



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 11 Issue 6 June 2008**

## Inside this issue

Events Outside the Club	2
Calendar of Events	3
News and Announcements	4
Thank You	5
Recipes	6,7

## Peony, Schmeony

By Sandy Saad

Dave Wanninger is part of Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery in Avalon, WI. The really big part he plays is in the realm of peonies. Peonies — they've always been part of the scene during my lifetime — those floppy-flowered things — HO HUM. So, what's the big deal? Peonies are Peonies! SLOW DOWN THERE MAISEY ..... stop and take another look!!!!

Dave arrived on time — big guy with a nice smile, handsome and lots of presence, you know what I mean, don'tcha?! Anyway, he walks in with this small tree with huge double roses on it. Now, I thought this guy was going to talk to us about peonies — "What's going on?" Then Dave hauls in three or four small bushes and these looked like maybe they were peonies. Okay, I guess Lou Horton, our program chairman, didn't goof up.

Now he's got everyone's attention. These gorgeous plants, and, yes, that "rose" tree is a Tree Peony! 'Never saw one and maybe I heard of them. Folks, this is a whole new world, isn't it, these peonies, I mean!! Not a floppy one among them. Absolutely, and simply "out of this world LOVELY". They do have a very soft, velvety look about them and reminds me of times gone by in a wondrous way.

Thanks Dave for the memory of your beautiful peonies and the colorful brochure to base some dreams on. Also, thanks for the chance to go home with one. The lucky club members were: Dee Soustek, Naoko Malinowski, John Warbiany and Rita Kitching. Goodnight and Sweet Dreams.....

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 26**

**"Underused Ornamental Trees"**

**Our speaker,** Lou Horton is a club member, our program chairman, master gardener with the Illinois Extension office, president of both the Northern IL and Midwest Regional Hosta Societies and has long had a love for and knowledge of waterfowl and poultry.

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)

**Midwest Hosta Society:** The Midwest Hosta Society Convention which is being held at the Schaumburg Marriot July 11-13. Some activities such as the Hosta Show and Plant Auction are open to the public without charge. Lou Horton would be happy to answer any questions about the event and can be reached at 630-293-7735.

**Plant Sale:** This Saturday, June 21 from 9am to 3pm club member, Lou Horton will hold his second and last plant sale of the season. His address is 1N735 Ingaltan Ave. in West Chicago. Info: 630-293-7735.

**Garden Walk:** Peggy Knight's Pond and Garden will be featured this weekend. 430 Elite Ave. in West Chicago (phone: 630-231-0493) is the place to be on Saturday from 12 to 4pm and Sunday from 1to 4pm. Waters Edge Bible Church is the sponsor of this garden walk. Info at 630-231-1210.

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

- Late and Fall Blooming Perennials: Get some great ideas to rev up your fall garden on July 8 from 1-2:30pm and July 10 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 Village of Bloomingdale Garden Walk:** July 20th from 1 to 5pm. Tickets are \$10. For details, call Bette Torpe at 630-924-6861.

WANTED  
Really Good Patrons  
WANTED

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

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

email \_\_\_\_\_

We do not sell or share our patrons information.



**PLATT HILL  
NURSERY**

222 W. Lake St.  
Bloomingdale, IL 60108

2400 Randall Rd.  
Carpentersville, IL  
60110

[www.platthillnursery.com](http://www.platthillnursery.com)

Sign Up to Save  
& Plant More



For the Love of Gardening...



the  
growing place

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](http://www.thegrowingplace.com)



Winfield  
FLOWER SHOPPE

0s118 Winfield Road  
Winfield, Il 60190  
630.668.8460  
[www.winfieldflowershoppe.com](http://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 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  
 sitteh@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
June 26	Lou Horton	Underused ornamental trees
July 24	None	President's dinner
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.



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:** Caren Messina-Hirsch and Michael and Rebecca Riebe joined our club in May. Please stop by to introduce yourself and make all our new members feel welcome.

**Door Prize:** Carole Bates won a string of flower shaped lites which will look great any where in her garden or on her deck. Thanks to Linda Harlson for donating our door prize.

**The Best Treats in Town:** Angie Sadauskas and Dorothy O'Connor brought great treats which, of course, were totally gone by 8 pm. Dorothy even had edible violets on her flan bars.

**Plant Sale Follow-up:** Members, remember to return the 1 gallon pots to the club after you plant the plants and watch for sales with rebates from Menards on Venetian blinds. We have completely used up all our Venetian blinds and need to replenish our supply. Also, anyone who might have taken trays of plants we would like to have the trays returned as well.

**Garden Walk at Peggy's:** Club member Peggy Knight's Pond and Garden will be featured this Saturday, June 21 from 12 to 4pm and Sunday, June 22 from 1 to 4pm. The address is 430 Elite Avenue in West Chicago and her phone number is 630-231-0493. Waters Edge Bible Church is sponsoring this Garden Walk (630-231-1210). IF YOU'VE NEVER SEEN PEGGY'S GARDEN, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY— YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.

**Lou Has Final Plant Sale For The Season:** Saturday, June 21 from 9am to 3pm— club member, Lou Horton lives at 1N735 Ingalton in West Chicago. THIS IS ALSO ONE YOU CAN'T MISS — SEE HIS GARDEN AND POULTRY FARM!!!!!! Oh yes, and, let's not forget he's having his last plant sale.

**RAILROAD DAYS PARADE:** July 13 in West Chicago is a big deal. Would you consider joining a small group (at least 14) with banners, wheelbarrows and plants to let the folks know that we exist? Sounds like fun to me and I hope it rings your bell too. Call me, Sandy Saad, at 630-653-1350 and join the parade!

• 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**





### Thank You

from Dick Darrah

As a result of the efforts of our entire club we had a great Plant Sale this year. The help of everyone is very much appreciated, but there are a few special individuals who went way beyond the norm to guarantee our success.

First we need to give Billie Childress special thanks for her dedication to the digging squad. Billie tells me that Angie Sadauskas and Tom Fessler were working with her every step of the way as well.

Jim Hilsenbeck took on the job of contacting and lining up members for different jobs and he did a great job. We had so many members helping out that it made the different jobs seem almost easy this year.


Carole Bates again was our liaison with West Chicago and Cantigny – she of course did a superb job.

Pamela and Dan did yeomen’s work in nurturing, labeling, and pricing plants. Pamela also takes it on herself to insure we have good signs and plant pictures at the sale. Dan throws himself into getting the sale tent arranged properly with all the plants in exactly the right places.

I’m sure we could name several more people who did that little bit extra for the club this year, but it’s safe to say everyone did what they did because they enjoyed doing what they did and they firmly believe that our West Chicago Garden Club is well worth the effort.


If you missed being there the day of the sale you really missed the best part. It was almost a party atmosphere and we all had a ball talking to gardeners who came to give our plants new homes. I think all of our Plant Sale guests enjoyed the experience as well and everyone left feeling they were taking home great plants at great prices.

Saturday night after the sale we were all tired and Sunday morning a lot of us were stiff and sore when we got up, but the sense of accomplishment sure made the little aches and pains easy to tolerate.



**RE/MAX**  
Suburban  
**Bob Sramek**  
REALTOR®  
@ Your Service™

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](http://www.graftreecare.com)

**Graf Tree Care**  
For Better Trees!



## Toffee Nut Bars

By Rita Kitching

### Ingredients:

- 2 sticks butter (1 cup) – no substitutes
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 10 oz. bar Hershey's Chocolate
- 1 cup nut meats (pecans or walnuts)

### Directions:

Cream butter and sugar  
 Add egg yolk, vanilla and flour.  
 Spread mixture on a 10" x 14" cookie sheet.  
 Bake in a 350 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

Break up chocolate bar and evenly distribute over the dough.

Put back in oven for about 3 minutes.

Spread chocolate when melted.

Press nuts into the chocolate.

Cut into squares while warm.

Yield: approximately 4 dozen

**Pergolas by Kiwi**

815 895-2490

[www.kiwipaint.com](http://www.kiwipaint.com)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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



## Raspberry Almond Shortbread Thumbprints

By Rita Kitching

### Ingredients:

2 sticks butter (1 cup) softened  
2/3 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp. almond extract  
2 cups all purpose flour  
1/2 cup raspberry jam

### Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, combine sugar, butter and almond extract. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until creamy (1 to 2 minutes).
3. Reduce speed to low, add flour. Continue beating until well mixed (1 to 2 minutes).
4. Shape dough into 1 inch balls. Place balls 2 inches apart on cookie sheets.
5. With thumb, make indentation in center of each cookie ball (edges may crack slightly).
6. Fill each indentation with about  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. of jam.
7. Bake for 14 to 18 minutes or until edges are lightly browned.
8. Let stand for 1 minute then remove from cookie sheet.

### Glaze:

1 cup powdered sugar  
1-1/2 tsp. almond extract  
2 to 3 tsp. water

In small bowl, stir together powdered sugar and almond extract.

Gradually stir in enough water for a thin glaze.

Drizzle over cooled cookies.

Yield: approximately 3-1/2 dozen cookies

### Tips:

Substitute 1/2 cup of your favorite jam.

Store in airtight container up to 1 week or freeze for up to 3 months.

If cookies are spreading too much, chill dough for 1 hour or stir in 1 to 2 tbsp. flour.