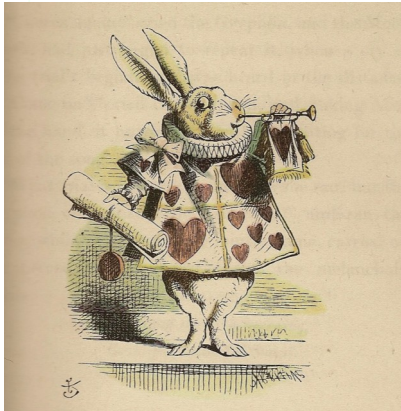




GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club
March, 2009



You're Invited...

Please join us at 10:00 A.M. on March 11, for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Tibbett's Creek Manor. We'll partake of a special luncheon, following a brief business meeting and horticultural presentation.

Be sure to wear a decorated hat and to bring a special place setting. (See the article inside this issue.) There will be prizes awarded for both the most outrageous hat and most decorative place setting.

Rita Hansen, in charge of our luncheon, will contact those who are contributing our comestibles.

Please remember to bring your donations for the Issaquah Food Bank!



President's Message

As we look at our gardens and the very early signs of plants awakening, I hope that all of you are feeling the energy and vibrancy of a new beginning.

Please stand ready to help with our plant sale. This is an opportunity for us to share with neighbors our love of gardening and give them a sense of which plants thrive in our particular growing climate.

And above all, align yourselves with your new board and offer them your love, support and thanks.

Geneme'

About Our Mad Hatter's Tea...

This is a chance for each member to demonstrate her—or his—ideas of a traditional tea setting. In addition to your extravagant, outrageous hat, please plan to bring an appropriate place setting of your bone china or other floral patterned china, one place setting of silverware, a placemat, napkin, and, if you wish, a small floral arrangement for your place at the table. Each member's setting, with the exception of those of officers, will be numbered, and we'll all vote on the best setting.

Please make note of the articles about Arbor Day and, especially, Earth Day, that follow. For our Earth Day exhibits—the Victory Garden and the Petite Standard Flower Show—help will be needed. Geneme' Keyser is looking for members' help on Tuesday, March 10. If you can come help that day, please Email her about this, March 8 or 9.

My Two Cents' Worth

Many of you know that your editor has lived here less than two years. My ignorance of gardening in the Pacific Northwest looms abysmally.

I've just gone on a search for some very basic information. I've been looking for the **annual frost free date** in this area. Finding this information on the internet and in local gardening books has turned out to be a frustrating experience. It looks to me as if the frost free date hereabouts is as variable as the seasons seem to be. The earliest date cited was March 14; the latest was April 20.

The best advice about planting out tender plants I've received is that it should be safe to do so around Mother's Day. (You probably all know that.)

People who have lived here longer than I seem to have stock answers to my gardening questions. In reply to my comments about the seasons since I've lived here, folks reply, "...but that was unusual." It was "unusual" that our spring was so cool, last year. It was "unusual" that my tomatoes ripened during the last week of September. It was "unusual" that we had so much snow this winter. I've begun to think there's no such thing as "usual weather," hereabouts. Please feel free to convince me otherwise.

I'm nervously waiting to see how many of the plants I installed in my Japanese/shade garden last October—ferns, hosta, a few perennials, beardless iris, small rhododendrons, and a few, small Japanese maples—have survived. I have a hellebore in bloom, and the daffodils and tulips have grown by leaps and bounds, lately, so I'm hopeful...

If you're curious about the illustrations from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland in this issue, these were very kindly scanned for me by Dianne Tanner, from the book given me in 1953.

Cate Mueller

Issaquah Arbor Day

Issaquah Arbor Day will be held on **April 8**, the official state Arbor Day, at **Gibson Hall**, in conjunction with a Kiwanis meeting that is taking place there.

Please note that this is a date change from what is listed in your IGC Yearbook.

A Burr oak tree will be planted and our club will be presenting a check to the City for the purchase of the tree. Please note that this Arbor Day ceremony will take place during the time of our April garden club meeting! As soon as we find out the time of the ceremony, we will let you know. We may make a minor adjustment to our luncheon hours for that day. We will carpool from our meeting to Gibson Hall for the short tree planting ceremony and then return to Tibbetts Creek Manor.

Karen Lee

Earth Day Celebration 2009 - new and fun!

Issaquah Earth Day will be **Saturday, April 18 in Pickering Barn at the Farmers Market**. Please note that this is a date change from what was listed in the IGC Yearbook. **Mark your calendar for this special event!**

Issaquah Garden Club will be doing something different for Earth Day this year. We will have a 10 foot by 20 foot space to use at Pickering Barn for our Petite Small Standard Flower Show, the Victory Garden display and a small information table where visitors can ask questions about our club. There will be sign up sheets at the next two garden club meetings for you to help make this day a success.

We will have a Victory Garden display with sample container-planted food gardens. We want to encourage the public to grow plants (both edible and ornamental) whether they have a large garden or just a balcony. In these tough economic times, it makes sense to “grow your own” to save on money and gas.

It’s been years since our garden club held a public flower show and this will be the first one at Pickering Barn. We want to show the public how small plants and designs can be beautiful and not cost as much money or use as many supplies as their larger counterparts. This show will feature everything petite, miniature, dwarf and tiny in designs and in horticulture.

The name of the flower show will be **Dynamic Dainty Dimensions**. We will have design classes of Dynamic Duo, Dollhouse Dainties and Dazzling Dimensions and the horticulture division is called Dwarf Drama. The cut horticulture will need to be in very small, clear, glass bottles so start collecting them now. There will also be two classes (outdoor and indoor) for mature dwarf or miniature horticulture growing in soil in small pots. The Show Schedule is attached to this newsletter. Classes will fill up fast so sign up early to reserve your entries.

Karen Lee



Starting Annuals From Seed

[This information seemed timely, given that we must soon begin working to make our Annual Plant Sale, May 16, a success.]

Easy Annuals to Start from Seed

Start these outdoors, right in your garden where you want them to grow. This technique is often called "direct-sowing." There's little if any advantage planting them indoors. Most (except sweet peas, sweet alyssum, poppies and larkspur) are tender annuals and should not be sown until after danger of frost.

- Sunflowers
- Marigolds
- Morning glories
- Bachelor buttons
- Calendula
- Castor bean
- Cosmos
- Nasturtiums
- Sweet peas
- Sweet alyssum
- Larkspur
- Annual poppies
- *Ammi majus*
- Zinnia
- Hyacinth bean

Plant these seeds indoors under lights, six to eight weeks before transplanting into the garden. Those with very small seeds (including nicotiana, petunia and snapdragon) should be broadcast on a small seed tray. Once the seedlings have their first true leaves, carefully tease them apart and transplant into separate growing cells.

- Cleome
- Coleus
- Snapdragon
- Ageratum
- Amaranth
- Nicotiana
- Lavatera
- Petunia

- Impatiens
- Salvia
- Statice

More Difficult Annuals from Seed

Hardy Annuals

- Bachelor buttons
- Calendula
- Spider flower (Cleome)
- Pinks (Dianthus)
- Forget-me-nots (Myosotis)
- Pansies (Viola)
- Larkspur (*Delphinium consolida*)
- Linaria
- California and Shirley poppies (Papaver)
- Love-in-a-mist (Nigella)
- Pincushion flower (Scabiosa)
- Snapdragons (Antirrhinum)
- Lavatera
- Annual baby's-breath (*Gypsophila elegans*)
- Stock
- Sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*)

Half-Hardy Annuals

- Statice
- Marigold
- Nicotiana
- Painted-tongue (*Salpiglossis sinuata*)
- China aster (*Callistephus chinensis*)
- and various types of salvias and chrysanthemums.

Tender Annuals

- Morning glory
- Zinnia
- Coleus
- Sunflowers and tithonia (Mexican sunflower)
- Cosmos
- Amaranth
- Ageratum
- Celosia
- Gomphrena (globe amaranth)

ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB

Minutes, February 11, 2009

The February meeting of the Issaquah Garden Club was called to order by President, Geneme' Keyser at 10:06 A.M. Geneme' welcomed Diana Price, daughter of Joanne Dinken, and introduced a new member, Janet Wall, daughter of Ruth Morgan.

The **Treasurer's report** reflected that the club had a balance of \$8771.89.

Geneme thanked the **Nominating Committee**, and announced the following slate for 2009:
President: Dianne Tanner; Vice President: Rita Hansen; Secretary: Cate Mueller; Treasurer: June Willis.

New Business:

Geneme' discussed the **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**, to be held at our March meeting, stating that this would be a typical British Tea, and that there would be awards for the best table setting and the best hat.

Arbor Day/Earth Day: The City of Issaquah will have an announcement about **Arbor Day/Earth Day** at the end of February. Geneme' announced that the Victory Garden event planned for this day had been put on hold, pending the city's decision. If the Victory Garden project cannot be completed, the seeds purchased by the Keyzers for the Victory Garden proposal will be donated elsewhere.

Dianne Tanner discussed the possibility of our club's submitting an **ELWD native plant grant for community or catastrophic event** for Audrey Ellingsen, for the flood damage to her yard. The deadline for submission is March 1. There not being a quorum present at this time, it was decided that this would be acted upon by the Executive Board of the club.

Blue Star Marker: It was announced that the check for \$100 for the marker had been received but then lost; the check will be replaced.

IGC Plant Sale, May 16: Cate Mueller reminded members of this annual event, asking that members begin potting divisions of their perennials and/or starting seeds for plants to sell May 16, as soon as possible.

Jeannette Mahoney stated that there were IGC materials stored at her mother's garage that needed to be disposed of. Cate Mueller will arrange to pick these up.

Horticultural Moment: Joanne Dinken exhibited dried hydrangeas, artichokes, and other perennial material from her yard.

2009 WSFGC Gardener's Calendars were distributed to new members present with one given as the door prize to Michele Peltonen.

Minutes, February 11 Meeting, continued

Members were reminded of the work party to be held on February 12 at the **Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center**.

Following a short break, the business meeting was called back to order at 11:20. There being a quorum present, the minutes of the January meeting were approved. The amendment to Standing Rule was also approved.

The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter.

Submitted by Cate Mueller



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