



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 12 Issue 2 February 2009

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February 26th Meeting :

“Hardy Ferns in the Shade Garden”

Our speakers both come from the Planters Palette. Kiana Stoll is head of retail sales and Shirley Conetter is manager of the Shade Area. These pros will recommend the right ferns to add texture and, yes, even color to the shade garden.



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

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 26th :

“MADE IN AMERICA: NATIVE WOODIES FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE”

Garden Dollars

Have you been saving your Garden Dollars? You earn them by attending meetings, helping on projects, bringing refreshments, and more - pick them up at these events. At the November meeting, you will be able to use them at the auction to get fabulous prizes! Ask Jeff Handel for more information.

A New Way to Sow Seeds - from our January Meeting

Our speaker, Kelly Bryant, a Master Gardener, showed us an amazing new method for sowing seeds economically and with an eye to recycling. By using containers like used milk jugs cut in half to create a mini-greenhouse, you can start seeds in a good potting soil, and put them outside before spring, then wait. Kelly says the plants, “know when to wake up” and start growing! You stop sowing seeds when it’s sweater weather. Warm weather annuals are started in April.

The slide show had pictures of many containers all around Kelly’s yard. The snow doesn’t hurt them, and it’s very inexpensive, something everyone can use these days. Other slides showed how Kelly uses these plants around in her garden, as well as photos of her cat, Gizmo, and her two dogs, Lucy and Linus. A lot of us left the meeting with good intentions—if you need more encouragement, see the website www.wintersown.org.



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Midwest Gardening Symposium on March 13-14, Register: 630-719-2468.

Navy Pier: Chicago Flower and Garden Show March 7-15. <http://chicagoflower.com/>

The Growing Place: Free seminars each Saturday in March at 10 a.m. in Aurora. On March 28th, [free design advice appointments in-house for a selected area of your yard](#). Pre-register for these appointments by calling 630-820-8088.

Planter's Palette: Symposium 2009: A Morning with Tracy DiSabato-Aust on High Impact, Low Care Garden Plants That Anyone Can Grow. Thursday, March 5, 7:45 a.m. to noon, Charlestowne Mall Cinema 18. Call 630-293-1040.

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 mornings March 14 and 21. <http://www.shadyhill.com/currentevents.html>

Cantigny: Meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14 at the Visitor's Center for a bird walk in the winter garden. No entry fee, just tell the guard you've come for the bird walk. Call 630-260-8162.

ROSE ROSETTE DISEASE (RRD)

Q. What is rose rosette disease? I lost two antique roses and removed a hedge of multiflora roses that were supposed to be undesirable. How bad is it?

A. Rose rosette disease is a plant killer of unknown origin and no known cure. It is known to plant pathologists, but unknown to most rose gardeners in this area.

The disease is believed to be caused by a virus or virus-like pathogen that has been spreading through much of the wild rose population in the Midwest, probably transmitted by a mite introduced to the U. S. to eradicate multiflora roses. It is lethal to the wild multiflora rose and potentially lethal to many rose species and cultivars.

Symptoms of rose rosette disease are highly variable, depending on the species or cultivar. Some of the more recognizable symptoms include rapid elongation of new shoots forming witches brooms, or clustering of small branches with distorted leaves of conspicuous red pigmentation and distorted flowers.

David Robson, Springfield, extension educator, horticulture with the University of Illinois, reports that it is all over our area. Mike Geimer, owner of Geimer Greenhouse, Long Grove, reports coming across RRD in a Long Grove garden. One plant in a bed of Flower Carpet roses caught his eye because of its uncharacteristic red clumping stems. He looked up the symptoms on the internet, identified it as RRD and advised immediate removal of the plant. Also important, warns Geimer: "Always sterilize pruning shears."

Kathy Hallgren, Sycamore, is worried about the future of old roses. Two summers ago she noticed some peculiarly rampant irregular, hyper-thorny pink growth with irregular leaves on an antique Alba rose.

After researching the symptoms, Hallgren determined the irregularities were from RRD. "I dug out the plant and burned it. Once I learned that multiflora roses could be the culprit, I removed them even though they were healthy. This summer I saw it on one of my 'William Baffin' roses so cut it down and burned it. This disease means business," says Hallgren.

No effective control is available for existing rose rosette disease. All cultivated roses are potentially susceptible. Be on the lookout for it. Early detection is the key to effective cultural control. If the disease is recognized early and the rose is removed, it is possible to save other roses in the garden and hopefully curb the spread of RRD.

Reprinted with permission from the Q&A column by Adele Kleine in the January/February 2009 issue of "Chicagoland Gardening." Thanks to Billie Childress for suggesting this article!




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Calendar of events - 2009

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 22	Diana Stoll & Shirley Conetter	Hardy Ferns in the Shade Garden
March 26	Dave Waninger	Made in America: Native Woodies for the Home Landscape
April 23	Marcie Pyziak	Getting the Most Bang for your Buck with Perennials
May 16		Annual Plant Sale
May 28	Greg Bartoshuk	Dazzling, Delightful, Delicious Daylilies
June 25	Kristan McGuigan	What's New from Ball Seed?
July 23		President's Dinner
August 27	Susan Grupp	Kermit was Wrong: It's Easy Being Green

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

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



News From Kruse, February 2009 **by Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators**

The time away from 'News From Kruse' slipped by quickly and another year in the garden begins! But before the past is forgotten let us tell of the lovely recognition bestowed by the Historical Society at their annual meeting last November. Angie, Billie, and Tom received certificates of appreciation and luscious toffees for their part in maintaining and growing the 2008 Kruse House Garden. Of course, we are only representatives of the Garden Club and want to pass the appreciation along to all of you for your support of the Kruse Garden efforts! The addition to the big sign in front of the Kruse house is also great recognition for Garden Club's role in the gardens. Thanks to Dick Darrah for installing that addition to the sign! Thank you all for a great year past and 'tally ho, away we go' to a fantastic year to come!

We can only plan (well, dream too) at this time of the year; however it should be noted that conceptualizing is an important component of gardening. The overarching goal for the Kruse Garden is to create a charming, low maintenance garden that will be enjoyed and appreciated for many years.

The house and garden are a unique part of the city's past. The West Chicago Kruse House Museum is tucked in on Main Street, many times overlooked, seemingly out of place, having a garden not often visited. It is like other houses that at one time lined Main Street, the home of a middle-class railroad conductor who lived in a railroad town. This was a family of gardeners; therefore, the picture would be incomplete without the beauty of gardens to envelope the house now as they did back then. Working on the garden of the museum makes us custodians in the preservation of our city's past.

So.....what's on the agenda this year? Maintenance, of course, and some more renovation of the beds, but we are getting to more of a 'tweaking' stage in the gardens. Hallelujah!!! Planting some of those big bushes last year almost did us in!

Another 'open garden' party for the community is planned for early August. Last year we had a fabulous turnout and such a good time at this event that we can't wait to do it again! But, as I said at the close of last year, the Kruse House Garden beckons you to visit throughout the year. The garden promises to delight with ever evolving displays! Make it a regular destination.....you will find it a joy to experience and you will be proud that it is our project!

We are planning to enter the garden in the city's garden contest. Details are vague at time of this riting, but what an opportunity to show it off to the contest judges.....maybe win something? Oh, that's just our competitive nature surfacing.....never mind.

Until next time, A&B




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Plant Sale 2009 by Dick Darrah



Wow, time sure flies – it's time to start getting ready for another Plant Sale.

Billie and Angie are heading up our "Digging Squad" again so anyone who wants to help out please contact them. Also, if you have plants to be dug and potted for our Plant Sale please let them know so they can take care of the scheduling.

The plants from our member gardens have proven to be the most important part of our Plant Sale so please help us out in any way you can. The plant sale is our big fundraiser, so we all need to pitch in!

Our potting parties for the small donated plants we receive will be a bit different this year. Carole Bates has arranged with the West Chicago Park District to use one of their buildings. This will get us out of the weather into a heated building which will make my old finger joints a lot happier. We'll have more details and instructions on this as we get closer to the time of potting.

With all the snow on the ground and our frigid temperatures it's hard to think of digging and potting, but there are a few things we can do now in preparation, including:

- Billie wants us to save plastic grocery bags for her digging squad to use.
- We need to keep boxes that can be used at the sale for buyers to hold their plants.
- We will need venetian blinds to cut up for our labeling.
- We need pots for the plants.

AND

From our January meeting speaker's presentation, how about sowing some seeds for the Garden Club? Pick some herb or vegetable that can be started in a milk jug and give it a try. They should be just about ready for potting when our potting parties roll around or you can pot them up yourself for the plant sale.

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 by the Wednesday before the meeting.

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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 will be 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.



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West Chicago Garden Club

Membership Application - 2009

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2009 are due by the February meeting and will be considered overdue as of February 28th. The board would appreciate receiving dues as soon as possible

With your paid membership you receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication Garden Glories.

Individual Membership:

\$15 per year

Family Membership:

\$25 per year

(For multiple members at a single address)

Our meetings in 2009 will be held on the 4th Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3rd Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

Please make checks payable to the West Chicago Garden Club. You can bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
 c/o Mike Saad
 27W206 Manchester Rd.
 Winfield, IL 60190-1440

Application

type: New or Renewal

class: Individual or Family

Name(s): _____

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Phone Numbers: (include area code)

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Note: e-mail addresses may be shared with garden club members.