



Evergreen Garden Club

WILD IRIS

May 2014

President's Letter

Everybody will get “gnomed”.



I never took an interest in gnomes until member Arlene Fitterer gave us a talk about the little fellows; then a friend gave me one in a planter. A gnome is a diminutive sprite, typically said to be a small, humanoid creature that lives underground. In Greek the word “gnome” literally translates to “earth dweller”. This shy creature was described as being able to move through

solid earth as easily as humans move through air. In mythology, he often guarded mines and underground treasures. The first ceramic gnomes were made in the mid 1800's in Germany. Their popularity spread quickly throughout Europe. Today there are gnome parades, gnome stone homes, and probably most familiar, the traveling gnome. Pranksters “steal” gnomes from gardens and photograph them in various places, often around the world. So...I bought a tiny gnome and I've hidden him in one of your gardens. Please start searching and be sure to take his picture and let me know when you find him. Then, of course, you need to hide him in another member's garden. Have fun and let's see how many gardens he visits before our September meeting.

Barb Steger
President

Next Meeting

Tuesday

May 13th, 2014

Bergen Park Firehouse

Social Time 9:15-9:30

Meeting at 9:30

May Program

May is our Spring Workday
in the Public Gardens.

We'll meet at the Firehouse
for breakfast and a brief
business meeting.

Remember to pick up the
plants that you ordered for
your Community Garden
from Lynn Dimmick before
heading out to your assigned
garden.

Not assigned? Not a
problem, you'll have a
chance to choose a garden
during the meeting.

May Work Day

My favorite meeting of the year is the May Work Day. It's not only spring - it's May (the month that keeps April's promises) and after a long winter (isn't it always a long winter?) we have an excuse to get down and dirty in our gardens, work alongside our old and new friends, and stand back at the end of the day and really see the WOW!

Our May 13th Work Day starts at the Fire Training Center with a hearty breakfast and short meeting. Please come prepared to head out to your garden with your gloves, tools, drinking water, silly hat, sun protection and/or parka (you never know. . .).

Our gardens with any special requests are the. . .

Library garden

Hiwan Victorian garden

Hiwan Herb garden - wants honey badger to ward off elk

Post Office - more volunteers please

Traffic Circle - needs folks to volunteer to help water through the summer

Fire Training Center - would welcome a couple more healthy back volunteers

Evergreen Metro at the Dam

Evergreen Metro District Building - it would be more fun with one more gardener

If you (and your friend) aren't sure which garden is the right one for you or you want to help in more than one garden or know where we can find a honey badger, please call me.

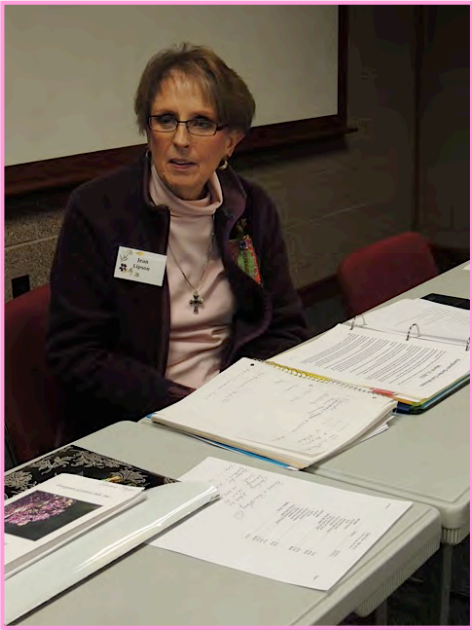
You give such a gift to our community by working in the gardens. Thanks for coming out to play!

Lynn Dimmick
Public Garden Coordinator
303 670 0108

Sharing Our Gardens

We will be passing a sign-up sheet around so that you can choose a date to invite members to see your garden. Our goal is to share information, experience and gardening enthusiasm while getting to know each other better. No need to have perfect gardens, no one will be counting the weeds!

April Meeting



Jean Lipson, Secretary of our club, waiting for the meeting to start.



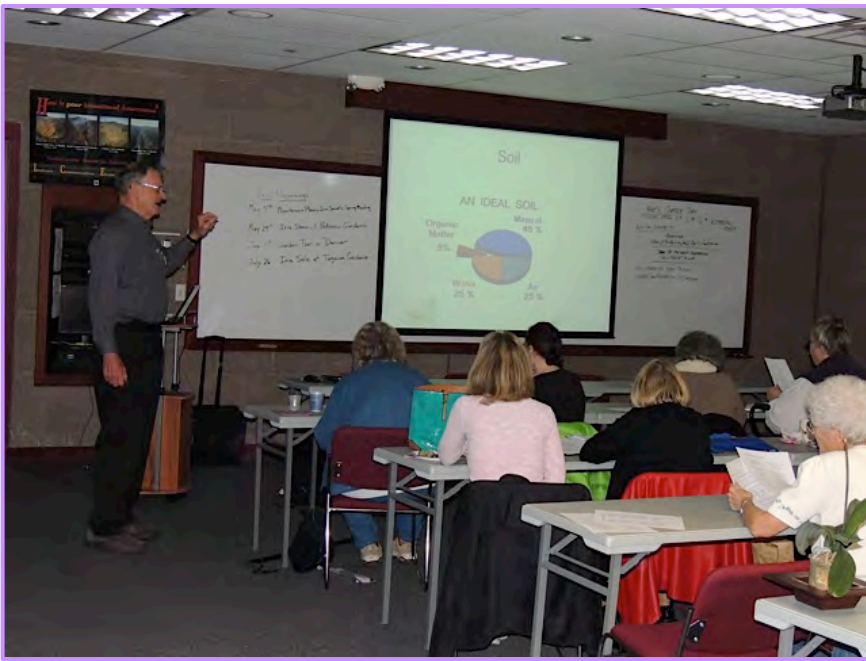
Louise Mounsey and her daughter Sharon.



Irma Wolf, Linda Fisher and Lindy Doty admire the "coleus babies" that Linda is growing for Earth Day.



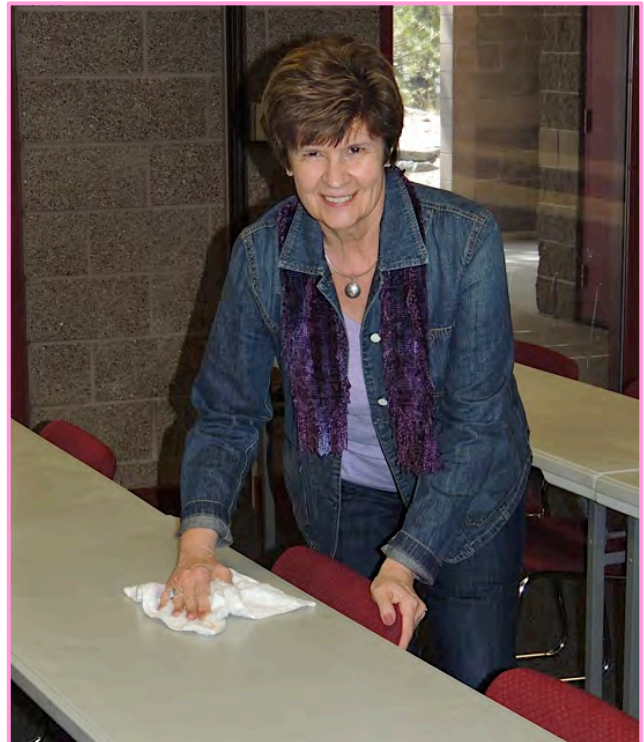
Jo Powers and Sharon Eaves are about to sample the goodies on our Easter Day table.



The program for the April meeting was “The Dirt on Dirt.”



Ed Powers, Master Gardener, about to give the program “The Dirt on Dirt.”



Barbara Steger, our club president, demonstrating one of the fringe benefits of being president. Only kidding!!!

All photos were taken by Paul Luzetski, who was filling in for our Historian, Susan Blake.

The following information sheet was put together by Kelli Mlinarik Marko. It was passed on to us by member Lynn Dimmick, who is also a beekeeper. Technical name, apiarists.

MAKE YOUR YARD SAFE FOR BEES

Bees and other pollinators are essential for over one-third of the food crops humans eat every day – and bees are dying in unprecedented numbers.

SYSTEMIC PESTICIDES are killing bees. If you see any of the following ingredients listed on products in your home or local garden center, do not use them.

Acetamiprid	Imidacloprid
Clothianidin	Sulfoxafloer
Cyantraniliprole	Thiacloprid
Dinotefuran	Thiamethoxam

SYSTEMICS – which include a class of chemical called NEONICOTINOIDS - are the most widely used pesticides in the world and they are in many common products at your local hardware, garden stores and big chain stores. They are found in granulars, sprays and even fertilizer 3-in-1 type products by Bayer, Ortho, Bonide and more.

Even at doses that won't outright kill bees, these chemicals weaken bee immune systems and impair critical brain functions, making it hard for them to find food sources or their hives and leaving them vulnerable to pests and disease. SYSTEMICS persist in the soil and plants, continuing to poison bees and other pollinators for months and years to come. They permeate the entire plant, including the pollen, nectar and dew that bees eat. And they can't be washed off.

Some people argue that the epidemic bee loss of recent years is too complex to blame any one thing such as increased use of SYSTEMICS. *However, if these toxins are even part of it, shouldn't we stop using them?*

Unfortunately, even if you are careful to avoid these products, you may be bringing SYSTEMICS into your yard by buying contaminated plants. Plants are often treated at the growers before they reach the stores. Big box stores or nurseries that truck in all their plants, won't even know which ones are treated. **EVEN BEE-ATTRACTING PLANTS CAN BE TREATED WITH BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES.** Now, isn't that a shame?



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Read labels carefully and avoid all products that contain these chemicals or say they are SYSTEMIC. Ask for help if you are not sure.
- Ask your nursery to label, or even better, remove all products that contain these chemicals. Tell them you are worried about the bees!
- Ask your local nursery which plants they've grown themselves, what products they use and how to identify safe plants. Buy organic when possible.
- Avoid buying plants at big box stores (like Lowe's and Home Depot) where there is no information on whether or not the plants are treated.
- Support nurseries that are taking these bee-protecting measures! Tell friends and neighbors. Post on Facebook. Consumer pressure works!
- Check with your lawn or tree service to be sure they aren't using products containing SYSTEMICS.
- Plant (safely-grown) bee-attracting plants.
- Talk to neighbors about SYSTEMICS and buying untreated plants to make a bee safe neighborhood.
- Start your favorite plants from (organic or untreated) seeds. Share and trade cuttings from mature plants instead of buying new ones.
- Subscribe to organizations such as *Organic Consumer Association* or *Friends of the Earth-Bee Action* to receive updates and sign petitions.
- Forward this flyer to friends, family, neighbors, churches and community groups. THANK YOU.

To learn more about this issue and sign petitions, go to Friends of the Earth at: www.beeaction.org

To learn more about "bee safe neighborhoods", click on their page at: www.honeybeekeep.com

Special Thanks to the Evergreen Home Depot!
Their Garden Department has donated plants and supplies for use in the
Hiwan Victorian Garden.

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

Visit us online at www.evergreengardenclub.org

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