



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 14 Issue 4 April 2011

Inside this issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Non-Club Events | 2 |
| Club Information | |
| Planned WCGC Events | 3 |
| News from Kruse | 4 |
| Plant Sale Update | 5 |
| Garden Conservancy Open Days in WC | 6 |
| Musings from Members | 7 |
| April Showers bring May Flowers | 8 |

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.

The city of West Chicago is having a naming contest for the official city flower. Find out more and nominate your favorite flower at

http://www.westchicago.org/city_flower_form_2011.html

April 28th Meeting : "What's Hot, What's Not"

Remember our fun field trip last August to Ball Seed? We saw all those wonderful new plant varieties they try out, right near our own backyards. How many of us went home saying, I wish I knew about that plant when I was planning my garden in the spring! Here's some help for that.

Susan Schmitz will be sharing the newest trends in plant varieties with us this month. Susan is the Trials and Education Manager at **Ball Seed**. She's been a horticulturalist for over 30 years, after graduating from Ohio State University with a Landscape Horticulture/Floriculture degree. She then topped that off with an MBA in Marketing from DePaul. She's worked at Callaway Gardens in Georgia, and at the Oak Park Conservatory. She's taught at both Triton College and Morton Arboretum. In her spare time, she assists her husband as a hobby beekeeper!



Also at the meeting - pansy plugs will be available at very low prices!

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - speaker

Look for and greet our newest members,
Cathy McClain and Tom & Pat Bishop at the next meeting!

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 26th: "Herbs"
by a DuPage Master Gardener

**MEMBERS-ONLY PLANT PRE-SALE ON MAY 19TH,
4 TO 7 PM. COME TO THE MEETING TO FIND OUT
WHERE, OR CALL THE PLANT SALE CHAIRMAN!**



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Tri-Village Garden Club Plant Sale: May 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Banbury Fair, Bartlett. See www.trivillagegardenclub.com.

Garden Walk at 19 Muirfield Circle, Wheaton: Infant Welfare Society, Wheaton Chapter, June 24-25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., \$15 in advance, \$20 at door Call 630-607-4469 after May 1st for tickets.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Plant a pot for Mother's Day Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m., \$10, please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

Garden Conservancy Open Days Western Suburbs: 5 garden tour, including our own Lou Horton and the Childresses, May 22, \$5/garden, see page 6 for more information.

Garden Art Sale: Open House/Show of sculpture from common items such as bicycle parts by Meril Hummell, May 6, 7, and 8, at 41W266 Empire Rd, St Charles, 630-443-7456.

Growing Place: Going Organic, is it right for me?, May 14, 10 a.m., Aurora. Free.

Native Plant Sale: Dupage County Forest Preserve at Mayslake Peabody Estate, May 6-7, see more on page 4.

Cantigny Bulb Sale: May 16, 8 a.m. Assortment of bulbs in packages of 25 for \$5. No charge - notify the parking attendant as you enter and go to the First Division Parking Lot.



PLATT HILL NURSERY

www.platthillnursery.com

Bloomington
222 W. Lake St.
(630) 529-9394

Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Sun 10am-5pm

Carpentersville
2400 Randall Rd.
(Randall & Huntley Rds.)
(847) 428-6767

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn
and add some beauty to your garden at



2010 East Main St. (Rt. 64), St. Charles
630.377.6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com

Your Gardening Source...



Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

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

Membership information

Dues for 2011: 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

2011 WCGC BOARD:

President:

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

Vice President:

Dick Darrah 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

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

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, pmbiggs@juno.com
June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com

Information Director:

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

Plant Sale Chair:

Tom Fessler 630-231-0535, fess2000@aol.com

Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2011

| Date | Speaker/Organizer | Topic/Event | Date | Speaker/Organizer | Topic/Event |
|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 19 May | Members ONLY! | Plant Presale | 7 Aug | Billie & Angie | Kruse "Open Garden" Party |
| 20 May | Members especially | Plants moving to sale | 25 Aug | Joannie Rocchi Master Gardener | Unusual & Seldom Used Perennials |
| 21 May | All members | Plant Sale! | 22 Sep | Tom Tyler/Bartlett Trees | Trees |
| 26 May | DuPage Master Gardeners | Herbs | 27 Oct | Mari Mackenbach | Holiday Decorating |
| 23 Jun | Dave Wanniger/Beaver Creek Nursery | TBD | 17 Nov | All members | Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction |

From our friend Lorraine Biang in Indiana:

Dear Elaine, I read the news letter with interest and longing to be a part of activities. I've been here in W Lafayette over a year now and am still trying to be a gardener. My frontage is a tall, tall red oak woods with ivy growing up trees and covering ground except down by creek, where a few wild flowers will show up. My flower beds are a terraced area NW side of garage with a few giant hosta in place. Against a fence in somewhat sunny location I grew the most expensive tomatoes in Tippecanoe County. After buying a special planter that held three tomato plants, the first tomatoes all had end rot. The next had something that looked like anthracnose. I did get a few edible fruits. The squash grew beautiful flowers but no fruit. Same for green peppers until I realized there were no bees and spent the end of the summer flitting from flower to flower making like a bee. I added astilbe, coral bells and a sambucco niger to giant hostas. The next month should show me what the deer don't like.

Your programs sound inviting and I wish I could be there. My best to all my gardening friends.

Lorraine



An Investment That Grows

THE GARDEN CENTER IS
BLOOMING WITH IDEAS!

MEYER
LANDSCAPING, INC.
Nursery, Landscaping Design & Construction

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
Tel: (630) 293-4800

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR SPECIALS!!!
WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM

LARGE TREES &
SHRUBS, ROSES,
PERENNIALS,
& ANNUALS

SPRING HOURS
MON-SAT: 9-5
SUN: 10-4 4/15-6/30



SHADY • HILL • GARDENS

Home grown plants since 1974

Elburn, Illinois • (630) 365-5665

www.shadyhill.com



News from Kruse by Angie & Billie, Kruse House Garden Coordinators

After a major cleanup at the Kruse garden, two truckloads of branches, leaves, and garden debris were hauled away. Spring bulbs started pushing out of the ground, many seemingly appearing overnight. The daffodil buds are starting to open; some so rounded and plump as if saying they are happy in their location. Somewhere in the back of memory was a glimmer of a poem about daffodils. Punching in “daffodils poem” Google came through with the most well-known poem on daffodils.

Daffodils

I wonder'd lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils...

By William Wordsworth [1804]



Over 200 years ago, William, at the age of 34, admired a flower that we still see in our gardens. Actually, the daffodil name is recorded from the 16th century, the name, aphodile from Medieval Latin. Just think, King Henry VIII of England, strolled and admired it in his gardens, and called it Lent lily or daffydow dilly. Other names are narcissus, jonquil, fleur de coucou, perillon. In Wales it is the **national emblem**.

Daffodils belong to the **Amaryllis family**, over 50 species, many hybrids, and many colors. They can be white, yellow, green, pink, peach, orange, and an almost red. Some are extremely fragrant, growing in multiple clusters on one stem. Some appear almost with the last snow, while others open so much later. A **true daffodil** has a long trumpet in the center, like in the old varieties “King Alfred” and the exquisite white “Thalia”. A **narcissus** has tiny petals that form a small bowl in the center, such as in the beautiful old “Poet’s Daffodil”. And if it is yellow, just call it **jonquil**.

Daffodils symbolize the arrival of spring, friendship and new beginnings. At the Kruse Garden, the golden daffodils are trumpeting amid the blue grape hyacinths planted more than **60 years ago**. Are they a “new beginning” or an “old beginning” beginning again?

A&B

Native Plant Sale, Mayslake Peabody Estate, May 6 (9 to 7) and May 7 (9 to 4)

Shop for perennials, shrubs, and trees at this site. See the catalog online at [http://www.dupageforest.com/GetInvolved/CalendarOfEvents/Native Plant Sale/Catalog - Full Sun.html](http://www.dupageforest.com/GetInvolved/CalendarOfEvents/Native_Plant_Sale/Catalog_Full_Sun.html) where there is also a pre-order form..



PLANT SALE UPDATE by Tom Fessler and Billie Childress

Potting Parties Huge thanks to all who helped pot plants for the sale. Potting is a crucial step of our sale process and many members stepped up to accomplish this big job! Approximately **40 different people** worked at cutting, pot preparation, potting, labeling, transporting, and watering hundreds of plants. Many folks worked at several of the potting parties. This task could not have been done without all your help! You are a skilled and generous bunch to work with - and **you're fun, too!** It was a pleasure to work with you all!

The potting party scheduled for Saturday April 23 has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 30, 9-12. We needed another week for the plants to come up and grow a bit. We have contacted those signed up for the session but apologize for any confusion this may cause.

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.**

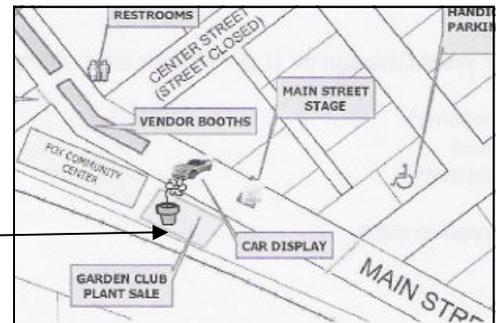
Sale Setup and Sale Day Help

| Locations | Tasks and People Needed |
|--|---|
| Sale Site Set-up – Friday May 20th | |
| Tent at Fox Community Center parking lot | 2 members to cover tables, 4:00 PM until done 8 members to unload plants, 5:30 PM until done |
| Manville Oaks Park Barn | 6 members to load plants in vehicles, 5 PM until done 8 members with pickup/van-type vehicles to transport plants, 5 PM until done |
| Tent Area | 8 members to help carry and direct placement of plants inside tent - 5:30 PM until done |
| Sale Day – Saturday May 21st | |
| Final Setup | 8 members, 7 - 9 AM |
| During sale | 10 to help customers, 4 to tally orders, 2 cashiers, in 3 hour shifts |
| After sale | 6 members to take down tables and clean up |

Yard Signs, Boxes At the April meeting, **take home a sign** to display in your yard, starting Sunday, May 15th. An easy way to advertise the sale. Sign up with Jeff Handel. Also, bring boxes to the April meeting to be used by customers to transport plants.

Location The sale is at the **Fox Community Center** in downtown West Chicago (see map). Parking is limited - free shuttle buses will run from the Metra lots along Main Street on sale day, so be sure to use them (or walk or ride your bike!).

Plant sale site





Childress & Horton Gardens featured in the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program 22 May 2011

Two of our most experienced gardeners have been invited to open their gardens on Sunday, May 22nd, during the Garden Conservancy's Western Suburbs Open Days Program. The mission of the Garden Conservancy is "to preserve exceptional American gardens for the education and enjoyment of the public." As noted on their website:



ACORN HOLLOW

The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program offers hundreds of opportunities to learn and exchange gardening ideas - or to simply explore and enjoy magnificent gardens not normally open to the public. The 2011 Open Days season begins in late March and extends into early November. It includes more than 300 private gardens in eighteen states, from southern California to the coastline of Rhode Island.

The Western Suburbs tour features 5 gardens from Inverness to Barrington Hills, Bartlett to West Chicago. See descriptions and a map here:

<http://www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays/open-days-schedule/openday/367-chicagos-western-suburbs>. Lou's garden, Acorn Hollow, and Billie's garden, Glenelg, are certainly highlights of the tour.



GLENELG

With the plant sale the day before the tour, and the mid-spring timing, these gardeners are really being gracious to open their gardens, and we wish them all the best.

Tickets are only \$5 per garden, and no reservations are necessary. So take a break from your own yardwork and support our fellow club members by stopping by between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Celebrating 86 Years & Still Growing

A lot has changed over 86 years but our commitment to our customers and to our community has not.

Quality Plants & Expert Service
... Since 1925



WASCO
NURSERY
& GARDEN CENTER

630-584-4424

6 miles west of Randall Road on
Route 64, St. Charles
1 mile west of Wasco
www.wasconursery.com

160 Acres of Nursery Stock • 10 Acre Garden Center • Landscape Design & Installation



Phil Graf
Certified Arborist

1652 East Main Street
Suite 20
St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone 630.762.2400
Fax 630.578.1304
phil@graftreecare.com
www.graftreecare.com



Musings from Members

This month starts a column where WCGC member can put help wanted ads or other kinds of appeals. Have something you want to advertise - contact the Information Director (see page 2).

Wanted: Tour Guides

Volunteer May through October in the Fabyan Villa Japanese Garden, Geneva, Illinois. On Wednesday, Thursday, or Sunday afternoons. Contact Lynn at fabyanvilla@ppfv.org

Wanted: Part Time/Seasonal Retail Sales Associate for the Meyer Landscaping Garden Center

About 16-20 hours per week through the growing season, starting April 2011. Call (630) 293-4800 or email meyergc@aol.com

For Sale: Bird Bath

Large bird bath, cast stone. Tiny crack on the top, but does not leak. Paid \$90, will take \$25. Shirley Remes, 847-697-4796, sremes@comcast.net.



Spring Bluff Nursery, Inc.

*Specializing in growing landscape
quality trees and shrubs*

**Retail Garden Center
Landscape Design & Installation
Trees, Shrubs & Perennials**

41W130 Norris Rd. 630.466.4278
Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554 www.springbluffnursery.com
plants@springbluffnursery.com

Growing, learning and educating since 1979...

Thanks to these supporters of our Plant Sale!

This year the Garden Club must pay for the large tent that we use at the plant sale. This is a major expense and takes a good portion of our profits.

Thanks to Billie, who spent many hours contacting local businesses for donations to the Garden Club, there's not only enough to pay for the tent, but for all the tables as well.

We would like to thank and recognize all those businesses that were kind enough to donate. The businesses which donated are as follows:

- The Ball Seed Company**
- Fox Valley Volkswagen**
- The Jel-Sert Company**
- Northstar Credit Union**
- United Parcel Service**
- West Chicago Chiropractic**



Prestige
NURSERY GARDEN CENTER INC.

28 W. 761 Army Trail Rd, Bartlett
(630)289-4868
www.prestige-nursery.com

Outdoor living done right...
design | build | maintain | enjoy!

8 acres of locally grown quality plants

Certified Arborists on Staff

ABBOTT
Tree Care Professionals
(630)681-8733
www.abbotttreecare.com

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

- 24-Hour Emergency Storm Damage Service
- Crane Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Removal
- Land Clearing
- Tree Spraying
- Deep Root Feeding

Family owned and operated for over 15 years!

TCA



 * **Coming soon!** *
 * In the May/June edition of the City of West Chicago publication *Windows*, there will be an *
 * article about our very own West Chicago Garden Club! If you don't receive this publication, *
 * look for it on this webpage <http://www.westchicago.org/news/>, under the newsletters on *
 * the left side. We'll link to it from the WCGC website when it becomes available. *
 * Word has it that the club will also be featured in the city's *Raising the Bar* blog, which can be *
 * found at <http://www.westchicago.org/blogs/raisingthebar/index.html>. *
 * *****

 * **April Showers bring May Flowers** *by Carol Massat of The Growing Place* *
 * *****

* **Warm weather annuals** can be found at garden centers very early (The Growing Place offers them *
 * the first weekend of May.) but they must be kept warmer than 40 degrees to avoid damage or stall- *
 * ing of growth. Warm weather annuals include: impatiens, begonias, caladiums, marigolds and many *
 * more. Cool weather flowers have been available since early April and include: all perennials and *
 * annual petunias, allysum, pansies, dianthus, dusty miller, diascia, stocks, callibrachoa and nemesia *
 * to name a few. Those plants can handle temperatures down to freezing. **After May 15th** there is less *
 * likelihood of frost although the last chance for frost is May 24th! Be ready to listen to the weather and *
 * plan to cover warm weather annuals with a sheet or plastic if needed. Tomatoes, peppers and basil *
 * are also very cold sensitive. *
 * *****

* Be sure to plant **the right plants in the right places**. Other considerations for selecting flowering *
 * plants include **light** conditions and **moisture** preferences. As you plan and plant your containers, *
 * consider the conditions your flowers enjoy. Group moisture loving plants together so that they re- *
 * ceive the right conditions to thrive. Place containers of moist tolerant plants where you can reach *
 * them easily. In the midst of our hot summers, you may have to water them twice a day. Consider *
 * creating drought tolerant arrangements for your *
 * hot sunny spots with plants such as sedum, hens *
 * and chicks and other succulents. Check signage *
 * or ask for assistance from experienced sales as- *
 * sociates when you visit your local garden center. *
 * *****

* May is a great time to help the environment too! *
 * The **plants you select can help improve the** *
 * **environment**. All plants clean the air but some *
 * of them help even more by being an **important** *
 * **source for pollinators, hummingbirds and** *
 * **butterflies**. The Growing Place has added native *
 * plants that are showy and well mannered. Try *
 * adding some to your gardens this year. *
 * *****