



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club
February, 2009

February 11, 2009

Due to an unfortunate circumstance, we will not have our scheduled speaker for the February meeting. Geneme' Keyser has graciously agreed to bring a selection of rock garden plants and to talk about them.

You may know that rock garden plants in small spaces may be used to create the illusion of luxurious gardens. Geneme' will demonstrate creation of a garden in miniature.



A rock garden, copied from the website of the Northwestern Chapter of the North American Rock Garden

We'll partake of a luncheon provided by IGC members who volunteered, as a part of our activities for this day. Again this month, Dianne Tanner will be calling all those who signed up to bring food, early next week.

Please remember that we have voted to bring donations for the Issaquah Food Bank, each month. The food bank is grateful for all donations. Please keep bringing whatever you can and it will be given to those in need. ALL items are gladly accepted, but there is a special need for tuna, baking supplies, paper products, personal care items and laundry soap.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I walked through my gardens, last week. I was saddened by the damage caused by the severe cold and snow. Then as I turned a corner, I spotted a sweet little miniature azalea that I had planted. You know the tale of the little ant that thought it could. This tiny little life form proclaimed the same. So I took joy in one small success story.

May we all take a lesson from that little ant and move forward with determination and will. Gardens can be replanted, lives can be put back together and failures can be the basis for great success.

Being the eternal optimists, Keith and I are now dreaming of restoring our gardens and learning from the mistakes made in our landscapes. How hardy is that plant really??? ;-))

Geneme' Keyser

VALENTINE'S GARDEN THERAPY

Session Three of our Garden Therapy program will be held on Feb. 12th at 10:00 A.M. at the Issaquah Nursing Care and Rehabilitation Center

Come join us at the Issaquah Care Center to spread some joy with flowers! Bring your greens, clippers and creativity! Come and create, whether you are an experienced designer or just starting out. It's a fun way to learn, share some time and create a little sweetness for the residents, staff and visitors. I will bring the containers, oasis, and flowers and a snack to share.

If you can't make it but would like to donate some greens, bring them to the meeting and I will take them along. Also, if any one has small containers they would like to get rid of, we could always use more. We could also use dried lavender, or other aromatics for sachets for future projects.

The April 9th session will be hosted by Jeanette Mahoney, since I will be out of town that week.

Thanks to all who have helped in the past and especially to Sherran Whatley, whom I forgot to mention last time! I hope to see you all there,

Karen Bukantz

OF THIS AND THAT...

Spring is on her way. My kitchen table is covered with plant and seed catalogs. Little green sprouts are appearing in my garden, and primroses are selling at grocery stores. And I'm beginning to spot plant sale notices. Of note is the March Mania Plant Sale, Sunday, March 8th at the Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center, 11 AM to 3 PM

I've been looking at the website of the **North-western Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society**.: <http://home.comcast.net/~nargs.nw/> This site includes organizational information, as well as help in building a rock garden or a trough, (something I've always wanted to do). There is information about plant sales, both theirs— open only to members—and those of the Arboretum Foundation, which will be held this April. The Northwestern Chapter will have a booth at the **Northwest Flower and Garden Show**, February 18-22, at The Convention Center.

Another booth at the show is that of the **Northwest Perennial Alliance**. Several member of NPA will be speaking on topics of interest at the show. If you're interested, the NPA website is <http://www.northwestperennialalliance.org/index.php>

Speaking of the **Northwest Flower & Garden Show**, if you haven't planned to attend, you'll miss a spectacular event. Riding there on the Sounder bus #554, is the easiest way to go— it practically takes you to the Center, is inexpensive and quick. You'll have no parking problems, either

OOPS! Your editor regrets that Sherran Whatley was identified as Jeanette Mahoney in the Garden Therapy picture in the January newsletter. .

Cate Mueller

ELWD ACTIVITIES

February 2, 2009 – General Membership Meeting and 50th Birthday party Registration and brunch will start at 9:15 am with speakers on horticulture (Rita Moore - Gardening with Native Plants) and design (Brynn Tavasci). Please register to attend by sending a check for \$10, made out to ELWD, to Linda Patricelli, 22837 NE 132nd St., Redmond, WA 98053-5664 or by contacting her at the January 19 Board Meeting, or emailing her at lindapatricelli@hotmail.com or calling her at her home -- 425-898-7412. Please include your name, club, and ELWD GMM on your check.

February 18-22 - Northwest Flower & Garden Show – The state needs more volunteers to be at the WSFGC booth and tell people about our state and local clubs, activities, and membership. Handouts and all the information you need are printed and at the booth. If you are able to do a three-hour shift, please contact Ginger Knutsen-NWFGS GingerKnutsen@msn.com for scheduling. You will get a free pass for the entire day. Lana Finegold is teaching a class on Saturday, February 21.

Thursday, February 26 and/or Tuesday, March 10 -- Flower Arranging Classes taught by Lana Finegold – 10-2:00; at Lake Hills Library and Sammamish Library; \$15 for one class and \$25 for both classes. These classes are on American Creative Design and will help in preparation for Flower Show School III. All levels of experience will be accommodated. Registration is not complete until you have mailed Gale Baullinger your check. (Gale's address is 16226 SE 24th St., Bellevue, WA 98008-5408). She cannot hold spots without your check. March 24-25-26 -- Flower Show School III; Registration forms will be on the state website

(www.wagardenclubs.org) and available at our Board Meeting. Save the dates - more information to follow.

March 16 (Monday) – WSFGC Gala, Tacoma LaQuinta

March 24-25-26 -- Flower Show School III; Registration forms will be on the state website (www.wagardenclubs.org) and available at our Board Meeting. Save the dates - more information to follow.

IGC PLANT SALE

We hope you are all thinking of seeds you can start and plants you can contribute to our annual plant sale, May 16. It may be a little early to consider work in the garden, but, once you are out in your garden, please pot up some divisions of plants to donate, as early as possible. Should you need help, or pots, please don't hesitate to contact our Plant Sale Chair, Cate Mueller. You can reach Cate by telephone at 425 677-7289, or by Email at catevmueller@hotmail.com.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

Jeanette Mahoney is looking for someone with a pick up truck who could take old Garden Club items from her mother's garage to go to the dump. Please call her on her cell phone at 425 246-4484.

Jane Tierney is looking for starts of raspberries for her garden. Please call her at 425 392-3786.

You may remember the lovely painted chair at our November auction. This was donated by Paula Rogers, of Bean Valley Farm. She is offering lily bulbs for sale. The price list is attached in a second document.

PROPAGATING PLANTS

Karen Lee reports that Dan Hinkley was on the Martha Stewart Show, Wednesday, January 28. He showed some new plants that are going to be a part of a new line he is developing with Monrovia Growers. Then Dan and Martha showed a propagation technique that we can do now with our houseplants and in the summertime with outdoor plants. You can create more plants by propagating the ones you have with two different techniques: root cutting and air layering.

Root Cutting

The root-cutting technique can be used with a number of outdoor plants, such as oriental poppies, *Crambe maritime* and *Crambe orientalis*, *Verbascum*, *Eryngium* or sea hollies, *Acanthus mollis* or bear's breeches, and horseradish root, which was used on the show.

Root Cutting How-To

1. Remove plant from pot and shake off excess dirt.
2. Remove the largest of the roots, generally the size of your little finger or smaller for most plants.
3. Cut these into 2- to 3-inch lengths, making sure you keep the top end correctly identified.
4. Push each segment into a pot of potting soil so the tops are level with the soil.
5. Top off the pot with chicken grit or pea gravel.
6. Water and place in a cool area protected from extreme temperatures.
7. Each root will develop into an individual plant and can be transplanted into the garden the following autumn.

Air Layering

The air-layering technique is great for indoor plants.

Air Layering How-To

1. Remove all leaves along the stem of your house plant, tree, or shrub; use a one- or two-year-old growth.
2. Remove a V-shape segment of stem to about the middle of the stem (not too far or the stem will break).
3. Brush the cut surface with rooting hormone.
4. Wrap the entire stem in moist sphagnum moss.
5. Surround and seal the moss with plastic wrap.
6. Surround plastic wrap with tin foil.
7. In 2 to 3 months, the stem will be rooted and the plant can be removed and potted.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to **Dan Hinkley**, author of "**The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials**," for sharing these gardening ideas.

http://www.marthastewart.com/article/gardening-with-dan-hinkley?inc=38f9cf380e1dd010VgnVCM1000005b09a00aRCRD&rsc=showdetail_tv



ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB

Minutes of the General Meeting

January 14, 2009

Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 A.M. by President Geneme' Keyser, who welcomed everyone. One guest, Debby Larson, was introduced.

Minutes: The minutes for the December 12 meeting of the Issaquah Garden Club were approved.

Treasurers Report: June Willard, IGC Treasurer reported the club has a \$8937.97 balance. She requested that members prepare vouchers to submit will bills for payment. She explained the Tibbett's Creek Manor contract. She reported that she had received acknowledgements for some of the money the club had donated: \$100 to Bellevue Botanical Garden, \$25.00 to Arboretum Foundation (Seattle); \$25.00 to World Gardening, \$25.00 to National Garden Clubs for Natural Disasters, USA; \$25.00 to NGC Permanent Home, and \$100 to WSFGC Scholarship. She noted that we had also donated \$50 to Issaquah Salmon Days, \$50 to WSFGC Headquarters House, \$75.00 to WSFGC Conservation Teachers Scholarship Fund, and \$1000.00 to the Issaquah Food Bank. Both Geneme Keyser and Gail Holmstrom had received compliments for the Food Bank donation.

Announcements: The ELWD Board meeting on January 19 at Molbak's, and the ELWD General Meeting on February 2 at St. Andrew's were announced. There will be a information regarding future ELWD events in the February newsletter.

New Business:

Michele Peltonen handed out copies of a "Notice of Proposed Standing Rule Amendment to Rule 4.3." This would amend Rule 4.3 of the Standing Rules by:

- 1) deleting the word "incoming" in the first line of the rule and replacing it with the word "outgoing", and
- 2) deleting the word "return" in subsection (c) of the rule and replacing it with the words "hand over".

Since a quorum of members was not present, there was no vote taken. Michele requested that people read the document and bring it to the February meeting, so we might vote on it if we have the necessary quorum present.

Geneme' Keyser told us about the **Victory Garden Project** to be presented at Arbor Day, the last Saturday in April, at Pickering Farm. There will be three garden projects available: an Herb Garden, having six plants; a vegetable garden, having sample packets of seeds; and a salad garden, having one tomato plant and sample packets of seeds.. The gardens are designed to be grown in plastic tubs, 2 feet by 3 feet, examples of which will be demonstrated, as will a small greenhouse. She stated that any seeds not sold will be donated to the Heifer Foundation or World Vision. She asked that members provide styrofoam egg cartons to be used to hold seedling plants.

Geneme' stated what there will also be a Children's Garden, with sunflowers and scarlet runner beans. She will need children for this demonstration. There will also be a small flower show, this date. We will need lots of help for this event. Geneme' will provide further information, later.

Nominating Committee: Geneme Keyser asked for volunteers for the nominating committee. There being none, she appointed June Ann Hassebroek, Michele Peltonen and Cate Mueller.

Horticulture: Rita Hansen discussed plants in her yard that had survived the snow: specimen of *Peris japonica*, one of which was variegated.

Dianne Tanner talked about the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster campaign, which has a deadline the following Monday. She noted that there would be a Butterfly Garden contest for students, K through high school, in the future.

Minutes of the General Meeting, continued

Rita Hansen sent around a sign-up sheet for the luncheon at the “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party,” our meeting in March. It was announced that there would be prizes awarded for the most outrageous hat and costume. There will also be an award made for the most beautiful place setting.

June Willard said that Smoke Signals, although late, should be sent out the next week. She stated that she had an auction item donated by Pina Mull, not presented in November: a combination of Starbucks coffee, a print apron, matching potholder and reversible placemats. These were auctioned by Dianne Tanner, and awarded to Rita Hansen for her bid of \$22.

June explained the new WSFGC Insurance policy coverage that is available to all WSFGC garden clubs at no charge, and will request Issaquah Garden Club be added. (More information will appear in the Winter Issue of Smoke Signals.)

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Program: Following this, June Willard demonstrated to members the construction of pine cone centerpieces, which members could then create. She provided pine cones, seeds, nuts, pods and other plant material, as well as some forms for members to use in making their own centerpieces.

A delicious luncheon, provided by various members, and ably supervised by Dianne Tanner, was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by Sally Cadranell and Cate Mueller

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