



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 9 Issue 6 June 2006**

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## Jan Calhoun of Ball Floral Plant on "New Annuals"

by Edie Streams

For the second year in a row the club got a peek at some of the plants that will be coming to garden centers NEXT year, as Jan Calhoun brought new varieties from the Ball Gardens to share. With her daughter's assistance Jan showed off the best from Ball Flora Plant.

Many of the plants were designed with special uses in mind: a compact habit, longer lasting blooms, resistance to common problems like powdery mildew, unusual blooms or color combinations. What we saw of were some of the latest crop of "winners". Bidens Sun Kiss with its bright yellow blossoms which come early and last all season is a compact plant designed for small containers. The designer geraniums come in a profusion of color combinations. My favorite was Peppermint Twist.

Impatiens will be available in unique shapes,

YELLOW and an array of pinks and corals and fuchsias, and there are trailing, mini, and double blossoms (which look a lot like small roses) varieties. Quite an array of options in a plant that is basically easy to grow, hard to kill (as long as they are well-watered) and planted in the shade they love.

Jan also brought Iresine and Osteospermum (that almost indestructible daisy like plant that is planted along interstates out west), and verbena.

Keeping with her "no plant returns to the greenhouse" policy, the plants were given away by lottery at the end of the meeting. The first pick went to new member Naoka Malinowski and all the plants were quickly spoken for. Thanks to Jan, lots of lucky members now have a unique (for this year) plant in their gardens.

## Next Meeting: Thursday, June 22

### Blumen Gardens in Sycamore

### Be at the Church by 6:00 PM to carpool

Cars will leave for Blumen Gardens as they are filled up.

Once we arrive at Blumen Gardens we can shop until 7:45 or so.

At 8:00 we will meet in the Blumen Gardens Tea Room and Joel Berczak will give a short talk on "Garden Gems and Their Maintenance"

Then the cars will return to the Church.

There will be time to tour the gardens during the shopping time... and a 15% off coupon. Blumen Gardens has over 1400 varieties of plants and specializes in unusual and hard-to-find perennials. Blumen Gardens is at 403 Edward St., a few blocks south off Route 64 in Sycamore.

## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Villagers of Bloomingdale—First Annual Garden Walk** — Sunday, 7/23 1-5 PM 6 Gardens with water features in Medinah, Bloomingdale, and Roselle. Tickets \$10 per person may be purchased at Bloomingdale Village Hall, 201 S Bloomingdale Rd, Bloomingdale IL or Call Judy Wayda (630) 307-8776.

**The Growing Place — 70th Anniversary Party**, Friday 7/14 3-6 PM Naperville Location Appetizers and Music in the Gardens. Free. Visit [www.thegrowingplace.com](http://www.thegrowingplace.com) for details.

**Blumen Gardens**—Saturday 7/8 3pm—**"Third Annual High Tea"** hors' oeuvres, a selection of teas and dessert. Designer will talk about gardening. Fee \$25 Call to reserve a seat 815-895-3737.

**Wild Ones Annual National Conference: Native Plant Landscaping, More than a Garden, It's a Lifestyle.** July 14-16, 2006 in Naperville. Six program tracks, speakers. For more information or to get early bird pricing, go to <http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2006/>

## RIDES!!!

**Need a ride to the meeting?**

**Call**

**Linda Harlson  
293-1057**

**By the Wednesday before the meeting.**

**Many thanks to club member Ed Max and the crew from Max's Greener Places. They removed a truck load of scrub trees from the bridal wreath border at the Kruse House Garden. This was a huge job, done professionally at no cost to our club.**

**Those of us who worked at the Kruse House on Saturday had a chance to see just how spectacular the bridal wreath looked. Angie Sadauskas who was there when Ed's Ed's crew was at work observed "You wouldn't believe the mountain of tree branches they cut out and removed".**

**THANK YOU — THANK YOU— THANK YOU**

## From the Editor

It has been my privilege and joy to edit the newsletter for the past year and a half. Its success is a tribute to the contributions of the many members who took a picture, wrote an article, suggested a website, or gave me in idea for an article. I know if members extend the same support to Sandy Saad as she takes over the reins of our newsletter, it will continue to evolve and grow. This Club is made up of great people. Thank you for letting me be part of the group. Edie Streams

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## 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 2006:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$25

### 2006 board

President:

Linda Harlson (630) 293-1057  
ashengal@prodigy.net

Vice President:

Billie Childress (630) 231-1791  
billiec@covad.net

Treasurer:

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

Secretary

Angie Sadauskas (630) 231-5851

Information Director

Edie Streams (630) 231-4821  
westreams@hotmail.com

Plant Sale Chair

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

Garden Walk Chairs

Lou Horton (630) 293-7735  
Sam Childress (630) 231-1791  
Madeleine Bartsch (porch chair)

## Calendar of events 2006

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 22	Joel Barezak	Blumen Gardens (meeting there)
June 24	<b>GARDEN WALK</b>	
July 27	President's Potluck & Woody Imberman	Food and Company Lilies
August 24	Kathy Thomas	Container Water Gardens for Indoor or Outdoor Use
September 28	Sandy Lentz	Integrated Pest Management
October 26	Sam the Tool Man	Caring for your Tools
November 16	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing

### Sandy Saad is new Information Director!

Starting with the July Newsletter, Sandy will be editing the newsletter.

Her contact information is 653-1350 or  
mwsaad@comcast.net

Please send your ideas for articles, announcements about garden related events, and pictures to Sandy. Sandy may be the editor but this is our newsletter and always much the better for member contributions.

### Reminders

**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at First Congregational Church. There is no fee to us the service, but if you plan to use it, please **call Linda Harlson** at 293-1057, 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.



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## Notes and Announcements

**Wanted: members interested assuming a role on the Garden Club Board for next year.** The Board consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Information Director, Plant Sale Chairman, Kruse House Chairman, and a Member at large (currently Lou Horton). Several Board Members will be rotating off the Board next year and we will need replacements. If there is a board position you might be interested in or you just would like more information about what is involved, contact Angie Sadauskus (231-5851) who head up the nominating committee. If the Club is to continue to bloom and grow, we need the new ideas (fertilizer, if you will) and enthusiasm (water) that comes as different people move to the Board. Please think about what role you might play and contact Angie.

**Field Trip—follow up.** Dick Darrah wrote a strong note to Songsparrow Farm indicating just how disappointed he and the membership were with how Songsparrow handled the trip's unfortunate late arrival. On a brighter note, the Club received a note of apology and a \$150 refund from the bus rental company.

**Please keep your eyes open for garden related vendors who might enhance the Bloomingfest and complement our Plant Sale next year.** If you attend Garden Walks or other events where vendors of garden accoutrements are on display, please get their card or flyer and pass those on to Billie Childress (231-1791). We would like to be able to suggest to the City of West Chicago that more of these vendors be invited to be part of Bloomingfest.

**WANTED: a Site for Garden Club Meetings Next Year.** Requirements—sizeable room which is handicap accessible (the stairs are a real problem for many members), with access to a kitchen, free or at an affordable cost. If you have suggestions for a possible site (bank, church, public facility), please contact Linda Harlson 293-1057.



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## 2006 Plant Sale Success by Dick Darrah

We did great at our Plant Sale and as usual the weather shined on us. It will take a while for all the receipts and bills to trickle in, but we're guessing that we did as well as last year – maybe even a tad better.

The very best part of the entire process was the great member participation. Right from the start we had good turn-outs at the potting parties. All the usual members were there with a liberal sprinkling of new members. I think the potting parties are one of the best places to get to know fellow members.

This was the first year we used our pop-up greenhouses (West Chicago Garden Club purchased 3 of them last year) and I believe that our annuals were in better shape this year allowing us to sell them easier and get a slightly better price in some cases.

Of course, we just would not be successful without all the member plants that are generously donated from member gardens. These plants are the heart and soul of the Plant Sale and even our newest members donated plants this year. We even had some really big trees!

On the Friday before the sale and the day of the sale itself it was wonderful how many members showed up to help. With all the help we had it really made it easy to get everything in place early for the sale and to handle our guests (customers) the day of the sale. Everyone in the club deserves a big THANK YOU.

A special thanks needs to go to Jim Hilsenbeck for coordinating the volunteers. This is a tough and time consuming job that Jim does for us every year. Thank you Jim. Also Pamela and Dan need some special recognition. Not only do they allow us



to stage the plants at their home prior to delivery to the Fox Center, they spend hours labeling, pricing, sorting, watering, weeding and generally giving those plants TLC while they are there. Dan also coordinates where what plants will be situated at the Plant Sale and Pamela creates and displays all the signage at the sale. Thank you Pamela and Dan.

It is really a pleasure to be a member of a group that works so well together and I'm sure we will all turn out to do another great job next month at our Garden Walk.

**Remember, save your 4-inch pots!**

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Dan Beebe making sure the plants staged at his house will be in prime condition on the day of the plant sale.

Photo –Pamela Darrah

**Garden Walk**  
**Saturday, June 24**  
 10 am—4 pm

Tickets can be purchased at Prosek's, Heinz Brothers Nursery, Planters Palette. On the day of the Walk tickets can be purchased at the Fox Center.

**KRUSE HOUSE WORK DAYS**

**Keep these dates on your calendar to join other members in working at Kruse House. This is a great chance to work alongside and learn from other gardeners. Learning, service and FUN... hope to see you there.**

**Sat. July 29 1-4 pm & Sat. August 26 9 am -12 pm**  
**Sat. September 30 1-4 & Sat. October 28 9 am -12 pm**

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