



Evergreen Garden Club

# WILD IRIS

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February 2014

## President's Letter

A Garden of Love

I'm a big fan of theme gardens; in fact, I could be considered a theme garden junkie. It started when my brother gave me *Theme Gardens*, by Barbara Damrosch. Every place we've lived I've had them – hummingbird gardens, butterfly gardens, fern and hosta gardens, wild flower gardens, and my favorite of all, the moon or white garden. Here I've started dwarf evergreen and cactus gardens. Now is the time to dream of that next garden.

And

February makes me dream of a Garden of Love. What better time to pore over my favorite gardening



book. Damrosch says the Persians perfected the art of pleasure gardens and we can recreate such a spot if we desire. These lovely spaces were sheltered from the hot sun, had a water feature and pots and arbors filled with the heady scent of roses and other fragrances. The pavilions were elaborate and the pools surrounded by lavishly carved archways and tiled floors. A bit much, but why not tuck a loveseat under a tree or an arbor covered with canvas for that bit of shade. The water feature can be large pot with a gentle pump and lilies. Other pots can be filled with sun loving fragrant flowers and trellises with cyclamen and sweet peas. A perfect spot for a cool glass of tea or a glass of wine. Start dreaming of your next garden now!

Barb Steger, President

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday**  
**February 11th, 2014**

Bergen Park Firehouse  
Social Time 9:15-9:30  
Meeting at 9:30

## February Program

“Outstanding Orchids”

Our February program will be about growing orchids in our region, orchid trivia, and a showy show.

Presented by the Denver Orchid Society

Please remember:  
we have our meeting  
**UNLESS**  
Jefferson County Public  
Schools close.

## January Meeting 2014

Three guests this month: Karey Swan, Pat Thoms and Fred Aspenship (bottom right). Annell Hoy discusses budgetary issues. Paul Lutzeski, Linda Fisher and Grace Coveyeau try to correct our AV system; Grace Coveyeau recommends we upgrade our interface system to accommodate the Fire stations AV system and Katie Wilcox presents her Program W/O a projector!!! Whoa!!!





## The Robins' Roost

by Paul Luzetski

One evening in the month of May 2006, guests were leaving our Evergreen home after a visit. As they exited our front door, one friend exclaimed that a bird's nest was on the platform of our wall-mounted outdoor lamplight! It had not been noticed, until then. It wasn't until the next morning that I determined it to be a robin's nest, beautifully crafted but within my arm's reach and just a couple of feet from our entryway.

In my excitement, and being a curious human, I just had to take a closer peek while the parents were briefly out and about. I spotted two lovely blue eggs, tinier than I expected. I hoped I had not caused any stress to this familial environment and figured the parents were most likely nearby, observing me observing the nest. I decided not to get that intrusive, again. Even at a distance, anytime we were in eyesight of the nest, as in lawn mowing or using the adjacent garage, the adults made sure to fly into nearby trees, seemingly to distract attention away from the straw and pine needle settlement. For the next several weeks, *our* family was mindful to only use the front door when absolutely necessary, so as not to disturb the robins' incubation roosting period. We have a modest home, yet I couldn't help but feel this natural adornment temporarily made our residence a truly special showplace!

By June, the faint cries of the hatchlings could be heard, particularly upon each return of a parent with nourishment. I occasionally eased my way nearby the new family – but not too close – and endeavored a minimum of motion for short periods, hoping the adult robins would become more comfortable with my presence. They did, and when close enough to see clearly, I was surprised to discover *three* little bobbing heads, like buoys on the water, above the rim of the nest cavity. I must admit it was difficult to decipher the “momma” robin from the “poppa” robin during this entire process. But I do believe the mother had been the primary incubator and the father appeared more often during the food supply process. I imagine the parents traded sentinel duties after the eggs hatched. Poppa stayed long enough at the nest to allow me a photo opp just as he was about to serve another meal to the chicks. Gradually, the nest was burgeoning with growing girths.

Eventually, one day, the entire robin family simply disappeared, leaving behind a vacant nest vessel that looked fragile enough to blow away at the next minor wind gust. Later in the year, however, the entire robin clan graced our property, once again. The three youngsters, in spotted breast and somewhat drab color, were looking much more like their parents. At this return, encounter, it appeared the male robin parent was teaching its offspring how to successfully harvest worms from the ground. Two of them seemed to succeed at their tests, while a third struggled a bit. None of them seemed bothered at all when I stepped a bit closer and sat down in a deck chair to observe the lesson.

Several other robins enjoyed our yard during this summer. But it was obvious when the fivesome came by for visits; always together...exploring, hunting, and bathing at our water features. Their entertaining presence dwindled as a colder weather pattern settled in. After mid-October, there hadn't been a sign of that family, or any other robins, for the rest of the year and I wondered how the young ones would fare in their first winter. I'll always remember this year as one of my favorite memories of one of my favorite bird varieties.

Foothills Organic Gardeners 2nd Annual Seed Forum  
Friday March 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Conference rooms A and B at the Fire Training Station in Bergen Park

Though the snow may still be flying, spring is not far off. Are those seed catalogs calling your name? Come join Foothills Organic Gardeners (FOG) and Evergreen Community Gardeners on Friday, March 7, 6:30-8:30 pm for the second annual Seed Forum and Swap at Evergreen Fire & Rescue. The evening will feature discussions on choosing the right seeds/varieties for our high altitude gardens, seed starting, and soil, and we will hold a seed swap as well. Join us for seed chat, seed swapping, conversation, and cool door prizes to get into the groove for the 2014 growing season.

Plan to bring seeds to share or swap.  
Hope to see you there,

Dave and Karen Lystrom  
dlystrom@live.com  
303 674 2905

## Sundance by Design

**YAY!! Sundance by Design**

**is EXPANDING**

**and you're the winner!**

This spring we are moving across the parking lot to a bigger, brighter space! Instead of relocating all our inventory, we are marking everything down **30-50%!**

Visit us in our current space at 27965 Meadow Drive Two Days Only: Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, 10-5

Great opportunity to purchase Special gifts for your **Valentine** at big savings!

If you would like to include something in the

### **Wild Iris**

please send an email to [editor@evergreengardenclub.org](mailto:editor@evergreengardenclub.org)  
or call Lucy Ginley, home 303-670-1935 or cell 303-881-2150

Visit us online at [www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org)

Evergreen Garden Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization

**Evergreen Garden Club Minutes**  
**January 14, 2014**

**Officers present: Barbara Steger, president, Jean Lipson, secretary, Paul Luzetski, vice president, and Annell Hoy.**

**President, Barbara Steger, called our first meeting of the New Year, 2014, to order at 9:40 AM and there were 30 folks present including four guests, Fred Aspen, Patricia Stefaniw, Pat Thoms, and Kary Swan. A hearty welcome goes out to our guests, we are very pleased to have you join us, and we are certain that you will become a great asset to our club.**

**The minutes of the December meeting were published in the Wild Iris Newsletter. Jean called for a motion and a second to accept the minutes as published.**

**Annell gave her report on our funds in our checking and savings accounts. She also reminded us to keep using our King Soopers and Safeway cards from which we earn 5% of each sale! After much discussion two decisions were made. We have decided that Earth Day in Colorado was just too cold to sell new little plants that folks could set out so we decided to have volunteers plant seeds instead. A chairman will be needed to head up this project. The other thing that we decided was that we would have an “in house” plant sale rather than having a plant sale for the Evergreen community which would require an extraordinary amount of work and time.**

**An Ad Hoc committee made up of Grace Covyreau, Joy Young, and Patricia Stefaniw will determine how to best disperse excess funds and will report back at our February meeting.**

**Due to the fact that there were no committee reports the meeting was adjourned at 10:30.**

**Paul introduced our guest speaker, Katy Wilcox from the Denver Botanic Gardens. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed her extremely interesting talk on Plants, Pests, and Pollinators, an Ecological Approach to Gardening along with a list of websites for Creating Pollinator Habitat.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Lipson, secretary**