



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 13 Issue 4 April 2010

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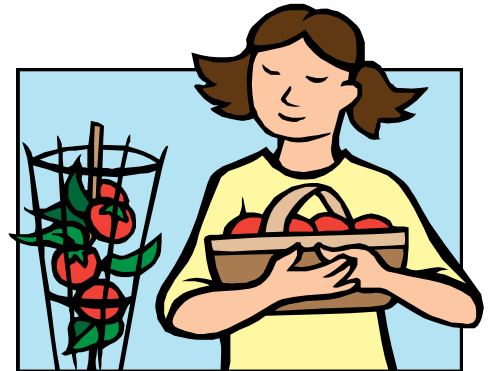
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Babysitting—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to you for the service, but if you plan to use it, please call **Linda Harlson** at 377-5750, so we can plan for the right number of children.

Rides— Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.

April 22nd Meeting : "The Tomato Lady Speaks"

Do you love tomatoes? Then be sure to attend our April meeting. Our speaker, Aggie Nehmzow, will be sharing with us effective and low cost ways of growing the best tasting tomatoes: heirloom tomatoes. She grows over 200 varieties herself, and is a sought-after speaker on this subject.




**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.
7:15 - brief business meeting, 7:30 - speaker**

BE SURE TO GREET OUR NEWEST MEMBER, VERA FELD, AT THE APRIL MEETING!

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 27:

"BEE-KEEPING FOR GARDENERS"



**Still available at the April Meeting:
Gazing Ball Raffle Tickets**

As at the March meeting, you have a chance to purchase raffle tickets (\$1 ea, or 6/\$5) for the fabulous mosaic bowling ball, created by Angie Sadauskas, that will be raffled at the May plant sale.



Upcoming events (outside the club)

DuPage County Forest Preserve: Native Plant Sale, Mayslake Peabody Estate, May 7 & 8. 630-933-7208.

Heinz Brothers: Summer container demonstrations, May 6, 11, 20. 630-377-6288 or www.heinzbrothers.com/classes.htm

GardenScapes Garden Walk: Four private gardens near the Morton Arboretum, June 25-26, to benefit the Infant Welfare Society. Tickets \$15 prior to June 21. www.gardenscapesinfantwelfare.com.

Chicago a cappella Concert: Birds and the Bees, Saturday, April 24 at 8 p.m., held Wentz Concert Hall at North Central College, Naperville. Call 773-755-1628 or visit www.chicagoacappella.org

CRAFTY?

At the May BloomingFest plant sale, WCGC will have booth space available for garden club members who have crafts or other items to sell. Conditions are that 10% of the sales are given to the WCGC. See Dick Darrah for more information.



Spring Ephemerals: Our Native Wildflowers - from the Growing Place

Nothing seems to say “springtime is truly here” as the sight of our native woodland wildflowers in full bloom. With a few exceptions, most of these elusive spring beauties are tied into the seasonal rhythms of their shady woodland homes. Early spring provides a short window when these alluring plants can be enjoyed, even if it is for what seems to be a brief minute. When the warmer temperatures arrive, most species will go dormant for the season. They bloom for just a few weeks, and then their leaves turn yellow and the plants disappear. These plants are called spring ephemerals.

A particularly handsome plant blooming now is bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*. It is named for the reddish-orange latex found within the leaves and roots. The pure white, star-shaped flowers open early and are then followed by large, waterlily-like leaves that unfurl as the weather warms up. The leaves will stay around as long as the soil remains cool and moist. It is beautiful interplanted with other spring ephemerals such as Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). Virginia bluebells have spectacular pink buds that open to blue dangling bells which attract hummingbirds and the early bumblebees. They can spread into a spectacular large mass. Plant it with ferns that will cover up the yellowing foliage.

Also blooming now in the moist woods of early spring is *Hepatica*, better known as liverwort. Named for its attractive lobed and speckled leaves that are similar to the shape of the human liver, this plant is a welcome sight in very early spring for its cheerful flowers that bloom blue, violet, white or pink. They often will bloom into May and they do not go dormant.

Poking up in our Learning Gardens at The Growing Place right now are the shooting stars (*Dodecatheon media*). White or pink nodding, star-shaped flowers will soon appear on stiff, upright stems of these unique plants. They look especially attractive when combined with the broad heart-shaped leaves of the native woodland ginger (*Asarum canadensis*).

The Growing Place has these beauties for sale right now. We will be adding jack-in-the-pulpit, trilliums, spring beauty, mayapple, trout lily and others as they become available.

If you are not lucky enough to have the garden conditions that these plants require, please take a trip to your local forest preserve, the Morton Arboretum, or Chicago Botanic Garden over the next few weeks to discover and enjoy these enchanting and elusive spring ephemerals before they disappear for another year.



Calendar of events - 2010

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
April 25	Billie Childress & Angie Sadauskas	Potting Party	August 1	All Club Members	Open Gardens - garden walk & Kruse Garden open house
May 15	All Club Members	PLANT SALE!	August 26	Susan Schmitz	Club Meeting - Tour of display gardens at Ball Seed
May 27	Harry Patterson	Club Meeting - Bee Keeping for Gardeners	September 23	TBD	Club Meeting
June 24	Dave Wanniger	Club Meeting - Rhodies & Azaleas for the Midwest	October 21	Joannie Rocchi	Bulbs from A to Z
July 22	All Club Members	President's Dinner	November 18	Potluck Dinner	Garden Dollar Auction



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Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org
 West Chicago Garden Club
 P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
 (630) 585-4005

Membership information

Dues for 2009:
 Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street, West Chicago

2010 WCGC BOARD:

President: VACANT

Vice President:

Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765, jjhandeldds@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:

Dee Soustek (630) 393-0652, dsoustek@aol.com

Program Chair:

Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, lehorton85@ameritech.net

Information Director:

Elaine McCluskey (630) 293-4773,
emclluskey@sbcglobal.net

Plant Sale Co-Chairs:

Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com
 Tom Fessler (630) 231-0535, fess2000@aol.com



March News From Kruse by Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators

Spring.....and the 'livin ain't easy' (as opposed to summer-time). The garden has come a long way already! We have had the Votavas Lawn Care crew in to help with clean-up, we have been weeding in earnest, and planting and rearranging, of course.



The grape hyacinths are a sea of blue in the back garden and ring the house with a necklace of sparkling blue. One observation of the blue gems...."makes the property look kept". We are even starting to see a few blue hyacinths poking through the newest, west hill garden. Many violas returned and the daffodils never fail. The weather is moving things along at a crisp pace so the tulips have joined the band to strut their eye-catching stuff too. Really, it is so lovely!

There are thousands of poppy seedlings sprouted on the west hill. This mix of the memorial-day red poppy and bright orange califorina poppy are cueing up for a grand display. You may want to schedule a visit to the Kruse Garden next month as part of your Memorial Day festivities.

The patriotic red poppy may bring the 'In Flanders Fields' poem to mind. Composed in 1915 by a Canadian army physician, amidst bloody fighting of the First World War, the poem expressed grief for the many who died on the Flanders battlefields in Belgium. The poem describes how the poppies grow among the rows and rows of fresh graves. Some of you memorized this poemall have heard of it.

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

We expect you are enjoying your gardens. Take time to enjoy the Secret Garden at the Kruse House as well. Until next time. A&B





Plant Sale Preparations

Potting Parties The potting parties have been a rousing success. On the first Saturday alone, and in spite of cool and rainy weather, the potters worked hard inside the West Chicago Park District barn at Manville Oaks Park. Six hundred plants were potted, moved, and watered. Many hands do indeed make light work!

One more **potting party on Saturday and Sunday this weekend**. If you signed up, please keep your commitment!

After potting parties, the focus will be on final preparations for the sale. **You can still help out** (and earn Garden Dollars). Please look this over to see where you will help out, then sign up at the April meeting.

Yard Signs At the April meeting, **take home a sign** to display in your yard, starting Sunday, May 9th. An easy way to advertise the sale. Sign up with Jeff Handel. Be sure to bring the signs back to the May meeting!

Sale Site Set-up – Friday May 14th

Locations	Tasks and People Needed
Plant Sale Tent Area, downtown	two members to help unload, set up and cover tables from 4:00 PM until done
Manville Oaks Park	eight members to load plants in vehicles four vehicles to transport plants to tent area – 5:30 PM until done
Pamela & Dan's house	four members to load plants in vehicles two vehicles to transport plants to tent area - 5:30 PM until done
Plant Sale Tent Area, downtown	Two members to help carry and direct placement of plants inside tent - 5:30 PM until done

Sale Day – Saturday May 15th

Final Set-up – **four members 7:00 AM until done**

During Sale 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – we need to have at least **four members at all times to help customers**.

After sale clean-up 2:00 PM until done – **six members to help take down tables, clean up area and move any unsold plants to Kruse House**.

In order to have another great sale, we will need everyone to pitch in to the best of their ability. Look for the sign up sheets at the April meeting.



Worth the Trip - Lincoln Memorial Garden by Elaine McCluskey

On a recent drive through Springfield, I took the time to exit at I-55 exit 88, where a 10-minute drive on a wandering road brings you to the Lincoln Memorial Garden. Founded in 1936, this 100-acre tract on the south edge of Lake Springfield is planted with native trees, wildflowers, and prairie plants. The garden is designed to honor Lincoln's memory by recreating the woodland and prairie landscape he would have known in early 19th century Illinois.

Throughout the garden, benches donated by various groups bear quotations from President Lincoln.

The garden was the inspiration of Harriet Knudson, who persuaded the Garden Clubs of Illinois to adopt the garden as a project. She also engaged Jens Jensen, one of the most famous landscape architects, to design the garden. The association with Jensen placed it on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

With no admission charge and open year-round, this beautiful and quiet retreat is a respite on a drive from Chicago to St. Louis, or a destination unto itself on a daytrip. It is, indeed, worth the trip.

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2010 MEMBER SURVEY

Please fill out the survey below. This will help the WCGC Board to better support the membership and create an even better garden club. Copies will be available at the April meeting, or use the one below. Earn 50 Garden Dollars when you turn it in!

**WEST CHICAGO GARDEN CLUB
SURVEY 2010**

1. Do any of the following programs appeal to you? (mark all those of interest)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Annuals | Holiday Decorating | Prairie Gardening |
| Day Lilies | Iris | Roses |
| Disease and Insects | Landscape Design | Trees and Shrubs |
| Flower Arranging | Lawn Care | Tools |
| Garden Ornamentation | Peonies | Animal Life in your Garden |
| Herbs | Perennials | Wild Flowers & Native Plants |
| Gardening for Fall Interest | | |
| Other: _____ | | |

2. Is there a favorite speaker or topic, you would like to see again? _____

3. Would you like to have a summer meetings at our members gardens? Yes No

4. Should we consider another community project in West Chicago, in addition to the Kruse House? Yes No

5. Have you ever been to the Kruse House? Yes No

6. Do you have an idea or a suggestion for another community project? _____

7. Have you ever attended a field trip? Yes No

8. Would you like to attend a field trip? Yes No

9. What are the best days that you are available to go on a field trip?

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

10. Where would you like to go for a field trip? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

11. Would you help coordinate a field trip? Yes No If yes/Name: _____

12. Have you ever attended a workshop? Yes No

13. Do you have any suggestions for future Workshops? _____

14. Do you have any suggestions for the plant sale? _____

15. Do you have suggestions for the newsletter? _____

16. Do you like the format of the monthly meetings? Yes No

17. Do you have any suggestions to improve monthly meetings? _____

Thank You for taking the time, to complete this survey. Earn 50 Garden Dollars when you turn it in!