



# GARDEN DELIGHTS

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Issaquah Garden Club  
September, 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

***When the old Board is done, and the  
new term's begun  
You will still see familiar faces,  
And those who are new  
Will be glad to meet you  
As you settle down in your places.***

***We shall start a new page  
That will mellow with age  
To a memory we someday will  
treasure.***

***So I'll speak for us all:  
'When we meet you this Fall  
To serve you will be a real pleasure.'***

[From a booklet 'Reflections' by Jean F. Moore, Capitol District Corresponding Secretary 1955-1957 (Tacoma Area)

I thank June Willard for sharing this with me.]

My brief association with the IGC has taught me much and opened vistas I did not realize were mine to gaze upon. Friendships are building and growing stronger.

I am humbled by the task that lies ahead, enlivened by it and honored. My love of gardening, I trust will carry me through this term and give me the fortitude to step up to the plate.

I take this opportunity to thank each of our Board Members for coming forward and offering to serve.

Most of all, I rely on each member to know that this is your club. We, your board, will be asking many questions and will follow your will. This club can only be as beneficial, to you, as your willingness to participate.

**Geneme' Keyser**

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## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Jeanette Mahoney reports that, on September 10th, she will be presenting a program on African Violets, (*Saintpaulia Ionantha*). She'll bring various plants, reflecting the growth, problems and varieties of African Violets. She'll also provide plants for centerpieces, to give away at the meeting.

This should be a special treat for those of us who either don't know much about these plants, haven't grown many African Violets, or, if we have, have not had all that much success with them. Did you know, for instance, that, in addition to the standard African violet, there are miniature and trailing varieties?



## EDITOR'S DESK

At the IGC Plant Sale, last May, I made the mistake of mentioning that I had edited the newsletter, The Seedling, for the Falls Church Garden Club for a total of fifteen years. "Oh, well, then, you can be the new editor for our newsletter!"

So, here I am, a member of the Issaquah Garden Club for just one year, having the temerity to edit Garden Delights. How audacious—and how foolish—of me.

Some of you know me; many of you visited my garden on July 30. If so, you know that I am learning to garden in a new place, after forty years in Northern Virginia. I lived in the same zone, 7, but what a different place this is! I can grow all the plants that languished or wouldn't grow at all in the hot, humid summers in Arlington: tuberous begonias, fuchsias, and sweet peas! And then there are those I haven't yet tried: delphiniums, for one. And then there are old familiar plants that grow here as if they're on steroids: Lambs' Ears, for instance. I now know that plants do very well, indeed, here.

Sadly, I've found that one of my favorite plants—I have a lot of those—the Fall-blooming Clematis, *paniculata*, really doesn't do well here. (Planted last fall, it died over the winter in my garden. You should have seen the two on my arbor in Virginia!) Fortunately, I've discovered the evergreen clematis, *Armandii*, to plant over one of the big stumps in my new yard. I'm hopeful, remembering the old adage about perennials: "First year, they sleep; second year, they creep; third year, they leap."

I'll do my best not to be too "folksy", as I was in The Seedling, but I can't promise. Together, you and I will discover things about each other. I take suggestion pretty well. Don't hesitate to contact me at [catevmueller@hotmail.com](mailto:catevmueller@hotmail.com) if you wish to do so.

**Cate Mueller**

## MYSTERY PLANT

On the tour at Cate Mueller's gardens on July 30, Garden Club members discovered a plant that nobody could identify. Michele Peltonen promised to research the plant, and let us know about it. Here's what she discovered:

The plant with the pink-purple flowers behind the chicken coop is most likely *Stachys mexicana* (Mexican hedge nettle or Coast hedge nettle). It is an early summer blooming perennial, from 12-40 inches tall, that grows in moist ground in woodland at the edges of clearings. It could also be the larger *Stachys chamisonis* var. *cooleyae* (Cooley's hedge nettle or Great hedge nettle), which is very similar and grows 25-60 inches. You'd have to measure the length of the corolla tube to be sure (8-13 mm for *S. mexicana*, 15-25 mm for *S. chamisonis* according to one website).

Both are native members of the mint family. The main stems are square and they grow from spreading roots. They superficially resemble stinging nettle but they do not sting, have fine hairs and smell unpleasant. And of course the flower is very different from stinging nettle... they are nowhere near as vigorous as stinging nettle...

As natives there are probably several creatures that appreciate them – probably even hummingbirds. (I haven't been able to find a reference to this, but the shape and color of the flower is just too typical of the flowers hummingbirds are attracted to discount the possibility. It not a very talked about plant, so it might just not get mentioned.) It's not a plant you would buy and grow on purpose, but if I were you I would consider myself lucky that they have chosen to grow in my yard.

[See the photograph on the last page]

## EAST LAKE WASHINGTON DISTRICT OF GARDEN CLUBS

### 2008 - 2009 Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>What/When</b>	<b>Where</b>
Sept. 3-4	State Board Meeting	Sequim, WA
Sept. 15	General Membership Meeting, 9-12:30/brunch	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
Sept. 29	Exec. Comm. Meeting	Redmond Reg. Lib
Sept. 23-24-25	Flower Show School II; must register with Mary Dahlgren - mldahlgren@comcast.net	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
October 11	Give Kids A Hand – Social & Auction, 1-4	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
October 20	Board Meeting	Redmond Reg. Lib.
November 7-8	WSFGC Holiday Show "Holiday Memories"	Renton, Holiday Inn
December 15	Echo Deadline (Jan – April issue)	
January 9	Exec. Comm. Meeting	Redmond Reg. Library
January 19	Board Meeting	Redmond Reg. Library
Feb. 2	General Membership Meeting, 9-12:15/brunch	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
February 18-22	Northwest Flower & Garden Show	Seattle
March 13	Echo Deadline (May – August issue)	
March 16	WSFGC Gala	Tacoma
March 20	Exec. Comm. Meeting	Redmond Reg. Lib
March 24-25-26	Flower Show School III	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
March 31-April 2	Pacific Region Convention	Las Vegas, Nevada
April 20	Arbor Day Celebration/Planting	tba
April 20	Board Meeting	tba
May 13-17	NGC Convention	Houston, Texas
May 4	General Membership meeting, 9-12:15/ brunch	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
May tba	Iris Show	tba
June tba	WSFGC Convention "Summer Carnival"	Seattle
June-August	ELWD Garden Tours	tba
tba - summer	ELWD 50th Anniversary Flower Show	tba
July 20	Exec. Comm. Meeting	tba
July 27	Presidents and Chairs Meeting	tba
August 10	Echo Deadline	
August 17	Board Meeting	tba
Sept. 8-9-10	Flower Show School Course IV	St. Andrew's, Bellevue
September 14	General Membership Meeting	St. Andrew's, Bellevue

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL, COURSE II,  
September 23-24-25**

ELWD Flower Show School II is for anyone interested in learning more about annuals, biennials or perennials. National Instructors from far away states will be helping everyone learn how to evaluate and understand floral design and help us understand the value of flower shows.

Carolyn Hawkins from Jonesboro, GA will teach Flower Show Procedure and Horticulture. Jo Krallman from Benton, AR, will teach Design. The instructors are accredited and approved by National Garden Clubs, Inc.

This is the first time in 20 years that such a great opportunity has been in our District so take advantage of having this opportunity right here in our backyard. Great time to add to your growing knowledge and have fun and make friends.

While this is the second of a total of four courses, it is OK to start with any course, and it is OK to just come for one day. For further information, contact June Willard (425 746-5336), or June Ann Hassebroek (425 333-6949).

Four of the people on the Flower Show School committee belong to Issaquah Garden Club: June Willard, June Ann Hassebroek, Sally Cadranel and Janel Garnett. Several others are already registered for this course..... come on along to learn!!

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**GIVE KIDS A HAND**

The Sixth Annual **Give Kids a Hand Auction & Social** will be held on Saturday, October 11, from 1 PM to 4 PM at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Avenue SE, in Bellevue. Tickets are \$10 each, and qualify as a donation to a 501 C3 charity. They will be available at the September IGC meeting.

In addition to the silent auction, there will be raffle items, as well as "buy it now" items.

Beverages and "finger foods" will be served, and proceedings will be guided by a Master of Ceremonies.

East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs (ELWD) holds this annual event to raise funds for grants to encourage horticulture and environmental studies, grades K-12, in local school districts. This year's goal is to raise \$4000.

**Please mark your calendars and plan to attend, October 11.**



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**WSFGC Holiday Show  
"Holiday Memories"**

This show, on Friday, November 7, at the Renton Holiday Inn, will include over 100 horticultural exhibits, over 80 floral designs. There will also be 12 educational exhibits on some aspect of horticulture or floral design, 16 craft exhibits, and a variety of items having to do with horticulture and floral design for sale by vendors.

Advance tickets for \$7 per person will be available; those at the door will be \$8.

**ISSAQUAH GARDEN CLUB  
BOARD MEETING**

Our President, Geneme' Keyser, has announced that the September Board meeting will be held at her home. The Executive Board and Committee Chairs are invited to attend this meeting. The date and time will be announced.

## THINGS TO DO IN SEPTEMBER

Pot up chives, parsley, and other herbs, and bring into the house to extend the growing season.

Be sure to clean the windows where plants will be this winter while the plants are still outside. The difference in light available to the plant will be significant.

To keep from spreading diseases and insect pests, sterilize old flower pots by soaking overnight in a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water.

Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming.

Put the right plant in the right place—with the right soil, moisture and sun or shade conditions, your plants will be healthier and many will not need irrigation.



*Stachys mexicana*

## GARDEN DELIGHTS

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