

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

It's hard to believe two years has passed. I've put off this president's last message long enough, and truth be told I've had a total writers block about it. Thank you, thank you, thank you! To all those who put time and effort into this wonderful, not-so-little-any-more garden club. From the movers and shakers, to the get 'er done back bone; to those tried and true mature shrub roses who come back year after year after year and bloom dependably in the background, you make the meetings a happy social place to be. You've had the smile on your face and always a pat on the back that's kept us growing on this path. To the past two years boards for putting up with me, and to the future board members who will no doubt leave their own unique imprint on the club. Thank you.

The past two years, aka the 'transition crew' has worked tirelessly to make the non profit 501 c 3 corporation fit into that old familiar club that can now go back to the business of gardening. I thank you all for your patience with the countless amendments and the SOP policies. There were times when I truly wondered what this dirt loving hippie was doing standing in the middle of all that bureaucracy, but in the end, we all do what we can in hopes of moving the club further on its course. I do believe this incorporation was inevitable for the club. As uncomfortable and boorish as it may have been, today's liability issues make it a necessity for any club to continue and grow. I hope I added to that growth and thank you all for adding to mine!

(Continued on page 2)

JUNE 8, 2010 ATTRACTING NON-SEED EATING BIRDS

“John Sears, owner of Evergreen Wild Bird Store, Inc.

His presentation will focus on attracting bird species such as bluebirds, that don't eat seeds.

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.



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

WELCOME

NEW MEMBER

Jany Schindler

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6/4 Toni Yerkes
- 6/5 Chris Gray
- 6/10 Jan Schoonveld
- 6/10 Lynn Dimmick
- 6/14 Liz Barrett
- 6/16 Karla Briggs
- 6/22 Jo Powers

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT....

(Continued from page 1)

(and now for garden thoughts)

I woke this morning to the bird's spring chatter; it's by far the happiest alarm clock there is. Still, 4:50 a.m. is not a time that most want to hear any kind of alarm go off particularly on Sunday! But the birds are so excited, it's as if they're cheering me on, saying "Wake up, wake up...there's so much to do in the gardens, wake up!" Once the chatter dies down, the quietude sets in. I am the only one up in the house, and from the lack of sound I guessed the only one up in town. For me, watching the sunrise is the best time of day to commune with nature. Life has been so frantically busy these past few months, coming and going...rushing into what ever drama I've allowed in my life. Not noticing all the little subtle changes with the plant world, ignoring the signs of green life that are fast approaching bloom time. As I hurry down the sidewalk to my truck, loading tools, amend-ments and what ever the job requires (including a big mug of coffee) I promise the garden I'll start cleaning up and water.

Ah, hand watering is the best way to visit each and every plant. Communing with the garden is surely the antithesis of human nature's dramas. At least it provides a respite, a way out, an escape from the mundane and stupid things that people do. Could it be that the plant world is here to balance out our very own human theatre? I think so.

I'm going to Findhorn, Scotland to continue research on these mystic plant phenomena. Talking with plants and watching for their responses has intrigued me from a very early age. I'm so excited, I can hardly wait. Still the idea of flying across 'the big pond' to a foreign country has me just a little intimidated. Check it out if you have a chance, www.findhorn.org it's a great site and the story of Findhorn remains inspirational for those gardening in a 'supposedly' difficult climate.

Grow well this summer, Happy Gardening. Tina

HALF A YEAR IS NOT ENOUGH

Spring arrives on hummingbird wings; of this I have no doubt.

When they arrive, I know it's time to put sweet nectar out.

I realize they've traveled far to spend six months with me.

So I will do my very best to make their visit worry-free.

I'll cultivate sweet blossoms, filling beds and pots with red.

They will supervise the job as they buss high above my head.

They ask so little, give so much, adding sweetness to my days.

Half a year is not enough to behold all their winning ways.

By **Bernice Maddux**



MEETING PHOTOS —MAY 11, 2010



The Bergen Traffic Circle Team: Ruth Alford, Lucille Nelson, Karen MacFarquhar



The Post Office team: Karla Briggs, Nancy Latimer, Glenda Cadarette , Louise Mounsey, Paul Luzetski (photographer)



The Evergreen Metro District Team: Barbara Steger, Cathi Edmund, Beth Feldkamp, Dwight Gilliland



Everybody's working! Hiwan Homestead Museum Garden Rt. Susan Blake & Masha O'Keefe Fire Station Garden



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

PRINCIPLE TEN- “USE AND VALUE DIVERSITY”

This theory or rather lack of it has been cause for certain crop failures throughout the ages. The Great Potato Famine being one of the largest and most painful lessons man can learn. But it seems as though we're a forgetful society, as we witness this lesson over and over again. Whether it's big ag companies pushing genetically altered crops, or trying to produce the biggest harvest with one particular plant mankind keeps making these mistakes. Last year I heard a lot about tomato failure. Primarily in the eastern regions, but also in the Mid West: “A highly contagious fungus that destroys tomato plants has quickly spread to nearly every state in the Northeast and the mid-Atlantic, and the weather over the next week may determine whether the outbreak abates or whether tomato crops are ruined, according to federal and state agriculture officials.” *New York Times, July 2009*

In this instance it wasn't just one particular variety of tomato affected or rather infected, but all of the tomato crops across the region, by one season's amount of rain. As more and more climate changes are being felt, particularly by gardeners, it seems certain that we all will be facing more change. Two years ago, I was caught up in the complacency that June 1st was always our 'safe planting date' up here. Sure enough, along came a hard and killing frost June 18th! As more information becomes available we make use of 'cold hardy' or 'cold tolerant' vegetable varieties. *Diversifying* our typical crops can guarantee food harvest. Recently I was asked about Early Girl and Sweet 100 cherry tomato varieties and their cold tolerance. And while I've yet to find a tomato that actually liked the cold, there are more heirloom varieties now available from Siberia, Russia and numerous other 'cold' countries. There's absolutely nothing wrong with Early Girl or Sweet 100, it's just that they are so common. Surely if something goes astray it will be with the varieties that are most common. I challenge all you vegetable gardeners to try something new this year. “Use and Value the Diversity” that's now available. Reach for and experiment with new seed varieties. Experiment with season extenders. You don't have to spend an arm and a leg on a green house. Try the row covers, hoop houses, and numerous assortments of recycled materials to start or extend your season.

“The proverb “Don't put all your eggs in one basket” reminds us that diversity offers insurance against the variations of our environment. Diversity reduces vulnerability to a variety of threats and takes advantage of the unique nature of the environment in which it resides.”

Icon

The remarkable adaptation of the spinebill and hummingbird to hover and sip nectar from long, narrow flowers with their spine-like beak symbolizes the specialization of form and function in nature.



10. Use & value diversity

“Don't put all your eggs in one basket”

HORTICULTURE

Evergreen Garden Club,

I am contacting you because I thought it might be a good time of year to remind your members about the opportunity they may have to collect and use rainwater that is harvested from their roof. As you know, this is now legal for rural Coloradoans - as of July 2009 folks on wells can legally capture rainwater and reuse for irrigation, fire protection, etc. Since many of your members may be on wells, and since this is a sustainable approach for organic gardeners that can save money and alleviate pressures on well water, maybe it would be a good topic for your next meeting?

Yes I do work for a company that makes a rain harvesting system - full disclosure - so there is some self interest here. That said, I think a lot of folks still don't know what a green and easy idea this is. We get many calls from people who are uninformed about this topic and have been misinformed that I am trying to get good, accurate information out there through as many outlets as possible.

I've included some basic info that you can feel free to use if you'd like. Susie Gallaudet Project Administrator Front Range Precast / Transpan Bridges www.flxxrainwater.com 303-442-3207 / f. 303-442-3209 susie@flxx.com

Let it Rain!

Water and water rights have been a hot-button issue in rural Colorado for decades. While rainwater remains a vital resource that needs to be protected for future generations, legislative changes in July 2009 created an opportunity for rural Coloradoans to capture and use rainwater from their rooftops. Now every time it rains, you can catch, store and use captured rainwater. Not only does rainwater capture save you money, it can reduce demands on well water which alleviates pressure on a valuable resource.

Catch It

With the passage of the State of Colorado Senate Bill 09-080, Colorado residents that can obtain a well permit, or residents that have a current well permit, can capture rainwater for ordinary household purposes, fire protection, the watering of poultry, domestic animals and livestock on farms or ranches, and the irrigation of one acre of gardens and lawns. Now using rainwater as a supplement for a low-producing well or to water the lawn and garden is a viable option for rural Coloradoans. Based on basic calculations, if you have a 1000 square foot roof, you can capture approximately 623 gallons of water in just 1 inch of rain. Colorado gets 15-18 inches of rain a year on average, which means that there is an opportunity to capture a minimum of 9,345 gallons of water. So what does one do with all this water?

Store It.

There are tons of ways to store captured rainwater, from a 50 gallon rain barrel at the end of your downspout to an engineered system that optimizes the potential amount of rain that your roof can capture. Plastic above-ground storage tanks will suffice if you want to dip your toes into rainwater harvesting, but for a long-term more permanent solution, a larger storage unit made out of precast concrete is a great alternative to ensure quality and durability.

Use It.

Once the rainwater has been captured and stored properly, there is a multitude of ways that it can be used. With basic filtration, it can be used to water the garden or lawn, washing clothes, or to re-charge fire protection cisterns. With more advanced filtration, it can be used to water your pets &

MINUTES MAY 11, 2010

President Tina Kellogg was unable to attend the meeting, so in her absence Vice-President Diana Aldridge opened the meeting at 9:30am. After welcoming guests and new members, Diana thanked Francis Sorenson and Bev Wickland for providing the refreshments. There were 32 members present, providing a quorum.

The day of the meeting had been scheduled to be the early-season Work Day at the community gardens, so the agenda consisted of breakfast, followed by a short business meeting, after which the members were to go off to various work site locations.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Secretary's Report. Stan Barrett asked for comments or corrections from the members with regard to the minutes of the April General Meeting as published in the May "Wild Iris." newsletter. There were no comments and Louise Mounsey moved that the minutes be approved as published. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Dwight Gilliland presented a summary of the activity and balances in the EGC bank accounts as of 5-10-2010. The balance in the checking account was \$1,593.79 and in the savings account the balance was \$10,040.91. He discussed the details of the items contributing to the Inflows and Outflows respectively. He provided a copy of the Cash Flow record to the Secretary to be filed with these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Louise Mounsey listed the current nominees for the Board of Officers to be voted on at the election scheduled to be held at the June General Meeting. The slate comprises the following:

President ... Lucy Ginley

Vice-Presidents ... Diana Aldridge and Anne Hittle

Treasurer ... Dwight Gilliland (with Beth Feldcamp as back-up)

Secretary ... (open)

Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at the June meeting.

Marilyn Kaussner (Natural Resources Committee Coordinator) showed two new publications entitled "Noxious Weeds in Colorado" and "Garden Smart Colorado." She reported that Weed Day for the Evergreen Lake area will be held on June 12th.

Diana announced a change of program for the June meeting. The scheduled speaker will not be available and will be replaced by the proprietor of the Stems Flower Shop (Upper Bear Creek Rd.) who will give a talk on Indoor Plants.

Barbara Steger described the status of the Garden Tour tickets and posters. These are now available for distribution. Barbara asked for volunteers to distribute posters at commercial sites and public notice boards.

Pam Hinish (Sculpture Committee) reported that three potential sites have been identified for the location of the sculpture. These are the Hiwan Museum, The Buchanan Center and the Metro Dam Garden. She also asked for more volunteers to help with the Committee.

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

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

GREEN NEWS



Past Evergreen Garden Club member Shelia Henkrickson is clearing out many years of Garden paraphernalia from her garden. It would include Ceramic Containers, Tools and Garden Supplies and many other items. Her garden Books will be at the next meeting on the world garden table. Her address is 8106 S Brook Forest Rd and the phone number is 303 679 2509



This is being sent on behalf of Jean Todd, Past Pres, EGC member.

Save the date and come over to Steamboat Springs for the 15th annual Strings Music Festival Guild's Kitchen and Garden Tour. It is Saturday July 17, from 9:30am to 3:30pm, featuring six kitchens and seven high-altitude gardens. VIP van, self-guided and a bike tour, tickets from \$25 in advance at www.stringsmusicfestival.com.

HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for June 2010. Jeri Dufford, Jo Powers, Jacque White, Kathy Edmunds, Vivian Michaels, Ruth Alford, Mary Dickoff.

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:

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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

Upcoming Garden Tours 2010

- June 12th : Enchanted Garden Tour—Gardens in NW Denver. Info: 973-818-9821
- June 18th-19th—Festival of Flowers Garden Tour—Gardens in Longmont—benefits Longmont Symphony Orchestra—Info: 303 530 2301
- June 19th Fort Collins Junior League Garden Tour—Gardens of Fort Collins—info: jlfortcollins.org
- **June 26th—2010 Evergreen Garden Tour—Evergreen Gardens—Tickets on sale at many local stores—see Evergreen-GardenClub.org for locations!**

Other Events

- June 6—Old Garden Rose Show & Sale—Denver Botanical Gardens
- June 15—Hudson Gardens Birthday Celebration—Free DAY! 303 797 8565

Check the web sites listed, or call before heading out to confirm. Info provided to the best of our knowledge.

**EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB
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www.EvergreenGardenClub.org



PLEASE
PLACE
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