

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

Dear Members

Please note there is a change in December’s meeting format to accommodate both time for presentation and holiday socializing, the presentation of “Gifts for Gardeners” will be at the top of our agenda...starting promptly at nine thirty. Please plan on arriving by nine fifteen so as not to disrupt the presentation. We’ll follow the presentation with a brief business meeting to discuss and hopefully pass the budget. (approximately ten thirty) All committee reports and announcements will be tabled until the January meeting. Approximately ten forty-five we’ll sample all the yummy contributions from our awesome hospitality crew and share in the holiday spirit.

Thanks, Tina

4TH PRINCIPLE OF PERMACULTURE:

Apply self regulation and accept feedback. They use the proverb “The sins of the father are visited on the children of the seventh generation.” to summarize.

(Continued on page 2)

DECEMBER 8TH, 2009 MEETING & PROGRAM

Gifts for Gardeners

Have you ever wished you could find the perfect gift for your gardener friends? Janet Shangraw and Donna Duffy, CSU Extension Master Gardeners, will bring a variety of practical, edible and unusual gift ideas to delight the gardeners on your list. 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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/13 Marjorie Clinton

12/15 Mary Dickhoff

12/17 Arlene Fitterer

12/19 Jessie Davis

12/22 Irma Wolf



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT....

(Continued from page 1)

(www.premacultureprinciples.com) While I don't think it's taking seven generations to witness and understand this 'sin' this proverb sums up the ideals of permaculture very well. What we do to the earth has lasting effects, not just locally but globally. The need to apply self regulations has never been greater. Accepting feedback from nature may be one of the toughest lessons we have to learn.

Too often as gardeners we get into control issues, when sometimes it might just be better to sit back and observe what is, rather than annihilating every thing to start over from scratch. We've seen what happens in disturbed areas, around new developments, where no restoration attempts are made. The top soils get scraped away, the subsoil gets turned upside down and then is left open to accept the most tenacious of weed seed. Like wise, with herbicides, everything is killed off, but without some steps for restoration, the soils lie open for other noxious plant seeds to take over.

I believe I learned this lesson twenty years ago when trying to 'control' our back hill. The campanula that grew there was so thick nothing else would grow. So I dug, and dug only to find the mother roots as thick as rutabaga! In some areas the roots went down four feet and into the side of a root cellar that was built in the forties. We sifted through the soils meticulously for every tiny bit of white root we could find, and still the campanula prevailed. In fact the next year it seemed even more robust. After a couple year of digging with little effect, my husband sprayed herbicide all over thinking that would finally do it in. Well it did, for the sea-

son anyway...the hillside was dead...however no restoration or replanting was done...the following year, the campanula was back, but now mixed in with thistle and grasses looking ten times worse than the original mass; coupled with the erosion that took place... those lessons were all about accepting nature's feed back.

After all the time that has passed, I find myself marveling over these plants that prevail. Their sheer tenacity makes me wonder... surely, there must be cause for some of these plants' growth habits. Now I'm not suggesting we allow the truly noxious weeds to go 'un-regulated'...their propagation and spread in most places is no doubt a man made folly and we need to clean up our messes. But when it comes to control in our own yards we need to practice self regulation and accept the feed back we get.

Stay tuned for January's fifth principle on renewable resources...

MEETING PHOTOS —NOVEMBER 2009



Lorna Lind and Ruth Alford.



Beth Feldcamp brings on the FOOD!



Harriette McMillen, horticultural expert from Eckters Nursery speaks to us on "Fall and Winter Maintenance in Your Garden"



The November food table



PLANS FOR A WINTER GARDEN, LINDA KNOX ADAMS COUNTY (PA) MASTER GARDENER

What makes a "winter" garden special? Or perhaps the question should be: what makes an ordinary garden a special winter garden? Quite simply, the fact that a garden appears at a time when everything else in the winter landscape is dull, plain and brown is outstanding alone.

Starting from the horizontal aspect, you may decide to build walkways or edges at various sections of the yard. Remember that pieces of walks or paths create interest if set at angles or if irregular stone shapes are used. A curved path approaching an entrance extends its own invitation to the visitor approaching your front door. The path may be stone, brick, concrete, paving blocks or gravel; even a perfectly flat front or side yard benefits by the delineation of planting areas. A small statue tucked into a corner or between beds at the edge of the garden adds interest to the design, and generally, small spaces appear larger if plants around the edges surround a wider lawn.

Paths and raised areas lend a sense of movement. You will not find many moving signs of life unless it is a rabbit scurrying or a squirrel recovering his hidden stash of food that only he remembers. Most welcome to gardeners are the colorful birds that are easily drawn to feeding sta-

tions strategically placed around the yard. An all-winter feeding station supplies another focal point whether at the edge of the landscape or in a protected corner - feathered friends appreciate your kindness at any spot.

In spite of the temptation to choose showy plants such as ornamental cabbage that look great for a short time on display, you should consider that protection is necessary and the onset of severe weather will probably end their usefulness. To avoid this problem, choose plants that will continue through the winter and into coming years. In other words, consider plants recommended for zones 3-4 which safely grow in our locale. Planting of carefully selected trees may be the next step. Remember that the important thing for winter will be the overall shape and size of the tree when mature for the space allowed, whether evergreen or deciduous meaning that the limbs will be bare when leaves have fallen. Just a few small trees and shrubs that provide color for winter interest .

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UNWRITTEN RULES OF GARDENING ... BY DAVID HOBSON, WWW.GARDENHUMOUR.COM

- The best way to garden is to put on a wide brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.
- Compost is best aged a little like a fine wine. I mean, would you prefer to drink a nice 97, or something that was made last Thursday.
- When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.
- A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.
- Spring does not arrive until the ice is out of the compost heap.
- Winter does not arrive until the ice is IN the compost. Until then, all bets are off.
- Any self respecting rock will break at least one shovel before accepting its new home.
- A good compost pile should get hot enough to poach an egg, but not so hot it would cook a lobster.
- Gardening requires a lot of water most of it in the form of perspiration.

FOREST HEIGHTS LODGE



Evergreen Garden Club has enjoyed a Christmas celebration for over 30 years with the boys from Forest Heights Lodge. Forest Heights Lodge is a Residential Treatment Center for boys, (approximately ages 8-14).

Each year in December, several members of Garden Club go to FHL for a Christmas party. This year, the party is December 9th at 3pm. We bring a plant for each boy and a large cookie for each of them and the staff.

Generally, we bring a cactus plant, because shortly after we are there, many of the boys go home for Christmas, so they need a plant that can survive for a while without much care (if any).

At the party, we talk about whatever plants we bring and leave them an information sheet on how to take care of them. The boys are usually at FHL for 2-3 years, so often, several of the boys will bring plants to the party that they had received in a prior year to show us.

These are bright, inquisitive kids who love to learn – and share lots of information with us as well. It is a delight to share our love of plants with them. We are taking them Christmas Cactus this year.

Peggy and Dale Fetchenhier

*Photo below—
snapped on October 29th, second day of the storm. I believe it is a Cooper's Hawk. It hung around my yard during the storm and picked off a number of our resident song-birds.*

There are definitely fewer song-birds in our yard since the storm. I think it was a combination of the hawk's appetite for them plus the intensity of cold and snow during this particular October week.

Paul Luzetski



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 11 10 09 AT THE BERGEN PARK FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

The number of members present was 37, which constitutes a quorum.

President Tina Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. There were no new members present but Tina welcomed one guest. She also thanked the Hospitality volunteers for the food they were preparing for the members.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Secretaries' Report: Stan Barrett asked for comments on the Minutes of the October general membership meeting as published in the *Wild Iris*. When no comments were offered he asked for a motion to approve the Minutes as published. A motion to this effect was made by Louise Mounsey, seconded by Mary Dickhoff and approved unanimously. The computer problems which prevented some members from opening the *Wild Iris* in the two previous months appear to have been resolved. Tina asked the Secretary to provide about 12 hard copies of the Minutes at every meeting in case the problems recur. These will be placed on the table in the lobby, where the members' badges are set out.

Treasurer's Report: Dwight Gilliland presented a summary of the activity and closing balances for the EGC savings and checking accounts and provided copies to the members of the summary, covering the period 07-01-09 to 11-09-09. He expressed regret that the completion of the budget was behind schedule, explaining that he had had spent much of the past month on business trips out of town. The finalized budget will be presented to the membership at the December meeting. balances for the EGC savings and checking accounts (\$10,122 and \$1,526 respectively) and provided

Dwight reported that the EGC financial records were audited on 26 August. No problems were found.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

A new committee has been formed to assess the feasibility of commissioning the "Flowers for a Friend" sculpture. The Sculpture Feasibility Committee, chaired by Sandy Swan, will explore all aspects of this possible acquisition, including funding approaches, suitable locations etc. and will report their findings at the January meeting. Other members of the Committee are Louise Mounsey, Jo Powers, Pam Hinish, Ruth Alford, Lynn Dimmick and Ken Ball.

Louise Mounsey (Memorial Committee Chair) explained that accumulated memorial funds are used to support various memorial projects either by paying the total cost or by contributing start-up financing. The Sculpture Fund could be designated to receive a contribution if the Memorial Committee agreed that it was appropriate. Irma Wolf made a motion to this effect; however the President recommended that we table that motion until the January meeting when the Committee's report is given and other precursory motions are made.

Dwight (Membership Committee Coordinator) said that he plans to update the Membership Book to include five new members who joined the Club after the book was printed.

Marilyn Kaussner (Natural Resources Committee Coordinator) reported that the 350 Symposium held last month was very successful and well attended. She discussed methods of disposing of prescription drugs and recommended a website for more information (SMARxtdisposal.net). She also recommended shredding our old membership directories to avoid misuse of personal information.

Jeri Dufford (*Wild Iris* co-editor) asked members to make sure that any postal address changes are reported so that mailed copies of the Newsletter don't have to be returned by the post office – that process is quite costly. She requested that any articles be e-mailed to editor@evergreengardenclub.org -- not to individual editors. Because of the great interest in the potential acquisition of the "Flowers for a Friend" sculpture, Jeri asked Sandy Swan if she would write an article on the subject for the Newsletter.

The President adjourned the business meeting at 10:45 am. Vice-president Diana Aldridge then introduced our Speaker, Harriet McMillan, who is a horticulture specialist at Echter's Garden. She presented a talk entitled "Fall and Winter Maintenance in your Garden," giving advice on how to prepare perennials, vegetable gardens, roses, lawns and trees for the winter. She also provided a lengthy list of plants that provide fall and winter interest in the garden. Her talk stimulated numerous questions from the audience, which she answered very handily.

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

GREEN NEWS—DISPOSING OF MEDICINES

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility.

Do your part by not flushing unused medication or empty them down the sink.

By following these 3 simple rules you safeguard lives and protect the environment.

Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag.

If medication is a solid, crush it or add water to dissolve.

Add kitty litter, sawdust or coffee grounds to plastic bag.

Seal the plastic bag and dispose in the trash.

For more information, consult your pharmacist or visit our

Website at www.SMARxTDISPOSAL.net

DOOR PRIZE PROCEDURE UPDATE

Door prizes are awarded to each food contributor. As they arrive they will be invited to take a door prize, rather than take a lottery number. So, the earlier the food contributor arrives, the sooner they can choose a door prize.

Leftover door prizes will be given to new members and/or guests during the break."

THANKS! To member & Historian Susan Blake for many of the great photos in this issue!

HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for December 2009 is as follows:

Roseann Paslay, Lorna Chorn, Jacque Whyte, Carolyn Taschdjian, Cathi Edmund, Lucy Ginley, Barbara Steger, Shauna Carder, Louise Mounsey, Susan Blake.

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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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



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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

Julaine and Bob Kennedy

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www.EvergreenGardenClub.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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