



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

FEBRUARY MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Our program this month will be presented by Jeffrey Leonard, Horticultural Supervisor for the Pacific Science Center. Mr. Leonard will discuss "**Selection, Care and Control of Bamboo in Pacific Northwest Landscapes.**"

Mr. Leonard, a Certified Professional Horticulturist, manages the Tropical Butterfly House at the Pacific Science Center. He is also a Lifetime Certified Nursery Professional, holding both certifications through the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association. He is a WSU Master Gardener Emeritus, serves on the Board of Directors, and is now entering his twentieth year as a Master Gardener. Mr. Leonard is a graduate of Edmonds Community College and is currently a part-time faculty member of the ECC Horticulture program.

At our meeting, we'll also enjoy a short presentation by Sherran Whatley about "Ten Indispensable Flowers for Your Garden."

We'll enjoy a luncheon provided by hostess Jessica Liepins and members Karen Lee, Joann Morgan, Jean Pass, Helen Smart, Dianne Tanner, Sylvia Watson, and Art Wight.

Please remember your contributions for the Issaquah Food Bank.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an enjoyable program we had at our January meeting! Stephanie Walsh offered us all sorts of historical data about Lakewold Gardens, along with anecdotes, photographs, and film clips. I'm ready for another outing to Lakewold, this time in Spring.

Janet Wall offered us truly helpful information about invasive plants—I blush to admit my yard, is full of them. I keep removing square yards of ivy and planting natives to replace that. I've just about conquered the Himalayan blackberry infestation, but the very tall and handsome hollies will remain.

We enjoyed another inestimable repast. Any time any of you wish to offer me cooking lessons, I'd willingly accept...

I look forward to seeing you on February 8. A read of my Yearbook and inward reflection nudges me that we must form a nominating committee for officers for the 2012-2013 year.

Cate Mueller

PLANT THERAPY WORKSHOP

Our club will be creating floral arrangements at the Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on February 13. Those who've signed up to help June Willard are Audrey Ellingsen, Joanne Morgan, Cate Mueller, Helen Smart, Shadi Wang, and Sandy Young. We'll appreciate any of you who would like to join us to create Valentine arrangements at **9:30 AM on February 13.**



ELWD AND WSEGC HAPPENINGS

February 17, Friday - Design Class, "Cultivate Creativity," offered by Lana Finegold at her home. Reservations and \$15.00 should be sent to Gale Baullinger, 16226 SE 24th St, Bellevue, WA 98008-5408. Bring your own materials and bag lunch.

February 27th, Monday - ELWD General Membership Meeting

The General Membership Meeting will begin at 9:30 AM at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Ave SE in Bellevue (near the Mormon Temple). The meeting will include a design program by Jon Throne, noted design artist and teacher from Countryside Floral and Garden, and a horticulture program presented by Susie Egan, the owner of Cottage Lake Gardens in Woodinville, WA. The topic is "*Spring Ephemerals*," We strongly encourage Issaquah Garden Club members to attend this meeting—which should be quite enjoyable—but especially to support Dianne Tanner, First Assistant Director of ELWD.

There will be a sign-up sheet at our meeting, February 8, for those who wish to reserve a place at the meeting and lunch. \$10 will be payable at the door, February 27.

March 12, Monday - GALA XXXIV: "Come Make Memories with Frank"

See the Winter Issue of Smoke Signals for more information.

March 23, Friday - "The Joe Show," an invitational Designers Challenge Program, presented by ELAWAGS, East Lake Washington Arrangers Guild. There will be more information available, later.

ELWD AND WSGC HAPPENINGS, continued

April 16, Monday– Arbor Day. More information will be available at the February ELWD General Meeting.

April 20, Friday: ELWD Work Day Ravine Planting Project. June Ann has asked that we put this on our calendars now. We'll meet at the Visitors' Center at **10 AM** that morning to work on this native plant installation project near the new suspension bridge at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

May 21, Monday: - ELWD General Meeting with Flower Show, "Jukebox Jamboree," presented by the West Lake Sammamish Garden Club.

OUR IGC PROJECTS

Please keep in mind that we have set **May 19** for our **Annual Plant Sale**. As it warms up, this month and next, you may begin dividing and potting perennials—primroses, for instance. You might also consider starting seeds of annuals, perennials and vegetable that are slow to mature. It would help if you collected cardboard flats and bags for customers' purchases.

Please also continue to collect items for our summer **Garage Sale**. Let Michele Peltonen know if you have boxes of items you wish stored elsewhere.

DUES, 2012-2013

It's very early to mention this, but the ELWD Dues Secretary has asked that we do so. She'd like our check for dues at the May 21st ELWD General Meeting.

GARDENING IN FEBRUARY

If fungus develops on your potted herbs, cut them back to encourage healthy new growth.

An interesting indoor fern to try is the "brake fern," *Pteris cretica*.

Once a month, water your acid-loving house plants such as gardenia and citrus, using a solution of one teaspoon vinegar to one quart water.

Check plants on southern indoor windowsills. Low winter sun angles may cause scorching.

In potting a mixture of indoor plants, a variety in form and texture is important when designing a planting. Too many different types of plant material in a mixture should be avoided because it can create a confused or cluttered appearance as well as increase maintenance.

Make a sphagnum moss pole for vining plants. Use half-inch mesh hardware cloth and cut a piece 8—10 inches wide, depending on the diameter you want for the pole, and as long as desired. Roll the mesh into a cylinder; fasten together with wire, and stuff with moist, long-fiber sphagnum moss. Place it in the soil and train the vine up the pole. To water the vine, moisten the sphagnum. This also helps to anchor the plant to the pole.

Ice damage to woody plants occurs when high winds break heavily coated branches. Evergreens are more susceptible to snow damage than are deciduous plants as they have more foliage surface for snow accumulation.

Sterilize your tools, pots, and anything you use around your plants. Use one part household bleach to nine parts water. Soak for about fifteen minutes, rinse and dry.

REGINA'S BEIGNET RECIPE

My good friend from Falls Church, VA, Mary Frances Moriarty, passed this recipe on to me from one of her daughters-in-law. Beignets are associated with Mardi Gras, which falls on **February 21**, this year. I thought you might like to try this to chase away winter doldrums:

1/4 cup water (100°)
 1 pk yeast
 1/3 cup sugar
 3 cups flour
 1 1/2 t baking powder
 1/2 t salt
 4 T butter, cut up
 3/4 cup buttermilk (room temperature)
 1 egg
 Confectioner's sugar

Combine warm water with yeast and 1 t sugar in a small bowl for five minutes.

In a large bowl, sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, sugar.

Cut in butter

Stir milk and egg into yeast water.

Add yeast mixture to flour, making soft dough. Knead. Let rise. Punch down.

Roll out 9" square. Cut into six strips, then six pieces each. Let rise.

Bake at 400° for 10-12 minutes. Sprinkle with sugar.

Mary Frances reports that she has made this a couple of times and that it turned out differently each time, but it tasted good!



BEIGNET HISTORY

The word beignet (pronounced ben-YAY) comes from the early Celtic word bigne meaning "to raise." It is also French for "fritter." Traditionally, beignets, a New Orleans specialty, are fried, raised pieces of yeast dough, usually about 2 inches in diameter or 2 inches square. After being fried, they are sprinkled with sugar or coated with various icings.

The French colonists of the 18th century brought the recipe and custom of making beignets to New Orleans.



Just a reminder...



The 2012 Northwest Flower and Garden Show: "A Floral Symphony" is coming
February 8-12, 2012 to the Washington State Convention Center

If you haven't yet decided whether to go—if that can be possible—have a look at the website: <http://www.gardenshow.com/> If nothing else, the list of free seminars and the information about the speakers should entice you. Where else could you hear Rosalind Creasy, author of The Edible Garden, Jamie Durie, of HGTV fame, Lana Finegold, whom many of us know, Val Easton, Dan Hinkley, and Riz Reyes, whom many of us heard at the ELWD meeting, last September—to name a few?

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Hey, Get Ready...

By Jeanette Pruin, 2013 NGC Convention Chairman

A light rain is falling, but the sun is shining and you can feel the energy almost crackle... people are quicker to smile, and there is more bounce to their steps. It is spring in Seattle. Rain or shine, "RainShine," the Emerald City is awakening and all its beautiful gardens and trees are sending out new growth after the months of drizzle and cloud cover that is the maritime winter. This vibrant gardening mecca is the perfect setting for the upcoming National Garden Clubs Convention. It will be held at the downtown Sheraton Hotel May 24 - 26, 2013, and Pacific Region's own **Linda Nelson** is to be installed as the new National Garden Clubs President!



"He who is born with a silver spoon in his mouth is generally considered a fortunate person, but his good fortune is small compared to that of the happy mortal who enters this world with a passion for flowers in his soul."

Celia Thaxter



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It's time for the 15th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 17-20, 2012. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing – and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 92,000 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

"Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to get outside with family and friends, have fun, and help birds—all at the same time. Anyone who can identify even a few species can provide important information that enables scientists to learn more about how the environment is changing and how that affects our conservation priorities." - Judy Braus, Vice-President of Education & Centers, National Audubon Society.

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FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN WINTER

Derived from Fine Gardening, February 2009, No. 125. Reprinted from The Seedling, February, 2010, Falls Church Garden Club.



Winter Jasmine—9 feet tall and wide.
Full sun to light shade; well drained soil

Winter Aconite—3 to 5 inches tall and wide. Full sun to partial shade; moist, fertile soil



Witch Hazels—8 to 12 feet tall and wide. Full sun to partial shade; moist, fertile, well-drained soil

Algerian Iris—12 to 18 inches tall and wide. Full sun to light shade; well-drained soil



Hardy Cyclamen—2 to 4 inches tall; 6 to 12 inches wide. Partial to full shade; fertile, well drained soil

GARDEN DELIGHTS

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This month: Bamboo in PNW

