



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 15 Issue 2 February 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, 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 23rd Meeting : "Hummingbirds - Our Flying Jewels"

Those colorful, iridescent little bundles of energy are some of the most enjoyable birds to observe in nature. **Nancy Carroll**, who is a member of The Hummingbird Society, as well as the Illinois and National Audubon Societies, will share many interesting and amazing facts about Hummers. Learn how to identify different species, what to plant in a yard to attract them, as well as information about feeders. For fun, Nancy will also provide ideas about making Hummingbird art, other whimsical ideas, and will provide terrific handouts and give-aways. ***Who wouldn't want to have rubies and emeralds in their garden?***



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, March 22nd:

"BODY SMART GARDENING" with Jan Hanson

CHICAGO FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW - HORT COUTURE!

From www.chicagoflower.com: Flowers and fashion have a lot in common. Vibrant colors. Rich textures. The power to inspire—and make jaws drop. This year at the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, the worlds of fashion and horticulture will collide, creating an experience that rivals the hottest runway show or A-list afterparty. March 10-18, \$15/17 weekday/weekend tickets online. \$2 more at the door. Hours: 10 AM to 8 PM except to 6 PM on Sunday. At Navy Pier, Chicago.



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Chicago Flower and Garden Show: see description on page 1. March 10-18, Navy Pier, Chicago

Growing Place: Hands on Pruning, Saturday, March 3, 10 AM, call 630-355-4000 to register.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Houseplants, Saturday, March 10, 2 p.m. free, please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

Cantigny: Greenhouse Close up: Spring bedding plants and more. Tuesday, March 6, 11 AM, no charge, enter from Shaffner Road entrance.

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.

Klein Creek Farm Forest Preserve: Meet the Beekeepers, Saturday, Feb 26, 1:30-3:30 PM, free.



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



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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, pmbriiggs@juno.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
23 Feb	Nancy Carroll, Garden Clubs of Illinois	Hummingbirds	28 Jun	Kruse House! Speaker from Growing Place	Vertical Gardening
22 Mar	Jan Hanson, Master Gardener	Body Smart Gardening	26 Jul	J Hawthorne's backyard	President's Picnic
7, 14, 22, 29 Apr	All members!	Potting Parties Manville Oaks Park	23 Aug	Mel Zaloudek, Garden Clubs of Illinois	The Shaded Garden
26 Apr	Dave Wanniger/Beaver Creek Nursery	Woodies that fit	27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
19 May	All members	Plant Sale!	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
24 May	Colleen Gaudens & Tony Koch	Alternatives to Invasives	15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

THANK YOU FROM THE WEST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

We recently received this letter from Melody Coleman, Administrative Librarian:

Thank you for your recent donation in the amount of \$258.23 to the West Chicago Public Library District. Your funds have made it possible to renew the following magazine subscriptions and purchase the book Great Gardens of Britain by Helena Attlee.

- American Gardener
- Chicagoland Gardening
- Organic Gardening
- Fine Gardening
- Garden Gate
- Horticulture
- Northern Gardener



We appreciate your ongoing contributions to our Library. Many readers have benefited from your generous donations.

If there's a book you'd like WCGC to consider donating, contact Tom Fessler, our Library Liaison.

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

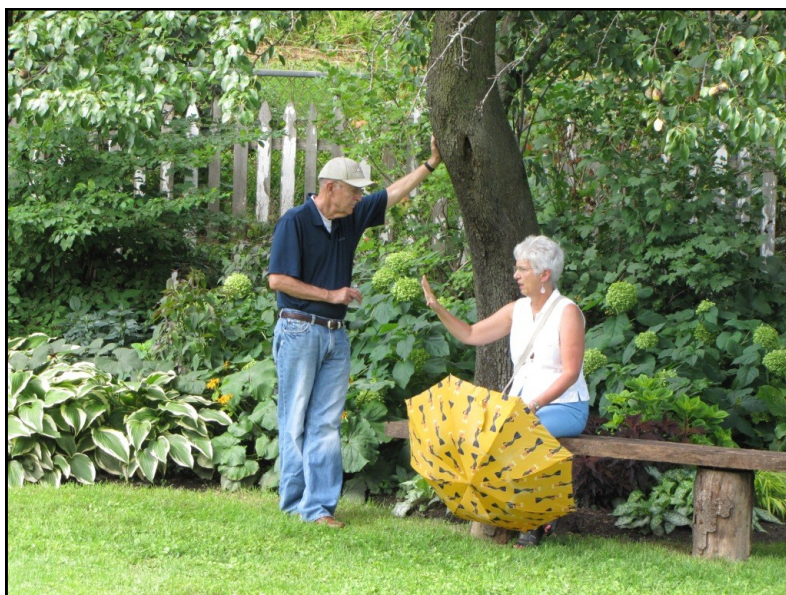
We have been away from NFK for several months. We have enjoyed the time off but it's time to start talking about our favorite garden again.

I'm sure the winter season holds commonality for all dyed-in-the-wool gardeners. First we take a break. Leave it alone for a while. But soon enough we need a hort fix. It's those great garden magazines and fabulous garden books you got for Christmas that stir the blood and those 'new' hybrids start looking very interesting. Even though your head says 'tried and true' plants make the most sense, the intrigue is undeniable. However, when it comes to the Kruse Garden, we are nothing but practical with our plants. Our backs, our time, and our budget all offer constraints. So 'known' wins over 'unknown' every time.

The east fence border is an area of the garden that will need attention this year. You may recall mention of a big weed mess down there much of last year but we redeemed ourselves with a fall clearing. The challenge this year will be keeping the weeds down. Landscape cloth, mulch, and Roundup should help accomplish that goal. **Whenever you visit the gardens this year, be sure to evaluate our progress.**

We hope to be first on the list for the Votavas Lawn Care clean up crew this year as we were last year. This will be our third year using this service. We couldn't do the spring clean-up without their help! A minimum of two truckloads of yard waste gets hauled out of the garden. All year we use the compost pile for debris but we strain the capacity of this location and could never handle all the spring debris being dumped on the pile.

Did you hear? The Kruse garden and house tours were named in Wayne Garden Club's top three programs from last year. Every GC in District II shares their favorite past programs at the District's Program Meeting in January. June Luther and Pauline Briggs, our representatives, were excited and proud to bring back that welcome news! We hope to share the garden with as many visitors as possible this year. To that end, we are planning to hold our **June Club Meeting in the garden** and invite other garden clubs to join us. We are in the early planning stage so if you have any input we would love to hear from you.



With gardening in mind, we sign off for now. A&B



PLANT SALE NEWS

The Plant Sale Committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for the **May 19th** sale at BloomingFest in downtown West Chicago. Since this is our only fundraiser of the year, the committee's planning work is critical for a successful sale.

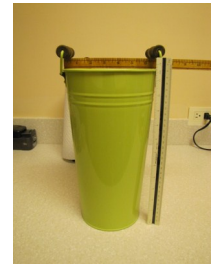
PLANTS ARE NEEDED! The sale depends on the quality plants from our members' gardens. Without them, there is no sale. There will be a sign-up sheet for what plants you think you might be able to provide for the sale. Especially needed are **purple coneflowers**. Since this is the new official flower of the City of West Chicago, the committee would like to see as many purple coneflowers as possible at the sale. Ask your neighbors!

POTS ARE NEEDED! As always, pots are needed for all the plants that are dug out of member's gardens. Please bring your pots to the February or March meetings. All sizes are needed.

DIGGING HELP IS NEEDED! Our new plant sale committee needs volunteers who can dig plants from other people's gardens and get them to Manville Oaks Park, where they will be potted. If you have a little spare time to become a member of the Digging Squad, please sign up at the February and March meetings. Time commitment is during April only.

POTTING IS NEEDED! Thanks to those who already signed up at the January meeting for a potting party. These are fun times at Manville Oaks barn where we turn the dug-up perennials into saleable items. Many hands make light work, so please sign up to do your part at the February and March meetings.

PLANT SIGN HOLDERS NEEDED! To display information about the plants we're selling, we need pots in which to place signs on wire frames. The pots need to be ~ 7" diameter, and 10-12" high. They will be filled with sand to weight them down. These are sometimes found at craft stores—see picture.



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



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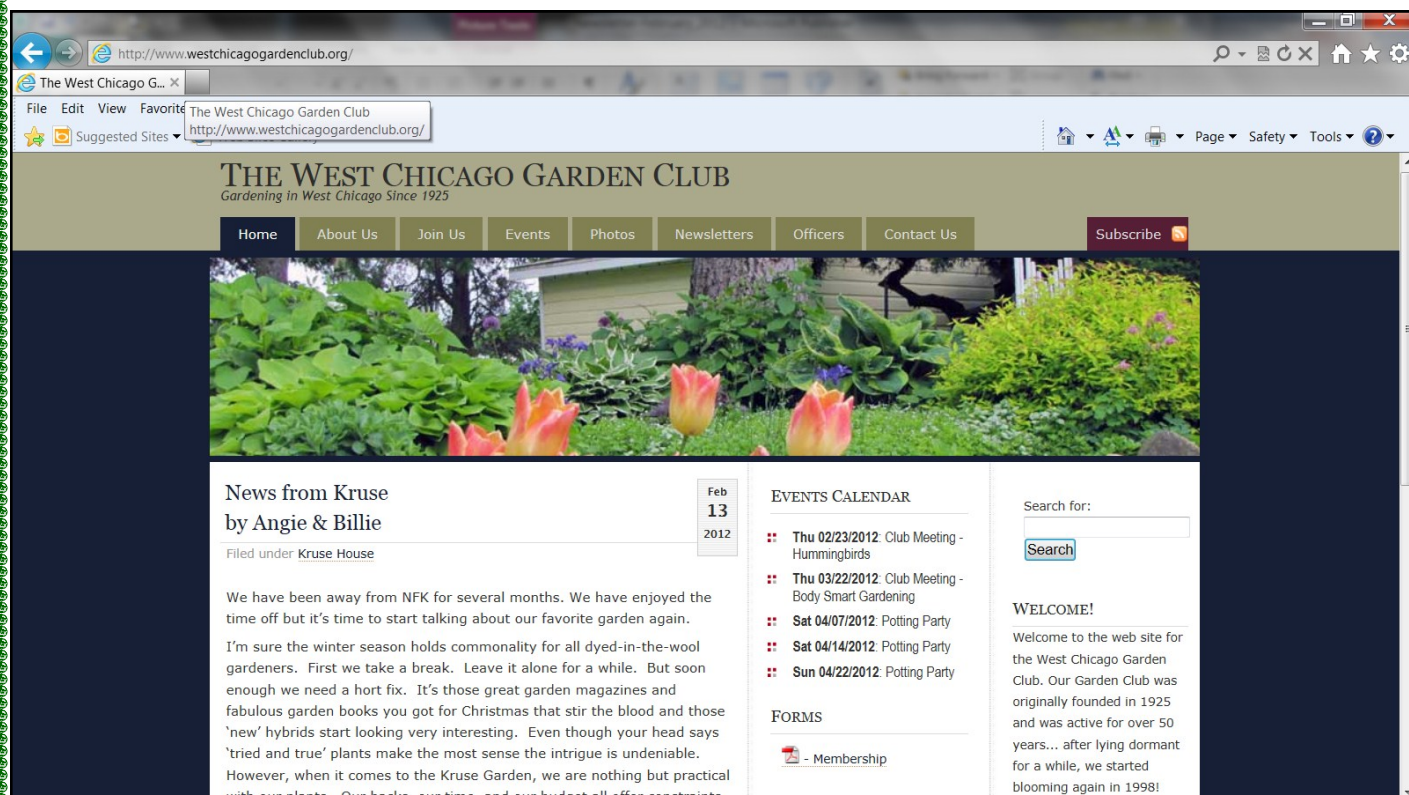
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Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554 www.springbluffnursery.com
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Website Extraordinaire - Many thanks to the webmaster!

Did you learn about the West Chicago Garden Club through our website? This newsletter editor did. In 2007, when I wanted to join a local gardening group, I googled “garden club” and saw a fabulous webpage, that told me all about an upcoming field trip to the Cantigny Greenhouse that sounded really fun. I was hooked. If it hadn’t been for the website, it’s unlikely I’d be writing this now for you to read.



Our website is quietly maintained in a very professional manner by our own **Mark Luther**. It provides a window into our club for those in the virtual world, with links to monthly newsletters, a calendar of events, list of club officers, and photos of past club events. Mark makes it look easy, but the clean design with easy-to-navigate features makes all the difference in today’s electronic world.

We’d like to be sure we’re taking full advantage of this communication tool. If you have pictures from events, or want to share other information on the website, please contact Elaine McCluskey at emccluskey@sbcglobal.net, and I’ll coordinate with Mark to get that information on the website. Be sure to www.westchicagogardenclub.org to see the page for yourself and make it a “favorite place”!

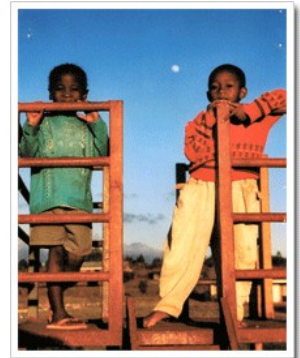


SEEDS FOR KENYA— A project of the Garden Clubs of Illinois

The FOSICK organization (Friends of Sheltered Children in Kenya, www.fosick.org) is a small not for profit organization that care for orphaned, destitute, and abandoned children residing at the FOSICK shelter home in Kenya, Africa. The shelter home is located in the Ngong town area, and they also assist an outreach program that helps those in the near-by slums and community.

Many of the children served are HIV positive and suffer from improper nutrition. FOSICK just completed a project that took 6 years to raise funds to purchase 2.5 acres of land. One of the projects FOSICK would like to do on this land is plant vegetables, so the children will always have food.

There is a shortage of vegetable seeds in and around Nairobi, Kenya. District II of the Garden Clubs of Illinois is supporting this project, and WCGC **members are asked to bring a seed packet to the February meeting.** Our representatives will take them to the District II March 16th meeting. **Thanks in advance for your support of this gardening service project!**



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WC Library Program:

April 18, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Main Program Room

The Conservation at Home program is all about creating more eco-friendly yards!

The typical yard can easily be improved to help reduce water run-off, increase wildlife habitat, and improve the soil. The benefits of improving the environment are many including, reducing your water use, creating more area for birds and butterflies, reducing chemical use, less lawn mowing, and learning how to make some of your garbage into rich compost.

This education program will cover a variety of techniques for transforming your yard, including the use of Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, and the selection and use of native plants to solve yard problems. Native plants grow naturally and need no watering or fertilizers once established. Native plants thrive on their own and do well, even during drought conditions. Their deep roots hold the soil, allow water to filter down deep into the ground where it belongs and, because they "evolved" here, they attract dozens of species of beneficial wildlife such as butterflies and songbirds.

Participants will receive a butterfly attraction and identification pamphlet, and native plant guide. Rain barrels will be for sale along with accessories!

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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2012

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2012 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 2012 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.)