



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club
December, 2009

"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, British clergyman and horticulturist

Holiday Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Following our Business meeting, we'll share in a hands-on project for our program. June Willard will lead us in making a candle centerpiece or seasonal wall hanging, featuring pine cones, pods, and seeds. From her very large collection—boxes and boxes, she reports—June will bring materials we may share. There will be some wreaths available.

You are asked to bring whatever found cones, twigs, moss or nuts you might wish to incorporate.. Depending upon what you wish to make, a wooden base, an appropriate-sized candle, a glue gun or good glue in tubes, extra glue sticks, and ribbon for trim. Would also be appropriate. (Our President reports that there may also be someone present who will teach us to make decorative bows for our projects or presents.)

Following this, we'll enjoy a pot-luck luncheon, sampling members' favorite holiday fare. If you have not reported what dish you'll bring, please Email the Secretary, Cate Mueller, at catevmueller@hotmail.com or call her at 425 677-7289.

During your holiday planning and activities, please take the time to bring donations to our meeting for the Issaquah Food Bank. So far this year, members have significantly increased the volume of contributions made, each succeeding month.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear IGC Members

I am taking a break from life but will join you for our December meeting! A huge thank you to Sherran Whatley for her super job in putting on the greatest auction ever. What a great committee she had! All attending enjoyed a day of bargains, food and fun.

I would like all of you to remember that our fund raising events pay for our programs, speakers, and meeting place; donations to BBG, Arbor Day, and scholarships; and the community services that we perform. The \$25 membership fee pays for local, state and Smoke Signals that you all enjoy. We were blessed to have many guests and district persons attend the auction.

For December we will have a craft day for all. Bring glue guns, ribbons, decorations, old jewelry pieces--just anything you wish. We will have cones, wire, seeds and vine wreaths on hand. Last year all had such a great time that we decided to expand and repeat this. Come enjoy and be creative.

Last month we gave seventy-nine pounds to the food bank. Every month an increase! If you wish bring anything to share. This month baking products such as flour, sugar of all kinds, spices, and sprinkles are in need.

Just a reminder that we do not have a plant sale chairman yet. Think about it!

Dianne



WORK AT BERNTSEN PARK

On Saturday, November 14, a small party of Issaquah Garden Club members met with Washington Native Plant Stewards and other volunteers, to help plant native trees and shrubs at Berntsen Park, a new site along Issaquah Creek. The group planted over two hundred individual plants, in ground that had already been cleared of invasive blackberries and had had woodchips over cardboard laid to prevent further invasive growth.

There will be one last work day to spread some mulch around the young plants and pull a little more of the pesky English Ivy! Please join volunteers on **Saturday, December 5th**, anytime between 9am and 2pm if you can! For more info, call 425-746-2576 or e-mail BerntsenPark4thNW@gmail.com.

Berntsen Park, 810 4th Avenue NW, may be reached from Gilman Boulevard, turning left at NW Juniper Street, crossing the bridge over the creek, and turning left at 4th Avenue, NW. The site is on the left, and you are asked to please park on the left hand side of the street.

HELLEBORE TEA LAKE WILDERNESS LODGE

The Hellebore Tea is scheduled for **Sunday, March 14, 2010**, at 2 pm at the Lake Wilderness Lodge. This has become a major fund-raising effort for the arboretum, as well as a wonderful afternoon, and as the 2010 budget will be a bit of a challenge, we are asked for our support. While we may not be able to fill two tables this year, we can certainly try, given the amount of time, and the pleasant memories we have of teas in previous years. Jessica Liepins and Cate Mueller will provide more information as it is available.

"HOLIDAY ARTISTRY" 63rd Annual WSFGC Holiday Show

Thanks and congratulations to our members who entered the 2009 "Holiday Artistry" Flower Show! It was a beautiful display of 21 classes with 94 designs, hundreds of horticulture specimens, and special exhibits of creative crafts, such as decorated hats, necklaces ornaments and candle wreaths; educational exhibits; youth designs and an educational exhibit.

If you weren't able to see this show, do plan ahead to enter and attend the next one, to be held on November 10, 2010, at the same Marriott Seattle hotel, near Sea-Tac Airport. The Sales Room had tempting crafts, books and raffles.

Artistic Crafts Top Award:

1st Place and JoAnn Goldman Artistic Craft Award – Karen Lee – "So much Sparkle," a beautiful, handcrafted necklace of dried blue hydrangea blossoms.



Horticulture Top Award:

1st & Arboreal Award – June Willard – Broadleaf Evergreen: *Leucothoe*



Designs:

"Chinese New Year" Exhibition, Table Type II - 1st **Karen Lee**



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Champagne and Crystal" Small Design - 2nd **June Willard**



[Not shown] "Subtle Blending" Small Design - 3rd **Karen Lee**

MAXINE SCHMELZER

The Issaquah Garden Club was saddened to learn of the passing of former member, Maxine Schmelzer.

Maxine was a special lady with a warm smile. She joined Issaquah Garden Club in 1990 at the invitation of neighbors Joanne Dinken, Louise Luce and Agnes Schmoe. Joanne was a faithful friend who accompanied Maxine on early morning walks and brought Maxine to Garden Club meetings. Her last visit was last year, but she could not continue due to Alzheimer's. Maxine worked on annual IGC Financial Reviews with June Willard her last four years while active in the club.

The graveside service was Wednesday morning, November 25. Friends can share memories and sign the family's on-line guestbook at www.flintofts.com. Cards can be sent to Ken Schmelzer, 19364 SE 57th Pl, Issaquah WA 98029-8905.

She was quiet, always smiling, and a very happy lady.

SALMON CHOWDER

Here's an easy recipe Audrey Ellingsen concocted for her son's family, where she's staying while she's waiting for her Front Street home to be rehabbed:

Sauté green pepper, onion--and celery, if you wish. Add diced potatoes, frozen mixed veggies, bouillon cubes and water, and canned salmon (or frozen salmon rounds from Trader Joe's). Simmer for 12 minutes, adding creamed corn and juice (from canned salmon), milk, dill, and salt and pepper to taste--ole! T's done!

GARDEN CHORES IN DECEMBER

Check on any corms and tubers that you dug and stored this fall. Remove and discard any that show signs of disease or rot

December is a good month to take cutting of rhododendrons, azaleas, and other evergreen shrubs. The cutting should be taken from new tip growth, and kept in bright light, at about 70° F.

Glossy-leaved house plants, such as philodendron, rubber plants, and palms, should be sponged off periodically, to allow them to breathe. 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 house plants with extra humidity by grouping plants together, or by setting the pots on leak-proof trays, filled with moistened pebbles.

If you successfully kept last years' 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 early December. With proper care, these Christmas plants will remain beautiful for many weeks. They prefer to be kept on the cool side, 65-70° during the day, and 55-60° 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.

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."

Issaquah Garden Club

General Meeting November 11, 2009

The monthly general meeting of the Issaquah Garden Club for September was called to order by President Dianne Tanner at 10:30 A.M. at Tibbetts Creek Manor.

Dianne welcomed members and guests to our meeting and to the auction to be held shortly following the meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. There being no corrections voiced, the minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer, June Willard offered her report, stating that the corrected balance as of September 30, 2009, was **\$7,705.13**. Income during October was \$101.00; Expenses during the month were \$498.29. The ending balance was reported as **\$7,307.84**. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded; the motion was passed.

It was announced that the IGC Garden Therapy workshop would be held on November 19 at the Issaquah Care and Rehabilitation Center, with Jeanette Mahoney in charge.

June Willard spoke about the December program. She will bring pine cones collected over the years for members to craft into candle holders and wall hangings. Member should bring a glue gun or good glue in a tube. They might also bring examples made at last year's program. There will be wreaths available for members.

It was noted that our guest, Lori Carroll, who had donated Tupperware items to the auction, had Tupperware catalogues available that day for members.

Dianne offered her thanks to all donors for the auction, especially to Rita Hansen, for offering to present two high teas to bidders.

It was stated that, rather than having a formal lunch following the meeting, that members might obtain food at any time during the following auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M., so that the auction could proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

Cate Mueller, Secretary



OUR AUCTION

What an incredible job our Auction Chairman, Sherran Whatley, and her committee, did on November 11! In addition to procuring and sorting the many items and services donated both beforehand and the day of the auction, filling out informational forms and silent auction tally sheets, and arranging for publicity, those involved also brought a delicious luncheon, as well.

Michele Peltonen served as an excellent auctioneer, with good humor and organization, keeping the action moving swiftly. Our cashiers, Jackie Maresca and Joan Fields, capably recorded final oral bids and tallied the silent auction items and bids. The behind scenes work of other committee members, Dianne Tanner, Jessica Liepins, Rita Hansen, Jeanette Mahoney, Sandy Young, and Gail Holmstrom, ensured a pleasant and lucrative outcome. We are also indebted to two husbands, Mr. Whatley and Mr. Liepins, for transporting auction items and assisting in setting up our auction displays, taking it all down after the auction, and returning tables and other materials for storage.

The Auction would not have been a success without the participation of our members and guests, both for their donations to the auction and their purchases at the auction. Our Treasurer, June Willard, reports that she deposited **\$2,134.25** from the Auction. While there may be a few expenses for the Auction yet to be paid, it appears that the final profit may be an outstanding amount.

Three cheers and heartiest gratitude to Sherran Whatley and the Auction committee for their awesome contribution to our club!



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