

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

Hello Members!

I'd like to take this opportunity to talk a bit about the club, our benefits, our meetings but in particular, the awesome amount of work that gets done behind the scenes by numerous committees and your board of officers. To have so very many dedicated people working on committees speaks volumes about the club itself. Whether it's for short term goals and events, long discussion about the future and fiscal responsibilities, or working toward re-energizing our "Wow" gardens, each and every one of your efforts and commitments make this club a well established organization that is committed to its community.

The Evergreen Garden Club Inc.; an official not for profit corporation, whose foundations started well over forty years ago; we are eighty members strong and still growing. Our meetings are mixed with business, fun social time and concluded with speakers educated in their field who enlighten or engage conversation about gardening in this area. That's the back bone of what we're about-growing! Gardeners coming together to learn, grow and propagate both our plants and our knowledge throughout the community we live and work in.

In truth it's still about every individual's participation. Whether you bring cookies for a meeting, chair a committee, or sit on the board. Every individual input makes for the greater good of the whole. Whether your task is in a finite detail, or you're charged with observing the 'forest for the trees' your input is as important as the next. Your commitment is appreciated and makes this club a viable, living entity.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Tina

MARCH 9, 2010 MEETING & PROGRAM

"High Altitude Rose Gardening"

David Ingram, a consulting Rosarian and Past President of the Denver Rose Society will present information tailored to the needs of Evergreen gardeners.

Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:15 am. Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for the World Gardening Table... And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug.



May the cool rain
quench your
flowers' thirst.
Renew your spirit,
and wash your
troubles away.

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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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/4 Lucy Ginley**
3/6 Barbara DeCaro
3/9 Stan Barrett
3/9 Ruth Alford
3/13 Lorna Lind
3/14 Roseann Paslay
3/16 Vivian Michaels
3/30 Bonnie Hisgen



I could have wealth beyond
my dreams, but where is the
joy in that?

And I could travel the seven
seas, but I would always
come back.

Everyone could know my
name, and there would be no
peace.

I could have undying love,
And heartaches still increase.

No, if I were wealthy beyond
my dreams
(And where is the joy in
that?)

It wouldn't buy friendship
such as yours --
And there IS joy in that!

7th Permaculture Principal

DESIGN FROM PATTERNS TO DETAILS

"By stepping back, we can observe the patterns in nature and society. These can form the back bone of our design with the details filled in as we go.

Every spider's web is unique to its situation, yet the general pattern is universal?"

I can't think of anything that defines gardening at higher altitudes better than this. Each and every garden is unique to its situation, or micro climate. Yet the growing *principals* that we apply are universal. The right soil and sun and water for the right plant...

The proverb 'can't see the forest for the trees' defines true design principals in that you have to 'look at the forest', before you can 'see the tree'.

Study your environment, your unique placement...find the patterns, the soil, the sun exposure, know your watering abilities for these are the very broadest of strokes when creating a garden. Work you way down the scale from the 'back bone', or as we say in the designers realms, place the garden's 'bones' first. What are the larger more permanent elements? Once we 'see' those, then and only then we can fill in or 'see' the details.

I've made is sound simple, but this can be the gardener's challenge. I know when creating or designing my own gardens, your down on your hands and knees dealing with the details, but if you don't take time to stand up, step back and look at the whole, your overall design gets lost. Practice makes perfect as they say, and it's taken quite awhile to assimilate this principal. Years in fact! It seems like every year I go back and re-design some area that didn't quite turn out the way I originally saw it when planting. Then Mother Nature comes in with her own ideas, and those are difficult to battle...so you don't. Sometimes you plant and wait and see what she does. The growth patterns vary from year to year, depending on our winter season, the moisture, the exposure...you have to take in those broader strokes first.

Yes, the details are fun! Which annual strikes you fancy this year? What small creeping ground cover will need replacing? What bare spots will need 'filling in'? Who's coming back this year, and who's decided they've done their thing, and it's time to go? "Details" it's what keeps us coming back to the dirt every spring, with excitement and anticipation. But all we see right this moment is the bones...the permanence of structure you hopefully intended when the garden originally took form. Take advantage of this season, right now, while waiting through the long pause of winter, to 'step back' and see the garden as a whole. There's plenty of time to dream of details come spring!



7. Design from
patterns to details

"Can't see the forest for the trees"

PHOTOS — FEBRUARY 2010



Summer's almost here ...we can now see the deer moving around in our back yard. Yep, won't be long.

Too Much Winter



Evergreen Garden Club Wow Committee

The first WOW meeting to focus on our community gardens was a great success! Enthusiasm and terrific ideas flowed freely. The main topic discussed was needing full membership participation on EGC garden work days, and also throughout the summer to achieve our goal of "WOW". A number of other ways members that are unable to get "down and dirty" in the gardens were discussed. With this type of participation, resources outside of the club should not be necessary, but it will be the decision of each garden leader if outside resources will be sought. The idea of developing more of a team for each garden was made, and will be encouraged.

The committee discussed the feasibility of signs, plant labels, and brochures for the gardens. The WOW committee finalized a worksheet which will provide history and focus on each garden. The 8 garden leaders will be asked to complete a worksheet.

The financial aspect of achieving "WOW" will be addressed at the March EGC meeting by the ad hoc committee.

This is a brief summary of our meeting. Please feel free to contact Karen MacFarquhar gkmacf@aol.com for more information. The next WOW meeting is scheduled for April 5th at 10 am, please join us.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Evergreen Garden Club Ad Hoc Finance Committee

The Evergreen Garden Club Ad Hoc Finance Committee, Dwight Gilliland, Barbara DeCaro, Irma Wolf, Karla Briggs, Barbara Steger, Karen MacFarquhar, Beth Feldkamp was formed to study and recommend to the membership a minimum financial reserve and a policy for giving to charitable organizations. The committee has met three times since its formation.

Because finances touch virtually everything the club does the discussions have been far ranging. We have examined cash flow over the past nine years, minimum income and expenses (without garden tours, plant sales and any charitable giving), the adequacy of funding support for the gardens we manage, the financial interrelationship between the Club and the newly formed Sculpture Committee and other topics that will be discussed in the final report and recommendation. While some of the committee's recommendations will be outside the original scope of the committee they are felt to be important and should be given consideration by the membership.

The guiding principle for establishing the value of the Club's cash reserve is one of conservatism. That is, the reserve should be adequate to cover all foreseeable annual Club expenses. The club shall never borrow money for operating expenses. A value will be recommended.

The policy recommendation for giving to charitable organizations will gather guidelines (explicit or unstated, but used) such as alignment with the mission statement of the garden club and others developed by the committee. The policy will recommend who will make the decision and how the funding will be allocated. The committee will recommend that funds allocated for charitable giving be the remainder of income after planned expenditures.

The committee believes the gardens we manage should be show pieces of gardening. The funding to accomplish this is felt to be inadequate and the committee will recommend a value to be included in this year's budget which may or may not be adequate to produce "WOW" gardens, but will be a start.

The committee's plan is to make its report and recommendations at the April, 2010 business meeting .

Harrison's Yellow Rose



If you've always thought you couldn't grow roses during a time of drought, think again. One of my favorites is the old-fashioned Harison's Yellow Rose (*Rosa x harisonii*). It came west with the pioneers and will adapt from the high plains to the high country of the Rocky Mountain region. Harison's Yellow has very fragrant, bright yellow, semi-double blooms covering a handsome arching bush in late spring. It is very drought resistant.

HIGH ALTITUDE VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Karla Briggs

HIGH ALTITUDE VEGETABLE GARDENING...CONTINUED From Feb. Issue

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The first thing we need to know when planting any vegetable garden is what the first and last frost dates are and how long the growing season is. For our area the average last frost date in spring is around June 1st, the average first frost date in fall is around September 15th. Which leaves us with around 120 days of growing season. Those dates will vary with altitude and unusual weather. Bottom line is to select hardy plants with shorter growing times. To grow tender crops with longer growing times, i.e. broccoli, leeks, cabbage and squash, start seeds indoors or purchase plant starts.

If this is a first year vegetable garden, select easy-to-grow crops and add more difficult crops as you gain experience. For example, plant bush beans rather than pole beans; they mature more quickly and don't need to be trellised. Plant leaf lettuce rather than head lettuce for quicker maturation; you can begin to trim the early lettuce shoots and use them in salads or munch on them right in the garden. The leaf lettuce will continue to grow throughout the season until you choose to harvest the whole plant. Try early, dwarf varieties of peas. Any "Alaska" varieties are just what we high altitude gardeners are looking for. The soil in a first year garden may still be a bit "heavy"--not much amendment--so plant half-long varieties of carrots that won't be stunted or misshapen by rocks and clumps. Seed packets have the germination and planting information on the back. The CSU website has a vegetable planting guide for additional information.

Starting seeds indoors or in a greenhouse can add weeks to the growing season. The biggest problem with starting seed is "damping off". The term is used to describe a fungus made up of microorganisms that cause the sudden collapse of seedlings. The stems wither at the soil surface and the roots rot. Once seedlings have dampened off it is impossible to revive them. To prevent damping off, use sterile soil medium for germination, provide good air circulation and fill the soil to the rim of the pot so the seedlings aren't tucked down where there is less air. Thin seedlings to avoid overcrowding. I know it seems heartless to rip out the little guys but it is worth sacrificing some for the health of the others. Be sure not to overwater; keep seedlings moist, not wet.

When purchasing plant starts, look for good color, compact not leggy, plump not withered, insect-free plants. Check under the leaves for insects and if you can, check for white, good-smelling roots. Plant starts will need to be hardened off before they are planted in the garden to allow them to adjust to outdoor light and temperature. Keep them in a shaded area during the day and inside or covered at night and gradually move them into full sunlight.

Knowing the individual cultural requirements of crops results in a highly productive garden. Most crops require rich soil, good air circulation, the correct amount of water, fertilizer, frost protection and mulch. Some crops require pollination, trellising or transplanting.

To provide frost protection and extend the growing season, you basically have to trap the heat in the soil from the day and hold it there throughout the night. Moist, smooth soil absorbs more heat than dry, clumpy soil. Using a cover that is low to the ground and spreads over the plants will hold the heat in the soil during the night. Covers need to allow sunlight through to the soil or be removed during the day so the soil can warm up again. Blankets or sheets will work as a cover as long as they remain dry; if they get wet, they will actually cool the air. Floating row covers are lightweight fabrics that lay directly over crops. They will transmit light and do not need to be removed during the day unless the crops need to be pollinated by insects. On the other hand, floating row covers keep harmful insects off the crops. Clear plastic can be used as a cover if a frame supports it; plants will freeze where the plastic touches them. The plastic cover must be opened during the day to prevent overheating; on cold, cloudy days the opening can just be a tiny one to hold in the heat. For early crop growth, the plastic covers provide frost protection and increase growing temperatures. In CSU Fort Collins trials, plastic covers on frames provided 3 to 6 degrees of frost protection and added 2 to 6 weeks on both ends of the growing season. The addition of a space blanket over the plastic on a frame bumped up the frost protection when the tempera-

(Continued on page 7)

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 02-09-2010
AT THE BERGEN PARK FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER.**

President Tina Kellogg opened the meeting at 9:40am. She introduced one new member and welcomed two guests then thanked the Hospitality volunteers for the breakfast that they had prepared for the members. The number of members present was 34, which was not sufficient to constitute a quorum.

Much of the meeting was taken up by a discussion of the quorum problem we are experiencing. It was felt that the current quorum requirement of “a majority of the membership” is too large (approximately 40) and we need to reduce it to a level that would be easier to achieve consistently. This requires a change to the Bylaws. Tina recommended that Article IX, Paragraph 1 of the Bylaws be amended so that, rather than defining a specific number or percentage for the quorum, it references the club’s Standard Operating Procedures document. The SOP will contain the quorum requirement, which can be modified in the future, if necessary; more easily than making another Bylaw change. Tina said that the Board would submit a proposal containing the appropriate language to the membership at the March meeting.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Secretary’s Report Stan Barrett noted that we have a backlog of Minutes from the General Meetings held in November, December and January which were discussed and accepted informally by the members but were not officially approved because of the lack of a quorum at the December, January and February meetings. After the amendment to the Bylaws described in the above paragraph is completed these three Minutes will be retroactively submitted for membership approval.

Treasurer’s Report Dwight Gilliland presented a summary of the cash flow in the Club’s accounts for the period 1-11-2010 through 2-8-2010. The balance in the checking account was \$1,268.41 and in the savings account was \$10,129.87. He provided a table of the cash flow details for the period 9-1-2009 through 2-8-2010, which will be filed with these minutes.

Karla Briggs (Past President) reported that she was contacted by the Evergreen publication “Mountain Connection” and told that the EGC had been selected to receive a donation of \$250 for service to the community. The announcement will be published in the March issue.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen MacFarquar (Community Garden coordinator) reported that she is forming a new committee to brainstorm methods of improving public awareness and interest in the Community Gardens. We are currently maintaining eight public gardens in the Evergreen area and need more people to help with this work.

Irma Wolf (Garden Tour Coordinator) said that more volunteers are needed for the Garden Tour Committee and passed around a sign-up sheet.

Marilyn Kaussner (Natural Resources Committee Chair) discussed the prevalence of potentially dangerous materials such as hormones and steroids in some common household cleaners.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.

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

GREEN NEWS—

(Continued from page 5)

tures dipped to 0 degrees! The space blanket needs to be removed during the day to allow light to reheat the soil. Now for the coup de grace, CSU added a string of Christmas lights inside the plastic covered frame, topped it off with a space blanket and got 18 to 30 degrees of frost protection in Fort Collins trials. Gardeners, you will never have to put your Christmas decorations away again!

Last, there is a device called **Wall of Water**, a cone-shaped ring of connected plastic tubes filled with water that surrounds each plant. This works on the chemistry principle of heat release in phase change; there is a significant amount of heat released as water freezes. **Wall of Water** provides frost protection down to mid-teen Fahrenheit temps and also provides wind protection and slightly warmer growing temps as the water in the tubes warms up during the day. Keep in mind, once the plant outgrows the **Wall of Water** the exposed parts can be nipped by frost. One caveat however, **Wall of Water** does not like the garden rake. This information is from the Karla Briggs trials, conducted in Evergreen.

Next month we will talk about watering and mulching the high altitude vegetable garden.

Karla Briggs

2010 MOUNTAIN AREA EARTH DAY FAIR

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Time: Open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 .m.

Free admission.

Location: Evergreen Lake House on Evergreen Lake

Contact: Betsy Kelson 720-219-7165 or

Marilyn Kaussner 303-674-7520

HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for March 2010.

Joy Young , Arlene Fitterer, Bobbi Sanchez, Pam Hinish, Beth Feldkamp, Ginny Cerrillo, Kathi Grider.

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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May the light always
find you on a dreary day.
When you need to be
home, may you find your
way.

May you always have
courage to take a chance
And never find frogs in
your underpants.

Denver Botanic Gardens.org

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

**Joellyn Duesberry's Southwest: Sharpening the Edge
Through April 4**

Explore one of the country's most important plein-air painters. Joellyn Duesberry has mastered a balance between traditional representations and abstracted reductions of form. She successfully introduces formalist representations of landscape with the energy of expressionism. Organized in collaboration with Gallery 1261.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE