

# The Wild Iris

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE....

**E**vergreen Garden Club Members,

I would like to thank Bev Wickland, Francis Sorensen and Sandy Swan for being on the nominating committee and for finding such great candidates! As you know, we will be voting for board members at the June meeting. They will meet with the existing board over the summer and will officially take office in September.

We have two candidates to be co-vice Presidents, Grace Coveau and Lynn Dimmick. They will be coordinating with Diana Aldridge and Ann Hittle to arrange for next season's presentations and to create the 2011-2012 Directory. If you have any suggestions for either topics or speakers please contact any of the above co-vice presidents.

Our candidate for Secretary is Lynn Dimmick. If you would like to be in the afore-mentioned Directory, please pay your dues to either Lynn or to the current Secretary, Nancy Latimer.

Cathi Edmund is our candidate for Treasurer and will be coordinating with Dwight Gilliland to keep all of our finances running smoothly.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**JUNE 14TH, 2011**  
**ATTRACTING NON-SEED-EATING BIRDS**

John Sears, owner of Evergreen Wild Bird Store, Inc. will give a presentation focusing on attracting bird species such as bluebirds that don't eat seeds.

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.



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### 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

## Birthdays

### June

- 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

### July

- 7/15 Dale Fetchenhier  
7/11 Priscilla Chapin  
7/14 Shauna Carder  
7/17 Jacque Whyte  
7/20 Juanita Zellner  
7/23 Kathi Grider  
7/23 Peggy  
Fetchenhier

### August

- 8/2 Jean Todd  
8/2 Nickie Meinert  
8/5 Susan Blake  
8/10 Linda Ringrose  
8/23 Mary Ellen  
Putnam



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONT....

*(Continued from page 1)*

I am running again for President, you have probably already been receiving mailings and robocalls.

Happy Spring!  
Lucy Ginley  
President

**Nancy Latimer will bring the Minutes of the last meeting to the June meeting**

## GARDENING

We had a wonderful experience visiting Dardanos Flowerland, 1205 West Evans (303-934-5646). They have an unusual attraction at the entrance with vegetables and flowers in a display along with a great show of many types of pansies. They can meet every gardening tool need and all the equipment for lovely ponds including many pond plants. We recommend a stop here for anyone just to look and smell. It is such an amazing place that it took us two hours just to get some parsley plants and some other herbs--and some flower plants--and some veggie plants--and some okra too, y'all. Dardanos is unique in that for being Colorado's first Gardening Supermarket it also grows all the plants it sells. No wholesaled stuff grown in southern Patagoniastan here!. Louise and Bill Mounsey

**The June 2011 issue of the Prevention Magazine stated as follows:**

"Just 5 minutes of gardening improves both self-esteem and mood, according to a recent study published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology. There's also evidence that tending a patch of earth can make you more tranquil, generous, and hopeful. Researchers speculate it's evolutionary: connecting with nature stimulates biochemical pathways in the brain that satisfy our primal longing to commune with Mother Earth, restoring us to well-being."

## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE



Once in a while an incredible new garden plant shows up at local garden centers, but you may not know just how great it is until you've tried it in your own garden. Golden storksbill is one of those wonderful new perennials that is a "must have" for just about every garden. It thrives in sunny conditions, but also proves quite happy in light shade, blooming nearly all season long wherever it's situated. And it doesn't mind neglect, either!

Its soft, silvery-green, ferny foliage first drew my attention because

plants with grayish, finely-cut leaves usually do quite well here in our low precipitation, low-humidity climate (think yarrows, Russian sage). Once it gets its roots down deeper, golden storksbill takes off and flourishes in our hot days and cool nights. I've also found that the thick tap-root allows the plant to store extra water, helping it get through the hottest days of summer without missing a beat. Come fall and early winter, this hardy storksbill continues to provide interest until the temperatures become really severe. But once there's a hint a spring in the air, it starts leafing out even before the daffodils appear!

Because it's a lower, mounding perennial, use golden storksbill along the edges of borders, hellstrips, and in larger rock gardens. The soft, buttery-yellow flowers go well with just about anything, so no need to worry about mismatched or clashing colors.

Golden storksbill is truly a three-season, hardy, adaptable, easy-to-grow perennial that deserves to be in every garden in our region!

Golden storksbill (*Erodium chrysanthum*)

Perennial

Height: 6-8 inches

Width: 10-25 inches

Blooms: Soft yellow blossoms, April to late summer

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Soil Moisture: Moderate to xeric (Little or no irrigation needed once established.)

Hardiness: USDA zones 4-9 (up to 8000')

Culture: Most soils and exposures, but not wet or humid.

Pat Hayward

Executive Director, Plant Select®

## Creeping Grape Holly

Creeping grape holly is probably one of the most useful plants available to regional Gardeners. It will thrive in any number of situations. This native plant grows abundantly in the foothills and upper mountains. Related species have been a part of our regional landscape for millions of years and can be categorized as "living fossils." Several species have been discovered as fossils in the Oligocene beds of Creede and Florissant.

In our modern landscape, creeping grape holly stands out as one of a handful of native plants classified as broadleaf evergreens. Here is a plant for all seasons, with foliage that lasts month to month. This holly is the perfect addition to the Garden, especially when you need a sturdy, reliable plant that doesn't require extensive maintenance.



Creeping grape holly is a low-growing shrubby plant. It grows to six to 12 inches high, but height is easily controlled by pruning, which will also encourage the plant to become fuller in width. The cut stems are very useful in winter holiday wreaths and arrangements. Fresh foliage appears in the spring, followed by yellow flowers that ultimately yield blue berries that are often used to make a flavorful jelly.

Grow this plant in sun or shade; it really isn't too fussy. Once established, the creeping grape holly requires very little water.

An occasional shearing will keep it in bounds.

From Plant Talk Colorado

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### HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for June 2010 is as follows: Barbara Steger, Cathi Edmunds, Pam Hinish, Nancy Latimer, Karen MacFarquhar, Vivian Michaels, Beth Feldkamp

#### **2010—2011 Board Members**

*Lucy Ginley, Diana Aldridge, Anne Hittle, Dwight Gilliland, Louise Mounsey & 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!

## FLOWERS FOR A FRIEND



*Flowers for a Friend* captures a special moment in the timeless evolution of gardening and nature. Anyone who has worked with a parent, grandparent or mentor in the garden will delight in this sculpture. It is sure to make you smile and whisk you back to those special memories. More importantly, *Flowers for a Friend* represents 'a gift for the community to celebrate intergenerational learning and love of nature and gardening'.

When it comes to gardening and nature no two people exemplify this credo better than Bill and Louise Mounsey. Their contributions to the Evergreen community are so numerous it's not possible to list them all. **They** are, in fact, 'a gift' to this community'. It's been Louise's long desire to see *Flowers for a Friend* grow to life-sized and placed in the Evergreen community. (And what Louise's heart desires, you'll find her man right beside her!)

They were married in 1941, shortly after Bill was stationed at Camp Hale, where their love and appreciation for the Rocky Mountain area grew. When Bill retired from the service in 1964 they moved from Minnesota to Evergreen. Since that time both have worked tirelessly at many 'causes' with titles such as Charter Member, Member Emeritus, Founding Member, First President, First Wilderness Consultant in such organizations as the Evergreen Audubon, Evergreen Garden Club, The Wilderness Society, Wilderness Workshop, University of the Wilderness, Colorado Open Space Council, Mountain Area Planning Council, American Legion, the infamous "Curmudgeons" and Evergreen Park Estates Home Owners Association. And yet even after all this *service*; they view Evergreen as a gift to them; that's true stewardship at its finest.

One organization that Bill and Louise founded was The University of the Wilderness, where they lead

groups of twelve for week-long back packing, canoe and camping expeditions across many national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas. They have provided hundreds (if not thousands) of people with both education about and the preservation of our natural lands. When you look in Evergreen and note an open space, wetlands or community gardens, Bill and Louise had their hands in it somehow. Not to mention the green RTD busses.

Another person who lives this credo of conservation is Artist and Landscape Architect Ken Ball. Another long-time Evergreen area resident. Ken was on the original team that created the concept of 'Xeriscape'. In 1998, one of Ken's other life size sculptures received the National Park and Recreation Association Arts and Humanities Award. He reflects on *Flowers for a Friend*:

"The idea for creating 'Flowers for a Friend' began in 1992. The vision for the concept was based upon how much landscape and gardening affects each of us in our daily lives. Gardening has been called the single greatest pastime activity.

As thoughts matured around the concept, feelings I had about my past and how important my parents, grandparents and others had been in influencing my love for the outdoors, landscapes, plants and our environment.

The sculpture theme took form as a visual way to convey how young people are influenced in a positive way by the guidance they receive from adults. It seemed key that the sculpture portray, or display a feeling of gratitude and thanks from youth to their adult mentors for having given them a gift of such magnitude."

Ken Ball - Mountain Spirit Studio

The first bronze Marquette of *Flowers for a Friend* became a gift to the Evergreen Garden Club, as a president's memorial, as a thank you (and possible incentive) for those who volunteered to be president. Whoever holds the office holds the sculpture for the duration of their office. Ken first met Louise through the garden club she help start in 1965. When Louise saw the Marquette, it was love at first sight and she instantly envisioned this as a life-sized version placed in Evergreen.

***Flowers for a Friend*** is the perfect tribute for Bill and Louise Mounsey.

A gift, for a gift that keeps giving! For all their contributions; their legacy to preserve nature wherever possible, to share their vast knowledge with the community; the wild lands they've helped to preserve now become ours for a lifetime of enjoyment, and to continue sharing this reciprocity of intergenerational learning.

Please join the *Flowers for a Friend* debut party, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Creekside Cellars from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets: \$20 for two glasses of wine and appetizers. (Tickets sold at the door.) Or come by just to thank Louise and Bill for all they've done!

Sponsored by the committee for *Flowers for a Friend*, Ken Ball-Mountain Spirit Studio, Creekside Cellars and

Wilderness Awareness and Education Institute (see [wildlandinstitute.org](http://wildlandinstitute.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 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**

**June Walking Tour**

Roads Water-Smart Garden By Dan Johnson, Associate Director of Horticulture; Curator of Native Plants



The sunny dry garden along the south side of the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory has always been a challenge. From its beginning in the 1960s, plants that would tolerate the sunny exposed slope were given priority. Pinon pines and banana yucca had formed the early bones of this garden, and they persist today, along with dozens of other durable plants including prairie zinnia, purple ice plant, fernbush,

poppy mallow and chocolate flower. Now they grow in the company of thousands of perennials, bulbs, shrubs and grasses that have transformed this into a model dryland garden with plants from around the globe.

**EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB  
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