



# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 9 Issue 3 March 2006

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### Next Meeting

**Thursday, March 23**

**Speaker: Ed Max,  
Master Gardener**

**"Fabulous Fall Color"**

6:45 Sharing Time

7:15 Business Meeting

7:30 Speaker

Come at 6:45 for refreshments

sharing table and conversation.

## *For the lazy gardener ... and a few lucky ones!*

**By Judy Knaak**

Master Gardener Greg Bartoshuk presented his recommendations for a full season of colorful perennials that require minimal maintenance. Greg's formula is simple: plant daffodils at the rear of your garden space for blooms from April to May; plant irises in the next row ahead to take up the bloom baton for the months of May through June; in front of irises plant daylilies to offer their myriad colors during June, July and August; and finish up the growing season beginning in August with hardy mums in the very front of the garden space.

These "hard to kill" perennials should be separated by about 24", and their arrangement will allow for the plants that are coming to their peak to hide the plants behind that are dying back. These reliable plants can be the backbone to a garden design, and additional plants can be interspersed among them to your taste.

Daffodils (Apr-May): These welcome signs of spring are not susceptible to critter injury the way tulips are. Because they thrive when leaves have not yet unfolded on most trees, they adapt well to areas generally considered too shady during the rest of the season.

Irises (May-Jun): The most important thing to remember when planting tall bearded iris is that half of the rhizome should be above ground level. Do not cover it with mulch, unlike the other perennials mentioned here. Beware of too much watering of these regal beauties. Trim them down to 3-5" in late November to mid-December, and do not compost the trimmings.

Daylilies (Jun-Aug): Daylilies offer a remarkable range of choices with about 62,000 varieties registered to date. Greg recommends a waiting period from 3-5 years

to truly see the effect of new plantings. It is wise to make a garden map showing what and when any new perennials are added. Along with irises and daffodils, daylilies should be divided every 4-7 years when you notice flower production is declining.

Hardy Mums (Aug-Nov): Mums will bring us the final show of the season if we remember to clip off any flower buds through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Add mulch before true winter cold is upon us.

Other "hard to kill" plants were given honorable mention: dwarf habit tall type fescue; true lilies as a companion plant to daylilies; hostas that have it "made in the shade;" roses that grow from their own rootstock; and cultivars produced locally.

As a master gardener, Greg has discovered several products that he recommended that night: Miracle Gro every 3-4 weeks; Magic Circle deer or rabbit repellents; Mantis Tiller; and floating row covers from Gardens Alive. To help control the iris borer, he suggests a chemical Imidacloprid (sold as Scott's Merit or Bayer Grub Control)

Although I don't believe there is such a thing as a lazy gardener - I do believe that we all benefited from learning how to set up some "old reliables" in our gardens for a succession of floral enjoyment. Oh - and the lucky ones? A raffle drawing at the end of the presentation sent twelve winners home with daylily seeds from Greg's own garden!

### **Want to know more?**

**Chicagoland Daylily Society  
Christine Moran, TN  
(630.963.6351)**

**Northern Illinois Iris Society  
Joan Moritz, TN (630.789.1198)**

**North Shore Iris & Daylily Society  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden  
Alice Simon (847.827.6541)**

## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**The Growing Place** — Thursday, 3/30 — “**Garden Travelogue**” 9:30-11:30 am Free Aurora Location. Saturday and Sunday, 4/8 & 4/9 **Spring Festival** at Aurora location. Free classes both days, visit [www.thegrowingplace.com](http://www.thegrowingplace.com) for details. Saturday, April 22 “**Right Place, Right Plant... The Key to Low Maintenance**” 10 am Free.

**Platt Hill Nursery**— Saturday & Sunday 4/1 and 4/2 “**Spring Preview Weekend**” Free; Saturday, 4/8 “**Pond Seminar/Waking Up Your Pond**” 10 am Free; Saturday, 4/22 “**Basic Landscape Design**” Free 10 am.

**Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center** — Saturday, 3/25 “**Start Your Garden from Seeds!**” 1-2:00 pm Fee \$10. Thursday, 3/30 and Thursday 4/6 “**Spring Container Demonstrations!**” 6-7 pm Free. Tuesday, 4/4 10-11am or 6-7pm. Saturday 4/8 10-11am. “**Spring Container Planting Party**” Fee \$15, plus materials which vary by container size. Register by calling 377-6288 or emailing Heinz at: [info@heinzbrothers.com](mailto:info@heinzbrothers.com). Visit their website at [www.heinzbrothers.com](http://www.heinzbrothers.com) to learn more about these and other classes.

**Chicagoland Daylily Society Program**— Sunday, April 9—1:30 “**Growing Underground or How to 2 Daylily Seasons in Zone 4 Climate**” by Phil Korth. Meetings are in Hinsdale at 8th and Madison. For information, call 847-696-0240.

## RIDES!!!

**Need a ride to the meeting?**

**Call**

**Linda Harlson**

**293-1057**

**By the Wednesday before the meeting.**

## Potting Party Saturday , April 8 2006

Please remember the upcoming potting party next month. Potting parties are held at Bernice McFarland’s home at 555 E. National St. in West Chicago. We have scheduled our major one for April 8<sup>th</sup>. Potting parties start about 9:00am and end when we’re finished.

Please put the date on your calendar and plan to help out that day. If you can’t come for the whole time, spend whatever time you can helping us. Remember, any member’s plants that have been dug and divided can also be potted at these parties so bring your contributions if you don’t feel up to doing the potting yourself and have already done some early digging.

## Slug Bait Traps

Turn an empty plastic water bottle into a home-made bait container which keeps the bait dry and out of reach of birds and puts. Cut off bottle’s neck and insert back into the open end of the bottle. Tape the two pieces together with duct tape and pour in some bait. Place it under slug-prone plants.

Thanks to Angie Sadauskus who spotted this suggestion by Diana Brown in [Fine Gardening](#)

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

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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 2005:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$25

### 2005 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
March 23	Ed Max	Fabulous Fall Color
April 8	<b>POTTING PARTY</b>	
April 27	Lou Horton	Companion Shade Plants for Hostas
May 20	<b>PLANT SALE!</b>	
Many 25	Jan Calhoun—Ball Seed	New Annuals
June 3	FIELD TRIP	Khlem's Song Sparrow Farm & Nursery Northwind Perennial Farm
June 22	Joel Barezak	Blumen Gardens (meeting there)
June 25	<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	Susan Grupp	Integrated Pest Management
October 26	Sam the Tool Man	Caring for your Tools
November 16	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing

### 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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# ASK Our Gardeners

Last month we enjoyed Cinnamon-Raisin Bars from the kitchen of Dorothy O'Connor a recipe she found in the "Better Homes and Garden" cookbook.

## Cinnamon-Raisin Bars

1/2 cup butter or margarine

1 cup brown sugar

1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 1/2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats.

Cream butter and sugar. Sift together dry ingredients; stir into creamed mixture. Add oats and 1 tablespoon water.

Mix until crumbly. Firmly pat half the mixture in greased 13x9x2 inch baking dish. Spread with Raisin Filling. Mix remaining crumbs and 1 tablespoon water; spoon over filling; pat smooth. Bake in moderate oven (350 degrees) about 35 minutes. Cool. Drizzle with Cinnamon Icing. Makes 2 1/2 dozen.

*Raisin Filling:* Combine 1/4 cup granulated sugar and 1 tablespoon cornstarch in saucepan. Stir in 1 cup water and 2 cups raisins. Cook over medium heat till thickened and bubbly.

*Cinnamon Icing:* Mix 1 cup confectioners' sugar with 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon. Stir in enough milk, about 1 tablespoon, for drizzling consistency.

## Wallo'Water Update from Dick Darrah

12 members have ordered a total of 21 Wallo'Water packs. We have ordered three cases from the suppliers which have been shipped to us. We should receive these in time for our March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and plan on bringing them to that meeting where you can pick up your orders and pay for them.

There be extras available at the meeting if you didn't place an order or want to increase your order.

## Keep Saving STAMPS!

Save your commemorative, large denomination and foreign stamps. Please bring them to our meetings.

The stamps are more valuable if you leave include the full postmark in what you cut out or at least a 1/4 inch border on all sides.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There will be pansy plugs for sale at the March meeting. 10 cents a piece or 12 for \$1. This is the same source as we had last year and the pansies were spectacular.
- Seeds-Seeds-Seeds. Also at the March meeting, Neta Bahena from Northwoods will be bringing seeds she has collected from her garden. Look for nearly 20 varieties of seeds from poppies to oriental peppers to larkspur and more. She will be giving these seeds to members.
- At the April meeting, we will be taking reservations for the June 3 Field Trip to Khlem's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery and Northwinds Perennial Farm. The \$10 charge to members and \$15 charge to non-members, provides for transportation (by bus) and lunch. This trip will give you a chance to spend the day with fellow gardeners and to visit two great Wisconsin nurseries.
- Bernice McFarland reports we are in need of 4" pots. If you have 4" pots, please get them to Bernice. Last year we used over 1,000 pots of this size ... and we now have only 250 or so available.
- DUES for 2006 are now overdue. If you have yet to renew your membership, please do so at the March meeting (\$15 for singles, \$25 for a family) or mail your dues to West Chicago Garden Club, PO Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186. THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU DO NOT RENEW.
- We will be selling raffle tickets at the Plant Sale and at the Garden Walk for a wonderful Cast Iron Chair for the garden. Look for more information about this raffle at the meeting.

### Mini-Potting Party

**When:** Saturday, March 25 from 9-12 or as soon as the pansy plug are potted up.

**Where:** Bernice McFarland's at 555 E. National.

Help us get a start on the 2006 Plant Sale.



### Who will write "Ode to a Watering Can"?

#### Wanted Poets or Essayists or Artists



Garden Clubs of Illinois is looking for entries into its watering can themed contest. The watering can is our club logo, and it would be very apropos if one or more of our very talented members put together an entry to submit. There is a writing category, where entries can be poems or brief essays (200 words or less) about watering cans. A second category is for decorated watering cans and finally there is category for vintage watering cans.

The deadline for submissions is April 15. Contact Billie Childress (231-1791) for more details or if you would like to submit an entry in any of the categories.



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## KRUSE HOUSE WORK DAYS— PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

While the focus this year at Kruse House will be on maintenance as we evaluate the impact the apartment building next door will have on the gardens, as we all know, there is always work to do in a garden. Here are the work days for 2006:

### *Spring Clean Up*

**Saturday, April 29 1-4 pm and Saturday, May 15 from 9-12 am**

### *Summer Maintenance/planting*

**Saturday, July 29 1-4 pm and Saturday, August 26 9-12 am**

### *Fall Clean Up*

**Saturday, September 30 1-4 and Saturday, October 28 9-12 am**

Once again members will be asked to keep up with their adopted plot which can be worked on during the work days and/or days and times that are more convenient for you. Don't have a plot? Don't remember where your plot is? Contact Dan Beebe 293-4130. Even if you can't commit to a plot, we hope to see you at the work days, since extra pairs of hands are ALWAYS welcome even for just part of the scheduled time.

## Update on the Garden and Porch Walk

The June 25th Walk will feature five gardens (one of them a demonstration garden) and five porches as part of the walk. People will have the option of buying a ticket for just the gardens, just the porches, or a combination tickets. A portion of the profits from the Walk will be donated to We Grow Dreams.

Prior to the Walk, members can help make the Walk successful by posting flyers and selling tickets. And on the day of the Walk, we will need lots of volunteers.

**I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.**

- William Wordsworth, [Daffodils](#)



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