



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 20 April 2008

A Word from the President...

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EGC 2007-2008 Board Members

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Karla Briggs

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Treasurer:

Beth Feldkamp

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 Beth Feldkamp at 303-679-9465 or EGCBeth@comcast.net

Newsletter Contributions are due by the 20th of each month to Liz Hamilton@Liz@Maia-Consulting.com

Newsletter Editor & Website
Evergreengardenclub.org

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



In the fall of 2006, professional beekeepers across the country opened their hives to a terrifying and mysterious sight. The hives were empty of all adult bees; only the newly hatched brood remained, abandoned. The most puzzling aspect of all was that there were no dead bees to be found. Where had they gone, why had they gone?

In the beginning, it was assumed that the hives had fallen victim to a pesticide application error, an infestation of mites or another stressor common to bees. Then cell phones became the culprit, blamed for messing with the bee's radar that took them from the hive to the plants and back home again. But desperate beekeepers knew that this was different.

This phenomenon has come to be known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Three potential culprits: pathogens, environmental chemicals, and nutritional stressors began being researched by universities and the USDA. The problem has only gotten worse with time. Hives opened in the fall of 2007 had experienced CCD in staggering numbers.

Researchers have discovered several things. Worldwide, there are nineteen known bee diseases and bees are struggling with a suppressed immune system that makes them more susceptible to those diseases and who knows how many others. When honey bee pollen was tested they found the presence of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. Honey bee pollen is what the bees feed their babies. As if a suppressed immune system and contaminated pollen were not enough, their habitat has changed dramatically

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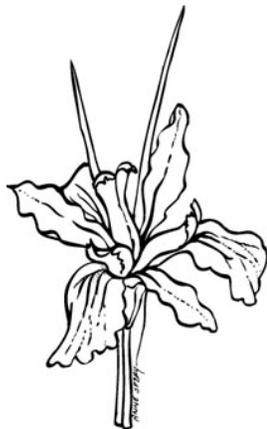
APRIL 8, 2008 "Gorgeous Grasses"

Capture the spirit of the prairie in your garden by incorporating the splendor found in grasses. Ornamental grasses complement the expansive beauty of our region: the vast grassland of the High Plains of the Southern Rockies. Discover ways to accent soften or naturalize your garden with the textural artistry of this diverse and graceful group of plants! Susan Yetter of Papa Piedra & Mama Tierra, (Designer, Horticulturist, Educator and Consultant) will share her

knowledge, insight, and fabulous photos of ornamental grasses in the landscape.

Meeting starts at 9:30am. Please bring your plants and items for World Gardening.

Bring your coffee mug. See you there!



Garden Club News

Welcome New Members!!! Shauna Carder, Shauna is originally from Lakewood, CO, and owned a small ranch in Durango. She also had the "Garden of your dreams" in Port Townsend, WA. Lucy Ginley is interested in xeric & native plants and is skilled in graphics. Mary Dickhoff is a returning member who is very active in the community.



Evergreen Garden Club Hospitality Bites

Thanks to Tina Kellogg, Lois Battle, Juanita Zellner, Toni Yerkes, Sharon Eaves, Vivian Michaels, Susan Blake and Bonnie Hisgen for delicious morning treats

Morning coffee/tea time April 8, 2008 9:30 am
Claudine Pardi, Kathi Grider, Chris Gray, Susan Jones, Ginny Cerrillo, Arlene Fitterer

Plan to arrive early to the meeting: Coffee and tea will be ready to serve @ 9:30 am. The serving table will be set and ready for your contribution. **Bonnie and Julaine **

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(continued from President's Message pg. 1)

and bees aren't finding enough food to eat. Encroaching suburbs, removal of weeds and other sources of diverse and continual pollen have been eliminated. The loss of this natural habitat affects not only commercial honey bee populations. It includes wild pollinators such as butterflies, moths, bumblebees, and other pollinating insects. These populations are in decline as well.

Beekeepers and crop growers have sustained staggering losses and eventually those losses will become ours. According to the Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium, these are the facts: Honey bee pollination is credited with helping to produce a third of the nation's diet. More than 3.5 million acres of crops in the United States depend on honey bees for pollination. Crops that require or benefit from honey bee pollination include apples, peaches, pears, pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, peppers, squash, soybeans, almonds, cashews, and sunflowers. Nationwide, honey bee pollination is worth about \$15 billion to the food supply. Honey bees also pollinate many native plants in the ecosystem.

What can we do to help our local pollinators population? Restrict our use of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides. Encourage our neighbors and communities to restrict the use of these products (honey bees have a fifty-mile pollinating range). Provide a continual and varied food source for pollinators. Stay informed about the research and developments of CCD. And eat Haagen-Dazs ice cream-- Haagen-Dazs is a supporter of pollinator health and research. There are no gardens without bees and other pollinators. Without gardens what would we gardeners do? I suppose we would be out running the streets creating havoc. So, SAVE THE BEES!

Karla Briggs
Resource: PennState Agriculture, Winter/Spring 2008

Minutes of the March 11th, 2008 Meeting

President Karla Briggs called the meeting to order at 9:42 and welcomed members and guests – Shauna, Kitty, Linda and Carol. She extended a big thank you to the hospitality committee for the wonderful goodies. 40 people were present for the meeting. FEBRUARY MINUTES were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary, Pam Hinish, reported that we have received notice that the IRS has received our 501c3 application and it is under review. A thank you card was received from Barbara Decaro for the gift the EGC presented her in appreciation for her work on the 501c3 application.
- We responded to a request from The Church of the Hills that our Dam Garden be included in their June 29th community work morning.
- Einar Jensen sent a notice that the Evergreen Fire Department's 2007 Annual Report is available on-line or hard copy by request.
- Trish Scott's mother passed away and EGC is sending her a sympathy card.

BUDGET: Treasurer Beth Feldkamp reported a balance of \$367.38 in checking and \$6320.85 in savings.

EARTH DAY is April 19th. Tina Kellogg is the chair for EGC's booth. Information will be distributed on EGC and membership and "save the date" info on the Garden Tour. Tina could use a couple more volunteers so give her a call!

Mt. Goliath Trail – Ken Ball is organizing a hike for EGC members on Tuesday July 8. Hikers will meet at 8:30 am at the Echo Lake parking lot and shuttle to the trailhead. The hike is approximately 1 ½ miles (down) over rocky terrain and will take about 1 ½ hours to complete. Hiking boots are a must, also recommended are hiking poles, sunscreen, water and snacks. Plan to layer clothes as the weather is unpredictable! Numbers are limited to 23, first come first serve, and you must complete the waiver form (on internet) and bring it to the April meeting. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Marilyn Kaussner circulated a sign-up for the Garden Smart Colorado booklet on noxious weeds. The booklet show noxious weeds and what you can plant to replace them. She can get the booklet for \$1/person if 25 or more sign-up. Call her at 303-674-7520 to participate.
- Marilyn also reported that on March 13 and 14 a used book sale will be held at Bergen Meadow Elementary School which will benefit Pennies for Peace, Roots and Shoots and AfricAid. For more info contact Christie Green, 303-670-8115.
- RECYCLE!! Wild Rose Congregational Church, Church of the Hills-Presbyterian and the Evergreen Fire and Rescue are sponsoring Electronic Recycle Day, Saturday May 3, 9am-4 pm at Church of the Hills. For a small fee, they will accept a variety of electronic items (computers, printers, TV's, cell phones, etc.). Call Jan Aitken, 303-674-1535, for more info, and Tom's Auto in Kittredge is accepting all batteries for recycling. Drop them off Monday-Friday, 8-5:00.
- Frances Sorenson has received a supply of garden gloves (samples); EGC members supported either selling them at our Earth Day booth or at the Garden Tour. Tina Kellogg will discuss with the Earth Day committee.
- John Fielder will be presenting on Earth Day, 11-1:00 at Center Stage. Cost is \$5, sponsored by Hiwan Homestead.
- Tina Kellogg, Given Trees, will have a booth at this year's Mountain Home Show (April 26&27 at Evergreen High School) and has offered to distribute EGC membership and Garden Tour information. Tina also is taking sign-ups for her gardening classes; go to GivenTrees.com for more information.
- Lorna Chorn donated four sets of her note cards for this month's drawing and they went fast! You can purchase them from Lorna for \$10/set of 4.

2008 GARDEN TOUR - JUNE 28

- Beth sent out an updated committee list by email; contact her if you need a hard copy. Contact Irma Wolf to sign up for a committee.
- Additional artists are needed to participate in the "artists in the garden". Let Irma know if you know of someone and she will contact them.
- Charles Mann has committed to do the lecture which will be at noon at the Fire Station auditorium. Ken will check with Charles for permission to videotape the lecture for EGC members who will be volunteering at the gardens and unable to attend.
- Irma is attending EGC Board meetings as overall Garden Tour chair. If other committee chairs wish to have discussion items from their committee at a Board meetings, contact any Board member or Irma.
- Plants – Trish Scott will be placing the order for members' plants; get your order form to her by March 30. Members' orders should be arriving 6/26.

WORLD GARDENING – visit the table at EGC meetings and do your gift shopping as there are many new and great items!

We also have EGC shirts with our logo for \$30. Contact Trish Scott to order.

Karla Briggs adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hinish, Secretary

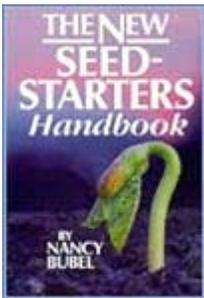


Over The Garden Fence

By Julaine Kennedy

Quick Tips for Successful Seed Starting

It only takes one time to be successful with seed starting and you will be hooked. Our club has several members who prefer to start with seeds rather than purchase nursery grown starter plants. Joan Reynolds rates high on the list of seed starting. January and February were tolerable for Joan as long as she had all the seed catalogs and plenty of note paper for recording her current seed shopping list.



All who knew Joan have wonderful memories of seed starting at the Reynold's greenhouse and garden. She was passionate about flower seeds. When ready to transplant, they filled up pots and window boxes till the bees come home. Calendula, morning glory, sweet peas, snapdragons, love-lies-bleeding, impatiens, marigolds, salvias, clarkia, portulaca, delphinium ...just to name a few her favorites.

During the last years of her life the seedling trays multiplied. She set up several metal wire shelving units and equipped them with grow lights and heat mats. The big push came in late May when all the baby seedlings grew up and wanted a nicer place to call home. Oh, my goodness, Joan you were the mistress of transplanting!! By mid- June the Reynold's landscape was a watercolor artist's dream come true.

Try it, you'll like it....Locate a copy of *The New Seed-Starters Handbook*, Nancy W. Bubel, Rodale Press, 1988. This book may be 20 years old but it is still one of the very best for seed starting.

Here are the starter tips: Read the seed package thoroughly to know where to plant, when to start the seeds. Depending on the elevation of your property and garden site, the last spring frost for the Evergreen area is around June 1st...give or take a week or more! The soil on south and west facing garden sites will warm up earlier than north or east facing sites. Microclimates will provide many awesome opportunities to grow beyond your garden's expectations.

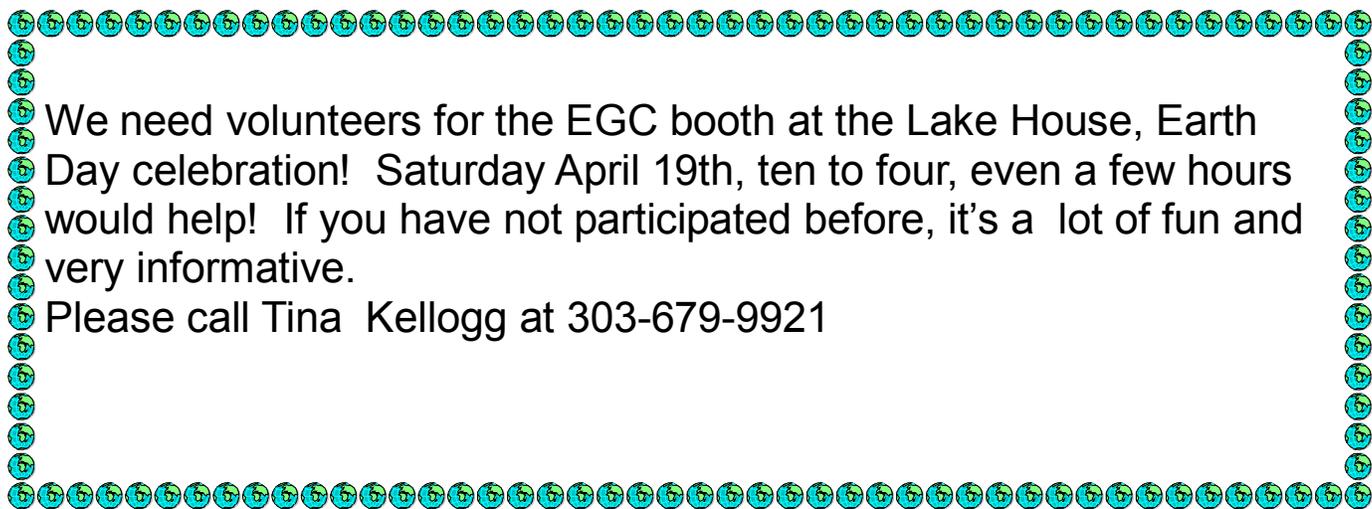
Most seeds require warm moist soil for good germination. Heating mats work well to move along the germination process. Or place the seed trays on top of the refrigerator or dryer. Some seeds germinate best in the dark, check the Seed Starter book for specific growing needs. Another great set of books for this time of year is *Gardening in the Mountain West*, 2nd edition and *Progress of the Gardener*, Vol.2 by Barbara Hyde. Her books were written during the 90's so some of the recommended pesticides and fertilizers may be out-dated. Reduce disease, dampening off of tiny seedlings, by using a good seed starting mix, avoid over watering, keep soil temperatures in the proper range and provide good air circulation.

Your seedling growth goal is to produce a stout stem with a well developed root system. Plant lights will be on for at least 18 hours a day and need to be 3-6 inches above the seedlings. As the seedling matures the light is raised upward. You may get by without plant lights when the seedling trays are setting in a south-west window, protected from cold drafts and intense reflective sunlight. Mist the plants periodically (a diluted solution of Liquid Kelp + water works great!).

Pass-Along Plants

We have a new 'toy' at the store and would love to share it with you. Bring in a cutting from your plant and we will clone it! Simply use a sharp clean razor blade and make a 45 degree angle cut from the stem (best cuttings come from the terminal or tip portion of the plant). Wrap a moist paper towel around the stem and bring it in. We'll label the cutting and add it to the Clone box. Within a couple of weeks (longer for soft wood cuttings) it will be ready for you to plant. Maybe you have an heirloom house plant, great-grandma's lilac bush or a perennial you would like to share with others.

Stop by All Season Gardener, 4007 Evergreen Parkway, next to Master Printers in the Canyon Commons business complex. We are open M-S 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday 11 am- 4 pm. 303-679-3567. Julaine and Bob Kennedy



We need volunteers for the EGC booth at the Lake House, Earth Day celebration! Saturday April 19th, ten to four, even a few hours would help! If you have not participated before, it's a lot of fun and very informative.
Please call Tina Kellogg at 303-679-9921

"In the Spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." -- Margaret Atwood

This from the Old Wives' Lore for Gardeners

Consider the Moon

Every Old Wife will tell you to sow seed and to transplant only with a waxing, never a waning moon. The scientists have now caught up with this, discovering the effects of lunar rhythms on the earth's magnetic field which in turn affect growth. They have established that all water everywhere, including that inside the tiniest living organism, moves in tides like the sea. The moon also affects the earth's atmosphere so that statistically it is more likely to rain heavily (just as you would like immediately after planting) immediately after a full or a new moon. They say that a potato grown at constant levels of heat and light under laboratory conditions with still show a growth rhythm that reflects the lunar pattern. The Old Wife, without laboratory conditions or statistical tables, learned from experience how best to get her plants off to a good start.

HORTICULTURE

Happy, Happy Spring



If I could import one of those big animated smiley faces here, I would (I did!)

So excited about all the seed coming in, both for our own garden and my students! I counted over seventy five different types of seed, with the exception of the companion flowers, all are veggies. You might say spring fevers hit this house hold. My husband's just rolling his eyes, every time he sees a new box arrive from yet a different seed company. I've got six different tomato seeds, all geared for cooler weather, short season. All new varieties of peppers, eggplant even trying for a melon called, "Moon and Stars"! This may be one of our most ambitious years, as all our warm weather plants will be start from seed. No short cuts, or "cheating" as I call it. If we have a great deal of success I hope to sell some of them come mid to late May.

I always noticed that by the time we are ready to plant up here, the selection isn't very good, topped with the fact that the local nurseries don't carry many vegetables to begin with, and I've never seen organic ones, (least, not up here). Seeing as all will have to be started indoors, and live and hopefully thrive for the next two months, did I say I was excited? Challenged, for sure, if this works out it will mean adding two more months to our short garden season. Eee, Haa!

Then it's always fun to see the seeds we've saved from the previous years sprout! I don't know quite what to expect from some, as the cucurbits, (squash family) never stay true to their origin, Or so I'm told. We grew some great little pumpkins last year, small, sweet and absolutely perfect for pies. So will see what their seeds produce this year. Many more experiments will take place in our gardens this year. I'm trying an area with the no till method, another with no amendments, and still another area will be adapted with some cold frames to see just how long I can keep a salad bar going! Just think of all the possibilities!

Other interesting things: There have been quite the conversations going on one of the garden list serves I belong to about "biosolids" and used tires.

You know that the term biosolids is a pretty word for human waste. Some of you may recognize the brand name of Milorginite? That stands for Milwaukee's Organic Nitrogen. (that's just one of at least half a dozen product names) Not just residential but commercial and industrial sewage sludge. Holy cow this stuff is a major accident waiting to happen. Lots of people grow with this stuff, as it give's great results. You just think we have problems with the water being contaminated with antibiotics. These "biosolids" leave in their wake, extremely damaging heavy metals, and God only knows what else it's not tested for behind for good ole mother earth to deal with! After at least a decade of use, we're starting to see lawsuit after lawsuit filed in from farmers who've been duped into using this in their fields. Then their produce tested and is deemed inedible! I know, the EPA thinks it's okay, but remember the EPA also approved of DDT! Stop and think folds, if you wouldn't taste it, or want to put it in your mouth, why would you try to fertilize with it? Much less, use it in your food gardens. Then the old tire debate marches on. Lots of folks like to use these as planters for numerous plants. They leave behind Cadmium, you know like the stuff from batteries? As well as lead, and here again, they can't test for the unknowns. In other words, when they aren't sure what to test for, it goes undetected. That is until someone gets sick.

We've got to start thinking about what kind of earth we are leaving our children and grandchildren with. Being this is Earth Day month, let's all make a pact to start reading labels. If ingredients are not listed on a package, or you don't have a clue as to what the ingredients are, find out! Look them up. Ask the manufactures. If they don't want to give you answers, look for products that can be explained. Look for alternatives to the old synthetic stand bys. In essence, lets all be more conscious of what we're growing with!

Thanks, Tina

GivenTrees, grown with conscience!



White Moose pictures are from Linda Ringrose. She thinks the are from Park City, Utah.

This could be an albino, unlike the white fawn we had in Evergreen, which had a black nose and hooves. I haven't seen the fawn, who must be more grown up by now, since fall, but then the ground has been covered with snow since December, which makes everywhere a good place to hide! Has anyone else seen him/her? Linda Ringrose



Evergreen Garden Club
PO Box 1393
Evergreen, Colorado 80437
www.evergreengardenclub.org



Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events www.denverbotanicgardens.org

April 19th Earth Day—Evergreen Lake House 10am—4pm

April 19th John Fielder 11-1:00 at Center Stage. Cost is \$5, sponsored by Hiwan Homestead.

April 26, 27th Mountain Home Show at Evergreen High School

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS APRIL CALENDAR

Rocky Mountain African Violet Council

Contact: Trudy Brekel, 303-452-9015

Mitchell Hall, Gates Hall and Gates Garden Court

Show and Sale: **April 5 (1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.) and April 6 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)**

Denver Rose Society

Contact: Tim Tompkins, 970-689-4207

April 12, Rose Symposium (9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.) Gates Hall and Garden Court

Denver Allied Artist Guild

Contact: Rosemary Weiler, 303-758-1341

Show or Sale: **April 13 (12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.) & April 14-17 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) & April 18 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)**
Mitchell Hall

North American Rock Garden Society

Contact: Mary Komodore, 303-526-1054

Show or Sale: **Apr. 26 (9 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

Mitchell Hall