



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club
April, 2009

Meeting, April 8, 2009

Following our business meeting, including the election of officers for 2009-2010, we'll enjoy a program offered by our President, Geneme' Keyser: "From Seed to Palate." Geneme' will share with us her garden ideas, discussing the vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers that she and Keith grow. Geneme and Keith garden on six acres, near the intersection of Issaquah-Hobart and Tiger Mountain Roads, growing all their own food, with the exception of pork. Their gardens include a wide selection of vegetables, both common and uncommon, as well as fruit trees, grapes, and soon, mushrooms, as well.

The program will be an informative introduction to home food production, whether on a window sill or in a large outdoor garden. Furthermore, Geneme will share with us a wonderful resource, where you can buy a nice selection of say, ten types of seed for less than \$5.00. (Geneme has used this resource for years.) She'll share with us other tricks that she has learned over the years of home food production.

This program should be especially timely, given our "Victory Garden" exhibit at the Earth Day Event, April 18, and our Plant Sale, May 16, both to be held at Pickering Farm. See details inside this newsletter.

Members will take a break in our schedule on April 8 to participate in the Arbor Day program held in conjunction with the Kiwanis meeting held at Gibson Hall. We'll carpool to this event, since parking is limited.

We'll return to enjoy a luncheon provided by volunteers, who will be called in advance by Jeanette Mahoney..

We encourage all members to attend our meeting on April 8, and to join in welcoming Spring to Issaquah through their involvement in activities of our Issaquah Garden Club, at **Earth Day**, on April 18.

Please don't forget to bring your donation for the Issaquah Food Bank!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was with great joy that I watched Michelle Obama breaking ground on the White House Lawn for a garden. Not since Eleanor Roosevelt has there been a food production garden at our first house.

I now feel that my efforts to raise a goodly portion of our food is in line with the direction of our country. And it is with a sense of pride that we will bring the Victory Garden concept, the needed starts and seeds to our local residents.

Please join in this movement, even if it is a salad garden on a window sill in your home. Or maybe a pot of herbs...

Geneme' Keyser

WE PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY

April 18, 2009

"Ask not what the club can do for you.
Ask what you can do for our club"

Show your true **blue and green colors**. Dress as an Earth Day supporter and come to Pickering Barn for a community celebration and opportunity to learn from displays and help our club teach what we are all about.

You can help our club put on a good production. Sign up to be a hostess at our booth.....contact Dianne Tanner or Gail Holmstrom. Our flower show, "**Dynamic Dainty Dimensions**" is our gift to this event along with the Victory Garden demonstration. Look in your garden and plan what dwarf or naturally small plant you could bring in a container or clear glass bottle for display in Horticulture. If you have a container of small plants, advance enter with Jackie Maresca. We need petite designs so sign up with Jessica Liepins. [Flower Show information was sent out with the March newsletter, and will also be available at the

April meeting. Should you wish another copy sent to you by Email immediately, please contact your editor.]

This is your opportunity to grow as an Earth steward.

The goal for our garden club is for everyone to learn by sharing and teaching. April and May are going to be full of great opportunities.

(While the Earth Day events are scheduled from 9 AM to 2 PM, our involvement in set-up and take down should start much earlier and last somewhat longer.)

VICTORY GARDEN

Way to go First Lady Michelle! A 'Victory Garden' on the White House grounds. Our Victory Garden project has been endorsed..

This fun and educational project is well under way. We have the sample seed packs, seed starts and hand outs..

Now, all we need are the little hands that will take home the start of their Victory Garden. Please tell anyone with children about this Project and encourage them to visit us on April 18th...



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please bring your \$25.00 membership dues for the 2009-2010 year to our April meeting or mail them to June Willard, 18153 SE 41st Lane, Issaquah, WA 98027-9756. Make checks payable to **Issaquah Garden Club**. This request is being made to assist the new board and to make the 2009-2010 IGC yearbook preparation a lot smoother.

Issaquah Garden Club dues include dues for Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs and for East Lake Washington District for the period July 1 through June 30. It also includes your subscription to both WSFGC's *Smoke Signals* and ELWD's *Elawadi Echo*.

June Willard

IGC PLANT SALE

Our annual Plant Sale, a popular event for people in and around Issaquah, will be held on May 16, 9 AM to 2 PM, at the Issaquah Farmers' Market at Pickering Barn. Work will begin by Garden Club members and other volunteers at 6:45 or 7 AM, and will conclude that day upon completion of cleanup of all plant materials, shelters, tables and staging materials. Sign up sheets will be available at the April 8 meeting, with confirmation or changes at the May 13 meeting, as necessary.

The plants we sell are dug, potted, and donated by club members. We suggest that you start right away to pot up and label your donated plants, shrubs, and trees to give them time to recover. If you would like help from other club members digging and potting plants, please contact Cate Mueller, at 425 677-7289. Please label plants with whatever name--common or botanical--you can provide, with light requirements (sun, part sun, part shade, full shade), and with special care requirements, (such as "water sparingly"). Please use labels NOT of the five price label colors--red, dark blue, yellow, orange, or green--and, preferably, please use a soft lead pencil to make your labels. Labels will be available at our April meeting.

Michele Peltonen has volunteered her home as a plant staging site. If you wish, you may make arrangements to deliver labeled plants to Michele during late April or early May.

There will be a potting/pricing party at Cate Mueller's home on Saturday, May 2, from 10 AM until 3 PM. The pricing/potting party is to sort, price, repot as necessary, and gather as many plants as possible. If you're coming to the party, bring your plants with you. If you are unable to attend, you may drop off plants to be potted at Cate's home during late April or early May. Her address is **24205 SE Tiger Mountain Road**, just off Issaquah-Hobart Road, a half mile beyond the stoplight at May Valley Road. Turn left onto Tiger Mountain Road, and go .4 miles. The blue house is on the right, set back from the road by a gravel driveway. Turn just before the sign on the left for Tiger Mountain Kennels.

You may also bring your plants, potted and labeled but not priced, to our sale site, **between 7 and 8 AM**. We also welcome donations of garden tools, pots, or other gardening related items.

The day before the sale, we will need members to pick up plants at Cate's house to hold overnight and bring to the Pickering Barn sale area. We will also need volunteers to fetch plants from Michele's home early the day of the sale. We will have a signup sheet at club meetings or you can volunteer by contacting Cate. On the day of the sale, we will need boxes and bags for customers to take plants, as well as the loan of wagons or carts to haul heavier plants. Volunteers on the day of the sale will get to choose a free plant before the sale begins.

We will need volunteers to load and unload vehicles, set up tables, greet and advise customers, fill out sale forms, work at the cashier and membership tables, carry plants to cars, and clean up. If you won't be at either of the coming club meetings, you can volunteer by contacting Cate.

Because this event is welcomed by the community, enjoyed by our members, and profitable for the club, we look forward to your active participation.

IGC AT FSS III

Congratulations go out to club members June Willard, June Ann Hassebroek, Sally Cadranel, Janel Garnett and Karen Lee for their leadership and involvement in the District sponsored Flower Show School, held March 24 and 25.. This was the third in a series of four education events spaced six months apart for two years. This FSSIII featured Container Plantings and both cut and potted dwarf plants and how to use them in the landscape and how to enter them in a flower show to education the visitors. It covered great horticulture as well as very creative floral designs.

Flower Show School is for everyone whether you want to learn more about plants, American Creative Designs or meet like minded friends. You may start School at any series and attend for one or two days. Register in Advance with Mary Dahlgren 425-747-9335 or by Email at MLDahlgren@comcast.net.

JEWELS OF OPAR

Karen Lee reports that she bought this plant at Molbak's last summer and used it as a house plant because she loved looking at the berries while they lasted. She reports that it will grow and bloom even in low light. She has collected seeds and may have little plants for our plant sale,

The Latin name is *Talinum paniculatum* (Jacq.) Gaertn. Var. Limon. It is nicknamed "Old Lady Hat Pin" because the thin stalks and flower pods resemble the old fashioned long hat pins ladies used to use to hold their hats in place.

This is a tender perennial used as annual in colder areas. It can be propagated by sowing the seeds indoors, before the last frost, or out-

doors after the last frost. It can be grown in full sun to part shade, but it will not grow as tall in semi-shade. It has succulent leaves and very small starry pink flowers with white stamens that sway on wiry-stemmed sprays. The tiny flowers contrast pleasingly with the red to burgundy round seed capsules (the "jewels".) The foliage is outstanding. It is very heat and drought resistant. The lemon-green foliage is attractive and if you dig the root before frost, it makes a great bonsai for the winter. This is also a good way to overwinter the plant so you have a start for the next year. Any seedlings that appear in the spring or early summer can easily be scratched away.

Jewels of Opar is very upright and architectural when the sprays of flowers/seeds appear. The color, on the other hand, is a little difficult to mix, what with the pink flowers and red berries, not to mention chartreuse foliage. It is amazing how this plant branches out so evenly without any pinching. The seed sprays are the same. The foliage is so luminous, a glowing emerald that stands out on its own. The thin stems with the little pinky-purple-burgundy seed heads sway at the slightest hint of breeze



Plants Deer Don't Like

Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*). This rock-hardy, native perennial shrub with bright yellow flowers is available in varieties that can reach 4 feet. It is widely used in landscaping and hedges; grow it from division or buy a plant.

Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*). This hardy perennial grows to about 2½ feet; deer usually dislike the bitter, menthol-like flavor of its foliage. Grow from seed or start from a neighbor's garden. Deadhead blooms if new seedlings become a nuisance.

Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.). Don't confuse these handsome, native perennials with ragweed—goldenrod is nothing to sneeze at! Sends up 3-foot panicles in late summer. Start from seed or plants of selected garden varieties.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*). This fragrant herb forms a lovely perennial shrub up to 5 feet tall in mild climates. In colder areas (Zone 6 or lower), grow it in a container and bring indoors for winter. Choose an upright variety to be sure its scent is at nose level for deer. Prefers a gravelly, somewhat alkaline soil.

Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*). A hardy perennial in the mint family, this herb produces dense spikes of fragrant blue blooms on 3- to 4-foot stems. Easily started from seed.

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). A hardy native in the milkweed family, butterfly weed bears yellow, red and orange blooms adored by butterflies. Grow it from seed or divisions.

Poppy (*Papaver orientale*). This reseeding annual bears pretty blooms in a myriad of colors and forms, including double. Easy to grow from seed; just scatter throughout the garden.

Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). A hardy perennial shrub with bright berries and sharp spines, barberry is easy to grow and pretty in hedges of all kinds. It can reach 8 feet or taller, so put this prickly shrub at the back of the garden. Grow it from seed, cuttings or purchased plants.

Baby's-breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*). The airy flowers of this perennial are welcome in any garden or cut flower arrangement. Grows to about 4 feet.

French tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculoides* 'Sativa'). Bittersweet leaves complement dressings and poultry. Plant this 2-foot-tall perennial where it will receive some shade in afternoon. In the South, substitute Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), a fall bloomer with similar flavor.

Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.). Available in an array of species and hybrids, lovely lavender offers mounds of aromatic gray-green leaves topped with delicate flower spikes, 2 to 3 feet tall. English lavender (*L. angustifolia*) and the lavandin hybrids (*L. xintermedia*) are hardiest. Purchase plants at a nursery or start cuttings from a friend's herb garden.

Santolina (*Santolina* spp.). Both gray- and green-leaf forms of this small shrub are strongly scented. At just 12 to 16 inches, Santolina makes an appealing, evergreen edging. Grow from cuttings, divisions or seed.

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*). This beloved annual herb, in all its different forms, can be tucked in wherever space allows. Sow seed directly in the garden after danger of frost has passed, or purchase transplants at your local nursery.

Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*). Grow this biennial, clump-forming herb as an annual. For landscape interest, the bright green curly-leaf kind works best; flat-leaf Italian parsley has better flavor. Start from seed or buy young plants.

Suggestions to Repel Deer

- 1) Plant rosemary, or other Mediterranean herbs, such as oregano, sage and thyme. Deer generally dislike the fragrance.
- 2) Try native ornamental grasses, which are beautiful and close to deer-proof.
- 3) Daffodils are more deer-resistant than tulips.
- 4) Plan your garden to repel deer. Use plants above..
- 5) Never feed the deer ... and spread the word to your neighbors.

UPCOMING PLANT SALES

Saturday, April 4, 10 AM to 3 PM, and **Sunday, April 5**, 10 AM to 2 PM: Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden “**Spring Plant Sale**,” Weyerhaeuser Corp. Headquarters, 33663 Weyerhaeuser Way, Federal Way. See www.rhodygarden.org

Friday-Saturday, April 24 & 25; May 1 & -2, 9 AM to 3 PM: Lake Washington Technical College, “**Spring Sale**,” at the Horticulture Greenhouses. See www.lwtc.edu/hort

Saturday, May 2, “**May Day Plant Sale**,” Highline Botanical Foundation, The Puget Sound Daylily Club, King County Iris Society and Seattle Rose Society will be hosting a plant sale at Highline Botanical Garden. See www.highlinegarden.org for more information and directions to the garden.

Saturday, May 2, 8 AM to 5 PM and **Sunday, May 3**, 10 AM to 3 PM, “Fresh Ideas Plant Sale,” King County Master Gardener Foundation, at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle. See www.mgfkf.org

Saturday, May 9, 10 AM to 3 PM, “Spring Plant Sale,” Friends of the Conservatory in Volunteer Park, 1400 East Galer, Seattle (North Capitol Hill near the Seattle Asian Art Museum. See www.volunteerparkonservatory.org

Saturday, May 16, Issaquah Garden Club Sale, 9 AM to 2 PM. IGC Members begin work that day at 7 AM, and conclude after cleanup completion, 3 PM.

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c/o Cate Mueller, Editor
24205 SE Tiger Mtn Rd
Issaquah, WA 98027-7336

www.IssaquahGardenClub.org

