



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club Newsletter—December 2007
Michele Peltonen, Editor

I am very grateful to our members and guests for making our annual auction a grand success. Thanks to generous contributions and generous bidding, we raised \$1,282.00. A special nod to our hardworking chairperson, Dianne Tanner, entertaining auctioneer June Ann Hassebroek, and helpers Jackie Maresca and Joan Fields. And of course, as always, the food was great. Thanks again to all concerned! - Michele

BLUE STAR MARKER DEDICATION

The IGC Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker was installed at the Issaquah Veterans Memorial Park just outside the Senior Center and the dedication ceremony was held on November 12th in concert with the Issaquah VFW Veterans Day ceremony. Approximately 100 attendees braved the cold and the wind to show their respect for our country's service men and women and to celebrate the installation of the Blue Star Marker.

A history of the Blue Star Marker program was given by Pacific Region Blue Star Marker Chairman Betty Burkhart. WSFGC President Marva Lee Peterschick dedicated and



presented our Marker. It was accepted on behalf of the City of Issaquah by retired US Army Colonel and newly re-elected City Councilman, Fred Butler.

Some highlights of the ceremony were the Call to Assembly and TAPS played by bugler Jack Steidl, God Bless America and You're a Grand Old Flag sung by Issaquah High School Jr. ROTC student Dilaria Daglar and an impromptu rendition of the Marines' Hymn by U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Lt. Colonel and State Representative for the 5th District, Jay Rodne. Following the ceremony, cookies, hot chocolate and coffee prepared by IGC members provided a welcome respite from the weather.

OPERATION WILDFLOWER

In recognition of the prominent role IGC members play in various local native plant projects, the IGC Board has established an Operation Wildflower Committee. This will be a general oversight committee, as compared to the specific committee established for this year's new native plant project. Janel Garnett and Jessica Liepins have generously agreed to co-chair this committee.



Bugler, Jack Steidl.

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

December 12th – NO CHANGE TO MEETING!

Some members thought the date of our December meeting had changed. It has not. It is still December 12th, as usual.

At this meeting several of our members will treat us to a presentation on the overnight trip they took to Minter Gardens this past summer. Following the presentation there may be time for other members to talk bit about their favorite garden trips. Maybe you made a special trip to visit a famous garden. Maybe you lucked upon a lovely garden by chance in your travels. Maybe you have a favorite local garden. If you bring photos, be sure your name is on them.

January 16th – MEETING DATE CHANGED!

We have had to change the date of our January meeting from the 9th to the 16th because of a scheduling conflict at Tibbetts. Please note this change in your yearbook and calendar.

VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDAR

2008 Vision of Beauty calendars are available directly from NGC. The price is \$2.50 for the small size (4"x6") and \$4.95 for the standard size (5.5"x8.5"). Prices include shipping and handling. Order by phone at 800-550-6007 or 314-776-7574 or visit the Shopping page at the NGC website www.gardenclub.org.

GARDEN MEMORY

When I was eight, my brother and I went to live with our grandparents, uncle and aunt on a self-sustaining farm in North Dakota. We had a huge garden and fields of corn, wheat, oats and flax. Milking the cows, feeding the cattle and slopping the pigs were daily chores. To stop erosion the government provided trees to plant between land quarters. As a bonus, 200 (!!!) ornamental trees were provided for a wind break by the farmhouse. While planting these "sticks" my uncle told me: "One day you and I will walk through this garden under an arch of trees". Last summer my uncle and I strolled under that arch as we have done many times before.

Dianne Tanner

BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL!

RESOURCE CONSERVATION OFFICE NEWS

1. Recycle holiday food scraps! Place them in your yard waste cart.
2. Consider giving "waste free" gifts this year and save 15% to 50% in the process. Visit www.wastefreeholidays.com for more info.

For more detailed information visit the Issaquah RCO website: www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco

CONTEMPLATING WEEDS

Did you know we have California horticulturalist Luther Burbank to thank for the Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*, syn. *Rubus discolor*)? In the 1880's he started propagating a blackberry he called the Himalayan Giant. (He thought the seeds came from India and thus the name, but it is actually an Armenian species.) This berry had become a huge hit in Europe earlier in the century and repeated it's popularity in the United States. Why not? It had huge sweet fruit and vigorous growth. But the growth was a little too vigorous. By 1914 the Himalayan Giant was considered "somewhat difficult to manage" and popularity declined. As we now know, it is very difficult if not impossible to manage - especially in the Pacific Northwest. Learn more about weeds and what to do about them at the King County Noxious Weed Control Program website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/weeds/index.htm>

