



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 19, Issue 4 December 2008

A Word from the President...

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Club News | 2 |
| Garden Fence | 4 |
| Minutes | 2 |
| Horticulture | 6 |

EGC 2008-2009 Board Members

President:

Tina Kellogg

Vice Presidents:

Bonnie Hisgen

Lucy Ginley

Secretary:

Pam Hinish

Treasurer:

Beth Feldkamp

Gift of Giving

I am fortunate to be part of an organization that has both the willingness and the abilities to give back to the community. Yes, our gardens are a gift, but to have the fiscal capabilities to assist other groups with both food and monetary donations is truly a boost for the soul.

Above and beyond the Boot Straps Scholarship, the garden club will be making three other donations this year. The board has decided rather than gifting one group, we'll be making a contribution of five hundred dollars each to the following: Evergreen Christian Outreach, the Senior Resource Center and the Mountain Resource Center.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank those who made this possible; namely those who worked their tails off for the wildly successful Garden Tour last year. Huge and grateful thanks go out to our previous year's board that gifted us this full treasury. These fundraisers can and do make a difference in our community. This would be a good time to remind you that in January we'll be asking for volunteers for our next fundraiser, the plant sale in June! I promised the outgoing board we'd do our best with the next fundraisers to keep these coffers full in order that we may continue to share these gifts.

Thanks Again One and All
Tina

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 Edito@EvergreenGardenClub.com

Newsletter Editor & Website EvergreenGardenClub.org



EGC Christmas Party



The Christmas Party is to be a pot luck style; every one brings something to share. Frances tells us not to limit ourselves this time to finger foods or breakfast items. Those who signed up will be getting a call from Frances or Bev to bring holiday plates and napkins and such, (as opposed to food) and to show up at 8:45 to assist in set up and staying a little later to help with the clean up.

SHOW & TELL Instead of a program we'll be doing a Member's Sharing where you bring your hobbies or crafts to share with the members. So what do you do when you not in the garden? We'll be setting up tables at the perime-

ters of the room for display. Think of it as a "Show and Tell" day. We have many talented members, it never fails to astound me just how talented we all are in our own unique ways.

GRAB BAG Toni is bringing a grab bag, for those who have something at home they wish to pass on to another member; Wrap it up, or tie a bow on and put it in the grab bag when you come in! Sorry no husbands -just joking!

DOOR PRIZES Irma will have some awesome Christmas door prizes you won't want to miss!



Garden Club News

Echo Donations

Along with our monetary gifts, we'll be collecting food to be delivered to the food pantry at EChO. Beth and Tina will be delivering to EChO after the December meeting, if the weather is reasonable. Tina's truck will be parked up front and you can place your items in the back, saving them the time to load. Many thanks!

The following is a list of needs and pleads:

| FOOD ITEMS | OTHER ITEMS & PERSONAL CARE NEEDS | CHRISTMAS DINNER NEEDS |
|---|---|---|
| Any Canned Veggies | Toothpaste | *Christmas food will be available beginning Dec. 17th |
| Chicken or Tuna Helper | Shampoo | |
| All Kinds of Beans | Personal Hygiene | Hams (Large & Small) |
| Boxed Rice Mixes | Winter Coats and Boots all sizes and ages | Cornish Hens |
| Cold Cereal | Socks and Underwear | Fresh Potatoes |
| Canned Fruit | Men's Jeans | Onions |
| Crackers | Cookware | Gravy and Stuffing |
| Jell-O | Towels | Rolls |
| Canned Stew & Chili | | Butter |
| Pasta Roni | | Pies |
| Sugar | | |
| Salad Dressing | | |
| Cake Mixes | | |
| Soups (Have plenty of tomato and chicken noodle but all others appreciated) | | |

Volunteers Always Needed and Welcome! Call 303.670.1796 or EChO80439@Juno.com

Welcome New Members: Gayle Gordon, Nancy Latimer, Laura McReynolds

"I have been interested in joining the Evergreen Garden Club for years and am glad I finally did! After living off of N. Turkey Creek for 23 years, we moved to a home on Buffalo Park Road a year and 1/2 ago. I have always had a vegetable garden and now have new challenges with an increase in elevation. We have 2 horses, 2 dogs, 2 cats and 4 grandkids! Last winter I completed the Master Gardener course through CSU and now I am an official Colorado Master Gardener. I love to learn about other high altitude gardens and last year's garden tour was very inspirational." ~ Laura McReynolds

"My husband and I have lived in Evergreen for 12 years. Although I have always enjoyed gardening, I have found my efforts in Evergreen to be less than satisfactory. The Garden Club tour three years ago was inspiring, but I was unable to join the Club until I retired. For the past three years, I was a senior policy advisor for the Western Governors' Association and before that was a senior manager in the Department of the Interior for many, many years. I'm looking forward to getting involved with the Garden Club. ~ Gayle Gordon

Minutes of the November 11th, 2008 Meeting

President Tina Kellogg called the meeting together at 9:48 and welcomed 3 new members, Gayle Gordon, Laura McRenoylds and Nancy Lattimer, guest Jessie Davis, a founding Evergreen Garden Club member, and the general membership. 42 members were present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Pam Hinish

- Jeri Dufford motioned the approval of October's minutes, Louise Mounsey seconded and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
- Correspondence – a request for EGC to participate in the 2009 Evergreen Scholarship/Bootstraps was received with a December 31, 2008 deadline for our donation; EGC sent a get well card to Dee Sack who had back surgery, a birthday card to Bill Mounsey in celebration of his 90th birthday and a letter recognizing
- Mary Gauden Beardslee's '07 EGC presentation in support of her current effort for certification as horticultural therapist.

TREASURER'S REPORT Beth Feldkamp

- November balances are \$13,321.38/savings and \$1933.15/checking

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Tina Kellogg

- EGC will make monetary and food contributions to Christian Outreach Center, Senior Resource Center and Mountain Resource Center. Contacts will be made to determine the organization's current needs which will be announced by e-mail and in the Wild Iris so that members can bring food and other items to the December meeting.
- Door Prizes – welcome gifts will be given to new members and the hospitality contributors for that month's meeting will draw for prizes.
- Christmas Party/December's Meeting will be a members' sharing time. Bring a craft or interest that you can share, a dish to share for the potluck (and the recipe), a wrapped item from your home that you no longer want or need for the grab bag and we will spend some small group time together playing the "zone game".
- World Gardening Table – Karla Briggs brought many beautiful plants contributed by Sylvia Brockner with more coming to the December meeting. A great suggestion for folks looking for holiday gift ideas is a contribution to World Gardening on behalf of the individual.

NEW BUSINESS

- Peggy Fetchenhier asked for volunteers to assist with this year's Forest Heights Christmas Party. Forest Heights is a residential facility for boys and EGC takes plants for each of the 24 boys as well as cookies. A sign up sheet was circulated for cookie bakers and folks to participate.
- WILD IRIS - Lorna Chorn will be substituting for Jeri Dufford and needs to have your articles, etc. to her by Friday November 14.
- "Green Exchange" is proposed as a new ongoing program of EGC where members can list on-line things they need or have along with their name and phone number.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Natural Resources – Marilyn Kaussner reminded folks to please shred old directories that contain members' identifying information.
- Community Gardens – Garden coordinators should e-mail Irma Wolf if they have volunteer or other needs.
- The May workday will have the same format as we had for the fall workday, breakfast and business meeting followed by the garden work. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 for refreshments and a presentation by Master Gardener Lenore Mitchell on Holiday Gifts and Plants.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hinish



Over The Garden Fence *By Julaine Kennedy*



Our gardens are asleep. Thank heavens...with the holiday rushing in on us there would be no time to putter about the garden. Michael Pollan writes in his book, *Second Nature*, "A garden that never died eventually would weary... (nature's promise) of the return every spring of earth's first freshness, would never be kept if not for the frosts, and rot, and ripe deaths of Fall." It is nature's way of allowing us to give up for this season, rest our bodies and begin new visions for the spring of 2009.

Indoor plants need to be watched. Houseplants will begin to show signs of stress and our first inclination will probably be to water and feed the guys. Check deep in the pot for moisture. The top three inches may be dry, thanks to our arid climate. A moisture meter takes the guesswork out of this life sustaining plant task. As the probe is pushed into the soil the meter will detect dry, moist and wet soil in the pot. It is so simple to use and one of the economical garden tools and you can use it indoors and outdoors.

Natural light is at its lowest now and all houseplants will flourish with supplemental light. Assuming from March through mid December your house plants are happy campers; keep them where they are. Park the tropical sunshine above the plants for the short winter days. The majority of house plants will do well with 16 to 18 hours per day. Plants that thrive near a window as floor plants may need slippers to keep their roots (feet) warm. Imagine what it's like trying to sleep when your feet feel like icicles. I stack bricks, upside down pots or baskets for temporary plant lifters. We also have wonderful plant stands that are versatile for many situations.

Here's one of many new plant light options. Come in a look at the T-5 full spectrum and grow fixtures. The slim line fixture is available in 2 ft and 4 ft and comes with 2, 4, 6 and 8 bulbs. These full-spectrum fluorescents can stimulate both vegetative growth AND fruiting and flowering. T5 fluorescents have the some of the highest umen/ watt rating and full spectrum making them the most favorable fluorescents for growers. They produce almost no heat which means they are safe even for when plants are touching them.

Get close up with all your indoor plants to eliminate or catch insect/disease problems before they get out of control. Many problems can be spotted by looking closely at the new growth and checking the underside of the leaves. Look for webbing, a life stage of an insect (egg, larva or the insect). A hard spray of water or kelp solution can dislodge the problems and foliar feeding provides immediate uptake of the solution. Oh, it's more advanced- e.g. webbing, sticky sap, stippling on the leaves and lively critters are present. This calls for greater ammunition. My favorite is neem oil. RTU or concentrate can be watered into the soil or sprayed on all leaves (top and bottom). Ask me more to understand this organic product that works as an insecticide, fungicide and miticide.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our December meeting. This one will be a celebration to remember. Divine offerings of food, great door prizes, opportunity to support local charities and enjoy the company of friendly local gardeners just like you!!



Julaine

Photos by Lorna Chorn



Zamioculcas zamiifolia

In keeping with Julaine's theme of indoor plants, I'd like to share the following from the December 2008/January 2009 issue of Horticulture. I've seen this lovely, tough plant many places (e.g. the dining area in the Belmar Whole Foods) and have been impressed with it. Now I know what to hunt for!

Lorna Chorn

I've been thinking about the similarities among the borders in my garden and the plants on my windowsill. If all goes well, each location has its individual colorful or dramatic standout plants. These are the plants I spend time and money on, the I expect people to admire and even, if I am lucky, exclaim over.

But they're not my only plants. Just as my outdoor borders are tied to the landscape by green shrubs, my windowsills need their quiet backgrounds. As William Cullina writes in his latest book, *Native Ferns, Moss & Grasses* (Houghton Mifflin, 2008), a garden with nothing but colored flowers is like the bottom shelf in the grocery store, where every detergent screams for your attention.

In my garden, the background shrubs are completely undemanding, although I admittedly coddled them in the beginning. But green plants indoors are a different story; they need to be wiped, dusted, sprayed, repotted, fertilized and watered, watered, watered. The ones that don't need this fuss tend to be unattractive plants such as *Sansevieria*, charming named mother-in-law's tongue or snake plant. Or *Aspidistra*, the cast-iron plant, so named for seeming ability to last forever.

There's one stunning exception to the rule that beautiful windowsill plants can't be easy—*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*, the ZZ plant—a handsome dark green plant that thrives on neglect.

Although the virtues of the ZZ are known and the plants are available in good nurseries on Web sites, they've hardly garnered the popularity they deserve. For starters, they're even more drought tolerant than snake plant and cast-iron plant; reportedly ZZ can go without water for up to three months, thanks to waxy green leaves, fleshy stems and fat rhizomes that often sit right on the soil.

They don't even need your windowsill; they'll be happy in a corner that gets as little as 25 footcandles of light. In fact, although I've kept my two plants on a windowsill for several years, I'm afraid my ZZs may actually be getting too much sun. A report on the commercial production of ZZs states that a plant kept for more than a year under low light conditions can grow and develop new leaves.

Furthermore, ZZs don't get sick. They don't like to be transplanted into a larger pot and they don't want you hovering over them. If you like to fuss, ZZ is not for you. If you're a live-and-let-live person, you've just met your ideal green houseplant.

Frances Tenenbaum is a garden book editor and author of *Gardening at the Shore* (Timber Press, 2006).

Green Exchange

Karla Briggs has high quality horse manure available for garden soil amendment or compost pile amendment. It can be loaded in a pick up truck or trailer, or loaded in buckets or heavy duty garbage bags.

Fall is the best time to amend garden soil!

Contact Karla at 303-674-3685 or karla@tuppersteam.com




HORTICULTURE

Take a Native Plant Master™ Course

- Have you always wanted to learn more about the beautiful plants that grow in nature?
- Would you like to learn how to use them in your landscape?
- Would you like to learn how to distinguish natives from noxious weeds?

Take a Native Plant Master course!

Native Plant Master courses are held outdoors at open space parks in or near Jefferson County.

The 2009 course schedule includes the following six courses:

Tuesday Course: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays June 9, 16, 23 – Saddle Rock Golf Course

Friday Course: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

June 12, 19, 26 – Lair o' the Bear Open Space Park

Saturday Courses: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

May 9, 16, 30 – Mount Falcon Open Space Park

June 13, 20, 27 – Lair o' the Bear Open Space Park

July 11, 18, 25 – Reynolds Open Space Park

Advanced Course: Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

September 11, 18, 25 – Plains Conservation Center, Aurora

(This course includes more advanced keying and botanical terminology than other courses and is recommended for those with some prior botanical knowledge.)

Courses focus on identification, ecology and human uses of Colorado plants. Participants learn to use a botanical key with an emphasis on scientific names and families. This award winning program is sponsored by Colorado State University Extension in Jefferson and Gilpin Counties.

The cost is \$90 per 12-hour course with each course consisting of three, four-hour sessions.

The cost is reduced to \$60 per course for those who agree to teach at least 20 people per year per course about Colorado plants. Participants who pass three courses and satisfy the teaching requirement become certified Native Plant Masters.

Registration is limited and applications are due by March 15, 2009.

For more information, visit www.conativeplantmaster.org. Contact them directly at mnielsen@jeffco.us or (303) 271-6620.

For the latest information on more than 1,000 Colorado plants, browse the website at <http://coloradoplants.jeffco.us>



Home for the Holidays—Butter Mint Recipe



Butter mints were a favorite in my hometown, Watertown SD. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet owned a confectionery and fountain shop. What a popular after school hangout. Long marble top bar with plastic cover stools set on steel posts. Remember the brass foot rests in bars? Well Sweets had silver metal ones...not quite as classy but oh, the sweets were Class Triple A. Opposite the fountain bar the confectionery cases (at least 20 ft) displayed trays of fancy cookies, bars, cakes, nuts and mints. Hum, how could any Watertown resident escape the health syndromes caused by sugar!!! Guess the icy cold winters and hot humid summers dissolved all symptoms of dyslexia, short term memory loss, diabetes, and attention deficient disorder!

To this day I can't remember the very best sweet treat. Maybe it was green river soda, roasted mixed nuts, soft ginger cookies or their home-made butter mints. I got to taste 'em all during the school year that I worked after school and on Saturdays. In the basement (kinda' like a cellar 'cuz it had stone walls), there were small rooms for storing the

sweets. Mr. Sweet prepared all the candy in that cellar on a huge slab of marble. You know, I think Mrs. Sweet helped him. It was a big task. The restrooms were down there too. The health department wouldn't stand for that now. I had the opportunity to taste test, big time, and one of my favorites was butter mints.

They are so easy to make, lovely to serve for the holidays and store well in the refrigerator. You can use butter or pastry mold for lovely sculptured mints or if the Christmas potluck is hours away, just make walnut sized balls and press them with a fork. My recipe tastes a lot like the Sweets one... just lacks the special Sweet's touch on the marble slab.

Julaine Kennedy

Butter Mints

Ingredients:

1/3 cup of butter

1/3 cup corn syrup

1 pound powdered sugar



Melt butter, stir in corn syrup until well blended.

Pour over powdered sugar and work into dough.

Flavor and color as desired or leave plain.

Roll in granulated sugar and press into molds.

Pop out and let air dry on each side for 12 hours.

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



*Celebrating our
43rd Anniversary*

Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events www.denverbotanicgardens.org

New at Chatfield! With the Colorado foothills as a backdrop, more than one million twinkling lights will illuminate the beauty of a charming forest path at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield.

A children's play area - including a treehouse - will be included along the trail path. Tour a restored 1880s homestead that will be decorated in a charming Colorado country Christmas motif. Hot cocoa and other refreshments will be sold to ward off the chill during the walk through the Gardens' trail. Holospex 3-D glasses, which have been hugely popular at the Gardens' York Street location, will be available for just \$1. Lots of free parking.

Location:

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road
Littleton, CO 80128
303-973-3705

Dates:

Open Wednesday through Sunday evenings
Dec. 3, 2008 - Jan. 4, 2009

Times:

5 - 8:30 p.m. (last ticket sold at 8 p.m.)

Admission:

\$9 Adults (ages 16-64)

\$7 Seniors 65+

\$6 Child (4 to 15)

Free for children 3 and under

Adult, Senior and Child members receive \$2 off per ticket

Group of 10 or more: \$6.50 per person (no advance reservation necessary) -- please arrive as an entire group to purchase tickets. Tickets will be available for pre-purchase at the Holiday Sale on Friday, Nov. 14 - Sunday, Nov. 16. You may also pre-purchase tickets through TicketsWest at any King Soopers Guest starting Saturday, Nov. 22.

