



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 11 Issue 1 January 2008**

## Inside this issue

Events Outside the Club	2
Calendar of Events	3
News and Announcements	4
News from Kruse	5
Membership Form	7

## "Winding Up 2007"

By Sandy Saad

November 15, 2007 — our last meeting was our end-of-year potluck, elections and conversation.

I hope you were there to enjoy the great spread which you all contributed to putting together. Angie made sure that the fried chicken, drinks, plates and utensils were there. What a Deal!

As for the conversation, knowing this garden club, I'll bet you it was lively. No, I wasn't there (five weeks under the weather) but I wish I had been. Great Food and Great People—that's tops on my list.

A show of hands assured us of some great officers and committee chairmen to lead us through 2008:

- President: Mark Luther
- Vice-President: Jeff Handel
- Treasurer: Barb Darrah
- Secretary: Aimee Townsend
- Director-at-Large: Carole Bates
- Information Director: Sandy Saad
- Publicity Director: Pamela Darrah
- Library Liason: Carole Bates
- Garden Clubs of Ill. Rep.: Carole Bates
- Photographer: Pamela Darrah
- Plant Sale Chair: Dick Darrah
- Program Chair: Lou Horton
- Community Improvement: Jesse Felix
- Hospitality Chairwoman: Linda Harlson
- Historian: Billie Childress
- Kruse Garden Chairs: Billie and Angie

THANKS SO MUCH. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CLUB.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 24**

**"BEST NEW PLANTS FOR 2008"**

**Speaker:** Bill Aldrich, publisher and editor of Chicagoland Gardening Magazine. His resume is too long for this space, but trust me, he's got a lot to tell us and you'll want to be there to hear it.

**Join us** at the Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.

6:45pm - sharing time, conversation and refreshments

7:15 - brief business meeting

7:30 - speaker



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**The Growing Place:** Check them out for some Winter Warming Workshops and Talks

1/31 Make a Trough....The Naperville location staff will assist in creating a rustic stone-like light-weight container made from hypertufa concrete that, when planted, will allow hardy plants to winter over in it. Hypertufa is relatively lightweight and perfect for succulent, perennial and miniature conifer gardens. Handout info will suggest ways you will be able to plant it. Time: 10am Cost: \$35 for a 16"x 24"

2/14 Make a Fountain for your sunroom or garden .... 10am at the Naperville location. A great selection of containers will be available for purchase. Materials and creative ideas will be provided for you to make a unique fountain. Cost: \$10 for class plus materials.

**Morton Arboretum:** Your New Year's resolution could be to become a member and volunteer. Their Plant Clinic is remarkably responsive.

**Cantigny:** A special reminder from Joe Sable, the Director of Production at Cantigny Gardens.....there is never a parking fee for attending any activity at the greenhouse.....just come in the Shaffner gate and park by the greenhouse. See what's going on this winter at [www.cantigny.org](http://www.cantigny.org) or (630) 668-5332

**University of Illinois Extension in DuPage County:** (630) 955-1123 or [dupage\\_co@extension.uiuc.edu](mailto:dupage_co@extension.uiuc.edu)

Ask for their Winter/Spring 2008 class list "Ready, Set, Grow!":

1/22 Winter Sowing 7-8:30pm. No charge.

1/29 Healthy Soil=Healthy Plants (telenet class) 1-2:30pm Cost: \$10

1/31 Healthy Soil=Healthy Plants (telenet class) 7-8:30pm Cost: \$10

2/12 Carnivorous Plants (telenet class) 1-2:30pm Cost: \$10

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**Club information**

West Chicago Garden Club  
 P. O. Box 313  
 West Chicago, IL 60186  
 (630) 585-4005

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

**Membership information**

Dues for 2008:  
 Individual: \$15  
 Family: \$25

**2008 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

Publicity Director  
 Pamela Darrah (630) 293-4130  
 pdarrah@sprynet.com

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 - 2008**

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 24	Bill Aldrich	Best new plants for 2008
February 28	Shirley Remes	Adding individuality to front yard gardens
March 27	Marcie Stewart Pyziak	Ornamental grasses for the landscape
April 24	Dan Costa	Insect pests in the garden
May 22	Dave Wanniger	Herbaceous and tree peonies
June 26	Lou Horton	Underused Ornamental trees
July 24	None	President's dinner
August 28		To be announced
September 25		To be announced
October 23		To be announced
November 20	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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**News and Announcements**

**Raffle Prizes:** Let me remind you all that if you have something you'd like to chip in for the raffle, please give me a call, or, just bring it along to the meeting. Something you are tired of might just be the delight of someone else's life.

**See It On The Sharing Table:** A great article in the Chicago Tribune New Homes section, Friday, December 28, with a big photo of WC's mayor and a nice story on downtown development. Too bad they did not mention the Kruse House and how beautiful the garden is due the "labor of love" from a lot of garden club members. Also on THE TABLE is the article about our speaker (mentioned below).

**Blowing My Horn for the Daily Herald Again:** Perhaps you feel the same, but I get more local info from this newspaper than any other. Actually, last Sunday in the Home and Garden section (front page, long left column) by Deborah Donovan---was a nice article on our January speaker's magazine---also mentioned was Jim Nau of Ball Horticultural in West Chicago (got to know him when I worked for Ball Publishing-way back when). Now there is someone I'd love to have come to speak to us.

**Extra bio on Bill Aldrich, our speaker for the January Meeting:** He holds a B.A. from the U. of Missouri and has been a master gardener with the U. of Ill. Extension. His interest in gardening led to a free-lance career with the Chicago Tribune where he was a photo editor. He retired in 2002. The Garden Writers Assoc. recently honored Bill Aldrich as a Distinguished Fellow. He was president of that group in 1998-99. Chicagoland Gardening was founded in 1995 and he continues as the publisher and executive editor. Bill is very active in the Chicago Flower & Garden Show and has already authored five books with a sixth due this spring entitled "Container Gardening for the Midwest". He's definitely a Midwest Guy!

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News from Kruse

Why Volunteer at the Kruse Museum Garden?

The West Chicago Kruse Museum is tucked in on Main Street, many times overlooked, seemingly out of place, having a garden not often visited. The museum house may not be architecturally significant, nor a home of a famous person. 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.

To step inside of the museum is like stepping into a time warp - maybe your mother's or grandmother's house. It is unique in that it has maintained its integrity and authenticity, as exemplified by the original furnishings and household items, still maintained in their original placement, as if the family just stepped out. Everything inside is "of the period and original to the house."

Fast forward 50 or 100 years-might not future generations like to see how a railroad conductor lived at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on Main Street?

The package, house and garden, is a little treasure, in great need of repair, unassuming, unappreciated for now. That does not matter. It is perfect for what it is.

We do not want the garden to look unkept to visitors and neighbors. The garden is the property of the museum, one of only two in the city. Working on the garden of the museum makes us custodians in the preservation of our city's past.....Angie

HOW to participate in the maintenance and beautification of the garden:

- Adopt a plot - plots will be labeled, graded according to maintenance time requirements, Adopters will be familiarized with the existing plants
- Compost site maintenance
- Police the grounds for litter
- Sign-up sheets will be available in March
- Participate in work days - two major days are planned: spring clean-up and mulch distribution
- Contribute - plants, plant supports, etc. from garden or purchase  
February newsletter will have listing of plants we especially desire

We are very interested in suggestions on ideas for the garden and ways to make the garden more open to visitors. Please help by sharing your thoughts.

Billie and Angie, Kruse Garden coordinators




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**2008 Membership**

Yes, it's that time of year again! Please fill out and submit your 2008 membership form with your dues—it will be one less thing to worry about. And, it will make it easier for your board. A membership form is attached for your convenience.

**RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!**

You can now receive your monthly newsletter electronically, rather than a paper copy. The many advantages include: receive it faster, save paper and processing time, save the cost of stamps, and see some items in color.

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# West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2008

Our club year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership dues for 2008 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 2008 will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.)