



# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

Volume 13 Issue 5 May 2010

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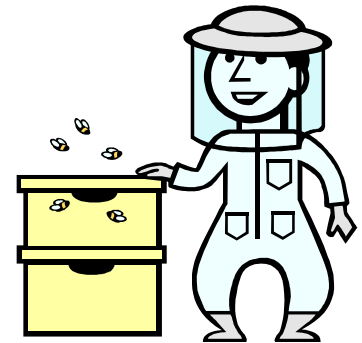
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**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to you for the service, but if you plan to use it, please **call Linda Harlson** at 377-5750, so we can plan for the right number of children.

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

## May 27th Meeting : "Bee Keeping for Gardeners"

Come to this meeting to hear about the benefits of keeping a beehive in your garden. Harry Patterson has been a beekeeper for over 30 years. He is a semi-retired teacher was recognized as one of the top five teachers in the state, so you're bound to learn a lot!



**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, GLORIA KAS AND DAVID KEDING AT THE MAY MEETING!**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 24:  
"RHODIES & AZAELAS FOR THE MIDWEST"**



## \* Follow-up from the plant sale:

\* Be sure to **save your pots** from your new plants for the 2011 sale. Angie is afraid we might run out of pots, so please bring them to a club meeting, to Angie Sadaukas' house, or Bernice McFarland's house.

\* Have a plant sale **yard sign**? Be sure to bring it to the May meeting!



\* And **many thanks** to **General Mills** for helping to fund the tent and to **West Chicago Park District** for use of Manville Oaks Park for our plant preparations!





### 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.

**Platt Hill Nursery:** Roses - In depth seminar on different types of roses & how to care for them. June 13, 1 p.m. Free, call 630-529-9394 or www.platthillnursery.com/seminars.html.

**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. www.gardenscapesinfantwelfare.com.

**Growing Place:** Learning Garden Stroll - Discover and discuss what looks fabulous and hear tips on combinations, care, design, pests, diseases, etc. Coffee and donuts served. Saturday, June 5, 10 a.m. Aurora and Naperville locations. Call 630-355-4000 or www.growingplace.com/classes.htm

**Cantigny:** Garden Tips & Tastes - Meet in the Idea Garden with your lunch at noon to share in plant chatter, meet some new gardening friends, and possibly get new recipes. June 2 and 16. Advanced registration requested, 630-260-8162.



\*\*\*\*\*

### **Project Complete!** by Lou Horton

The Garden Club recently completed a project for our monthly hosts, the Faith Community Church. Billie and Sam Childress donated a quantity of pavers last fall and other members transported them to the church, where they have become a walk and sitting area of which the church congregation can be proud. The Garden Club also furnished plant material and basic design for the beds to complement the area.



It is located on the Main Street side of the church - check it out the next time you drive by. Thanks to all those who contributed to this worthwhile project.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Calendar of events - 2010

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
May 27	Harry Patterson	Club Meeting - Bee Keeping for Gardeners	August 26	Susan Schmitz	Club Meeting - Tour of display gardens at Ball Seed
June 24	Dave Wanniger	Club Meeting - Rhodies & Azaleas for the Midwest	September 23	TBD	Club Meeting
July 22	All Club Members	President's Dinner	October 21	Joannie Rocchi	Bulbs from A to Z
August 1	All Club Members	Open Gardens - garden walk & Kruse Garden open house	November 18	Potluck Dinner	Garden Dollar Auction



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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 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](mailto:jjhandeldds@yahoo.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 Chair:

Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, [lehorton85@ameritech.net](mailto:lehorton85@ameritech.net)

Information Director:

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

Plant Sale Co-Chairs:

Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900, [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)  
 Tom Fessler (630) 231-0535, [fess2000@aol.com](mailto:fess2000@aol.com)





**May News From Kruse by Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators**



The Kruzies have been crazy busy with the plant sale but somehow we still found time to tend the Kruse Garden. Just a reminder, **we are there routinely on Monday mornings** and you are fondly invited to join us if you can. If the weather is 'iffy' give one of us a call to make sure what our plans are. There are always fun jobs to do and the satisfaction of results will guarantee you'll leave with a smile on your face and a song in your heart!

Have you heard the good news? Kruse House Museum & Garden was featured in the May/June issue of *Chicagoland Gardening Magazine*! You will find the article on page 14 as the first of the Regional Reports. If you don't subscribe, stop by the library and check it out. Author Betty Earl, writer, photographer, and lecturer from Naperville did a great job of informing readers about the extensive garden and West Chicago Garden Club's role over the past 11 years tending this charming garden. It's an honor to have recognition for our project and the Kruzies are even more enthused about making a beautiful garden!

From the get go we have been preparing for the August 1<sup>st</sup> garden party/open house. I know all our guests will be impressed, but don't wait until then to the stroll through the garden. It's absolutely lovely all the time. There is an iris blooming right now called 'Best Bet'....thank you Pauline for donating it. Drop dead gorgeous! And..... it's a rebloomer! The west hill garden is studded with the blood red foliage of the Smoke bushes and the Memorial Day Poppies are (as promised) starting to bloom. Late tulips are still show-stoppers and the allium almost demands a salute as it stands tall and brilliant. The blue columbine wave gracefully in the breeze and a favorite sight ...a kitty or two poking petite heads through the lambs ear wondering if the gravy train has pulled into the station. Plan a tour of the house on a fine Saturday. The docents will be delighted to show off the 'old tools' ....this year's featured display. It's a fun outing to share with family and friends! Make it a planned destination!



Until next month....happy gardening A&B





## Plant Sale - Success!



**What can we say but THANKS!** The 2010 Blooming Fest was one of the most successful plant sales ever because our members helped out in all possible ways to make it easier and fun for all. Where did you make a difference?

**Donating plants and pots** - Donated plants are the backbone of the sale. Thanks to members who thought about what they could spare, who dug up plants, who carted them to Manville Oaks, who rounded up all those pots from the garage, and who had the idea that gardening is really about sharing.



**Potting parties** - Thanks to everyone who signed up and then kept their commitment to come to Manville Oaks to pot plants ~ 2500 of them, but whose counting? With only a short window of time and lots to do, potting parties made the most of that time, but also provided an opportunity to meet some new friends and really help out the sale.

**Moving plants and sale setup** - What an impressive organization on both ends of the move! In just about 3 hours, all the plants were moved from Manville Oaks Park to downtown West Chicago, in spite of the traffic on Rt 59. With everyone's cooperation, the tent setup, "pot cleaning," loading, and unloading went smoothly.

**Day of the sale** - The sale only works when there are lots of folks to help the customers, and that we had this year, in ways that really made a difference. Isn't it great to share your knowledge and help someone find the right plant to help make their yard more beautiful? Early and late helpers, and all those in between, contributed to the fact that there were very few plants needing homes at the end.



**Finally, many thanks to our leaders and organizers** - Our sale was led this year by Dick Darrah, with Tom Fessler in the chair-elect role. Dick and Tom were tireless in their preparations, communications, and patience. Billie Childress and Angie Sadauskas lead all the digging and potting activities and secured the wonderful Manville Oaks site for our use. To these, and to the many others provided major support, and to all those we also say a big **THANK YOU!**



**Tips for Lilac Care** from Heather Prince at the Growing Place

If you need to prune your lilacs, prune them as soon as flowers fade. You will probably want to remove the flower remnants. If your lilac is getting too big or too out of bounds, try renewal pruning. Remove one-third of the largest stems a couple of inches above the soil line. Lilacs respond well to hand pruning, but if the plant is the right size and shape for you, leave it alone.

Do not use a high nitrogen fertilizer around lilacs, as it can impede their flowering.

Lilacs hate wet feet and prefer good drainage. Once established, they do not require excess water unless there is a particularly severe drought.

Common lilacs love full sun, the more the better! However, Dwarf Korean and Chinese lilacs will bloom well in part shade.

In late summer you may see a powdery substance on the leaves of common lilacs. This is powdery mildew and is more of an aesthetic problem. You can treat it with a fungicide spray such as Safer, but treatment should begin as soon as you notice the problem.

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**The Growing Place**

**Gardener's Art Festival, The Creative Garden**  
June 26<sup>th</sup> - Naperville  
Welcomes Trudi Temple, a great gardener & the founder of Market Day, many garden artists, creative talks in the garden, garden music & yummy treats.

Dad's Day Out, **Big Green Egg Grilling**, Limestone Brewery beer tasting, & guy's garden discounts!  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, 11-4, Naperville

**Let us help you Days...**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, Aurora

**Learning Garden Strolls...**  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, at both -Beautiful gardens - Inspiration!

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