



GARDEN DELIGHTS

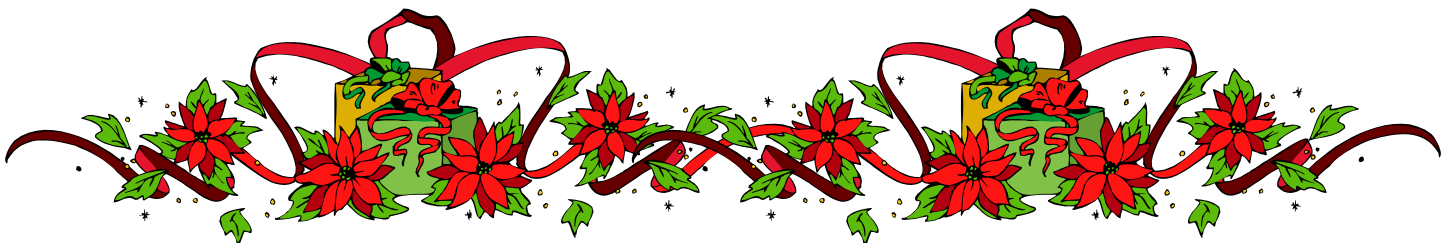
Issaquah Garden Club
December, 2008

Holiday Meeting

December 10, 2008

What a splendid time we'll have at our December meeting! Following our business meeting, we'll enjoy a program, "Gather Around the Table," at which Jessica Liepins and friends will present holiday table ideas. Jessica will present a holiday table setting. Members of Avant, Janel Garnet, Rita Hansen, Karen Lee, Dianne Tanner, Sherran Whatley, and June Willard, will discuss the table centerpieces they've each brought. They'll inspire us to create holiday tables, decorating with lovely themes and schemes.

Following this program, we'll partake of a splendid Christmas spread, including a wild turkey and stuffing, a ham, vegetables, salads, and all sorts of other delicious foods our members have signed up to bring. (Rita Hansen will be contacting those who volunteered, to remind them, next week.)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I left Tibbett's Creek Manor after our November meeting with a heart that was singing, despite my having the flu.

How do I start to share with you the feelings of gratitude to all who worked so diligently to make today the grand success that it was? Where do I begin?

At the beginning--with the Auction Committee: Dianne Tanner, June Willard and Sherran Whatley. Thank you and kudos' to all three of you and to Dianne's husband, Doug, for his help.

What a masterful job Dianne has done in masterminding the event, organizing our auction items, and orchestrating the flow of the auction. Thanks to Karen Bukantz for being our Auctioneer. And, Sherran, thank you for taking charge in the kitchen.

Thank you to everyone who gave the items that made our auction so diverse AND all of you who were present. Thank you to all who purchased items. And, thank you to our guests for taking the time to attend.

My heartfelt thanks go to Karen Lee for her masterful work on our yearbooks. Thank you, Karen.

Next, we will celebrate the season with a traditional meal. I wait impatiently.

Geneme' Keyser

"The fair-weather gardener, who will do nothing except when the wind and weather and everything else are favorable, is never a master of his craft."

Henry Ellacombe

IGC AUCTION

Fun was had by all as our annual auction took place during the last meeting. All of the great food provided by members was enjoyed by all members and guests. Yummy!!!!

Without all the many donations by members, community and friends we could not have had such a successful event which raised \$ 1,632.00

A special thanks Sherran Whatley , co-chair, for helping with set up and running the whole kitchen operation. Thanks to Gail Holmstrom for bid number sign up and help with set up; Michelle Peltonen for set up; June Willard and Joan Fields for excellent recording and check out; and to our auctioneer Karen Bukantz. Good job, everyone!

Again ALL of you made this a great success reaching over our goal. Thank you !

Dianne Tanner

BETTY ZINK HONORED

A certificate was presented to Betty Zink for 45 years of National Garden Club membership at the October 27 joint meeting of our District's two design guilds (Avant Designers and ELWAGS Designers). She was presented with the Certificate, an armful of beautiful roses and bushels of well wishes and love.



GARDEN THERAPY AT ISSAQUAH CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER

Beauty was the key at the Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center when we decorated the dining room tables with ravishing floral arrangements for the Thanksgiving Holiday!

Issaquah Garden Club members provided beautiful and bountiful floral center pieces for dining room tables at the Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center (formerly The Issaquah Gardens), for the residents, families, visitors and staff to enjoy.

We make table designs four times during the garden club year. The remaining dates are **December 17th, February 12th, and April 9th**. We work from 10:00 AM (for a couple of hours at most) in the basement work room at the Care Center.

For the work session on Wednesday, December 17, please bring your clippers and plenty of greens for fifteen tables and two larger arrangements. I will bring the cider and donuts and we'll meet in the lobby.

Thanks to Joann Morgan and Jeannette Mahoney for making the Thanksgiving and Christmas bows. Thanks to Geneme' Keyser, Karen Lee, Rita Hansen, and Jeanette Mahoney. for your help and creativity in making the Thanksgiving arrangements.

If you want to help Dec. 17th, call or e-mail Karen Bukantz; (425) 427-0711 or karenb99@comcast.net.

Join us in the fun and service of this committee, a great way to share and practice your design skills—or learn from others— while giving a beautiful gift.

Karen Bukantz

Issaquah Historical Society Historical Gilman Town Hall Native Plants Gardens

Issaquah Garden Club started this project in early 2003. IGC members researched plants used in the landscape plan and developed a handout to educate visitors who stop at the Museum and the native plant gardens. The Project was funded by IGC, supported by The Principal Financial Group and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Issaquah Garden Club members designed, renovated and planted native plants in the front gardens of the Historical Gilman Town Hall, (1888). Native plants used are representative of an earlier era. Pioneers, including Native Americans, used the plants for medicinal and useful purposes. Issaquah Historical Society houses a museum in the Gilman Town Hall that interprets the town's history and the pioneer way of life. Local residents, school tours and tourists visit to learn more about the community and see the first civic structure in Issaquah. Our goal was to plant native plants that the pioneers used in those early years.

We maintain these two little Native Plant Gardens for the Issaquah Historical Society. To maintain these gardens, we need volunteers to help weed and clean up the plants. If you can help contact: **Rita Hansen** by telephone at 425-392-2108 or by email at: ritahansen@brigadoon.net (Members who have signed up already are reminded that limited care is needed in the gardens over the winter.)



ISSAQUAH HISTORY MUSEUM Holiday Open House

On Saturday, December 6, the Issaquah History Museums will host its annual holiday open house at the Issaquah Train Depot, 50 Rainier Boulevard North. The event will run from 11 AM to 4 PM and is open to the public, free of charge. There will be homemade cookies, coffee, and cocoa, as well as activities for the whole family to enjoy. Live music will also add to the festive atmosphere.

Ten local crafters will be at the Depot to sell hand-made items. This is a perfect opportunity to stock up on gifts and stocking stuffers. Items for sale will include teddy bears, candles, embroidered pieces, books, t-shirt kits, children's items, and other hand-made articles.

The Issaquah Historical Society, in partnership with the Downtown Issaquah Association, is pleased to present Santa Claus, who will take time out of his busy holiday schedule to chat with children and have pictures taken. Children may visit with Santa from 11 AM to 2 PM. Bring your camera and take a memorable holiday photo.

While waiting for Santa, kids will have an opportunity to do a craft based on old fashioned holiday ornaments in the Issaquah History Museum's collection. Kids will have a chance to examine the antique ornaments, learn a bit of painless history, and take home a decoration they have made themselves. This activity is free, although parents are asked to register their children in advance to ensure enough supplies will be on hand.

Please contact Karen Klein for more information about the open house or to register your children for the craft: by telephone at 425/392-3500, or by E-mail at volunteer@issaquahhistory.org.

BBG EVENT

Here is a way you can help the Bellevue Botanical Garden without having to clean up the Native Discovery beds and pathways of debris, or plant in the Native Discovery Garden! And you can see the lights displays and watch people delight over the birds, animals and flowers!

Greeters are needed for the Garden d'Lights event, November 29 through January 3. Shifts are from 5:00 to 7:30 PM and 7:30 It is a wonderful, warm, indoor job. All you do is wear a volunteer tag, answer questions, and get all the credit for the lights!

Answers to the most commonly asked questions (like where's the bathroom) will be provided. To sign up, go to the automated website - www.mysignup.com/gardendlights. If you sign up and find your plans change, you can easily "sign down."

ISSAQUAH FOOD BANK

Members are reminded that we voted to continue our support of the Food Bank, following our contribution made in October. The Food Bank has expressed the particular need for the following items: peanut butter, flour, sugar, and jam. Items like beans and rice can also be used.

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL

You are reminded that Dianne Tanner MUST receive entries to the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster competition by January 7. Please contact Dianne for more information regarding this competition for first through fifth-graders,

WSFGC Holiday Show *Holiday Memories*

Congratulations to our Issaquah Garden Club member who won awards at the WSFGC show, November 7 and 8.

Joanne Dinken earned a 1st place in Special Exhibit for her decorated frame.

Rita Hansen, 1st place for 3 entries: *Pteris japonica* (Andromeda japonica) "Lily of the Valley", *Chrysanthemum parthenium* "Feverfew"; and *Hydrangea* "Shooting Star."

June Willard, 1st place in Horticulture for *Sciadopitys verticillata* (Umbrella Pine), *Thuja plicata* (Deerhorn Cedar), *Abies Procera glauca* (Blue Noble Fir); 2nd place in Educational Exhibit. **Karen Lee** won 1st place horticulture for *Arum italicum*, *Salvia viscosa*, *Salvia microphylla*, and *Hydrangia variegata*; 2nd for *Fuchsia grayrigg*, and an un-named dahlia; a 3rd place in Educational Exhibit, for "Gift of Sharing."

GARDENING IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

The month of December has most people scurrying about with a long list of "gotta-dos." Probably the last thing on anyone's mind is working in the garden. Fortunately, the list of garden "to-dos" for this month is more like a list of "don't dos."

If you have been keeping up with your gardening tasks for the last few months, you should be able to take it pretty easy this month—at least in the garden. There are a few things to keep an eye on, and a few optional things you can do in the garden. Your biggest concern will probably be tending to your houseplants.

Glossy-leaved houseplants such as philodendron, rubber plants, and palms, should be sponged off periodically, to allow them to

breath. Plants which have fuzzy, textured, or other non-glossy-type leaves should be set in the sink and sprayed gently with room temperature water, until the dust is cleaned away. Be sure that the foliage is allowed to dry completely. Provide your houseplants with extra humidity by grouping plants together, or by setting the pots on leak-proof trays filled with moistened pebbles.

During the winter, many plants show little or no sign of growth. To avoid harming them, do not fertilize and reduce watering until growth resumes in the spring.

If you successfully kept last year's Christmas plants alive and have been keeping them in 14 hours of darkness since September, your Poinsettias and Christmas cactus should be ready to bring back into the living room by December first. With the proper care, these Christmas plants will remain beautiful for many weeks. They prefer to be kept on the cool side, 65-70 degrees during the day, and 55-60 degrees at night. Keep them in bright, natural light whenever possible. Keep them away from heat sources and out of drafts. Be sure to water them when they become dry. Never allow them to stand in water for more than an hour.

Winter rains tend to make you forget about watering your garden. However, plants and shrubs which are growing beneath large evergreens or under the eaves of the house, may be bone dry by this time. Lack of water in the cold winter months can be fatal to many of these plants. A quick check will let you know if you need to do a little winter watering.

A fun indoor project is building bird boxes for the upcoming nesting season. These can be elaborate or simple. For free plans at all levels of ability, search the Internet for "building bird boxes."

IT'S NEWS TO ME...

I've always amended the soil with compost in a planting hole for a tree or shrub. I've recently read an article that gave me pause. According to the article, adding organic matter is a bad idea:

“The bottom line is that adding organic matter to the planting hole is not recommended, primarily because it impedes root growth. Why? If the original planting hole is amended with organic matter it becomes “different” than the surrounding “original” soil. As a result, the tree is likely to become root bound because the roots will tend to stay within the confines of the “new” soil and not venture out into the non-amended soil beyond the planting hole. Use that organic matter to mulch around the soil at the base of the tree instead.

If soils are very poor it might be beneficial to add organic matter; however, it must be done over a larger area where the roots are likely to grow and not just added to the planting hole. For poorly draining clay soils it's best to add 1-part sand to 2-parts soil to achieve a long-term solution for improving soil structure.”

[taken from an article in the E-newsletter: The Daily Dirt.]



NOTE: Be sure to note on your 2009 calendar that the **Northwest Flower and Garden Show** will be held February 18 to through 22.



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