



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 10 Issue 2 February 2007

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It Doesn't Sound Too Difficult!

By Sandy Saad

Paul Stoffels, master gardener and avid seed starter had so much to share with us at our first meeting in January that we ran out of time to do much planting. Paul had a slide show and brought many of the tools that he uses and proceeded to excite us all about how easy it really is to start our own seeds—in our own home! He left us with some very important points:

- *Read and follow package directions!!!
- *Soil-less mix for seed starting needs to be moistened before planting and make a hole with a pencil for seeds.
- *Label—popsicle sticks, masking tape, permanent marker good for name, date, etc.
- *Lite is key—fluorescent workshop light on a chain for easy adjustment above plants works well.

*Drainage is big—grow in shallow recycled egg cartons, Jiffy pots or last year's plant cell packs—1 to 2 inches are needed below seeds.

*Temperature and Humidity are key—warmth and a spray bottle to keep mix moist and Handi-wrap or a clear poly film to cover and keep moisture.

*Transplant when seedlings produce 1 or 2 true leaves, be gentle—did you remember to thin to just one plant in each cell?

I've never done this but will give it a try—I hope you will too—our Plant Sale Chairman will appreciate it.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 22

Native Plants for the Garden

Speaker: Kitty Finn

Brought back by popular demand — Kitty Finn is a buyer for The Growing Place. Besides native plants, she also has special expertise in roses and woody shrubs. Kitty will present a slide show and discussion of *must-have* native plants for our gardens.

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

***** Remember—we have a new meeting location—see page 4 for more details.**



The Kruse House... A meeting, a plan, a commitment — reported by Mark Luther

As many of you know, this year our relationship and commitment to the Kruse house has reached the point where decisions regarding the future of this project need to be made and our commitment to the project needs to be evaluated. To that end, Billie Childress, Angie Sadauskas, Dan Beebe and myself recently attended a meeting with the Historical Society who are responsible for, and the primary caretakers of, the Kruse House Museum. Each participant at the meeting was provided an opportunity to express their personal views and we quickly discovered that we have an issue with communications between our groups. We came to the consensus that more open communication between our organizations is key to a relationship that I personally hope both of us see as mutually beneficial.

To that end we have formalized our primary communications channel, determined that a landscape plan for the property be established, reviewed, and approved by each group, agreed to promote each other within our respective marketing mediums, and we agreed to increase awareness of the Kruse House gardens as a major feature of the property. To that end, initial discussions were begun regarding signage and perhaps even modifying the name from "The Kruse House Museum" to "The Kruse House Museum and Gardens".

Probably the most important agreement that was reached involved the development of a general landscape plan for the property. Due to recent construction on and around the property, it is painfully clear that, as with any private home, curb appeal is key to drawing attention to any property. As such, the Historical Society will be providing us with a general landscape guideline. We will then review the guidelines and any details that they have provided and come back with some of our own ideas and suggestions. As the curb appeal of the Kruse House has suffered substantially with all of the recent construction, there is little doubt that the majority of our efforts this year need to be concentrated at the front of the property while not ignoring the years of hard work that have been put into the rest of the property. Our goal is to make the front say "Welcome!" and to clearly demonstrate that the Kruse House Museum is a place to be visited and that the grounds are to be enjoyed by everyone in our community.

Upcoming events (outside the club)

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP TO CHICAGOLAND FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Sponsored by Chicagoland Gardening Magazine

The Growing Place, Naperville will be a pick up site for the Bus on Sunday, March 11

Arrive at TGP at 11:30am and leave the show at 5pm. Fee: \$45. Deadline for registration is February 20. A Continental Breakfast will be served at 11:30am in the Garden Treasures Shop.

TGP presentation at the show at 2:30pm: **Innovative and exceptional ideas for your Perennial Garden**

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Club information

West Chicago Garden Club
 P. O. Box 313
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www.bwdarrah.com/wcgarden

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
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 jjbwarbil@juno.com

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

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 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|
| February 22 | Kitty Finn | <i>The Natives</i> —slide program featuring must have native plants for the garden |
| March 22 | Ed Max | Spring Ephemerals in the garden |
| 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 28 | Jan Calhoun | What's new from Ball Seed |
| July 26 | | Picnic and potluck and socializing |
| 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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Notes and Announcements

Membership dues: Just a reminder for those who haven't gotten around to it yet — your 2007 dues are now due.

New meeting location: Beginning with our January, 2007 meeting, all of our regular meetings will be held at Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street, West Chicago. The church is located on the south side of Main Street about 1/2 block east of Rt. 59. Enter the parking lot from the main entrance (on east end of the Church) and drive to the southwest end of the lot—there is ample parking. Enter the church through the southwest entrance and we will be meeting in the Mission Center—to your left after you enter.

Door prizes: Beginning in January, a door prize will be given away at each regular meeting. When you sign in at the meeting, you will receive a ticket that will enter you in the drawing.

All Aboard for the Germany Trip: Six spots are still open! Join three of our member couples (Childress's, Darrah's, and Handel's) for this reported charming trip. If you're interested or need additional information, contact Carol Bates, at 293-4953 who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Electronic newsletters: Sign up to receive this newsletter electronically. See the story on page 6.

Editor's Note: Our first meeting of the year on January 25 at our lovely new location, Faith Community Church, was a frigid night and besides that, it wasn't HOME. Did anyone else feel it? The change of location was necessary and a good thing but it was different—the high ceiling, no carpeting, and a very big room—all in all, I felt it threw us all OFF a bit. HOWEVER, we will make it HOME with each new meeting there.

Our terrific new Hospitality Chairman, Shirley Shramer, won the door prize—a club sweatshirt. Our new President, Mark Luther, introduced some of his thoughts regarding the club and presented our two past presidents, Billie and Linda with gift certificates for the the years of generosity, sincerity, time, commitment and love they've given us all—BRAVO!!!! We even gained a new member, Marion Martin from Lombard. She "googled" to find us and came all that way to join us in that awful weather—now there's spunk for you.



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PLANT SALE 2007

Dick Darrah, plant sale chairman says, "Yes, we're going to do it again this year!"

Date: May 19, 2007 – 9:00AM – 2:00PM

We are going to need volunteers! Will you help out?

We need people for:

- Potting parties
- Plant sitting
- Plant Sale set-up
- Plant Sale cash receipts
- Plant labeling
- Transport
- Plant Sale selling
- Plant Sale clean-up

If any or all of these seem like something you might be willing to do please call either Dick or Pamela at 584-1900 during the day or email to info@bwdarrah.com. Also, if you have any suggestions as to how we can improve Plant Sale 2007, please contact us or any club officer.

Please remember to:

1. Save box tops for customers to use to accumulate plants at the Plant Sale
2. Save old Venetian blinds that we cut up for plant labels.
3. Pot up plants early in the spring for the Plant Sale.
4. Start seeds for the Plant Sale.

Most of all, remember the Plant Sale can be a lot of fun. It's a great time to get to know new members and to interact with the whole club.



A Plant Sale Note—from Pamela Darrah

After the January meeting and all the information about starting seeds, do you feel inspired to give it a try? The Plant Sale would be really helped if all the Garden Club households took a try at starting seeds. Any plants that our members start would be welcome – either a whole or even part of a flat. If you aren't sure what you would like to plant, consider planting some herbs or vegetables. We always have customers looking for herbs such as parsley, thyme, basil, etc and most herbs are easy to grow.

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Apple Slices—A recipe from June Luther

Pie Crusts:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Cups flour | 1 ½ Cups shortening |
| 2 tsp salt | 2 tsp vinegar |
| 1/3 Cup water | 1 egg beaten in water |

Cut shortening into flour and salt mixture. Add water, egg and vinegar to mixture. Roll out on floured board so that you have two crusts of sufficient size to cover a jelly roll pan. (About 15 ½" x 11")

Apples:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 3 lbs apples | 1 ¼ Cups water |
| 1 ¼ Cups sugar | Pinch of salt |
| 2 T corn starch | Powdered sugar frosting |
| Unseasoned bread crumbs | |
| Nuts, raisins and/or cinnamon to taste | |

Peel, core and slice 3 lbs of apples. Combine 1 C water, 1 ¼ C sugar and a pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and add apple pieces. Cook until soft. Add 2 Tablespoons corn starch and ¼ C of water to the apples. Cook until the mixture is thick. Add nuts, raisins or cinnamon if desired. Roll out dough and sprinkle with unseasoned bread crumbs. Add apple mixture. Put remaining crust on top.

Bake in pre-heated 350° oven for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Drizzle powdered sugar frosting over the top when cooled. Slice and serve.

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