

WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 14 Issue 6 June 2011

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June 23rd Meeting : "Hydrangeas"

One of our favorite speakers, Dave Wanniger, will be sharing with us his vast knowledge of hydrangeas at the June meeting. Dave is the new Director of Horticulture at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Milwaukee. <http://www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org/>. He will be bringing surprises to share!



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - speaker

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.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 28th

"President's Picnic"

**JOIN US FOR A TIME OF FOOD, GARDEN TALK,
AND FELLOWSHIP**

FIELD TRIP

Visit the West Chicago Prairie on Saturday, July 30 in the morning. Sign up at the June meeting!





Upcoming events (outside the club)

Oak Lawn Garden Club Garden Walk: Five local gardens, refreshments served, free raffle for deluxe gift basket. Sunday, June 26, 1-5 p.m. \$8 donation. Call 708-363-2371.

Morton Arboretum: Jens Jensen: Landscapes for People. Wednesday, June 29, 6:30 p.m., \$16/\$19. www.mortonarb.org/calendar.

The Growing Place: Design Advice Days – Schedule a time for personalized landscape advice, \$30 fee. Get \$30 coupon towards \$150 plant purchase. July 2 & 23, August 27, September 10. Call 630-355-4000.

Gardens for Guatemala Garden Walk: Benefit garden walk by Gary United Methodist Church, featuring 6 Wheaton, Winfield, Warrenville, and West Chicago gardens, including that of WCGC's Elaine McCluskey. Sunday, July 10, 1-6 p.m. \$12 each or \$30/family. Tickets available at the June club meeting or on the day of the sale at the Winfield Community United Methodist Church, 0S347 Jefferson St.

New WCGC Board Library Liaison



As advertised in last month's newsletter, the board was looking for a new Director-at-Large, and one of that person's responsibilities would be to work with the West Chicago Public Library. Tom Fessler has volunteered to take over the library liaison portion of the job. **Many thanks to Tom** for stepping forward for this piece of the position, which coordinates book and magazine donations from the club to the library, and looks for ways for the two organizations to work together.

The board is still interested in having another person take on the responsibility of special projects, which would involve attending board meetings once a month and coordinating small projects as they come up. If you're interested, please contact any board member listed below, or find them at the club meeting.

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/Newsletter Editor:

Elaine McCluskey 630-293-4773,
emcccluskey@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
23 Jun	Dave Wanniger/Boerner Botanical Gardens	Hydrangeas	25 Aug	Joannie Rocchi Master Gardener	Unusual & Seldom Used Perennials
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

DIAGNOSING PLANT PROBLEMS

The University of Illinois Extension has developed a great new site for gardeners to use to diagnose and treat all types of plant diseases. The Plant Clinic even has specialized services (primarily for commercial users) which are fee based. You can find it here: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/plantclinic/>.



Thanks to Lou Horton for this helpful information!

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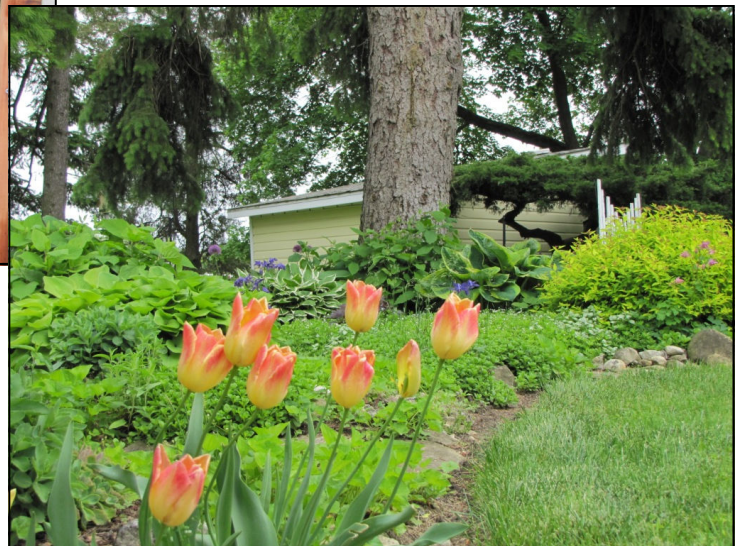


News from Kruse by Angie & Billie, Kruse House Garden Coordinators

Our garden coordinators are working hard getting the garden ready for the August 7th Kruse Open Garden Party. Check back next month for up-to-date news. For now, please enjoy photos of the garden from past years.



Want to help at the garden? The garden coordinators would love to have you join them. Just call Billie at 630-231-1791.





PLANT SALE UPDATE

The sale was a rousing success, with many thanks to all those who helped in so many ways. A special thank you to Billie Childress and Angie Sadauskas (Digging Squad and Potting Party coordinators) and Tom Fessler (plant sale chair) for the countless hours they've put into this since even before January. It takes a lot of planning before even one pot is filled with a donated perennial, to make this all happen. Photos of this year's Blooming Fest can be found on the City of West Chicago website at:

<http://www.westchicago.org/Slideshows/projectBloomingFest2011/index.html>.

A few are printed here for your enjoyment:





Worth the Trip - Mayslake Forest Preserve

by Elaine McCluskey

Tucked away at Rt. 83 and 31st Street in Oakbrook is a beautiful retreat from the busy world around it. Rich in history and nature sits an old estate (such as that of Morton and McCormick). As the website says, "Wealthy coal magnate Francis Stuyvesant Peabody created the Mayslake Estate in 1919, and the property was taken over by the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor in 1924. Currently, the preserve contains several historic buildings including Mayslake Hall and the Portiuncula Chapel; acres of lakes and ponds; a restored prairie; marsh; and a restored savanna. There are also beautiful flower and herb gardens surrounding the mansion and chapel."

You can take a tour for \$5 on Saturdays of the house restoration (mine lasted 2 hours!) and also visit the lovely grounds, often used for weddings. The historic garden is being restored, and on my visit, showed evidence of much care and unusual plantings. The First Folio Shakespeare Company puts on plays here, and you can also take photography classes, in keeping with one of Mr. Peabody's passions.

As often happens, it took out of town company to get me to a great place to visit in my own backyard. Why not take the time just for yourself? It's lovely in the summer and only a short drive away.



Celebrate Nature!
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Learning Garden Strolls, 5/7, 5/21, 6/4
Celebrate our 75th!
Kid's Party, 6/7
Anniversary Party, 6/11
Fairy Parties, 6/21
Gardener's Art Fest, 6/25
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BOOK CORNER

Here's another in an occasional series on books of interest to gardeners. If you've read a book you'd recommend to a fellow gardener, send the editor a short review, along with the book title and author. Here's one your editor read recently:

Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older by Sydney Eddison

As time seems to be in shorter supply than ever, I struggle to be able to make my garden stay attractive through the seasons without hiring a crew to help me. When I saw this book, I knew it would have great ideas to help me manage on my own and still have a garden of which to be proud. As the author emphasizes, being wise about gardening doesn't have to wait until you are older.

The easy-to-read book is broken down into specific chapters providing suggestions on ways to simplify, including:

- Practical methods for scaling back your garden sensibly while keeping the things a gardener loves
- Removing time-consuming plants in the perennial bed and replacing them with woody plants
- Employing helping hands for even a few hours a week to get jobs done

The author cites examples from friends' gardens, when life-changing circumstances make gardening more of a chore than a hobby. Realistic and encouraging, this book explained how Mrs. Eddison changed her approach so that she could stay in her home and her beloved garden as she ages. I borrowed this book from the West Chicago Public Library through the inter-library loan.

Noted author of 6 other books on gardening, and an award-winning gardener from Connecticut, Sydney Eddison also teaches at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx.

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



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gardening quote / saying by Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Give me the splendid, silent sun,
with all his beams full dazzling.**
gardening quote / saying by Walt Whitman



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Plant Sale - what will happen next year?

Although this year's plant sale was once again a rousing success, what will the sale be like next year? Although it's a very large effort by many people in terms of potting and actually selling the plants, the bulk of the planning and preparatory work has fallen to just a few people each year. Our current 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 owe them, and the sale chairs that preceded them, a great deal for the caliber to which the sale has grown over the past several years. Our **sale has become known for the quality and diversity of the plants** we offer. This isn't be accident, but by design and with attention to detail.

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. We **will be discussing this further at the club meeting** - please be attentive and consider how you can help.



The real meaning of plant catalog terminology

"A favorite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks, or clotheslines.

"Grows more beautiful each year" means "Looks like roadkill for the foreseeable future."

"Zone 5 with protection" is a variation on the phrase "Russian roulette."

"May require support" means your daughter's engineering degree will finally pay off.

"Moisture-loving" plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.

"Carefree" refers more to the plant's attitude than to your workload.

"Vigorous" is code for "has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the world."

"Grandma's Favorite" -- until she discovered free-flowering, disease-resistant hybrids.

