



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 12 Issue 7 July 2009

Inside this issue

Non-club Events	2
2010 Garden Walk	
WCGC Calendar	3
Club information	
News from Kruse	4
Garden Contest	5
Book Corner	6
2009 Field Trip	

July 23rd Meeting : "President's Dinner and Garden Contest Winners!"



Come for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Lemon herb chicken breast filet and meatballs in marinara sauce, as well as beverages will be provided, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share with others.

After dinner, winners of the 2009 Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago Contest will be announced and

prizes awarded! All entrants have been invited and are now our newest fellow club members.

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25th:

"KERMIT WAS WRONG: IT'S EASY BEING GREEN"

Susan Grupp will bring us up to date on the latest trends in eco-friendly gardening practices.

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 the Wednesday before the meeting.

New Members - Welcome!

Pat & Ron Benshish, William Domzalski, Nancy Fehr, Bob Reppe, Darlene Jones, Debby & Jerry Juzwiak, Charmaine Kellstedt, David Offutt, Nancy & John Petrik, Gil E. Valenzuela, and Mary Anne Young

What's New at Ball Seed? - June Meeting

Kristin McGuigan told us all about the best new annual and perennials that Ball Seed introduced this year. She brought many sample plants to give away in a plant raffle, along with seeds. She also shared photos of fun gardens to visit: West Madison Agricultural Research Station, Michigan State University, and the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Bed Competition. Pictures of her own garden (remember the chest of drawers?) topped off the evening!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Our Advertisers: Check out all of our advertisers for the great sales they're having!

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County : What Trees Are in My Yard? Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Glen Ellyn. July 25, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bring a leaf's stem from a tree in your neighborhood, and learn how to identify different tree species. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$1 per person. Reservations begin July 1. Call (630) 942-6200.

The Growing Place: Tour the Beehives! August 15, 10 a.m. Aurora. Tour their beehives, listen & look for birds, learn what both need to thrive in the garden. Free. More information at <http://www.thegrowingplace.com/classes.htm>

Cantigny: A Summer Evening at Cantigny, July 21, 6:30 p.m. It will be easy to imagine that the Colonel has invited you to a private party in his home...and he just stepped out of the room. This evening will include a select tour of the gardens and mansion. Afterwards, wine, soft drinks and light refreshments will be served in the library of the mansion. It truly is a magical evening! This tour will depart from the Visitors Center. Advanced registration required. The fee for this program is \$30 per person. Download registration form here: <http://www.cantigny.org/events/event.aspx?id=d5a187ba-2cc2-dd11-90f4-0016355d9f60>. Questions? Please call 630 260 8162.

West Chicago Garden Club — 2010 Garden Walk

Looking for gardens & volunteers to help!

Plans are underway for our 2010 garden walk. By September the committee will have selected a mix of gardens from the contest gardens and others that have been nominated. At the June meeting, several members volunteered to be on the garden walk committee. If you would like to **help with this event**, or to **nominate a garden** (this is needed by early August), please contact Carole Bates, 630-293-4953.

Prosek's Greenhouses and Military Model Shop, Inc.



Annuals, Perennials, and all your garden needs!

**28W140 Highlake Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190
630-231-4991**



Tree Care
For Better Trees!

Phil Graf
Certified Arborist

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

www.graftreecare.com



PLATT HILL NURSERY

www.platthillnursery.com

Bloomington
222 W. Lake St.
(630) 529-9394

*Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Sun 10am-5pm*

Carpentersville
2400 Randall Rd.
(Randall & Huntley Rds.)
(847) 428-6767

Winfield Road at
the Railroad



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



July News From Kruse by Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators

This month it's all about the **Party**. **Sunday August 2nd from 1-4 we are having a party at the Kruse House and Garden.** What a great opportunity to bring friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy a fabulous garden. While you're there you'll want to tour the house and enjoy the special display of unique and old time pieces.....AND we will have stations set up in the garden to demonstrate how to make a hypertufa trough or a mosaic bowling ball, or how to paint a 'concrete' leaf. Of course, you may just want to sit in the shade and savor some home baked treats and sip a cool drink while you visit with some real nice folks! Now that sounds like a plan! **Just a reminder to all who volunteered to bring treats....we are counting on you.** The weather could be hot, so something that doesn't melt would be great! There is no need to have the treats there at a special time, just bring them along when you come. You all make sure and come.....we want to show you a good time in one of West Chicago's oldest gardens! We're pretty sure Celia would be pleased for us to gather at 'her place' for some summer fun!



2008 Kruse House and Garden Party

Traditionally the water irrigation system at the Kruse Garden has been hooked up the last part of May. Since it's rained so much this year we did it the first week in July! Dan and Pamela are the key players in this effort. Angie and Billie have watched and listened but sadly, little is retained from year to year! A year is a long time you know!!! We thank Dan and Pamela for continuing to support this essential element of the garden. The garden has grown since the system was installed. We had to elevate most of the sprinkler heads to get them in a functional position. It's a clear mark the garden has and continues to mature.

You're anxious to hear about the plants right? Well, July is the month to showcase 'true' lilies. There are plenty of supporting playersthe bright white petals with glow yellow centers of feverfew, the golden coreopsis, and the perennial garden favorite Purple Coneflower to name just a few, but surely, the Asiatic and Oriental Lilies are in the lead role. Stunning flowers and fragrance leaves nothing wanting! The butterflies and dragon flies zoom in for a close look and provided the 'cherry' for the top of the blooming 'sundae'. The lily colors range from creamy white to clear pink and on to a deep rose. It's a fleeting pleasure, but one not soon forgotten!

Signing off this month with 'see you in the garden' we emphasize, that we really mean it!!! See you Sunday August 2nd for a lazy, hazy, (maybe crazy) afternoon in the fabulous Kruse Garden! **A&B**

Signing off this month with 'see you in the garden' we emphasize, that we really mean it!!! See you Sunday August 2nd for a lazy, hazy, (maybe crazy) afternoon in the fabulous Kruse Garden! **A&B**



1055 W. Washington St., West Chicago, IL 60185
<http://www.wegrowdreams.org>
Phone: (630) 293-0100 FAX: (630) 293-1510

**Annuals - Perennials - Vegetables
Hanging Baskets - Poinsettias
Mums & Kale - Balsam Reindeer
...and more!**

Our mission - To provide people with disabilities the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives and to train and work in a supportive, safe and caring environment while producing and providing products and services to the community.



The Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago Contest

We had 13 gardens entered in our contest! Five judges from the Master Gardener program chose the winners. We will be awarding the prizes, meeting all the contestants, and seeing a program of pictures of all the gardens at our meeting on July 23.

The contestants are:

Category A (garden < 1/2 acre)	Category B (garden > 1/2 acre)	Special Feature
Pat and Ron Benshish	Sam and Billie Childress	Debby and Jerry Juzwiak (waterfall)
Gil E. Valenzuela	Lou and Nickie Horton	Nancy and John Petrik (shade garden)
David Offutt	Nancy Fehr and Bob Reppe	
David & Dee Ann Carlson		
William Domzalski		
Darlene Jones		
Mary Anne Young		
Charmaine Kellstedt		



Os118 Winfield Road
Winfield, Il 60190
630.668.8460
www.winfieldflowershoppe.com
Fresh Cut Flowers, Green & Blooming
Plants, Artificial Flowers, Cards,
Candles, Antiques, Jewelry, etc.

Max's Greener Places Inc. 630-628-6695
(Cell) 209-3005



EDWARD R. MAX Landscape Design
Certified Naturalist Specialty Gardens
www.maxlandscape .com Total Maintenance



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

LARGE TREES &
SHRUBS, ROSES,
PERENNIALS,
& ANNUALS

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

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



BOOK CORNER

Another in an occasional series on books related to gardening. If you've read a book you'd recommend to a fellow gardener, send the editor a short review, along with the book title and author. Here's one your editor recently read:

Perfect Poison, by Joyce and Jim Lavene (reviewed by Elaine McCluskey)

Do you enjoy mysteries? Here's one that incorporates gardening, too. Dr. Peggy Lee is the main character and sleuth. Peggy not only owns a garden shop in Charlotte, she's also a forensic botanist. In this book, the 5th in a series, Peggy not only confronts the competition of a newly-opened Smith and Hawken shop down the street, but helps to solve two murders. The chapters open with a description of a plant mentioned in that chapter, and the book ends with Peggy's gardening tips and suggests a field trip to a botanical garden in North Carolina. It's a fun read, especially for a gardener.

July 2009 Garden Club Field Trip

by Lou Horton

This year's trip was attended by a small but select group of eight WCGC members. Our first stop was in Elwood (south of Joliet). We visited the delightful garden of Betty Nahas. Betty's garden is divided into a number of "rooms" that supply delightful surprises as one enters each. Betty's one acre property supplies the opportunity to display a large variety of sun and shade perennials in optimal conditions. While the garden contained beautiful specimens of many species, a Japanese ornamental Willow of extraordinary size and beauty stands out in my mind.

Our next stop was in Monee at the Possibility Place nursery. The nursery specializes in native perennials, woodies, and trees; many of their offerings are difficult to find at most conventional nurseries. We had our lunch on their patio and then were treated to a tour of their facilities by one of the sons of owner Conner Shaw. We were treated to an overview of a number of natives and were surprised by a number of facts supplied by our host including his observation that most of the half dozen Oak species that Possibility Place sells grow at the rate of two feet or more per year if sited and cared for correctly. The nursery employs innovative growing techniques that allow the trees and woodies to be transplanted with minimal transplant shock.

Our last stop was in Lemont at the home of John and Karen Grigas. Their two acre garden beautifully integrates native plants, sun perennials, a large vegetable garden and one of the largest and most impressive water features I have seen.