



# GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

*"To dig one's own spade into one's own earth!  
Has life anything better to offer than this?"*

*Beverley Nichols, 1898-1953, author, playwright, journalist, composer, and public speaker. He is best remembered for his gardening books.*

## MAY MEETING

MAY 11, 2011

Following our business meeting, we'll enjoy a program by Bill Willard, "**Making Hypertufa Containers.**" **Hypertufa containers** were inspired by the British practice of converting barnyard watering troughs for use as planting containers. The popularity of this art soon pretty much exhausted the supply of the real thing and gardeners, ever resourceful, began to seek alternatives. There are a number of recipes for hypertufa and a search of the internet will provide quite a few options. Bill has tried several and prefers the Portland cement, peat moss, sand combination, which produces a heavy, extremely durable stone-like container that seems to endure indefinitely.

Bill will distribute a handout so attendees can follow along with him as he explains the steps (questions welcomed). He will bring a form ready to be removed from the mold and will finish it off for us. Bill will go through his handout and answer questions along the way. He will bring a piece ready to take out of the mold and finish it before it sits for the "final cure."

Then we'll enjoy an International Luncheon, prepared by Hostess Rita Hansen and those who've volunteered to bring dishes: Barbara Brigham, Gail Holmstrom, June Ann Hassebroek, Jessica Liepins, Louise Luce, Cate Mueller, Dianne Tanner, Laura Walker, June Willard, and Sandy Young. **Members are asked to bring a fancy cup and saucer, a luncheon plate and utensils. If they would also like to bring a fancy napkin, that would add to the festivities.**

**Please don't forget your contribution to the Issaquah Food Bank!** In April, members contributed 58 lbs of food for the Food Bank.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our April meeting and program turned out to be such a success! Our lecture, by Ann Chandler, was so enjoyable and informative. I especially liked the quote about roses being like teenagers—always hungry! I could relate to that, as I'm sure many of you could.

I, for one, am still waiting for Spring to arrive. The few clear, sunny days lead us on to expect pleasant weather to come, whenever that will be! Meanwhile, we slog through wet grass and look for signs that we haven't lost the plants we fear have died.

I have so many members to thank for their help this year that I hardly know where to start: Laura Walker, our Vice-President, who has provided us with such worthwhile programs; Michele Peltonen, for her work on the August Garage Sale, and her continuing work, creating our Yearbook, on Ways and Means and the E.A.T. Committee; Sherran Whatley and Jessica Liepins and all those who worked on the November Auction; our luncheon hostesses, Jean Pass, and Martha Huey Franklin, for their work to provide us with such enjoyable fare; Dianne Tanner, for her work with the Issaquah Valley Elementary Young Gardeners program; June Willard and Kaeren Bukantz and volunteers who completed flower arrangements for the Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center; and Sylvia Watson, for making sure our donations went to the Issaquah Food Bank. And I thank those who helped at our two potting parties last month. I do realize that I've left out some names I ought to have listed. Please know that I am grateful to all of you!

I know our Plant Sale on May 21, under the leadership of Laura Walker, will be a smashing success. I wish I could be there that day. I'm watching over the many plants our member came here to pot, last month, and hoping

that the deer I haven't seen since last July don't find them!

I look forward to seeing you next week. We should have a fine time and enjoy an interesting program and scrumptious lunch.

**Cate**

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## CLUB DUES FOR 2011-2012

A reminder: if you have not already done so, please bring cash or a check to pay your dues for the coming year! Thus far we have only 16 paid members out of the present roster of 44

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## IGC OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

At our April meeting, the following members were elected to serve as officers for the coming year:

**Cate Mueller, President**

**Sandy Young, Vice-President**

**Michele Peltonen, Secretary**

**Jackie Maresca Treasurer**

These officers will be installed at the May Meeting.

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## EASTER GARDEN THERAPY

On April 21, members, under the direction of June Willard and Karen Bukantz, met to complete seventeen flower arrangements at the Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Those who helped were Audrey Ellingsen, Joan Harris, June Ann Hassebroek, Joanne Morgan, Dianne Tanner, and Shadi Wang.



## OUR PLANT SALE

If you haven't already done so, please pot up any plants you wish to donate to our sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 21, at Joanne Morgan's home. Please identify your donations as to species, height, light requirements, and color of bloom, if applicable. Please provide any information that will help the new owner. If you have excess pots of any size, you might bring them to our May meeting or to the potting/pricing party cited below.

We will hold a potting/pricing party at Cate Mueller's home on **Wednesday, May 18**. There will be a sign-up sheet at our May meeting. We will also have a sign-up sheet for those who can pick up plants at Cate's on Friday, May 20, to bring them to Joanne's at 8 AM on Saturday, May 21.

This is the third of our fund-raising activities for the 2010-2011 year. The monies we raise will be used to make budgetted donations to various foundations and projects and will help ensure we'll start the new year on a sound financial basis.

In addition, this annual sale is anticipated by the community, offering us an outreach opportunity. We get to meet and help the public, perhaps gaining potential members, and we get to share a pleasant day with fellow members.

Please do join us in either preparing for the sale in advance, or working on that day. We will greatly appreciate all you can do and all plants you can donate. We thank you in advance for your assistance.



## GARDENING IN MAY

Slugs and snails are out in full force right now. Be sure to take steps to control them now, before they have a chance to reproduce and devastate your garden.

Sharpen your lawn mower blade monthly since a dull blade can pull grass blades from the plant. This damage makes the lawn less attractive and less healthy.

Save money on mulch materials by using 1 to 2 inches of wood chips before spreading 2 inches of decorative shredded bark. Wood chips are less expensive than shredded bark and last longer. Keep mulch several inches away from the trunks of trees and shrubs so air can circulate near the trunk discouraging diseases, and so that rodents will not feed on the bark.

Grass clippings can be used as a mulch in flower beds and vegetable gardens if allowed to dry well before use. Fresh, damp grass clippings will mat and may attract pests. Never use clippings from a lawn that has been treated with an herbicide.

Transplants become less stressed when they are set out on a cloudy, calm day. Set out plants in the late afternoon when the wind calms down and the plants have overnight to acclimate. Provide shade and wind protection with berry baskets, small crates, or screens. Mulching helps since it lowers the rate at which water evaporates from the soil and controls the soil temperature.

Make cleaning and oiling garden tools quick and easy by keeping a five-gallon pail of coarse sand near your tool storage area. Moisten the sand with used motor oil. Whenever you return tools to storage, all you have to do to keep them clean and rust free is to plunge them a few times into the sand.

## DEER RESISTANT ANNUALS

In response to a request from a member, your editor completed some research. Rutgers has a valuable website: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/default.asp>.

**The following are seldom severely damaged or rarely damaged by deer:**

Batchelor’s Buttons *Centaurea cyanus*  
 Basil *Ocimum basilicum*  
 Borage *Borago officinalis*  
 California Poppy *Eschscholzia californica*  
 Cock’s Comb *Celosia sp.*  
 Dill *Anethum graveolens*  
 French Marigold *Tagetes patula*  
 Lantana *Lantana sp.*  
 Lobelia *Lobelia sp.*  
 Nasturtium *Tropaeolum majus*  
 Parsley *Petroselinum crispum*  
 Salvia *Salvia*  
 Shiso *Perilla frutescens*  
 Stocks *Matthiola sp.*  
 Verbena *Verbena x hybrida*  
 Wallflower *Cheiranthus sp.*  
 Zinna *Zinnia sp.*

The caveat is: “Success of any of these plants in the landscape will depend on local deer populations and weather conditions.” So, let’s hope the deer are few and other, more desirable food is plentiful!

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### BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN Mother’s Day Celebration at the Garden

**Mother’s Day Social  
 Sunday, May 8th, 1 - 4 pm**

- It is a time to honor our mothers, enjoy the beauty of our gardens, and share refreshments with friends and family.

- This year, it is also a great time to celebrate plans for the Garden’s Ravine project, which we expect to break ground this year. The New Ravine Experience Garden plans will be available for viewing during this event.\*\*
- The event is free and open to all.
- Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather.
- Stroll the Garden on your own, or enjoy the expertise of our docents. Docent-guided tours will be available all day.
- Sign-up as a New Member to the Garden Society on May 8th and receive a complimentary copy of our book *the Bellevue Botanical Garden, Celebrating the First 15 Years* by Marty Wingate (regular price is \$19.95). A great gift for mom!

\*\*You will want to know that a check for \$100.00 will be sent by IGC to the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society for native plants for the under story of the suspension bridge of the new Ravine Experience Garden.

**Garden Tours** now offered every Saturday and Sunday at 2pm through October; no reservations needed. Also, you can arrange a free guided tour of the Bellevue Botanical Garden for your group. Wonderful for any group and a great way to entertain out-of-town guests. To make a reservation with at least two weeks notice: 425.451.3755 or [bbgsoffice@bellevuebotanical.org](mailto:bbgsoffice@bellevuebotanical.org).

In addition, Plant ID tours are given on the following Saturdays at 1 pm (no reservations needed): May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug 13 and Sept 10.



## **PLANT SALES**

Again, this month, there are all sorts of plant sales, the most important to us, of course, is our own plant sale on **May 21!**

### **MsK Rare Plant Nursery Annual Mothers' Day Sale & Open House**

Thursday, May 5, 2011 - Sunday, May 8, 2011

### **Lake Wilderness Arboretum Spring Plant Sale**

Friday, May 6, 10 AM-6 PM; Saturday, May 7, 10 AM-4 PM

### **King County Master Gardener Foundation Plant Sale & Learning Fair**

Saturday, May 7, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Sunday, May 8, 10 AM to 3 PM

Sale held at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, WA 98195

### **Kubota Garden Spring Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sale held at Kubota Garden, 9817 51st Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

### **Pine Lake Garden Club Annual Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sale held at Sammamish Presbyterian Church, 22522 NE Inglewood Hill Rd, Sammamish, WA 98074

### **The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Mother's Day Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Sale held at Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden, 2525 S 336th St, Federal Way, WA

### **Greater Seattle Fuchsia Society Annual Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

A great variety of fuchsias, perennials, geraniums & tomatoes will be available. 12735 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177

### **Seattle Tilth's Issaquah Edible Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

More information: [www.seattletilth.org/special\\_events/issaquahplantsale](http://www.seattletilth.org/special_events/issaquahplantsale) or 206-633-0451. Vegetable & herb varieties hand-selected by Seattle Tilth experts to perform well in the Pacific NW climate. This is a great place to get hot season crops. Check website for complete plant list. Held at the Issaquah Farmer's Market at the Pickering Barn. 1730 10th Ave NW, Issaquah, WA 98027

For a full list of sales, please refer to this website, of the Elizabeth Miller Library of UW:  
<http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/calendar/sales.php>



## GROWING GARDENERS PROGRAM

All members should be aware of the great impact that IGC has made in the lives of 153 Issaquah Valley Elementary first graders and their teachers. All participating in the program have exhibited excitement as we started classes with our “Kick Off to Spring” (in February, no less!) class room presentation of garden tools, story of “Growing Vegetable Soup,” the food pyramid, activity sheets and a tour out to each of their raised beds.

March brought “Super Seeds,” with mystery seeds being viewed, examination of sprouts and popcorn, outdoor behavior reviewed and trip to the beds to turn soil, add worms, and sow a few seeds under large water cooler bottle terrariums. In April, we had “Wonderful Worms” and “Rockin Roots” in the classroom. The students learned about root vegetables, viewed root growth through clear containers, and directly sowed lettuce seeds, as well as twelve starts in each bed. We ended with a mini-carrot munch. April seeding of radishes, nasturtium, cosmos, marigolds, weeding and fish emulsion will take place in their gardens. Inside we will have a skit “Room to Grow,” and talk about stems. . . . celery will be served. June will bring harvest and our Salad Bowl Celebration.

The new shed has been such a blessing to all of us who tend the gardens. A plaque is being purchased by the school PTA and will be installed on the building, naming us as one of the donors. **Thank you ALL!** We are truly creating the knowledge and love of gardening in many of these little ones.

**Dianne Tanner**

### GARDEN DELIGHTS

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