



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 16 Issue 5 May 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.



May 24th Meeting : "Alternatives to Invasives"

Everyone is told to get rid of invasive plants in their landscape but may not know what to plant in their place. Illinois Master Gardeners Colleen Graudins and Toby Koch will join us this month to present alternatives to these garden bad guys. Colleen and Toby volunteer at the Chicago Botanic Garden monitoring rare plant populations. Both are recipients of the 2006 UIUC State Outstanding Master Gardener Award.



Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) - #1 Illinois 2011 invasive species according to the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering
7:00 - brief business meeting
7:15 - speaker

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 28th:

"Vertical Gardening" by the Growing Place

NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KRUSE HOUSE GARDEN!

Start time 6 p.m. for House and Garden tours, refreshments

7:30 p.m. for the Program

(Rain location: Faith Community Church)

LOOK FOR THESE NEW MEMBERS AT THE MAY MEETING!

Ellen Lundquist, Harlene Husted, and Judy Bredfeldt



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: What Every Iris Grower Should Know, Saturday, June 2, 1:30-3:30 PM. Members fee \$18. Register at <https://education.mortonarb.org/ei/cm.esp?id=26&pageid=38J0RX1W8&showpage=coursesrch&src=eiscript>

Cantigny: Grow it Forward, Free lecture on vegetable gardening, take home 2 tomato and pepper plants each, along with committing to sharing produce with someone in need. Saturday, June 2, 11 AM, free with paid Cantigny parking, advance registration at 630-260-8162. Held at Education Center.

Growing Place: Margic Fairy Door Hunt: discover the magic of miniature gardens, Sunday, June 3, all day, Aurora. Free, but specific events have a charge, see more at www.thegrowingplace.com/classes1.html.

Garden Clubs of Illinois: *Night and Day*, State Flower Show, free. Judging Friday, open to public Saturday, June 9, 7 AM—4 PM. Lincoln Square Village, 300 S. Broadway, Urbana, Illinois.

Blackwell Forest Preserve: Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday. Weed & water plants or collect & clean seed. Wednesday, May 30, 8-11AM. Registration 5 days ahead, call 630-933-7681.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Learn how to attract butterflies to your garden. \$10, Saturday, June 9, 10-11 AM. please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

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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 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

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:

open

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, briggspm@gmail.com

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Information Director:

Elaine McCluskey 630-293-4773,

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Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2012

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

Sense the Unexpected: Become a Lurie Garden Member

New Membership Opportunity Provides Additional Garden Benefits

From its iconic Salvia River in spring to its majestic grasses in fall, the Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park is one of the largest rooftop gardens in the world – a four season, evolving tapestry of life where there is always something unexpected to see and do.

By becoming a charter member of the Lurie Garden through its new membership program, launching on National Public Gardens Day, Friday, May 11, your support will provide vital funding for the garden's vibrant and free public environmental and educational programs. You will also show your support for the garden's unique role as a national leader in sustainable horticulture, biodiversity and design.

Joining at the Friend level (\$50) provides for a quarterly e-newsletter and the satisfaction of supporting a leader of innovative design, responsible gardening practices and dynamic public programming. Additional levels and member benefits can be found at www.luriegarden.org/membership-packages.

Entering its eighth season this spring, the Lurie Garden has become an international model of sustainability. The 5-acre garden, located at the southeast corner of Millennium Park, provides year-round enchantment and an urban oasis to millions of visitors annually. Embracing the beauty and serenity of this Chicago public garden is rich symbolism, award-winning landscape design and ecological sensitivities. The natural ecosystem and biodiversity of the garden attracts migratory birds, butterflies, honeybees and other insects, deepening the human connection with the natural world in a busy city in the heart of the country.



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

The Kruse Museum has opened for the season with an **exhibit of all items related to tea time**—teapots, tea services, and everything beautiful and unusual related to tea. In the museum setting we are reminded of a time when the world wasn't so rushed, and tea time was in many households a daily occasion.

At the same time, the Kruse Garden is being groomed to better show off the blooms of the shrubs and flowers. For Memorial Day the red poppies will be open on the hill, the third year of reseeding for them, where they will

flutter in the breeze, growing among the Euphorbia. The shrub roses are starting to bloom with some having already reached an impressive size. The ancient Rosa Glauca is ready to put out its delicate pink flowers, a beautiful contrast to the burgundy leaves, a rose that has been around since the 1600's. Pansies and Dusty Miller have survived the winter, and now are impressive clumps with violets and violas peeking out here and there, in many colors.



Who cannot notice the irises—the bearded irises came as donations, from the very old varieties to the new rebloomers, all in spectacular colors and some of impressive size. The Siberian iris are blooming, the blue and purple by the pond, and the yellow flag will soon open. They seem to really like their spot in the sun.

At least two frogs have survived the winter in the pond, and are now twice as large as last year.

The generous donations of our garden club members and the shrubs and trees financed by our garden club are all coming into a good size and are beginning to provide the perfect background for the flowers—come and see for yourself!



Till Next Time, A&B



PLANT SALE - SUCCESS! *By Elaine McCluskey*



This is written as the plant sale comes to a close on Saturday, May 19th. There are many tired, but happy WCGC dedicated members tonight, who stepped up when the sale needed new leadership this year to ensure a 2012 sale. As we all know, the sale is not the work of one or even several, but many, many people to **help plan the event with the city, coordinate donations, work with the park district for pre-sale working space, arrange for digging, pot up plants, water once the 1st plant gets potted, get volunteers, and then make the sale day happen.** The leadership of this year's event was outstanding, **many thanks!**

We are also grateful to our sponsors, who paid for the tent and tables this year:

The Ball Seed Company
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Here are a few photos to remember the day:





Art in the Garden by Heather Prince of the Growing Place

Add your personal touch to your yard with a garden accent. A piece of garden art or a decorative container can create a focal point, add the finishing touch to a garden room, or just delight the eye. A decorative bench can offer a shady respite or a place to soak in the sun. At The Growing Place, we've found that rearranging garden art can be a fun and easy way to refresh your space or draw attention to a seasonal display.



Consider placing pieces with complementary colors near a plant in full bloom to add even more sparkle to its flowering display. Containers can offer an easy, colorful way to fill a hole, distract the eye, or create a dramatic effect. They can be moved out to more sun to encourage better flowering, or into more shade if plants are wilting or scorching in the summer heat. A strawberry pot filled with herbs can be ideal next to the kitchen door for easy picking. Creative statuary can give you a subtle accent or a bold statement.



One of the loveliest ways to create an intriguing path is with stepping stones. Express your personality with a variety of patterns or even make them yourself! Plus, stepping

stones encourage us to stay on the path and off of soft soil that can be easily compacted. Consider placing stones strategically so that you can easily access your beds to weed without impacting soil.

Think about adding a vertical element to your garden room with trellises, obelisks, and pillars. When covered in perennial or annual vines, these long-lasting structures can give you some much needed height in a small space or even screen a distracting view.

The Growing Place offers a large selection of garden art including benches, statuary, containers, trellises and more. Join us for our annual Gardener's Art Festival on Saturday, June 23 at the Naperville location on Plank Road. Enjoy a wide range of artists and crafters offering handmade items with a garden theme. At 11:00 am, Bill Shores, manager of the Rick Bayless Organic Garden in Chicago, where he grows salad greens, herbs and vegetables for Rick's restaurant, Topolobampo will speak about 'Gourmet Gardening'. Walt Anderson, local noted photographer will present on "Digital Garden Photography" at 1:00 pm. Check www.thegrowingplace.com for further details.



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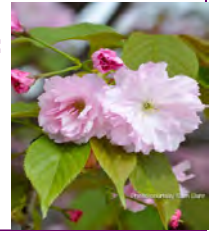
Earlier this year our garden club was one of many in Illinois that collected seeds for the Friends of Sheltered Children in Kenya, a small organization that cares for orphaned, destitute, and abandoned children, many of whom are HIV positive. The seeds were needed for a garden they hope to plant on newly acquired land so that the children will always have food.

This picture was passed along from GCI showing the delivery of the seeds in Kenya. Other pictures (whose quality was not as good) showed a banner that said "Thank you Garden Clubs of Illinois."



In the Arbor Day contest for the nation's favorite cherry tree, the winner is:

Kwanzan (Kanzan) Cherry



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As seen in *Garden Glories*, information for area Garden Walks:

- June 9: Utica Garden Faire, Utica, www.uticagardenclub.org
- June 21: Woodstock Garden Walk, www.wpbw.org
- June 23: Fox Valley/Elgin, email janbilljones@aol.com
- June 24: Oak Lawn Garden Club, www.oaklawngardenclub.org
- June 28: Kankakee, <http://kankakeekultivators.org>
- July 7: Algonquin Garden Club, call Carol 847-658-4641
- July 8: Elmhurst Garden Walk & Faire, www.elmhurstgardenwalk.com
- July 14: Woodstock, email bullvalleysgardentrasures@gmail.com
- July 14: Pottawatomie Garden Club, St Charles, www.pottagardenclub.org
- July 15: Dearborn in Chicago, www.dearborngardenwalk.com
- July 22: Arlington Heights Garden Club, google 'Arlington Heights garden walk'



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