

# The Wild Iris

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

### 5<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE OF PERMACULTURE:

**U**se and value renewable resources and services  
As with the previous discussions on these principals I don't think much of any explanation needs to happen with this one. I think we are all getting the broader picture of what happens when we don't acknowledge our 'renewable resources'. To me, use and value equate to respect.



#### 1. Observe & interact

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder"

We've heard this before, and over and over the saying "Recycle, Renew('able) and Reuse" has become the battle cry from ecologists all over the world for some time now. It's not new and yet the more we dig at this in theory the more overwhelmed we become trying to locate original sources. Even when we've found something that indicates our own country as the origin, (or grower) the parts or produce have been shipped from yet another.

An example may be USDA's Organic label on produce that are grown  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## JANUARY 12TH, 2009 MEETING & PROGRAM

**W**ildlife in Parks  
Motion activated camera research project  
Tim Sandsmark will present a program on how using motion activated wildlife cameras can be a great tool for researching wildlife movement, patterns, and behavior and how this information can be used as the basis for natural resource and recreation management decisions. The program will feature many interesting photos of the varied wildlife we find in this area (mtn. lion, deer, elk, bobcat, bear, fox, coyotes, skunks, etc.)  
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 .....	5
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

1/2 Ginny Cerillo

1/16 Lorna Chorn

1/29 Diana Aldridge

1/31 Nancy Latimer



2. *Catch & store energy*  
"Make hay while the sun shines"

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT....

*(Continued from page 1)*

outside of the US. A little confusing, right?

Some how if we have to work too hard at finding the source we get discouraged and our vigilance on original resources wane. But it doesn't have to be an all or nothing prospect. Simple consciousness and awareness are certainly better than turning our backs toward it. Reading and demanding accurate labeling from your local grocer are also the consumers' responsibility.

Combining renewable resource with the discovery of actually being able to calculate, to some accuracy, our carbon 'footprint' (of the food we consume) has shed new spotlights on the abilities to garden; to tend the soil and bring an edible plant of some sort to the table. The importance of knowing how and preserving the land to do so is turning heads of the city and community planners; this in turn has the developers at least listening.

This is a marvelous consciousness that's taking root. (No pun intended.) The seeds of these ecological theories however are indeed ancient! While I don't have the facts of exactly when the first seed was intentionally planted by man, we can all assume it predated the words and wisdom coming back at us thousands of years later.

Let's face it, the earliest gar-

dener's didn't just respect these renewable resources, they made Goddesses and Gods of them!

A blessed and respectful Solstice to you all, Tina

### Icon & Proverb

The horse icon represents both a renewable resource (it can be consumed) and a renewable service - pulling a cart, plough or log (a non consuming use). The proverb "let nature take it's course"



reminds us that control over nature through excessive resource

use and high technology is not only expensive, but can have a negative effect on our environment.

*"Make the best use of nature's abundance to reduce our consumptive behavior and dependence on non renewable resources."*

• 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*

## MEETING PHOTOS —DECEMBER 2009



Frances Sorenson and Bev Wickland



Francis Sorenson and Barbara Steger



Karen McFarquer and Patricia Scott who's back for a visit from Moab, UT



What a feast!



Julaine Kennedy puts on a hat made of recycled wool from her store "All Season Gardener" during her presentation on Favorite Gifts for Gardeners at the December meeting.



# PLANTING WILDFLOWERS

In the past few years I've read about, and have seen more interest in wildflowers, so I figure it's about time I jump in and add my two cents.

I have watched in despair as some of my friends have created a wildflower bed in their yard, and have ended with the biggest, ugliest patch of weeds I have ever seen. Why did they get weeds instead of wildflowers?

Two reasons.

One they were armed with a lack of good information, and two, they were lead to believe that planting a beautiful bed of wildflowers is so easy that a child could do it. Actually, a child could do it, and with great success. But only if that child were extremely lucky, or had a basic understanding of exactly how to plant a bed of wildflowers and achieve incredible success.

In the next few minutes I intend to arm you with enough good information so you can successfully plant a beautiful bed of wildflowers, and have your neighbors hanging over the fence asking you how ya did it.

First of all, you've got to understand what kind of a neighborhood wildflowers like to live in. They tend to prefer wide open spaces with at least 8 hours of sunshine each day. It's true, they are sun worshipers. They also like the soil to be rich in nutrients, and well drained. They don't like hard packed soil, and they don't like to get their sneakers wet, only for short periods of time.

If you have an area that tends to be wet, wildflowers are not the answer.

Wildflowers can be used for weed control, and with a great deal of success. But you have to give the wildflowers a running start, or the weeds will keep the area "Wildflower Free". Weeds and wildflowers are both sun worshipers, so who ever reaches the top first wins. Neither will grow well without adequate sunlight. If you use this to your advantage you can have a beautiful bed of wildflowers that requires little maintenance.

The secret is proper bed preparation. You must create a bed that is as weed free as possible. You can do this by removing all the vegetation from the area you intend to plant in, and then prepare the soil for planting by tilling or raking to a depth of just one inch or less. Do not disturb the soil any deeper than that, or you will just disturb dormant weed seeds that are just waiting to be brought back to the surface so they can grow. You should consider spraying the existing vegetation with Roudup before you remove it. This will kill all the roots that might still be in the soil.

Keep in mind that you need to spray the weeds or grass with Roundup at least three days before you disturb them. If you feel that the area you have chosen has significant amount of weed seed near the surface, you might consider letting the soil sit for about six days after you work it, then work it again. Do this over and over, but don't work the soil more than one inch deep. The longer you continue this process the more apt you are to get the bed as weed free as possible.

Most weed seeds germinate rather quickly, so when you bring them to the surface

*(Continued on page 5)*



### 3. Obtain a yield

"You can't work on an empty stomach"

*(Continued from page 4)*

through your cultivation efforts, you are giving them a chance to germinate. But then when you work the soil again in six days, you will actually interrupt the germination process and the seed will be spent. The longer you continue the process, the fewer viable weed seeds you will have to contend with. Of course additional seeds are blowing in all the time, so it's unrealistic to think that you can create a planting bed that is free of weed seed.

The most important aspect of this process is to have your bed as ready as possible, at the ideal time for planting wildflower seeds. The secret of success is to plant the wildflower seeds at the ideal time so they take off growing immediately, and beat the weeds at their own game.

The ideal time? Depends on where you live. If you're in zones one through six, you should plant in the spring. If you're in zones seven through 11, you should probably plant in the fall.

Wildflower seeds like warm soil. They will germinate best with a soil temperature of 68 to 70 degrees F. So if you live in a cooler region, you should wait until later in the spring to plant. There's no point planting when the soil temperature is 45 degrees and have the seeds just lay there while some of the weeds seeds germinate. You'd be much better off to continue working the soil as described above until the soil temperature is up to 68 degrees.

I'll say it again, just in case you missed it earlier. Don't work the soil any deeper than one inch.

Now for planting the wildflower seeds.

The best way to plant your wildflower seeds is to distribute them with a small hand held broadcast spreader, or to apply them in a manor that mimics that technique. In order to get the best coverage you should thoroughly mix the seeds with dry sand, vermiculite, or potting soil to increase the volume before you spread them. It's a lot easier to evenly distribute five pounds of granular material over an area than it is 8 ounces.

As you spread the seeds walk in straight lines from one end of the bed to the other. Then do the same thing from the side of the bed in a criss cross pattern to the first set of footsteps you made. This will give you thorough and even distribution. This is why you should mix the seeds with some sort of filler material before you start, so you have plenty of volume to work with, and will be able to cover the area completely and evenly.

I urge you to visit [www.wildseedfarms.com](http://www.wildseedfarms.com) and ask for a catalog, or call their toll free number. 1-800-848-0078 This company publishes one of the most complete and informative catalogs I've ever seen. They have a color photo of each variety, along with a good description. They even tell you what percentage of seeds you can expect to germinate, and this varies from variety to variety, so they list this information for each variety.

They also tell you how long each variety takes to germinate, and what the ideal soil temperature is. They also tell you how many seeds are in each pack, how many

*(Continued on page 8)*

Sent to me by a friend—taken in Conifer Center titled “Honey can you go and warm the car up for me?”



4. Apply self regulation & accept feedback

“The sins of the fathers are visited on the children of the seventh generation”

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 12-14-09 AT THE BERGEN PARK FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

The number of members present was 30, which is less than the minimum requirement for a quorum. This means that no official EGC business could legally be transacted in the meeting.

President Tina Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:30am. She pointed out that the annual Christmas meeting was, by tradition, more of a social meeting than a business meeting. Consequently, no reports were presented by the Board Members or the Committee Chairs, with two exceptions as described below.

Secretary Stan Barrett noted that the Minutes of the November General Meeting as published in the Wild Iris Newsletter contained an error. He read the corrected section to the meeting and said that the acceptability of the corrected Minutes would be discussed and voted on at the January General Membership Meeting.

Treasurer Dwight Gilliland introduced the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year (8-31-09 to 8-31-10). Because of the lack of a quorum no motion was made to accept this version, but a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the contributions that the club normally makes to various charitable organizations and community projects. In its present form the budget does not include any such contributions, but a new ad-hoc committee has been formed to review our policy in this area, as it relates to our Mission Statement, and to decide whether we need to change the amount contributed and/or the recipients. Tina commented that as President she receives numerous requests for financial help from a wide variety of groups that we have not supported in the past.

Dwight also presented a summary of the banking activity for the period 07-01-09 through 11-09-09. The balance in the checking account was \$1,489.53 and in the savings account the balance was \$10,122.06. The Banking Summary will be filed with these Minutes.

The President adjourned the business meeting at 10:05am, following which one of our business members, Julaine Kennedy, gave a well-received presentation entitled "Favorite Gifts for Gardeners." She was substituting for a scheduled speaker who had to cancel and her talk described a wide range of gifts, some of which were available from her store (All Season Gardener) in Evergreen.

The remainder of the meeting was an opportunity to socialize, celebrate the upcoming Christmas season and enjoy the wonderful food prepared by the Hospitality volunteers.

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

## GREEN NEWS—

### Disposing of Medicines—update

Here's a brand new pilot program for disposing of unused medications:  
Go to: <http://www.coloradomedtakeback.info> for locations and rules.

Evergreen Rotary sponsors this program and it is important to educate people about contaminated ground water and municipal water supplies by improperly disposed of medications.

### Biodegradable & Compostable Kitchen Bags

Recently I discovered that Walmart sells biodegradable & compostable mini kitchen bags, and full sized bags (for leaves & trash). Bag-To Nature. They are made in Canada and available at the Evergreen Walmart. Website is [http://](http://www.indaco.ca)



[www.indaco.ca](http://www.indaco.ca).



### Poopbags

Also, if you have pets and are looking for biodegradable poop bags, I have been purchasing such bags from <http://poopbags.com>—they are made from cornstarch and are great even for a big dog!

## COLORADO HOME & GARDEN SHOW

I would like to organize a carpool to the **Colorado Garden & Home Show**. It runs from Saturday, February 13th through Sunday, February 21st at the **Colorado Convention Center**. I will be unavailable through February 17th so I would like to drive and organize a carpool on any day from **Thursday the 18th through Sunday the 21st**. Please email or call and let me know your preference. Lucy Ginley, 303-670-1935 [lginley@comcast.net](mailto:lginley@comcast.net)

## HOSPITALITY BITES

**T**he hospitality team for January 2010 is as follows:

Lucille Nelson, Barbara DeCaro, Bobbi Sanchez, Pam Hinish, Susan Blake, Marilyn Kaussner, Carolyn Taschdjian, Shauna Carder, Jan Drury

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  
dianaaldridge@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



5. Use & value renewable resources & services

"Let nature take its course"

**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

*(Continued from page 5)*

seeds in a pound, and how much seed you need to cover a given area. Wildflower seeds have germination periods of 6 to 28 days, so you have to keep this in mind as you plan your garden. If you select a variety that has a 28 day germination period, you should select a second variety with a much quicker germination period and mix them together before sowing.

If you were to sow only seeds with a 28 day germination period the weeds would get a jump on the wildflowers, and you would likely end up with a weed garden. When you mix seeds with different germination periods, the faster germinating seeds will come up very quick, and act as a nurse crop for the seeds that need more time, keeping the weeds and birds at bay until all the seeds can germinate.

Good luck with your wildflower garden! Have fun, and enjoy.

Michael J. McGroarty is the author of this article. Visit his most interesting website, <http://www.freeplants.com> and sign up for his excellent gardening newsletter, and grab a FREE copy of his E-book, "Easy Plant Propagation".

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

[www.EvergreenGardenClub.org](http://www.EvergreenGardenClub.org)



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE