

WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 11 Issue 3 March 2008

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"Photos Take Us Away From The Snow"

By Sandy Saad

Author, speaker, photographer and WeGo Garden Club member, Shirley Remes, is all that and more. You've seen her articles in Better Homes and Gardens specialty issues, Country Gardens, and Victoria among others.

Shirley first spoke briefly about one of her passions, The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program. Begun in 1995, they've been responsible for opening America's loveliest private gardens to the public.

By supporting the program, restoration and preservation projects are possible, even the gardens on Alcatraz Island.

Shirley showed us her photos of front yard gardens. Would you prefer privacy with hedges? ...Maybe an open look with arbors and pathways to invite friends to come in, sit and stay awhile, enjoy a lemonade...in your front yard garden room. Oh Joy! Let me finish shoveling the driveway and I'll be right there!

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27

"ORNAMENTAL GRASSES FOR THE LANDSCAPE"

Speaker: Marci Stewart Pyziak, an educator at the Morton Arboretum. Grasses are all the rage. Come to hear this expert's views.

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)

The University of Illinois Extension: (630) 955-1123 or dupage_co@extension.uiuc.edu
 April 8 from 1-2:30pm and April 10 from 7-8:30pm Orchids 101 a telenet class with a charge of \$10.
 Containers with Pizzazz is a telenet class/lots of ideas on 4/22 1-2:30pm and 4/24 7-8:30pm Fee: \$10.
 Composting with Susan Renwick, master gardener on 4/29 7-8:30pm Fee: No Charge.
 Annuals: A to Z a telenet class on 5/6 1-2:30pm and 5/8 7-8:30pm Fee: \$10.

The Growing Place: An inspired and inspirational nursery and flower farm, will transform the Spring gardening season with their Spring Festival on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13. Call Michelle at 630.355.4000 or see www.thegrowingplace.com for more information.

Platt Hill Nurseries: Platt Hill Nursery's 6th Annual Spring Preview will kick off spring by introducing many of our exciting new plants and garden products for 2008. Platt Hill Nursery will be hosting vendors, having FREE informational seminars, door buster sales, door prizes and refreshments. This weekend ONLY in-stock and pre-ordered statuary and fountains 30% off best prices of the season.

Saturday, April 5th – Sunday, April 6th Sat 9-6; Sun 10-5
 222 W Lake St, Bloomingdale, IL OR 2400 Randall Rd, Carpentersville, IL

Winfield Flower Shoppe: Do you need a pick-me-up in these gray days of Very-Early-Spring? Do yourself a favor, drop in to enjoy the lush and colorful greenhouse (Green in every shade and texture, and, flowering plants galore to make your day or to cheer up someone else.) Let your heart zing as you enjoy all the lovely, lovely everything here. Winfield Flower Shoppe is just south of the tracks on Winfield Rd.

Meyer Landscaping: Generosity with a capital "G". Our Kruse House garden project will shine so bright as the "Secret Garden" is unveiled on Sunday, August 3rd thanks to this advertiser. Please see "News from Kruse" on page 5.

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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
March 29		Potting Party at Bernice McFarland's
April 19		Kruse House work day.
April 24	Dan Costa	Insect pests in the garden
May 3		Hypertufa class at Planters Palette
May 17		PLANT SALE!
May 22	Dave Wanniger	Herbaceous and tree peonies
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 us 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.



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News and Announcements

Pansies are HERE: Right after Easter, pick up the phone and call Carole Bates at 293-4953. She has PANSIES in every color of the rainbow for the BARGAIN price of 12 for \$1.00. Pansies are "tough as nails". Carole will bring the pansies to the March meeting, so bring your "mad money". Where did that saying come from?

Plant Sale: 10th Anniversary of the Plant Sale in 2008. Carole Bates is our liaison with the city of West Chicago for the Blooming Fest. The city is glad to have us on board again with our Plant Sale.

We still need: 4- and 6-packs and trays. Please save your box tops for our plant sale customers to carry their chosen plants. Do you have a shredder? Save the shredding for potting plants.

Potting Party: March 29 at 9am at Bernice McFarland's house. Her address is 555 E. National in West Chgo.

HYPERTUFA????: You know what that is, don't you!!!! Please remember that we have a club activity at Planters Palette on May 3rd from 10-12am. We'll be able to make our own hypertufa container with their expert assistance. Hopefully you signed up with Lou Horton at the February meeting as he had to let them know in March regarding the number of attendees.

Door Prize: Shirley Schramer's name was picked to win a set of herb pots complete with seeds for chamomile, lavender and lemon balm.

The Best Treats in Town: Rita Kitching and Lorraine Biang brought delicious treats for the February meeting. It's amazing, there is little or nothing left after the meeting. That speaks for itself!!!

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News from Kruse

Greetings from the Garden.....the Kruse House Garden that is!

By Billie Childress & Angie Sadauskas: KH Garden Coordinators for the Garden Club


“Spring comes to the garden busy and beautiful..... ceaseless work and ceaseless wonder” writes Walter Eaton in an April 1913 House and Garden article. Gardeners know it’s the ceaseless wonder that overwhelms the ceaseless work in the spring garden. The joy of uncovering the green shoots and sighting the first robin makes that crick in the back and blister from the rake a passing nuisance.

The Kruse Garden signature blue hyacinths will soon make their sparkling appearance and kick off the beginning of a particularly exciting year in the garden. The Historical Society and Garden Club have collaborated over 10 years to restore and maintain the Kruse House gardens and it’s time to celebrate our spectacular success. We are planning a garden party for Sunday August 3, 2008. That is a date to note on your calendaryou will want to be there. The beautiful gardens are a tribute to numerous creative, dedicated individuals who have invested time and resources to make this project incredibly successful. Please plan on joining in the celebration of this success!

With a big event on the agenda we will want the garden to be at its best. And with that in mind we will be asking for your help to get it in ship-shape order! The first opportunity is a work day on April 19th....Saturday morning. The weather is a bit unpredictable in April so we will confirm (or reschedule if necessary) via Calling Post. Bring spring clean up tools and a joke to tell.

After the spring clean up we will be installing a new tree, shrubs, grasses and roses. Meyer Landscaping (ad in newsletter) has been **very** generous in support of this project! A huge thank you to them! With new plant material and assistance from dedicated garden club members we are going to have a “WOW !” presentation of the ‘secret garden’ in August.


We look forward to working with all of you in the garden!



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Glen Ellyn—appointments on Mondays, call 630-858-2463 or
Wheaton—appointments on Tuesdays, call 630-665-1415.

For more information, contact Mike Saad (630-653-1350)

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