



Evergreen Garden Club

The Wild Iris

Volume 18, Issue 5

May 2005

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EGC 2004-2005 Board Members

President:

Tricia Scott

Vice Presidents:

Karla Briggs

Beth Feldkamp

Secretary:

Joan Reynolds

Treasurer:

Lori Lapp

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 Church of the Hills, Buffalo Park Rd, Evergreen at 9:15 am. All are welcome.

Membership information please contact Lori Lapp at 303-838-8360 or membership@evergreengardenclub.org

Newsletter Contributions: are due by the 20th of each month to Kathi Grider at 303-670-6909 or newsletter@EvergreenGardenClub.org

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Dear Members,

Last month's meeting with Catherine Long of Longs Iris's was excellent. I am definitely going to head over there as soon as Catherine says it is okay to show up! Thank you, Beth and Karla, for another program that entertained as well as informed all of us.

Our next meeting is our Spring Garden Cleanup- we will meet at the gardens at 9 a.m. and do a spring cleanup on them. Bring your tools (Mark them!), gloves, sunscreen and water with you. I forgot to bring a set of sign up sheets with me to our last meeting. Please go to whichever garden you normally go to. Any new members are asked to go to the Bergen Park Traffic Circle to assist Irma Wolf. Her usual crew is away and she needs the help. Please call her to tell her that you will be there. After the cleanup, there will be a lunch back at the Church and elections for officers and our meeting.

I am currently trying to phone everyone and ask if you can repeat your commitments or not, as far as the committees are concerned. Thank you on behalf of the club to those of you who said an affirmative. I am also reminding everyone that the dues are due next month for our upcoming year.

I am a little concerned as to who will

Membership Meeting - May 10, 2005 Spring Clean Up and Workday

It is time to wake up the gardens and help them get dressed for summer. Spring clean up is our first chance to get out hands dirty. Join us in the community gardens and then for lunch at

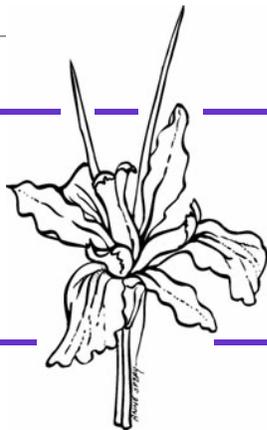
be serving on our board next year...I have been able to recruit some incredible people for two of the positions. As I write this no one has said "YES" to being President or Treasurer. I feel that most people are assuming someone else will do the job. I am currently on close to my 50th call and have had no one step forward. I am leaving my position as President and am taking on other duties. I am willing to help the person who assumes the position of President to guide them and show them what the job entails, but I will not consider being on the board another year. I have been a member of the club for three and one-half years and have served on the board for three of those years. I have a VERY full life outside of the club and need to pay more attention to it. If you feel you are able to serve in one of these positions contact me ASAP. I am unable to devote any more of my time to this. If you value this club, please step forward and help your club! Next year will be our 40th year -a very special year - and I would hate it to be our last year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting next month.

Tricia

Church of the Hills. Bring your tools, gloves, water and sunscreen.

Yeah! It's spring!



Garden Club News

Welcome new members !! Sandra Proctor, Rebecca Swain, Ginny Cerrillo

*
* **My Favorite Flower.....by Nan Spence** *
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English Lavender (Lavandula angustifolia)

This morning, while sitting on my patio lamenting over how dreary my gardens are in winter, a sudden breeze enveloped me in a soothing, yet provocative fragrance. My spirits were lifted, thanks to my favorite plant-English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*).

The genus *Lavandula* is made up of many varieties of Lavenders native to southern Europe and the Mediterranean. These small shrubs have been long valued and beloved for their beauty, fragrance, healing qualities and ability to repel moths, as well as their value as culinary herbs. The English types - *Lavandula angustifolia* - are the most cold-hardy and best suited for our mountain area. I have had very good success with several varieties including Munstead and Hidcote. Munstead grows about 18" tall with blue-green foliage and deep lavender blue flowers. Hidcote grows about 12" tall and has very gray foliage and deep purple flowers. They are usually listed as USDA Zone 5 cold hardiness,

although I have seen Munstead listed as a 4. However, both have known to be successful even in Zone 3 if placed in the right garden microclimate.



English Lavenders are sun loving plants which thrive in hot, dry weather I have mine in my south and southwest facing xeric gardens. Not only are these gardens in full sun, but they are get the reflected heat from my rock and stucco house and the surrounding sandstone patios and gravel walkways. These gardens are also subject to high winds. Being deep rooted, English Lavender is a good choice for such a windy site. I have, however, placed granite boulders in these gardens to provide a bit of protection. Lavenders will grow in a wide range of

soils, although heavy clay soils and amending with manure can be fatal. Their fragrance is stronger if planted in poor soil. They are quite happy in well-drained sandy soil to which I add just a bit of compost. Once established, they require very little water. *L. Angustifolia* is not prone to disease, but can rot if over watered or over mulched. I use a light pea gravel mulch in the xeric sections of my gardens. This helps prevent damage by winter freeze/thaw heaving, but the Lavenders and other plants are able to reseed and sprout up through this loose material. (Note some *Lavandula* hybrids are sterile.) I

(Continued on pg. 4)

Minutes of the April 12, 2005 Meeting

Tricia Scott called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Thirty-five members were in attendance.

Treasurer Lori Lapp reported that we had \$153.14 in checking, \$6559.83 in savings for a total of \$6,712.97. Lori had also brought a gorgeous centerpiece for the food table of exotic Proteas from Maui.

A new member, Jenny Cerillo, a friend of Priscilla Chapin's, was welcomed.

Secretary Joan Reynolds read a nice thank you note from Justin Klatil, last year's scholarship recipient. The club also had received another Christmas card from one of the many World Gardening recipients. Finally, Joan read a lovely thank you note from June Andrews. She is very grateful for our support and is cancer free!

Karla Briggs brought seed potatoes for World Gardening to share. Louise Mounsey commented how well the potatoes do for her and encouraged members to buy and grow some. Karla also reported that through Tupper's Team, she will be presenting a program on mountain gardening at the Buchanan Park and Rec Center at 7 p.m. April 28. She asked members to please reserve a spot and come to give her moral support. A personal care product as a donation to Evergreen Christian Outreach is requested at the program. Other speakers will also be featured.

Beth Feldkamp reported that next month (May 10) is our spring workday. Tricia asked everyone to please go their usual garden around 9 a.m., bring all your hand tools, sunscreen if needed, water, etc. Those who will be working at the traffic circle are encouraged to wear bright clothes. We will then return to the Church of the Hills around 11:30 for a lunch provided by the Club. Please remember to bring items for World Gardening as our year end is getting close.

Joan Reynolds and Julaine Kennedy are the leaders for this year's Relay For Life team. The Relay will be July 30-31 at the West Jefferson Middle School. The club is hoping to put together two teams this year. Please see Julaine or Joan if you are interested in participating.

Tricia reminded attendees that the next day is the High School Service Day. Several students will repaint the club's directional signs that have fallen into disrepair. Tricia Scott had already single handedly sanded the signs, removed countless staples and applied two coats of white paint. She will pick up the stencils from Evergreen Signs and get them on the signs that night. Tricia thanked Tupper Briggs (through Karla) for his generous offer to allow us to store the newly refurbished signs in his storage unit.

Kudos was given to Joan Reynolds for the first article in the Canyon Courier Real Estate Supplement. The column will run monthly the first Wednesday of the month. Joan agreed to write the next few articles, hyping the club's upcoming June 25 Garden Tour. Other members volunteered to do future articles. If you are interested in writing an article of 800 to 1000 words PLUS pictures, please contact Joan as she has agreed to be the coordinator for this new project.

The Mountain Gardening booklet that was published in 1982 by the original Evergreen Nursery is going to be updated by Robin Cohen, the author, and sold at the new Evergreen Garden Center as a cooperative fund raiser for the Garden Club's 40th Anniversary. Tricia Scott asked that those that have signed up for the 40th Anniversary Committee to please get with her to select a date to start brainstorming on this.

Tricia asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee for next year's officers. No one volunteered. Tricia explained that she will be calling all current Team Coordinators or anyone that currently volunteers in any capacity to help run the club to see if they will stay on for next year. If they are unable to, she is going to try to find a replacement **as well as** find a new Board.

Nancy Prafke announced that she is moving to Florida and has many large plants for sale. A list will be sent out by e-mail. Marilyn Kaussner requested funding support from the club for the Noxious Weeds Campaign. Funds will be used for publications, etc to keep Jeffco residents aware of the need to control weeds. A \$50 donation was approved by the membership. Earth Day is Sat., April 23. Those that have volunteered will be contacted by Tricia to verify that they can still help and she will set up the table and schedule.

Tricia announced that our speaker, Catherine Long, has a cold and is losing her voice. She requested that all questions be held until the end of the presentation as a courtesy to Catherine. The drawing for door prizes was held and we took a break for scrumptious food. Club members and guests were treated to a very informative program on the many types of Iris and spectacular slides by Catherine Long of Long's Gardens in Boulder. Her family run business has been in existence for 100 years, mostly focusing on Iris. She kindly gave out a sheet with tips for growing iris and then gave each member an iris plant "Golden Gusto" to take home. Members signed up for her catalog and a 'road trip' to Long's Gardens was suggested. Her program was enthusiastically appreciated - Iris is one of the plants that elk & deer leave alone!

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Reynolds, Secretary

Relay For Life

Joan Reynolds

This year we hope to put together two teams. This is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Team members from each team walk around the track for at least an hour on July 30 and 31. Each member pledges to raise at least \$100. Luminaries are sold to honor those we have lost to cancer and those that have beat this awful disease. They are lit shortly after dark to light the way around the track. Many activities take place throughout the night and those that wish to, camp out. Food is provided. The Relay starts off with the first lap being walked by cancer survivors, followed by a lap with their support team. This is a really fun and a truly 'feel good' night. Please contact Julaine at 303 674-6440 or Joan at 303 674-5965 to participate. You won't regret it!

(Continued from My Favorite pg. 4)

place English Lavenders close to walkways where I can best enjoy their fragrance while working in the garden. I often stop to rest next to the Lavenders so I can run my hands through the foliage and then pinch off a flower wand to wear as a boutonniere as I get back to work. These short aromatherapy sessions provide an instant boost to my horticultural energy which tends to wane as the summer progresses.

My Lavender gardens are also near my bedroom patio. On breezy summer nights with the doors open, I sleep surrounded by their fragrance. In fact, on several occasions, a sudden pungent aroma of lavender has alerted me to deer and elk wandering through the garden. They do no harm to the lavenders, but merely brush up against them in their search for more palatable plants. However, I am instantly up from my bed and out onto the patio, averting any damage. Although humans may value the culinary properties of Lavender, my plants have never been nibbled by the deer, elk, rabbits or the various rodents who frequent my gardens. Lavender does, however, attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

My Lavenders have been planted with other xeric companions-several types of Achillea, Salvia, Agastache, Artemisia, Penstemon pinifolius and Nepeta, with low growing Gazania and Dianthus wandering between.

Although most of my gardens are in direct sun, because of altitude, (8200'), most of my plants bloom a bit later than what is expected for their species and variety. Munstead is said to be late spring blooming; mine, however, begins blooming in July and blooms profusely until after Labor Day. Because the dry foliage and flower stalks of *L. angustifolia* add a delightful scent to the winter garden, I do not cut my plants back in the fall. The old foliage also serves to as added winter protection. I do clip Lavender back in the spring to encourage new growth.



Growers of Lavenders often say that harvesting Lavender is one of the most pleasurable experiences of gardening. Creating Lavender fragrance products and edible creations is a very popular hobby and horticultural industry. Although, I do make Lavender bundles to hang in closets and set out shallow bowls of Lavender in my bathrooms, I have not felt the desire to venture seriously into creating my own lavender products. Enjoying their carefree nature, striking appearance and the incredible aroma they bring to the garden provides more than sufficient satisfaction.

Next month, I will be starting another course conducted by my favorite gardening guru, Lauren Springer Odgen. Entitled "The Year Round Garden," Springer proclaims she can teach me how to "transform the garden into to a year long sensual pleasure." As I look around my forlorn winter landscape, I can't help but think she is being overly optimistic. However, all I need to do is run my hands through the nearest Lavender, and I know I'm already on the right path to experiencing a wintry garden nirvana.



Over The Garden Fence *By Julaine Kennedy*

Evergreen Garden Club is reaching a new horizon. Way back in 1966 a few women sought out one another in tiny hamlet known as Evergreen. Many of them had moved from deeper soil pockets of the world and longed to gather together grit and substance to carry on gardening with friends.

They met regularly gleaned tips from one another as well as encouraging one another's green thumbs. Louise Mounsey can tell us more about their beginnings but for now, believe me there was something very special about those women and children that has quietly supported nearly 40 years (2005-2006 garden club calendar year) of a phenomenal garden club. In the early years I have been told and seen pictures of the summer plantings at the intersection of Hwy 73/74, The EGC Photo/Scrapbook has a sweet photo of Sue Lams (her mama brought her up with dirt under her fingers) planting at the old library, Pictures of members inside the Evergreen Drugstore in May selling vegetable starter plants and hardy perennials dug from their gardens and wearing heavy winter coats and boots.

As the years moved forward so did the club. One could compare it to the weather. Some years there was great expectations and growth and the club spread out over the community with more projects and garden friendships. And just like weather the club has weathered the storms, patiently waiting for sunshine. Like all organizations our club has periods of drought due to lack of leadership. Again Louise, Priscilla Chapin and others know that although it is disconcerting to all of us, the club survives.

Our current elected officers have served for 2 years plus and everyone of understands why they would like to pass the spade and trowel to others. It is good for all of us to have new blood in the club and also on the board.

Interest builds as new people get their heads together and introduce all of us to their choices. It is important to remember that each board has the opportunity set the pace of the club's activities. Our club has an abundance of creative and hospitable members who I would love to see bringing their talents to the leadership of EGC. I ask each of you... whether you are a long-time member, a new member and/or an armchair observer, we need your help this coming year to keep us going. Will you consider helping us with a piece of organization that is entering it's 40th year as Evergreen Garden Club? All we need are programs you feel will be interesting, keep us informed by the year-book and newsletter of what's happening, invite us to get dirty cleanin' up the community gardens and feed us once in a while. We will be there to help you and appreciate your service to Evergreen Garden Club.

Julaine Kennedy

Wet and wonderful, in the garden...

There's a reason that gardens in the Pacific northwest look so great, RAIN, lots and lots of rain. When Evergreen artist Tricia Schulze Bass flew to Vancouver, British Columbia to paint gardens she discovered the challenges of painting in the rain, day after day. "I started by duct taping a small umbrella to my easel. My paintings stayed dry but then I was too wet and cold. I moved on to a golf umbrella and some extra second-hand clothing to combat the chill, but the damp just kept finding a way to my toes", according to Bass.

K.D. Moore Gallery at Lakepoint Center will be hosting a garden inspired show for the month of May in which Bass will be one of several featured artists. Many of you may remember Tricia as the plein air painter on the last garden club tour (Ruth's garden). With the lack of garden inspiration still apparent in Colorado, her friend, neighbor, and Garden Club President, Trish Scott played tour guide and pal on a quick trip to the warmer but wetter gardens of Scott's childhood home. Bulbs, cherry trees and new foliage were out in abundance in this coastal Canadian area. Tricia painted in Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth's Garden and VanDusen Garden in Vancouver proper. On the one sunny day of the trip she was fortunate enough to find herself in Butchart Gardens in the charming city of Victoria, on Vancouver Island. "I was so happy to have my friend with me to show me all the coolest places to paint. I thought I had died and gone to heaven at Butchart Gardens."

Tricia and Trish (really) were also lucky enough to see seals and bald eagles in the wild during an afternoon boating trip with Scott's sister and brother-in-law, Jo and Bill Moffatt.

Garden Inspired Art...The show at K.D. Moore Gallery called "Blooms & Baubles" opens at the 1st Thursday Gallery Tour on May 5th at 5:00 pm. Other featured artists include Kathy Beekman and Michelle Renee Ledoux. Garden club members are cordially invited.



TWO POTS

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house." Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

SO, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers, on your side of the path.

HORTICULTURE

The Plants of Lewis and Clark *Santa Fe Farms Greenhouses Newsletter*

One way to spruce up your garden and challenge your earthy skills is looking into the plants that Lewis and Clark discovered on their trek to the Pacific Northwest in 1804.

After Thomas Jefferson became president, he wanted to find a route across the continent. But he also instructed Lewis, the expedition leader, to observe and study the plant life. Jefferson wrote, "Objects worthy of notice will be: the soil and the face of the country, its growth and vegetable productions, the dates at which particular plants put forth or lose their flowers or leaf."

William Clark was appointed as the cartographer and the group of 40 men embarked into the unknown. Today Lewis is credited with adding 176 plant species to science. They include ornamental, medicinal, edible, agricultural and other utilitarian plants.

Some species were already known to science, but Lewis' observations extended their known range. But most were new to botanists at the time he collected them.

Plants he noted, ones we now take for granted, include the following. In parentheses are notes Lewis made, followed by today's uses.

- * *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* "Bearberry" (used in a mix for smoking)
--erosion control, wildlife habitat, ornamental
- * *Juniperus scopulorum* "Rocky Mtn. Juniper" (collected in S. Dakota)
--wildlife habitat, revegetation, windbreaks
- * *Pinus ponderosa* "Western Yellow Pine" (in rich land west of the mtns.)
--timber, reforestation
- * *Shepherdia argentea* "Silver Buffalowberry" (a pleasant berry flavored like the cranberry) --edible landscapes, windbreaks, wildlife habitat

Lewis had a particular interest in plants; his mother was an herbalist and grew medicinal herbs and gathered wild plants. Many of his descriptions include fragrance, taste and other plants they resembled. He also noted the habitats such as moist, shaded soil or dry, sunny slopes and open meadows. He preserved clippings, seeds, bark and flowers in notebooks.

Other plants are various sages, four-o'clocks, horsetails, asters, sumac, chokecherry, primroses, globemallow, phlox, yarrow, fescue.

A good book resource is "Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" by H. Wayne Phillips, Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2003.

Evergreen Garden Club
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Denver Botanic Gardens Schedule of Events www.botanicgardens.org

Plant Sale

The Plant Sale is one of the Gardens' most popular annual fundraisers and the official kick-off to spring. More than 65,000 plants are for sale including water-smart plants, annuals, roses, water plants, perennials and more. Horticulture experts are on hand to answer questions throughout the day as well. [Click here for more information.](#)

Friday, May 6, 2004

8:30-10 a.m. members only; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. open to the public

Saturday, May 7, 2004

8:30-10 a.m. members only; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. open to the public

Plants of Lewis & Clark

May 1, 2005 - July 31, 2005

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Free with Gardens admission

Denver Botanic Gardens is marking the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's transcontinental journey of exploration with a special exhibit titled "The Plants of Lewis & Clark."

This exceptional new exhibition of original botanical illustrations informs visitors how Lewis and Clark and American Indians used plants to cure and heal, and helps with understanding how they collected and preserved plants for practical purposes as well as to teach other about the plant world.

"The Plants of Lewis & Clark" will be on display in Gates Garden Court at Denver Botanic Gardens through July 31.

Free Days

May 16, 2005 - May 16, 2005

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM