

# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 9 Issue 5 May 2006**

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## Shade Gardening Beyond the Hosta—Lou Horton

by Edie Streams

If you are a gardener in search of something to put in your shady spots—other than hostas, Lou Horton's April presentation was just the ticket. Although Club Member Lou is President of the Illinois Hosta Society this was decidedly not a talk about hostas. Hostas were evident in a few of the slides, but the stars were a varied collection of trees, shrubs, perennials and even annuals that add color and interest to the shade garden.

Lou led off with hydrangeas: from 'Lady in Red' with great leaf color to 'Little Honey' with gold leaves to the climbing hydrangea 'Mirananda'. He segued to other vines, sweet autumn clematis with a vanilla scent and more exotic vines like artichoke kiwi. Other underused perennials he advocated were Bottle Brush Buckeye, Mahonia (an evergreen with yellow flowers) and fothergilla.

Trees like the Japanese maples 'Eskimo Sunset' and Serviceberry and bunchberry (a dwarf dogwood) were also featured. Lou encouraged us to consider tree peonies (red, yellow, white or purple) as a complement to lower growing perennials (maybe even a hosta

or two).

He also recommended considering new cultivars of common shade plants: ferns like the Japanese painted fern "Ghost", heuchera (coral bells) for which there are lots of new hybridizations (try "stoplight" for its spectacular foliage), Dutchman's breeches, and hepatica. Finally, Lou ran through a number of shade annuals (caladiums and coleus) as a way to add color, leaf forms, and texture to the shade garden.

Lou's formula for the shade garden was to consider flowering shrubs and trees, to try new plant combinations, to layer ephemerals (including spring bulbs) with late emerging perennials, to try some new cultivars of common plants, to use uncommon plants (ginger, for example); to seriously consider a tree peony or two, add some lilies, and, finally, to sprinkle liberally with shade annuals to add additional color.

So many great ideas, so little space in the garden!

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 25**

**Members Plant Exchange—Plant Sale Leftovers Too!**

**"New Annuals"**

**Speaker: Jan Calhoun from Ball Seed**

Jan Calhoun brings examples of some of Ball Seeds exciting new plants (and the plants end up going home with lucky Garden Club members!)

6:45—Plant exchange, conversation and refreshments

7:15 –Brief business meeting

7:30 Speaker



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**The Growing Place** — Saturday, 6/3 10 am Kitty Finn "Roses, a royal past...and an exciting future." Free; Do It Yourself (DIY) Series Saturday 6/10—10am Fox Valley "Avoid common DIY mistakes and save" Visit [www.thegrowingplace.com](http://www.thegrowingplace.com) for details.

**Platt Hill Nursery**— Saturday 5/27 10 am "Fall Color & Winter Interest"; Saturday 6/3 10am "Hummingbird & Butterfly Gardening"; Saturday 6/10 10 am "Ornamental Grasses"; Saturday 6/24 10am " Fall Annuals & Perennials" All programs are FREE.

**Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center** — Tuesday, 5/23 6-6:30 pm "Summer Container Planting Demonstrations!" Free but RSVP; 5/23 6:30-7:00 pm "Wire Container Planting Demonstrations" Free but RSVP; Thursday, May 25 6-7 pm "Summer Container Planting Party" Fee \$15, plus materials which vary by container size. Saturday 5/27 10-11 am or Tuesday, May 30 6-7 pm "Plant Your Wire Containers" \$15 fee plus materials cost. Wednesday, May 31 6-7 pm "Growing and Using Herbs fresh from the Garden" Cost \$10/ 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.

**Wild Ones Annual National Conference: Native Plant Landscaping, More than a Garden, It's a Lifestyle.** July 14-16, 2006 in Naperville. Six program tracks, speakers. For more information or to get early bird pricing, go to <http://www.for-wild.org/conference/2006/>

## RIDES!!!

**Need a ride to the meeting?**

**Call**

**Linda Harlson**

**293-1057**

**By the Wednesday before the meeting.**

**To pick a flower is so much more satisfying than just observing it,  
or photographing it ... So in later years, I have grown in my garden as many flowers as possible for children to pick.**

- Anne Scott-James

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

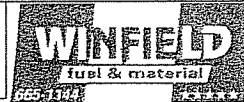
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### Club information

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

[www.bwdarra.com/wcgarden](http://www.bwdarra.com/wcgarden)

### Membership information

Dues for 2006:  
 Individual: \$15  
 Family: \$25

### 2006 board

**President:**  
 Linda Harlson (630) 293-1057  
[ashengal@prodigy.net](mailto:ashengal@prodigy.net)

**Vice President:**  
 Billie Childress (630) 231-1791  
[billiec@covad.net](mailto: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](mailto:westreams@hotmail.com)

**Plant Sale Chair**  
 Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900  
[info@bwdarra.com](mailto: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
May 20	PLANT SALE!	
May 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	GARDEN WALK	
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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## Notes and Announcements

**The West Chicago Community lost a long time friend of gardening, when Mackie Sprague, 95, passed away on Thursday, May 11.** She was a member of the West Chicago Garden Club and also had been one of the original members of our club's predecessor, the Women's Garden Club. We extend our condolences to her family. Members who wish to share their memories of Mackie Sprague can visit the guest book on the Daily Herald's website.

**More plants for sale!** West Chicago Garden Club member (and Garden Walk Co-Chair), Lou Horton is holding his plant sale on Saturday, May 27 and Saturday June 17 from 8 am to 4 pm.

**There are still a few places on the bus for the June 3 Field Trip** to Songsparrow Farm and Northwind Perennial Farm. Space is limited. There will be a charge of \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. If you have questions about the arrangements or would like to sign up, please call Linda Harlson 293-1057 to reserve your place. We will be opening this up to gardeners from other clubs, but West Chicago Garden Club members do have priority, so if you are interested, please call right away.

**The Club needs your 4 inch pots (round or square, we need them all).** We ran out of 4 inch pots this year during the potting parties, so please save them so we will have pots for next year's plant sale. If you have problems storing them, please check with Dick Darrah. We will find a home for them, since we want to avoid the expense of buying pots.

**Save your stamps.** Save commemorative, large denomination and foreign stamps. Leave a good border around the stamp and bring them to a meeting.



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## Update on the Garden and Porch Walk

By Lou Horton

Crunch time is fast approaching for final preparations for the upcoming Walk. To pull off the Walk in the high quality fashion it has been done in the past will require help from many members of the Garden Club. We are especially in need of greeters and docents at the five porch and garden sites on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The day will begin for those volunteers about 9:30 AM and will conclude when the last visitor departs around 4:30 PM. We hope to divide the day into morning and afternoon shifts if we get enough volunteers. Angie Sadauskas is coordinating the volunteers and is quite willing to schedule people in the gardens or porches where they would be with friends. Of course that becomes more difficult as the slots fill up. Please give Angie a call at 231-5851. We will also need some home baked goodies to refresh visitors in the form of brownies and cookies. We will be offering those refreshments in two locations but since we expect perhaps two hundred visitors, we will need a good supply and there is nothing quite as nice as homemade goodies. If you can help in that department, please give Sandy Saad a call at 653-1350.

Below is a list of the locations hosting our porch and garden walk visitors :

### Porches

- Sherry Scharschmedt ,115 Oakwood Avenue
- John and Kari Sonborn, 351 E. Washington Street
- Bob Baerswald and Sharon Plante, 223 E. Grand Lake Boulevard
- Fred and Laurie Toms, 405 Arbor Avenue (Porch and garden)
- Bob and Marcie Schulien, 241 E. Washington Street

### Gardens

- Carole and Wayne Bates, 2591 Sandpiper Trail
- Dick and Barbara Darrah, 30W546 Diversey Parkway (Idea Garden)
- Cary and Cynthia Dittmann, 745 Tanager Lane
- Lou and Nickie Horton, 1N 735 Ingalton Avenue.
- Peggy Knight, 430 Elite Avenue

A Walk such as the one we are sponsoring is a real show case for our community, it is not really about fund raising. Please make every effort to support it in any way you can.

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### Kruse House Work Day Added—May 27

Spring showers interfered with both of the Spring clean-up work days at Kruse House, so a late Spring clean-up has been scheduled for the Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend. Plan to come out for a few hours on Saturday, May 27 between 8 am and noon. The Club will provide hot-dogs, chips and pop for a lunch time picnic. There is still a lot of work to be done in the garden, but many hands make light work, so we hope to see lots of you there. Family members are welcome for both the work time and the picnic. Hope to see you there!

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has** \*  
\* **been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed** \*  
\* **there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.** \*  
\* - Henry David Thoreau \*  
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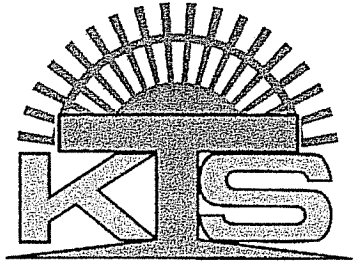
#### KRUSE HOUSE WORK DAYS

Keep these dates on your calendar to join other members in working at Kruse House. This is a great chance to work alongside and learn from other gardeners. Learning, service and FUN... hope to see you there.

**Saturday, May 27 8 am -12 pm (with a cookout at noon)**

**Sat. July 29 1-4 pm & Sat. August 26 9 am -12 pm**

**Sat. September 30 1-4 & Sat. October 28 9 am -12 pm**



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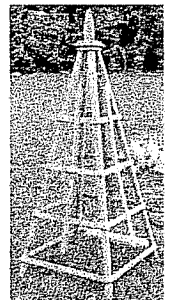
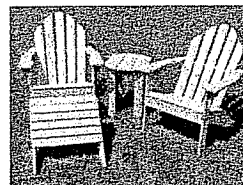
#### 70 years - Celebrating all season!

Free garden gloves for moms on Mother's Day  
**Water Garden Weekend, May 20 & 21**  
Fragrant Plants talk, April 29  
Edible plants talk, May 6  
Landscaping for DIY's, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
See [thegrowingplace.com](http://thegrowingplace.com) or call for more info.

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