

# The Wild Iris

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

It sure is good to see the growth, the green and the living in the world outside. Even as the snow pours down outside, I can smile because I still see the green poking through. No matter what the sky dumps upon us, you can't hold the greening back this time of year. I liken this to the pulse in the gardener's excitement, you just can't hold back. As we wish for the moon and stars, 'hope springs eternal' is most definitely a gardener's mantra! One only needs to look over the garden leaders 'wish lists' for the "wowing" of our community gardens to know this. "The excitement is palpable." says one who's attended the meetings. "Nothing motivates like having a tangible budget." says another member anxious to get in the dirt. Yes, the thing we all been waiting for, the reason we gather all winter long, the time is here, and it's NOW that we gardeners get to do our thing.

No one and I mean no one in their right mind would throw a wet blanket on this excitement and momentum! So the board asks only that as you pick and choose your plant selection with care, remember our mission statement 'to conserve' and then add the word 'sustainable'; think about conserving our natural resources, and think about what is truly sustainable in this wonderfully special microclimate that is our home town; not just in the plant selections but also in the labor forces to maintain this WOW throughout the season and into next year.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

## MAY 11, 2010 MEETING & WORK DAY

**I**f you are not signed up please contact the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator—Karen MacFarquhar or the volunteer in charge of a particular garden.

***There will be a meeting of garden tour chairpersons after the regular meeting to give progress reports. Irma***

Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am. We will have breakfast and a short meeting, and then off to work in the gardens. Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for the World Gardening Table... And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug.



Spring is when you  
feel like whistling  
even with a shoe  
full of slush.

~Doug Larson

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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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

No new members

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

### MAY

5/2 Sandy Swan

5/6 Joy Young

5/22 Beth Feldkamp

5/25 Barbara Steger

5/28 Carolyn Taschdjian

### Icon & Proverb

The snail is both small and slow; it carries its home on its back and can withdraw to defend itself when threatened. The proverb “the bigger they are, the harder they fall” reminds us of the disadvantages of excessive size and growth while “slow and steady wins the race” encourages patience while reflecting on a common truth in nature and society. Small and slow systems are easier to maintain than big ones, making better use of local resources and producing more sustainable outcomes. [Permacultureprinciples.com](http://Permacultureprinciples.com)



### 9. Use small & slow solutions

“The bigger they are, the harder they fall”  
“Slow and steady wins the race”

### *(Continued from Pres. Message pg. 1)*

Big thanks to Karen, and all the garden leaders for brewing up this energy! Each and every garden we maintain as a club speaks volumes to the community. With all the excitement that’s going on, I just can’t think of anyone who’d want to miss THIS work day in the gardens, my only second thought is “However will I get members to sit still through a forty-five minute meeting before heading to the gardens?” FOOD! Frances, Bev and all you great cooks have a hearty breakfast brewing for the hard working gardeners. So please, don’t skip the meeting! As we wrap up our meeting season there’s a lot to digest! But I promise to do it as quickly as possible. Leaders, Chairs and team captains of ALL the committees, we need you present at this meeting! Funding allocations for the gardens, and extra meeting dates for committees will be reviewed. Come in early, fill your plate with goodies, and we’ll munch right through a quick but informative meeting before we hit the dirt! Thanks one and all, Tina

## PERMACULTURE PRINCIPLES NINE AND TEN

### Principle Nine- “Use small and slow solutions”

I can’t think of a better synonym for this principle than organic amendments and materials. Not necessarily certified organic products, but rather the idea and theory behind organic solutions. [Permacultureprinciples.com](http://Permacultureprinciples.com) uses the proverb, “The bigger they are the harder they fall” and maybe we should change that to “...the harder they fail!” likening that to the huge NPK numbers that can be found in the synthetic fertilizers. Looking only at the NPK numbers thinking the more the merrier will certainly cause your garden’s natural ecosystems to fail. How many folks have burnt their gardens or lawns with the huge overload of these kinds of products? The lesser known facts are that high nitrogen and phosphate products leave behind dangerous amounts of destructive salts to pollute not only our soils but runoff into streams and rivers. Thus failing the ecosystem you’re trying to support. As to the slow, I’m not so sure as I’ve seen immediate responses from organic solutions. But the slow comes in building good soils, there’s no instant fix to that. “Slow and steady wins the race.”

Unfortunately this doesn’t always pertain to ‘organics’. I’ve experimented with some newer, high tech organic bagged soils. They may indeed be loaded with certifiable ‘organic’ nutrients, but they’re so loaded the seedling’s roots barely have a chance to mature and the upper growth of the plants gain too rapidly. I actually lost time at transplant, as it took longer for the not so sturdy roots to recoup and redevelop.

It’s fun to see the rapid growth; you look and say “Wow that stuff really works!” But often it’s what you don’t see, what’s happening in the soil, that counts. When it comes to soils it’s the slow and steady release of nutrients that are most successful.

## MEETING PHOTOS —APRIL 13, 2010



Ann Moore and Connie Ning “*Chickens in Your Garden*”

Susan Blake shows a new book "Gardens of Santa Fe" by Anne Hillermann. Susan's former garden and interview is included in the book.



Nancy Parker arranges the food table.

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

# HIGH ALTITUDE VEGETABLE GARDEN

## HIGH ALTITUDE VEGETABLE GARDENING – THE LAST CHAPTER

To wrap up our review of high altitude vegetable gardening, we will explore the most exasperating and difficult aspect of raising vegetables in our area – CRITTERS! All of Mother Nature's critters want to eat what we grow. The best we can hope for is to manage the wildlife in our gardens; never expect to completely control the situation.

The first and most important management tool is a fence. If possible, install an eight-foot high fence to keep out deer and elk. If there are no elk and only deer in your area, a six-foot fence will suffice. A well-constructed fence can also help to keep out dogs and any other creatures that cannot climb. To prevent animals from burrowing underneath the fence, bury a landscape timber with the wire fencing wrapped around it at least 1-foot deep all the way around the perimeter of the garden. Use ¼-inch wire mesh for best protection from burrowing rodents such as voles, gophers and ground squirrels. To prevent rabbits from entering the garden use ¼-inch wire mesh or other small hole fence wire around the perimeter. Remember to have the gate fit nice and snug so that a bunny can't slip through, i.e. Peter Rabbit

To prevent birds from raiding the strawberries early in the morning use landscape cloth or netting as a row cover. The cloth or netting allows light in and keeps birds out.

Local nurseries and other gardeners are a good source of information for managing wildlife in the garden. Colorado State University's website is another great source, go to [www.extension.colostate.edu/wildlife/](http://www.extension.colostate.edu/wildlife/).

The layout of the vegetable garden should accomplish several things: 1. Increased yield 2. Access for weeding and harvesting 3. Allowance for thorough irrigation.

Block style layout provides the highest yield in a vegetable garden and is perfect for raised bed gardening. The technique of block planting is to eliminate unnecessary walkways by planting vegetables in rectangular-shaped blocks instead of long single rows. Design the planting blocks to be 3-4 feet wide and any length. This width allows for easy access into the growing bed for planting, weeding and harvesting. Plant the crops in the blocks equal-distance apart in both directions. Design the walkways to be 18-24 inches wide. Mulch the walkways with dry untreated grass clippings, wood chips or other organic mulch. Because of the higher plant density, be sure to provide a richly amended and well-draining soil. Irrigate adequately and do not over-crowd the vegetables to prevent reduced air circulation and higher incidence of disease.

Raised bed gardening is ideal for our high altitude. It allows the soil to warm up faster in the spring and the raised beds can be easily covered in the spring and fall for frost protection. A row cover can be used in the summer to provide shade for some crops. A raised bed eliminates the need to till rocky ground, and lining the bottom of the bed with ¼-inch wire mesh provides protection from burrowing rodents.

To construct a raised bed, use untreated construction lumber, landscaping timbers (no CCA pressure treated timbers or railroad ties), brick or rock. A bed four feet wide allows the gardener to reach the entire bed from the sides without having to walk on and compact the soil in the growing area. The raised bed can be whatever length you desire.

The height of the bed can be as shallow as 4 inches if the roots of the crops can grow down into the soil below the bed. If the roots cannot grow into the soil beneath the bed, a depth of 8-12 inches is minimal. Deeper beds also allow for easier amending of the soil.

Locate the raised beds to allow for 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day. The beds should be as level as

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possible for easier irrigation. Drip irrigation or a soaker hose is best suited for raised bed gardening. Raised beds conserve water because of the smaller area to be watered, although the beds do require more frequent watering due to the higher plant density.

It is still important to mulch a raised bed to control weeds, conserve soil moisture and regulate soil temperatures.

Adding soil to the raised bed requires the following. In a bed where the crop roots will grow down into the soil below the bed, use similar soils. Mix the added soil with the existing soil really well. When adding amendment or new soil, mix in really well. It is hard on the crops to adjust to different layers of soil when growing because of varying water and air infiltration. In a raised bed where the entire root zone is in the bed itself, it is best to have a well draining and well-amended soil.

When purchasing soil, bulk or bag, be sure to check the contents. All commercial soil is not created equal. Some commercial soil contains feed lot manure with high salt levels.

My last piece of advice is from the book "The Vegetable Gardener's Bible" by Edward C. Smith. Start small. "It's much better to have a small garden you succeed with than a large garden in August that is totally overrun with weeds".

Now go, get your feet wet and your hands dirty. Go grow a salad!

Happy gardening,

Karla Briggs

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**Coupon**

**May Sundance Gardens & Landscape Center Special.**

Bring this coupon for 10% off any animal repellent product.

Gardening re-quires lots of water -- most of it in the form of perspiration.

A garden is the best alternative therapy.

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. ~Margaret Atwood

"Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun."  
- Kahlil Gibran

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 welcomed five guests. There were 40 members present, which exceeded the quorum requirement of 20 members.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Secretary's Report Stan Barrett noted that the minutes of the March General Meeting had been published in the April Wild Iris and asked if there were any corrections or comments. Since none were offered he asked that the minutes be approved as published. A motion to approve was made by Louise Mounsey and passed.

Treasurer's Report Dwight Gilliland gave a summary of the activity and balances in the EGC bank accounts as of 4/13/2010. The balance in the checking account was \$1303.79 and in the savings account the balance was \$10,022.06. At a member's request, he discussed the "inflow/outflow" details contained in the Cash Flow document, a copy of which he provided to the Secretary to be filed with these minutes.

Dwight then presented the proposed EGC budget for 2009-2010 and went over the highlights. The due date for the final version is May 30th, but he requested that the due date be delayed to June 30th in view of the many changes that are in work

The two aspects that stimulated the most discussion concerned charitable contributions and the funds allocated to upgrading and improving the community gardens that we maintain. Barbara Steger offered a motion that the budgeted amount for community garden maintenance be increased, for this year, from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Beth Feldkamp suggested delaying this budget increase until we have firm estimates from each garden leader of their needs. Dwight said that these estimates had been received and proposed incorporating into the budget the empowerment of the Board to add up to \$1,000 to the community gardens' budget. He asked for membership approval of the budget with this modification. Karla Briggs moved that the proposed budget be approved in the form presented by Dwight and the motion was carried.

Dwight described two documents which had just been completed by the ad-hoc Finance Committee. The first document is called "Policy for Fund Authorization and Control." It proposes a general approach to the task of making up a budget in which the Treasurer would be assisted by group of members who would each be responsible for one of the main line items. Dwight offered a motion to adopt this Policy. The motion was seconded and carried. The second document has the title "Evergreen Garden Club Charitable Giving Policy." It proposes that the club president appoint a committee to examine incoming requests, made on a standard request form (to be developed) and decide how to respond to each request. In the subsequent discussion it was pointed out that some groups (for example, Bootstraps) may have to make their requests as much as a year in advance. Also, the Policy had proposed limiting any recipient to no more than 50% of the total available funds but after further discussion this limitation was deleted. Dwight moved to adopt the Policy in its modified form. The motion was seconded and passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tina announced that she needed volunteers for the Nominating Committee Chair and committee members. Lynn Dimmick and Louise Mounsey offered to help.

Diana Aldridge said that sufficient members have agreed to help her with the club's involvement in the Earth Day event to be held at the Evergreen Lake House.

There being no further business Tina adjourned the meeting at 10:40am. After a break for refreshments, Diana introduced the Guest Speaker, Connie Ning, one of our members. Connie gave a talk entitled "Chickens in Your Garden."

These Minutes respectfully submitted by the Secretaries, Liz and Stan Barrett.

## GREEN NEWS— LIVE GREEN, SAVE GREEN

### Seed Starting Made Easy with Newspaper!

1. Lay a full sheet of black and white newspaper flat. Don't use shiny, colored paper as it may contain heavy metals.
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise twice to form a long, narrow strip of folded newspaper.
3. Lay the glass (any size you need) on its side and place it on one end of the strip of paper. Roll the newspaper around the glass. The glass is used only as a form to roll the paper. About 1/2 of the strip of paper should overlap the open end of the glass.
4. Push the ends of the paper into the open end of the glass. This step doesn't have to be neat and tidy; just stuff the overlapping newspaper into the glass.
5. Pull the jar out of the newspaper pocket so you have the newspaper pot in your hand.
6. Push the bottom of the jar into the newspaper cup, squashing the folded bottom to flatten. This step will seal the bottom of your pot. Once the pot has been filled with soil, the bottom will be secure.



You can copy this link and watch the video.

[http://www.ehow.com/video\\_1745\\_create-seed-starting.html](http://www.ehow.com/video_1745_create-seed-starting.html)

[www.digginfood.com](http://www.digginfood.com)



A friend is moving and must part with some houseplants. Here's her email contact info, if interested.  
Paul L. Virlena McUne [element11c@yahoo.com](mailto:element11c@yahoo.com)

## HOSPITALITY BITES

**T**he hospitality team for May 11, 2010 is as follows:  
Jacque Whyte, Linda Ringrose, Tina Kellogg

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  
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### Member Emeritus:

Louise Mounsey  
3/674-4695

"Don't knock the weather: nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while."

- Kin Hubbard

**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

**Container Gardens for Hot, Dry Spaces**

Sunday, May 16, 2010 - 9:00 AM

Location: Denver Botanic Gardens ( 1007 York Street DENVER Colorado ) - map it

Running Time: 3 hours

Ends At: 12:00 PM on May 16, 2010

Join award-winning container gardener Annie Huston for a hands-on experience designing, planting and maintaining pots and troughs for hot, sunny locations. Learn soils, amendments, drainage, fertilizers and which plants to choose. Experiment with colors, shapes and textures, as well as plants with similar growth patterns. Bring a 14-inch pot with drainage holes, potting soil, gloves and a trowel. We'll supply the plants.

\$63 member, \$68 non-member, includes \$27 for materials. Day of class: \$73/\$78.

Instructor: Annie Huston

Morrison Center

**EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB**  
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