



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

"The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before."

Vita Sackville-West, British Author and Poet

FEBRUARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Our program this month will be presented by Laura Matter, from Seattle Tilth, who spoke to us in January. She will discuss **"Wildlife Friendly Gardening for Natural Pest Control."** Ms. Matter will tell us how to provide good habitat for birds buterflies and other beneficial insects and provide natural pest and weed control, increasing our garden's health while decreasing our workload. We will learn how to attract these delightful creatures to visit and live in our gardens. Again the program will include a Power-Point presentation and free printed information.

As last month, we'll select luncheon fare and return to our tables to eat during our program. We'll enjoy a luncheon provided by hostess Jessica Liepins and members who have signed up to provide dishes: Karen Bukantz, Joanne Dinken, Rosemary Fahey, Janel Garnett, Rita Hansen, Karen Lee, Jean Pass, Dianne Tanner, and Sherran Whatley.

Please consider bringing your own cup, napkin, and utensils to our meeting. Then you'll be eligible for our raffle, conducted by Michele Peltonen, Chair of the EAT committee.

And please remember your contribution for the Issaquah Food Bank! Sylvia Watson, Chair for Food Bank donations, reports that at the January meeting, we contributed sixty-eight pounds of food.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of us who braved the messy, sloppy weather last month to attend our January meeting had a pleasant morning. Our business meeting was conducted in record time. Then we turned our attention to an interesting "native plant talk" by Janet Wall about Oregon grape, noting that these are splendid substitutes for an invasive plant, holly—more about this, later. We partook of another splendid luncheon, while listening to an informative program given by Laura Matter, from Seattle Tilth.

The consensus of those present in January seemed to be that, staying seated at tables in the Great Room during the program was preferable to moving to the parlor to sit on folding chairs. We'll stay at tables during the February program and decide whether to follow this procedure at future meetings.

Regarding holly: on page five of this issue is Janet Wall's letter concerning holly growers' efforts to thwart local action regarding invasive plants. Janet has stated regarding this matter: "I feel that gardeners should bear some responsibility for the plants that they purchase and plant—to make sure that they are not going to escape and infest our natural areas. Plant nurseries propagate what they think people will buy. This bill is a serious threat to the ability of the county noxious weed boards to require control of possible future weeds that have the potential to endanger our native plants (and agriculture). UW professor Sarah Reichard says that the US has probably only seen one-tenth of the invasive species it can potentially have to deal with as more imports continue to come in worldwide."

One more note regarding invasives, and then I'll climb down from my soapbox... Invasive species is not just a national problem. It's a

global one. A recent article in Science Daily points out, invasive species, which include not only plants (such as holly, ivy and kudzu vine that grows up to 12 inches per day) but animals and microorganisms as well, are responsible for, in US dollars, **1.4 trillion** in damage around the globe. That's a staggering number.

For more information, go to the website of GISP (Global Invasive Species Programme): <http://www.gisp.org>. This organization was established in response to the first international meeting on invasive alien species held in Trondheim, Norway, 1996.

I look forward to seeing you on February 9. On that day, we'll need to formulate our Nominating Committee. And...please remember we have our annual Plant Sale coming up May 21!

Cate Mueller

PLANT THERAPY WORKSHOP

Issaquan Garden Club members will meet on **February 11, at 9:30 AM**, at the Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, to prepare floral centerpieces for Valentine's Day. Co-Chairs June Willard and Karen Bukantz will direct this activity. At the January meeting, the following members who signed up to help: Audrey Ellingsen, Dianne Tanner, Shadi Wang, and Joann Morgan. Additional members are invited to help.



DISTRICT INFORMATION

ELWD General Meeting, February 28, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue. This is the first meeting of 2011 and includes a business meeting, a flower show, "February Fun," a program and lunch. Entries for the show will be accepted from 8:30. Check-in and registration will take place 8:30 to 9:30. Fanny Lau, designer, will present a program at 10 AM. The Business Meeting, which will include the announcement of new Board members for 2011-13, will follow at 11:15. Lunch will be served at 11:45, followed by a raffle. From 12:55 to 1:30, there will be a discussion of the Flower Show entries and prize winners.

Please register for the meeting by **February 23**, with Linda Patricelli, at (425) 898-7412 or lindapatricelli@hotmail.com. (A change in this information would be listed in the next Echo.) You are welcome to bring guests. The cost is \$10.

You are asked to bring any extra tools you might have to this meeting.

Gala XXXIII, Monday, March 14. If you bought tickets but find you are unable to attend, especially the luncheon, please let Lana Finegold know, at least three days ahead. Reach her by phone at 425 747-5742; Email at lanafinetgold@msn.com

ELWD Design Class, March 21, 2011, Redmond Library, 10 AM to 2 PM. The program is "Simplicity is the Key to Success," given by Linda McClenahan, for \$15. Register with Gale Baullinger, 425 643-2722.

Earth Day/Arbor Day, April 14, at Bellevue Botanical Garden. This is listed as an "Eco Festival/Volunteer Day, open 9:30 AM to 2 PM.

Operation Wildflower Workshop, Wednesday, May 18. This is a state pro-

gram consisting of a tour to two parks. \$40 fee for bus, entrance fee, and lunch—see page 4 of the latest issue of Smoke Signals, for information.

Please also see page 4, for the state membership pins now available. The new pin features the coast rhododendron, the state flower, etched in antique gold tones. Jean Hurt, our ELWD Director, is accepting orders, at \$5.00 each. Her address is 21711 SE 35th Street, Sammamish WA 98075-9249, 425 392-5824, bajh@earthlink.net.

ELWD is looking for a Chair for the "Give Kids a Hand" project, for 2012. The job description will be available at our February meeting.

WORLD GARDENING

Melissa Firuz, World Gardening Chairman, for ELWD has asked that we remind you about World Gardening: "These days, there are many needy people in our country and around the world. If we each give a small amount, the dollars will all add up. You are asked to give to this good cause. The World Gardening funds go to support many causes—Habitat for Humanity, CARE, Heifer Project International, Plant a Row for the Hungry, Natural Disasters USA Fund/International Fund, Global Partners Running Waters.

Our donations, along with donations from other garden clubs across America will make a difference.

Make checks to "WFSGC World Gardening," and bring donations to ELWD General meetings or mail to Melissa Firuz, World Gardening Chairman, 12404 SE 4th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005.

YOUTH GARDENING PROJECT

Dianne Tanner forwarded the Issaquah Valley Elementary School PTA Newsletter, sent Friday, January 21, with the following article:

Growing Great Gardeners

Our first grade gardening program has a brand new shed to store tools and equipment! We would like to thank the following community sources for their generous donations: The IVE PTA, The Foundation for Community Betterment, The Issaquah Garden Club, and Dr. Christian Manley, DDS. We will be painting the shed soon. If you have any clean paint rollers or exterior primer that you don't need anymore, please contact Stacy Smith [at jsmith8491@aol.com] and we will be happy to take them off your hands.

To let you know...this project and other activities by our Garden Club have been listed in a document, "King County Eastside Community Gardens and Pea Patches," <http://co124w.col124.mail.live.com/default.aspx>, maintained by Marilyn LaCelle, with the Master Gardener's Program.

BUNGEE CORDS IN THE GARDEN

I've found all sorts of uses for bungee cords, but I've never thought of using them in the garden. Recently, I read a series of articles on this subject that I found interesting. They

can be used to suspend bird houses, bunch a clump of ornamental grass together prior to cutting in early spring, or keep hoses coiled during winter. Use bungee cords to hold a trellis for clematis attached to a post or attach flower pots to a wooden fence. They are also good for closing the bag of a partially used garden product like potting soil or compost, or to keep three pots close together on top of a garden wall.

FROM HOLIDAY WREATH TO PLANT SUPPORT

Here's something else I read about recently that you might want to try—if you haven't already discarded your Christmas wreath...

Remove any wire or decorations from your wreath, then remove the greens to expose the wire frame. In spring, lay the frames on the ground around young plants, such as peonies, that will need support as they grow. Add three or four bamboo or metal stakes to your wreath as supports.



Hello Friends,

The holly growers, not content with their success in preventing the listing of English holly as a Class C noxious weed on the Washington State Noxious Weed List, and disregarding the state board's urging to work cooperatively at the local level to find solutions to the problem of invasive escaped holly, have taken a bold new step to gut Washington State's Noxious Weed Law (RCW 17.10.007). Their proposal in HB 1169 and SB 5087 are to prohibit a plant species from being added to the state noxious weed list if the State Noxious Weed Control Board "has knowledge that the plant is being actively cultivated in Washington as a commercial crop, or is derived from an actively cultivated commercial crop". These two identical bills are presently in the state house and senate's respective agriculture committees and have both gone through an initial public hearing.

If this bill were passed as written, it could have grave consequences. Many of the state's noxious/invasive weeds were brought in by the nursery trade, or in the case of Himalayan blackberry as a domesticated crop. Japanese/Bohemian knotweed was thought useful to help prevent erosion of stream banks (when in effect it does the opposite because it dies down for the winter). I heard on the news the other night that kudzu (the vine that ate the South) has been found to produce an extract that may be useful in treatment of alcoholism. Who knows what invasive plant someone might decide to grow in Washington in the future?

If a plant is not on the state noxious weed list, then a county does not have the authority to enforce control on that species.

Letters are needed to your state senators and representatives to oppose this bill. You can use <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder> to find your state senator and representatives and send them an email. You can also go to <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo> to find the text of the bills, summaries of testimony, and where the bills are in the process.

Effective letters to representatives can include personal testimony of the efforts you make to remove non-native invasive noxious weeds infesting Washington's natural areas and threatening the existence of native plant species and the animals which have evolved to depend upon them. It could mention the millions of dollars spent annually to remove invasive weeds. The Noxious Weed List is an essential tool for fighting non-native plants that threaten our natural areas. It enables the control of such species as tansy ragwort which causes liver damage in animals (both domestic and wild) that eat it, and spartina, a salt water plant which has devastating effects on saltwater habitat and the shellfish industry. In most cases, listing of noxious weeds guides use of scarce public and private funds as well as volunteer hours for weed control and education.

Please urge your representatives to vote against any such bill which would weaken the effectiveness of the noxious weed control boards. We need strengthening, not weakening of any such tools in our battles against environmental degradation caused by invasive weeds

.---Janet Wall

GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

February is a great time to prepare for gardening as the weather warms up.

Pansies, primroses, and snapdragons, which tolerate cooler weather, may all be planted now.

As the days lengthen, indoor plants show signs of new growth. Increase watering and apply a quarter-strength fertilizer once plants begin to grow. Continue to check for insect pests on houseplants.

Start preparing garden beds for spring planting. Finish ordering plants and seeds from catalogs. Now is also the time to research the best methods of starting seeds.

Check shrubs and trees for storm-damaged branches and remove these using proper pruning techniques.

Cut back perennials and tidy beds, being careful to avoid damaging new plant growth.

Dormant, bare root plants may be planted out now.

Slugs! Avoid watering at night, when slugs are most active. Handpick slugs from plants and hiding places in debris. Avoid applying compost near tender new plant growth.

Start seeds of annuals, perennials and vegetables that are slow to mature: alchemilla (Lady's Mantle), browallia, begonia, campanula, dianthus, geranium, hollyhock, peppers, and tomatoes. Heat-loving plants, such as peppers and tomatoes, need heat to germinate. Consider buying a heat mat to use under seed trays.



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

www.IssaquahGardenClub.org

