

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

“THOUGH THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD ARE INCREASINGLY MORE COMPLEX, THE SOLUTIONS REMAIN EMBARRASSINGLY SIMPLE....” - Bill Mollison, co-founder of the world-wide permaculture movement

Permaculture Principal #3 “Obtain a Yield”

Most everyone that plants a garden expects something in return; that would be your ‘yield’. Whether its more flowers or more beans, the action we take comes with expectation. How many of us would still be working the soils with no return or benefit? Whether your returns are in the beauty and scent of the flowers in bloom, the sweet taste of strawberries from your own patch or that unmistakable squeaky crunch of freshly picked beans; all of these are the gardener’s yield.

One of the universal laws is that with action there is reaction and so it is in the garden. For every action we take, there is reaction in the soil and plants. Whether you’re removing something, like weeds or adding amendments or mulch, there’s a reaction to this work, with the ultimate focus on benefit or yield of measurable proportion.

(Continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER 10TH, 2009 MEETING & PROGRAM

Fall and Winter Maintenance in the Garden

Harriett McMillan will share both her professional experience from Echter’s Garden Center and her personal gardening experience about preparing the garden for winter and caring for it through the winter. She will also recommend plants that provide winter interest.

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.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Horticulture	4
Minutes	6
Hospitality	7

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

No new members

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

No members with Birthdays in November.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT....

(Continued from page 1)

The fundamental reason to growing food is to survive! What more powerful motivation to learn than that? Now granted few if any of us has survived strictly on what we've raised still, we remember those that did. They handed down the knowledge to gain a 'yield'. How much do we plant to insure that we have 'enough' for a year's sustenance? Seed packets include varying directions, but seldom seen or quoted would be the yield per seed ratio. "This packet plants an eight foot row." Or, "This packet of seed will cover a two foot by four foot bed." But no seed company can guarantee your yield because the yield depends more on your actions that the seed itself. That being said, seeds can and do make a difference. Knowledge of a particular garden's microclimate will affect both the choice of seed and the actions needed to obtain the yield.

This inherit knowledge passed down from farmer to farmer or gardener to gardener can be very useful, but nothing counts as much as your own knowledge in your particular garden. Certainly my heritage on the farm taught me a lot about growing, but none of that seems to count too much at this altitude. Mid June frosts, late August snows kind of said, "Hey Toto, we're not in Kansas any more!"

As with all gardens, the yield isn't always measured by the quantity in the freezer. Imprinted on my taste buds were fresh tomatoes off the vine, beans, berries and greens and the yearning for that taste has provided adequate motivation to learn about growing up here. Equally as strong is the smell of freshly turned soil or the site of sparkly dew on the garden in the early morning light. These aren't the yields that go in the freezer but rather stored in our senses and on a day like today? cold, grey and snowy, that kind of yield is priceless!

While permaculture is a real practice it's also theory which is open to interpretation in varying climates. Goodness knows if anything you've got to be flexible up here! Hand in hand with sustainability and permaculture must be 'do-ability'.

"The philosophy within permaculture is one of working with rather than against nature, and of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than premature and thoughtless action." <http://www.permaculture.org>

I apologize for not sighting my source material for the principals in previous articles. So sorry, here are the most direct sources I've found to date. Lots and lots of good winter reading here: <http://permacultureprinciples.com> or <http://www.permaculture.org>

WORD DAY PHOTOS—OCTOBER 2009

Karla Briggs and Paul Luzetski at the Post Office garden



The girls at the Bergen Park Traffic Circle garden. Karen MacFarquhar, Lorna Lind, Diana Aldridge, Dee Sachs



Cleanup at the Evergreen Library, Mary Dickhoff, Pam Hinish and Nancy Parker



Irma Wolfe and guest sorting name cards before the meeting.



Peggy Fetchenhier showing Laura McReynolds some pruning techniques at the Dam Garden



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Have you ever wondered what it might take to become a Master Gardener? Or what the program is all about? Applications are being taken now for 2010.

What can a Colorado State Master Gardener do for you?

A certified Master Gardener volunteer has completed 60 hours of classes taught by Colorado State University Extension specialists and agents. They then volunteer 50 hours of service to Extension. These volunteers answer thousands of questions by telephone, diagnose plant problems brought to the extension office, write newspaper articles, staff horticultural displays and serve as speakers in the community.

Would you like to become a Certified Colorado State Master Gardener in Jefferson County?

Anyone 18 years or older may apply. Applicants are selected through a screening and interviewing process. It is desirable that applicants have previous knowledge and local experience in gardening and/or landscape management. Each must be available to attend all training sessions. Priority is given to Jefferson County residents.

Can I just take the classes

without doing the volunteer hours?

Yes, the Colorado Gardener Certificate training program is designed for individuals interested in the Colorado State Master Gardener training course without a volunteer commitment (i.e., without becoming a Colorado Master Gardener). The class work is available for a class fee in-lieu-of volunteer service. To receive the Colorado Gardener Certificate, participants must attend at least 80% of the classes.

What training is provided?

Apprentices receive 60 hours of horticulture training from CSU specialists. Instruction includes basic botany and plant physiology; soils and soil fertility; identification and control of insects, weeds, and plant diseases; culture of vegetables, fruits, trees, and lawns. *Classes begin in early January.*

Duties

As a master gardener apprentice, your primary duty will be in telephone consultation — answering home horticulture question from area residents. An extension horticulturist or master gardener is available to advise and assist apprentices as needed. In addition to the continued need for phone work, other opportunities are available for master gardeners.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

What is the cost?

In return for the training, master gardener apprentices are required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of service to Colorado State University Extension. There is also a fee for materials and statewide program development. If you are applying for the Certificate only program and will not be providing volunteer service there will be an additional cost plus the materials fee and statewide program development fees.

Call 303-271-6620 or email Cheryl Mulhauser at cmulhaus@jeffco.us for current fee information.

Application form and more info online at:

<http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/jeffco/hort/mastergarden.htm>

ASK THE GARDENER

Q “In the spring, two plants that I have do come back, eventually, but I seem to always lose a major portion of both plants that were growing very well at the end of the growing season. These plants are *Lavaundula angustifolia* "Munstead" English Lavender and *Thymus praecox* "pseudolanginosos" - Woolly Thyme. I do not know if I am allowing these plants to dry out during the winter or if I am over mulching, particularly the lavender. Advice would be appreciated. Many thanks. Chris Gray

A *Lavaundula angustifolia*—English Lavender is prone to die back in the winter in harsher winter climates. It is traditionally a Mediterranean plant so can suffer in our colder climate. To help promote healthy growth and less winter dieback it is best if sheared back about one-third immediately following the bloom period; with annual thinning of the number of stems on mature, woody plants to promote compactness and vigor for the following season. You can also give it an extra blanket of straw or covering and keep it buried under the snow to stay warmer.

Thymus praecox should be a more hardy plant for our area, it is prone to root rot and they like the soil to be dry so be sure that the plant is not getting water from other sources. I noticed that when I had this growing in a sandy soil in the path it did great, where it was tended to more carefully under mulch and a nice wet rich soil from watering it did less well so I think you might find that this plant does not need much in the way of mulch.

send your questions to Editor@EvergreenGardenClub.org

*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 10-13-09 AT THE BERGEN PARK FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

The number of members present was 35, which constitutes a quorum.

President Tina Kellogg opened the meeting at 9:20am. There were no new members or guests in attendance, nor was there a Speaker scheduled. Tina thanked the Hospitality volunteers for the breakfast that they prepared for the members.

This was the fall Garden Maintenance Day so, as is customary, only a brief business meeting was conducted as reported below, after which the volunteer workers departed to the various community gardens.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Secretary Report: Stan Barrett asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the September meeting as published in the Wild Iris. A motion to this effect was made by Louise Mounsey and seconded by Diana Aldridge. The motion was approved unanimously. However, eight members reported that they were unable to open the Wild Iris on their computers so could not read the minutes. Tina requested those members to send an email to Liz, editor@evergreengardenclub.org. Another member stated that there had been some glitches, our web master was aware and the issues had been resolved.

The Treasurer was out of town so could not give a financial report. No report was presented by the Vice-President.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen MacFarquar (Community Gardens coordinator) said that the number of volunteers signing up for the garden cleanup sessions was less than usual. She stated that the Dam Garden was in still in need of more helping hands even though several Jeffco Master Gardeners had provided many hours of valuable help during the summer, because of its extensive size. A brief discussion with members took place on how to get more committed able bodies into the gardens. Tina speculated that it might be possible to get some help from Community Service workers through the REC district, supervised by EGC members. A member asked if the fall workday could be moved to September, when the weather is better. Karen responded that in September the gardens are flourishing and looking at their best and it would be too early to cut them down at that time. Possibly having some evening programs would increase the awareness of the club and gain some new members. Karen agreed that early this spring the club needed to look at rejuvenating several gardens and get more members involved.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 10:00am.

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

MORE WORKDAY PHOTOS..



Bev Wickland, Jeri Dufford and Toni Yerkes at the Hiwan Homestead Museum



Lucy Ginley and Becky Hicks at Hiwan Homestead Museum Garden



Chris Gray, Linda Ringrose and Dale Fetchenier cleaning up the Dam Garden

THANKS! To member & Historian Susan Blake for many of the great photos in this issue, from the work day in the gardens!

HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for November 2009 is as follows:

Jeri Dufford, Pam Hinish, Beth Feldkamp, Mary Ellen Putnam, Bobbi Sanchez & Ann Hittle

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

President:

Tina Marie Kellogg
303-679-9921
c-303-476-3560
tina@GivenTrees.com

Vice President:

Diana Aldridge
3/945-4559
dianaaldrige@comcast.net

Secretary:

Stan & Liz Barrett
3/816-1092
SLB72057@att.net

Treasurer:

Dwight Gilliland
3/679-1846
c-720-837-5237
danville67@aol.com

Past President:

Karla Briggs
3/674-3685
c-720-272-7720
Karla@Tuppersteam.com

Member Emeritus:

Louise Mounsey
3/674-4695

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 Members@EvergreenGardenClub.org

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

Newsletter Editor & Website www.EvergreenGardenClub.org



- Hydroponics
- Lighting & Equipment
- Seeds • Bulbs
- Tubers & Starts
- Plant Nutrients
- Soils & Amendments
- Tools • Clothing
- Books & Gifts

4007 Evergreen Pkwy
Evergreen, CO 80439 **303-679-3567**

Featuring Organic & Natural Garden Products
Hours: Mon - Sat 10am - 6 pm • Sunday 11am - 4 pm

"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

Julaine and Bob Kennedy

**EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB
P.O. BOX 1393
EVERGREEN, COLORADO
80437**

www.EvergreenGardenClub.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE