

WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 12 Issue 3 March 2009

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March 26th Meeting : “Made in America: Native Woodies for the Home Landscape”

There are many advantages to using natives in the landscape including improved disease and pest resistance. Dave Waninger will show us some winners.

Also at the March meeting:

- Carole Bates will have pansy plugs for sale at 12/\$1—great for your early spring garden.
- Bring any empty pots for Billie for perennial potting - earn Garden Dollars (see page 2)!

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.
7:15 - brief business meeting, 7:30 - speaker**

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 23rd :

“GETTING THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK WITH PERENNIALS”

WCGC Board News

The 2009 Budget is available for member viewing on the sharing table at the March meeting. Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Faith Community Church, West Chicago, and are open to anyone at any time. Please contact Mark Luther, board president for more information on any board activities.

Hardy Ferns in the Shade Garden - February Meeting

February’s speakers came to us from the Planter’s Palette. Diana Stoll and Shirley Conetter regaled us with their personal understandings and preferences on ferns and how they can enhance our shade gardens. The night might have been mostly talk, due to technical difficulties. But thanks to one of our members who was technically prepared, a borrowed laptop produced the images to put pictures to the words. One take away thought—there’s a lot more possibilities than Ostrich ferns!

Also at our February meeting, we welcomed two new members: Karen Kelton and Liz Whaley!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Arbor Week, April 18—26. Free admission to the Arboretum on Arbor Day, Friday, April 24.

West Chicago Public Library: The Dos and Don'ts of Container Gardening, Wednesday, April 16, 7 p.m.

The Growing Place: March 28 at 10 a.m. in Aurora: [free design advice appointments in-house for a selected area of your yard](#). Pre-register for these appointments by calling 630-820-8088.

Platt Hill Nursery: Spring Preview Open House, April 4th, with Container Gardening Workshop, Art in the Garden, and Make a Pizza Garden Workshop for Kids. <http://www.platthillnursery.com/seminars.html>

Shady Hill Gardens: Container Planting—Bring your own container, and for a flat fee, get your containers started. They'll keep them in there greenhouses until you pick them up in the late spring. Eight events in late March and throughout April. <http://www.shadyhill.com/currentevents.html>

Cantigny: Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7 at the Visitor's Center for a walk with a staff horticulturalist to visit a specific part of the garden. No charge for this program.

Garden Dollars (also known as Flower Bucks)

Have you been saving your Garden Dollars? You earn them by participating in club activities. At the November meeting, you will be able to use them at the auction to bid on fabulous prizes, like the mosaic gazing balls on display at the February meeting! Examples of what you can earn:

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs)	75 - 150	Donate plants for the sale <50, 50-149, ≥150	75, 200, 300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Trip attendance	25	Pay dues before February 2nd	50
Donate to Kruse House	50		

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, please see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned. Contact Jeff Handel for more information, 231-6765.

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Calendar of events - 2009

Date	Speaker	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker	Topic/Event
March 26	Dave Waninger	Made in America: Native Woodies for the Home Landscape	May 4		Perennial Potting Party
March 28		Annuals Potting Party- Park District Building	May 16		Annual Plant Sale
April 11		Perennial Potting Party	May 28	Greg Bartoshuk	Dazzling, Delightful, Delicious Day-lilies
April 19		Perennial Potting Party	June 25	Kristan McGuigan	What's New from Ball Seed?
April 23	Marcie Pyziak	Getting the Most Bang for your Buck with Perennials	July 23	Announcement of Garden Contest Winners	President's Dinner
April 25		Perennial Potting Party	August 27	Susan Grupp	Kermit was Wrong: It's Easy Being Green

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Club information www.westchicagogardenclub.org

West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
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Membership information
Dues for 2009:
Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

2009 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

Program Chair:
Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, lehorton85@ameritech.net

Information Director:
Elaine McCluskey (630) 293-4773, emcccluskey@sbcglobal.net

Plant Sale Chair:
Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Regular meeting location
Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street, West Chicago

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News From Kruse, March 2009 by **Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators**

Spring is here! Happy New Year! Signs of spring are everywhere! The Kruse Garden daffodils are peeking out and the clumps are expanding. It's always rewarding to see plants return year after year, and when there's an even bigger plant than last year.....whoopee.....that's a good thing! The grape hyacinths, original to the Kruse Garden, are also popping out everywhere! We can tell you from experience that you can't dig anywhere in that back garden without encountering those precious little bulbs. They don't mind being shifted around to make room for new plants throughout the year but come spring they step forth with a presence that commands attention. It's their time for showing off! The tulips in the back garden are also originals! They are unique souls. Not well color coordinated but hey they aren't the 'run of the mill' tulips. There are a few pictures of them on the GC website, photo tab, "Kruse Garden". The species tulips donated by Jeff Handel will soon grace the west hillside garden. We can here Jeff snickering in disbelief that some survived, since they were planted in heavy clay. Now that the soil has been improved in that area, how about a few more bulbs Jeff?

This year we hope to see seedlings from self sowing annuals sprouting on the west hillside garden. Red 'Memorial Day' poppies, cosmos, and moon flowers should reappear and we hope to get others started this year..... maybe the awesome fragrant nicotianas. Last year we placed several 'Nearly Wild' roses in the front dooryard garden and we are looking to a good show from them this year. The Antique Rose Emporium assures us that "the cheery single rose pink blooms reminiscent of apple blossoms will brighten any space", and from what we saw last year, it's the truth! We also installed the perennial geranium Roseanne, a prolific full season bloomer, in the west foundation garden. Little doubt she will be a star this year. This plant as a fantastic track record!

We plan to continue renovation of the big day lily bed that we started last fall. We removed countless orange ditch daylilies. This plant was just a bit too aggressive so it's being replaced with some 'tamer' daylilies and a nice variety of perennials and small shrubs. With this diversity and selection, we hope to provide season long interest with minimal maintenance.

But of course, the first endeavor for early spring is the major clean up of debris and leaves. This huge job is partially funded by garden club but if you want to volunteer time towards this effort we would be happy (no, thrilled) to provide direction. Just contact either of us. Remember it's a chance to earn valuable 'garden bucks'!

And on a last note, Ivy, the garden's resident cat sends greetings. Tom and Angie's 'meals on wheels' sustained her through the winter and her shiny sleek black body can be glimpsed streaking through the garden. She is not tame by any means, but clearly the garden is her home and we are thankful that she shares it with us and some other critters that we hope to get to know better as this lovely garden season unfolds.

Until next time, A&B



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Plant Sale 2009 by Dick Darrah

May 16th is the date of the sale, but that's just the real fun part – there's a lot of work to do to get ready and we need everyone in the club to pitch in and help out. The plant sale is our only club fund raiser and we use the proceeds from the sale to fund nearly everything the club does including speakers for the meetings, trips, charities, community projects, etc.

Although there is work to be done, there is a lot of camaraderie in doing the jobs together. We get to know each other better, exchange gardening ideas as we work and just generally have fun with like-minded friends. If you haven't taken advantage by getting involved in past years, come on out and joint us this year – it's really fun.

We need members for all sorts of important jobs:

1. We need to have **blinds cut up** for our plant labels. We also need more blinds if anyone has any.
2. Billie and her diggers need members to **help out on weekends to pot the plants** they collect **during the week**. See more on the Digging Squad on page 6. Billie has sign-up sheets and she's super organized so please help out.
3. We have our first potting party for annuals on **Saturday, March 28th at 12:30** at the Park District location at Reed Keppler Park. For details contact Carole Bates at 293-4953. We're going to be **potting up pansies** that Carole is nursing along in her greenhouse. This is going to be a test of our new potting facility so be sure to come and give us your opinion. (See the map below for directions to find the potting party.)
4. We need a few members to **be at Pamela & Dan's for plant drop-off day on Saturday May 9th**. This is the day we ask all members to deliver the plants they are donating to the sale to Pamela & Dan's so they can be sorted, priced and available for the members only presale on Thursday, May 14th. That's the day you get to pick and chose those plants you want to buy from the club before anything is offered to the public.
5. On **Friday, May 15th we need a major turnout to move the plants to the sale-site**. We will be moving plants from three locations, Billie's, Angie's and Pamela & Dan's. A crew is needed at each location to load vehicles. We need drivers with pickups, vans, SUVs, whatever. We will need a crew to unload vehicles at the sale-site. This is a major project and we need everyone to get involved.
6. The **day of the sale we need members early and late**. We have the final set-up that needs to be accomplished before the sale opens (about 8:00 to 8:30AM), we need sellers, helpers, carriers, and members who just like to talk about plants to customers all during the day. It's very important that we have a crew to help clean-up after the sale as we're all a bit tired by then and having many hands to help is really, really important.



Remember, you don't need a personal invitation to join in and help out – **just show up and your help will be welcome and appreciated** – you can earn Garden Dollars, too!



Dirt on Digging by Billie Childress

Our **Plant Sale, May 16**, requires plants to sell and our best resource for plants is member's (friends, relatives) gardens. Most perennials benefit from being divided and what an opportunity to donate the divisions of a mature plant to a good cause. Customers who buy these plants are blessed to take home 'hit the ground growing' plants. What a wonderful way to assist and encourage others to garden!

We need your plants! **We can come and dig them from your garden or you can dig clumps**, bag (don't forget to identify) them, and transport them to Billie or Angie's house. Another option is for you to pot up your own plants. If you choose to DIY see Dick Darrah, (630) 584-1900 or info@bwdarrah.com, for info on labeling and other logistics. A small crew will gather plants from gardens during the week (we will make an appointment convenient to you) and a larger crew will pot them up on weekends.

We need skilled willing volunteers at each of the following weekend potting sessions at Billie or Angie's house. Here is another opportunity to earn Garden Dollars!

Perennial Potting...Crews Needed

Saturday April 11, AM 9-12

Sunday April 19, PM 1-4

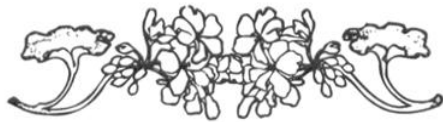
Saturday April 25, AM 9-12

Sunday May 3, PM 1-4

Sign up sheets for plant donations and potting crews will be available at the March 26th meeting or contact Billie billiedc@sbcglobal.net or 630-231-1791.

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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.

Rides— Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.



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The Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago Contest

The West Chicago Garden Club is sponsoring the first Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago contest. Do you love gardening? Have you spent your spare time recreating the Garden of Eden in your own back yard? Enter our contest to be recognized for your efforts. Gardens will be judged in the areas of small residential (1/2 acre or less), larger residential (more than 1/2 acre), special garden feature (i.e. pond garden, entryway garden, deck, etc.), and commercial property.

Gardens with a West Chicago postal address are eligible to enter. Judging will be in mid to late June, 2009. Residential and Commercial entry forms with contest rules are available at the West Chicago City Hall, the West Chicago Public Library, the West Chicago Park District office, the West Chicago City Museum, on the West Chicago Garden Club website (www.westchicagogardenclub.org) and from Carole Bates at 630-293-4953. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

Although Garden Club members cannot enter their own gardens in the contest, they can suggest friends and neighbors enter the contest—see the forms for how to do this.



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