



# Evergreen Garden Club

## The Wild Iris

Volume 22, Issue 8

May 2009

### *A Word from the President...*

(Karla is filling in this month while Tina is away)

#### **THE PEOPLE'S GARDEN**

I read the news about Michelle Obama's vegetable garden with absolute delight. The garden itself is wonderful, the reasons behind its creation are exceptional. Mrs. Obama wanted to promote eating good, healthy and locally grown food. The example the first family is setting is first and foremost for the children of our nation but where the child's heart goes so go the parents.

There has not been a garden at the White House since Eleanor Roosevelt's "Victory Garden" planted during WW II. The entire nation followed her example, including both of my grandmothers. I remember a field trip our club took to the Seniors Resource Center to visit the horticultural therapy garden. Some of the center's clients were sharing their feelings about their garden and one woman said the garden reminded her of her mother's victory garden and how the food she grew fed a neighborhood and kept starvation and malnutrition at bay.

As gardeners, we know the healing power of working in the soil. If a fraction of America's population plants a single tomato or lettuce plant, the health of our nation will positively glow.

The new 1,100 sq. ft. garden is planted on the south lawn. There are 55 varieties of organically grown vegetables and some flowers and berries. The vegetable seedlings were started in the Executive Mansion's greenhouses. The garden will be fertilized with White House compost, Chesapeake Bay crab meal, lime and green sand. Ladybugs and Praying Mantises will control harmful bugs; I hope their ladybugs stick around better than mine did. Maybe with an executive order from the President of the United States they will have no choice! If all this were not enough to get your soil-filled heart racing, White House carpenter Charlie Brandts is also a

*(Continued on pg. 4)*

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#### **EGC 2008-2009 Board Members**

##### **President:**

Tina Kellogg

##### **Vice Presidents:**

Bonnie Hisgen

Lucy Ginley

##### **Secretary:**

Pam Hinish

##### **Treasurer:**

Beth Feldkamp

### *May 12, 2009 Spring Clean-Up and Workday*

The meeting will begin with breakfast and meeting, followed by the spring clean-up at the Community Gardens. If you have questions or have not been assigned to a garden please contact

Irma Wolf 3/670-3402, irmasonny@aol.com

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

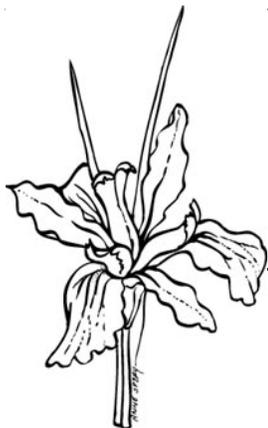
**Newsletter Contributions** are due by the 20th of each month to Edito@EvergreenGardenClub.com

**Newsletter Editor & Website** EvergreenGardenClub.org

Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am. Bring tools, gloves, garbage bag, and a drink, and hopefully sunscreen!

Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for the World Gardening Table.... And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug.

*Garden Club meetings will be cancelled wherever Jefferson County Mountain Schools are closed because of inclement weather. This will eliminate any confusion or the need for last minute communications about weather cancellations.*



# Garden Club News

## Hospitality Bites– Breakfast

Please arrive at 9:00 am to help set up the room and be prepared to stay after the meeting for clean-up.

**THANKS!**



The hospitality team for May is as follows:

*Bonnie Hisgen - Pam Hinish - Juanita Zellner - Ruth Alford  
Jill Epstein - Jacque Whyte - Diana Aldridge - Liz Barrett  
Kathy Kubes - Susan Grannell - Jo Powers - Cathi Edmund  
Carolyn Taschdjian -*

*Bev Wickland -- Frances Sorensen. - Hospitality Coordinators*

## May Birthdays

- |      |                |      |                    |
|------|----------------|------|--------------------|
| 5/3  | Marsha O'Keefe | 5/28 | Carolyn Taschdjian |
| 5/4  | Bunny Brandt   | 5/29 | Sharon Eaves       |
| 5/22 | Beth Feldkamp  |      |                    |
| 5/25 | Barbara Steger |      |                    |



### **COUPON**

#### **Sundance Gardens & Landscaping**

27866 Meadow Drive

Evergreen, CO 80439

303.670.0358

10% off on one regularly priced item for

Evergreen Garden Club Members (show your EGC membership card )

## *Minutes of the April 14th, 2009 Meeting*

President Tina Kellogg called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. at the Evergreen Fire House. Members and guest Andrea Feldkamp (Beth's daughter) were welcomed. 55 members were present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Pam Hinish

- A thank you letter and photos of the children's gardens supported by EGC's contribution was received from World Children's International and circulated.
- Thank you notes were sent to last month's speaker, Jim Knoph, and to Jack Akin for his generous gloves contribution.
- A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Louise Mounsey, seconded by Marjorie Clinton and approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Beth Feldkamp

- Balances are \$389.75 in checking and \$8821.78 in savings.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tina Kellogg

- Nominating Committee – Ken Ball (chair), Karla Briggs and Karen MacFarquhar will be putting together the slate of officers for presentation at the May meeting. Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary positions are available so please let any of them know your interest! The current officers will stay on over the summer to "mentor" new officers.
- Earth Day – Trish Scott is organizing; the gloves are in and volunteers are scheduled.
- Community Gardens – Irma Wolf is chair and circulated a sign-up list for members to work at their favorite garden at next month's annual spring clean-up. Karla provided information from Peggy and Dale Fetchenheir regarding the Dam (Metro Water District) Garden. 9 Master Gardeners will be working with EGC focusing on the Dam Garden. Water is an issue this year and the Metro Water District expects water restrictions beginning in May. Peggy and Dale anticipate mulching and weeding but no new plantings due to the water situation.
- May's EGC meeting will begin with a breakfast meeting followed by the spring clean-up at the Community Gardens. A sign-up sheet was circulated to bring food and Frances Sorensen will be in contact with those folks on what they should bring.
- Membership Drive – Annual dues are due in June. Dues are \$25/individual, \$35/family (2 votes), and \$55/business.

PLANT SALE: Lucy Ginley, chair

- Members Dig – meet at Tina's on Saturday April 25 at 10:00 am to go dig, divide and pot plants. 4' pots with trays are needed; Tina is getting potting soil donations.
- Plant Sale Committee is meeting today after the program; all are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Linda Ringrose – the 07'/08' Photo Book is finished. Thank you Linda!
- Jeri Dufford – Sharon Eaves has been in intensive care for 2 weeks after suffering a stroke; she is progressing well but cannot have visitors. Cards may be sent to her home address listed in the member's directory.
- Marilyn Kaussner – Indian Hills Nursery is going out of business and is having sales; Evergreen Nursery is opening under new owners; the bulk lot is now Babcock's Feed and Garden; contact Marilyn if you want a copy of Garden Smart Colorado (cost is \$1.00).

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 for refreshments and the members' panel presentation.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Hinish, Secretary



# Over The Garden Fence

By Karla Briggs

*(Continued from People's Garden Pg.1)*

beekeeper and will maintain two honey bee hives. Wah hoo! Total cost for the garden is reported to be \$200.00.

I can hardly wait to get my vegetable garden going. The tomatoes are in the garden room staked and ready to go. The composted manure was liberally applied last fall. So now I wait for the soil temperature to warm up and then the Briggses will be eating what the Obamas are eating, minus the chef and her staff to prepare the food. Dang!

Now for the winter in review. I am discovering some serious vole damage in the gardens. My newest repellent is a vibrating disk that is supposed to drive them crazy enough to move to the neighbors' yard. I am also discovering serious drought damage despite my best efforts at winter watering. I am hoping that everything is just delayed and that I haven't lost too many plants.

At the Post Office garden there was a lot of damage from the sidewalk de-icer used this winter. I called the postmaster and got the ingredient list for the brand being used, Road Runner Ice Melt. Sodium chloride and magnesium chloride are definitely not good for plants. I contacted Mary Small at the JEFFCO CSU Extension office and she said the best thing to do would be to drench the soil with water to dilute the chemicals. At first I couldn't figure out why the damage was so severe this winter and then it occurred to me; we had virtually no snow to dilute the applications of ice melt and so it just built up. I am hoping one of the blessings of the spring snows we have been having is the added moisture to do the work of diluting until I can hook up the hose and get at it myself.

As most of you may know at this reading, our fearless leader Tina Kellogg lost her father on the 27th of April. I send her love and hope for peace. Travel safely home, Tina, and put your hands in the healing power of this good earth.

Karla

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ **KUDOS** ★  
 ★ In spite of Earth Day ★  
 ★ being cancelled due ★  
 ★ to the snow.....our ★  
 ★ resourceful Trish ★  
 ★ Scott made \$39.00 ★  
 ★ for the club by sell- ★  
 ★ ing the garden ★  
 ★ gloves to friends ★  
 ★ and neighbors in ★  
 ★ Evergreen. ★  
 ★ **Thanks Trish!!** ★  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

### Local Food, From the South Lawn

Blueberries, raspberries and blackberries

Michelle Obama envisions the organic garden on the White House lawn as a means of educating children and communities about healthful eating, and as a source of fresh herbs and vegetables for the family and guests.



Source: The White House

THE NEW YORK TIMES/PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDRA VILA/GETTY IMAGES

## Spring has Sprung ?



One is a close-up of some Anemone "Blanda". Another is of some Spring bulbs and perennial viola; it looked like a simple and lovely little grouping. Paul Luzetski



### FROG (Front Range Organic Gardeners)

The annual plant sales for FROG (Front Range Organic Gardeners) and the Denver chapter of the Herb Society are being held jointly on Saturday, May 16, from 9 AM to 1PM at the Presbytery Hall, 1710 So. Grant, Denver 80210. The live auction of exceptional plants and items will be at 11 AM.

These two groups together will provide a broad range of plants including heirloom tomatoes, peppers, other vegetables, a wide variety of herbs, annuals, perennials, and a few shrubs & trees. For updated information, go to <http://gardenfrog.org/>. You may also contact Meredith Bossert at 1042@AOL.com or 303-697-4534.

### Free if you pick up:

1 wood dining table with 2 leaves matching china cabinet with glass inset on door matching dining buffet with 2 cupboards and 2 drawers. The dining room set was my grandmothers and is not in perfect shape but it is a really lovely set. No chairs with set. It has several colors of wood involved and it fairly detailed. Leave a message at 303-679-6670 or email to [mtmtscott@msn.com](mailto:mtmtscott@msn.com) Thanks Tricia Scott

### My cat is missing from Wakeeny Park!

"Gato" is a large (12.5 lb) neutered male cat that has been missing since 4/22 from Wakeeny Park. He has yellow eyes, tufted ears and still has his claws. His coat is medium hair with brown, black and grey stripes. He is what I call a classic tiger striped tabby. He is very missed. Any info, please call Jeff Davidson at 303-670-1657.

# HORTICULTURE

by John Sears Evergreen Wild Bird Store

**The Hummingbirds are here!** I have a ritual every year. On April 15th, I mail my taxes, and then put out my hummingbird feeder. It always makes me feel better! This started when we first moved to Evergreen and returned home from a trip on April 15th. A hummingbird was hovering outside the window waiting for us to get the feeder out. Last year the first hummingbird arrived at my house on April 22nd. This year it was the 27th. It thrills me every year! ~Beth

Fortunately, last year I was able to take a class on hummingbirds from **John Sears owner of Evergreen Wild Bird Store** (he's also a business member of Evergreen Garden Club and offers the members a 10% discount on Tuesdays).

John gives a wonderful program on hummingbirds with incredible information.

John has such a wealth of knowledge in so many areas, and is willing to share his expertise. If you haven't already, stop by the store and treat yourself to a visit with him. He has researched extensively and offers these tips.

**Thank you John!**

**Feeding Hummingbirds - Nectar Recipe 4 parts water to 1 part white table sugar.**

Boil the water, add sugar and stir until it dissolves. Cool off in frig long enough to serve cool/cold. Commercially packaged nectar does not need to be boiled.

**This recipe is the only one endorsed by the Hummingbird Society.**

We don't recommend red food dye, organic sugars, honey or rich nectar recipes designed to "give them a boost". The bacteria found in organic sugars and honey can kill hummingbirds.

Artificial red food dye is a known carcinogen for humans so we don't think it's wise to give to our Hummers. Rich nectar recipes are also thought to be harmful as well.

**Change nectar**— every 2-3 days on hot days. If cooler, or in some shade, change it every 3-4 days. When in doubt, if the nectar turns cloudy, it needs to be changed. If you have a lot of wasted nectar in your feeder, don't fill it to the top. You can store extra nectar in the refrigerator for up to one week.

**Wash our your feeder**—prior to refilling it in a soap/water solution rinse very well to eliminate any detergent film. Once a week, clean the feeder in a weak vinegar solution (20%) mixed with water. Allow the solution to soak for several minutes and scrub with a bottle brush. Rinse and dry. Each time you wash your feeder, visually inspect it to be sure that no black mold has formed. Black mold kills hummingbirds. If black mold forms call John or stop by the store for instructions.

Hummingbirds face untold numbers of threats through migration from predators to weather. Once they make it to your yard to feed and /or nest, please treat them ethically and help them live and reproduce. It's not about us, it's about the birds. People who hang feeders and seldom if ever, clean their feeders should not be feeding the birds.

**If you can't properly and consistently clean your feeders, we recommend that you not feed hummingbirds as you will likely cause them harm or kill them.**

*(Continued on pg. 7)*



**Evergreen Wild Bird Store has three more events for Spring 2009.**

**May 9th Wild Bird Walk to Lair of the Bear**

Location: Meet at the store

Time 8am—10am refreshments at the store.

32156 Castle Ct. #111  
 Evergreen, CO 80439 303-679-2786

Join the search for spring migrant birds like the Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Leader Kay Niyo is world class birder, professional wildlife photographer, and employee of Evergreen Wild Bird Store and a board member of Evergreen Audubon.

**June 6th—Attract More Hummingbirds**

Location: Evergreen Wild Bird Store; co-sponsored by Evergreen Nature Center

Time 9am –10 am Limiting seating, advanced registration required; sign up in store or call. Learn how to attract more hummingbirds to your garden and feeders.

Speaker John Sears has been feeding the birds "forever" and has given numerous seminars on birding in various community outlets.

**June 13th Bird Walk to Beaver Brook**

Location: Meet at Evergreen Wild Bird Store

Time: 8am—10am refreshments at the store

Advanced registration required.

**\*\*\* Advanced registration required for all events; sign up in store or call.**

**Plants to Attract Hummingbirds**

**Trees and Shrubs**

- Butterfly Bush (Buddleia)
- Cape Honeysuckle
- Flame Acanthus
- Flowering Quince
- Lantana
- Manzanita
- Mimosa
- Red Buckeye
- Tree Tobacco
- Turk's Cap
- Weigela

**Vines**

- Coral Honeysuckle
- Cypress Vine
- Morning Glory
- Scarlet Runner Bean
- Trumpet Creeper

**Perennials**

- Bee Balm (Monarda)
- Cardinal Flower
- Columbine

- Canna
- Coral Bells
- Four O'Clocks
- Foxglove
- Hosta
- Hummingbird Mint (Agastache)
- Little Cigar
- Lupine
- Penstemon
- Yucca

**Annuals**

- Beard Tongue
- Firespike
- Fuchsia
- Geranium
- Impatiens
- Jacobiana
- Jewelweed
- Penstemon
- Petunia
- Salvia
- Shrimp Plant

Evergreen Garden Club  
P.O. Box 1393  
Evergreen, Colorado 80437  
[www.evergreengardenclub.org](http://www.evergreengardenclub.org)



*Celebrating our 43rd Anniversary*

## Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events

[www.denverbotanicgardens.org](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org)



### Spring Plant Sale

**Date and Time: Friday, May 8**

**8:30 – 10 a.m. (member-only shopping)**

**10 a.m. – 6 p.m. (open to public)**

**Saturday, May 9**

**8:30 – 10 a.m. (member-only shopping)**

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (open to public)**

**Admission: Free entry and free advice from horticulture experts! What's not to like?**

**Members receive 10 percent off all purchases!**

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### Mother's Day in the Gardens Denver Botanic Gardens

**May 10, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM**

Spend Mother's Day in one of the most stunning places in Denver! Stroll through the lush Gardens, enjoy a picnic lunch amongst the fragrant blooms or explore the "Jurassic Gardens" exhibit, which consists of life-sized, realistic dinosaurs from the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods of the Mesozoic Era. It is a perfect place for families to celebrate Mom. Plant fossils and a dinosaur dig site for kids round out the installation. Family activities will be set up throughout the Gardens to provide fun for hours!

The Gardens will host a special Mother's Day Brunch for members only. The brunch will have two seating times, available by reservation only.

Members and non-members: There will be food for sale, but feel free to bring your own picnic basket. (Please note: No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Gardens.)

Admission:

Free for members (additional cost for brunch tickets)

Regular admission rates apply for non-members, and everyone is welcome to visit the Gardens on Mother's Day.