



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

“You will spend every gardening moment this month proving the truism that what comes up must first go down.”

Unknown

April Meeting

April 10, 2013

We have a special treat this month. Dianne Tanner has invited Art Chmura, husband of member Julia Chmura, to talk to us about dahlias. Art has been growing dahlias since 1983, and currently grows over 700 dahlias, producing yearly prize-winning dahlias. He hybridizes dahlias from seed, and specializes in growing giant-sized dahlias.

Art is past-President of the Puget Sound Dahlia Association and has been chairman of the PSDA annual Dahlia Show for over twelve years. Art and Julia co-edit the monthly newsletter and yearly membership directory for the PSDA.

Art will present a talk and slide show about planting, caring for, digging and storing dahlias. He's bring two tubers for each member to try.

We'll also enjoy a design vignette shared by Sandy Young.

Following our meeting, we'll enjoy a very special luncheon, a tea presented by Rita Hansen and Jessica Liepins, assisted by the luncheon crew, Barbara Brigham, Janel Garnett, Marietta Hunziker, Michele Peltonen, Dianne Tanner, and Sandy Young. Rita and Jessica ask that you wear a hat, bring a china cup and saucer and plate, a pretty napkins and a special place setting.

Please try to arrive at 9:45 for our meeting, so we'll have ample time to greet our returning President, chat and grab a quick cup of coffee or tea.

Don't forget your contribution for the Food Bank! Last month, members contributed fifty-seven pounds of food.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Tending the Earth”

Our children gave me a book many years ago. I found some notes and my resulting thoughts that I had made after reading it that I thought you might enjoy:

Some of us garden because it must be done and many of us just because we love it. Doctors now are learning that gardening has a very positive impact. Not only the physical activity but being connected to the plants and the out of doors improves our health.

In the process of nurturing, we are nurtured.

Whether a person is tending a single pot of flowers on their deck or happily enjoying a city park or off hiking in the wilderness it has an impact on how we feel.

In the process of reaching out to nature, our spirits are filled with joy.

Spending time working on arranging a landscape design or searching for the perfectly-formed branch or lovely color combination of texture of flower and leaf for a flower arrangement, engages all of our senses. The time spent selecting and appreciating the qualities of each plant and displaying it to its best advantage is a joyful exercise.

In the process of reaching into our artistic talents, and merging with nature, our creative energy overflows.

Share that energy. Ask a friend, neighbors or even strangers to join our garden club activities. Membership growth largely depends on you, the members. Gaining knowledge and doing good things in the community are strong magnets to draw new members. A potential new “best friend” is waiting to join our group. Offer them an invitation. Let’s all share the benefits of what we gain when we are **TAKING CARE** of our earth.

June Ann Hassebroek

You are reminded there will be an IGC Officer and Chairman meeting on April 17th at 1:00 P.M. at the King County Library Service Center on Newport Way. Any member is welcome to come.

IGC PLANT SALE

Our annual Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, **May 18, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.** at Joanne and Ken Morgan’s home. We’ll sell whatever plants have been donated by members. Please think of our sale when you’re digging and dividing perennials, this month. We’ll have two potting parties at Cate Mueller’s home, on April 16 and May 14. For the most part, we’ll price plants on the latter date—though we’ll accept potted plants that day and the next two. We’ll also have a bake sale and an art sale in conjunction with the plant sale. Lenda Sundene is planning the bake sale. This is our one big money-maker. To make the sale a success, we’ll all need to help.

Joanne Westveer and Cate Mueller

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 20, 2013

I hope all of you are watching for the news about how the City of Issaquah will be celebrating Earth Day this year. Maybe you can be part of the “Clean Issaquah” event.

Issaquah Garden Club has been working with the city and other groups for 85 years to help raise every citizen’s love for our little place on this earth. Our club belongs to East Lake Washington District and the theme for our Director Marianne Wilkins is “Cherish the Earth”. That seems to fit in appropriately with our club theme of “Take Care.”

Please plan to come to Pickering Farms April 20 to view the market and Earth Day displays. Issaquah Garden Club has been invited and accepted having a booth that day to let our community learn about ways we teach youth and help all ages of our community learn to be good stewards of the earth.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. If you would be willing to come greet and talk to visitors, please call June Ann 425-922-8143 or email her to let her know what hours you could help at our booth. We will be sitting indoors and have a display and handouts inviting people to join our group.

Earth Day is a celebration but it is also a time for serious thoughts. Life’s in-

terdependence and trying to understand biodiversity call on us to learn what we can do to be part of the solution and not causing more of the problems. Since World War II, a third of the global forests have been eliminated and more than a quarter of the world’s topsoil has been lost. Marine ecosystems are in danger around the world.

Creating a sustainable, stable and continuing relationship between people and the biosphere is the central problem facing our species. All of us are called on to study and engage our reasons for being on Earth and our most deeply cherished hopes for the future.

June Ann Hassebroek

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Issaquah Garden Club is invited to participate in a citywide Spring Clean Up effort for Issaquah. Please join Kiwanis Club of Issaquah, the Downtown Issaquah Association, Clean Scapes, the City of Issaquah and other groups that have signed up to bring back an Issaquah tradition with a citywide Spring Clean Up.

The clean-up/spruce-up event will be held **Saturday, April 20** in honor of Earth Day. This year, the beautification party will concentrate on areas south of I-90.

Volunteers — both groups and individuals — are needed to spend a couple of hours making a difference in their community. If you can pick up litter,

push a broom, swing a shovel or plant some flowers, your help is needed. There are jobs for all ages and abilities and flexible schedules to get the work done.

Some the assignments to choose from include cleaning, weeding and litter pick up at Memorial Park, the salmon hatchery and train depot, along Front Street, near the Issaquah Food Bank and Community Center. Litter pick-up will also happen along Gilman Boulevard, Newport Way and along the walkways on SR900. Your efforts will benefit the people, water and animals in our community. Bring a friend, make new friends! Make a difference.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: HISTORIC SHELL STATION ON FRONT ST

9 AM-12 PM: Projects and check-in/
tools / vests / bags

12 PM - 2 PM: Refreshments

Contact Karen Donovan to sign up you or your group. Please provide the number of people, age group, hours available and location preference if you have one.

Karen Donovan

events@downtownissaquah.com

www.downtownissaquah.com

425-391-1112 office

253-255-9706 mobile



COLTSFOOT

Deborah May (Hassebroek) Wilk took this photo with her phone to send to her mother to see if she knew what the flowers were. She was walking on the east side of the Snoqualmie River, the Barn side, where she said “there were just tons of these along the trail” at Tolt McDonald Park in Carnation, WA

Bellevue Botanical Garden

2013 April: Ground Breaking Announced!

Bellevue City Council has awarded the contract for the new BBG Education Center and Visitor Center project to Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc.

You are invited to the ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 23, 3:30 PM, at the Shorts Visitor Center.

The Garden will remain open during construction, which is expected to begin on May first. “Everyone has been shuffling and planning like crazy to ensure that programs and operations continue to run as smoothly as possible so the Garden will remain an enjoyable place to visit during the 18-month construction period.”

Home Made Flower Preservatives

Garden Club Flower Arrangers—

I thought you might find this interesting. The recipe is similar to one that I found in one of my books.

Thanks to one of our members for sharing.

Marianne Wilkins
ELWD Director
“Cherish the Earth”

Should a person purchase flower preservative to make their flowers last longer, or will homemade solutions work just as well?

Researchers at the University of Florida have found that purchased floral preservatives work best at controlling microbial populations, hydrating stems, and feeding flowers. While some homemade solutions work, some may actually shorten the life of your flowers.

Various mixtures containing such ingredients as aspirin, gin, vodka, 7-Up, pennies, sugar, bleach, and other substances are sometimes recommended. In truth, some of these methods work, and some do not. A small amount of bleach will impede the growth of bacteria, but too much will damage flowers. Sugar will feed the flowers, but too much will increase microbial growth. Commercial mixtures have exactly the right amount of nutrients and antimicrobial agents to keep your flowers fresh for the longest possible time.

However, if you do not have access to a specially formulated floral preservative, Purdue University recommends any of the following mixtures.

Mixture #1: 2 cups lemon-lime carbonated beverage, 2 cups water, and 1/2 teaspoon household chlorine bleach

Mixture #2: 2 tablespoons fresh lemon

juice, 1 tablespoon sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon household chlorine bleach, mixed with 1 quart water

Mixture #3: 2 tablespoons white vinegar, 2 tablespoons sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon household chlorine bleach, mixed with 1 quart water

What other steps can I take to ensure the longest possible life for my cut flowers?

Bacterial growth is a primary enemy of cut flowers. Anything that can be done to maximize cleanliness should be first and foremost. It stands to reason that all cutting implements should be clean, as well as the vase or container that holds the flowers.

Other measures will also prove invaluable. Avoid placing your flowers near fruit. The ethylene gas produced by ripening fruit will also ripen your flowers. Keep cut flowers out of direct sunlight, and protect from drafts or air from heating and cooling vents that will cause them to desiccate. Remove flowers as they wilt, and change the water at least every two or three days. Each time water is changed, add more preservative to the water and recut the flower stems.

IGC GIVES BACK

On March 26, Janet Wall, Marietta Hunziker, Art Wight and Cate Mueller worked at the Willow Garden at Pickering Barn, weeding and planting ferns and native plants.

On March 28, June Willard, Dianne Tanner, Joan Harris, Joanne Morgan and Wendy Lukas created floral arrangements for Easter at Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

WHY GROW DAHLIAS?

They keep getting better and better in late summer and autumn when many plants are fading. They offer opulent flowers with lush colors and astonishing forms. And the more you cut them for bouquets, the more they bloom.

Dahlias were brought into gardens by the Aztecs, arrived in Europe in 1789, and by the 1840s garden writers in America were hailing scores of new varieties every year. Exciting new cactus forms were introduced in the 1870s, and in 1927 F. F. Rockwell reported that dahlias ranked in “the leading position of all bulbs grown in America.”

Dahlias prefer full sun and rich soil. Blazing hot summers are hard on them. Yes, you’ll need to stake them, but it’s easy. No, you don’t HAVE to dig and store them. When they freeze dead, just add them to the compost pile.

Wait to plant dahlias until after all danger of frost is past – when you’d plant tomatoes or later. Or you can start them inside 4-6 weeks early and transplant them outside when it warms up. .

Dahlias thrive in light, fertile, well-drained soil. If your soil is heavy (clay), add organic material or plant in raised beds. Full sun is best, but eight hours will do. Dahlias do NOT like extreme heat, so avoid hot spots such as near south or west walls.

Information taken from the Old House Garden catalogue

GARDEN DELIGHTS

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

www.IssaquahGardenClub.org

**This month: “Dazzling Dahlias”
and an English Tea**

