

GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

“My own philosophy about gardens is that they should have diversity, a happy mixture of strong design and careless rapture.”

Rosemary Verey, garden writer

March Meeting

March 13, 2013

Dianne Tanner has scheduled a special program this month. **Karen Chapman**, owner of **Le Jardin Designs**, a custom container garden design service, will talk to us about container design in her program titled **“Focus on Foliage.”** Here’s what Ms. Chapman has written about the program:

“Does your garden have a personality disorder – fabulous in spring but rather ‘vanilla’ for the rest of the year? Do your container gardens become a mere shadow of their former glory by August? When you build a design with a strong backbone of fabulous foliage those gardens will always be a talking point. Join local designer and author Karen Chapman as she demonstrates the planting of two unique container gardens that puts this simple technique into practice. Her new book **Fine Foliage** will be hot off the press and available for purchase/signing after the talk.”



Ms. Chapman will talk to us while she plant up two containers. She’ll have hand outs for us, and will have copies of her autographed book for sale for \$17. The books normally sell for \$16.95 plus tax, so she is giving us a little break on the price. Later in the meeting, each container, worth \$100 will be auctioned off. The proceeds will defray part or all of the speaker’s fee for this program.

We’ll also enjoy a design vignette shared by Joanne Dinken.

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

Don’t forget your contribution for the Food Bank! Last month, members contributed \$35 in addition to forty-nine pounds of food.

And don’t forget to bring your table setting!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Sopchoppy, Florida.

Lyle and I have moved 13 times during our 51 years of marriage and have had a great time learning to garden in WI, OR, WA, GA, CO and FL. Moving gave us a wonderful diversity in growing conditions and great list of garden club friends from each state!

Learning the **Art of Gardening, Art of Landscape Design, Art of Flower Arranging and Art of Environmental Stewardship** from our many National Garden Club groups has been what strengthens my love and commitment to OUR organization. I hope you are finding the same rewards.

Our current IGC year is half over but there are terrific things for you to participate in so stay alert and don't miss out. It is pretty amazing to see all of what has been offered so far at our meetings and projects by our members and speakers. I want to send a great big thank you to all of our volunteers. All of us can be proud to be a member of Issaquah Garden Club.

Thank you all for allowing me to be President. I think I have been garden club President for nine other clubs in my 45 years in National Garden Club. It is only possible now because of Cate, Dianne, Shadi and Jean and many others who are willing to step up to cover when I must travel. In today's busy world, it seems necessary to always be willing to do what you can and back up others when they need help. It takes creative approaches, hanging a bit loose and knowing the cause is worth the effort. Let's just keep on

keeping on. If you have suggestions for how to improve our meetings or projects, know we value your ideas. Please call, write, email, text or show up at my door step. IGC will be as good as what the members are willing to make it.

Three cheers because "YES WE CAN....YES, YES, YES!"

Two special notes:

On April 5th, members Karen Lee and I will be representing Issaquah Garden Club inside the artEAST Studio where they will be celebrating "Art in the Garden." Save the date and come downtown to enjoy the art and community and come visit us at the studio on Front Street in early evening.

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.

June Ann Hassebroek



Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour the night before!

POT-ET-FLEUR HOUSEPLANTS

A handsome group of houseplants gives a much more satisfying and dramatic effect than a single plant on its own. Plants thrive when they are placed together, generally benefiting from the humid atmosphere. To create a pot et fleur you can either replant them in a single shared container or group them near each other at different heights in a decorative container.

To add a festive touch, once you have the houseplants grouped, you can add cut blooms. Of course, you need to either put each blossom in an orchid tube with water or place a needlepoint pin cup holder filled with water in-between the plants. Basically, this is a flower arrangement but the greenery is growing and ready for the addition of flowers.

There are several methods of dealing with the houseplants. You can take them out of the pots they are growing in and slip them into plastic bags and then place them in a basket or decorative low container. You may need to tuck moss around the top so the plastic doesn't show. Naturally this is a more temporary arrangement but the plants will live for several months if you carefully add just enough water but don't cause them to sit in water. It is possible to line the container or basket with plastic and leave the houseplants in the pots they came from the nursery. Just group them and use moss to hide the rims of the containers. To use a basket, you will need to line it so the water does not come through and also have a method of containing the soil. It is probably better to find a nice looking planter that has proper drainage, select plants with the same light and water requirements and go ahead and plant your grouping. Remember to allow room in the center for holding the cut flowers. When planting directly

into the container, some designers place a layer of gravel in the base of the bowl plus a few pieces of charcoal to keep the soil sweet. Place the tallest plants toward the back. Some plants may need to be angled to flow attractively over edge of bowl. One suggested combination of plants might include Paradise Palm, Creeping Fig, Variegated dumb cane, Ribbon Fern, Maidenhair Fern and Variegated Ivy. You might also use African Violets or other blooming plants.

It is dramatic to put an artistic bare branch that reaches high above the plants. During various holidays you could then tie on appropriate color ribbons or hang Valentines or Easter Eggs from the branch. The plants are nice alone but ready for instant dressing up by adding additional cut flowers.

At flower shows, the designers get very creative with the Pot-et-Fleur. This kind of Exhibit is entered as a Creative Design with unusual staging and multiple levels all blending into a creative design. In competition, the containers should not imply "dish garden" or "planter" nor a "landscape" but rather "design." For more details about flower show competition, see the National Garden Club Handbook for Flower Shows, Page 207.

For our homes, creating a pot-et-fleur where you can easily slip in fresh flowers at a moment's notice can be very effective.

June Ann Hassebroek

[On the next page, you'll find pictures from the ELWD General Membership Meeting, of February 18, which included a program on "Pot-et-Fleur with Orchid" given by Mary Ireland, Director of the Chinook District.

The pictures were taken by Charlene Trent-Lewis.]

PICTURES FROM THE ELWD GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, FEBRUARY 18



One of Mary Ireland's Pot-et-Fleur with Orchid exhibits



Detail of the exhibit



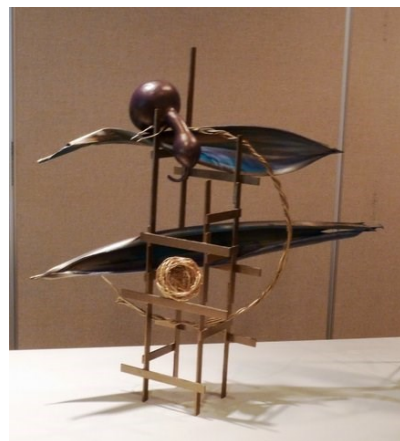
Judith Juno, State President, discussing armature arrangements



One of Judith Juno's arrangements



Brynn Tavasci, incoming State President, discussing armature arrangements



One of Brynn Tavasci's arrangements

**GROWING GREAT
GARDENERS. . . .
ISSAQUAH VALLEY ELE-
MENTARY SCHOOL**

Class Two: SUPER SEEDS

Hundreds of seeds are spouting at two day preparation intervals for the six classes that take place the first week in March.

Excitement is running high as the students watch the progression of activity in the raised beds. The soil has been turned and rich with the green manure seed growth. Beds are covered in plastic to warm the soil as we prepare for class time outside next week. Gravel has been spread around Mrs. Churchill's class bed which we reconstructed in September.

Bags of organic compost have been purchased. As half of each class visits their beds, we will talk about the benefits of a raised bed, soil type, slugs and we'll reinforce our last lesson that to grow, all gardens need sun, water, oxygen and soil. Then we will improve the soil by the students adding compost. This is always exciting as they each take a trowel and get hands on into the dirt! We look for worms and they are told that in months to come we will learn about Wonderful Worms. We will plant a few salad seeds at the end of their beds and cover with a cloche and keep plastic on the rest of the bed. Most of our planting will occur in April with both seeds and starts.

A ten minute full classroom time takes place before the division of the class. When half of the class goes to the garden, half are inside. The students inside hear a presentation about seed sprouts and mystery seed identification takes place. They complete worksheets on Miracle of the Seed work search. At the end of our class times with all students back in the classroom, we celebrate with popcorn.

I am sure that I will have stories to share at our March meeting.

Thank you all for the huge support that you give this program. It is a blessing to nurture these little ones. We are truly growing some great little gardeners.

Dianne Tanner

Betty Zink Memorial Website

Pete Zink emailed some of us to say that a website for Betty Zink was on-line. He asked that those interested visit the new homepage just published at:

<http://www.bettyzink.com>

Randi and Pete Zink have an enormous collection of flower arranging photographs which they intend to publish as a creative aid to you and other designers as they add all the content on art and flower arranging and other stuff to the website.

The family intends to distribute her collection to anyone who wants a piece of it. There are metal sculpture, glass, gourds, wood, pottery, one of a kind items and the largest collection of flower arranging related books Pete Zink has ever seen.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

What a great time we had, last month! Sally Cadranel graced our tables with pots of gorgeous red primroses for us to take home, our program given by Laura Sweany was informative and interesting, the Design Vignette about miniatures given by Rita was fascinating, our luncheon delicious, and the centerpiece on the luncheon table, beautiful! We owe a special thank you to Karen Bukantz for the Valentine favors and door prizes. We took in \$39.00 on the raffle, and collected another \$35.00 for the Food Bank! And the weather was nicer than expected.

Here are pictures Karen Lee took at the meeting:

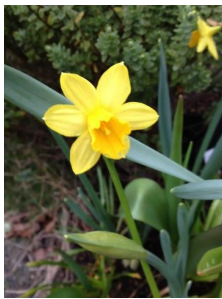


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This month: "Focus on Foliage," with Karen Chapman



**Karen Lee's picture,
posted on Facebook.**