

The Wild Iris

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE...

I hope to see **All of You at our October Work Day!** We'll start with breakfast and a short meeting and then proceed to the community gardens.

We hope that everyone feels welcome and appreciated! If you're new to gardening, don't worry! Someone will be able to teach you what needs to be done.

For those that aren't kneelers or diggers, there are other important things to do, such as listing what plants are in the garden and keeping track of what needs to be replaced and what we shouldn't plant again! Please bring notebooks, pens, plant books and/or catalogs if you would like to help with plant identification and record keeping. Taking photos could also help with plant identification. Just show them to our members and someone will probably tell you more than you ever wanted to know about a particular plant!

I'm hoping for great fall weather and a fun day getting to know one another and playing in the dirt!

Lucy Ginley, President

OCTOBER 11TH, 2011 "FALL WORKDAY"

Like it or not, it's time to put our community gardens to bed for the coming winter. Please meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am for a quick breakfast before we head out to our respective community gardens. Be sure to bring your garden gloves, hat, water and any gardening tools that will help make your work easier. If you haven't signed up for to work at a particular garden, please contact Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Karen MacFarquhar at 303-670-3749 and she'll find a spot for you!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EGC Club News 2
Meet the Board 3
Minutes 6
Green Event 7

2011-2012 OFFICERS

- President—Lucy Ginley
- Vice President/s— Lynn Dimmick & Grace Coveyeau
- Secretary— Gina Kokinda
- Treasurer— Cathi Edmund
- Member Emeritus—Louise Mounsey

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all our new members who have joined the club for the new 2011-2012 year. We're delighted to have you among our membership.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Meredith Bossert
10/4 Linda Yates
10/11 Lucy Ginley
10/17 Bill Mounsey
10/23 Laura McReynolds
10/28 Marilyn Kaussner

Images throughout the newsletter are from the Sept kick-off meeting and were submitted by Paul Lutzetski. Images of the Metro Garden were taken by club historian Susan Blake and Peggy and Dale Fetchenhier.
THANK YOU!!



OCTOBER'S FEATURED GARDEN— EVERGREEN METRO (DAM) GARDEN

In 1993, the Evergreen Metro District underwent a major construction project to rebuild their plant facility on Highway 73 at the Evergreen Dam. As part of the project, they asked Evergreen Garden Club if we would be interested in caring for the land around the facility. We agreed to do that if we could design the garden.

A group of about 6 people from EGC spent about a year working on a hardscape and plant design. We felt that it would be a good educational garden for our community to show what plants do well at this altitude. We also wanted it to be a xeriscape garden featuring plants with low water usage – or at least adaptable. And finally, while we knew we would have to share with the elk and deer, we tried to use plants that are resistant to the local livestock. However, as I went by the garden today, I noticed several trees have broken limbs – from antlers being rubbed. Oh well...

We actually planted the garden in 1994. There was a group of about 25 of us who planted and cared for the garden. It was really exciting and fun. EMD paid for all the hardscape, irrigation and plants, so all we had to provide was labor.

The garden has changed a lot through the years. Some plants weren't happy and disappeared. Some have been prolific and have tried to be the sole focus of the garden. We have also had volunteers like ponderosas and potentillas which decide where they want to grow, including perennials which spread, like Mountain Bluet, lupine, and yarrow. It is an ever changing landscape. We have tried the past several years to dig out older parts of the garden and replant with new things.



This past spring, there was a water main break that took out and/or damaged a good part of the garden next to the road. We decided we will make a pathway through there next spring since people seem to walk through there anyway, and add ornamental grasses around it. We

were told that in 2 years, EMD is going to reroute the water line to the dam which will mean digging a trench right through the middle of the garden. They are going to let us know when, so we can move the plants we want to save. So, it will be another opportunity to create something new.

It's a delight to see people who are walking the lake stop and enjoy the

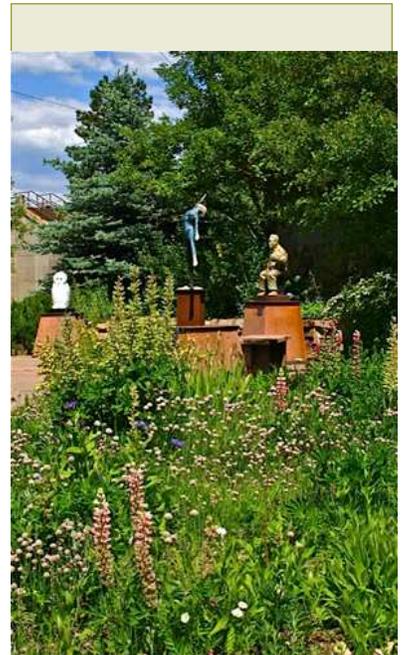
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METRO GARDEN PHOTO GALLERY

(Continued from page 2)

dam garden. We are grateful to have this wonderful site to work on and watch evolve. We are also grateful to everyone who has worked on this garden.

Peggy and Dale Fetchenhier





Green Tomato Dilemma

WHAT TO DO WITH GREEN TOMATOS

A Jefferson County master gardener post by Carol King

Read the full post at: <http://jeffcogardener.blogspot.com/2011/09/what-to-do-with-green-tomatoes-by-carol.html>

This is the time of year when gardeners have a plethora of unripe tomatoes in their gardens. If your garden is no exception, here are a few tips on dealing with all those green tomatoes.

To speed-ripen on the vine try this:

Stop watering. This encourages ripening.

Root prune the plant. Dig into the soil 6-8" deep and cut around a circle 12" from the stem. Shake the plant but don't dig it up. This will stress the plant and the fruit will ripen faster.

Pinch off any flowers, small fruit, new shoots, and suckers. It's too late for them to become anything. Do this now and all the plants energy will go toward ripening.

When frost is expected, try this:

Cover the plant completely and anchor so the wind doesn't blow it off. Use old blankets, thick plastic, or anything similar and make sure it goes all the way to the ground providing the plant with trapped warmth.

Harvest the tomatoes by pulling the plant from the ground and hanging it upside down in a garage or other shelter. Check often for ripe ones.

Pick the pink ones and put them on the counter to ripen

Pick the green tomatoes and store them in a shallow tray lined with newspaper. They need 60-70 degrees and no light. The warmth ripens them not light.

MEMBERS—FOR SALE

Used Cone-tainers for sale \$10.00 each

Tray is approximately 1' x 2' and holds 98 planting cones. Each planting cone is 1.5 inches in diameter x 8.25" high and holds 10 cubic inches. These are the planting containers that Jim Borland spoke of in his 2009 Evergreen Garden Club presentation on "Power Propagation". They are definitely for outdoor use as the cones have drainage holes and the trays are too large to fit into standard drip trays. These have been great for fall and spring seed starting. I have six trays with 98 cones each for sale, I just no longer need to start 1000 seedlings every year!

Please contact Lucy Ginley 303-881-2150 or lginley@comcast.net



Cone-tainers

MANAGING NOXIOUS WEEDS

It is important to manage noxious weeds. Noxious weeds are plants not native to our area. They aggressively take over natural and agricultural lands: impacting both economic and natural values. They out compete native plants and cause a reduction in wildlife habitat.

Colorado has a Noxious Weed Law (CRS 35-5-5 et al.) that requires landowners to control noxious weeds.

Be aware of what is growing on your property and manage all noxious weeds when you find them. If you notice new weeds moving into an area, you should react quickly to manage them before they reproduce.

The law establishes a prioritized list (A, B, and C) that designates levels of management. What the weed is and where it grows within the state determines if it is required to be eradicated, suppressed or contained.

For an informative resource on how to identify noxious weeds and what to do to control and prevent them, get a fact sheet from Jefferson County on our website at www.evergreengardenclub.org/garden_articles/jeffconoxiousweeds.pdf (click or copy and paste to open) or contact Jefferson County Weed & Pest at 303-271-5989.



Chamomile



Canadian Thistle

A GREAT PASSING

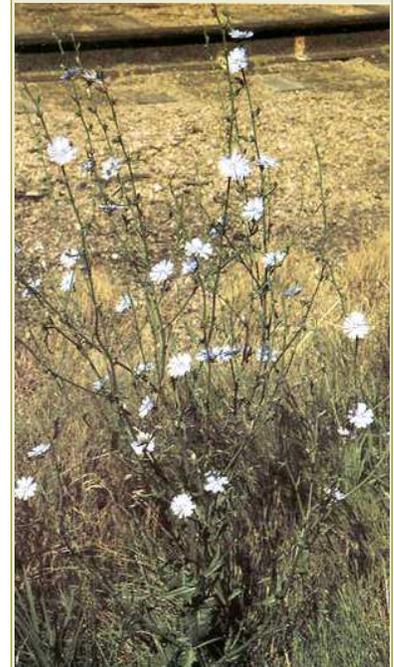
Andrew Pierce, credited by a former colleague with making Denver Botanic Gardens "one of the greatest botanic gardens in the world," died Sept. 17 at his home in Evergreen. He was 75.

“Mr. Pierce, a marvelous horticulturist, was a great friend of Evergreen Garden Club giving several programs and advice to us through the years, and inviting us to tour his wonderful gardens at his home here in Evergreen. He will be greatly missed.” ~ Louise Mounsey



Teasel

*You say it's nifty, and I say it's noxious.
You say it's lovely, and I say it's lousy.
Nifty, noxious, lovely, lousy-
Let's call them what they are!*



Chicory

MINUTES—SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2011 MEETING

BERGEN PARK FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

Grace Coveyeau welcomed members and distributed membership booklets and cards as they arrived. She recorded any misprints and forwarded them to the Wild Iris editor, who will inform other members via the newsletter.

President Lucy Ginley opened the meeting at 9:35 am. She welcomed new guests Tom, Lindy, Ann and Rachael, and then introduced the new Board members Lynn Dimmick, Grace Coveyeau, Cathi Edmund and Gina Kokinda.

NO REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS this month.

NEW BUSINESS Fundraising Event:

Lucy opened to the membership for discussion: should we hold a fundraiser this year or focus efforts elsewhere? Perhaps give to a charity or get involved in the community in some other way? Dwight G. noted that the books show the club's income last season was ~2k, while expenses totaled ~4k, though there is ~\$10k in reserve. The current budget would allow us to do one every 3rd year (for a *few* years anyway). Several members shared reasons *in favor* of holding an event, such as public relations and increased visibility. Lucy asked Irma W. her opinion on the profitability potential vs: effort involved. It's difficult to gauge. The membership squashed the idea of combining the plant sale with the garden tour (*pun intended!*).

Karen M. suggested the club needs more members. Perhaps the club takes this year to focus on growing the membership base? The Board had already determined that we need a **Publicity committee**, so Lucy solicited the group for interest. Pam H., Lindy D., and Vail S. volunteered. If you can help with publicity, please let us know! There will definitely be opportunity, and we welcome any and all contributions!

The group continued to toss around fresh ideas such as: promotional *flyers*, setting up *table 'shifts'* at local grocery stores and Evergreen *farmers' markets*, reaching out to *realtors* and *WelcomeWagon*, inviting *friends* to meetings and on *field trips*, more effective *advertising* of lecture topics, more visible *signage* in the gardens, more *information* on the plants both in the gardens & on the website (*if possible*), and inviting the public to help work in the gardens (for *hands on learning!*) Arlene F. suggested holding an '*expo*', and Katherine B. from *Sundance by Design* volunteered to post an invitation on Sundance Gardens' e-newsletter. Wow! Gina motioned that we table the discussion for now to be continued at the next meeting, *as there was much more on the agenda, the clock was ticking, her hand was cramping, and there wasn't enough space on the paper to record everything!* Lucy granted the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Katherine announced an opportunity to participate in a hypertufa trough class being offered by Jefferson County/CSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. It's being held at Sundance by Design on Sat 8 Oct, 9-11:30am, and costs \$55 (includes materials for a take-home trough). See more on back page of our newsletter or on their newsletter at <http://www.sundancegardens.com/newsletters.html>.

Lucy asked if new members would be interested in mentor pairings; a few said yes. She passed around a sign-up sheet.

Former member Leslie K. generously donated a stack of books to the world gardening table or anyone interested in giving them good homes. Lucy N. reported on the basic purpose of the WGF table as to provide vegetable seeds to children in several underprivileged countries, helping enable them to feed their families. Paul L., leader of the post office garden team, brought daylilies from that garden to share; the elk find them so tasty that he decided they'd have a more beautiful existence in the protected home gardens of some of our membership.

(Continued on page 7)

(Minutes continued from page 6)

Bring any plants, cuttings, seeds or such that you are willing to donate to the WGF table to the *November* meeting.

Marilyn K. graciously brought in two stacks of books on noxious weeds and invasive species (specific to our area) to share, along with flyers (please see the flyers attached to these minutes). These books were *donated* by Jefferson County Weed and Pest: http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/weed/weed_T71_R1.htm ; Marilyn asked for donations to give back to them. Paul suggested that each garden team leader receive a copy.

Frances S. (Hospitality committee) asked for volunteers to sign up to bring edibles for future meetings; if not enough volunteers, she will have to make phone calls. There had been some discussion about eliminating welcoming gifts, but the general consensus is that we should keep them in the budget. Many people appreciate them, as they are fun reminders of our club (plus they help Frances recruit volunteers to bring food).

Lucy announced that the next meeting will be a workday. There was some discussion about meeting time and when to eat and socialize. Meet at the same place, same time, 9:30am, for the same routine, (except there will be no committee reports, WGF table, or welcoming gifts). We'll disperse from there to work in the gardens. Someone (Paul, I believe) suggested we consider holding separate garden workdays next year.

(Someone announced that member/former member Toni Yerkes had a stroke....I will send a card if I can find her info from someone....it's not in the booklet). Lucy mentioned the passing of Sandee Ball; although we sent a card to Ken, she felt we should do more. Chris G. suggested we coordinate with the owner of Timberline gardens (a friend of theirs). We did and sent an arrangement to the service that was held for her last Sunday.

Paul took photos of the new Board in Susan B's (Historian) absence. There being no further business, Lucy adjourned the meeting at approx. 12 pm, and members resumed their meet and greet.

HOSPITALITY BITES

The hospitality team for October 2011 is as follows:

Jean Lipson, Pam Hinish, Joy Young, Vivian Michaels & Irma Wolf.

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!

2011—2012 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Lucy Ginley
(303) 670-1935
c-(303) 881-2150
lginley@Comcast.net

Vice President/s:

Lynn Dimmick
(303) 670-0108
Lynnpin@Comcast.net

Grace Coveyeau
(303) 838-9771
Gcoveyeau@aol.com

Secretary:

Gina Kokinda
(303) 507-8544
gkokinda@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Cathi Edmund
(303) 670-1090
Coedmundrn@aol.com

Member Emeritus:

Louise Mounsey
(303) /674-4695



Board members from left front are: Lynn Dimmick, Gina Kokinda, Cathi Edmund, & back row, Lucy Ginley & Grace Coveyeau.

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 email: 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

Hypertufa Trough Construction Class Oct. 8

Learn the basics and create your own rustic Old English style gardening planter. Take home your own strong, lightweight, and weatherproof trough. Class taught by Jefferson County CSU Master Gardeners and proceeds go to the Junior Master Gardener Program.

9 to 11:30 am October 8 (Rain date October 15) at Sundance by Design, | 27965 Meadow Drive, Evergreen.

Cost: \$55 per person/trough. Includes materials and instructions for finishing and planting your trough at home.



Register: Sundance by Design at 303. 670.8211 or mail your check to Sundance By Design, 27919 Fireweed Dr. Evergreen, CO 80439.

**EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB
P.O. BOX 1393
EVERGREEN, COLORADO
80437**

www.EvergreenGardenClub.org



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