



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 10 Issue 4 April 2007

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Truly, this is God's World

By Sandy Saad

"O World, I cannot hold thee close enough! Long have I known a glory in it all, but never knew I this; here such a passion is as stretcheth me apart. Lord, I do fear thou'st made the world too beautiful this year." excerpts from "God's World" by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Looking back at the photos Ed Max shared with us at our last meeting, I felt a need to search out some poetry. Perhaps you are feeling the same right now? That nasty, freezing weather we had seemed to dash our desire for Spring with its warmth and beauty. And yet, as I look out the window—the magnolia tree is putting out its pink blossoms again and the serviceberry is unfurling its precious little white blossoms. Truly there is a

God, a divine being above to orchestrate all this magnificence.

Ed showed us the aconite, the snowdrops, the butterbur, the scilla, the red trillium and the bluebells that grow boldly on his property—or—is it God's property, God's world.....

Do you remember the proud Red Emperor Tulip and the King Alfred Daffodil.....Daffodils—That come before the swallow dares and take the winds of March with beauty. by Wm. Shakespeare.

Thank you Ed for allowing us to peek into your little bit of heaven. It warmed our winter-weary hearts.

"What is this life if, full of care; we have no time to stand and stare."... from "Leisure" by Wm. H. Davies.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 26

Ash Borers and Cicadas.....Speaker:Jim Schuster

Who has not heard of "Jim Schuster"?!!! In my mind, and many others I'm sure, he is a legend. He's been around West Chicago for quite some time always ready to help struggling gardeners like us to solve our bug and plant problems. You're invited to come and hear the latest and best information on borers and cicadas from a highly respected gentleman. You'll be glad you did!

Join us at the Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - sharing time, conversation and refreshments

7:15 - brief business meeting

7:30 - speaker



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Meyer Landscaping: We've seen their brand new newsletter and it's a good one with lots of useful information. Our bet is that you'd enjoy it. Stop in and get a copy. (See ad page 3) Right now they don't have it available online (they are working on it). But if you would like to be added to their mailing list, drop them a line at meyergc@aol.com or call at 630-293-4800.

Morton Arboretum: Always something special going on there. For times and information call (630)968-0074 or visit www.mortonarb.org. Wednesdays admission is \$4 adults and senior adults \$3. Arbor Day Weekend Celebration is April 27-29. Included will be a plant sale, lots to do for kids, live music and the ceremonial tree planting.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse and Garden Center in St. Charles: Call (630) 584-0473 for more information or e-mail info@heinsbrothers.com (ad/page 6)

Vegetable Gardening Made Easy: 1-2pm, Saturday, April 28—Fee is \$10.00

Summer Container Planting Demonstrations: May 3, May 8, May 16—all at 6-6:30pm Free RSVP

The Growing Place: 5/26 DEMO Build a fountain 10am Fox Valley, 1pm Naperville
Watch Creative Staff members build unique fountains from a variety of materials. Learn the basics of maintaining fountains also.

Custom Crafted Cedar Products: With summer quickly approaching, it's time to think about ordering a comfortable Adirondack chair or a bench for your garden. See samples at the Blooming Fest plant sale or call Mike (an advertiser) at (630)-653-1350.

Winfield Flower Shoppe: One of our new advertisers (ad below)

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REMEMBER that Mother's Day is May 13th.

Cantigny: Check out their web site at cantignypark.com or call at (630) 260-8176. Besides their concerts, they have great programs:

Spring into Summer Container Saturday, April 28, 9:30 am and 1pm Greenhouse - Jill Weiss, Cantigny Grower, will instruct you in taking your container from springtime into summer. Bring in a container of your choosing (minimum width of 14" maximum of 24") and she will supply the soil medium, plants and know-how to keep your container blooming pretty! Limited seating. Reservations are suggested at (630) 668-5161. Each class is \$40.00

Greenhouse Open House—Sunday, May 6, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Greenhouse
The Cantigny Production Greenhouse will be open to the public at its best time of year. The 18,000 square foot greenhouse is filled to capacity with about 160,000 annuals, perennials, and collections of jade, succulents, and topiary creations. No parking fee, enter at the Shaffner Road entrance.



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Club information

West Chicago Garden Club
 P. O. Box 313
 West Chicago, IL 60186
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www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Membership information

Dues for 2007:
 Individual: \$15
 Family: \$25

2007 board

President:
 Mark Luther (630) 876-1296
 mark@markluther.com

Vice President:
 Mike Saad (630) 653-1350
 mwsaad@comcast.net

Treasurer:
 John Warbiany (630) 293-5795
 Fax: (630) 293-5794
 Cell: (630) 464-5710
 jjbwarbil@juno.com

Secretary:
 Aimee Townsend (630) 876-8588
 aleaa5@sbcglobal.net

Publicity Director
 Pamela Darrah (630) 293-4130
 pdarrah@sprynet.com

Information Director:
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350
 mwsaad@comcast.net

Plant Sale Chair:
 Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900
 info@bwdarrah.com

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church
 910 Main Street
 West Chicago

Calendar of events - 2007

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 21	Field Trip—10 a.m.	Member's tour of greenhouse facilities at Cantigny
April 26	Jim Schuster (U. of I. Educator)	What you need to know about the Ash Borer and Cicadas
May 19	PLANT SALE!	Bloomin' Fest 2007
May 24	Ken Benson	House plant clinic—members are invited to bring sick house plants. Member plant exchange prior to the meeting. 6PM
June 9	Field Trip—10 a.m.	Rich's Foxwillow Pines
June 28	Jan Calhoun	What's new from Ball Seed
July 26		Picnic and potluck and socializing
August 2	Field Trip	Ball Seed Gardens
August 23	Mark Luther	Pond construction: step-by-step
September 27	Lynn Bement	Healthy gardens by "The Compost Queen"
October 25	Bill Scheffler	Organic lawn, tree and shrub care
November 15	Elections, Potluck and Nora Liu	Ornamental vines

Reminders

Babysitting—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to us 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 .

Guests and Visitors are always welcome. Members are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor.

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



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News and Announcements

Sharing Table: This is a very important place for all members to bring a treasure to show, a poem, the name of a great new gardening book you've just discovered—any gardening magazines that you'd like to pass on to anyone interested. Maybe you have some seeds that you aren't going to use? It's your sharing table—be creative and enjoy it.

New Members: New members in April are Suzanne Abbott and Elaine McCluskey. Seek out these new members and introduce yourself—welcome them—let them know you're glad to have them with us. Perhaps they might like to ride with you to an upcoming event.

New Web Address: As mentioned at the March meeting, our club has a new web address. It is www.westchicagogardenclub.org. We would like to thank [B. W. Darrah, Inc](#) for providing the space for our web content.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse —Spring Gala: Our club was invited to have a booth in their greenhouse during the Spring Gala this past weekend, April 14 and 15. Perhaps the Gala was a bit too early for gardeners as the traffic was not heavy at all. Still, their place is very interesting with everything and anything a homeowner or gardener might need. I felt that they were happy to have us there and everyone was extremely friendly and helpful. We had a bright and inviting booth organized by Dick Darrah. Pamela did an outstanding job with posters and photos showing our various activities. All in all, it was good.

Calling Post Status: While we have updated all of the Calling Post data with current phone numbers, we need to know if any members are **not** getting the Calling Post reminders. If you are not receiving these calls, please call Pamela Darrah at 293-4130.

Club Members/Crafters: While we need most members to be helping with the plant sale, any member who would like to have a space to sell their garden type treasures, call Dick Darrah at 584-1900.



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We Go Gardening



WOW! - What Great Potting Parties
 Thank to all who turned out for our two Potting Parties (3/31 and 3/15) this year. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. We potted up lots of annuals that Carole Bates had gotten for us and they are now growing in our greenhouses – some are even starting to bloom.
 Again, THANK YOU for all the help and we look forward to seeing all of you and more at the coming Plant Sale functions.

POTTING SUGGESTIONS FROM CAROLE BATES

Crumpled up newspaper (avoid the slick sheets) or shredded paper from your home shredder placed in the bottom of a container will decompose and save on soil. The Digging Squad is a big fan of this method.

Meeting notes from March 22:

Raffle prizes: One of our new members, Tom Fessler won the \$10.00 gift certificate for Proseks and Sandy Saad won the hand made greetings cards donated by member, Michele Rauworth.

Joe Sable from Cantigny: We had a great visit from Joe Sable with lots of colorful and informative handouts. He would love to have some members volunteer. He stayed the whole meeting and even asked Ed Max questions after Ed's slide presentation. My opinion—I felt lots of mutual admiration here. Our member, Lorraine Biang is a volunteer at Cantigny. This is another treat right here in our “neck of the woods” so to speak.

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Plant Sale Digging Squad

What a great idea!!! It's amazing the number of plants we've added to our 10th Annual Plant Sale at the Bloomin Fest on May 19 because of this Digging Squad. Member, Lorraine Biang, was delighted that her day lilies will bloom all the more beautifully since the squad came and separated them. One member, me, thought I had nothing to contribute but some neglected Autumn Joy in back of our garage. But, I gotta tell you, Billie and Aimee potted up 45 Autumn Joy, and 25 yarrow and lambs ear—plus—4 pots of Annabelle hydrangeas—plus—lots and lots of Lilly of the Valley. Thanks to the squad, I really do feel extra good about the SUPER SUCCESS of our 10th Annual Plant Sale.

This Digging Squad refuses any applause for their efforts but, please, if you think you might have something in your yard that would benefit our Plant Sale—CALL THEM—they come supplied, organized, and they're quick. Billie Childress at 231-1791. How can we not thank you DIGGING SQUAD—you're great.

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You can now receive your monthly newsletter electronically, rather than a paper copy. The many advantages include: receive it faster, save paper and processing time, save the cost of stamps, and see some items in color.

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PLANT SALE 2007

by Dick Darrah

Just a few more weeks and we'll again be staging our annual Plant Sale. We need everyone who can to help. To volunteer please contact Jim Hilsenbeck at michred89@comcast.net or call him at 630-222-0757.

We need members to pitch in for:

- Sorting and pricing plants after the pre-sale drop off. We need a small crew of members (4) that will help Pamela and Dan during the week prior to the sale.
- Moving plants to the sale site on Friday evening, May 18th. For this we need loaders, vehicles and drivers, and un-loaders. Lots of help makes the job go quicker.
- Sale Day, May 19th. We need to set up early in the morning, sell during the day, and break down after the sale is over. This is actually a real fun day as we get to meet many different gardeners from a wide variety of backgrounds and locations. The day of the sale we need members to help with the collection of money (contact Carole Bates 293-4953), members to do the "selling", members to help keep the sale site spiffy, members to help in our membership booth, members to watch the holding area, etc., etc., etc. We have jobs for everyone, standing up, sitting down, what ever!

REMEMBER, if there is a particular job you would like contact Jim Hilsenbeck at michred89@comcast.net or call him at 630-222-0757. If you don't call Jim there's a good chance he'll be calling you.

We are again going to be offering some really great plants and we just want to refresh everyone on the significant dates, as follows:

May 12th & 13th (Saturday & Sunday)

Plant drop-off at Pamela and Dan's (479 Colford Ave, West Chicago). We need everyone to bring any and all plants that will be offered for sale.

May 17th (Thursday)

Member only pre-Sale. Come to Pamela and Dan's and look over what we have for sale. Pick out what ever you want for your own gardens and pay the club. This officially starts at 3:00 PM, but if you must come earlier you can do so. Just keep track of what you take and pay the club on Sale Day. This is a chance to get first crack at the best plants available. We discourage members buying the day of the sale.

May 18th (Friday)

At 6:00 PM sharp we start the big move of plants from Pamela and Dan's to the Sale Site. We will need a crew to load vehicles at Pamela and Dan's and we will need another crew to unload vehicles at the Sale Site. Of course, we need pickup trucks, vans, big cars, etc. to drive back and forth.

May 19th (Saturday)

Sale Day! We'll start setting up about 7:30 and we plan to open the register about 8:30, but the Sale really doesn't start until 9:00 – we just like to get a running start. The Sale officially closes at 2:00 PM, but if we still have plants and customers we'll extend the time as needed.



West Chicago Garden Club Plant Sale

Many plants are direct from
our member's gardens or
raised in their greenhouses.

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