

WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

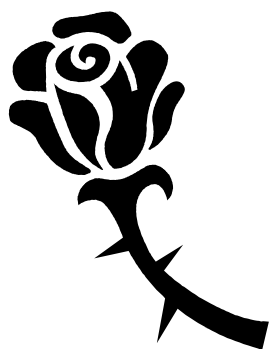
Volume 14 Issue 2 February 2011

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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.



February 24th Meeting : "Roses"



At our meeting this month **Doug Hampton** will share his wealth of knowledge about roses. Doug has worked at The Planter's Palette for as long as he can remember. (Actually, it's been 25 years.) He's had a number of jobs in the nursery over the years, but has finally risen to his current level of incompetency as he serves as the Information Manager - it's anyone's guess as to what that means.

However, and more to the point, for the last 15 years, he has been the buyer of trees, shrubs and **ROSES**. Doug is also a firm believer that there should be more humor in horticulture!"

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - speaker

Greet our newest member, Cathy Sieber, at the next meeting!

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 24th:

"RIGHT PLANT - RIGHT PLACE"

With Mary Saba from the Growing Place

Our speaker for March is going to be talking about planting the right plant in right place. June Luther, one of our program coordinators, is asking for **your help**. If you have a specific area of your yard where you are puzzled by what to plant, or need some inspiration as you ponder spring planting, please let June know. Our speaker will try to **tailor her talk around our members' gardens**. If you contact June, either at the February meeting, or by way of the contact information on page 2 no later than March 10th, she will forward it on to our speaker.





Upcoming events (outside the club)

DeKalb Area Garden Club/Kishwaukee College: The Gardener's Pathway workshops, Saturday, Feb 26, all day. See http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/gardeners_pathway/ or call 815-825-2086, ext 2040.

Cantigny: Greenhouse Close Up: Spring Bedding Plants & More!, join a Cantigny grower for a free tour, Tuesday, Mar 1, 11 a.m., no registration required, enter the Greenhouse via Shaffner Road entrance..

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Houseplants for your Home, Saturday, Mar 12, 2 p.m., free! please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

Morton Arboretum: Garden Innovations- The Children's Garden (lunch & learn, includes lunch), Wednesday, Mar 2, 11:30 a.m.\$20/\$26, register online at <http://www.mortonarb.org/calendar/article/21745/lunch-a-learns.html>, or call 630-719-2468.

Growing Place: No Fuss Veggie Gardening. Saturday, Feb 26, 10 a.m., Aurora, \$10, register online at www.thegrowingplace.com or call 630-355-4000.

Wasco Nursery: Garden Day, choose from a variety of workshops, Saturday, Mar 12, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., \$20 includes box lunch, see more information here: http://www.wasconursery.com/themes/Wasco_Nursery/images/Garden%20Day%202011%20rev8.pdf. Register online at www.wasconursery.com/gardenday.



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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 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,
emclcluskey@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
24 Feb	Doug Hampton/Planters Palette	Roses	26 May	TBD/Growing Place	Herbs
24 Mar	Mary Saba/Growing Place	Right Plant - Right Place	23 Jun	Dave Wanniger/Beaver Creek Nursery	TBD
3 Apr	All members - need crew of 16!	Plant Sale Potting Party- 1 - 4 p.m.	28 Jul	All members	President's Picnic
10 Apr	All members - need crew of 16!	Plant Sale Potting Party- 1 - 4 p.m.	7 Aug	Billie & Angie	Kruse "Open Garden" Party
16 Apr	All members - need crew of 16!	Plant Sale Potting Party- 9 am. - 12 noon	25 Aug	TBD/Growing Place	Unusual & Seldom Used Perennials
23 Apr	All members - need crew of 16!	Plant Sale Potting Party- 9 am. - 12 noon	22 Sep	TBD/Morton Arboretum	Trees
28 Apr	Susan Schmitz/Ball Seed	What's Hot - What's Not	27 Oct	Nancy Clifton/Chicago Botanic Garden	Holiday Decorating
21 May	All members	Plant Sale!	17 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

WANT TO GET INVOLVED, BUT DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME?

You can still make a big difference in our club. Can you help organize a field trip or day tour? Please see Jeff Handel (contact information page 2 or see him at the meeting).

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

At this point, we can see the end of winter on the horizon. March 21, the spring equinox, is only about a month away! The days are noticeably longer and we can look forward to Daylight Savings Time beginning on March 13! All those piles of snow will be gone before we know it! Since Ground Hog Day marked a snow storm of record proportions the legend (“no sun, then winters done”) predicts an early spring. All signs are pointed in the right direction.



February is ‘Feed the Birds Month’. Hope you’ve all been doing your part. It’s also possible that we could see the first blossoms of the year in February. Snowdrops are brave souls. They may not even wait for the snow to melt before poking through. What a sight for the winter-weary! The white drop shaped buds look much like an ear drop (old name for earring) and the Latin name Galanthus means milk white flowers. This small bulb is hardy zone 3-7 and is lovely in mass planting.

We are planning to have our **annual ‘open garden’ party at the Kruse House** again this year on the first Sunday in August (August 7th). **We are looking for some garden related activity(s) or informative display(s) to feature as part of this event.** Do you have any ideas? Do you know of anyone that has an interesting hobby, craft, special knowledge, they would be willing to share with the party guests? We would appreciate any suggestions.....please talk to either of us!

Don’t miss the triple play (picture frame of three 5x7s) of Kruse Garden photos that will be available each month at the reception table as you check in. We thought it would be a way of sharing the garden with you. As we browse last years’ photos we see vast possibilities. Maybe its repeat performance we’re looking for, but just as often we’re thinking of ways to tweak the vignette. While we can’t put all good ideas to action be assured that each year the garden improves. It’s rewarding work.

Please **consider joining us either on a regular basis or just occasionally.** Word about this special secret garden is getting around. **We have been contacted by 2 other garden clubs that want to visit!** Makes us happy!



Until next time.....Waiting for Spring, A&B



PLANT SALE NEWS



Yes, the planning has begun for this year's plant sale, our big fundraiser. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 21st**. This is a bit later than the "Saturday after Mother's Day" we're used to - let your friends know!

Three ways you can **jump start** this process:

Start thinking about what dates you can help at the **Potting Parties in April** where we'll need 16 people each time. See the Planned Club Events on page 3 for dates and times - **we need you!**

Start to think about what you can divide or spare from your own garden for this - the **Digging Squad** will be back in action in April.

Start some **vegetable or herb seeds** so we can have these types of plants to sell? These were in great demand last year, and we didn't have much to offer. See page 6 for more information on seed starting.

WINTER INTEREST IN THE GARDEN *by Elaine McCluskey*

Although we may not like winter as much as the gardening season, there's a certain beauty in winter landscapes. Thinking about how the garden looks in the winter is difficult when the weather's nice. I took some photos at the Morton Arboretum recently to remind myself of what can be done to enhance my yard when planting in the future.

The hydrangeas sporting their dried flower heads are a great contrast to the white pine standing over them. This planting along the Joy Path is at the edge of a wooded area on the west side of the arboretum. The contrast of beige and green with the snow and sky made me stop and take notice.



This is when red-twig dogwood really shine. This grouping near the visitor center entrance caught my eye right away, especially with the backdrop of blue sky, tall evergreen trees, and lots of white snow. This is a completely different scene in summer, but also lovely on a winter's day.



Time and Temperature Chart

Here are some sowing and setting-out dates for a few vegetables and flowers that are commonly started indoors. Use them as approximate guides; the best planting times will vary depending on your locale and gardening practices.

Plant Type	Sowing Date (Number of weeks before last frost date)	Optimum Germination Temperature	Approximate Days to Germination	Transplant Date (Number of weeks before last frost date)
Peppers: sweet, chile	8 weeks	80-85°	10 to 15	2 weeks after
Tomatoes	6 weeks	80-85°	7 to 10	2 weeks after
Broccoli	10 weeks	70-75°	5 to 10	3 weeks before
Cabbage	10 weeks	70-75°	5 to 8	3 weeks before
Cauliflower	10 weeks	70 to 75°	5 to 10	3 weeks before
Kale	10 weeks	70-75°	5 to 8	3 weeks before
Eggplant	8 weeks	80-90°	10 to 14	2 weeks after
Leeks	10 weeks	75-85°	5 to 10	2 weeks before
Lettuce	8 weeks	65-75°	3 to 5	4 weeks before
Onions	10 weeks	75-85°	5 to 8	2 weeks before
Basil	3 weeks	70-80°	5 to 7	2 weeks after
Oregano/marjoram	6 weeks	65-70°	8 to 10	2 weeks after
Parsley	10 weeks	70°	10 to 15	3 weeks before
Canterbury Bells	2 to 4 weeks	70-80°	10 to 20	4-6 weeks after
Carnations	10 weeks	65-70°	10 to 20	2 weeks before
Columbine	6 to 8 weeks	70-75°	20 to 25	2 weeks before
Delphinium	2 to 4 weeks	65-75°	10 to 18	4-6 weeks after
Foxglove	10 weeks	65-70°	10 to 15	2 weeks before
Lobelia	10 weeks	75-80°	14 to 21	2 weeks after
Marigolds	6 weeks	75-80°	5 to 7	3 weeks after
Nicotiana	6 weeks	75°	14 to 21	2 weeks after
Pansy/Viola	10 weeks	65-75°	10 to 15	2 weeks before
Petunia	10 weeks	75-78°	7 to 10	2 weeks after
Phlox	4 weeks	60-65°	10 to 15	2 weeks after
Schizanthus	8 weeks	60 to 70°	10 to 15	2 weeks after
Snapdragons	8 weeks	65-70°	7 to 10	2 weeks before
Statice	6 weeks	70°	10 to 15	2 weeks after
Stock	6 weeks	65-70°	7 to 10	2 weeks after

For more information on this and other topics, see: www.ag.ndsu.edu

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This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, (701) 231-7881.

1M-3-05; 1M-3-07; 800-3-08; 500-4-09; 1M-4-10

Thanks to Lou Horton for this timely information!



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: Gardening Assistant
 Starting April 2011, about 8 hrs per week through growing season, hours flexible
 Call Billie Childress (630) 231-1791

Help with your Income Taxes?
 If you need help with your 2010 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 or
 Wheaton—appointments on Tuesdays, call 630-665-1415.
 For more information, contact Mike Saad (630-653-1350)



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 No Fuss Veggie Gardening... 2/26
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The Growing Place
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www.thegrowingplace.com



West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2011

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2011 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 2011 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.)

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