



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

“A woodland in full color is awesome as a forest fire, in magnitude at least, but a single tree is like a dancing tongue of flame to warm the heart.”

Hal Borland, American author and journalist

NOVEMBER MEETING

November 9, 2011

Our speaker this month will be **Nancy Claire Guth**, owner of **Artistic Garden Concepts**, the landscape design company she founded in 1999. She states of her work, “Even on my worst days, I don’t ever question that I found what I was born to do.” Northwest Home and Garden Magazine wrote of her: “With three Northwest Flower and Garden Shows to her credit, Nancy Claire Guth knows how to create engaging outdoor spaces that are both memorable and livable...”

Ms. Guth will tell us about **rain garden design**. She explains that, “Long before the buzzword ‘Raingardens’ came into being, she was creating depressions next to the berms in her designs. The runoff has to go somewhere, right? Add correct soil, correct plants, and you’re not just solving a problem, you’re adding dimension, beauty, habitat, and interest to your garden.

“Nancy will dispel myths, correct mistakes, and simplify the process of building and caring for a rain garden.”



This is the rain garden Nancy designed for the 2011 NW Flower and Garden Show.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Rain! Lots of it, it seems. I shouldn’t be so surprised. But I AM grateful for intermittent days of sun to get the grass cut. Regardless of weather, I still seem to be scrambling around the slope to the far side of my stream, cutting back ivy and digging up more blackberries. If I could just plant the perennials and shrubs I’ve purchased lately, I’d be ready for winter...

I hope you enjoyed our program in October as much as I. Rita Moore gave us insight into the lives of Native Americans in the Seattle area—I was taken by how interesting her program was.

And again, last month, we enjoyed a delicious lunch, graced by Dianne’s handsome floral arrangement. My thanks goes to Dianne and all the members who contributed to our luncheon.

Our business meeting this month should be a piece of cake—we’ll plan for the floral arrangements we’ll do at the Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center in preparation for their Thanksgiving. We’ll note plans for the plant sale in May, the flower show in June, and the garage sale during the summer.

I look forward to seeing you on November 9!

Cate Mueller



June Ann Hassebroek’s floral design for the ELWD Flower Show, 9/26



Sally Cadranell’s floral design for the ELWD Flower Show, 9/26

FOOD BANK DONATION

Sylvia Watson reports that in October garden club members were very generous. She delivered **fifty-nine pounds** of food and various other items to the Issaquah Food Bank. **Please don’t forget your donation this month!**

WE GO GREEN
As you prepare for our meeting, please don’t forget to bring your place setting—at least your coffee cup or mug and utensils

IGC PLANT SALE

If you do so soon, you still have time to designate plants for our sale next spring. Some perennials may be lifted now and moved to a “holding spot” in your garden. Then you may bring them to a potting party next April.

And...we still need pots, quart-, gallon- or two gallon-size. If you wish, you might bring these to the meeting next week to be stored in Cate Mueller’s “back forty.”

You might also start collecting shallow cardboard boxes if you have a place to store them.



HORTICULTURE DISPLAY

Earlier this month, The Daily Dirt E-newsletter to which I subscribe, pointed me to a fall display created at the University of Tennessee.



“Hundreds visit the creative display of pumpkins, gourds and squash at the University of Tennessee Education and Research Center in Jackson each year. Research horticulturist Jason Reeves spent three days building the project, which remains up for viewing through Thanksgiving. “Growers can use his ideas to make their own displays better,” said Dr. Bob Hayes, research center director.”



You might wish to read the article that appeared in Graham’s Outdoor Living:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2008/oct/24/art-of-produce/>

OVER-WINTERING GERANIUMS

Many gardeners plant geraniums—really *pelargonium*—either in pots or in the landscape for summer. They’re handsome and showy and are usually no-fuss. But during the fall comes the dilemma...these are native to South Africa and they won’t survive a freeze. So, do we discard them after the first frost turns them to mush, or do we try to save them?

If you’ve kept your geraniums in pots then all you need to do is bring them indoors before the first frost and place them under grow lights in your basement or other cool location in the house. If you have a lot of geraniums and not much room, you’ll keep only the healthiest ones. Trim the larger leaves and if the plants are very large, prune them back to about 8 to 10 inches tall. Do not overwater during the winter; however, you can fertilize once a month.

If the geraniums are planted in the garden, you have a couple of options. You can pot them up after first trimming them as described above. Or you can take 4-inch cuttings of the plants (just below the node) and let the plants themselves die back. Place the cuttings in standard indoor potting soil—don’t use rooting hormone—to root and grow. Make sure you don’t overwater them. Alternatively, the cuttings can be rooted in water. After the cuttings root, these can then be planted in peat pots until fully rooted. Then they can be repotted into 4 inch pots and kept in a cool room and watered weekly or so and fertilized once a month.

Another option is to hang the trimmed plants upside down in the garage, and hope. Whatever leaves remain will shrivel, dry up and fall off, and the plant itself may shrivel. At the first sign of new growth in the spring, pot them up. Sometimes it works...sometimes it doesn’t— it may be worth a try...

THINGS TO DO IN NOVEMBER

Rough plow or spade garden plots containing heavy, clay soil. Added organic matter and lime, if indicated by a soil test. Leave the soil rough—winter's thawing and freezing will break up the clods and kill some of the insects and slugs overwintering in the soil. A rough soil surface also catches more moisture and reduces erosion.

Remember to pull the spark plug before storing your lawn mower for the winter. Check for carbon build-up and replace, if needed.

As soon as chrysanthemums are through flowering, remove the stalks to within a few inches of the ground. This will help root development and make plants send out vigorous sprouts in the spring. Some may be lifted and heeled into the cold frame. Plants for potting can be propagated from the side sprouts that will develop next May. Dispose of stems and all dropped and dried leaves and branches.

Mice chew off the bark of fruit trees at ground level or below and often completely girdle a tree, causing it to die. To reduce this damage, keep mulch pulled away from the base of the tree and examine mulch frequently for the presence of mice.

You need to renew your landscape periodically. Most shrubs need to be replaced every fifteen to twenty years—less frequently than the furniture and décor inside the house!

As with all living things, plants have a life span and eventually will need to be replaced.

A November application of fertilizer is very beneficial to a lawn of cool-season grasses. It promotes root development without excessive top growth. With a strong root system, your lawn will be better able to withstand drought conditions next summer.

Brown leaf edges develop on some potted tropical plants when grown indoors. To keep these plants looking their best, use sharp scissors and trim away dried portions of leaves, following the natural shape of the leaves.

Cut back water garden plants killed by frost. Remove any dead or decaying organic matter from the pond. Winterize your water garden according to manufacturer's instructions.

After frost, cut back unattractive, dead perennial foliage to neaten the appearance of the winter garden. Some flowers and foliage, such as Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Festuca, Penisetum, Miscanthus, and others, offer interesting character and texture to a garden. They can be left in the garden and enjoyed until February.

Take a walk through your gardens as the fall season winds down. Take time to reflect on the successes and failures of your gardens this year. Make notes in your gardening notebook for new things to try and things to fix next spring.

Keep the compost heap moist to aid in the decay process. Turn the pile to mix in all late fall additions. Add fertilizer residues from nearly empty bags onto the pile and mix.

Add pine needle mulch to the rock garden to reduce erosions, conserve soil moisture, provide humus, and protect plants.

Potted geraniums grown indoors should be allowed to become somewhat dry before being watered. They need plenty of sun to promote vigorous growth and flowering.

Pine cones and seed pods of many plants, such as redbud and milkweed, add a beautiful touch to holiday ornaments. You can still collect many of these if you take a walk through a park or a weedy field.

CORN CHOWDER

This recipe was printed in the October issue of the newsletter of the Black Hills District. I thought IGC members might wish to try it:

“This is the corn chowder recipe that was served at the District meeting in March. Mickey Grant-Robinson of the Black Hills Designers provided this for the members to make.

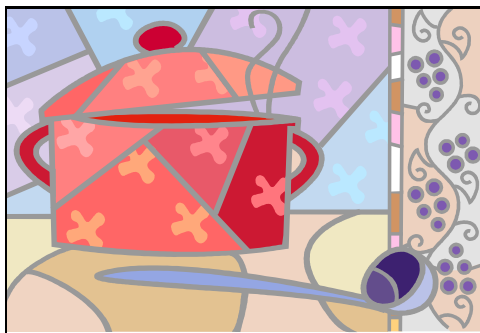
1/2 lb bacon, cut in small pieces
 1 cup diced celery
 1 medium onion, diced
 3 medium carrots, diced
 1/2 cup butter (optional)

In a skillet cook bacon; remove from pan; add the butter and sauté celery, onions and carrots until onions are clear. (7-10 minutes) Add 3 cups chicken broth and simmer for 30 minutes. Then add:

2 (15 1/2 oz) cans whole kernel corn, drained
 2 (15 oz) cans creamed style corn
 1 can evaporated milk
 3-4 dashes of Tabasco sauce

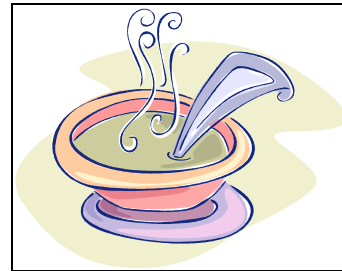
Simmer for 30 minutes

You can add more milk for thinner soup or flour mixed with chicken broth to thicken the soup. Just before serving add salt and pepper to taste and—optional—1/4 cup of chopped parsley.”



PUMPKIN BISQUE

[It's a good thing it's "soup weather." Your editor is a little desperate, this month. So... Here's a recipe I've had since 2003, taken from The Diabetic Newsletter.]



Ingredients

1 Tsp canola oil
 1 leek, white part only, finely chopped
 1 yam or sweet potato, peeled, halved lengthwise and cut in 1/2 inch slices
 1/4 tsp dried thyme leaves
 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, seeded and coarsely chopped
 4 Cups non-fat, reduced-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
 1 can (16 oz.) pureed pumpkin
 Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
 4 tsp finely-minced chives, for garnish

Directions: In a large, heavy saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sauté the leek and apple until the leek softens, about 4 minutes. Add the broth, yam, pumpkin and thyme. Bring the soup to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat and simmer until the yam and apple are soft when pierced with a knife, about 20 to 25 minutes. Transfer the soup to a blender or food processor and puree. Divide among six bowls, Garnish, if desired, with the chives, and serve.

Per serving: 82 calories, 3 grams total fat (> 1 gram saturated fat), 14 grams carbohydrate, 2 grams protein, 4 grams dietary fiber, 392 mg. sodium. Diabetic Exchanges: 2 vegetable, 1/2 bread/starch.

CAMASSIA

In our search for the “new and exotic,” sometimes we overlook a native plant that grows right under our noses. Such a plant is camassia. Hardy between USDA zones 5 and 10, camassia or camas lily is a spring flowering bulb native to the Western US and Canada including California and Nevada, north to British Columbia. Considered a wetland indicator species in the wild, in the garden it thrives in full sun and moist organically rich soils. Of the six varieties, there are a couple one might try: large camas, (*Camassia leichtlinii*), or small camas, (*Camassia quamash*).

The showy 6-petaled creamy whitish-yellow, and blue or purple flowers of the camas lily are star-shaped. Growing in terminal racemes along the stem, they bloom from April to May and sometimes as late as June. Growing to a height of about 2.5 to 4 feet tall, camas lily is an ideal cut flower. Camas lily should be planted in large groups of 15 or more for full effect. Use it in a woodland setting, wildflower meadows, or at pond and watercourse edges. As with most bulbs, the foliage does die down so it’s not a stand-alone specimen plant.

Although camas lily is a bulb, it will grow from seed and under favorable conditions, it may naturalize and become a “pest.” Camas lily is one of those plants that, botanically has been hard to categorize. According to the Pacific Bulb Society, they have been considered in the Lilaceae family, the Scilloideae family, the Hyacinthaceae, and now with DNA studies have been assigned to the Agavaceae family.

GARDEN DELIGHTS

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

www.IssaquahGardenClub.org

This month: Rain Gardens



Camassia leichtlinii