

# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 14 Issue 7 July 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.

**FIELD TRIP**  
 Visit the West Chicago Prairie on Saturday, July 30.  
 See map and more information on page 6.



## July 28th Meeting : "President's Picnic"

We'll be gathering for our annual outdoor summer time of food and fellowship this month at the beautiful Childress home. See map below. The club will provide tableware, drinks and a chicken entrée. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. While you're at it, bring a friend!

**6:00 - 6:30 - gathering      6:30 - begin dining**



29W385 Glen Rd  
 West Chicago

Say hi at the meeting to our newest member, Amber Novi!

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 28th**  
**"Unusual and Seldom Used Perennials"**



### Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Ball Seed Open Garden Days:** A Garden Conservancy Open Days program. Sunday, July 31, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 622 Town Rd, West Chicago.

**Forest Preserve:** Prairie Tour, Springbrook Prairie, Naperville. Saturday, Aug 6, 10-12, call 630-933-7681 to register. <http://www.dupageforest.com/calendar.aspx?id=4294970077>

**The Growing Place:** Historical Garden Bus Tour of Oak Park and Riverside, July 30, 9am – 4 pm, meet in Naperville, \$85, call 630-355-4000.

**Cantigny:** Wine Through the Gardens: Stroll the gardens, stopping at 3 garden spots to hear from the horticulturalist responsible for that area. Partake of wine from a different country at each stop, finish the tour with tasty treats. Tuesday, Aug 9, 6:30 p.m. \$25. call 630-260-8162. info and registration at <http://www.cantigny.org/events/event.aspx?id=ad85a4a4-26c2-dd11-90f4-0016355d9f60>

### Food needed for Kruse Open Garden Party

**Please plan to help on Sunday, August 7th, by bringing 4 dozen finger food goodies to the Kruse House between 1 and 4 p.m. Since this is an outdoor event, the food should not be perishable. It need not come any earlier than you do for your visit to this fun event. The house and the garden will be open for tours, with a special garden art display and sale.**



### Club information

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://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](mailto:jjhandeldds@yahoo.com)

Vice President:

Dick Darrah 630-584-1900, [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah 630-584-1900, [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

Secretary:

Dee Soustek 630-393-0652, [dsoustek@aol.com](mailto:dsoustek@aol.com)

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, [pmbriggs@juno.com](mailto:pmbriggs@juno.com)  
June Luther 630-876-1295, [june@markluther.com](mailto:june@markluther.com)

Information Director/Newsletter Editor:

Elaine McCluskey 630-293-4773,  
[emccluskey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emccluskey@sbcglobal.net)

Plant Sale Chair:

Tom Fessler 630-231-0535, [fess2000@aol.com](mailto:fess2000@aol.com)

Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, [melissabirch@gmail.com](mailto:melissabirch@gmail.com)



# Planned WCGC Events - 2011

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
28 July	All members	President's Picnic	22 Sep	Tom Tyler/Bartlett Trees	Trees
30 July	Field Trip	West Chicago Prairie	27 Oct	Mari Mackenbach	Holiday Decorating
7 Aug	Billie & Angie	Kruse "Open Garden" Party	17 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction
25 Aug	Joannie Rocchi Master Gardener	Unusual & Seldom Used Perennials			

Winging It Day 8/6  
Landscape Talks 8/27 & 9/10  
Summer Sale - 8/4  
GR Members Party 8/13  
celebrating 75

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

It's party time! The 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Secret Garden at the Kruse House** event is coming soon! Sunday, August 7, from 1-4 pm, please come, tour house and garden, enjoy refreshments, and visit with friends. The special feature this year will be an extensive presentation of original creations of garden art by local artist Mary Kay. Something you are sure to enjoy! We look forward to walking the garden with you. It will be a perfect way to spend a summer afternoon!

**We will need your help with the sweet treats.** If you can provide a batch/pan of cookies/cake/bars (something that won't melt in heat) that would be greatly appreciated! Just bring the food donation with you when you come.

We have been busy in the garden! Kramer Tree service donated 7 yards of special blend mulch and it is almost all tucked in the garden beds. The bit remaining will augment a new path that we hope to have installed for inspection at the open house/garden party. Thank you very much Kramer Tree Specialists!

We also got a wonderful donation of weathered and aged stockade picket fence panels from Dan & Sherry Hammer. The panels have been hitched to the back fence in strategic locations to provide some boundary definition. Having the backdrop really makes the plantings pop out. We're so glad you thought of us! We love having your old fence! Thanks!



The garden has been busy too! It is providing lovely summer displays! It just keeps getting better! The trees did surrender a few big limbs to storms, and the plants struggle a bit with the heat and drought but all in all the gardens are thriving. It is a thrill to step back and view the results as they evolve. We must report that the weeds are thriving as well. We just keep after them and most of the time we win.

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the garden party!** Your support and interest is greatly appreciated! A&B



**Plant Sale - future in question**

As noted in our June newsletter and at the June meeting, our 2010 Plant Sale Chair and the Digging Squad and Potting Party Coordinators have told the board **they will not continue** in these positions next year.

We need to find **new leadership** for the one-and-only fund-raising activity the club has. The board spent a long time discussing how the work could be shared and its clear that although a team can take on this responsibility, one person will need to be the contact person and be identified as the chair. The new leadership will have the opportunity to make this sale into whatever seems right for WCGC now. Although past sales have been very successful, **the time might be right for new sale models**. This is your chance to make a difference by choosing to be part of a vital club activity.

If this interests you at all, please contact any board member (see page 2 for contact info) as soon as possible.



**Musings from Members**

*In this column a 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: Host Families**

West Chicago Sister Cities is in need of host families for our guests from our sister city of Taufkirchen (Vils), German. Dates of vist are September 2 - 11, 2011. We have 28 German friends who are very excited to be coming to West Chicago! Hosts will be responsible for lodging, transportation to local Sister Cities events and some meals. Ability to speak German is not required as many guests speak English and are here to learn more about our community and the American way of life. If you are unable to help with overnight lodging, but would like to participate in the fun and learning, then "day hosting" is just the thing for you. WE will need assistance during the day with the group and it is a delightful way to enjoy the exchange and meet some of our German friends. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Melissa Birch at 630-621-0128 or wscsprez@gmail.com

**Available: Rain Barrels from re-purposed, food grade barrels**

Wes Latham contacted the WCGC through our website to say that he offers rain water collection systems made from food grade, repurposed barrels. He can deliver and install. Visit his website at [www.skywaterharvester.com](http://www.skywaterharvester.com).




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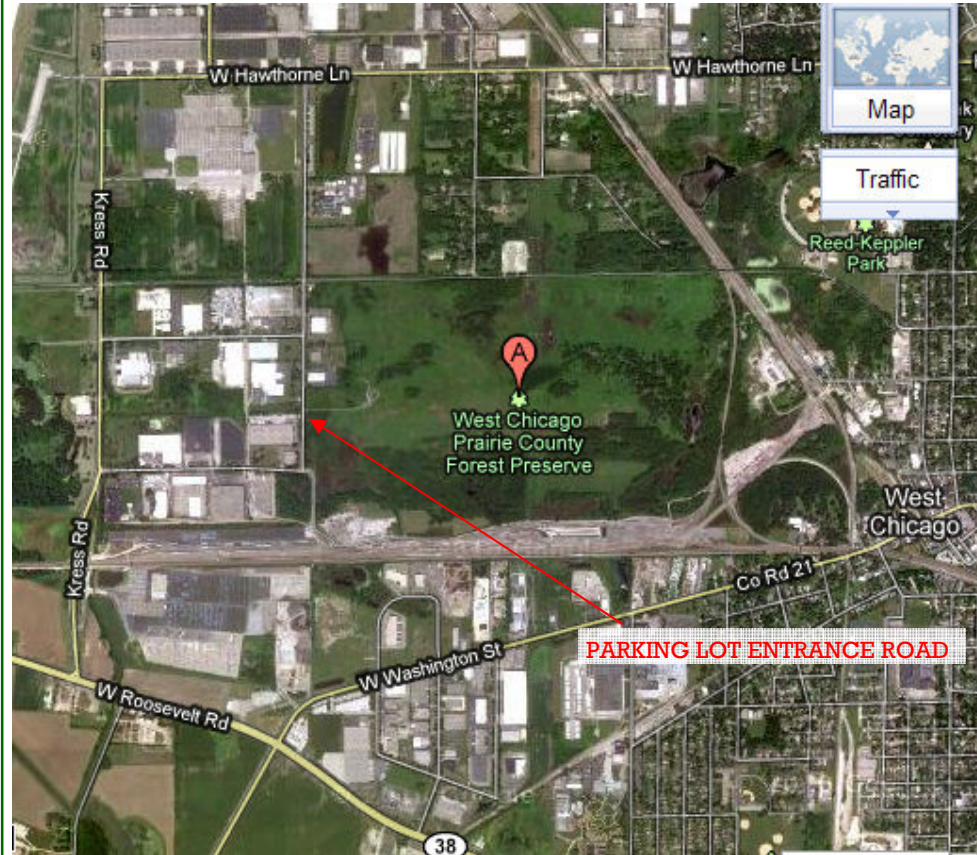


## Field Trip Information - West Chicago Prairie

We'll meet at **9 a.m. on Saturday, July 30th**, for a 1.5 to 2 hour guided tour of the West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve. The 316-acre West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve in West Chicago is one of the region's premier natural areas. In addition to wetlands and upland oak savannas, the preserve is home to one of the most biologically diverse sites within northeastern Illinois, the 126-acre Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve.

Bring a hat, water, insect repellent, and sturdy walking shoes. Also a friend!

Park at the preserve lot: from Roosevelt Rd turn north on Kress Rd, then turn right on Downs Drive. Take Downs to Industrial Drive, turn left, go 240 yards to parking lot. The Geneva Spur of the Illinois Prairie Path traverses the north side of the Prairie and takes you right to Industrial Drive also.



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