



We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club
www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 16 Issue 8 August 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.

August 23rd Meeting : "The Shaded Garden"

Gardeners who enjoy shade in their yards have a mixed blessing: the benefit of cooler temperatures on a hot day and lovely trees, even while struggling to find the right plants for those darker spots. Our speaker this month is Mel Zaloudek, formerly of the Horticulture faculty of Triton College, and now an independent landscape consultant.



Even though we may not have as **much shade in our yards as we did prior to the July 1st storm, there's always something new to learn. And if you don't have shade now - plant a tree and you soon will!**

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, September 27th:

Bulb Bingo with June and Pauline

ARE YOU REMEMBERING TO PICK UP YOUR GARDEN DOLLARS?

By participating in club events, contributing to the newsletter, attending **club meetings, you earn GD's that can only be used at the legendary WCGC GD Auction in November.** Stop by the check-in desk and pick up at least 25 GDs for attending the August meeting. You can collect for past events at any time.





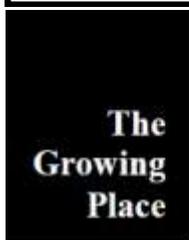
Upcoming events (outside the club)

FRED in Riverside: Day-long event in the National Historic Landmark community of Riverside, IL, sponsored by the Frederick Law Olmstead in Riverside Education and Design organization. Highlights include classes from renowned experts, designer exhibits, Planters on Parade tours, auction of artist-designed planters, tours, "Extreme Build: Raingardens!," and more. Saturday, August 18, some classes have fees, some are free. www.fredinriverside.org

Growing Place: Landscape Sampler - Backyards. Learn how to make your backyard a respite from the busy world. Saturday, August 25, 10 AM, Aurora, \$20. Call 630-355-4000 to register.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Fall Planter Demonstrations show you more than just mums to plant this fall. Saturday, Sept 8 & 15 at 10 AM, Monday/Wednesday, Sept 10 & 12 at 5:30 PM. Free, but reserve your spot at 630-584-0473.

Spring Bluff Nursery: Tomato Fiesta Tasting! Sample varieties of tomatoes & peppers all grown at the nursery. Decide which you like best for planting next year. Sat/Sun, September 8 & 9, all day.



Winging it Day... August 11
 Celebrating nature! Winged fun all day!
S.O.A.R. @ 3:30
Summer Sale!... 7/27- 8/12
 Aurora: 630-820-8088 Montgomery Rd
 Naperville: 630-355-4000 Plank Rd

GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Capture your garden in professional photos before the season's over.



Create a calendar of garden pictures or custom note cards featuring your summer garden landscape. To view samples of my work or get a quote, contact nancy.reppe@gmail.com, or 630-306-1089.

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:

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Program Co-Chairs:

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

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Planned WCGC Events - 2012

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
26 Jul	J Hawthorne's backyard	President's Picnic	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo	15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

Lurie Garden Plant Sale, September 14th

Whether you're looking to add late-season interest or you're dreaming about next spring's blooms, the ever-present optimism of Chicago-area gardeners will be on full display at the **Lurie Garden's Fall Festival and Plant Sale**, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14. Urban and suburban gardeners will find a plethora of four-season plants, including those that thrive in the cooler autumn months and provide the first hints of spring. Shoppers can choose from several stunning perennials, including ornamental onion, autumn moor grass, meadow sage, prairie dropseed and Eastern bee balm, among others.

Be among the first to preview and buy **the new Garden Artistry™ family of plants**, which are based on Lurie Garden perennial plant combinations. The line is being grown by Midwest Groundcovers and will be available for purchase from independent garden centers in the spring.

Activities for the whole family include honey tasting and the opportunity to buy **Lurie Garden Honey**, now sold in jars exclusively at the plant sale. The event includes tours, plant-based crafts for kids, face painting and more. Shoppers also can take advantage of \$10 savings on Lurie Garden memberships, if they sign up as a new garden member that day. The Lurie Garden's membership program supports vital funding of its vibrant and free, year-round public environment and education programs, including for kids, families and adults.

The Fall Festival and Plant Sale will be held **rain or shine in the garden's spacious maintenance yard**, directly beneath the Nichols Bridgeway located at the southeast corner of **Millennium Park near Columbus Drive and Monroe Street**. Plants are sold in pints for \$5 each. Buy a flat of 10 plants for \$45 and get one plant free. Proceeds from the plant sale support the Lurie Garden's year-round free educational programs. Please bring your own bags or boxes to transport your purchases.

Millennium Park is easily reached by CTA and adjacent public parking is available. Millennium Park is universally accessible to patrons with disabilities. For more information, visit www.millenniumpark.org. Visit www.luriegarden.org for information specific to the Lurie Garden, including information on how to become a Lurie Garden member. Also, find it on Facebook by searching The Lurie Garden.

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News from Kruse *by Tom Fessler*

July 1, 2012 will be a day remembered by all residents of West Chicago for some time. The storms which ravaged the city and the north end of West Chicago in particular, did damage which was hard to believe. Watching the storm from our front window was a scary thing. On Monday I went to the Kruse House to see if damage had occurred there. As I parked my car I was shocked to see the amount of damage. Near the back of the property, two large trees had been blown down, which damaged the vintage fence located there. That was bad enough, but the real damage was the damage done to the large maple tree which was the center piece of most activities held at The Kruse House. This tree was heavily damaged, with approximately one-third of this tree broken off and on the ground. A tree which took over a hundred years to grow, destroyed in minutes.



Billie, Angie and I did our best to clean of the debris that we could, but it soon became apparent that this was a job for professionals. We did manage to remove some branches which had fallen on some of our plants and trees. I guess when I saw the damage to Reed-Keppler Park, we got off easy. Jessie Felix, parks superintendent, said that the Park lost around 200 trees, and the cost to the Park District is approximately \$300,000 for clean-up.

I think all of us who made it through the storm and the days which followed, with no power and 100 degree temperatures, received a new understanding of what is really important. As far as I can tell nobody was hurt in this storm, which I find truly amazing.



Worth the Trip - Olbrich Botanical Gardens

by Elaine McCluskey

With a daughter in college in Minnesota, I've made many a trip up I-90 through Wisconsin over the last few years. On a trip this past June, I decided to stop in the lovely town of Madison to break up the drive. To make it a "garden stop," I found Olbrich Botanical Gardens, about a 15-minute drive off the highway along the northeast shoreline of Lake Monona.



The original vision for this land began with Michael Olbrich, a Madison attorney, who worked in the early 20th century to create parks and preserve lake access in Madison. He saw the then-badly polluted marshland along a creek to have the potential to be a broad expanse of park surrounding a municipal flower garden. Olbrich led land acquisition and finally in the 1930s, the city took over the park and developed it along with many private donations and volunteer efforts.

The garden is replete with lovely paths, interesting sculptures, and colorful garden beds. I enjoyed sitting and relaxing in the shade garden.



The most unusual feature is the Thai Pavilion and Garden. The structure is the only Thai pavilion in the United States and the only one in the world outside Thailand surrounded by a tropical-style garden. The structure was a gift of the Thai government and the Thai Chapter of the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association. It was fabricated in Thailand and then transported to Madison by ship, train, and truck, and assembled. The pavilion features gold leaf etchings, lacquer finish, and intricate decoration. How does the tropical garden withstand Wisconsin winters? **From the Olbrich's website:**

The Thai Garden surrounding the Pavilion emulates a lush, tropical garden with Wisconsin-hardy plants. Ornamental grasses, some reaching up to 12 feet tall, and several hardy bamboos are essential in creating a tropical look. Large-leafed shrubs and trees are pruned to give them the look of plants in a typical Thai garden.



With my daughter's move to South Carolina for graduate school this month, I may not find a reason to head back up I-90 very soon. But with 16 acres of plants, a variety of specialty gardens, a tropical conservatory, and a great gift shop, Olbrich Botanical Gardens is certainly worth the trip on its own!



ALTHOUGH WE HOPE 2012 STORMS ARE FINISHED, SOME TIPS FOR YOUR TREES IN CASE MORE APPEAR:

CUTTING YOUR (STORM) LOSSES: HELP DAMAGED TREES

The Morton Arboretum Tree Experts Offer 4 Tips to Minimize Tree Damage

LISLE, IL (July 02, 2012) – Severe thunderstorms ripped through the Chicago area yesterday, packing wind gusts of up to 90 mph, knocking out power to 200,000 ComEd customers and leaving a trail of tree limbs strewn around. For homeowners seeking to lower the risk of long-lasting storm damage to your trees, The Morton Arboretum offers four tips to extend the life of your trees and prevent further property damage.

“Pruning when high winds rip large limbs off a tree can help improve the tree’s structure by removing branches that are weak, dead or diseased,” says Plant Information Specialist Doris Taylor of the Arboretum Plant Clinic, which was fielding a flood of calls Monday. **“It is imperative to prune branches with jagged cuts and hanging branches, which can be hazards to people or property as soon as practical.”**

That is because damaged trees attempt to isolate their “wounded” areas, growing a “wall” of cells to block any possible tree rot from infiltrating the trunk. However, when a wound is jagged, the wall could be compromised, leaving the tree vulnerable to diseases or pests, Taylor says.

The Arboretum recommends a four-step pruning process:

1. Remove as much of the damaged branch as possible to reduce the weight pulling on the trunk.
2. Cut beneath the remaining damaged branch, approximately one-third of the way up through the branch. **Make this cut between the edge and the “branch collar,” a swollen area where the branch arises from the trunk.**
3. Make a final cut entirely through the branch, just beyond the branch collar.
4. Never cut flush with the trunk, which would cause a very large wound and make it difficult for the tree to heal. In contrast, trees that receive a clean cut develop a hard edge, like a callous, which is a sign that the tree has healed.

Safety is a primary concern. If the damage appears extensive, call a certified arborist for a professional evaluation **of your tree, Taylor recommends, as some jobs are dangerous for average homeowners. “Never climb a ladder to prune a tree, especially not with a chain saw,” she advises.**

If the recent storms have caused damage to your trees, contact The Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic for free assistance, at 630-719-2424 or plantclinic@mortonarb.org. In addition, go to www.illinoisarborist.org to find a full list of arborists. But be patient, as tree services are busy.

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BOOK CORNER

Here's another in an occasional series on books of interest to gardeners. If you've read a book you'd recommend to a fellow gardener, send the editor a short review, along with the book title and author. Here's one your editor read recently:

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

This novel is about a young woman with a troubled family life, who discovers her talent for helping people through flower arranging and learns about how flowers can have meaning. This leads her to finding meaning and redemption in her own life. This fascinating book used the Victorian language of flowers (honeysuckle for devotion, aster for patience, red roses for love) to show the main character's growth and development over several years as she finds herself and learns to trust again.

The end of the book contains a glossary of flowers and their meaning. The Victorian language of flowers began in 1819, with a book written by Charlotte de Latour in Paris called Le Language des Fleurs. Throughout the 1800's many flower dictionaries were published across Europe and America. The definitions come from poetry, ancient mythology, and even medicine. But sometimes different dictionaries provide conflicting meanings for the same flower! Enjoy this interesting read!

<p>The Growing Place</p>			<p>Spring Bluff Nursery, Inc. <i>Specializing in growing landscape quality trees and shrubs</i> Retail Garden Center Landscape Design & Installation Trees, Shrubs & Perennials</p> <p>41W130 Norris Rd. Sugar Grove, Illinois 60564</p> <p>630.466.4278 www.springbluffnursery.com plants@springbluffnursery.com</p> <p><i>Growing, learning and educating since 1979...</i></p>
	<p>Winging it Day... August 11 Celebrating nature! Winged fun all day! S.O.A.R. @ 3:30</p> <p>Summer Sale!... 7/27- 8/12</p> <p>Aurora: 630-820-8088 Montgomery Rd Naperville: 630-355-4000 Plank Rd</p>		

Are weeds getting stronger?

According to the Weed Science Society of America (www.wssa.net), some weeds have begun to develop resistance to herbicides, much like germs to do with indiscriminate antibiotic use. This produces much stronger, harder-to-control weeds, and makes chemical methods ineffective.

What's the alternative? Old-fashioned methods:

- Pull weeds by hand - be sure to wear gloves - after a rain is easiest (but these days, you may have to wait awhile!).
- Use landscape fabric to keep weeds down (multiple layers of newspaper also work well).
- Rotate organic weed controls if additional maintenance is necessary.

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