

WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 14 Issue 9 September 2011

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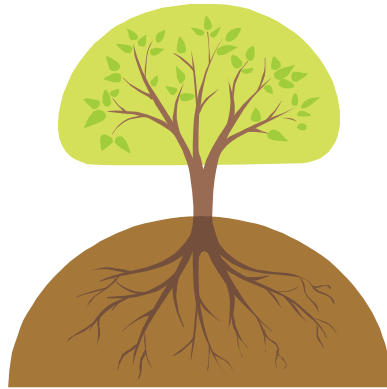
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Babysitting—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to you for the service, but if you plan to use it, please call **Linda Harlson** at 377-5750, so we can plan for the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

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

September 22nd Meeting : "Trees"

With the coming of autumn, we often think more about trees as we look forward to the beautiful displays from the maples, oaks, hickories, and other trees in our area. How fortunate we are to live in an area where trees provide not only shade and landscape interest, but a feast for the senses every year. Tom Tyler, arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts, Woodridge, Illinois, will be joining us to share insights about trees and how we can better care for these enduring inhabitants of our yards.



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

**BE SURE TO GREET OUR NEWEST MEMBER,
PAM LURZ!**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 27nd
"HOLIDAY DECORATING"**

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP

The WCGC is so successful in part because everyone pitches in when help is needed. Well, it's needed now. Several key positions to keep our club going will need to be filled soon. Without continued leadership, or the club won't be able to sustain our programs, community outreach, and fun times. If you could help on a periodic basis or a one time basis, IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Talk to a board member (see page 2) or come to the October meeting to learn more.





Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Forcing Bulbs for Spring Demonstration class to show you how to do this at home. Saturday, Oct 1, 10 am, meet at Greenhouse, enter at Shaffner Rd. No fee, but registration is required. Form: <http://www.cantigny.org/events/event.aspx?id=3e24c8b4-182b-e011-b024-002264037ab0>.

The Growing Place: Planting for Fall Color and Winter Interest Choose plants now to add a burst of color to your garden. Saturday, October 1, 10am, Aurora, free, call 630-355-4000.

Heinz Brothers: Pumpkin Centerpiece. Make a beautiful centerpiece with pumpkin, ivy, and fall decorations. Saturday, Oct 8, 10 am, \$16, register online at <http://heinzbrothers.com/events?month=10&yr=2011#jd-calendar>, or call 630-584-0473.

National Public Lands Day

In 1994, 700 volunteers worked on 3 sites on a single day to care for public lands. Last year 170,000 people worked on over 2080 sites across the country. As the website www.publiclandsday.org says, "National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that worked from 1933-1942 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage."



You have the opportunity to lend a hand this year on NPLD, September 24, by helping out in Easton Park in West Chicago. The work will involve invasive plant removal and park cleanup. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. You can find more information and the registration form here: <http://www.publiclandsday.org/npld-sites/easton-park-west-chicago-park-district>.



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:

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Planned WCGC Events - 2011

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
22 Sep	Tom Tyler/Bartlett Trees	Trees	17 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction
27 Oct	Mari Mackenbach	Holiday Decorating			




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Your Gardening Source....



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

A favorite job in September at the Kruse garden is thinking of what new plants we might find to bloom in the fall garden August to October. We dream of beautiful plants that are care-free, work-free and pest-free. Sadly all those attributes in one plant are usually found only in dreams.

We do, however, have a few **asters** that do extremely well. The white woodland aster, with its starry flowers acts as a groundcover, growing lower in height and in some shade. It covers a larger area, and chokes out weeds well. Purple Dome aster has been blooming now into its third year, in poor soil with little care. We do cut it in spring to keep it to one and a half feet in height, since it is by the driveway on either end of the insert garden. And who cannot have the tall New England aster, the deepest blue-purple, shining among rudbeckias and heleniums. Its drawback is its height—5-6ft. We sheer it in June by half to keep it to 3-4ft. And a short pinkish aster, its name lost when it came as a donation, never fails to be full of pinkish blooms, even growing not in the best of soils.



Another plant now blooming is the white star-flowered **Prairie baby-breath**, *Euphorbia corellata*, making a lovely splash, and so drought tolerant. It bloomed earlier in the summer, but with sheering, is in its second display.

Japanese anemones are tall plants that we are planning to put in a shaded spot for the September to frost bloom. Honore Jobert, from 1858, is still one of the most exquisite whites, its single flowers rising well above the green leaves, perfect in its simplicity. Newer varieties are multi-petaled, in colors from deep pink to white, but we think no new one beats our Honore.

We also look for **self-seeding annuals**, what are called "see-thru" plants, very popular in English gardens. They have sturdy stems that don't need staking, nice flowers, and small leaves that don't shade out surrounding plants. One of these is *Verbena bonariensis*, blooming with purple flowers, small leaves, loved by butterflies. This is their first year in the garden, where they sway above surrounding plants, providing nice color and height. We would like the similar *Verbena hastate*, which has even smaller leaves, sturdier stems, and flowers elongated, resembling long candles. Another 'See-thru' plant that we would like to have is *Althea cannabina*. It has the same pluses as the verbena, but the tall and sturdy stems have narrower and even smaller leaves. The pink 1 inch flowers appear to be growing on bare stems, swaying over surrounding plants. These would look great rising above and between surrounding sedums, grasses, and taller perennials.

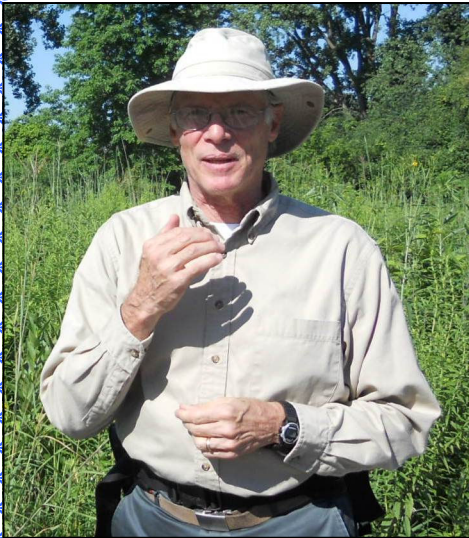
And an update on our **Lespedeza shrubs**, touted as airy, blooming in September, 5-6 ft in height, great in clusters. Since planted this spring and brought to us fairly late in the spring by one of our favorite garden members, the two have reached a height of 3+ft, blooming with pea-like white-lavender flowers, looking great and indeed very airy. The two didn't exactly make a "cluster" but by chance, the third was acquired from the August garden club speaker from the Growing Place Nursery. This third, completing our cluster, is a deeper pink. It is not yet at its best, but we are already anticipating next September when our '6ft., airy, blooming with pea-like flowers, *Lespedeza shrubs*, spectacular in clusters' will be surely making a statement. Who can wait?

So what are we lacking in the garden? Maybe **chrysanthemums**—beautiful and HARDY and of course, care-free, work-free, pest-free, lavender, pink or gold—**anyone have one?**

A&B



A note from the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group



Stephen Sentoff, president of the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group contacted the WCGC through our website to say,

Thanks so much for your recent donation to the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group. We were glad to provide the field trip to your members. We'll use the donation for our continuing restoration projects. If you would like to hear about our work on a regular basis, we publish a newsletter about three times a year. If you send me an e-mail address, I'll add you to the list of people who get notified when a newsletter is available. Thanks again.

Contact Mr. Sentoff at his email address: shsentoff@comcast.net



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WILL THERE BE A GAZING BALL AT THIS YEAR'S NOVEMBER GARDEN DOLLAR AUCTION? ONLY TIME WILL TELL, BUT IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COLLECTING YOUR GARDEN DOLLARS, YOU'LL BE OUT OF LUCK. GET THEM AT THE WELCOME DESK AT THE MEETING!



**Worth the Trip -
Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden
Rockford, Illinois** *by Elaine McCluskey*

(photos from www.klehm.org)

Recently I wanted to break up a drive back from Minneapolis with a stop to visit a garden. I had heard about the Klehm Arboretum many times, and decided it was time to visit. I was glad I made the effort on a late August Sunday afternoon.

First I was pleased that my Morton Arboretum membership card got me free entry into this arboretum, too. After getting a map and interpretive tour flyer from the parking attendant, I proceeded through the nearby visitor's center, viewed the temporary quilt exhibit "Through the Branches, a Quilter's Perspective", and then started my tour. Although I could have done a tram tour, I elected to walk around the paved trails, which I had almost to myself, if you don't count some hungry mosquitoes! The quiet atmosphere and great variety of trees along the path encouraged contemplation and appreciation for the generosity of the Klehm family in their donation of this property for a public garden in 1985 to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve.



Remnants of the original commercial nursery can still be seen in rows of trees never harvested, now providing interesting lines of sight. Signs with numbers along the trails correspond to descriptions in the tour flyer to tell you about the trees in front of you. During the course of one hour, I walked the east and west loop paved trails for a total of ~ 2 miles.

In addition to trees, a series of demonstration gardens with flowers and vegetables provide a decorative display. A children's garden has a shady and secluded place for children to learn about plants. I'd like to return when the peony garden is blooming - it must be spectacular to see.

With easy access on the west side of nearby Rockford, off IL Rte 2, Klehm Arboretum is definitely worth the trip.



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