



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 13 Issue 2 February 2010

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Time to renew your membership

It's time for annual membership renewal. See the form at the end of the newsletter. Please bring the form to the February meeting, or mail it as noted on the form.

February 25th Meeting : "Guilt-Free Wine and Chocolate in the Garden"



What's not to like about wine and chocolate? Kelly Bryant, master gardener and Cantigny volunteer will share ideas to bring decadence to the garden as we learn about using the rich, full bodied colors of wine colored foliage and flowers effectively in beds and containers. For dessert, try a taste of

chocolate (or dark colored) plants with names or scents that will satisfy your sweet tooth. Come away with ideas for creating your own chocolate themed garden!

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 25th: "DON'T USE THE WORST FIRST!"

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.



Good Bugs, Bad Bugs - January 2010 Meeting

At our 1st meeting of the new year veteran master gardener, Julie Moore, led us on a GSI - Garden Scene Investigation - to explore how to tell the good bugs from the bad ones. Some good bug examples include the spined soldier beetle (certainly didn't look "good" to me!) who eats other bad bugs, and the aphid parasite (a small black wasp) who attacks aphids and leaves them looking like mummies. The photos were great. Julie helped us understand how integrated plant management strategies can help control the bad bugs and leave us with healthier gardens.





Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Midwest Garden Symposium, March 5-7, information and registration at <http://www.mortonarb.org/adult-programs.html>.

Shady Hill Gardens: Early Bird container workshops Saturday, March 20 & 27. More information at <http://www.shadyhill.com/currentevents.html>.

Cantigny: Tuesday, March 2, Bob Carr, Cantigny Grower, will lead a greenhouse tour to check out the finishing touches on the spring bedding plants and the beginning stages of the summer plant series. No registration is required. Please access the Greenhouse via Shaffner Road entrance.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Start your Garden from Seeds class, March 27 at 10 a.m. \$10. Information <http://www.heinzbrothers.com/classes.htm>.

Chicago Flower and Garden Show: at Navy Pier March 6-14, tickets \$15 weekdays/\$17 weekends. Information at <http://chicagoflower.com>.



Farewell Lorraine

Lorraine Biang, long-time GC member and friend, has moved to Indiana. Her cheerful attitude and ready volunteerism were generous gifts we all appreciated.



On Feb 5th, a group of friends gathered at the Childress' home for lunch and good-byes. At Lorraine's request, Dorothy O'Conner read her card aloud for the group to appreciate....

When twilight pulls the curtain back
And pins it with a star
Don't forget you have a friend
No matter where you are.

We will miss you Lorraine! Thank you for your contributions to our club!



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

An Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640-1940, by Denise Wiles Adams was published in 2004. It is a remarkable book of history and horticulture with emphasis on American history that connects us with national roots and cherished past generations. This book is a treasure trove of information as well as heart warming. Much information for this reference was obtained from nursery plant or seed catalogs of the day, augmented and confirmed by period books and magazines. I thought it would be fun to share bits of history on select Kruse Garden plants.

Smoke tree, *Cotinus coggygria*, several installed in the gardens over the last few years
 Earliest American citation: George Washington, ca 1786
 Remarks: "It is beautiful, curious, and desirable" (Scott 1870)

Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus syriacus*, northeast corner foundation planting & se border
 Earliest American citation: John Custis 1736
 Design notes: "The altheas are fine, free growing and free blooming shrubs, of the easiest cultivation. Very desirable on account of blooming in the autumn months, when scarcely any other tree or shrub is in blossom" Eellwanger & Barry, New York, 1860)

American columbine, *Aquilegia Canadensis*, scattered through back garden
 Earliest American citation: Jean Skipwith, ca. 1800
 Design notes: "The debonair little red-and-yellow native sort [of columbine]...is fit to bring into the garden to shine among the best...(Wilder 1918)

Lance-leaf coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, back garden
 Earliest American citation: M'Mahon, Philadelphia, 1804
 Design notes: "Coreopsis lanceolata is a very charming plant for front rows, especially if it can have a place where it is given the benefit of contrast with a white flower, like the daisy" (Rexford 1912)

Bleeding heart, *Dicentra spectabilis*, planted by garage & in Angie's garden
 Earliest American citation: The Horticulturist, July 1854
 Description: "Very curious and beautiful, immensely hardy, long in bloom, foliage neat, flowers pendant ,from arcs or sprays, ... (Bloomington Nursery, Illinois, 1868)

Dame's rocket, *Hesperis matronalis*, back garden...has proved to be invasive
 Earliest American citation: Spurrier, 1793
 Description: "A vigorous, hardy, herbaceous perennial plant forming clumps 2-3 ft high, branched from the base, and covered with showy terminal pyramidal spikes of 4 petaled flowers, resembling stocks....color range from white through lilac and pink to purple" (Bailey 1906)

If only there was space to share more! Enjoy your own garden heirloom plants and plan to enjoy those of the Kruse Gardens this year too. A&B





Sign up NOW to help prepare for the Plant Sale

The sign-up sheets for the potting 'parties' will be available at the February club meeting. Remember, you can earn Garden Dollars for helping!

Each weekend in April we will hold a potting party schedule as follows:

Saturday April 3, 9-12

Saturday April 10, 9-12

Sunday April 18, 1-4

Sunday April 25, 1-4



We need at least 14 volunteers at each session. There are jobs that fit everyone. Please think about when you can help.

We plan to work at a park district site this year, which should make our jobs even easier! We had superb potting crews last year and with all that experience, this year should be a piece of cake! All of us together make the plant sale the wonderful success it is.

I'm looking forward to working with you. - Billie Childress

Have pots to donate? Drop them in front of Bernice McFarland's garage, 555 E. National St. anytime!

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Help with your Income Taxes?

If you need help with your 2009 federal and state income taxes, contact your local AARP tax counseling center. It is convenient, confidential, fast and free, and you don't have to be over 65 or a member of AARP. Service is limited to individual returns—no businesses, partnerships, etc. To schedule an appointment, call a park district office:

Glen Ellyn—appointments on Mondays, call 630-858-2463

Wheaton—appointments on Tuesdays, call 630-665-1415.

For more information, contact Mike Saad (630-653-1350)

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Growing your Gardening Knowledge

Have you been wanting to learn more about a particular aspect of gardening? Maybe these University of Illinois Extension Service classes would be of interest. Classes are \$15 each, and held at the Naperville office. Register at www.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage, or call 630-955-1123.

The Hosta: America's Favorite Perennial, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Master Gardener Lou Horton presents this richly illustrated presentation which covers hosta types from the classics to the newest offerings, explains basic hosta culture, and details the many ways hostas can be used in today's garden.

BodySmart Gardening, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

DuPage County Master Gardener Beth Corrigan will show you how to protect yourself from injury while gardening. Body Smart Gardening involves using the proper tools correctly and addresses things that are within our control, such as skin and eye protection and the prevention of muscle aches and strains.

The Herb Patch, April 8, 7:00 p.m.

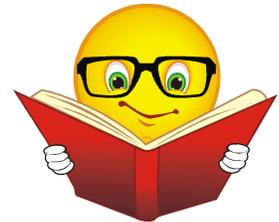
Whether you're a new or advanced herb gardener, DuPage County Master Gardener Sandy Lentz will be able to offer information useful in the selection, care and uses of a variety of culinary herbs. Come learn how to add some flavor to your garden.

Or with the convenience of a computer connection, try these Telnet classes (register at above web address):

Ferns in the Landscape, February 23 at 1 P.M.

The Elusive Morel, March 9 at 1 P.M.

A Gardener's Guide to Plant Propagation, March 25 at 7 P.M.



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Garden Dollars - start collecting now!

Based on the success of the 2009 Garden Dollar auction, WCGC will again this year distribute tokens (Garden Dollars) to members who participate in club activities. At the November meeting, you will be able to use them at the auction to bid on fabulous prizes.

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs)	75 - 150	Donate plants for the sale <50, 50-149, ≥150	75, 200, 300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Trip attendance	25	Pay dues before February 2nd	50
Donate to Kruse House	50		

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, pick them up at special events from the event organizer, or see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned. Contact Jeff Handel for more information, 231-6765.



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2010

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2010 are due by the February meeting and will be considered over-due as of February 28th. The board would appreciate receiving dues as soon as possible

With your paid membership you receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication Garden Glories.

Individual Membership:

\$15 per year

Family Membership:

\$25 per year

(For multiple members at a single address)

Our meetings in 2010 will be held on the 4th Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3rd Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

Please make checks payable to the West Chicago Garden Club. You can bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
c/o Mike Saad
27W206 Manchester Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190-1440

Application

type: New or Renewal

class: Individual or Family

Name(s): _____
(Print)

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Note: e-mail addresses may be shared with garden club members.

Send newsletters via: E-mail or Mail

Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will not get phone reminders of any garden club events.)