



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 10 Issue 1 January 2007

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Membership Dues are Due... and the Benefits of Membership by Billie Childress

Since you are reading this you have probably been a member of the Garden Club or crossed paths with the Club during the past year. It is time to renew your membership (\$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family). Just complete and return the enclosed form.

I'd like to point out a few reasons why you would want to be a member. Receiving this informative newsletter and hearing the wonderful speakers might be reason enough to join. Beyond that you have the opportunity to mingle with kindred spirits and share your garden dreams, ambitions, mistakes and successes. Often the things we learn from fellow gardeners are the most valuable lessons of all!

We accept that evolution and change are part of gardening. The monthly programs help us keep updated on topics that club members tell us they are interested in (see page 3 for the 2007 programs). Also, you are entitled to participate in the member's presale for our annual Plant Sale (this is my personal favorite), join others working in the Kruse Garden and at the annual plant sale and take part in the field trips sponsored by the club.

There are many benefits to membership. We value each and every member. Please join us for another year of fun, fellowship, learning, and GARDENING.

Now, fill out that form and write that check! Send or give to Mike Saad, 27W206 Manchester Rd, Winfield.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 25

Seed Starting

Speaker: Master Gardener, Paul Stoffels

Brush those winter blahs away and let dreams of seedlings "dance in your head". Please read Lou Horton's story on page 5 about this pioneer-type fellow who loves to plant a seed and watch it grow, and hopes you'd enjoy doing the same.

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.**



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 2007:
 Individual: \$15
 Family: \$25

2007 board

President:
 Mark Luther (630) 876-1295
 mark@markluther.com

Vice President:
 Mike Saad (630) 653-1350
 mwsaad@comcast.net

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

Secretary
 Aimee Townsend (630) 876-8588
 aleaa5@aol.com

Information Director
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350
 mwsaad@comcast.net

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

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church
 910 Main Street
 West Chicago

Calendar of events - 2007

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 25	Master Gardener Paul Stoffels	Seed Starting—demonstration on starting seeds indoors
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 26	Jim Schuster (U. of I. Educator)	What you need to know about the Ash Borer and Cicadas
April 28	Field Trip	Member's tour of greenhouse facilities at Cantigny
May 19	PLANT SALE!	
May 24		Member plant exchange
June 28	Ken Benson	House plant clinic—members are invited to bring sick house plants
July 26		Picnic and potluck
August 23	Mark Luther	Pond construction: step-by-step
September 27	Lynn Bement	Healthy gardens
October 25		To be announced
November 15	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing and brainstorming

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

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.

Our members get around: Carole Bates and Lou Horton attended a Garden Clubs of Illinois District II (that's us) meeting on January 19. Also, Mark Luther, Angie Sadauskas and Billie Childress attended a Kruse House board meeting this past month. We're looking forward to hearing from our "roving reporters" at our meeting next week.

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

Saving Stamps = Acres for Wildlife: The Illinois Audubon Society sponsors stamps collecting as a way of supporting its Sanctuary Program. Save canceled commemoratives, airmail stamps, express mail stamps, duck stamps, state conservation stamps. Duck stamps??? I'll look into that one. But, please, leave a big border around them and bring them to the meetings and we'll take it from there—Thanks.

Our New Club Historian: Billie Childress would greatly appreciate any newspaper articles, or anything club related that you might be holding onto. She will archive all these items in such a way that it we'll have a record of our efforts throughout the years.

Germany Trip: There are still seats available. If you're interested or need additional information, contact Carol Bates, at 293-4953.

Venetian blind slats: We've lost our source, per Bernice McFarland. So, please check your basements, garages and attics to see if you have any to donate. Bernice thanks you for your efforts.

Thank you: The club received a Thank You note for our donation to the Tuberos Sclerosis Alliance.



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Growing Your Own Flowers and Veggies from Seed

By Lou Horton

Virtually every gardener has considered growing plants from seed at one time or another for some very good reasons. First of all, there is no more economical way to obtain plants than from seed. There is also the fact that the array of plants available from seed is huge compared to what is available as started plants, whether it is heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables you seek or those rare annual or perennial types that you just cannot find at the local nursery.

Growing from seed at home is actually much more simple than one might imagine assuming that one is prepared to set up some basic equipment and assuming that one is armed with the right information. West Chicago Garden Club members will be treated to the expertise of Master Gardener Paul Stoffels at our January 25th meeting. Paul will demonstrate how seeds are started at home and will assist garden club members who want to try the procedure themselves. The Club will supply a seed tray and the growing medium for the first 25 members who want to take part in the demonstration. Everyone else is welcome to watch and learn. Paul will have some seeds from his favorite veggies and flowers to share but members are encouraged to bring seeds that they would especially like to try growing this winter.

One key to growing from seed is to begin the process with the correct amount of growing time related to the "frost free" date (the average date of the last frost) in one's local area. Ideally, the young plants will be big enough and hardy enough to transplant into the garden at that time but not so advanced that they have outgrown the facilities one has. Paul will help members determine when they should start the various classes of seed but given our late January meeting time, he suggests the following flower types for consideration: Daisy, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Geranium, Hibiscus, Laurentia. In veggies, early lettuce and herbs will work as well as some tomato varieties using a special technique Paul will demonstrate.

Where can you find a nice selection of seeds to choose from? Aside from nurseries such as newsletter advertiser Hienz Brothers, believe it or not, Walmart carries a decent selection.

Come prepared to learn and to have fun on the 25th.
See you there!

New advertiser who is also a club member



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We've saved the BEST for last! By Sandy Saad

Our last meeting of 2006 was our potluck and elections. The food was, as usual, top-drawer and downright sumptuous—to say the least! However, the Big News from that meeting was the ELECTION. Please give your congratulations and support to our new officers and committee chairmen below. And, a special and heartfelt thanks to our outgoing officers and committee chairs for all of their efforts and contributions. And last, our annual treasurer's report was presented and approved—see John for details.

President	Mark Luther	Garden Clubs of Illinois Rep	Carole Bates
Vice-President	Mike Saad	Photographer	Pamela Darrah
Secretary	Aimee Townsend	Plant Sale	Dick Darrin
Treasurer	John Warbiany	Programs	Lou Horton
Director-at-Large	Carole Bates	Community Improvement	Dan Beebe
Information Director	Sandy Saad	Hospitality	Shirley Schramer
Publicity Director	Pamela Darrah	Historian	Billie Childress
Library Liason	Carole Bates		

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To subscribe to the electronic version, simply send your e-mail address to Sandy Saad at mwsaad@comcast.net.

Pruning tips from The Growing Place:

Winter is a great time to get outside, take a look at the visible plant structure in your landscape and do some pruning. Crossed branches in trees can be eliminated and some shrubs such as Spirea and Potentilla can be cut to the ground encourage fullness. Stick to summer blooming shrubs, yews and arborvitae. Spring blooming shrubs will lose their flower buds if pruned now.

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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2007

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2007 are due by the February meeting and will be considered over-due 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 2007 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): _____
(Print) _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

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

Send newsletters via: E-mail or Mail

Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will not get phone reminders of any garden club events.)