



# WE GO GARDENING

## Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 8 Issue 8 August 2005

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### July Program – President’s Potluck and Japanese Lanterns

The annual President’s potluck had something for everyone. There was a wide selection of delicious dishes to choose from, capped by trays of some mores.

For the creative, and not so creative, there was a chance to make a Japanese lantern. People from 11 to retirement age punched holes in cans filled with frozen sand. By the end of the evening, the lanterns just needed a

coat of paint and a candle to be ready to “shine”.

The highlight of the evening was a chance to wander through Sam and Billie’s gardens. What beautiful, well-kept gardens! No sign of the drought or weeds were in evidence. Thanks to the Childress’ for hosting the potluck and sharing their gardens with the Club.

### August Meeting - Concrete Leaf Workshop

**Members who do not want to make leaves should still come and visit with members and see Carole Bates’ Garden. Plan to bring a lawn chair.**

What: Concrete Leaf Workshop

Where: 2591 Sandpiper Trail (Carole Bates garage)

When: Thursday, August 25, 2005 6.45 pm

Who: Workshop conducted by Carole Bates and Connie Ruehrwein

Cost: No Cost to Members

Call: Connie Ruehrwein 879-5395 or Carole Bates 293-4953 to sign up!

Bring some leaves, with the stems still attached, in a vase of water to keep them fresh until we mold them. Bring some large and small ones and some extras. These leaves should have prominent ribs on the underside of the leaf.

Bring something flat, like a cookie sheet or a board. Cover it in aluminum foil or plastic to protect it. This will be the surface to make you concrete leaf. Bring more than one, if you want to make more than a one project.

Bring along some terry cloth rags. We’ll need them to clean out the plastic dishpan that will be provided for you in which to mix the concrete.

**If you plan to make a leaf, PLEASE call Carole or Connie so there will be enough supplies**

## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Ball Seed Test Gardens**— To celebrate Ball's 100th Anniversary, the test gardens are open in AUGUST on Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for self-guided tours.

**The Growing Place** — Saturday, August 27—9:30 am “Grow It Right—Fall Color Selections” (Aurora); Saturday, September 10 —9:30 am “Screen It Right” (Aurora); Saturday, September 17—**FALL FESTIVAL**. Visit [thegrowingplace.com](http://thegrowingplace.com) for a full schedule of this annual festival's many events. Saturday, September 24—9:30 am “Grow It Right—Bulbs”

**Platt Hill Nursery**—Saturday, August 27 —10 am “Fall Annuals and Perennials”  
Saturday, September 17—10am “Winterizing your Pond”

**The Natural Gardens, Inc.** (North Avenue. St. Charles)—**12th Annual Prairie Days**— Saturday, September 10—9-5 and Sunday, September 11—10-5. All events and speakers are free. Saturday events include “Rain Gardens” (11-12), Native Trees for Home Landscapes (2:30-3:30). Sunday events include “Native Plants 101” (1-2) and “Prairie Restoration” (2:30-3:30). Visit the web-site [www.thenaturalgardeninc.com](http://www.thenaturalgardeninc.com) for complete listing of events and descriptions of what will be covered. Both Saturday and Sunday there will be a “Behind the Scenes Nursery Tour” between 4:00 and 4:30.

**Gardening is a kind of disease. It infects you, you cannot escape it.  
When you go visiting, your eyes rove about the garden; you interrupt the  
serious cocktail drinking because of an irresistible impulse to get up and pull a weed.**  
Lewis Gannit

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and add some beauty to your garden at

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## Club information

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

(630) 585-4005

www.bwdarra.com/wcgarden

### Membership information

Dues for 2005:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$25

### 2005 board

President:

Linda Harlson (630) 293-1057  
ashengal@prodigy.net

Vice President:

Billie Childress (630) 231-1791  
billiec@covad.net

Treasurer:

John Warbiany (630) 293-5795  
Fax: (630) 293-5794

Secretary

Angie Sadauskas (630) 231-5851

Information Director

Edie Streams (630) 231-4821  
westreams@hotmail.com

Plant Sale Chair

Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900  
info@bwdarra.com

Garden Walk Chairs

Lou Horton (630) 293-7735  
Sam Childress (630) 231-1791

Madeleine Bartsch (porch chair)  
(630) 231-3217

## Calendar of events 2005

Date	Speaker	Topic
August 25	Connie and Carole	Making Decorative Concrete Leaves (at Carole's)
September 22	Nancy Carroll	Fall Interest in the Garden
October 27	Sandy Klausman	Spring Bulbs
November 17		Potluck and Elections

### Reminders

**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at First Congregational Church. There is no fee to us the service, but if you plan to use it, please call **Linda Harlson** at 293-1057, 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.

### Daily Herald Giving Garden

#### Sites to Donate your Harvest

**Carol Stream** - Lutheran Church of the Master, 580 N. Kuhn Road; (630) 665-5188; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

**Wayne** - Resurrection Catholic Church, 30W350 Army Trail Road (at Route 59); (630) 375-7185; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Thursday; 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

**West Chicago** - Wayne Township, 27W031 North Ave.; (630) 231-7173; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Daily Herald website has not been updated recently, so you might want to call ahead to be sure the times are accurate.

## We Grow Dreams Greenhouse and Garden Center

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# ASK our Gardeners

**FOR Members** who want directions for

## CONCRETE CAST LEAVES

Caution: Follow precaution on concrete bag.

We recommend you wear a breathing mask if you have respiratory problems. Wear rubber gloves when working with concrete.

Mix 1 part Portland concrete and 2 ½ parts play sand until blended. Add a small amount of water and mix after each addition. Continue to add water until mixture is the consistency of a thick brownie mix. Place your leaf down flat or on a mound of sand. Pat concrete mixture onto leaf until leaf is covered to within 1 inch of edge. The concrete should be approximately ¾ inch thick over the center vein of the leaf and tapered to ¼ inch on outside edge. If the leaf you want to use has a hole in it, just patch the hole with another leaf or clear wrap.

Let the concrete leaf cure for 2 days. Mist with water the 1<sup>st</sup> day. This will help concrete to cure evenly.

If desired you can paint the leaf with exterior latex paint, thinned with water if necessary.

For a faux verdigris finish, brush, on a base coat of blue-black paint. After the first coat dries, use a wet sponge to apply a coat of turquoise. Wipe away excess paint with a cotton cloth. Finish with exterior sealant.

If you intend to hang the leaf, imbed a loop of 16-gauge wire in the wet concrete.

If you intend to use the leaf as a hose guide or a platform for birdseed, embed the pipe or stake. You will have to stabilize the pipe with a foam cup etc. for 48 hours.

Bring leaf inside when temperature reaches freezing or turn on side so water does not freeze in leaf. Not to be used as a stepping-stone.



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## 2005 Gardening Season Special Features

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- Mango Meadowbrite Echinacea
- Orange Meadowbrite Echinacea
- Rosa Knockout
- Rosa Double Knockout
- Cotoneaster Nordic Carpet
- Huge Selection of One Gallon Perennials
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## Kruse House Work Day—A smashing Success !

15 Yards of mulch were moved in record time by 20 or so volunteers. By shortly after 11:00 a.m. the huge mulch pile had been spread over the gardens, most of the weeds had been pulled, flowers had been dead-headed. There was even time to pause for a refreshing pop-suckle. The montage below gives you a glimpse at SOME of the work force.

Many THANKS to everyone who volunteered. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

**Many Hands, Make Light Work**



THANKS to  
Pamela Darrah  
For the pictures  
and creating this  
Work Day Montage



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**Morton Arboretum - worth a visit, any time of year** by Becky Hall

Morton Arboretum has always been a treasure in our own back yard, and now more than ever. I originally joined the Morton Arboretum out of a sense of guilt. As a writer I can go through a lot of paper, and I thought supporting an organization like the Arboretum would balance that. What I didn't expect was how much I'd get out of my membership, both for myself and my family. As time has passed (I've been a member for well over a decade), my use has changed, but always enriched my life.

What do I do at the Arboretum? Every spring I take the kids to Daffodil Glade and take their picture in a field with thousands of beautiful daffodils. In May I go back on my own for the Arbor Day Plant Sale. In the summer I visit the prairie - if it's late enough in the summer, the grasses nearly obscure my view. In the fall I take in the Fall Festival with the kids, decorating a pumpkin with natural materials harvested at the arboretum, and running through a corn maze. We also drive through, usually several times, to see the beautiful fall colors. And in the winter I drive through the insulating quiet of the snow covered hills. We've hunted the Yule Log once, (didn't find it, but weren't too far away), and my next goal is to rent some snowshoes to try.

We also attend concerts on the lawn, and Theatre Hikes in both the summer and the fall. Having the opportunity to discuss the last scene as you walk to the next location can really enhance the experience of a play, while giving you exercise, as well. The Maze Garden, new this year, is a lot of fun. This year's theme relates to Alice in Wonderland, but it may change over the years. The hedges are varied and beautiful, and the overlook is fun, too.

I love the Arboretum on my own, with the kids, and with the entire family. It's a great place to spend an hour, or a day. And if any of you would like to talk to me about it, just ask! You can also check out the web site, at [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org).

**Each flower is  
a soul opening  
out to nature.**

**- Gerald De  
Nerval**

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**Fresh Planting Days!**  
Fall Harvest Festival... September 17

Fall is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs, grass seed,  
to prepare new garden beds...to freshen your yard!  
**TIP...** Make sure trees get 1" water per week thru  
Fall to help them recover from the dry summer.  
Festive family fun, tractor rides, raffles, BBQ, 9-17



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Naperville...Plank Rd, 5 blks W of Naper Blvd...630/355-4000

Aurora...Montgomery Rd, 2 blks N of Ogden... 630/820-8088 [thegrowingplace.com](http://thegrowingplace.com)