



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 12 Issue 4 April 2009

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April 23rd Meeting : “Getting the Most Bang for your Buck with Perennials”

Horticulturist Marcie Pyziak will explain how a combination of picking the right plants and employing some basic principles of design will maximize your return in the perennial garden—timely information just before having all those choices at the plant sale!



**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.
7:15 - brief business meeting, 7:30 - speaker**

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 28th:

“DAZZLING, DELIGHTFUL, DELICIOUS DAYLILIES”

WCGC Members Only Plant Pre-sale:

On Thursday evening, May 14, WCGC members are invited to purchase plants at the pre-sale locations. This is the time to get first dibs on those great plants! Sale times and locations will be announced at the April club meeting. Not a member? Applications are always available at club meetings.

Made in America: Native Woodies for the Home Landscape - March Meeting

Our speaker in March was club favorite Dave Waninger from Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm in Janesville, Wisconsin (www.songsparrow.com). Dave first helped us understand that “native” means plants found naturally in our 7-county ecosystem. We saw examples of native trees, shrubs, and evergreens, pictured in various seasons, sizes, and cultivars. The slide show helped us envision placing these in our gardens. We also loved the beautiful Song Sparrow Farm catalogs Dave brought along to share with us. Lots of ideas for our gardens as spring slowly comes to northern Illinois.

Also at our March meeting, we welcomed **new member Ken Klipp!**



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Arbor Week, April 18—26. Free admission to the Arboretum on Arbor Day, April 24.

The Planter's Palette: Free Container Gardening Demonstrations on May 9, 16, and 23 at 1 p.m.

Illinois Prairie Path Cleanup: Celebrate Earth Day by helping in the annual cleanup on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. More information at <http://www.ipp.org/GUI/index.html>.

Platt Hill Nursery: Free Landscape Design class, April 25 10 a.m. and April 26 at 1 p.m. Information at <http://www.platthillnursery.com/seminars.html>

Shady Hill Gardens: Container Planting—Bring your own container, and for a flat fee, get your containers started. They'll keep them in there greenhouses until you pick them up in the late spring. Saturday April 25th at 10 a.m. and 1 pm. <http://www.shadyhill.com/currentevents.html>.

Cantigny: Annual Bulb Sale - May 18 at 8 a.m. An assortment of bulbs in packages of 25 for \$5. What a bargain! The bulb sale takes place in the First Division Parking Lot--please notify the parking booth attendant as you arrive through the main gate—no charge to enter.

Garden Dollars (also known as Flower Bucks)

Have you been saving your Garden Dollars? You earn them by participating in club activities. At the November meeting, you will be able to use them at the auction to bid on fabulous prizes, like the mosaic gazing balls on display at the February meeting! Examples of what you can earn:

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 February 2nd	50
Donate to Kruse House	50		

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, please see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned. Contact Jeff Handel for more information, 231-6765.

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Calendar of events - 2009

Date	Speaker	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker	Topic/Event
April 23	Marcie Pyziak	Getting the Most Bang for your Buck with Perennials	May 15		Plant Sale Setup
April 25		Perennial Potting Party	May 16		Annual Plant Sale
May 3		Perennial Potting Party	May 28	Greg Bartoshuk	Dazzling, Delightful, Delicious Day-lilies
May 16		Annual Plant Sale	June 25	Kristan McGuigan	What's New from Ball Seed?
May 9		Plant Sale member's plant drop-off	July 23	Announcement of Garden Contest Winners	President's Dinner
May 14		Member's Only Plant Pre-sale	August 27	Susan Grupp	Kermit was Wrong: It's Easy Being Green

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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 2009:
Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

2009 board

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

Vice President:
Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765, jjhandeldds@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Barb Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

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

Program Chair:
Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, lehorton85@ameritech.net

Information Director:
Elaine McCluskey (630) 293-4773, emcccluskey@sbcglobal.net

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

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street, West Chicago



April News From Kruse by Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators

Has the spring cleanup in the Kruse Garden ever been complete by April 4 ?

We set the bar pretty high by getting it done that early this year! Maybe back in the day when the Kruse family lovingly tended the garden it got that kind of attention but in recent times it has often not been top on the mile high stack of the spring 'to do' list. Angie and Tom spent several mornings over there snipping and raking and the grand finale featured the Votava's lawn crew with blowers, lots of energy and strength, and a truck to haul away loads of junk.....and there was a lot! We couldn't have done it without them!

The gardens look terrific! A smattering of blue and yellow (grape hyacinths and daffodils) dot the back garden while eye-popping green creeps to cover the ground everywhere. It is so fresh, clean and neat! The numerous shrubs installed last year are swelled with buds and the Dawn Redwood tree donated by Meyer Landscaping is ready to pop out as well! We put in 50 alliums 'Purple Sensation' last fall and their distinct strappy foliage is rising high, proclaiming, 'we're glad to be here'! No doubt, the awakening of a garden is a salve for the soul. The wonder is unrivaled!

There is a standard requirement for spring garden work which includes dividing and moving plants. The Kruse Garden is no exception to that standard. Angie has those plants on the move! She doesn't forget about all the talk last fall of what needed to be done "next year". There are some big projects on the docket for the year but as the gardens are evolving the work becomes even more rewarding. The fruits of our labor are paying off.

We hope you stop by and visit the gardens often throughout the year. Take a leisurely stroll and enjoy. If you come on a Saturday, 11A-3P, May through September, you could also enjoy the interesting and unique time piece display "As Time Goes By" featured in the house this year. Now that's a "two-fer"! We would be pleased to hear your feedback and suggestions on the gardens. **We are still looking for specific plant donations** (Bergenia, Epimedium, Helleborus, to name a few) **and could use some tools as well.** It would be nice to haul less stuff over there every time we work. We can provide details if you can help us out with plants or tools it would be greatly appreciated.

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



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Plant Sale Activities by Dick Darrah

We had a great Potting Party at the Park District location on March 28th. The Park District really was very accommodating and we had a good turn-out of members. Our pansies are now all potted up and receiving TLC from Dan in the greenhouse.

It may be necessary to have another potting party and we'll know after the next pick-up of plants. If you didn't make the last one really try to come out for the next to spend some quality time with fellow members.

It's now just about a month until the big event and we need to get members signed up for the big push. **There are lots of slots where we need members to pitch in.** In the notes below are listed where, when and how many people are needed. Please look this over and to see where you will be able to help out, and then sign up at the April meeting.

Member Plant Drop-off Day – Saturday May 9th

Location: Pamela and Dan's

Requires **two members from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to accept plants, label, sort and price.**

Sale Site Set-up – Friday May 15th

Locations	Tasks and People Needed
Plant Sale Tent Area, downtown	two members to help unload, set up and cover tables from 4:00 PM until done
Billie's house	four members to load plants in vehicles two vehicles to transport plants to tent area – 5:30 PM until done
Angie's house	four members to load plants in vehicles two vehicles to transport plants to tent area - 5:30 PM until done
Pamela & Dan's house	four members to load plants in vehicles two vehicles to transport plants to tent area - 5:30 PM until done
Plant Sale Tent Area, downtown	Two members to help carry and direct placement of plants inside tent - 5:30 PM until done

Sale Day – Saturday May 16th

Final Set-up – **four members 7:00 AM until done**

During Sale 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM – we need to have at least **four members at all times to help customers.**

After sale clean-up 2:00 PM until done – **six members to help take down tables, clean up area and move any unsold plants to Kruse House.**

I'm sure we'll have another great sale, but we do need everyone to pitch in to the best of their ability. Look for the sign up sheets at the April meeting.



Plant Sale: Digging Squad Report by Billie Childress

Thanks for your generous response to our requests for supplies (bags and pots), plants and help! You are a great group of folks to work with! **We are still looking for particular plants.** If you have **hostas, grasses, Lady's mantle, ginger, rhubarb, herbs,** etc, it's not too late to let us know.

By the time you are reading this, we will be well on our way through the digging and potting of garden grown perennials. Two of the four planned perennial potting sessions will done but we can't loose steam midway through. We still need your help! **You can join the crew on Saturday April 25, 9-12, or Sunday, May 3, 1-4,** and have loads of fun preparing plants for the sale! Call Billie, 630-231-1791, if you need info. Guaranteed, good time will be had by all!

If you help out at a potting party, be sure to collect your hard-earned Garden Dollars!



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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.



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WCGC Board News

Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Faith Community Church, West Chicago, and are open to anyone at any time. Please contact Mark Luther, board president for more information on any board activities.

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The Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago Contest

The West Chicago Garden Club is sponsoring the first Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago contest. Do you love gardening? Have you spent your spare time recreating the Garden of Eden in your own back yard? Enter our contest to be recognized for your efforts. Gardens will be judged in the areas of small residential (1/2 acre or less), larger residential (more than 1/2 acre), special garden feature (i.e. pond garden, entryway garden, deck, etc.), and commercial property.

Gardens with a West Chicago postal address are eligible to enter. Judging will be in mid to late June, 2009. Residential and Commercial entry forms with contest rules are available at the West Chicago City Hall, the West Chicago Public Library, the West Chicago Park District office, the West Chicago City Museum, on the West Chicago Garden Club website (www.westchicagogardenclub.org) and from Carole Bates at 630-293-4953. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

Garden Club members are encouraged to enter their own gardens in the contest, as well as suggest friends and neighbors enter the contest—see the forms for how to do this.

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