

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

The first principal, Observe and Interact were clearly demonstrated to me by this flower: Clarkia. She's the one that said "Hey, look at me!" First caught my eye a few years back, and then with patients waited for her seedlings reappearance, noting (observing) the color of the stems, the variegated coloring; reddish purple stem and veins in the leaf. I saw immediately that it could have been mistaken for an amaranth weed. I also noticed it did not come back where I saw the first plant, but a few feet away, telling me it was an annual that reseeded. Observation and Interaction insures her survival.

The second principal of Permaculture: Collect and Store Energy

How many times have you watched little kids and said, "If only!" ... (I could bottle that energy).

Long before I was familiar with 'permaculture' I was telling my students to do this specifically when it came to the tomatoes. In such need of heat in the cool mountain evenings, I would place black slate stones amongst the black pots to catch the sun's heat during the day and release it at night. It made a difference in keeping those 'maters' just warm enough

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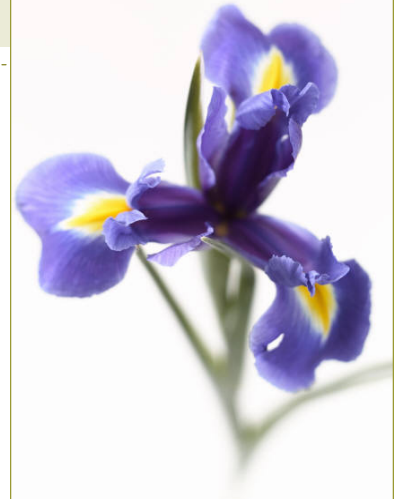
OCTOBER 13TH, 2009 MEETING & PROGRAM

Workday

It is time to put the Community Gardens to bed for the winter. We will start with breakfast and a brief meeting, and then go to the gardens. Everyone that can is encouraged to help out on this fall clean-up. **A couple of the gardens currently do not have anyone signed up to help out. If you have not signed up for a specific garden, either contact Karen MacFarquhar at gkmacf@aol or 670-3749, or sign up during breakfast.**

Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am.

Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for the World Gardening Table... And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug.



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2009-2010 OFFICERS

- President—Tina Kellogg
- Vice President—Diana Aldridge
- Secretary—Stan & Liz Barrett
- Treasurer—Dwight Gilliland
- Past President—Karla Briggs
- Member Emeritus—Louise Mounsey

NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Parker

Rebecca Hicks

Ann Hittle

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Meredith Bossert

10/23 Laura McReynolds

10/28 Marilyn Kaussner

Clarkia



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT....

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at night. Even milk jugs or buckets filled with water store up enough heat during the day to make a few degrees temperature difference at night. We know it only takes a few degrees to make the difference between frost and survival. We know water works as well in the storage of heat; the 'Wall o' Water' is a big seller up here for those who strive to grow tomatoes. This summer was a perfect example, even though the rains were in abundance, warm nights were elusive. The slate, the water, and even using black pots help to store enough heat to make a difference in night time temperatures.

The same could be said for collecting and storing water; rain barrels, cisterns and the like collect water. In the past, and I hesitate to say, most likely for our future's sake, we need every drop we can store. While I have not personally had to struggle to keep moisture on my veggies, their need for consistent moisture is clear. So much so the powers that be are rethinking the cisterns and other models of storing water in order to grow food. It's easy enough to conserve with perennials, through choice of plant and mulch, but annual vegetables require much higher consistency of moisture to mature and reach fruition. The air is dry enough out here in general, but when you

go a couple weeks without rain, you can tell your perennials to "tough it out", not so with the vegetables, they simply wither away and won't bloom or produce in a timely fashion.

There are many ways to conserve the water we use in gardens, mulch the first and most likely candidate; drip systems are said to be the most conservative delivery system, but often difficult to arrange in the veggie garden where annual placements change every year. Ground cover crops assist in ways that conserve on the evaporation rate and succulent ground covers use little water or nutrient so the shallow rooted systems don't compete for nutrients. In fact in companion plantings they'll actually enhance the nutrient values in the soil.

These days with energy conservation being ever so prevalent this principal is one more key to our daily life changes that must be met. Solar and wind energy are in full abundance here in Colorado there can be no doubt. The need for fossil fuels seems staggeringly absurd when you think about it. You hear the commercials, so many billions of barrels a day used in this country alone...it's like Tolle says of our spiritual nature, "Humanity must change (evolve) in order to survive." When it comes to the environment its pretty obvious to even the most conservative, those who dismiss global warming as

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT..



“political agenda”, know that we can’t sustain our current uses.

Perhaps the whole world needs an abbreviated course in permaculture. Both sustainability and permaculture principals go

beyond gardening ‘technique’. They need to become a way of life.

The second principal of permaculture: Collect and Store Energy

Tina

AMAZING!

There's a sandwich shop in Denver called "Earl's Sandwich Parlor", located at 1431 Ogden Street (by 14th & Ogden).

A rogue tomato seed actually germinated in a sidewalk space earlier this year. The owner, as well as customers and passersby, left it alone. The photo shows how well it has progressed. It actually grew three good-sized tomatoes (unsure of the variety). Unfortunately, in recent weeks, these fruits have disappeared one by one, either by human or squirrel critter behavior.

Thought you might enjoy seeing this one.

Paul





Daffodils

PLANT FLOWER BULBS IN FALL TO GREET SPRING WITH A RIOT OF BLOOMS - *BY SCOTT GREY MCLEOD*

Follow these tips to give flower bulbs a healthy start, and you will enjoy colorful clusters of blooms come spring.

Autumn is a time to prepare beds and planters for winter's rest, but it is a time of anticipation, as well, thanks to flower bulbs. Fall-planted bulbs, beloved harbingers of spring, let gardeners dream of warm days, many months ahead. Follow these tips to give fall-planted bulbs the best start, and you will enjoy colorful clusters of blooms come spring.

General Bulb-Planting Tips

Winter's chill triggers growth of fall-planted bulbs, so be sure to establish your bulbs in containers and sunny, well-drained spots in the garden about six to eight weeks before the first hard frost. As bulbs are easily confused with one another, keep them in original packaging until popping them in the ground. Dig fairly large holes and loosen soil around the sides of the holes - this provides good drainage and encourages healthy, thick root development (you can add a bit of compost, peat moss, or sand to the soil to promote drainage, as well). Once frost has settled in, cover bulbs with a blanket of mulch to protect them from the cold and provide consistent temperatures through the winter. Remove the mulch when spring arrives.

Plan Before Planting

Before you plant your bulbs, envision how the blooms will fit into your gardening plan and make decisions about types, positioning, and spacing. Unless you absolutely adore a par-

ticular sort and color of bulb, consider selecting early-, middle-, and late-blooming bulbs to enjoy throughout the season. Plant taller bulbs behind smaller (or in the middle of a garden that can be viewed from all sides). Because bulb foliage must be allowed to fade naturally rather than being cut back, mix bulbs with perennials to provide extra interest while hiding withering greenery.

Plant Each Bulb with Care

Reading accompanying instructions is essential when planting bulbs. Note the specific depth required for a particular bulb, and, using your bulb planter or trowel (or a spade, for bulb clusters), dig the hole, set the bulb in place (pointy tip facing up, roots facing down), cover loosely with soil, and water well. Generally, a bulb's planting depth is about three times its width, so larger bulbs (alliums, daffodils, and tulips) are set deeper in the soil than are smaller bulbs, such as snowdrops and English bluebells. Aim to establish large bulbs about three or more inches apart, and small bulbs one to two inches apart.

Let Your Imagination Go

Allow your creativity to flow when planting bulbs. Bulbs are lovely planted in formal rows, but can create a different and equally beautiful effect in large, irregular, natural-looking clusters of 40 or 50 (or more). Consider planting numerous types of bulbs together (either bulbs that flower at the same time or at different times). And remember,

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Bin of Bulbs



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bulbs don't only belong in the garden - why not plant bunches of tiny crocuses throughout your lawn for a meadow-like effect? Bulbs are charming in containers, as well. Imagine a wash of alliums in pots along the front walkway, tulips and hyacinths in clustered stone or teak planters on your back patio, a stand of scilla in your window box. While traditional favorites are lovely and familiar friends every spring, consider adding a new and unusual bulb to your garden repertoire each year.

Always be Planning Ahead

In your garden diary, note where you planted each type of bulb. In spring, once blooms appear, photograph bulbs and tuck the photos in your diary (or store them on your computer) as a guide for next fall when fall-bulb-planting season comes around again. Always buy bulbs early, so you don't miss your favourites, and choose bulbs that will bloom alongside other flowering plants, shrubs, or trees. When you can, buy bulbs in bulk as a cost saver. Why not buy in bulk with bulb-loving friends? Gardening with friends often leads to new botanical discoveries.

The chill of autumn reminds us of the wintry days to come, but planting flower bulbs on a crisp, sunny autumn day lets us dream of and anticipate warm spring days to come and gives us a start on our spring gardens, as well.

About the Author:

Scott Gray is a garden enthusiast who loves to relax taking care of his garden. For more information about container gardening ideas and terra cotta planters be sure to visit his site <http://www.allgardenplanters.com>.

THE SEED SHOP—SUBMITTED BY STAN BARRETT

Here in a quiet and dusty room they lie,
Faded as crumbled stone or shifting sand,
Forlorn as ashes, shriveled, scentless, dry -
Meadows and gardens running through my hand.

In this brown husk a dale of hawthorn dreams;
A cedar in this narrow cell is thrust
That will drink deeply of a century's streams;
These lilies shall make summer on my dust.

Here in their safe and simple house of death,
Sealed in their shells, a million roses leap;
Here I can blow a garden with my breath,
And in my hand a forest lies asleep.

-Muriel Stuart (1885-1967)

*We still need a
Co-Vice Presi-
dent for
2009—2010.*

*If you are
willing to help
on the board
this year,
please give
Tina a call to
volunteer!*



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 09-08-09 AT THE BERGEN PARK FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

The number of members present was 42, exceeding the quorum requirement of 35.

President Tina Kellogg opened the meeting at 9:35am. She welcomed new members and guests and thanked the outgoing Board of Officers, then introduced the new Board, comprising Diana Aldridge (Co-Vice-President), Liz & Stan Barrett (Co-secretaries), Dwight Gilliland (Treasurer), Karla Briggs (Past President) and Louise Mounsey (Member Emeritus). Tina pointed out that the position of the second Co-Vice-President is still open.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Secretary Report Liz Barrett said that she had sent get-well cards to Liz & Kevin Alumbaugh and to Louise & Bill Mounsey and a condolence card to Sheila Henriksen.

Stan Barrett discussed the Minutes from the June meeting and explained that, because the Annual Minutes, which are part of the Annual Report, are required to be published at the same time as the June Minutes, the two sets of Minutes were combined into one set and published in the September issue of the Wild Iris. He asked for any comments or corrections relating to the published Minutes. Since none were offered he asked that the Minutes be approved as published. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the members in a voice vote. Tina pointed out that because of a computer problem some of the members were unable to open the Minutes in the Wild Iris. After the problem is corrected the members will still be able to bring up comments or corrections at the October meeting. An amended set of Minutes will be published if necessary.

Treasurer Report Dwight Gilliland summarized the activity and balances in our bank accounts. The balances in the Savings and Checking accounts are \$261 and \$13,080 respectively. Dwight will provide a written report to Stan Barrett to be filed with the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 9-8-09.

Co-VP report Diana Aldridge discussed the new EGC Directory for 2009-2010 and handed out copies. Anyone who did not receive a copy can obtain one by contacting Diana.

She also reiterated the need for a volunteer to fill the vacant Co-VP position.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Irma Wolf (Garden Tour 2010 coordinator) described the pre-Garden Tour activity, involving twelve members who helped to assess the suitability of eleven candidate gardens to be included in the 2010 EGC Garden Tour. Six gardens were finally selected to be featured in the Tour. Irma asked the Treasurer to create a budget for the Tour expenses.

Karen MacFarquhar (Community Gardens coordinator) passed around a sign-up sheet for garden clean-up volunteers. The first workday is on October 13th. The contacts for the seven Community Gardens are listed in the new Directory.

Tina passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide snacks for our monthly meetings.

Lucille Nelson (World Gardening Table coordinator) explained the purpose of the World Gardening Fund and described the items which had been donated this month. These included gardening shirts and gloves and a wide selection of gardening books, as well as some non-gardening items. She invited the members to browse the table and give a generous contribution for anything they bought.

OLD BUSINESS

Louise Mounsey described a bronze sculpture called "Flowers from a Friend" which was created by Ken Ball, an EGC Business Member. She brought up the subject because it has been suggested in the past and again more recently that the Garden Club might consider purchasing the sculpture to be placed in one of the Community Gardens that we help to maintain. The cost would be in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000. This project has been brought up several times but no specific location has been proposed and no decision to commit to the necessary fund raising has ever been made. Irma Wolf speculated that we could designate a small percentage of each income source to go to a special fund over several years to pay for the sculpture if its purchase were approved. No other action was taken on this subject pending further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

The board made a unanimous decision to join the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce. Amongst many benefits of

MINUTES CONT..

membership is having our fund-raising events published in their widely-dispersed annual magazine. Other information such as our Community Gardens, events and monthly meetings could be listed on their web site along with a link exchange to our web site. We feel that this will greatly increase the Garden Club's visibility in the community. Our non-profit status reduces the membership dues by half, to \$155.

The President adjourned the business meeting at 10:55am, after which the Members took a break for refreshments and socializing. Diana Aldridge then introduced our Speaker, Lenore Mitchell. Lenore is an active Colorado Master Gardener with the Jefferson County branch. She gave us a very informative and entertaining presentation entitled "Native Plants for Mountain Communities." In addition she provided several handouts from the CSU Extension Service (www.ext.colostate.edu) and from the Colorado Native Plant Society (www.conps.org) containing valuable information and recommendations on which plants do well in our climate and which to avoid.

These Minutes respectfully submitted by the Co-Secretaries, Liz & Stan Barrett.



THANKS! To member Paul Luzetski for many of the great photos in this issue, on this page are The Last Days of Summer in the Garden!

HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for October 2009 is as follows:

**Shauna Carder, Mary Pinder, Roseann Paslay,
Toni Yerkes, Karen MacFarquhar, Jo Powers,
Sharon Eaves and Kathie Crump.**

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!

2009—2010 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Louise Mounsey
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EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB

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 Dwight Gilliland at (303) 679-1846 or Mem-bers@EvergreenGardenClub.org

Newsletter Contributions are due by the 20th of each month to Editor@EvergreenGardenClub.com

Newsletter Editor & Website www.EvergreenGardenClub.org

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"How did it get so late so soon?" -Dr. Seuss

It's not over yet...Extend this year and get a head start on 2010.

Fall Planting... great time to plant seeds for 2010 grass seed, perennial and biennial seeds , plant spring bulbs now for outdoors or force in pots for indoor blooms.

Don't Stop now...Hydroponic growing for fresh vegetables and herbs...easy does it and we can help you from seed to harvest.

Sign up...for special events and an EGC discount with proof of 2010 membership

Jubaine and Bob Kennedy

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www.EvergreenGardenClub.org



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