



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 20, Issue 6 February 2009

A Word from the President...

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Tina Kellogg

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Bonnie Hisgen

Lucy Ginley

Secretary:

Pam Hinsh

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 Edito@EvergreenGardenClub.com

Newsletter Editor & Website EvergreenGardenClub.org

A Gardener's Winter Time Blues.

I often think about creating a coloring book with this title. I actually have it started, with several black and white drawings, the first page is a great big bucket of flowers entitled "I Need Sunshine; Color me Yellow"! But alas instead of finishing the book I find myself remodeling my home office. Changing out the black metal files drawers and white Formica cabinets to the warmth of wood, and painting the walls, yup, you guessed it, YELLOW!

Granted we get far more sunshine out here than say for instance Madison Wisconsin...still I feel the need to work with greens and yellows, I suppose trying desperately to make up for the lack of being out in the garden and that sunshine. Cold temperatures and short days only add to an already barren time of the year. I found that color therapy helps. (Especially with crayons and grand-kids.) After the distractions of the holidays, there's a yearning for spring color. We put away all the reds and silvers and gold's of Christmas, take down the lights and what have we got? The austere void tones of winter. I've always felt a particular kinship with bare trees, but those browns and beiges of lawn and shrub, I just can't call that color. These are the months that I find myself wearing colors I wouldn't otherwise choose, like lime green! Looks better on the trees than me, but I need it now.

Thankfully the seed companies are helping us out by sending all their catalogues. Though I do more shopping on line these days, the seed catalogues seem to find me even when they're not in my post office box. I'll come home to a stack on my front porch with a tiny note and smiley face saying "Thought you might like these." Or, "Can you use these?" Some friendly neighbor has dropped them off for my amusement, or trying to clean out their own stash from past years and despite the paper conundrum that clutters my office I always find myself taking them in.

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Upcoming Meeting: "Plant Smart-Six Steps to Choosing Perfect Plants"

February 10, 2009

Jocelyn Chilvers's talk and book signing on residential landscape and garden design is in a simple and permanent reference format.

the World Gardening Table.... And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug. See you there!

Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am. Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for

Garden Club meetings will be cancelled wherever Jefferson County Mountain Schools are closed because of inclement weather. This will eliminate any confusion or the need for last minute communications about weather cancellations.



Garden Club News



Hospitality Bites

The hospitality team for February is as follows:

Liz Hamilton	Frances McCawley
Chris Gray	Eleanor Viergever
Bonnie Hisgen	Lorna Lind

Carolyn Taschdjian

Please would you arrive between 8:45 & 9:00 am to help set up the room and be prepared to stay after the meeting for clean-up. **THANKS!**

"Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better."

Albert Einstein

Ken Ball, ASLA

February Birthdays

2/03 Frances Sorensen	2/24 Mary Pinder
2/24 Frances McCawley	2/22 Janet Williamson
2/22 Eleanor Viergever	

Minutes of the January 13, 2009 Meeting

President Tina Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:45 and welcomed members.

33 members were present and no guests.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Pam Hinish

- December minutes – Ken Ball motioned the approval, Priscilla Chapin seconded, approved by unanimous vote.
- Thank you cards and letters for EGC's December's donations were received from the Seniors' Resource Center, Mountain Resource Center, Evergreen Christian Outreach and World's Children, Inc. A folder of the cards and letters was circulated.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Beth Feldkamp - Balances after donations are \$8821.57/Savings and \$510.12/Checking.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tina Kellogg

- Plant Sale – scheduled for June 6, 2009 at Hiwan Homestead Museum; Tina will chair and Lucy Ginley agreed to co-chair; both commercially grown and members' plants will be sold; digging day for members' plants will be April 24.
- Sign-up lists were circulated for the Plant Sale Committee, for Members who have plants to donate and for the Digging/Potting crew.
- Bylaw Amendments – EGC Board has been working on amendments to the bylaws to consolidate the EGC fiscal year to one date; these will be e-mailed to the membership prior to the February meeting and the vote on them will occur at the February meeting.
- Next Year's Board – Please think about volunteering to be on the '09/'10 EGC Board and let Tina know of your interest!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Program – Please e-mail program ideas for next year to Lucy including any that you may like to present.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00. Program presentation was by Jim Borland.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hinish



Over The Garden Fence *By Karla Briggs*

THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT

I have enjoyed the warm days we have been having this winter. Walks with the dogs, no coat and all of that beautiful sunshine. But in the back of my mind I worry about how my gardens are faring with the drastic temperature fluctuation, nearly constant wind and so little precipitation. This has not been a good winter for gardens.

Colorado winters are long in duration and our growing season relatively short. As a consequence, winter gardening is mandatory in order to sustain the plants. Take advantage of the warm winter days to do some due diligence in your garden. If you did not have an opportunity to mulch the garden last fall or if the wind has relocated the mulch you did put down, take the time to apply several inches of mulch on beds and around trees and shrubs. Mulch is the best line of defense against the freeze/thaw phenomenon we experience here along the Front Range. Mulch helps to maintain a more constant soil temperature and allow the soil to retain more moisture. Gardens with a southwesterly exposure are at the greatest risk of having the plants go in and out of dormancy and literally get pushed up out of the ground to expose their root systems to drought and freezing.

Winter watering needs to be done if the gardens, trees or shrubs do not have snow to insulate them. We have had so little snow this season that when a storm does roll through I shovel as much as I can find and wander around putting it on garden beds. I live on a northern exposure, which does help to keep the snow around a little longer. For the gardens and plants that have no snow cover, winter watering can mean the difference between life and death. The CSU Jefferson County extension recommends winter watering every four to six weeks if there is no precipitation. Water plants early in the day, with temperatures above freezing and little or no wind. Remember to unhook the garden hose, drain it and store it where it won't freeze!

Because there has been so little snow this winter I have really enjoyed the plants that provide winter interest in my gardens. Piet Oudolf, the Dutch plantsman, was once quoted as saying, "A plant has got to look good when it's dead." He is absolutely right. The plants that I can enjoy in the gorgeous winter light or covered in hoar frost warm my gardener's heart. I cut back most of the plants in the fall so as not to provide additional forage for the dreaded voles. There are some plants, however, that have such great structure, seed heads and berries that I leave them standing. Some of my favorite plants that look good when they are dead are Stonecrop Sedum, Oriental Poppies, Echinacea, Yarrow, Penstemon, Globe Thistle, Shrub Roses, Bee Balm, Russian Sage, Red Twig Dogwood, Russian Hawthorne, Cotoneaster, Clematis and ornamental grasses.

Another source of winter interest in the garden is the hardscape: a bench or chair, a fence or gate, a piece of garden sculpture, a pathway and rock walls. I love looking out my kitchen window and seeing the old swing hanging from a Ponderosa branch, it looks melancholy and hopeful at the same time.

Take a look around your winter garden and if it looks too bare, make a plan to add some good-looking dead plants and maybe a swing for next year.

I have gotten some questions about what to do with an Amaryllis bulb after it is done blooming. So I did a little research and this is what I found. Amaryllis bulbs can produce mid-to-late winter blooms for years. When the flowering has stopped, water the plant as a houseplant for the rest of the winter. After the danger of frost is past, June 1st for the mountain area, plant the pots in a shady spot. Bring them indoors at the end of August or beginning of September and gradually reduce the amount of water. Starting October 1st, no water. Cut the dried foliage and let the bulb rest for at least a month. After the rest period, re-plant the bulb in fresh soil and begin to water. In the past, I have always just stored the bulbs in a dry, dark, frost-free location (garage) with varying degrees of success. I am going to try this method and see what comes up!

Be Well, Karla

(continued from President's Message pg1)

Right up there with color therapy I begin to ponder which seeds to start first. In addition to my spring greens there are my "companion" plants, the work horses of the veggie garden, but when sown with the crop, they seem to take forever to bloom, and the smelly blossoms are what keeps the bugs away. Particularly one I have in mind to get growing ASAP is my African marigold. I planted these with my broccoli and cabbage to keep those cute little white moths away, (which makes for the not so cute little green worms!). They seem to take to the indoor starting rather well, unlike some that get spindly too soon without nature's sun and unlike their French cousins they get masterfully tall; three to four feet when they're allowed the space, the stinky greens and flowers reach well above the broccoli heads

I started to buy most of my seeds in bulk a few years ago, of course there's only so many zucchini you can grow, same for the pumpkins and the other room hogging, wander-where-they-please cucurbits. I've tried trellising a few, just like my cucumbers, but the larger vines get pinched off rather easily if you don't watch them. While I try to let most of them wander throughout the corn and sunflowers, they don't quite seem to get enough light for our short season. Speaking of wandering...I tend to do a lot of that this time of year, just like walking through the gardens of my mind, maybe I'll wander right into spring. Now there's a therapy I just can't get enough of!

Happy Garden Dreams, Tina

CROCUS

Is that something?
 The question repeats...often, daily.
 What gives hope of resumption, renewal...
 It is expected as with time itself.
 That part of the cycle
 Bringing splendor, random order.
 Never knowing what may be; only that it shall be.
 Presumptive wait through many moons;
 Memories braced from earnest bid and challenged guard.
 Pampered, nourished, neglected.
 Enter suddenly... often, a stark contrast.
 Through veiled tenderness, an undeniable boldness;
 As it should be to receive such accolades.
 These forefront warriors... perhaps on a freedom march,
 Or of a roguish independence.
 It matters not, the outcome stays true.
 Cold is warmed and our thoughts yield form
 To hope and motivation; a future's praise.
 Is that something?
 Finally!



Deb Babcock: The Beauty of Botanic Names - Submitted by Jean Todd

Latin nomenclature a reliable way to identify your plants.

During a visit to the Betty Ford Garden in Vail a few summers ago, I found a plant called Dusty Miller that I thought would be perfect for my home garden. When looking up this plant in the catalogs, I found that Dusty Miller is a common name for several plants with silvery leaves. It turns out that what I really wanted was *Artemisia* "Silver Brocade."

If I had asked for this plant by its common name, I might have gotten *Centaurea cineraria*, *Lychnis coronaria* or even *Senecio vira-vira* — all of which are also commonly called Dusty Miller but are not the plants I wanted.

Plants' common names can be confusing and misleading, because many plants share the same common name, and many plants have more than one common name.

That's why you're more likely to obtain the exact plant you want when you use the botanic, or scientific, name for it. To help you out when we write about plants in this column, we usually attempt to provide the plant common name, followed by its botanic name.

The other advantage of botanic names is that they often are quite descriptive of the plant. The first part of the name is the genus (*Artemisia*), and the second part is the species, or its hybrid or cultivar name (*Silver Brocade*). The genus might consist of just one species or many (more than 1,000) species. Often, when several plants of the same genus are being cited, the genus name is abbreviated to its initial letter, such as *A. lactiflora* for *Artemisia lactiflora*.

The plant's second (species, hybrid or cultivar) name often is easy to decipher and describes some aspect of the plant. In the example of *A. 'Silver Brocade'*, the second name describes the silvery color and ornate pattern of the foliage.

Variations of species created by gardeners are known as cultivars or hybrids. You'll often find a cultivar name in quotation marks, such as *Artemisia absinthium* "Lambrook Silver." When two species are involved in the parentage of a new plant, a hybrid is created. In those cases, usually only the genus is indicated, followed by a modern language name in quotations, such as the rose varieties *R. "Heritage"* or *R. "Autumn Sunset."*

Some Latin botanic names are so close to the English translation that it's easy to decipher the meaning. For examples the nomenclature *azureus* describes the color blue, or azure. *Purpureus* means "purple," *arboreus* means "tree-like" and *compactus* means "compact" or "dense."

Sometimes, the species name describes where the plant comes from, such as *africanus* ("from Africa") or *borealis* ("northern"). Other species' names describe plant peculiarities, such as *edulis*, meaning "edible," *macro*, meaning "large," *officinalis*, meaning "medicinal" or *fragrans*, meaning "aromatic" or "fragrant."

Because botanists across the world use the same system of naming plants, gardeners can identify and describe plants from anywhere without confusion by using the scientific names. Also, knowing the botanic names of your plants can help in understanding the conditions in which they will flourish in your garden.

Scientific names offer clues about your plant. Here are a few of the Latin botanical names with their English descriptions:

Latin/English		
<i>albus</i> : white	<i>elegans</i> : elegant, slender, willowy	<i>japonicus</i> : of Japan
<i>aureus</i> : golden	<i>nanus</i> : dwarf	<i>littoralis</i> : of the seashore
<i>azurea</i> : sky blue	<i>repens</i> : creeping	<i>montanus</i> : of the mountains
<i>cereus</i> : waxy	<i>scandens</i> : climbing	<i>riparius</i> : of riverbanks
<i>discolor</i> : two colors	<i>alpinus</i> : of the Alps	<i>saxatilis</i> : living in rock
<i>purpureus</i> : purple	<i>australis</i> : southern	<i>flora</i> : having flowers
<i>rubens</i> : red	<i>chinensis</i> : of China	

(Continued from pg. 6)

phyllus: leaves
 densi: dense
 fruticosus: shrubby
 fulgens: shiny
 grandi: large, showy
 sagittalis: arrowlike

folius: foliage or leaves
 angustifolius: narrow leaves
 acerifolius: maplelike
 salicifolius: willowlike
 altus: tall
 contortus: twisted

maculatus: spotted
 mollis: soft
 platy: broad
 plumosus: feathery
 rugosus: wrinkled, rough

This was in Time Magazine, January 19, 2009.

How to safely dispose of old electronics: Televisions: Sony, Samsung and LG will take back your used TV sets for free. Cell Phones: Greenphone.com will buy (and resell) your old handsets.

Computers: Dell recycles its equipment for free; Staples will accept any drop-offs.

Check www.ban.org for a list of "e-stewards," accredited U.S. recyclers by BAN (Basel Action Network) .

Old electronic equipment is ravaging Guiyu, China. To see how, go to www.time.com/ewaste .

Australian Christmas Wreath

This delightful circle was taken at Lamington national park, west of the Gold Coast.

These are native Australian mountain parrots, the red and blue kind are crimson rosella and the red and green are King Parrots.

They are feasting on sunflower seed which Mr. Watt had left for them, but did not expect them to form such a perfect ring. This guy on the bottom is about to jump into the centre, to the discontent of the other birds.

Jan 26th was Australia Day. Australia Day commemorates the arrival of the first fleet under the command of Cpt Arthur Phillip at Sydney Cove in 1788. Sydney Cove is just a little to the south of present day Sydney.

So, there's your history lesson for the day!

Submitted by Chris Gray



Australian Christmas Wreath

Matthew Watt

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Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

www.denverbotanicgardens.org

Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens @ Chatfield

February 06, 9:00AM—5:00 PM
Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

Going Green in your Home and Garden

Denver Botanic Gardens
February 10, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Call for information

Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens

Denver Botanic Gardens
February 16, 9:00AM — 5:00 PM

Free days for Colorado residents are held throughout the year at both Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield thanks to funding from Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)