



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 18 January 2008

### *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 Hinich

#### **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

#### SEED CATALOGS

My mailbox would be so lonesome this time of year if it were not for the seed catalogs. My stack of beautifully illustrated and photographed catalogs is growing every day. I try to sneak in a few moments here and there to sit and dream and plan next year's garden. Eventually I will fill out some order forms. Initially this requires much abandon of budget and space requirements. The first time I fill out the forms I do so as if I were the Queen of England giving no consideration to our short growing season, my lack of gardening staff or my bank account. The second time I order like the commoner that I am, judiciously and mercilessly hacking away at the Queen's order. I have on an occasion not done this and it results in gluttony which is not pretty, with enough seeds and starter plants for the entire kingdom. I have only one garden boy in my employ, he is also my husband, Tupper, who is advancing in age and dwindling in endurance. So in the end I will order the usual suspects: lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, poppies and then to satisfy the Queen I will order a few wild never-been-tried plant seeds and starts.

The winter gardens are safely tucked under a blanket of snow so there is no need to drag out the garden hose to winter water. It is a good idea to take a walk around the garden to check for marauding vole, deer and elk damage. Also check for broken branches and other wind damage on the pine and spruce trees in your yard. If you did not get an opportunity to clean and repair your gardening tools this fall, winter is a good time to get these chores done.

I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting. We have had to make a change to our program and I am sure none of you will be disappointed. Marcia Tatroe will be our speaker. Marcia is a delight and for those of us fortunate enough to have visited her garden, we have seen first hand her amazing application of xeriscape principles and practices. Marcia is also a garden writer and her newest book is now available. She will bring along a copy or two for us to peruse.

Stay warm and Happy New Year!  
Karla

*\*Program change January 8, 2008 Marcia Tatroe Synopsis*

#### **"Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West"**

Marcia Tatroe is known nationally for her many books and articles on gardening and horticulture in this region. She will be featured at the January 8th Garden Club meeting. Her topic will follow the title for her most recent book which was completed with noted landscape photographer, Charles Mann of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Marcia is one of the most respected horticulturists in the Rocky Mountain West and has been featured in

Sunset Magazine on numerous occasions. Join us for an enlightening program, and a book signing event that follows. (Those who already have books by Marcia are welcome to bring them for signing as well.)

**Meeting starts at 9:30am**

**\*\*Please bring your plants and contributions for the World Gardening Table. See you there!**

**Meetings will be cancelled if Jefferson County Mountain Schools are closed.**




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# Garden Club News

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## Evergreen Garden Club Hospitality Bites

Once again EGC members were hardy souls and ventured out in the snow storm to celebrate the holiday season with our annual Christmas potluck. Thanks to all of you for soup, baked beans, cookies, muffins, fancy bars, cobbler, vegetable plates, salads, more cookies, bars, candy and breads. As always it was more than difficult to each just one!!!!

<p>Morning coffee/tea time January 8, 2008 9:30 am          Barbara DeCaro Marilyn Kaussner Frances Sorensen          Mary Pinder Lorna Chorn Jeri Dufford</p>
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Plan to arrive early to the meeting: Coffee and tea will be ready to serve @ 9:30 am. The serving table will be set and ready for your contribution. \*\*Bonnie and Julaine \*\*

<p>I really enjoyed reading the story that Tina wrote about her Christmas cactus for likewise I have one that over 60 yrs. old and has been in the family forever. It came from Nebraska to Boulder then to me 30 yrs ago. It is still in the same pot and still blooms every Christmas. They can live for a long time and thrive on neglect. They like to root bound and away from drafts and in a sunny location. A sudden draft or too much water will cause the buds to fall so when one finds the spot that it is happy in then leave there. ~ Priscilla</p>
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“Winter Visitors in the Garden.  
 Lorna Chorn sent this picture of a  
 deer in her yard eating frozen gerani-  
 ums!  
 More on pg 7.



## *Minutes of the December 11th, 2007 Meeting*

Karla Briggs called the meeting together at 10:00 and welcomed members and guests, Dwight Gilliland's sons Sam from Dallas and Gary from Boston. It was a snowing morning but 21 hearty souls attended.

The meeting began with eating (Holiday potluck!) and playing the "Zone Game". Members sat with other members who had gardened in the same zone and they discussed what they liked/not and idiosyncrasies of the zone:

Zones 2,3,4 have always gardened in Evergreen and focused on the positives (even with all the rabbits, elk, deer, voles and mountain lions!) of our area

- Tina Kellogg's high altitude vegetable gardening class
- Weather is generally cool so you can garden anytime, day or night
- No mosquitoes, chiggers or other bugs
- North facing gardens don't come out of dormancy over the winter
- Although our flowers start later, they seem to have more consistent blooms through the summer
- Perennials grow easier and longer and we have a good variety of perennials
- The natural landscape is beautiful and lends a lovely backdrop to man made gardens
- Less weed problems
- Slugs are smaller here than in the northwest – they won't drink as much of our beer!
- Usually all of our seasons are less harsh than other zones

Zones 5,6,7 gardened in Vancouver, Chicago, Kansas City, Louisville, Boston, Ohio and Evergreen and shared many stories and gardening tips! They found this zone

- Easier to be organic
- Don't miss slugs and bugs
- Long winters and don't mind the heat of summer

Zones 8,9,10 gardened in China Lake, Dallas, Arlington, Austin and Raleigh and found many similarities

- Flowers were easy to grow and had a long growing season such as pansies all winter and daffodils in February
- Many exotic flowers such as magnolia trees, hibiscus, passion flower
- Veggies were easy to grow although the heat in China Lake cooked them on the vine!
- Fire ants were deadly, tomato worms were legendary, and the slugs were awful
- Bermuda grass was in all the flower beds
- It was too hot – over 100 and the growing season was too long to ever take a break

Secretary's Report – A thank you letter was sent to Panayoti for last month's program. November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - \$2000 is due to Boot Straps by 1/12/08.

Community Gardens – all are sleeping! The Firewise group did get manure on their garden last month. There was a question about the EGC's policy on fall trimming which led to much discussion and the conclusion that trimming depends on the uniqueness of each garden such as area, needs, traffic, texture and interest and even plowing that occurs by the garden.

Forest Heights – Dale, Peggy, Beth and Karla were going after the meeting to do this year's program.

2008 Garden Tour – date is June 28th! The Board is investigating ideas such as box lunches, having plants for sale available at each site, etc. Committees will be formed after the beginning of the year and the 501c3 process is complete.

January's Meeting is January 8 and will feature David Winger, professional garden photographer. He will be sharing some tips on what and how to photograph in your garden.



## Over The Garden Fence *By Tina Kellogg*

### Organics

When asked to give a presentation on organic growing, I was both surprised and honored that the Club thought I had something to offer. (There have been many speakers in front of this Club more talented and certainly more knowledgeable.) However, after the glory wore off, panic started to set in. "I'm no scientist, not even a biologist or horticulturist!" Nevertheless, biology and horticulture is what I practice.

What started out as laborious farm chores during childhood, turned into play as adulthood set in; so as long as I could 'play' in the dirt I didn't have to grow up! Don't get me wrong, half an acre of vegetables isn't exactly child's play, but being in the dirt is being one with the ultimate Mother, and that reminds me of the simplicity of being a child. The act of gardening has given me more metaphors for life than I thought possible. In times of internal struggles, sadness or just plain growing pains of life, the garden has provided me with a kind of therapy; the kind which can only be provided by nature, and could be considered down right spiritual. Is it any wonder that I might have some difficulty discussing gardening on scientific basis?

#### **What is organics all about? What and why are certain products considered organic and some not?**

While I consider the vegetables (and now everything else I grow) to be "organic" they are not certified as such by the USDA. I could use the term "all natural" but you would not believe what some people consider 'natural'.

The fundamentals of the term organic imply nature's biological processes at their best. Regardless of your scientific knowledge, you tend to feel just a little bit better about eating something that is "organic". As well we should; not just for your personal satisfaction and taste buds, but you have to ask yourself just how much synthetic chemical can good ole Mother Nature stand before the whole growing system of the large corporate farm crumbles? Then there is the insolubility of some synthetics. They remain in the soils for an indeterminate amount of time, that is to say, their producers simply don't know how long the chemicals stay in the soils, or worse run off into streams to pollute our water systems.

No matter your philosophy, no matter how much you care for the earth and the food you grow, growing organic, or shall I say, being sanctified by the government as "Organic" isn't as easy or as practical as one might think. Certainly, the process doesn't seem like it has anything to do with the earth when politics come into play and again, it's an agent of the government telling you who can and who can't wear that label.

I guess that's why a few years ago I told a friend that I'd have to come up with some other terminology than organic; something that stated how I grew, something that made a statement about the process of growing, but steering plenty clear of the word "organic": That's when "grown with conscience"<sup>TM</sup> met GivenTrees. It says exactly what I do. It says exactly what I practice and teach. (Well, at least in my garden any way!)

I look forward to February's meeting and discussion about organics, while there is much information to disseminate, I'll try to steer clear of some of the political stuff and just keep to the basics of "Grown with Conscience"<sup>TM</sup>.  
Tina

Tina@GivenTrees.com

# HORTICULTURE

## Colorado State University Trial Gardens

provide variety and vigorous plant options CSU horticulturists in Ft. Collins CO are preparing for another season of blooming (encouraging isn't it)! Several years ago Dr. James Klett, Professor



and Extension Landscape Horticulture Specialist helped to create an outdoor laboratory that continues to grow in size, research efforts and popularity. The outdoor display and test areas were es-



tablished to allow students, researchers, industry representatives, homeowners and extension personnel to learn, teach and evaluate horticultural research and demonstration projects in the Rocky Mountain/High Plains.

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Cooperative Extension and the Agricultural Experiment Station provide support for research and extension projects. Financial support, plants and other materials are provided annually by state horticulture and industry associations and foundations, nurseries, greenhouses, seed companies and annual flower propagators from across the nation.

CSU trial gardens are a unique evaluation site because of the high elevation site (compared to Kansas, North Dakota and other sea level sites) and the erratic weather patterns that cause havoc with starter annuals and seedlings.

After the research data is collected Dr. Klett reviews all the research information and picks the top winners for the year. The site is located at the corner of Remington and Lake Street in Ft. Collins. Plan now to visit the trial gardens. Best time to visit is during July and August. It's an easy trip (about 1 1/2 hours north on I-25).

**For this year's trial <http://www.flowertrials.colostate.edu/2007Bestof.htm>**

There are many more garden-related sites to visit while you are in Ft. Collins. I love to eat at **The Back Porch <1101 E. Lincoln Avenue 1 block north of Mulberry on LeMay >** and I can't leave there until I have slipped through the interior corridor to **Lambspun of Colorado**, a fiber arts store. Maybe a mid-winter trip would work.

**Winter Garden Chores:** Cold, dry winds are tough on plants. Check your landscape trees, shrubs and gardens to determine if there is adequate mulch. General rule is to apply much about 2 inches deep in the Fall to conserve moisture and protect the roots.



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(Continued from pg.6)

After the first real hard frost (kills off bugs lookin' for a winter house) you can add up to 4". Strong winds like we have had over the last month can blow away the mulch cover. New plantings are especially vulnerable to freeze-thaw conditions. Pull the mulch back from being piled up on the tree trunk. wrap young, new deciduous trees; you need to protect the bark from sunscald. Winter sun is lower in the sky. The high altitude hot sun can permanently damage the bark. Wrap the trunks the end of October (Halloween) and remove it around Easter. Tree wrap is available at local garden centers.

Julaine Kennedy

(Continued from pg. 2)

### ***Winter Visitors in the Garden***

*Bobcat & Fox*

This picture of a bobcat was taken by my neighbor Melony Smith.

Beth



Evergreen Garden Club  
PO Box 1393  
Evergreen, Colorado 80437  
[www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org)



**Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events**

[www.denverbotanicgardens.org](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org)

Blossoms of Light  
Chapungu; Custom & Legend, A Culture In Stone  
Through Jan. 20, 2008