



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club Newsletter—April 2008
Michele Peltonen, Editor

Only two more meetings in this garden club season before we break for summer and get down to work in our own gardens in earnest. We have much to do in these next two months. The election officers, the plant sale and the flower show are all coming up. There will also be several committee chair positions to fill for the upcoming year. So please be thinking of how you might contribute to the club. - Michele

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is recruiting candidates to stand for election as club officers for the coming 2008-2009 year. Elections are to be held at our April meeting and candidates are needed for all positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. But to date no one has volunteered. If we are unable to fill these positions we may have to consider dissolving the club. If you are willing to stand for election, please contact Jeanette Mahoney at jmahoney65@msn.com or 425-313-0377.

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

April 9th – AVANT DESIGN GUILD

As some of you are already aware, we have many talented floral designers in our club. Quite a few of those members are also members of the Avant Design Guild. At our April meeting we will be treated to a design demonstration by Avant, just in time to inspire us for the in-club Flower Show in May.

April 16th – RHODY FIELD TRIP

The rhododendrons will be at the height of their glory in mid-April. So we have planned an impromptu field trip to the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and Pacific Rim

Bonsai Collection on the Weyerhaeuser Corporate Campus in Federal Way for Wednesday, April 16th. We will meet at 10 am in the parking lot of the QFC on Gilman Blvd so those who would like to carpool can group. We will at 10:15 am. If you prefer, you can drive to the gardens directly and try to meet up with us (but it is a big place).

This is not an organized tour. We will be on our own to meander as we like. You can stay together or split up as your interests dictate. Just be sure to coordinate with the folks you drove with as to how and when to get back together to return home. Everyone is on their own for lunch. There is no café on site, but some may choose to stop at a local restaurant before returning home. If the weather is fair, bag lunches may be an option.

Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Current hours are 10 am to 4 pm (closed Thursdays). Admission is \$5 or \$3 for seniors. Address: 2525 South 336th St., Federal Way. Info: 253-661-9377 or www.rhodygarden.org



R. ciliicalyx

May 3rd - IGC PLANT SALE

I hope you have already started seeds or potted up extras from your garden for the club's plants on May 3rd. We still need help the day of the sale. Accompanying this newsletter will be a sign-up schedule. If you have already signed up, thank you! If you have not yet signed up, please check out the schedule and let me know what position you might be able to fill. Positions will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Some of you have provided me with information about the plants you will be contributing. But I would really like to have information on all the plants before the sale so that I can provide the sales volunteers with preprinted comprehensive plant lists. Send me a list by email or give me a call (425-603-0711).

It is important that all plants be delivered to the sales sight by 7:30 am so that they can be priced and shelved by the time the sale opens to the public. If you cannot deliver your plants that morning, please contact me to make other arrangements beforehand.

PS. No mint or plants on the noxious weed list.

GARDEN MEMORY *My parents were not "gardeners" but they each had their own area of some success in the garden. My Mom always grew a few tomato plants in a small plot against the house in our very ordinary 60's era suburban neighborhood. That spot got the sun all day long as well as the reflection from the standard issue white stucco and the tomatoes grew well. Dad's thing was the lawn. The yard was just weeds and rock when we bought the house, never having been touched since the construction process several years before. He spent many, many weekends raking and grading. Being the engineer that he is, he even got out the surveying equipment to make sure the slope was just so. The final touch to his masterpiece was a pick-up truck load of chicken manure. The manure was off-loaded into a nice pile about 5 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. I was standing on the back gate of the pick-up truck and being only 8 or 9 I did not really understand what chicken manure was. And a sprinkling of sawdust over the top of the pile (to quell the odor) made it look like a nice big pile of dirt. Just what a little tom boy like me should jump on - right? So jump I did and the manure went right up and over and into my boots. Well, the upshot of the story was that Dad got a beautiful green lawn, Mom (who got a few shovels-full out of the pile) got extra good tomatoes for several years, they both got an embarrassing story about their daughter that they love to tell new acquaintances and I never got to wear those boots again. - Michele Peltonen*

May 14th - IGC FLOWER SHOW

IGC will be holding a small standard flower show at our May meeting. A copy of the flower show schedule accompanies this newsletter. We hope many of you will participate. There are two non-judged design categories so if you are a beginner don't be shy. Even if you don't enter a floral design, do bring one or more horticultural specimens from you garden. It's wonderful to see what treasures other members are growing to get ideas for our own gardens!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earth Day - Earth Day festivities will be held on April 19th, 9 am to 2 pm at Pickering Barn.

Tree City USA Award - A Tree City USA award will be presented to the City of Issaquah at the regular council meeting on April 21st at 7:30 pm, City Hall South (135 E Sunset Way). As past Arbor Day partners, all Issaquah Garden members are invited to attend.

Arbor Day - the Issaquah Arbor Day Festival will be held on April 26th from 11 am to 3 pm at Grand Ridge Elementary.

