



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 16 Issue 4 April 2012

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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 and no reservations are necessary.

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

April 26th Meeting : "Woodies that fit"

Remember the last time you couldn't resist that great bush at the garden center, and then 2 years later it was dominating the whole side of your yard? Join us when Dave Wanninger of Beaver Creek Nursery will once again entertain and inform us - this time about how to select woody plants that will fit in your yard. Dave's talks are always enjoyable and enlivening, so be sure to join us Thursday evening!



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - speaker

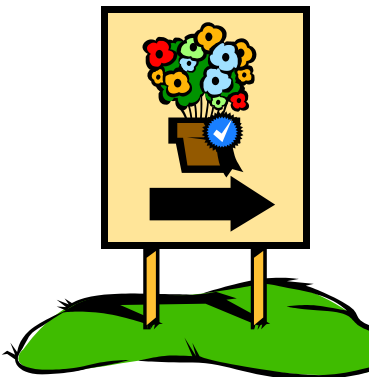
Next Meeting: Thursday, May 24th:

"Alternatives to Invasives" with Colleen Graudens & Toby Koch

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AT THE APRIL MEETING!

David & Minoy Offutt

**MEMBERS-ONLY PLANT PRE-SALE MAY 17TH!
COME TO THE MEETING TO FIND OUT THE
TIME AND PLACE, OR CALL THE PRESIDENT!**





Upcoming events (outside the club)

Edible Garden at Lincoln Park Zoo: Join Seeds Of Change and Green City Market when they will announce an exciting initiative to support organic gardens nationwide, and get your hands dirty with organic gardening expert, Jeanne Nolan, as you plant the first seeds of the 2012 season. Tuesday, April 24, 10am-noon. www.seedsofchange.org

Cantigny: Greenhouse Open House, 10 AM—3 PM, park in main lot off Winfield Rd, trams will run to the Greenhouse. Small plant sale of freshly dug perennials & flower bowls, plus the annual tulip bulb sale!

Growing Place: Designing for Tough Sites, Saturday, April 28, 10 AM, Aurora. free, call 630-355-4000 to register.

Garden Clubs of Illinois: *Night and Day*, State Flower Show, free. Judging Friday, open to public Saturday, June 9, 7 AM—4 PM. Lincoln Square Village, 300 S. Broadway, Urbana, Illinois.

Willowbrook Wildlife Center: Learn about and view the nests of different kinds of birds, and build a nesting wreath that birds can pick from as they build their homes. Sunday, April 29, ages 8 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per craft. Registration begins April 2, call 630-942-6200.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Make a Fairy House Workshop using items collected from nature. \$25, Sunday, Apr 29, 1—3 PM. please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

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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 2012: 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

2012 WCGC BOARD:

President:

Keith Letsche 630-293-0192

Vice President:

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

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

open

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, briggspm@gmail.com

June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com

Information Director:

Elaine McCluskey 630-293-4773,

emclluskey@sbcglobal.net

Publicity:

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



Planned WCGC Events - 2012

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
22, 29 Apr	All members!	Potting Parties Manville Oaks Park	26 Jul	J Hawthorne's backyard	President's Picnic
26 Apr	Dave Wanniger	Woodies that fit	23 Aug	Mel Zaloudek, Garden Clubs of Illinois	The Shaded Garden
19 May	All members	Plant Sale!	27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
24 May	Colleen Graudens & Tony Koch	Alternatives to Invasives	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
28 Jun	Kruse House! Speaker from Growing Place	Vertical Gardening	15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

ARBOR DAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - April 27 & 28

The West Chicago Park District has been working to reforest Easton and Pioneer Parks after the **Emerald Ash Borer devastated over 100 trees**. Graf

Tree Care applied for a reforestation grant back in January, on the Park District's behalf. This grant, administered by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, was awarded to the West Chicago Park District in the amount of \$10,000. This money was used for the purchase the trees.



With help from Graf Tree Care staff, the Park District is hoping to spend two days with volunteers **planting 85 trees** to reforest these parks **at no cost to the Park District!** If you are interested in helping out, contact Phil Graf at 630/762-2400 or Jesse Felix at 630/231-9474.



News from Kruse

Our Kruse House Garden Coordinators are hard at work in the garden, and sent along these photos of what's blooming.



In March, the WCGC won the Garden Clubs of Illinois District II Horticulture Award for the work on that's been done to revive the garden.

Congratulations to all who have labored to make this possible! Here is the award write-up by KHG Coordinator Billie Childress:

A garden... and a Garden Club Resurrected!

It was 1998 when West Chicago Historical Society concluded that the Kruse House Museum needed help to restore and maintain the gardens of this Main Street treasure. Since the Kruse family was avid gardeners back in the day, it seemed that the house wasn't complete without the garden. The Museum gardens had lain dormant many years. Coincidentally West Chicago's once active Garden club had also been lying dormant since the 1970's. A couple of insightful historical society members saw the match and the rest, as they say, is history.

West Chicago Garden Club has faithfully restored and maintained the gardens at the Kruse house Museum these past 12 years. There have been many champions of the cause, all leaving their indelible mark in the gardens. Most of the thriving perennial gardens are made up of pass along plants from club members. The club raises money for maintenance and ornamental features. Each week a team works in the gardens and larger numbers turn out for special work days. The project has many rewards. Visitors are delighted as they stroll the expansive gardens and participate in specially planned garden events.

Our Garden Club was resurrected with Kruse Garden as its mission. We have added many other projects over the years but we will likely continue our service in the Kruse Garden for years to come.



PLANT SALE NEWS - IT'S ALMOST HERE!

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! Lots of people work at cutting, pot preparation, potting, labeling, transporting, and watering hundreds of plants. Many folks work at several of the potting parties. This task can not happen without all your help! You are a skilled and generous bunch to work with - and **you're fun, too!** It's a pleasure to work with you all!



There are 2 more potting parties scheduled for Sunday April 22 & 29. See you there!

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 18th	
Tent at Galena St - see map below	8 members to unload plants, 6-8 PM
Manville Oaks Park Barn	4 members to load plants in vehicles, 6 -8 PM 8 members with pickup/van-type vehicles to transport plants, 6-8 PM
Tent Area at Galena St	8 members to help carry and direct placement of plants inside tent - 6-8 PM
Sale Day – Saturday May 19th	
Final Setup 7 - 9 AM	8 members
During sale 9 AM - 3 PM	10 to help customers - 3 hour shifts, 1 in plant holding area for 3 hour shift AM & PM, 4 in AM & 2 in PM cashiers
After sale ~ 2-4 PM	6 members to take down tables and clean up

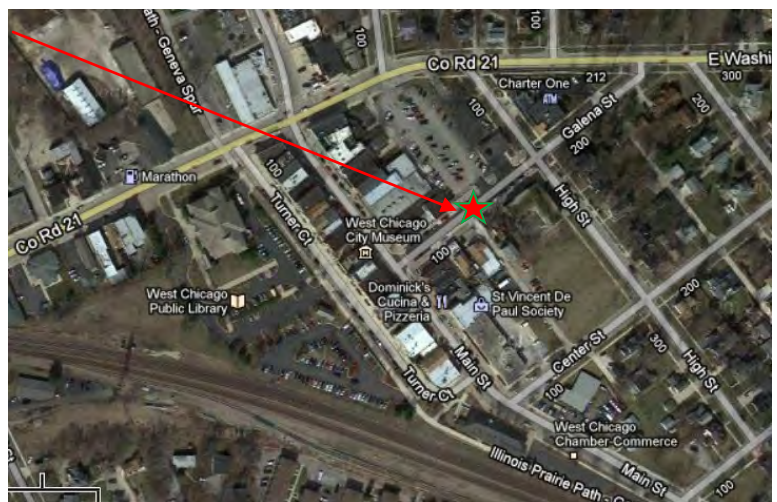
Yard Signs, Boxes

Plant sale site

At the April meeting, **take home a sign** to display in your yard, starting Sunday, May 13th. An easy way to advertise the sale. Also, bring boxes to the April meeting to be used by customers to transport plants.

Can't make it to a meeting, but want to help or sign up? Please contact one of these Plant Sale Committee members:

- Marion Martin 630-916-0357 oreomart@aol.com
- Pam Lurz 630-768-1225 pam@8500ft.com
- Linda Fisher 630-876-8122 lofisher977@ameritech.net
- Colleen Gloss 630-951-0302 cgloss@victorypackaging.com



The sale is back on Galena St in downtown West Chicago.



Try a Unique Edible *by Heather Prince of the Growing Place*

Most of us have a sunny spot that we can plant with edibles. Although we carry many varieties of tomatoes and peppers at The Growing Place, this year, why not try something a little different? These plants all do best in full sun and average soils. This is a roundup of some favorite slightly unusual edibles that we think might tickle your fancy.

Herbs



2012 is the Year of the Herb! Add some zest to your cooking by trying a different basil. The traditional sweet basil is a favorite for pesto, salads, beverages and more. Think about trying Greek Columnar for a spicier flavor or if you enjoy Asian cooking, sample one of the Thai or Indian basil varieties.

For a dramatic foliage plant that also tastes great, try cardoon! Its huge silvery leaves are wonderful in containers or paired with purple foliage for extra punch. The ribs of the leaves taste like artichokes and once blanched, can be roasted, sautéed or baked.

Winter savory offers a wonderful peppery spiciness for grilled meats or added to pasta salads. Traditionally used to flavor salami, winter savory is a perennial that can be harvested almost year round for fall soups and stews.

Fruits



Who doesn't love the taste of fresh strawberries? Sometimes we don't have room for strawberry plants with their long runners. Try an alpine strawberry that stays in a compact mound and offers small, succulent berries. They are perfect for a container or child's garden.

New this year are honeyberries. From Siberia and the Far East, honeyberries are large oblong berries with thin skins. Their sweet-sour flavor is reminiscent of a cross between blackberry and cherry. These tasty berries ripen in June and are filled with antioxidants.

Love apples, but just don't have the space? Consider a Hat Trick apple tree! Three varieties of apple – Honeycrisp, Sweet Sixteen and Zestar – are grafted to one trunk and trained into a flat espaliered shape. This apple is perfect for a sunny wall or along a fence.

Tomatoes

There are many many varieties of tomatoes available. The Growing Place is very excited to offer something new this year – grafted tomato plants! A grafted tomato has sturdier, more disease resistant root stock, so your plants will thrive. We will carry hybrid Early Girl and Beefsteak varieties plus heirloom Pineapple and Black Krim. Try one!



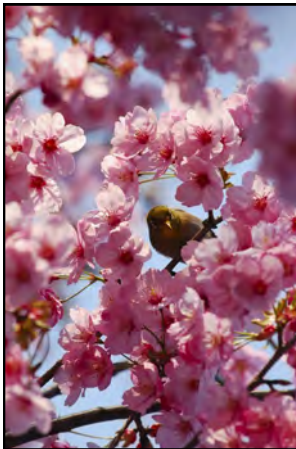

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Favorite Cherry Tree Voting! Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation

In 1912, the mayor of Tokyo gave Washington, DC the gift of 3,000 cherry blossom trees to denote the friendship between the United States and Japan. Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates this gift with the nation's greatest springtime celebration. Now, 100 years later, the flowering cherry tree remains an American favorite. In honor of the Festival's Centennial Celebration, all Americans are invited to cast their vote for America's Favorite Cherry Tree, with winner announced on April 27. The 27th is the final day of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and Arbor Day 2012. To vote, visit



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