



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS

March 2014

Vice-President's Letter



“Sprouts in Evergreen!”
by Paul Luzetski

No, I don't mean the increasingly popular farmers market grocery store has opened in town, though it would be a great addition to this area.

I'm referring to the little shoots that rise above ground, during our winter thaw period. I'd love to get fancy and refer to these leafy structures as “plumules” and, perhaps, make reference to the “epigeal germination” process, but really...I'm

not so confident of my accuracy with horticultural scientific terminology. So, I'm sticking with “sprouts” and “shoots”! They seem to act as a kind of reconnaissance crew, sensing out conditions above ground to determine if it's a good idea for their base of operations to proceed with a full-on pursuit of the growth cycle. While peeking up, these structures, whether from bulbs, tubers, rhizomes, crown buds of perennials and such, engage in their own level of photosynthesis and root strengthening. Of course, it's a tradition that these initial offerings get shocked by a return of colder, snowier conditions in this region. Many tend to yellow at the tips or die back into something akin to waste.

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March Program

Our March meeting shall feature a program titled, “Made for the Shade” – An examination of what we may enjoy in the shadier sections of the garden.

Harriet McMillan from Echter's Nursery and Garden Center shall share her expertise on this topic and how we may succeed with shade gardening in our foothills communities.

Next Meeting
Tuesday
March 11th, 2014

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

“Request for Charitable Giving”

The “Request for Charitable Giving” forms, given out at our February meeting, are due by the March 11th meeting.

Any member may make a request, based on the guidelines provided in the form.

Members are asked to send the completed form to EGC, P.O. Box 1393, Evergreen, CO 80437 or to give the form to any Board member.

Thanks to those of you who have already submitted a form.

With gratitude from your Board Members,
Barb Steger - President
Paul Luzetski – Vice Pres
Jean Lipson - Secretary
Annell Hoy - Treasurer

Vice-President's Letter

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But we know it's just part of the year's growth process and if those plants are healthy, they'll burst forth when it's time to do so. Meanwhile, those early teaser stalks and leaves have done their duty, while simultaneously getting us gardeners all giddy with anticipation!

Having seen some of the bulbs show off a bit at our post office public garden in recent days, I thought about the commercially sold, mature plants that shall be on sale in many locations, very soon. There are holidays

coming up, such as Easter and Mother's Day, when many people share blooming potted flower bulbs as gifts. Those displays offer quite a boost to the gardening senses. But what should one do once the blooms have faded and those green stems go gray-brown? In years past, there are two ways I've salvaged these potted bulbs. (By the way, I tend to avoid Paperwhites, aka *Narcissus tazetta*, as they get too odiferous for my liking. Once was enough. I've never tried to recycle them. But that's just my personal experience.)

Once the potted flowers have sufficiently broken down, I cut them back, blooms and stems, to the soil level, while keeping them in the pot. I treated them like houseplants for a while, giving just a touch of water to avoid full dehydration, until I began to notice some fresh stem growth. This is an indication that the bulbs are in the process of regaining nutrients for themselves. There was more cold weather and killing frosts during this time period. So, the bulbs were protected inside, for the time being.

Here's where I've diverged in my experiment. First option: Once the new growth had reached an inch or two, I placed the bulbs, still potted, in a cool, dry, and darker location. A crawl space under the house or the coolest part of a garage or shed work well. Second option: I've taken bulbs out of the pot and dried them out a bit in a cool, darker location for a few days. I then placed them in a paper garbage bag that contains some peat moss and stored the bag in a cool, dry, dark location. If you're fortunate enough to have an extra refrigerator, say, in the garage, it's great for such storage. The kitchen fridge? Your call.

After the last killing frost, and when the soil became pliable enough, I planted the bulbs in my garden. I usually plant bulbs and corms to a depth that's double the size of that particular object and water them in well. I blend a wee bit of superphosphate into the soil base, but this is optional and an entirely separate article for debate.

The result of my effort is that I had those bulbs flourish for me the following year's spring season! I have even had the experience of forgetting about a bag of stored bulbs for an entire growing season. In the fall, I examined them. They looked in good shape and I planted them. They also performed brilliantly the following spring. Admittedly, most of the blooms and stems on these recycled bulbs were not quite as large in size as the first year, potted display. But on the plus side, there was a doubling in number on some of the bulbs' flowers, the following year. Keep in mind that if you have a variety of potted flowers to store, you'll want to separate and label them. Or, just mix them all up for a "Who knows?..." show in your planting bed.

I hope that if you annually just toss out those lovely potted bulb flowers, you will instead try to salvage them for the next year.



Garden Club meeting February 2014

Jean Erickson, guest, and soon to be new member. Anneli Hoy is enthusiastic about our budget. Great new haircut too! Paul Luzeteki, VP, gets the meeting started. Wonderful Valentines table thanks to members and the Hospitality Committee.



If you would like to include something in the
Wild Iris

please send an email to editor@evergreengardenclub.org
or call Lucy Ginley, home 303-670-1935 or cell 303-881-2150

EGC February program on Orchids

Dick Zeman of the Denver Orchid Society presenter of the program "The World of Orchids. The 4 native orchids are shown so you can identify them if you are on a hike in our beautiful forests. The 2 photos on the bottom right show results of cross breeding: the two top orchids were bred together to produce the ones in the larger bottom photos.



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Critter Tip, from Linda Ringrose

I got a tip from a Conifer librarian on how to keep the elk from eating your plants. Get some fresh crushed garlic from the grocery store; add 1 teaspoonful to your watering can, full of water (2 or more gallons of water--she wasn't sure). It has to be fine enough to go through the holes on the business end. Then, sprinkle it all over your plants. She said that the elk come over to graze on your lovely flowers as usual, reach down and get a whiff, then change their minds. I don't know if this would make your vegetables taste like garlic, even after you wash them! You have to repeat the process after a rain or after you water. She swears it works. I've never heard of this one. Sounds less stinky and definitely cheaper than spraying on that icky Bobbex to me!

Help Celebrate the
25th Anniversary of the Mountain Area
Earth Day Fair

Saturday, April 19th
Evergreen Lake House

Volunteers Needed To Staff Our Booth

Three shifts Available

8-10

10 – 1

1-3

More Information Available at the April 8th Meeting
or Call Lindy Doty at 303-759-9389.



Denver Rose Society

2014 Annual Symposium
Saturday, March 15, 2014
9:30am - 12:30pm

Denver Botanic Gardens, Mitchell Hall
1007 York Street, Denver, CO
Free with paid entrance to the Gardens

Foothills Organic Gardener's 2nd Annual Garden Seed Share

March 7th 2014 6:30 p.m.

at the Bergen Park Fire Station meeting room A and B

Presented by Tina Kellogg "GivenTrees" and Margaret Rode "Evergreen Community Garden"

AGENDA:

6:30-6:45 Come in and say hello!

6:45-7:15 Margaret Rode on Seed Selection: How to Pick the Perfect Plants for your 2014 season here in Evergreen. Bring your seed catalogs!! Includes a Q&A period.

7:15-7:45 Tina Kellogg on Seed Starting ("Cliff Notes") Including Q&A.

7:45-8:00 Door prize giveaways

8:00-8:30 Seed Share – if you want to participate, bring envelopes, baggies, pill bottles, or we'll teach you how to fold your own seed packets! Don't worry if you have no seed to swap: Bring your favorite garden quote, seed catalog or tidbit of garden wisdom to share instead.

We will be offering several door prizes:

-- A self-watering "Earth Box" type growing container.

-- A Four Tier Mini Greenhouse (62" tall by 27" long by 19" deep) similar to this one: <http://bit.ly/1dpavAZ>

-- A 90-minute on-site garden consultation at YOUR garden site with Tina Kellogg of GivenTrees

EVERGREEN GARDEN CLUB
MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Officers present: Paul Luzetski, vice-president, Annell Hoy, treasurer.

Paul Luzetski called the meeting together at 9:33 AM and welcomed members and guest Jean Erickson.

Hospitality chairs Frances Sorensen and Bev Wickland made a special request for members to sign up for monthly goodies and for additional volunteers who would be willing to be called if more individuals were needed for goodies as happened today.

Announcements:

*A thank you note was received from ECHO for the 83 pounds (!!!) of toilet paper we donated in December.

*A Request for Charitable Giving form has been developed and was passed out. Any member may make a request by sending the completed form to EGC, P.O. Box 1393, Evergreen, CO. 80437 or by giving the form to any Board member. Requests for next month need to be made by March 11th.

*Research on updating of EGC's technical/computer capacity will begin next month.

*Paul will be working on updating our website with our webmaster, Gwen Ginley. Any suggestions should be sent to him at HYPERLINK "<mailto:paulL4@msn.com>" paulL4@msn.com.

*Next Board meeting is March 7 at 1:30 at the Cafe at the Place, 27886 Meadow Drive, Evergreen. All Board meetings are open and members are invited to attend. Please let Barb Steger know if you plan to attend, HYPERLINK "<mailto:barbara.steger@gmail.com>" barbara.steger@gmail.com.

*EGC members were encouraged to submit for publication in the Wild Iris any articles, photos and information from other groups that you may belong to that would be interesting to fellow gardeners! We recognize and thank Lucy Ginley for her ongoing wonderful efforts with the newsletter.

*Lucille Nelson reminded us to bring plants and seeds for the monthly ECHO table.

*The Home Garden Show and Earth Day are upcoming community events that we may wish to participate in and promote Evergreen Garden Club. Diana Aldridge and Linda Doty expressed interest in possibly keeping EGC's involvement in Earth Day. Further communication with the Board will be conducted.

*We will not do a Plant Sale this year. The Master Gardeners of Jefferson County may be doing one and Paul will provide information when that decision is made.

Treasurer's Report - Annell reported King Soopers' earnings of \$320.14; checking account balance of \$3055.07 and savings account balance of \$12,009.76 although there have been some minor expenses that aren't included.

Approximately \$1600 is available for Charitable Giving.

Minutes - Minutes from the January meeting were published in the February Wild Iris.

Grace Coveyeau made a motion for those minutes to be approved, Lynn Dimmick seconded the motion and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM for goodies and the February Program, "The World of Orchids" presented by Dick Zeman of the Denver Orchid Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Hinish, Acting Secretary