGER HELPER
SPAGHETTI	CAN STEW	HOT COCOA	GREEN BEANS		TUNA

### **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

TOILET PAPER	TOOTHPASTE	SHAMPOO	PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS	TOOTH BRUSHES
DEPENDS (MED SIZE)	BAR SOAP	LAUNDRY SOAP	DISH SOAP	OTHER ITEMS NEEDED
LL BEDDING	TOASTERS	MENS' WORK CLOTHES	WINTER COATS	
TOWELS	COOKWARE (ALL SIZES)	BOYS CLOTHES		

**FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CALL 303-670-1796**



## Over The Garden Fence *By Julaine Kennedy*

### ***By Chance Have You Read Any Of These?***



Books, is there anyone who can have enough of them? So you have enough...no room for even one? Give a book gift to someone less fortunate than you or just hop on over to the library and borrow one from the list!!! This assortment covers several garden, Christmas and garden related titles. I hope you find it to be irresistible!!!

**Best-Tasting Wild Plants of Colorado and the Rockies, Cattail Bob Seebeck, 1998.** Westcliffe Publishers.com. Great photos, detailed information including altitude, other names, time it is available, how to use, nutrition, recipes and a poisonous plant

section. And on the front cover you will see a photo of Squaw Paint, (*Chenopodium capitatum*, *C. overi*) also known as Strawberry Blite. You can harvest some of this raspberry-like fruit at the post office gardens during July and August.

**Gardening with Altitude, Cultivating a New Western Style, Holly Shrewsbury, 2006, Denver Botanic Gardens.** Ah, there must be room for this book in every gardener's library. Keep this one by your chair or nightstand for flower viewing indulgences during the winter. If you haven't discovered Mount Goliath, Tale of the Tundra beginning on page 48 will open your senses to a gem in our backyard.

**Guide to Birding Hot Spots in the United States, Mel White and Paul Lehman, National Geographic Society, 2006.** This guide is for traveling birdwatchers as well as those of us who stay home and travel by the book! Organized by the state with places, maps, phone numbers websites to make your trip the best. Congratulations to our member and long time friend Sylvia Brockner honored for her contributions to natural resources and conservation. Thank you, Sylvia for sharing so much about our own backyard.

**Living Green, a practical guide to simple sustainability, Gregory T. Horn, Freedom Press, 2006.** There is a lot out there about sustainability and this is a book of simple steps for caring for our world and all that inhabit it. It's an easy read for anyone with good advice and solutions to put into practice.

**Meet the Natives, A beginner's Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, Trees, and Shrubs, M. Walter Pesman, 10th Edition, Robert's Rinehart Publishers, 2002.** This guide is for the amateur plant lover... one of the first Colorado plant guides I acquired after moving to Colorado. Set up by life zones (where the plant lives) then by type of plant, and then by color and bloom time) it will help you learn how to id plants. This edition includes color plates of water color paintings. This is a great resource book to pack along when hiking Mount Goliath.

**The New Green Christmas, how to make this and every holiday an environmental celebration, The Evergreen Alliance, Hallo Books, 1991.** A bit of Christmas history, projects, gifts to make and wrap up, community events, party ideas and lots more. It's a fun book to explore and gain new ways to celebrate and while reducing the season's impact on the environment.

**The Origins of Fruit & Vegetables, Jonathan Roberts, Universe Publishing, 2001.** Curl up in your easy chair with a cup of tea. Between the covers of this book you will find historical information surrounded by illustrations, historical maps, illuminated manuscripts, botanical illustrations, contemporary photography and much more. This is a wonderful gift for an artist or gardener.

**Rocky Mountain Christmas, yuletide stories of the west 2nd Edition, Jonathon Monnett, Pruett Publishing Company, 1999.** Stories about Rocky Mountain Christmas during the early years will be enjoyed by all ages. Suggestion: Gather a few together and read out loud the short stories that provide a glimpse of cold winters and Christmas celebration in the Rockies. Photographs bring reality to the reader; and for the historian there is a good bibliography at the back of the book.

**Yule, a celebration of Light & Warmth, Dorothy Morrison, Llewellyn Publications, 2000.** Celebrate winter solstice, festivals and Christmas with ideas from this book. Morrison presents holiday lore from around the world to help you plan for family gatherings and holiday parties.

# HORTICULTURE

## Unique Holiday Gift Idea

Looking for a garden-related gift that will not require a trip to the mall? Build a terrarium with a glass container that is probably right in your own home. Here's a few suggestion to get you started: Fish bowl, vase, jars, cookie jar, wine bottle, candy jar, Plexiglas jar or box, brandy snifter or juice pitcher provide a great home for plants.

Terrariums were first discovered around 500 B.C. in Greece. Small glass gardens were decorated for the annual festival of Adonis, a beautiful child and loved by the goddesses Aphrodite and Persephone. He was killed by a boar while being cared for by Persephone. Aphrodite pleaded with Zeus to resurrect Adonis and send him to her for safe care. Zeus decreed that Adonis should spend the winter months with Persephone in Hades and the summer months with Aphrodite. The story of his death and resurrection is symbolic of the natural cycle of death and rebirth. You can read the whole story of this young man in any Greek mythology book. Adonis is also the genus of annual and perennial herbs (Buttercup)...just had to give credence to this horticultural article!!!

Your landscape under glass can represent a tropical jungle, a desert, fantasy garden or woodland. Choose sun loving or shade plants and provide the right type of soil for the plant. All plants in one container need to have the same growing conditions.

- \*warm, intermediate or cool temperatures
- \* natural light, low light, medium light or high light
- \* dry or moist air
- \*some tropical plants may require a glass cover, ex. Venus fly trap, baby tears, pitcher plant



Available at garden centers: horticultural charcoal, gravel, sand and potting soil

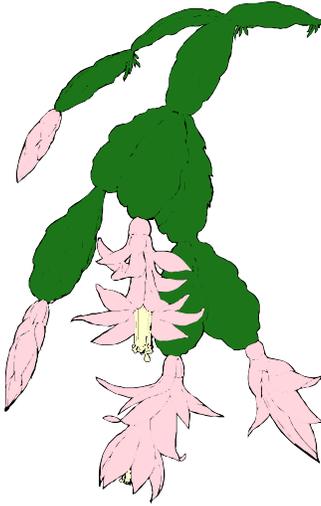
Tools: Large-necked funnel, dowels, fondue forks, long handled tweezer-like tool, drinking straws, mister bottle, artist's brush, scissors, tiny pieces of sponge & paper towel... easy stuff to find at home.

Purchase small (2"pots) plants to allow for future plant growth. Small glass gardens may only require one plant. Use ¼ strength fertilizer. So it's too much to do for Christmas; think ahead to Valentine's Day, or just because. Need a little more inspiration? Check out the following sources.

Patterns for Terrariums and Planters: Design for 30 Complete Project  
The Terrarium Book, Evans and Pliner, Random House, 1973. Call me, I'd love to share my copy.

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/victorygarden/grow/primers\\_projects/terrarium/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/victorygarden/grow/primers_projects/terrarium/index.html)

## Grandma's 87th Birthday ~ December 5th, 1995



I can't imagine how it would be not to remember holidays at the grandparents. Large gatherings with lots of relatives and those near and dear, related by time-honored friendships. Above the memories of the smells of love in a holiday kitchen, I remember my Grandma's Christmas cactus. It was drenched with the most exotic blooms this five-year-old had ever seen. Somehow, magically, I always thought, every Christmas season it was like this, literally drenched with bloom. Bright pink does not begin to describe the color or feeling. I thought it a strange time of year to see a plant flowers; when I asked why the plant bloomed in the winter, Grandma smiled and said it was because of all the love we spread around during the holidays. I had no idea just how much Grandma Coverts' cactus would grow to metaphor my own early years of growing pains.

I've spent many a fine moment reflecting on this story, but only in my heart and head. Please indulge me while I wish my Grandma a happy birthday and tell you the abbreviated version.

I first spied this cactus plant at Grandma and Grandpa Covert's house in Round Lake Illinois. I spent the first six months of life there along with many more happy visits and holidays through out the best parts of my life, through my early twenties. Of course, in the later years, Grandma spent more time at our house, "what with kids to raise, a farm to keep and all those veggies to bring in," you would always find her where she was needed. I've yet to meet a woman who could accomplish more in a single day. A few years after Grandpa passed on, Grandma sold the lake cottage; I remember thinking things would never be the same. Those thoughts vanished the following year when I saw again, or still, the Christmas cactus. "Yup, this is Grandma's!" Even though the kitchen was much smaller, more efficient, the smells of holiday cooking were the same.

Imagine my heartbreak one year when I arrived at Grandma's back gate to see the cactus out on the porch practically demolished, in pieces. She must have seen the horror on my face, but laughed, "It's just a plant honey! It's past its prime and the pot is way too heavy for me to carry around." She nodded her head in the other direction showing me she had made cuttings for whoever wanted some. Knowing very little at the time about propagating plants, I thought the poor old girl had really lost it if she thought those little stumps would turn into anything nearing the greatness of the original. Nevertheless, root they did, practically before my eyes, I don't recall when we planted them, but I still have the original copper pot she gave it to me in.

Over the years, it was one of the few plants moved with me. Here and there, and back again, until finally here to Colorado, where I managed to loose every other plant I moved out here. They didn't take well to the move, and I thought what they needed was a little sunshine. So, out to the back they went, into a full day's bright Colorado sun. WRONG, they fried! I guess you could say that was my first lesson in high altitude plant care. Figuring the plants were lost, I snipped a few pieces of the cactus and put them in water just as my Grandma had. The next few years this plant went from window to window, struggling for survival, much the same as I did in those years. Finally, I got to the house I live in today. The plant found a window she liked and clay pot to call home, again, much the same as I did. The next few years were still quite a struggle, trying to eke out a living; my husband worked out of town so was raising our son on my own. Starting my own business, raising a son, while pursuing endless games with F.H.A in attempts to purchase this house left me pretty frayed. Faced with yet another possible move, holidays away from home and Grandma, I found myself in tears. I sat at my dinning room table and just wailed! I didn't want to give up on this old house, we were meant for each other! Nevertheless, it all seemed so hopeless, the skies were gray, it was trying to snow, the house was cold, and why not have a good cry? With out knowing why, I started to think about my Grandma. What would she do? What would her advice be? Suddenly as if she were standing over me, shaking her crooked little finger at me:

"Buck up kiddo! Blow your nose and dry your eyes, be thankful for all you do have. You've a healthy, loving son, a roof over your head, and dinner to put on the table. Get busy girl, you've got chores to do!" Just like out of some Hollywood movie, the clouds parted, the sun shown through the window and my now dry eyes caught a glimpse of color in the window. On further examination, I noted my Christmas cactus was loaded with tiny little pink buds all waiting to unfold. In excitement I started to count them, so many more than it's ever had; Spring had sprung eternal that cold winter's day when I least expected it. Memories of holidays past lifted my heart to an all time high. They were not lost times... but warm thoughts to keep in my heart forever.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRANDMA! December fifth my cactus will glow with eighty-seven blooms, like candles on your cake. I cannot thank you enough for all the years of love and strength you have given me. Be well, I'll see you in the spring.

Epilogue: Well, I did get through all the FHA 'hoops', got this old house and have lived here for nearly twenty-five years. Now that Grandma's passed on, I don't get back home every spring, (this IS my home), but never do the holidays pass without Grandma's Christmas cactus in full bloom.

Tina Marie Kellogg, 1995

First published in 1995 in "The Mountain Star" Kittredge

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PO Box 1393  
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**Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events** [www.denverbotanicgardens.org](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org)

**2007-2008 Blossoms of Light**

See Denver Botanic Gardens in a different light this holiday season as it is transformed into a winter wonderland at the 19th Annual Blossoms of Light.

More than 1 million colorful lights draped in elegant designs will illuminate the plants and hardscapes throughout the Gardens. Romantic and popular kissing spots will return, as well as the popular HoloSpex glasses, which magically transform the lights into shimmering snowflakes, snowmen, and a limited edition of Happy New Year images. Seasonal entertainment will be featured Thursday through Sunday of each week for the duration of Blossoms of Light.

Indoors in Gates Garden Court, a captivating display of seasonal plants will be on display. Piping hot beverages will accompany savory snack offerings. There will be several food stations located throughout the Gardens

**Dates:** Nightly, beginning Dec. 1, 2007 through Jan. 20, 2008

**Times:** 6-9 p.m. (last ticket sold at 8:30 p.m.)