



# GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club  
December, 2010

*“Sitting with quiet, folded hands, content and peaceful  
And smiling a mysterious promise. My winter garden waits.*

*Caroline Giftinan, American Poet*

## HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

At this meeting, we'll "deck the halls," and enjoy winter festivities. We'll enjoy recorded holiday music, provided by Laura Walker. (If you have a favorite seasonal CD, don't hesitate to bring it.)

Our speaker, Pat Roome, is a Master Gardener with years and years of experience and knowledge on a breadth of gardening subjects. She'll speak to us about the joys and advantages of the garden in winter, enhancing her program with a slide presentation.

We'll enjoy a gift exchange. Each member should bring a wrapped gift with some garden relevance, however slight, priced at or below \$10. (This is our chance to be really creative!)

Our luncheon this month is a potluck. Specific members will serve as hostesses and kitchen crew. Members are asked to bring a favorite holiday dish serving six to eight people. Desserts will be provided by members with last names A through G; main dishes by those H through P, and salads by those R through Z.

If you're feeling particularly "green," you might bring a holiday mug or cup and saucer, a festive napkin, and your own eating utensils.

**Please don't forget to bring a donation for the Food Bank! So far this year, members have significantly increased the volume of contributions each succeeding month.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a spectacular success our November meeting, program and auction were! And how many members—and guests, too—we have to thank for the outcome!

Our program, offered by Ann Baron, the “Spoiled Gardener,” was informative to the point of being inspired. Listening to her, and watching her replant that large pot were fascinating.

Our luncheon, which was supposed to be a light repast of finger foods, was a magnificent repast. Dianne Tanner shepherded all those who brought food, and presented it, with her usual expertise. Jean Pass ensured that we had our morning beverage in an efficient manner.

Sherran Whatley, Michele Peltonen, Jackie Maresca, Rosemary Fahey and all the auction crew did a fantastic job. From their arrival with all those auction items, through the set-up, the bidding and tallying, the orchestration made the whole auction go incredibly smoothly. All their hard work paid off in such an enormous way: \$2602 earned for Issaquah Grden Club projects. Who would have thought we'd accrue so much and have such a good time.

Please enjoy these pictures of our November meeting, taken by Rosemary Fahey.

**Cate Mueller**



Our speaker, Ann Baron, with that huge pot.



Gail Holmstrom and Dianne Tanner, with the 'groaning board.'"



Our Auction Chairman, Sherran Whatley, dispensing an auction basket.



Sherran Whatley, and Auctioneer, Michele Peltonen

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM**

Issaquah has a new Food Packaging Ordinance which applies to our club as a renter of a City-owned facility. Effective July 1, 2011, we will no longer be able to use polystyrene (e.g. Styrofoam™) and other non-recyclable or non-compostable food service ware for our luncheons. We have convened a new committee, the **Environmental Action Team**, to address compliance with this ordinance.

Following the request for volunteers at the last meeting, Jean Pass, Martha Franklin, Bernadette E. Anne, Laura Walker and Cate Mueller have joined me on the committee. We held our first meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the options for complying with the City's new food service ware ordinance and we have worked out a provisional plan. Our next step is to research the sources and costs of the various products. We expect to be able to report back to all the members at the January meeting. In the meantime, have a wonderful, low-waste holiday season!

**Michele Peltonen**  
**Chair, Environmental Action Team**

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## **ISSAQUAH FOOD BANK**

Our contribution to the Food Bank at the November meeting was 110 lbs of food. Wasn't that good?

**Sylvia Watson**

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## **LOST AND FOUND**

Has anyone lost a pink make-up case? After our November meeting, I found this on the table that held the auction items. I'll bring it to the next meeting.

**Jean Pass**

## **NEW MEMBERS**

On top of all the good things that happened at our meeting in November, we gained two new members! Please amend your Yearbooks to include these two ladies, and be sure to welcome them at our December meeting:

Bernadette E. Anne  
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BE\_ANNE@msn.com

Shadi Wang  
16711 254th Avenue SE  
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shadi.wang@yahoo.com

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## **PLANT THERAPY WORKSHOP**

On November 22, IGC members "braved the storm" to meet at Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center, to create dining-room centerpieces for Thanksgiving. Joint Chairpersons, June Willard and Karen Bukantz were assisted by Audrey Ellingsen, Cate Mueller, Dianne Tanner, and Art Wight. Joann Morgan assisted earlier by making nearly twenty bows for the arrangements.



## HEADQUARTERS HOUSE

**[One of the checks written after our auction was that for our budgetted \$100 contribution to WSFGC Headquarters House.]**

Located in the Beacon Hill area of Seattle and built in 1883, WSFGC Headquarters House is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Rentals are a main source of income. It is used for meetings of various organizations as well as Garden Club functions. The kitchen will accommodate a large party up to 100. The House is a lovely setting for receptions or weddings. It is decorated with a tree and greens during December.

[June Willard has given your editor a little more interesting information: "It's a grand old building and the garden looks great. Especially when rhododendrons and perennials in bloom and the 100+ year old pear trees bloom... [The pears are] soooo yummy! Trustees used to can pear jam to sell in November at State Holiday Shows! The house wasn't fenced in along the back alley until a few years ago... There are only 12 private parking spots in the alley, but that's enough for IGC carpoolers. Rates are very reasonable for garden clubs to plan a meeting, luncheon, picnic or tour. They invite WSFGC members/spouses/friends to help at monthly gardening work parties. "

[Perhaps we might consider visiting Headquarters House, sometime.]



## BULB LASAGNA

Bulb lasagna or bulb layering is a technique of layering bulbs in containers. Choose a variety of bulbs that bloom within a few weeks of each other and you can have continuous blooms for nearly two months next spring.

Also called "the sandwiching system," the most important consideration in creating a bulb lasagna is to choose a container that is wide enough and deep enough. For example, a 10-inch deep container can hold two layers of bulbs and a 14-inch deep container will hold three layers of bulbs. Choose bulbs that have less foliage rather than more foliage as well as ones that grow to several heights such as tulips, narcissus, and grape hyacinth. Don't plant bulbs too close to the sides of the pot and don't worry about crowding them together a bit. Check the depth at which particular bulbs should be planted before you buy to make sure they will work with the container you've chosen.

To layer, first place a layer of gravel across the bottom of the bottom, then a thick layer of potting soil. Place the first layer of bulbs in the pot and cover with a layer of soil. Continue for the second, third, and fourth layers if you have them. Cover the final layer with a final layer of soil, as if you were planting outdoors. Come next spring you can enjoy a miniature bulb display on your patio, terrace, balcony, or front steps!



## WINTER GARDEN DESIGN

A garden doesn't have to look bleak and desolate during the winter months. Here are some suggestions to keep it looking handsome all year long:

**Form and shape:** The forms and shapes of the plants themselves can lend interest to the garden in winter, whether carefully pruned shapes, horizontal hedges, or the natural pyramidal shapes of many coniferous evergreens.



**Berries, Seed Heads, and Seedpods:** In addition to providing winter interest, many seed heads, seed pods, and berries such as those growing on the native winterberry holly, shown above, are an excellent way to attract wildlife to the garden.

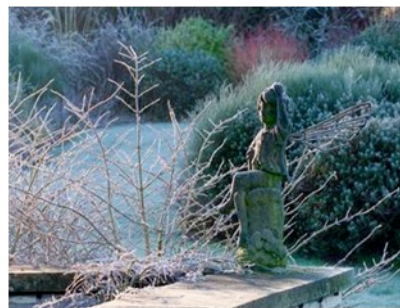


**Twigs and Bark:** Twigs and bark provide another way to add interest to gardens in winter. There are quite a few shrubs with twigs that are light gray, brown, bright green, red,

or even yellow in color. Native trees like the river birch with exfoliating bark, striped maple or moosewood that has vertical white stripes on greenish bark both have interesting bark, and hornbeam aka "blue beech," and musclewood because of its "muscular" looking trunk and bark, have interesting looks as well.



**Foliage Color:** Foliage can add winter interest to every garden, whether it's the golden hues of dried grasses, the dark greens of conifers or the lighter green shades of broadleaf evergreens and perennials whose foliage stays put over the winter including boxwood, inkberry holly, bergenia, and coral bells 'chocolate ruffles' (pictured above), or plants like *Ajuga reptans* whose foliage turns a darker greenish-purple in winter.



**Sculpture, Statuary, and Benches:** Sculpture, statuary, and benches add beauty as well as structure and form to the garden and look handsome against dark green foliage of evergreens or when covered in snow.

[This was adapted from an article in [The Daily Dirt](#), an E-newsletter]

## THINGS TO DO IN DECEMBER

Finish fall cleanup and winter plant protection. After leaf fall, mulch perennials and other small plants with salt hay, straw, pine needles, leaves or banches of discarded Christmas trees, to prevent heaving of the plants during period of thawing and freezing. Leave stems of chrysanthemums—winter survival rates are higher when stems are left through the winter.

Tuck the greenery from decorations such as swags and wreaths under acid-loving shrubs like hollies, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Set tree guards to protect ornamental apples and cherries from rodents.

Snow is a mixed blessing in the garden. Fluffy and light, freshly fallen snow is an excellent insulator. Its millions of tiny air pockets hold warmth in the soil around snow-covered plants. When frigid weather comes after a heavy snowfall, the snow cover may save many plants of borderline hardiness. On the aesthetic side, snow creates an attractive scene when it accumulates on and around evergreens. Nandina, holly, and other fruiting plants are specially colorful against a white background.

Sharpen, clean, and oil your lawnmower and cutting tools; clean and oil other garden tools. Don't store your lawn seeder/fertilizer spreader. Use it to spread sand or sawdust on walkways.

Continue to feed the birds. Watch for winter residents.



### GARDEN DELIGHTS

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### **This month: our Holiday Party**

