



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club Newsletter—January 2008
Michele Peltonen, Editor

It is hard to believe another year has flown by. I hope you are getting a good start to 2008 and that it will be a year of health, prosperity and joy. Happy gardening! - Michele

LAKE WILDERNESS ARBORETUM

At the December meeting we had the pleasure of visiting a the renowned Minter Gardens through the technology of video and slide show. So I thought I'd mention a worthy local garden destination. Just over the Issaquah Alps in Maple Valley, the Lake Wilderness Arboretum has a considerable collection of rhododendron and azalea — among other things.

In addition to the focus on Northwest native plants, the Arboretum features one of the world's largest collections (over 200) of *Rhododendron occidentale* in the Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden. Other gardenscapes include the Alpine Garden (a dream of the Chinook District), the Steuber Rhododendron Garden, the Volunteer Garden and the Legacy Garden.

The idea of an arboretum in south King County got started in 1965. By 1967 the 40 site on Lake Wilderness had been chosen. And by 1970 the overall design had been implemented. One of the few public gardens in south King County, the arboretum serves as a retreat and an outdoor classroom. Find our more about the arboretum by visiting the website: www.lakewildernessarboretum.org

The Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation, a volunteer, nonprofit organization, is the steward of the arboretum under an agreement with the City of Maple Valley. Unlike many arboretums, Lake Wilderness Arboretum is not connected with an educational institution and so does not have that avenue of funding.



Participants at the December IGC centerpiece work party display their festive creations for the residents of Gardens of Issaquah Care Center. Clockwise from the upper left: Joann Morgan, Gen Keyser, Jeanette Good (Garden Therapy Chair), Jeanette Mahoney, Sherran Whatley, Jackie Maresca, June Ann Hassebroek, Kathleen Bohlken, and Karen Lee.

One of their annual fundraising events is coming up. The annual Hellebore Tea is scheduled for Sunday, March 2nd from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Lake Wilderness Lodge in Maple Valley. Tickets are \$15 each. Each table of 8 to 10 is sponsored by an individual or group who provides table service and decorations for that table. Tea is provided by the Late Bloomers Garden Club. This year there will be a "Garden Hat" contest, a plants sale featured plants for the winter garden, a silent auction and complementary hellebores for all.

By all accounts this is an enjoyable event and one that might be on interest to IGC members. If only a few are interested I have been told there may be room at some tables that are already sponsored. If there is enough interest, we could consider sponsoring a table ourselves. There are awards for outstanding table decorations, which could bring out the

competitive designers among us. But they'd get a good challenge from the designers in Chinook District. If you are interested in attending the Hellebore Tea please let me know before or at our January meeting.

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

January 16th – HEIRLOOM PLANTS

Don't forget — this month's meeting is on January 16th (the 3rd Wednesday, not the 2nd as usual). We will return to the normal date set out in the yearbook for the February meeting.

Club member Gen Keyser will present a slide show and share her knowledge of heirloom plants. With so few vegetable varieties being grown for supermarket sales, the diversity and localized growing characteristics of heirloom plants are catching on with greater numbers of aware gardeners. In the non-edible plant world we sometimes see limited varieties and the offering of questionably suitable plants for a given region due to large scale nursery operations and big box stores. Heirloom plants are nostalgic, but they are also much more. Pacific Region Director Jeanette Pruin has recognized their importance with her term project "Cultivate Heirloom Seeds". We hope this program will encourage you to include some heirlooms in your garden this year.

In addition, Gen and her husband Keith have generously offered to provide door prizes of heirloom seeds for this meeting.

GARDEN MEMORY

It was the summer of 1990, a few months after my mom died. At that time my father was pretty much blind, very hard of hearing, riddled with arthritis and probably had cancer, too. Anyway, mom and dad had a few acres in the country and had always grown many varieties of veggies. That summer my dad went out into the garden with a tall stool, a long rod and a bag of heirloom beans. He planted them by poking a hole in the ground, dropping in a seed, pushing the soil over it and then moving his stool along to the next planting ground. The beans grew beautifully. My dad passed on the next February. I hope my sis got some of those seeds, but I've never asked her.

Janet Figgins

CONTEMPLATING WEEDS

When I moved to this area 12 years ago I met a weed I had never seen before: Herb Robert or Stinky Bob (*Geranium robertianum*). It is identifiable by its feather foliage, delicate pink flowers and its aroma (!). I assumed it was a weed, but it was kind of pretty and so I did not diligently pull it that first year. Oh my, what a mistake that was. I had oceans of the stuff for years. Unfortunately its tenacious seeds have spread this invader to our wilderness areas where it happily crowds out natives. So though it is not as annoying as Himalayan Blackberry, it is important to keep it under control.

Learn more about Stinky Bob, other weeds and what to do about them in the King County Noxious Weed Control Program newsletter online at their website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/kcweednews.htm>

DISPOSAL OF LATEX PAINT

Please note that King County's Hazardous Waste Management Program Facilities (Factoria and the Wastemobile) will NOT accept latex paint after January 1st, 2008.

Dispose of dry, hardened latex paint in your garbage container with the lid off. To harden latex paint, mix it with an equal amount of kitty litter or paint hardener, stir in completely and let dry. For more information, go to:

www.metrokc.gov/dnpr/swd

