



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 11 Issue 7 July 2008**

## Inside this issue

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

### No Fowl Talk — Just Trees!

By Sandy Saad

Lou Horton, our speaker at the June 26th meeting did not discuss fowl—WHICH HE COULD HAVE! Lou is in charge of Acorn Hollow Bantams. So, if you're in the market for a waterfowl, duck, or fancy chicken — check out his website (designed by our president, Mark Luther). 'Just a bit of garden club trivia for you.

No...that night Lou figured we'd be more interested in his knowledge of trees. He shared photos of about fifteen of his favorite ornamental trees that are not well known or used as much as he thinks they should be. These trees have visual interest in the flower, bark, leaf color, fruit and variegated foliage. The flower might not be real significant in some but they make up for it with unusual bark color or texture. Leaves on these trees generally have an outstanding fall color

and birds are drawn to the persistent fruit. Between the colorful fruit and variegated foliage which most of his chosen trees possess, we agreed that we'd all enjoy having one of each of these lovely specimens in our gardens.

We were reminded that trees are the backbone of our landscape. If you've ever lost a tree to storm damage or a disease, you know first hand of that truth. Whether its a huge and mighty Oak or a delightful understory Tricolor Beech, their presence adds character and background for all the other planting we do. If it was taken away, how amazing the difference it makes in our little bit of heaven.

You can bet that Lou will always give you his opinion on HOSTAS, TREES, and FOWL and suggest the best place to find what you're looking for. He's the Go-To Guy.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 24**

**CLUB MEMBERS' PICNIC**

**TIME AND PLACE:** 6:30pm at Lions Park Pavilion (by the pool) at Reed Keppler Park

**MENU:** entrée is Lemon Chicken and Polish Sausage w/Sauerkraut

**BRING SOMETHING TO PASS:** salad, veggie, or dessert

**TO BE PROVIDED:** Drinks, drinkware, paper plates, silverware and napkins

No business meeting or speaker — LET'S JUST HANG OUT TOGETHER



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Horticulture Classes at the Extension Office in Warrenville:** More info at 630-955-1123 or dupage\_co@extension.uiuc.edu.

- Roses: Learn how to select the right rose, proper planting, care and related insects on June 24 from 1-2:30pm and July 26 from 7-8:30pm. This is a telenet class and fee is \$10.

-Summer & Fall Blooming Trees and Shrubs: They're the backbone of your landscape and a big investment. Learn about common and not-so-common trees and shrubs you'll enjoy on July 22 from 1-2:30pm This is a telenet class and fee is \$10.

- Butterflies: Magic in Your Garden: Learn their plant preferences and more on August 12 from 7-8:30pm. There is no fee for this class.

**The Growing Place:** Drop by their Summer Sale 7/18 thru 8/19. Everything marked down 10%-50%. Hours: M-F 9-6 and Sat. 9-5 Closed Sunday. Also, 8" Party Pots of annuals on sale (good for centerpieces, gifts or drop into your garden). Class: Aug. 16 at 10am Make a Fountain in Naperville—Adults only.

**Meyer Landscaping:** Another of our advertisers is having a 25% OFF hydrangea sale until Aug. 2.

**Cantigny:** Oh my, Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band, the DuPage Symphony Orchestra, a Mother-Daughter Tea, a new restaurant, rose gardens, children's garden and a vegetable garden. Have Brunch and stroll the gardens.

**DuPage County Fair:** July 23 it comes to town. No gardening things (I don't think), just summer fun. Satisfy the country farmer in you and check out the horses and cows and pigs and bunnies and .....

WANTED  
Really Good Patrons  
WANTED

For the Love of Gardening...

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

We do not sell or share our patrons information.

**PLATT HILL  
NURSERY**

---

222 W. Lake St.  
Bloomington, IL 60108

---

2400 Randall Rd.  
Carpentersville, IL  
60110

---

www.platthillnursery.com

Sign Up to Save  
& Plant More

\* \* \* \* \*

\* **Garden Sign Wisdom:** \*

\* "Lord, give me the determination and tenacity of a weed." \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Quality plants in garden settings

Montgomery Rd (83<sup>rd</sup>) just N of Copley (Ogden)... Aurora

Helpful Staff...  
Let our Staff help you pick the perfect plants, pots & plans!

Gardener's Fest...June 16, Naper

www.thegrowingplace.com

Winfield  
FLOWER SHOPPE

0s118 Winfield Road  
Winfield, Il 60190  
630.668.8460

www.winfieldflowershoppe.com

Fresh Cut Flowers, Green & Blooming Plants, Artificial Flowers, Cards, Candles, Antiques, Jewelry, etc.



**Club information**

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

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

**Membership information**

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

**2008 board**

**President:**  
 Mark Luther (630) 876-1296  
[mark@markluther.com](mailto:mark@markluther.com)

**Vice President:**  
 Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765  
[jjhandeldds@yahoo.com](mailto:jjhandeldds@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:**  
 Barb Darrah (630) 584-1900  
[info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

**Secretary:**  
 Aimee Townsend (630) 876-8588  
[aleaa5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aleaa5@sbcglobal.net)

**Publicity Director**  
 Pamela Darrah (630) 293-4130  
[pdarrah@sprynet.com](mailto:pdarrah@sprynet.com)

**Information Director:**  
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350  
[sitteh@comcast.net](mailto:sitteh@comcast.net)

**Plant Sale Chair:**  
 Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900  
[info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

**Regular meeting location**

Faith Community Church  
 910 Main Street  
 West Chicago

**Calendar of events - 2008**

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 24	None	Club Members' Picnic
August 3		Secret Garden at Kruse House
August 28	Mary Russell	New and underused perennials
September 25	Katrina Lewin	Woodies 101
October 23	Karen Caldwell	Making gourds into birdhouses
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 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 .

**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.

**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.

To subscribe to the electronic version, simply send your e-mail address to Mike Saad at [mwsaad@comcast.net](mailto:mwsaad@comcast.net).



1055 W. Washington St., West Chicago, IL 60185

~Annuals & Perennials ~Vegetables ~Hanging Baskets  
 ~Poinsettias ~Mums & Kale ~Balsam Reindeer

phone: 630-293-0100 fax: 630-293-1510



*An Investment That Grows*

THE GARDEN CENTER IS BLOOMING WITH IDEAS!

MEYER  
 LANDSCAPING, INC.  
 Nursery, Landscaping Design & Construction

27W067 North Avenue  
 West Chicago, IL 60185  
 Tel: (630) 293-4800

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR SPECIALS!!!  
[WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM](http://WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM)

LARGE TREES &  
 SHRUBS, ROSES,  
 PERENNIALS,  
 & ANNUALS

SPRING HOURS  
 MON-SAT: 9-5  
 SUN: 10-4 (4/15-6/30)



**News and Announcements**

**The Secret Garden at the Kruse House:** Make plans now! Sunday, August 3 from 2-4pm. Please see the story on page 5 in this newsletter. Make your Day and SEE THE GARDEN! Have you ever been inside the house? 'Must admit I haven't so I'll take a peek. Plus, they will have a quilt display inside.

**Check Out The Kruse Garden Shed:** You need to take the opportunity to see what's inside — lots of neat old stuff, and, you'll notice it's freshly painted.

**Call For HELP:** Can you help get the Kruse Garden "Ship-Shape" for its unveiling on August 3rd. Come on over in the morning on July 28 and 29 and see what needs to be done.

**Door Prize:** Peggy Knight won the unexpected Oak Leaf Hydrangea that Lou Horton brought from his garden. Also, Bonnie Reif won an Amish wooden plant holder donated by June and Mark Luther. We also had two tickets to the Elmhurst Garden Walk that Dee Soustek was happy to receive.

**The Best Treats in Town:** We had lots of treats brought by Billie Childress, Pamela Darrah, Dan Beebe and Marilyn McNabb. Thanks for your thoughtfulness — we loved every morsel.

**Pots, Pots and More Pots:** Bernice McFarland encourages us all to get our empty plant pots together and drop them off at her house. Call her if you can beforehand. Check your membership name and address list for information.

**Tasha Tudor Is At Rest:** On June 18th at the age of 92. She lived in rural Vermont in a home her son Seth built using only hand tools She's always been a favorite of mine. Time magazine had a lovely, proud article on this busy lady born in 1915 who brought up four children without running water and electricity. She was a weaver, seamstress, candlemaker, goat farmer, gardener and, most famous as a children's-book illustrator. Her paintings and illustrations of life scenes of nature and children were steeped in "loopy" sweetness and her beloved New England from her first book in 1938 "Pumpkin Moonshine" to the treasures. Frances Hodgson Burnett's "The Secret Garden" and Clement Moore's "The Night Before Christmas". AMEN.

• **SHADY • HILL • GARDENS •**  
 ELBURN, IL  
  
 • **GERANIUM • SPECIALISTS •**  
 (630) 365-5665 www.shadyhill.com

**Prosek's Greenhouses and Military Model Shop, Inc.**  
  
 Annuals, Perennials, and all your garden needs!  
**28W140 Highlake Rd.**  
**Winfield, IL 60190**  
**630-231-4991**



**Barn Owl Feed and Garden Center**  
 1N583 Gary Ave., Carol Stream  
 (630) 668-0316  
 Hours: M-F:9 to 6  
 Sat:9 to 4  
 Sun:10 to 4  
 Full line of garden tools, annuals and perennials, pet food and supplies, bird-seed, statuary, propane and more!

**Come to the Grower**  
 \* Over 160 Acres of Fine Nursery Stock  
 \* Landscape Design and Installation  
 \* A Complete 10 Acre Retail Garden Center including Fountains & Water Garden Supplies  
*Since 1925...the only name you need to know*  
  
**WASCO NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER**  
 6 miles west of St. Charles on Rt. 64  
 1 mile west of Wasco  
 www.wasconursery.com  
**630-584-4424**





## News from Kruse Garden

By Angie and Billie

**Coming Soon !!!** Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2-4 PM, there will be an 'open house' at the Kruse House Garden and Museum. The gardens *will* truly inspire you, and you won't want to miss the Model T car parked in the driveway. Your mom (sister, brother, cousin, aunt, neighbor) will also enjoy the Quilt 'N Time display featured in the house along with a glimpse into the ordinary life of a railroad family's home built in 1917. Please come and enjoy the delightful setting and some delicious refreshments. Do not miss this very exciting and noteworthy celebration of the 10 year collaboration of the West Chicago Historical Society and Garden Club to restore and maintain the grounds of the Kruse House Museum.

An article published in the 1996 "Olde News Now" (Historical Society Newsletter) titled "Is There Hope for Reinvigorating a West Chicago Garden Club?" documents the early recruitment efforts for re-establishing a garden club in West Chicago. The original West Chicago Garden Club was formed in 1925, remained active through the 60's, then faded away. An organized, active garden club would surely assist in the restoration and maintenance of the Kruse Museum grounds, thought the Historical Society gurus, and it turns out that is what has happened.....more or less.....over the last ten years! There have been *many* volunteers throughout those ten years that have contributed to the results you see today and all can be very proud. The garden is a treasure and we don't want it to be a secret anymore!

We are still being delighted with discoveries in the garden. A recent summer morning digging on the east side of the shed, the shovel collided with what at first seemed a gigantic rock. It turned out to be a perfectly round concrete structure with a sizable round hole in the center. We speculated maybe a clothesline pole or fence pole had resided there and immediately planned to reconstruct the vertical edifice. On a lark, we looked through the shed for a pole and low and behold, there it was, the original tall tapered pole, an exact fit for the hole! Pretty exciting! We don't know what it was used for originally but now it supports a bird house and we are pleased as punch at our discovery!

We have a couple of other new things in the garden that we are happy with.....a sprayer and hose reel. Tools are an important part of our work making it possible to accomplish the many tasks. We are always looking for donations but we are thankful we can purchase if donations are not forthcoming.

The plants have been performing beautifully as the days and weeks go by! We sometimes hold our breath and want time to stand still while there is a particularly gorgeous display in bloom ....the 100 oriental pink and white lily bulbs we planted last fall for instance.....but sure enough, the purple cone flowers and the yellow day lily that was a 'pass along' from Carole Bates' father burst forth as the pink and white blooms faded. We are continually gratified by the ever-changing beauty of the garden. We encourage you to stop by the garden often so you can appreciate the many handsome vignettes.

And with that, we wish you happy gardening and plan to see you on August 3<sup>rd</sup>!




**RE/MAX**  
Suburban  
**Bob Sramek**  
REALTOR®  
@ Your Service<sup>SM</sup>

1417 North Main Street  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187  
Voice Mail: 630.868.6306  
Cell: 312.882.6493  
Fax: 630.653.0952  
rsramek@remax.net

 Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



**Phil Graf**  
Certified Arborist

Bus: 630/347-4899  
Fax: 630/578-1304

www.graftreecare.com

**Tree Care**  
For Better Trees!



**Pergolas by Kiwi**

815 895-2490

www.kiwipaint.com

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **Question of the Month:** \*  
 \* What is soil soup? \*  
 \* \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**NorthStar**  
CREDIT UNION  
*Focused on your future.*

3 S. 555 Winfield Road • Warrenville, IL 60555  
630.393.7201  
(at the corner of Winfield Road and Warrenville Road,  
directly north of the Mobil station)

**WECO Community**  
*a member of the NorthStar family*

528 Main Street  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
630.876.5519

**NEW SPIRIT**  
*a member of the NorthStar family*

1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 108  
Schaumburg, IL 60173  
847.397.6600

www.northstarcu.org

**PLEASE**  
patronize our  
advertisers  
And let them  
know that you  
appreciate their  
support of our  
club



**KRAMER TREE SPECIALISTS, INC.**  
Complete Professional Tree Care  
701 Church Street  
West Chicago, Illinois 60185

**(630) 293-5444**  
**FAX (630) 293-7667**  
www.kramertree.com

**You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn  
and add some beauty to your garden at**

**HEINZ BROTHERS**  
Greenhouse Garden Center

2010 East Main St. (Rt. 64), St. Charles  
630.377.6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com  
Your Gardening Source....




Winfield Road at the  
Railroad Tracks  
Winfield

**WINFIELD**  
fuel & material  
665-1144 \*\*\*\*\*

665-1144

**Do It Yourself Center**

**Paving, Terracing & Edging Materials**

- Concrete Retaining Wall Systems • Landscaping Timbers

**Decorative Gravel**

- Shredded Cedar or Cypress Mulch • Limestone Chips • Heritage Pebbles
- Meramec Gravel • Sand Pebbles • Red Lava • Western Sunset
- Burnt Coral • Red Flint • Red Granite