



We Go Gardening

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

Volume 16 Issue 11 November 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.



November 15th Meeting :

Garden Dollar Auction and Annual Dinner

If you've never been to our auction and dinner, you are in for a treat!

The auction: We have many items for the Garden Dollar silent auction that will take place before, during, and after our dinner.

For dinner, a main dish, beverages, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, arriving no later than 6:30 p.m.

For the auction, bring your Garden Dollars with you—they are the only currency that will be accepted to redeem auction items. **25 Garden Dollars will be given to each attendee as they enter the meeting.**

Do you still have uncollected Garden Dollars from this year's activities? (see sheet on page 5 for how to earn) Figure up how much **you're owed, and collect them from the welcome table as you enter.**

Renew your membership at the November meeting, and earn 75 Garden Dollars!

Do you still have items to donate for the auction? Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can leave things on the front or back porch of **President's Letsche's house, 215 East Washington Street**, until the night before the meeting.



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.
Arrive no later than 6:30, dinner starts at 6:45 p.m.
Be sure to greet our newest member, Dianne Jackman!

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 24th

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013 & EARN GARDEN DOLLARS AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING TO USE AT THE AUCTION!

SEE LAST SHEET IN THIS NEWSLETTER!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Garden Club of Downers Grove: 'A Festive Touch' boutique and luncheon, The Carlisle, Nov 19th, 10:30 AM, \$35, 630-852-3912

Naperville Garden Club: '2012 Cup of Cheer' Housewalk and Holiday Market, Dec 6: 9 AM - 3 PM, Dec 7: 10 AM - 6 PM, 630-898-9560 or www.napervillegardenclub.org

South Barrington Garden Club: Holiday Luncheon & Program, Dec 12, 10:30 AM, \$40, 847-277-7151 or www.sbgardenclub.org

Growing Place: Make a beautiful mosaic stepping stone. Choose from mosaic pieces provided or if you like, bring your own materials to personalize it! Dec 10, 10 AM, Aurora, \$75, 630-355-4000



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The Growing Place

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Aurora: 630-820-8088, Montgomery Rd.
A charming shop in a landmark 1852 house.

Naperville: 630-355-4000, Plank Rd.
A tiny shop with a lot to offer!

You'll want to visit this holiday season!

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
June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com

Information Director:

Elaine McCluskey 630-441-8500,
emclluskey@sbcglobal.net

Publicity:

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



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AMARYLLIS -Who knew it was so easy? *By Elaine McCluskey*

Last November I bought my first amaryllis bulb, not knowing how easy it would be to grow and how much I'd enjoy it, all the way through April when it rebloomed! Here are some tips (courtesy of U of I Extension Service) if you've never tried it:

“When buying a bulb, select one that is at least 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Smaller bulbs will not bloom. Larger bulbs (4 inches) produce better, often developing two flower stalks instead of one. Make sure the bulbs are firm and free of soft spots and discoloration.



Plant the bulbs in a container that has drainage holes. The container should be about two inches bigger in diameter than the bulb. The planting mix should drain well; an equal mix of peat and perlite would be suitable. Plant so that about one third of the bulb shows above the soil level. After planting, the planting mix should be thoroughly watered. Keep the mix consistently moist. The mix should not be saturated. Do not water over the nose of the bulb. If water seeps into the bulb, it may cause it to rot.

Keep the bulb in a warm room (70-75 F) during rooting and early stalk development. As the flower buds begin to form, reduce temperatures to about 65 F to prolong flowering. The bulb should be kept in a well-lighted area. During flowering, the plant is best kept in bright, but indirect light. This will help prolong flowering.

During stalk development, fertilize with a complete fertilizer (one that contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium). A liquid fertilizer is easiest to apply since the plant is in a small quantity of potting mix. Follow the label directions that come with the fertilizer you buy. The directions will tell you how much to use. Fertilize about every 2-3 weeks.

With proper care, the plant should be flowering within 6-8 weeks after planting the bulb. Duration of the flowers will be dependent on the temperature and light level in the room where the plant is being kept. As each flower fades, cut it off, so that the plant does not waste energy trying to produce seeds. After all the flowers have faded, remove the entire flower stalk. Do not remove the leaves. They will produce food and strengthen the bulb so that it **can flower again next year.”**

<p>Your Gardening Source!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annuals and Perennials • Fountains and Statues • Containers and Tools • Garden Décor and more <p>Receive 20% off 1 regularly priced item!</p>	 <p>2010 E. Main St St Charles, IL 60174 630-377-6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com</p>	 <p>SHADY • HILL • GARDENS <i>Home grown plants since 1971</i></p> <p>Elburn, Illinois • (630) 365-5665 www.shadyhill.com</p>
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News from Kruse

Our Kruse House coordinators, having put the garden to bed, are busy with family and friends. We'll hear more from them in the new year - many thanks for the great leadership they provide all year, and for the service they help us provide to the West Chicago Historical Society.



Program Survey Results *by Pauline Briggs, Co-Program Chair*

At the October meeting, we Program Chairs asked attendees to comment on this year's programs. We collected 19 questionnaires, with one mailed in! That's well over 1/2 the people that attended the meeting, quite good results for a survey. Many people put a lot of thought into their answers, for which we thank you. Here is a summary of what was submitted:

2012 Program Favorites

Not much of a surprise here, Bulb Bingo got 13 votes. Hummingbirds got 7. Dave Wanninger got 6 votes. The speaker on Shade Gardening and the November Auction tied with 4 votes. The Growing Place speaker on Vertical Gardening and the Master Gardener talk on Body Smart Gardening did less well.

Program Wish List

There were *lots* of suggestions. Bulb/Plant/Something Similar Bingo was a clear winner. We'll do it again next year. When you lump some answers together, people definitely want to see more field trips. Not sure if June or I want to take that on in addition to programs. Is there someone out there who would like to plan a field trip or two a year? A few people mentioned anything by Dave Wanninger was enjoyable. We'll try to get him back again next year. Containers, hostas, and unusual plants were each suggested by 2 different people. Your Board members also came up with some good suggestions at the last Board meeting. We'll see what we can do.

What people like about the club

The friendly, social, knowledgeable, etc... people were what got mentioned *a lot*. Well, everyone knows gardeners are just nice people. Also, people seem to be learning as much from the members as from the programs. And, many members mentioned they enjoyed working together on the plant sale.

Suggestions

There were many good suggestions, and a number of compliments. People would like to see the Club membership grow. Make sure you are welcoming to new members. Keith got a personal mention as doing a good job.

Hope you all enjoy seeing the results as much as I did. As Program Co-Chair, it was very gratifying.

Thank you.





Garden Dollars 2012 - last chance to collect them!

WCGC distributes tokens (Garden Dollars) to members who participate in club activities. At **this month's meeting**, you will be able to use them at the auction to bid on fabulous prizes. **Here's now to earn them:**

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs)	75 - 150	Donate plants for the sale <50, 50-149, ≥150	75, 200, 300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Trip attendance	25	Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2012	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Pay dues before February 2nd	50

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, pick them up at special events from the event organizer, or see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned.

Pick up the Garden Dollars you've earned before the auction starts!

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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2013

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2013 are due by the February meeting and will be considered over-due as of February 28th. The board would appreciate receiving dues as soon as possible

With your paid membership you receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication Garden Glories.

Individual Membership:

\$15 per year

Family Membership:

\$25 per year

(For multiple members at a single address)

Our meetings in 2013 will be held on the 4th Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3rd Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

Please make checks payable to the West Chicago Garden Club. You can bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
c/o Mike Saad
27W206 Manchester Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190-1440

Members paying dues early will receive Garden Dollars!

by November 15th 75 GD

by February 2nd 50 GD

Application

type: New or Renewal
class: Individual or Family

Name(s): _____
(Print)

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Used to distribute club information –may be shared with WCGC board.

Send newsletters via: E-mail or Mail

Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will **not** get phone reminders of any garden club events.)