



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

September 2008

A Word from the President...

Welcome Back!

Here's hoping you've all had a wonderful summer. It's hard to believe summer's season almost gone and it's time to worry about fr....nope, not going to even think about it...not yet; please! We vegetable gardeners are always on the look out, back to watching our thermometers and checking early in the morning for our night time low temperatures. I know it's equally frustrating watching some of our late perennials bite the dust just prior to full bloom. Oh my, such a gloomy note to start out on, no, not with such a great year in store for the club.

Bonnie Hisgen has got some great programs in store for us this year. Lucy Ginley has been working hard putting our member's 'year-book' together, having Beth stay on as our treasurer helps in immeasurable ways, both with history and experience, Karla's advise and sense of humor has kept my spirits lifted and Pam's visions and suggestions of the garden clubs' direction is much appreciated. Its awesome working with a club whose board is both invigorating and industrious; as well club members' participation is enthusiastic.

Thanks very much to Frances Sorenson and Bev Wickland for taking on the Hospitality Committee. We still need a hand full of volunteers for some committee work, Ways and Means, Phone Tree or Snail Mail, and again, we'll be passing the clip boards around for committees and sign ups at our first meeting.

Speaking of programs, our direction this year is a bit more instructional, with some fun and fancy thrown in between. We're planning a few field trips as well; great job Bonnie, Thanks!

Our first speaker is Terry Carroll of Garden Care Extraordinaire. "Rooting Dividends" with a divide and concur attitude to all the over grown perennials in our yards. Lilies, Iris, and just about any other kind of perennials you can think of that have over grown their original homes and are spilling into their neighbors' spaces; fall is a great time to get them moved. You've probably seen Terry's handy work in downtown Evergreen or even Terry herself, flitting from one batch of flowers to the next, caring for all the flora just like the busy bee she is.

We would have liked to have our membership year book done in time for our first meeting this month but we're still waiting for quite a few past members to re-up their dues! So Beth will be col-

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September 9th, 2008 "Rooting Dividends"

"Rooting Dividends"

Terry Carroll of Garden Care Extraordinaire, will show us how to divide and transplant overgrown perennials.

(See Pres. for more details)

please bring your items for world gardening and your coffee mug.

See you there!

Reminder: It's time to renew your membership.

The meeting will start at 9:30 and

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EGC 2008-2009 Board Members

President:

Tina Kellogg

Vice Presidents:

Bonnie Hisgen

Lucy Ginley

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

Garden Club News

Welcome New Members: Bunny Brandt, Jill Epstein, Janet Williamson

Garden Tour Hosts – Complimentary Members: Lynette Mikowski, Gail & Chuck Ridings, Jeanie & Dennis Rothenmaier, Joan & Steve Smith, Don & Cindy Sahli, Sharon Hilliard, Sandy Mathis

Door Prize Update

Irma Wolf is changing the door prize awards system this season. Anyone who brings a refreshment to the meeting will be eligible for a door prize. They will be given a lottery number from 1 through 5 (or 6-however many donors there will be) to prioritize the selection of their door prize. This will be an incentive and reward for signing up for refreshment donations."

Sundance Gardens & Landscaping

27866 Meadow Drive
Evergreen, CO 80439
303.670.0358

**10% off on one regularly priced item for
Evergreen Garden Club Members**

September - Happy Birthday

9/14 Ann Bolson
9/16 Pam Hinsh
9/17 Tricia Scott

9/17 Dwight Gilliland
9/18 Lucille Nelson
9/26 Karen MacFarquhar



Thank you to everyone who brought wonderful treats last year. We will have a new sign up sheet at the September meeting so please think about what month you would like to bring goodies. .

Minutes of the June 10, 2008

President Karla Briggs opened the meeting at 10:45 and welcomed the 40 members present including new member Bunny Grant. She thanked Julaine Kennedy for providing the refreshments.

MAY MINUTES were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE - Thank yous were received from our Bootstraps recipient, Kyla Berendzen, the Bootstraps Board of Directors, and from Einar Jensen for having him present at our May meeting.

BUDGET

Balances of \$4427.46/checking and \$6329/savings.

A check for \$1750 was received from Rich Reynolds from Joan's memorial for Bootstraps.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Garden Coordinators will determine individual gardens' summer needs.

Library Garden - Marjorie Clinton reported that the library will give us \$150-\$200 for new plants; the Library staff waters the garden 3 times a week.

Traffic Circle - Irma Wolf reported that the garden needs lots more weeding.

Homestead Herb Garden - Priscilla is looking for a new coordinator so let her or Irma know if you are interested; the garden has a current abundance of lovage for the taking!

MOUNT GOLIATH TOUR - There are still 6 available spaces.

EGC/BOOTSTRAPS SCHOLARSHIP - Our recipient Kyla Berendzen was valedictorian of her class.

GARDEN TOUR/PLANT SALE/LECTURE

Publicity - Ad, posters and a mid-July article in Serenity, ads in Mountain Connections, Canyon Courier, Rocky Mountain News garden section, and Master Gardeners publication. Thank you Mary DeBaets!!

Tickets - slow start but expect it to pick up after this weekend's Evergreen Rodeo; there is a 100 limit on lecture attendees so each store will only have 25 to sell.

Signs/Balloons/Parking - Linda Ringrose has 3 teams setting up signs and helium balloons will be attached; need to be cautious of how many balloons if windy or sign will blow away with the balloons! Thank you Linda for creating the great map.

Artists - Jo Powers reported that they are set to go.

Plant Sale - Trish Scott - the plants arrive at Kath Gider's on June 23; June 24 members can pick up their plants at Kathy's from 2-5:00 please make arrangements for someone to pick up your plants if you are unable to do so; all plants for the gardens will be delivered to the homes the night before the garden tour. Thank you Trish for the great coordination!

Lecture - Ken Ball - Charles Mann will be in Evergreen next week and plans to photograph the gardens and use the photos for future publications. Ken needs 2 more volunteers to help at the lecture. The lecture will be videotaped so that members volunteering in other areas will be able to see it later.

Box Lunch is all set!

Docents - More are needed-please let Irma Wolf or Julaine Kennedy know if you can help. Docents should wear straw hats and EGC nametags, no shorts please.

Shifts are 9:15-1:00 and 12:30-3:45.

Insurance - EGC now has insurance that covers our special events, meetings, etc. Cost was \$325 for a year.

Pre-tour will be June 24. All folks volunteering for the tour/lecture/lunch/plant sale are encouraged to attend. We will meet at the Bergen Park Park and Ride at 9:00 and finish between 3:30-4:00. Bring a sack lunch and something to drink. Please call Julaine if you can't be there.

Weeders and mulchers are needed at the Yellow House and other gardens to help prepare for the Garden Tour.

Tina and Bob Kellogg are the official photographers of the tour. They will be taking pictures at all the gardens so let them know if you see something that would make a good photo!

A big thank you to Beth and Bruce Feldkamp for watering the Rothenmaier's garden and caring for their old dog!

Liz Hamilton put the map on our website. The Board agreed to give Liz tickets to the Tour, Lecture and Lunch for all the work she has done on our website. Thank you Liz!

A big thank you to Irma for her organizations and leadership as overall coordinator for the Garden Tour!

Slate of Officers was presented and approved by the membership. Congratulations to Tina Kellogg, President; Bonnie Hisgen and Lucy Ginley, Vice Presidents; Beth Feldkamp, Treasurer; and Pam Hinish, Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Tina Kellogg thanked the existing Board for taking on the leadership responsibility last year, and thanked Beth and Pam for remaining on the Board for the next year.

Tina read the Aurora Gardeners Mission Statement as its message also reflects what the Evergreen Garden Club means to her.

Marilyn Kaussner announced the 11th Annual Community Weed Day organized by County Commissioner, Kathy Hartman. It will be held at Evergreen Lake on Saturday June 21, 8:00-11:00, with breakfast at 8:00. Weed experts will assist in identifying and preventing noxious weeds.

Ken Ball announced that Eichters Gardens are recycling plastic pots.

Ken presented outgoing president Karla Briggs with a gift from her Board. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Over the Garden Fence

by Karl Briggs



UNTAMED GARDEN

The Evergreen Garden Club's 2008 Garden Tour, Plant Sale and Lecture were by all accounts a success. I have received thank you notes in the mail and been told by many others in person how much they enjoyed the day and the gardens. When I ask people which garden was their favorite an overwhelming majority select the Sahli Garden, the artists garden. All the gardens were admired, but the artist's garden spoke to people about the possibilities of an untamed garden. The artist's garden seemed to people the most attainable. But I think it went deeper than that. I think people responded to the vignettes created by Don and Cindy. The old chairs, the relics of days gone by set about in the garden created still life settings for the artists to paint. I know I loved discovering each real life painting that I came across as I walked through the garden. Edwina von Gal is a landscape designer who loves to combine what she refers to as "wildness and restraint". "Perfection is dangerous. It's really powerful to have nature on my side. There are a lot of happy accidents."

It is my natural inclination to try to control everything in my garden, in my life for that matter. So I am constantly trying to let go and allow for "happy accidents". I guess I am afraid of the not so happy accidents that seem to plague my garden every year, and that clouds my vision so that I am working towards perfection instead of natural beauty.

I visited a friend's garden the other evening and was amazed at his ability to combine wildness and restraint. Where there was rock occurring naturally, he added rock. Where there was a slope, he built terraced gardens to reflect the steepness of that slope. He gardens on a south-facing hillside and it seemed as though his plantings blended seamlessly with what nature had planted. My friend is also an artist and I wonder if by virtue of his ability to see and create beauty he is able to see and create an untamed garden.

So that is what I have been attempting to do this gardening season: allowing for and appreciating the happy accidents in my garden. The garden does look wilder and the only time I had to really pull in the reins was when I discovered a vole hole right smack dab in the middle of the Daylilies. I am still deadheading the Campanula and Maltese Cross to avoid a hostile take over and I am planning to cut back the gardens this fall to prevent more vole invasion. All in all the garden does look a bit more natural and untamed.

One final note about an outstanding herb: Borage, Boraginaceae. It has been a few years since I planted the herb and I had forgotten how lovely and easy it is to grow. The "Sunset Western Garden" book describes Borage as "an annual herb that will grow in sun or shade. Grows 1-3 feet high. Bristly, gray-green leaves up to 4-6 inches long are edible, with a cucumber like flavor. Blue, saucer-shaped, nodding flowers in leafy clusters on branched stems. Tolerates poor soil. Grows large, needs lots of room. Seeds itself freely but doesn't transplant easily. Good no watering ground cover and soil binder. Use small tender leaves in salads; you can also pickle them or cook them as greens. Cut flowers for arrangements or use as an attractive garnish."

I got the seedling plants from Tricia Scott, planted them in the vegetable garden, mulched them well and watered them through the Phoenix-like days of July. The plants are gorgeous and those blue flowers take your breath away. I look forward to getting together again this fall and hearing about all the happy accidents in your gardens!

Karla

(Continued from page 1)

lecting dues at our September meeting as well.

The long and short of the season, well, it's always too short. I'm hoping to get another month in before frost, to finish up some late plantings and get all we can in the freezer. There were times this summer I didn't think I could keep enough water on every thing. I hand water, every thing, so hauling around a hundred and fifty feet of hose was getting old! It amazes me to hear people complain about the 'monsoon' season; particularly this year. From Mid May (remember the snow that postponed the work day in the gardens?) to just last week, less that two tenths of an inch of rain fell. You know when you can stop mowing your lawn early in June that we're in trouble! Some how August almost always come through for us with cooler temps and rain, our short emails back and fourth between the board members celebrated the moisture. So how do you pronounce "hallelujah"? Beth says "...over two inches", Karla says "...pass the gravy!" I just let out a long winded "Yeaaaaaaa... ..'bout time!"

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Now it's time for bringing in the sheaves. So many beans to pick, and the neighborhood walkers always know when we're out there in the evenings, and we're always sharing, particularly the greens! I always plant too much, but then it's great for gifts. The 'maters are just starting to redden up; we've got seventeen different varieties this year! So far my favorites are 'Sugar Shack' and 'Black Cherry' Mmmmm, so sweet, I go to check them out before I hunt for strawberries...Life is sweet this time of year, I never stop to make lunch, just graze in the garden.

We'll see you at the September meeting, Tina



Wild Iris Horticulture September 2008

“Many worthwhile projects are abandoned because the energy of a gardener in August does not match his aspirations of the preceding April.” Frederick McGourty, Jr. American Horticulturist

Mr. McGourty, the author of *Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record Handbook*, describes our gardening enthusiasm this summer. Considering our past winter and spring moisture I was tuned up for a banner gardening season. The summer of 2008 will be remembered for its extreme weather patterns that played games with our landscape plants and vegetables. While we waited and waited for the soil to warm up, seedlings in starter trays came and went by the wayside, for lack of a garden to call home.



We lamented over spring bulbs that showed up for their spring gala but really never got to dance. Our soils were wet and cold right into June. And then, just in time for EGC 2008 Garden Tour our gardens received their first shot of heat. The day was incredible. In a few short hours people visited gardens at over 8,000 elevation (Snyder Mountain Dr) to around 7,000 elevation (Pine Valley Dr). What a contrast for garden folks to experience. Every tour garden showcased the diversity of soils/or lack of, plant zones, moisture, plant color intensity, and sun/shade options. My gratitude to all members who helped carry out another incredible tour.

July and August turned into hot and dry days but cool evenings that slowed down the tomatoes. The peonies and late blooming spring flowers were still waving their petals in July! August turned out to be a good month to catch up on new books and water whatever was left in the garden. Three cheers for the last couple of week's worth of rainfall

It's not too late to revive the intended projects. Take advantage of plant sales. Our soils are warm and will support good transplant opportunities. Follow good practices when planting. Go to <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden> Click on the following publications for more information. Check out #'s 7.220, 7.225, 7.228, 7.233, 7.240, 7.244, 7.401, 7.406, 7.413, 7.421-7.423. This is a sampling of current topics for mountain gardening.

You won't want to miss a single garden club meeting this year. Thanks to EGC board members and committee chair people we are in for another great year of garden programs. Bring friends, help with a club project and enjoy to the friendships.

See you soon.
Julaine

Photos from the Garden Tour

from Liz Hamilton

I was only able to get to three gardens, so if you have other photos send them in and we will feature them next month, thanks.



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



Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events www.denverbotanicgardens.org

FALL BULB SALE

Date:

Saturday, Sept. 20

Time:

Member-only shopping hour: 8-9 a.m. Open to the public: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location:

Morrison Center at Denver Botanic Gardens (the building north of the parking lot and the Sensory Garden)

Admission:

Free to the sale. Regular admission fees apply for entry into the Gardens.

Members receive 10% off all purchases.

Visit the Gardens for an incredible a variety of over 10,000 bulbs, a delightful variety of pansies, unique garden-grown plants and a hand-picked selection of trees and shrubs. Interact with Denver Botanic Gardens' horticulture staff and learn valuable plant information that will send you home feeling like a master gardener!

CORN MAZE

Date & Time:

The Corn Maze is open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from Sept. 5 through Oct. 26.

Fridays 4 - 10 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sundays Noon - 10 p.m.

Purchase tickets at the Corn Maze starting Friday, Sept. 5, or through TicketsWest at any King Soopers starting Monday, Aug. 18.