



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 13 Issue 6 June 2010

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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.

June 24th Meeting : "Rhodies & Azaelas for the Midwest"

Dave Wanniger join us to share secrets to growing these wonderful shrubs in our area.

Dave is a widely known speaker on many horticultural topics and is the manager of Klehm's Beaver Creek Nursery.



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

BE SURE TO GREET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS, GEORGE KAS AND JENNIFER DOLES AT THE JUNE MEETING!

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 22:

PRESIDENT'S DINNER



More follow-up from the plant sale:

With all the rain that's causing our plants to really grow quickly this month, you may be thinking of what plants will be ready to divide for next year's sale. **Please take photos now** of the plants you might be willing to share, so that we can have a better idea of what's what. Also, consider some less common plants of which you'd be willing to give a small bit, to add variety to the sale.





Upcoming events (outside the club)

West Chicago Prairie: Guided tours in conjunction with West Chicago City Museum exhibit "A Prairie Primer," June 24, July 31, August 17, 10 a.m. to noon Free, but reservations required. 630-231-3376 or email museum@westchicago.org.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Learn how to attract butterflies to your garden! Participants take home an annual flowering plant to initiate the process. July 10 & 24, 10 - 11 a.m. \$10, call 630-377-6288 to register.

GardenScapes Garden Walk: Four private gardens near the Morton Arboretum, June 25-26, to benefit the Infant Welfare Society. Tickets \$15 prior to June 21, \$20 after. www.gardenscapesinfantwelfare.com.

Growing Place: Gardener's Art Festival - See garden artists, speaker, listen to garden music, plus yummy treats. Saturday, June 26, 9:00 - 5:00, Naperville. Call 630-355-4000 or visit the website to see all the varied events for the day at www.growingplace.com/classes.htm

Cantigny: Summer Bike Tour of the Gardens - Ride along several miles of winding paths with stops to focus on the contrasting areas of the gardens. You'll also hear what it takes to keep everything looking so good. Tuesday, July 20 at 11 a.m. No fee, but advanced registration required, 630-260-8162.



Field Trip - Hope Among the Flowers Garden Walk

Saturday, July 10th, Downers Grove, meet at 9:00 a.m.

Are you ready for a field trip? The WCGC Board is organizing a field trip to Downers Grove to visit **seven gardens** on the First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove Garden Walk. A variety of garden settings will be presented, from a small, compact garden to a large, park-like backyard.



This informal trip will commence at Faith Community Church, where carpools will be formed and then depart around 9:00 a.m. The club will be subsidizing the trip, estimated **cost to be no more than \$15**, as well as paying for gas for any drivers. Arrangements for lunch will be determined amongst the travelers on that day.

To see more about the gardens, see their website: <http://dgfumc.org/gardenwalk/>



Calendar of events - 2010

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
June 24	Dave Wanniger	Club Meeting - Rhodies & Azaleas for the Midwest	August 26	Susan Schmitz	Club Meeting - Tour of display gardens at Ball Seed
July 10	WCGC Board	Field Trip - Downers Grove Garden Walk	September 23	TBD	Club Meeting
July 22	All Club Members	President's Dinner	October	Billie & Angie	Gazing Ball Workshop
August 1	All Club Members	Open Gardens - garden walk & Kruse Garden open house	October 21	Joannie Rocchi	Bulbs from A to Z
			November 18	All Club Members	Potluck Dinner Garden Dollar Auction



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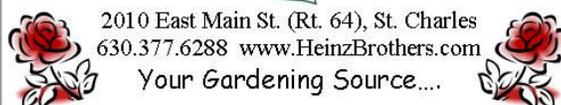
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Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org
West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
(630) 585-4005

Membership information

Dues for 2009:
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

2010 WCGC BOARD:

President: VACANT

Vice President:
Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765, jjhandeldds@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Barb Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:
Dee Soustek (630) 393-0652, dsoustek@aol.com

Program Chair:
Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, lehorton85@ameritech.net

Information Director:
Elaine McCluskey (630) 293-4773,
emcccluskey@sbcglobal.net

Plant Sale Co-Chairs:
Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com
Tom Fessler (630) 231-0535, fess2000@aol.com



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



"What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade."

- Gertrude Jekyll, *On Gardening*

"June is bustin' out all over."

- Oscar Hammerstein II, 1945

"And since all this loveliness can not be Heaven, I know in my heart it is June."

- Abba Goold Woolson (1838-1921)

What is there not to like about June? Gardens are lush with growth. The hostas have unfurled. The peonies dazzle. Every rose is heavy with bloom. We hope you have taken time to stroll through your own gardens and Kruse Garden to enjoy the loveliness. Don't be alarmed if you per chance you saw a few weeds. They are easy to pull with all the rain we've had.



June 21 marks the summer solstice.....the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. Many rituals and traditions are celebrated in June . G.S. Hawkins in Stonehenge Decoded sheds some light on the 'June Wedding' tradition as follows:

This time of year, between the planting and harvesting of the crops, was the traditional month for weddings. This is because many ancient peoples believed that the "grand [sexual] union" of the Goddess and God occurred in early May at Beltaine. Since it was unlucky to compete with the deities, many couples delayed their weddings until June. June remains a favorite month for marriage today. In some traditions, "newly wed couples were fed dishes and beverages that featured honey for the first month of their married life to encourage love and fertility. The surviving vestige of this tradition lives on in the name given to the holiday immediately after the ceremony: The Honey-moon." The first (or only) full moon in June is called the Honey Moon. Tradition holds that this is the best time to harvest honey from the hives.

Did the 'bee guy' mention that important information in his talk last month? I don't recall, but I doubt it.

Our garden club sponsored 'garden walk' is coming soon! Sunday, August 1, 1-6 PM the Kruse Garden and contest winning West Chicago gardens will be featured in an afternoon of adventure and delight! Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated!

Bye for now, and don't forget to put 'relax in the shade' on your 'to do' list!A&B





Rain Barrels - Why do you need one?

It's been raining a lot this spring, but come August, we could be in a drought. You've probably heard how you can do your part for the environment by using a rain barrel at your house. It certainly is a low-cost way to get mineral-rich and chlorine-free water for your plants. Here are some facts you may not know:

- The average homeowner uses ~40% of the household water in the yard during the summer.
- One-quarter inch of rain falling on the average home yields more than 200 gallons of water.
- In our area, the average rainfall is > 30 inches, and the average number of rain days is ~127.
- You can help reduce flooding by using a rain barrel to collect water that would otherwise contribute to flooding of streams and rivers.

So this all sounds good, but how do you install and use one?

- Rain barrels work best installed on a platform to increase water pressure & give space for a bucket under the valve.
- After you've purchased one and know how it will sit at your home, the downspout must be measured and cut it to the right length above the barrel. You can use a hacksaw to cut the downspout - save it for reinstallation for winter!
- Use downspout elbows to direct water to the barrel.
- Store the barrel upside-down in the late fall and replace the downspout.



Use the water for plants, to wash cars and bicycles, to bath pets. Think of the savings on your water bill, how much you'll help with flooding in your area during the next big rain, and how much your plants will love that soft rain water.

You can find rain barrels for purchase online, or in garden centers for \$50 and up.

Information courtesy of the Conservation Foundation www.theconservationfoundation.org



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SECRET GARDEN AT THE KRUSE HOUSE & POSEY MOSEY GARDEN STROLL

The West Chicago Garden Club is again sponsoring a free Open Garden Day at the historic Kruse House Secret Garden at 527 Main Street in downtown West Chicago on Sunday afternoon, August 1st. The West Chicago Historical Society will be offering tours of the Kruse House during the afternoon.



In addition to tours of the Kruse House garden, there will be five other gardens on this free tour. These gardens were participants (including winners) in the 2009 Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago contest, sponsored by the West Chicago Garden Club. One garden on the tour is a large suburban garden with trees and shrubs planted in honor of each grandchild, a small garden railroad, and many lovely garden features and plantings.

Four of the gardens are on a cul-de-sac in the Woodboro townhouse complex. These gardens were started eleven years ago by several dedicated gardeners and the entire cul-de-sac now represents what a group of dedicated gardeners can do. There are many interesting garden features, a wonderful garden waterall and pond, and unique and lovely garden ornamentation.



The gardens will be **open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Programs and refreshments will be available at the Kruse House. Parking will be available at nearby municipal lots.

HELP NEEDED FOR GARDEN WALK

We need help to make this garden walk work - look for signup sheets at the June meeting for

- Refreshments - we need **18 people to bring 4 dozen cookies, brownies, or the like**
- Garden host/hostesses - we need **12 people to take a shift** (1:00 to 3:30, or 3:30 to 6:00)
- Get **announcement cards at the June & July meetings** to share with your family and friends.



The Hostage Situation by Nan Gellings of Redgranite, Wisconsin
 I arrived at our Wisconsin lake cottage early, eager to enjoy a tranquil day under the bright May sun. After unloading the car and opening all the cottage windows, I headed outside to tidy up the flowerbeds. I was busy raking and clipping when my neighbor called. We exchanged warm greetings. I was always happy to see this dear lady, with her cute Southern accent.
 "It's too bad about the hostage situation," she drawled a moment later. I was immediately both confused and concerned. I had been listening to a classical piano CD on the ride and hadn't heard any news.
 "They're being eaten one after another," she went on. I felt sickened.
 "Oh, Betty!" I cried. "I hadn't heard!"
 "I wish I could have done something to stop it," she went on, wringing her hands. "I was only 50 yards away But it happened late at night, while I was sleeping."
 By now I was mortified. "Betty, what are you talking about?"
 "Sweet Jesus! You mean you haven't noticed?" She pointed to the north side of my cottage. I looked, my hand over my heart. When my shade garden came into focus, I saw that all my hostas had been chewed to the ground. That's when I remembered that my sweet Southern neighbor never was too good with plant names.
 That was the only time my garden was ever raided by deer - and I was relieved!
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2010 MEMBER SURVEY - REPRISE

Please fill out the survey below if you haven't already. This will help the WCGC Board to better support the membership and create an even better garden club. Copies will be available at the June meeting, or use the one below. The WCGC Board will be providing results soon.

**WEST CHICAGO GARDEN CLUB
SURVEY 2010**

1. Do any of the following programs appeal to you? (mark all those of interest)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Annuals | Holiday Decorating | Prairie Gardening |
| Day Lilies | Iris | Roses |
| Disease and Insects | Landscape Design | Trees and Shrubs |
| Flower Arranging | Lawn Care | Tools |
| Garden Ornamentation | Peonies | Animal Life in your Garden |
| Herbs | Perennials | Wild Flowers & Native Plants |
| Gardening for Fall Interest | | |
| Other: _____ | | |

2. Is there a favorite speaker or topic, you would like to see again? _____

3. Would you like to have a summer meetings at our members gardens? Yes No

4. Should we consider another community project in West Chicago, in addition to the Kruse House? Yes No

5. Have you ever been to the Kruse House? Yes No

6. Do you have an idea or a suggestion for another community project? _____

7. Have you ever attended a field trip? Yes No

8. Would you like to attend a field trip? Yes No

9. What are the best days that you are available to go on a field trip?

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

10. Where would you like to go for a field trip? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

11. Would you help coordinate a field trip? Yes No If yes/Name: _____

12. Have you ever attended a workshop? Yes No

13. Do you have any suggestions for future Workshops? _____

14. Do you have any suggestions for the plant sale? _____

15. Do you have suggestions for the newsletter? _____

16. Do you like the format of the monthly meetings? Yes No

17. Do you have any suggestions to improve monthly meetings? _____

Thank You for taking the time, to complete this survey. Earn 50 Garden Dollars when you turn it in!