

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

I hope that you're all getting a chance to enjoy next summers garden! As I sit in front of the fire and watch the snow fall I love to peruse a stack of garden catalogs. I enjoy seeing the new plants as well as the interesting/decorative/clutter creating stuff. My recent mail order purchase is sandals that I can put over my muddy gardening shoes when I need to come inside for a few minutes. If they work, I'll start looking for some for my dogs!

Happy Garden Planning!

Lucy Ginley

President

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2011 MEETING & PROGRAM

"Growing Trees at High Altitude"

Dr. Joan Spalding of Spalding Trees will share her expertise on growing fruit and other types of trees at high altitude. She will also give us a status report on Colorado's pine beetle infestation.

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

Minutes	4
Horticulture	5

2010-2011 OFFICERS

- President—Lucy Ginley
- Vice President—Diana Aldridge & Anne Hittle
- Secretary—Nancy Latimer
- Treasurer—Dwight Gilliland
- Past President—Tina Kellogg
- Member Emeritus—Louise Mounsey

WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/10 Gina Kokinda

2/1 Linda McCreight

2/3 Frances Sorensen

HOSPITALITY BITES

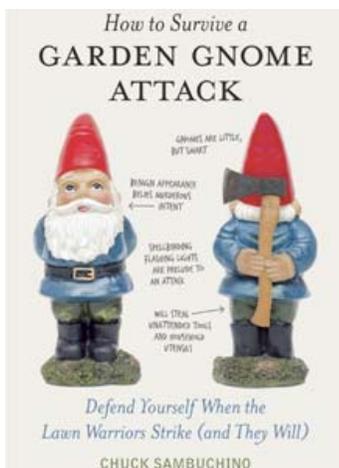
Hosts for February—please would you arrive between 8:45 & 9:00 am to help set up the room and be prepared to stay after the meeting for clean-up. THANKS!

WINTER READING—5 FUN GARDEN BLOGS

Here is a list of 5 fun and informative websites to visit on a chilly evening when you are done with your seed catalogues.

- 1 **Today's Garden Ideas**—this site tells about how to design, grow and maintain a beautiful garden. It covers all zones around the country. <http://todaysgardenideas.com/>
- 2 **Savvy Gardening**— information on vegetable gardening, container gardening, gardening techniques, and more <http://gardening.savvy-cafe.com/>
- 3 **Allen Becker** is a garden designer in Montreal, Canada and a garden book reviewer. His blog is a nice mix of garden chat, favorite plants, design ideas and tips on books for gardeners. <http://allanbecker-gardenguru.squarespace.com/>
- 4 **Cold Climate Gardening**— “Hardy plants for Hardy souls” - site by Kathy Purdy located in upstate NY there are some good tips for CO gardeners also <http://www.coldclimategardening.com/>
- 5 **Western Gardeners.com** - Jodi Torpey is a Colorado Master Gardener and writes about all kinds of things related to Colorado gardening on her site. <http://www.westerngardeners.com/>

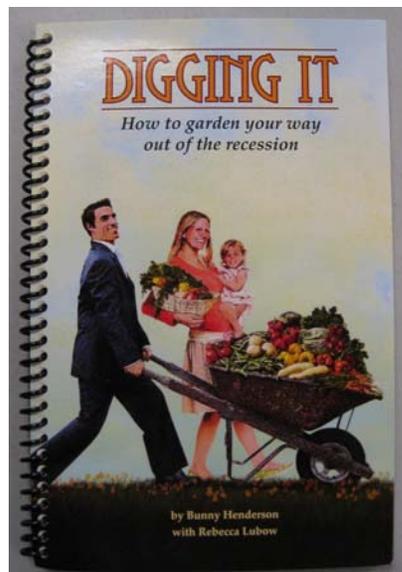
BOOKS



The Herb Companion blog just published a fun article on “*How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack (And Live to Blog About it)*”. In the article Taylor Miller talks about the first Gnome that they had called Bogart who was there to simply scare away the rabbits. To read the rest of this fun article and purchase a copy of the book go to

<http://www.herbcompanion.com/blogs/blog.aspx?blogid=1860>

PHOTOS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING



From top left to right:

1. Karla Briggs and her mom, Nickie Meinert.
2. Louise Mounsey & Julaine Kennedy
3. Bunny Henderson—January speaker.
4. Marsha O'Keefe, Grace Coyveau, Mary Dickoff

5. Bunnys Book

MINUTES—JANUARY 25TH, 2011 MEETING

Meeting called to order at 9:45 am. All officers in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance: \$1,545.32 and savings balance \$7,863.38.

Minutes approved for months of November and December

New business: Lucy Ginely reported on an article about sustainability that was published in the Evergreen Chamber's annual visitor guide.

Lucy suggested club members have an ongoing seed exchange and everyone agreed this would be a great addition to our meetings.

Moonlight Garden Group could plan on showing the movie "Food, Inc" for it's kick-off meeting in the near future. Liz Emmer, Judith Kennedy and Tina Kellogg have offered to lead.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Diana Aldridge reported the Canyon Courier printed information about our meetings.

Hospitality: Frances Sorensen and Bev Wickland would like members to bring their own coffee mug and switch to biodegradable plates.

Natural Resources: Marilyn Kaussner reported about two very useful websites. They are: Kitchen Gardeners International (once a month) and Jennifer Cook (seasonal)

Welcoming: Irma Wolf reported that there will no longer be door prizes, instead they will be thank you and welcome gifts for first time guests, new members and people who have brought food.

Garden Tour: Barbara Steiger reported Dave Thomas of Sundance Gardens has offered his home for our June tour. We need everyone to be a docent on June 25th.

Community Garden Coordinator: Karen MacFarquhar reported the post office garden needs a new coordinator.

World Gardening: Lucille Nelson would like more plant donations.

Website: Liz Hamilton not present. Beth Feldkamp wants to talk with Liz about paying a fee for the work she does for our newsletter. She has volunteered her services all this time.

Historian: No report

EASY: Karla Briggs reported the Christmas tree recycling was a huge success. Easy meets the last Thursday at 8am at the fire station. A-1 Organics will speak about a compost center.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am.

Speaker Bunny Henderson will talk about " Gardening your way out of the recession".

HORTICULTURE—RAISED BED GARDENING

By Piper Cox

By definition, raised bed gardening is to simply have a garden that is built on top of your existing native soil. You can either choose combine native soil in your raised bed garden or you can choose not to - it's entirely up to you. You can plant vegetables, herbs and even shrubs in a raised bed garden. Read below for the six easy steps on how to start a raised bed garden for yourself.

1. Choose your planting site properly and carefully. Make sure that you pick a spot that gets at least eight hours of warm sunlight every day. The area must be flat with enough moving room for you to work around in as well as being near a water source.

2. Be definite on the size and shape of your garden. Be sure that you would be able to have enough space to move around in so you would not step on to the plant bed.

3. Make sure that you prepare your planting area according to what you are planning to plant in it.

4. Construct your plant bed carefully. Choose wood planks that are sturdy enough to hold the sides of your garden bed in. Raised bed gardening is not that hard if you have properly set up your garden bed.

5. Make sure that you use level frames in all four directions. This is important because your water will not be evenly distributed if you have un-level soil areas. It would fill one spot and run over

another very quickly. Either way, your plants would not get the proper water they would need to grow.

6. The idea behind raised bed gardening is that it allows you the chance to be able to plant your garden by using flat, even soil. Be sure that when you start to fill your raised bed garden that you have appropriate amounts of top-soil, manure and compost and that the bed is raked flat and evenly before you start to put in your seeds.

If you were able to set it up correctly, you will be happy to know that raised bed gardening does not require a lot of maintenance at all. Just keep in mind that it is important to have as much moisture in your soil as possible to make sure that your plants will be able to absorb the minerals and nutrients that are in it quickly and more efficiently, thus giving you a healthier and more bountiful crop harvest.



Piper is a freelance writer who enjoys fitness, good nutrition, and the outdoors. She loves to work in the garden with her Mantis tiller. She enjoys nature, reading and fitness.

Check out her website, www.smallgardentiller.org to learn all about getting the best small garden tiller so you can have a beautiful garden too!

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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 EVENTS

Feb. 12 - 20 - Colorado Garden & Home Show

Location: Colorado Convention Center in Denver

Time: Sat. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Mon. - Fri. Noon - 8 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Kids 12 & under free. Discount tickets are available for \$10 at King Soopers. **Information:** Visit www.gardeningcolorado.com for more information

Feb.12 - The Best Hardy Bulbs for Front Range Gardens: Early Spring Bulbs" by Lauren Springer Ogden Fort Collins Nursery, 2121 East Mulberry in Fort Collins; Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Fee: \$18; For information see www.fortcollinsnursery.com. To register call 970-482-1984.

Feb. 21—Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens

Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 720-865-3544

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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