



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 10 Issue 6 June 2007

Inside this issue

Events Outside the Club	2
Calendar of Events	3
News and Announcements	4
Plant Sale Memories	5
Thank You	6

"DON'T HURT MY PONY TAIL PLANT!"

By Sandy Saad

I can still feel the clench in my heart when Ken Benson, our lively speaker, teacher and houseplant guy, at the May meeting swiftly picked up the pony tail (elephant's foot) plant I had brought to the meeting, threw aside the pot and tore away at the roots. Such drama!!!!!! I wanted to "slap him upside the head" right then and there! How could he do that to my precious plant??? Yes, in "The House Plant Expert" book by Dr. G. Hessayon it is called a "curiosity rather than a thing of beauty". Is another "slap upside the head" in order?

Anyway, I enjoyed that plant so much and was worried about it browning at the tips of the strap-like leaves that plumed out in such a "curious" and neat way. So—it turns out—what he did was so good for the plant!!! I have yet to repot it in a one inch bigger pot

like he suggested—BUT—I can tell the plant is happier. You know what I mean, don't you?! You can just feel it.

Well, now that I've almost torn Ken Benson's head off, I gotta tell you he puts on quite a show filled with info and drama. We got lots of snippets of help like the "stinky but great" eggshell recipe which is great nitrogen for house and garden plants

Of very worthy note, Mr. Benson won "Best in Show" out of 277 plants at the latest Chicago Flower Show with a mammillary cactus. Also, he grew a 587 lb. pumpkin and had his own radio show for 9 yrs. He's also a big believer in organic matter and that "You need to do it to teach it".

Great speaker—and I hope you all enjoyed him.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 28

WHAT'S NEW FROM BALL SEED

Speaker: Jan Calhoun, Marketing Support Manager at Ball Floraplant

Jan Calhoun will visit us again loaded with samples of many of the gorgeous and exciting new annual and perennial offerings from Ball Seed. PLUS—we will pick names to give away the plants she leaves with us. We have the best and most generous speakers at our meetings!! See you there.

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)

Morton Arboretum: In today's (6-20-07) Daily Herald—"Neighbor" section on page 3 there were no less than 15 different activities happening at the Arboretum yet this month of June. From a blues concert to jewelry made out of birch bark to nature tram tours to an outdoor yoga class. For more information call (630) 968-0074 or visit www.mortonarb.org.

Cantigny: No doubt—they have such great concerts in the summer. Grab a blanket or a lawn chair and go if you haven't already. There is a complete rundown of the listing at www.Cantigny.org or call them at 668-5161.

The Growing Place: growing tips for July—see page 4.

University of Illinois Extension: The DuPage office has a NEW LOCATION and PHONE NUMBER: 1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite #170, Naperville, IL 60563. TEL: 955-1123, [www.extension uiuc.edu/dupage](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage).

Blumen Gardens: Saturday, July 7 at 10am presents a free Butterfly Gardening workshop fairie and toad houses—make an all-natural, creative dwelling for all the guests living in your garden. Also, on Saturday, July 14 at 3pm Fourth Annual High Tea. \$25 per guest. Please call to register 815-895-3737.

Wayne Countryside Garden Club: presents Inaugural Garden Walk 2007 on Saturday, June 30th—10am to 4pm. Six gardens on tour from the historic district and the outlying estates. Tickets: \$12 in advance and for GCI members—\$15 day of event. Refreshments—local vendors will be showing and selling. The garden club will be offering specialty daylilies. For information, call: Barbara at 630-497-0186. Tickets on sale at the door on June 30th at 31W720 Percheron in Wayne. www.geocities.com/gardenwalk2007/wayne

The Red Geranium of Batavia at 2S720 Nelson Lake Road (formerly of Naperville) presents a Garden Treasures Yard Sale on July 7 from 10am 'til 5pm. A benefit for the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and A.D.O.P.T. Animal Shelter.

The Elmhurst Garden Club presents "An Afternoon in the Garden" garden walk & faire on Sunday, July 8 from 11am—4pm. Eight gardens and at Wilder Park in Elmhurst: music, refreshments and an art and craft boutique. \$10 in advance and \$15 after July 1. Elmhurst Garden Club, PO Box 383, Elmhurst, IL 60126 or www.elmhurstexpress.com/egarden.

The Downers Grove Garden Club presents "Alice in Gardenland", a standard flower show, on Saturday, July 14 from 1-5pm at the American Legion Hall, 4000 Saratoga Avenue in Downers Grove. Admission is free.



Quality plants in garden settings

Montgomery Rd (83rd) 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



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.



Club information

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

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Membership information

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

2007 board

President:
 Mark Luther (630) 876-1296
 mark@markluther.com

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

Treasurer:
 John Warbiany (630) 293-5795
 Fax: (630) 293-5794
 Cell: (630) 464-5710
 jjbwarbil@juno.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 - 2007

Date	Speaker	Topic
June 28	Jan Calhoun	What's new from Ball Seed
July 26		Picnic and potluck and socializing
August 2	Field Trip	Ball Seed Gardens
August 23	Mark Luther	Pond construction: step-by-step
September 27	Lynn Bement	Healthy gardens by "The Compost Queen"
October 25	Bill Scheffler	Organic lawn, tree and shrub care
November 15	Elections, Potluck and Nora Liu	Ornamental vines

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 Harison** 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 Sandy Saad at 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

LARGE TREES &
 SHRUBS, ROSES,
 PERENNIALS,
 & ANNUALS

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



News and Announcements

New Members: Our new members in May are Judith Crozier, Linda Eiserloh, Daniel and Mary Goeckner, Vern and Dianne Jackman, and Judy Thuer. Seek out our new members and introduce yourself—welcome them—let them know you're glad to have them with us.

Notes from our May 24th meeting: raffle prize winners: Lou Horton won the book "The House Plant Expert by Dr. D.G. Hessayon; and new member Linda Eiserloh and our official potting party lady, Bernice McFarland, each won a beautiful plant. We had great treats, coffee and tea and a super speaker.

Railroad Days: We will be sharing a booth with Sister Cities at this year's Railroad Days. We will be using this opportunity to spread information about our club. More information will be available at the June meeting.

Homeowner's Tips for July—from The Growing Place

As we head into hot weather, make sure plants receive 1-2" of water every 7-10 days. Pay attention to drought sensitive plants. Check container plants frequently for watering. Fertilize them every 10-14 days. Water tomatoes and peppers deeply when soils dry; maintain 2-3" of mulch. Renew mulches, if necessary. Do not water lawns sporadically.

Cut back roses after blooming. Divide iris every 3-5 years. Remove spent annual and perennial flowers; pinch back leggy foliage. Fertilize if needed. Stop pinching mums by July 4th. Harvest vegetables, fruits and herbs frequently. Stake fallen tomato plants.

Don't let weeds seed. Monitor pest problems. Apply preventative lawn grub control around July 4. Hand pick Japanese Beetles or use traps. If rain or dew occurs frequently, continue scab control.

Don't forget to stop, inhale and enjoy your garden's beauty!



Phil Graf
Certified Arborist

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

www.graftreecare.com

Tree Care
For Better Trees!

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, birdseed, 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



Our 2007 Plant Sale was a success beyond all expectations and it was wonderful how many members turned out to do their part in our annual project. From potting parties to digging details we had lots of members contributing hours of their time to make this Plant Sale the best ever.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in and if you were not able to help this year plan to get involved next year as it's really fun to be able to work side by side with your fellow members. Dick Darrah



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

Max Landscape

EDWARD R. MAX
Certified Naturalist
www.maxlandscape.com

Landscape Design
Specialty Gardens
Total Maintenance

For the Love of Gardens...

PLATT HILL NURSERY

Nursery Stock • Perennials • Annuals • Hanging Baskets
Statues, Fountains & Pottery • Gift Shop • **FREE** Seminars
Watergarden Plants & Supplies • Gift Certificates
Experienced Landscape Designers • Containers
Christmas Trees & Holiday Decorations

847-428-6767 **630-529-9394**
2400 Randall Rd • Carpentersville 222 W. Lake St • Bloomingdale

• **SHADY • HILL • GARDENS •**

BATAVIA and ELBURN

• **GERANIUM • SPECIALISTS •**

(630) 879-5665 www.shadyhill.com



Thank YOU!

from Mark Luther

It occurred to me as I was recounting our recent 10th annual plant sale what a truly gargantuan effort goes into every aspect of this event. Who do I thank? Who was involved in each and every aspect of Blooming Fest? How do you properly express gratitude to Northstar Credit Union, our corporate sponsor for the event, and Murphy Ace Hardware for their most generous donation? In addition to our membership, who donated many of the plants from their own gardens for the sale, we received donations from Prosek's Greenhouse, and other generous sources who made donations from their stock. We had volunteers take time from their weekends to help pot up and care for thousands of seedlings earlier in the spring and we had several members who volunteered for the "digging squad" which was established this year. How do you thank all of the staff of the City of West Chicago for the countless hours that they spent planning and preparing for the event, for helping place signage, for promoting the event in newsletters and fliers, and for making the event itself an enjoyable and safe place to be that Saturday? And, of course, how can I thank each and every member of our club for their efforts both large and small? Hundreds, if not thousands of hours went into making Blooming Fest and the West Chicago Garden Club plant sale a success and frankly I don't think I can adequately thank everyone involved for their efforts. What I saw that day wasn't simply a local garden club having a plant sale to raise money, what I saw was the summation of a great deal of effort, generosity, and a spirit of volunteerism seldom experienced in other communities in which I have resided and for that I thank you.

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

Winfield Road at the Railroad Tracks Winfield		665-1144
Do It Yourself Center		
Paving, Terracing & Edging Materials		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete Retaining Wall Systems • Landscaping Timbers 		
Decorative Gravel		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shredded Cedar or Cypress Mulch • Limestone Chips • Heritage Pebbles • Meramec Gravel • Sand Pebbles • Red Lava • Western Sunset • Burnt Coral • Red Flint • Red Granite 		

Sharing Table

Featuring our members ideas and materials...

Gardening Catalogs, articles or books

Garden related projects



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...

Custom Crafted Cedar Products





Mike Saad
 Winfield, IL
 (630) 653-1350
mwsaad@comcast.net