



# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club  
www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 16 Issue 6 June 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 and no reservations are necessary.

**Rides**— Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.



## June 28th Meeting :

### **"Vertical Accents in the Garden" at the Kruse House!**



Our June meeting will be delightfully *al fresco* as we enjoy **the fruits of our members' labors** in the Kruse House Garden during the extended daylight of a late June evening. The historic Kruse House Museum, as well as the garden itself, will be open **for tours at 6 p.m.** This year's special exhibit in the home is

**"Treasures of Tea,"** featuring teapots, teacups, tea caddies, books, and other items related to tea. Thank you to the West Chicago Historical Society for hosting us for this meeting.

The speaker from The Growing Place will discuss how to incorporate vertical accents into your garden.

It would be great if you could bring your lawn chair, but be sure to bring a friend!

6:00 - refreshments and tours

7:15 - speaker

**Rain backup plan: If it's raining, the meeting will be held at Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.**

### **Next Meeting: Thursday, July 26th: Annual President's Picnic**

#### **NOTE THAT YOU NEED TO TELL US IF YOU'RE COMING!**

The picnic next month will be catered, and we need a headcount by July 19th. Please email Elaine McCluskey [emccluskey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emccluskey@sbcglobal.net), or call 630-293-4773, if you will be attending with the number in your party, how many children, and whether you have any special dietary needs. The event will be catered this year, so we need to plan ahead.



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Creating Native Eco-gardens in your Community, Saturday, July 7, 9 AM-12 PM. Members fee \$32. Register at <https://education.mortonarb.org/ei/cm.esp?id=26&pageid=38J0RX1W8&showpage=srchresults&search=yes&eiscrypt=CF26O6C4X&cd=6523571901>

Cantigny: Ask the Grower, Free lecture each week on Wednesdays at noon. On June 27th the topic is Plants that Repel Pests, advance registration at 630-260-8162.

Growing Place: Sustainable with Style Garden Bus Tour: Docent led-tours of Midwest Groundcovers, plus 3 private gardens, Saturday, June 30, 8 AM-4PM, Naperville. \$65, call 630-355-4000. [www.thegrowingplace.com/classes1.html](http://www.thegrowingplace.com/classes1.html).

DuPage County Fair: Vegetable & Flower Competitions. Entries close July 1. Fair is July 25-29 in Wheaton. Register at <http://www.dupagecountyfair.org/home-economics>

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: 4th of July Sale, 8 AM to 4 PM. Check promotions page <http://heinzbrothers.com/promotions> for more information.



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## 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 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](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

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

Secretary:  
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Program Co-Chairs:  
Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, [briggspm@gmail.com](mailto:briggspm@gmail.com)  
June Luther 630-876-1295, [june@markluther.com](mailto:june@markluther.com)

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



## Planned WCGC Events - 2012

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
28 Jun	Kruse House! Speaker from Growing Place	Vertical Gardening	27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
26 Jul	<b>J Hawthorne's backyard</b>	<b>President's Picnic</b>	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
23 Aug	Mel Zaloudek, Garden Clubs of Illinois	The Shaded Garden	15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

### The Garden Conservancy: Open Garden Days - West Chicago *The Gardens at Ball*

July 29th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm 622 Town Road

Guests will enjoy the opportunity to visit the Gardens at Ball, usually reserved for the wholesale customers of the 107-year-old Ball Horticultural Company, a world leader in the breeding, production, distribution, and marketing of horticultural products. An exciting new sustainable landscape will be completed along the front of the Ball property with enhancements to the perennial and container gardens also planned for 2012, totaling more than ten acres to view. Thousands of annual, perennial, and shrub varieties will be showcased in the main gardens along with flowers and vegetables in the All-America Selections evaluation trials. Additional native plantings (mostly prairie plants) can be found in the wetlands and woodlands restoration areas. Guides will be available throughout the day to give garden tours and answer questions. Allow two hours or more to visit these exceptional gardens.

Directions: Entrance to parking is just north of Roosevelt Road/Rt 38 in West Chicago. Turn north onto Town Road off Roosevelt Road. Watch for signs to the parking and main garden entrance west of the Ball Building.



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## News from Kruse Tom Fessler, Kruse House Gardener

Now that the plant sale is over Billie, Angie and I are hard at work getting the grounds in order. There is always a lot to do, and even though we try to plan our work, it seems there is never enough **time. I have been working at the Kruse House for several years now and I do try to listen to what I'm** told. Angie explained to me that when weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant, is to pull on it. And if it comes out of the ground easily, then it is a valuable plant. As much time as I have spent at the Kruse house, I really never looked at the gardens the way a visitor would. **So I decided to go to the Kruse House and spend some time there....**



So off to the Kruse House I go. The first thing I noticed as I was pulling in was dozens of Memorial Day Poppies. There are orange, red and white ones all waving in the breeze. As Angie can tell you, this is not one of my favorite flowers. I do like them when they are **blooming, it's after they bloom that I have problems** with them. Looking in the area of the Poppies, are two beautiful Smoke bushes. This is the first year we have **allowed these bushes to "smoke. The colors on this** bush are amazing, a kind of a red with dark highlights, really nice. We have these bushes located at two places at the Kruse House and they are all great.

Looking around the area of the tool shed I saw some just gorgeous Lilies. These Lilies are located right in front of the tool shed. The color of these are a combination of white and pink and you just have to see them to do them justice. There are just so many great plants and shrubs in and around the Kruse House that it would take a lot more time than I have to describe them. As most know, I do not always know the correct names of **many of the plant located here but that doesn't mean I can't enjoy** them. Another of the great things to see and enjoy here are the two wooden benches that are located under trees on the property. What a nice place to sit and have lunch, or to just sit and enjoy the garden. These were made by us, Billie provided the seat part of the bench, and the supports were acquired from the park district.



I would like to encourage all members and their friends and family to **spend a little time at the Kruse House Garden (it's open all the time),** I am sure that you will enjoy it as much as I did, and for the first time, **I didn't get dirty.**



## Worth the Trip -

### Osaka Japanese Garden and Wooded Island in Jackson Park, Chicago

by Elaine McCluskey

During many visits to the Museum of Science and Industry at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive in Hyde Park, I've wondered about the park south of it. Over a recent holiday weekend, I finally made a special trip to find out more.

**For a long time I've been interested in the history of the 1893 Columbian Exposition, which took place at Jackson Park (learn more about the park and its history here <http://www.jacksonparkadvisorycouncil.org/>) and the fair's legacy lives on in this lovely natural expanse in the middle of a busy city, now supported by the Jackson Park Advisory Council and the Chicago Park District.**

**The park's design was begun in 1869 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, after they had successfully planned Central Park in New York City. At the time, the Jackson Park site was only a flat, sandy marshland with a few scrub trees. When Jackson Park was selected as the site for the world's fair, Wooded Island became the center of the fair, surrounded by lagoons and 200 buildings.**



This peaceful retreat, partly funded by the City of Osaka, Japan, is a quiet place to sit and enjoy the views.

The island, directly south of the museum, is easily accessible by parking at its north or south ends and walking across bridges to it. A tree guide, available in a box at the entrance **to the trail around it, highlights the rich plant diversity. It's also a bird-watcher's paradise, as evidenced by all the walkers with binoculars I encountered on my visit. Visitors from around the country come to see spring and fall bird migrants.**

The lovely Osaka Japanese Garden on Wooded Island replaced the Exposition's original Japanese Pavilion.



I saw many flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials on a leisurely one hour walk around the island. It was also fun to try to envision the **landscape of the world's fair more than 100 years earlier.** After all these years of wondering what was behind the MSI, this visit really was worth the trip for me!





## Attract Butterflies with a Garden *by Heather Prince of the Growing Place*



Summer gardens can be ablaze with butterflies. Creating a butterfly garden can be a wonderful project for adults and children, but be prepared to offer plants for both adult butterflies and their caterpillars. You will find that adult butterflies feed on a wide array of flowers, but larva are more particular and only choose certain plants. To attract adults, consider planting flowers in masses and plan your planting so there are flowers from spring into fall. Some perennials and annuals that are butterfly magnets include butterfly bush, purple coneflower, milkweed, verbena, salvia, lantana, Joe-Pye weed, and bee balm. Many of these plants are also attractive to hummingbirds and songbirds.

One important step in creating a butterfly garden is to avoid using insecticides, as many will kill the caterpillars you are trying to encourage. Many butterflies only have one or two host plants. Monarchs will only lay eggs on milkweed, pipevine swallowtails only on species of **Dutchman's pipe vine and spicebush swallowtail only on spicebush.** Other butterflies will choose parsley, dill, asters, coreopsis, false indigo, birch, willow, cherry or tulip trees.

These colorful insects like to have sunny spots to warm their cold blood and a protected spot where they are not buffeted by strong winds. Add a resting spot that heats up such as a dark colored rock or boulder. Butterflies need water, but their delicate bodies prefer a shallow pan of wet sand where they can get moisture, but not drown. A sprinkle of salt in the pan mimics minerals found in nature.



Butterflies are just one of our winged friends that we welcome to The Growing Place. Please join us for our annual Winging It Day on Saturday, August 11 at our Aurora location on Montgomery Road. Celebrate butterflies, bees, bats and birds with a talks, butterfly hatching haven, nature crafts, informative booths, and more.

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Enjoy more photos from the Kruse House Garden, and remember to bring a friend to the meeting in the garden on Thursday, June 28th with a friend!



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