



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 17 Issue 2 February 2013

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February 28th Meeting: "Vegetables" with Kris Prusa-Vanvleet from The Growing Place

Kris has worked at The Growing Place for 17 years. She admits that gardening is an "addiction" as she's been hooked for 50 years! She will share information on different and unusual vegetables that can be grown in our area, as well as information on square foot gardening.



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 28th:

"Don't Squash That Bug" with James Rowan

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.

LOOK FOR NEW MEMBERS Donna Pilkington and Joshua & Mary Lundquist AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING!

2013 PLANT SALE—SATURDAY, MAY 18TH



SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR POTTING PARTIES AND OTHER TASKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!



Have you paid your 2013 membership dues yet?



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Exploring the World of Rhododendrons. Friday, March 1, 1:00 PM. Visitor’s Center Theater. No class fee, but registration is required. Call 630-260-8162.

Growing Place: No Fuss Veggie Gardening. Saturday, March 2, 10:00 AM. Aurora, \$10. Landscaping 101: Curb Appeal. Saturday, March 9, 10:00 AM. Aurora, \$15. To register, call 630-355-4000.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Bonsai for Beginners. Saturday, March 9, 11:00 AM—12:00 PM, St. Charles, \$10 plus cost of bonsai starter plant and pot. Start Your Garden from Seeds! Saturday, March 30, 10:00 AM—11:00 AM, St. Charles, \$10. Learn the best way to start seeds in and out of the garden.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Chicago Flower & Garden Show. March 9—17, Navy Pier. Visit www.chicagoflower.com for more information.

Morton Arboretum: Maple Tapping & Pancake Picnic. Saturdays, March 2, 9, & 16, 11 AM—1PM, Lisle. \$18 Member/\$25 Non-Member. Held outdoors (dress for the weather).

Prestige Nursery Garden Center: Container Gardening Done Right! Saturday, March 2, 10:30 AM. West Chicago, \$40. Registration by phone—630-289-4868.



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Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org
 West Chicago Garden Club
 P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership information

Dues for 2013: 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

2013 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, pmb Briggs@juno.com
June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com
- Information Director & Publicity:
Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2013

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
24 Jan	Nancy Schumm-Burgess	Pioneer Gardens	27 Jun	Bill Scheffler	Yogurt, Vinegar & Lawn Care
28 Feb	The Growing Place	Vegetables	25 Jul	All members	President's Picnic
28 Mar	James Rowan	Don't Squash That Bug	22 Aug	TBA	Monarch Magic
25 Apr	Wasco Nursery	New & Unusual	26 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
18 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	24 Oct	Bill Karges	Fall Garden Prep
23 May	Dave Wanninger	Low Maintenance	21 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

Start Earning Your Garden Dollars Early!

WCGC distributes Garden Dollars to members who participate in club activities.

Here's how to earn them:

Volunteer for workdays or plant sale

1-4 hours = 75

4+ hours = 150

Donate plants for the sale

<50 75

50-149 200

150+ 300

Donate Pots 50

Donate snack for meeting 75

Set up or clean up meeting 25

Trip attendance 25

Write newsletter article 100

Donate door prize 50

Meeting attendance 25

Donate to Kruse House 50



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Both locations open for Spring March 23!
Opening Weekend Events in Aurora!

March 23
 10am: Tree talk by Morton Arboretum. Free trees, tours, & demos!

March 24
 1pm: Magical Miniature & Fairy Garden Tour with Arlena Schott...be inspired & make your own. \$15.

The Growing Place
thegrowingplace.com
 Naperville...630.355.4000 Aurora...630.820.8088
 25w471 Plank Rd 2000 Montgomery Rd



News from Kruse

by Billie Childress & Angie Sadauskas

In an article entitled “Interesting Shrubs” published in the May 1939 *Bulletin*, publication of The Garden Clubs of America, the witch hazel and fothergilla are extolled for their



hardiness and ornamental value. That opinion is echoed by gardeners and horticultural experts today. *The American Gardener* magazine, official publication of the American Horticultural Society, Nov/Dec 2012 issue, has an extensive article on “Enchanting Witch Hazels.” The author says “few shrubs pack more punch in the winter landscape than witch hazels, which bear delicate fragrant flowers on a sculptural frame of bare branches.” Large, low maintenance shrubs are valuable structural additions to any garden. This time of year the value of garden bones (trees & shrubs) are evident and the Kruse Garden could use a few more bones to fill out the

skeleton. A fothergilla shrub was added to the back garden a few years ago and it is doing well, but we don’t have any witch hazels. Both of these shrubs have 3 season interest with early spring flowers to fabulous fall color. It’s apparent that a shrub recommendation that endures for 75 years is a solid bet. We’re convinced that a witch hazel would be a grand addition to the back garden!

Another *Bulletin*, September 1953 , “Garden Suggestions” declared the following: “Gardeners accumulate all sorts of tools, many of which never leave the tool house. Don’t be deceived by a light wheelbarrow. Use the old-fashioned heavy one with a rubber tire if you can get one. Its weight makes it easier to push than those flighty new metal ones, whose handles are too short anyway.” The author goes on to advise “move through your work at a deliberate pace. Most gardeners look as though they were on a slow-up strike. Once you have decided the ‘musts’ in your garden, consult the authorities. Slapdash gardening, whether in layout, planting, maintenance, or material, is wickedly expensive of time and effort. I do not count my labor, which I regard as income in health and contentment.” We know Bertha Kruse and her sisters were avid gardeners concurrent with this publication. One wonders if they shared these thoughts and philosophy. Something to ponder.

While the garden is dormant we will be using our time wisely to consult the experts... Garden Club members are top on our list.

You may consider the wisdom of this advice as well. A&B



Book Review by Elaine McCluskey

To help get through the dark and cold of winter while thinking about being in the garden, I recently read *Writing in the Garden: A Literary Conversation Across Two Centuries*. This small book accompanied the 2011 exhibition organized by the New York Library Society called *Writing the Garden: Books from the Collections of the New York Society Library & Elizabeth Barlow Rogers*. The author, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, is president of the Foundation for Landscape Studies and founding president of the Central Park Conservancy. She crafted the book by looking at writers in several categories, including: Women in the Garden, Travelers in the Garden, Spouses in the Garden, and Humorists in the Garden.

In the section on Correspondents in the Garden, she notes how the sending of paper letters from person such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Thomas Jefferson provided historical accounts of gardening in an informal way. Described in this same section is *New Yorker* editor Katherine White's (wife of E.B. White of *Charlotte's Web*) correspondence with nurserymen and seed suppliers as well as other garden writers. Such correspondence often discussed differences between gardening in two different locales in the U.S. or between the U.S. and other countries.

In the closing section on Philosophers in the Garden, Ms. Rogers notes that in fifth century B.C., Socrates held his classes in a *stoa*—a colonnaded structure in Athens, while Plato's academy outside Athens could be the prototype for university quadrangles in later ages. She devotes a long section to Michael Pollan, writer and journalism professor at University of California, Berkeley, and his well-known writing on industrial food production in the U.S. (FYI, Dr. Pollan will be speaking at Elmhurst College on April 28 at 7 p.m. on *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*, http://public.elmhurst.edu/cultural_events)

The book is enhanced with line drawings and beautiful photographs from the works described in the text. There's a full bibliography that lets the reader go further to find more about this group of writers that Ms. Rogers notes were as good with their trowel as they were with their pen. The book is available through inter-library loan from the West Chicago Public Library.

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Mosaic Bowling Ball Workshop—Angie Sadauskas

Eleven garden club members participated in the mosaic bowling ball workshop in January at Billie Childress' residence. Working with the same basic materials the finished balls were all individual and unique in composition and color.

The finished garden ornaments will be on display at the garden club meeting in February.



Are You Losing Your Ash? by Heather Prince of The Growing Place

Many of us are facing the loss of a tree, either from emerald ash borer, storm damage, drought or other factors. As you think about whether to replace lost trees or add more to your yard, consider their many benefits.

Trees afford us beauty, shade, framework for your landscape, as well as food and shelter for countless birds, butterflies and wildlife. Trees can feed us with their fruits and berries. Trees clean the air, conserve water, and reduce runoff. As you may have noticed this past hot summer, trees do a remarkable job of keeping us cool.

The U.S. Forest Service has found that three well-placed shade trees can reduce the annual heating and cooling costs of an Illinois house by 6.5%. Large deciduous shade trees are best planted on the south side of the building to offer optimal shade from the hot midday sun in summer, but still allow winter light to warm the structure. The Growing Place recommends oaks, elms, tulip poplar and maples among other types of trees for this purpose. To block the lower afternoon sun, add small deciduous trees to the west of the home. Some species to consider for this area would be serviceberries, magnolias, crabapples, and redbud. In fact, small trees or shrubs sited to shade your air conditioner will allow it to operate more efficiently. Plants should be at least three feet away from the unit to allow for proper airflow. Plus, trees and shrubs can hide the unit, creating a more pleasing landscape. Evergreen trees can offer an effective wind-break from our blustery winter winds when planted on the north and northwest corners of the property. Spruce, arborvitae, and pine can be particularly effective in this spot.

Find out more about emerald ash borer (EAB), trees, pruning, and more at The Growing Place's Opening Day Event on Saturday, March 23 at their Aurora location. Start the day at 9:30 with a free tree giveaway to the first 150 people. The Morton Arboretum will speak at 10:00 am about the latest scientific information on EAB management options for your home, including help with identification, treatment options, and replacement selection. In the afternoon, join The Growing Place for tool sharpening demonstrations, greenhouse tours, and pruning advice. Celebrate with a discount on bare root tree pre-orders. In-store landscape coaching appointments are available all day for a fee. Call 630-355-4000 or email landscape@thegrowingplace.com to sign up. \$50 fee includes coupon towards a plant purchase.



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2013

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2013 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 2013 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):

Used to distribute club information –may be shared with WCGC board.

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.)