



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 8 Issue 2 February 2005

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Garden Club Field Trips

As a follow-up to two of our speakers, two field trips are planned. After Beau Kimball's February 25 presentation "Where on earth did you find that?", there will be an trip to the Kane County Flea Market on Saturday, March 5 to see just what treasures we can find. We will meet at the Church at 11:30 and carpool to the Kane County Flea Market (which opens at noon). There is an admission charge. We plan to

stay until 3:00 or 3:30 exploring the Flea Market and looking for treasures for our gardens.

Following the June 23rd talk on Japanese Gardens, a field trip to the Anderson Japanese Gardens and the Klem Arboretum in Rockford is planned for Saturday, June 25. Details on the this trip will be worked out as the date **approaches**.

PLANT SALE 2005

The West Chicago Garden Club's Annual Plant sale is on May 14, 2005. As in the past, the sale will be held at the Fox Community Center in conjunction with the City of West Chicago's Blooming Fest.

In addition to needing lots of help the day of the sale, we need help from members prior to the sale.

PLANTS—Members are reminded, encouraged, exhorted, and begged to pot up any and all plants they may be dividing or discarding. **No plant is too common.** Hostas... we sell every one of them. Daylilies... we can't have too many. Yarrow... that seems to be everywhere... pot it up. Herbs of any sort ... absolutely, we have even had folks asking about dill plants! As long as what you donate is well potted and cared for, it will sell. Our members' plants are what keep many people coming to our plant sale. There will be empty pots available at the next few

meetings for members to take home.

SEEDS—Members who are starting seeds for plants are asked to plant some extras for the Plant Sale. There are always folks looking for tomatoes, peppers, and other vegetables.

Potting Parties—The principal potting party will be held Saturday, April 16 at Bernice McFarland's home. Carole Bates will have smaller potting parties at her home on Fridays. Members who are interested and available for the Friday parties, should contact Carole (293-4953).

Members Pre-sale—The members pre-sale will be held the evening of May 12. All members can preview and purchase (at Plant Sale prices) any of the plants being donated by members. This is our chance to walk away with some real prizes (and no one will need to transport them to the Fox Center)

Upcoming events (outside the club)

Prune It Right Demonstration –Saturday, March 5—9:30 at Growing Place - Aurora location. *Free!* Pre-registration is helpful but optional

March classes at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse, St. Charles. Saturday, **March 12**, 11-11:30 a.m. “Create Your Own Green Hairy Creature (kids),” Cost: \$5. Saturday, **March 12**, 1-2 p.m. “Improving Your Home Landscaping” Cost \$10. Saturday, **March 19** 10-11 a.m. “Start Your Garden from Seeds!” Cost \$10. Saturday, **March 26** “Bonsai for Beginners” Cost \$10. Call Heinz Brothers at (630) 377-6288 for more information.

.Pruning Shrubs, Trees, and Evergreens—Waubonsee Community College. Saturday, March 12. Cost \$19. To register: (630) 466-7900.

Platt Hill Seminars: Saturday, March 5 10am “Design a Perennial Garden”; Saturday March 12 10am “Shade Gardening”; Saturday, March 19 “Create a Moss Hanging Basket” (\$50). Seminars are FREE unless otherwise noted.. **Spring Preview. Saturday and Sunday April 2 & 3.** Come see what is new for your garden! Contact Platt Hill for more information.

Garfield Park Conservatory, Spring Flower Shows February 12 to May 15. Recommended donation \$3. See www.garfieldconservatory.org for more information and for many interesting classes.

**Mark Your
Calendars for
March 5 Field
Trip !**

To
Kane County
Flea Market

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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@aol.com

Plant Sale Chair

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

Calendar of events 2005

Date	Speaker	Topic
February 24	Beau Kimball	Where on Earth Did you Find That? (cool things for your garden from garage sales, etc.)
March 5	FIELD TRIP	Kane County Flea Market
March 31 (note date)	Someone from Growing Place	Vertical Gardening with Vines and Clematis
April 28	Jan Calhoun	Annuals
May 14	Plant Sale!	
May 26		Plant Exchange, Sharing and Work Night at Kruse House
June 23	Diane Hunter	Japanese Gardens
June 25	FIELD TRIP	Anderson Japanese Gardens Klem Arboretum—Rockford
July 28		President's Potluck and making Japa- nese Lanterns (at Billie's)
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

**“SO MANY SEEDS
— SO LITTLE TIME”**



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ASK Our Gardeners

ASK features answers from Garden Club Members to questions from fellow members. Questions can be e-mailed to Edie Streams or submitted on sheets available at the "Sharing Table".

Q When should I divide my perennials?

A (from Carole Bates and Garden Club Board members) This depends in part on the plant, but here are some general thoughts.

- Divide daylilies in April (so THEY WILL BE READY FOR THE PLANT SALE). They should be divided every 3 to 4 years.
- Divide after the flowers have bloomed (makes it easier to remember the color)
- Don't divide in July and August since the hot, dry weather tends to stress the plant .
- Hostas can be divided in early spring (more plants for the plant sale)
- Daffodils and other spring bulbs should be divided after the leaves start to die back. If they are not divided every few years, they may produce less flowers..
- Plants divided in the spring may or may not bloom that year.
- Peonies should be divided in September or early October.
- A number of perennials will do well whenever you divide them. Dividing on a regular basis is more critical than the exact timing of the division.

Sharing Table

Featuring our members ideas and materials...

Gardening Catalogs, articles or books

Garden related projects

DON'T GRUMBLE THAT ROSES HAVE THORNS, BE THANKFUL THAT THORNS HAVE ROSES.



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Kruse House—Objectives and Workday Schedule

The major goal for the Kruse House this year is **maintenance**. The construction just west of Kruse House means that the shade patterns for the garden may change. This year is also a trial to see whether the club is willing and able to provide the people power to keep the gardens going.

Rather than asking members to adopt what previously were very large sections of garden, Dan Beebe plans to divide the garden into 20-25 separate and smaller areas. Members will be asked to adopt one or more sections of the garden. A list of suggested tasks for each area will be provided.

So members can plan ahead, a list of scheduled work days has been set up. The schedule includes four sets of two work days (with rain dates). Each set has a Saturday date (hours 8-12) followed two weeks later by a Sunday date (hours 1-5). It is hoped that members will come for a few hours (or more) on at least one of the days.

Spring Clean Up Dates

Saturday, April 9 (rain date April 16) 8-12

Sunday, April 17 (rain date April 24) 1-4

Planting/Mulching Dates

Saturday, May 21 (rain date May 28) 8-12

Sunday, June 5 (rain date June 12) 1-4

Midsummer Cleanup/Deadheading/ Weeding Dates

Saturday, July 23 (rain date July 30) 8-12

Sunday, August 7 (rain date August 14) 1-4

Fall Clean Up Dates

Saturday, September 24 (rain date
October 1) 8-12

Sunday, October 9 (rain date October
16) 1-4

Thank you!

Thanks to our advertisers! They help fund our newsletter.

Thanks too to Pamela Darrah and Dick Darrah who obtained the advertisers and set up their ads.

Reminders

Babysitting—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings held at First Congregational Church. There is no fee to use the babysitting service, but if you are planning to use the service, call **Linda Harlson**, 293-1057, so we can plan for the right number of children.

DUES are DUE— If you have not already

done so, it is time to pay your dues. Payments can be brought to the February meeting.

Pick Up Containers— at meeting we will have pots for members to start seeds or put plants from their gardens in for the plant sale.



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