

WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 12 Issue 5 May 2009

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May 28th Meeting : “Dazzling, Delightful, Delicious Daylilies ”

Greg Bartoshuk is a Master Gardener and an active member of the Daylily Society as well as a Daylily hybridizer who will share his expertise on the culture and hybridization of the most popular sun perennial. Come to see slides of state-of- the-art Daylily cultivars!



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

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 25th:

“WHAT’S NEW FROM BALL SEED?” with Kristan McGuigan

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.

New Members - Welcome!

Jackie Quiroga, Fran Martin, Donna Marie Burke, David & Dee Carlson, and Cynthia Willcutt.

Getting the most bang for your buck with perennials - April Meeting

In April we were delighted to have back Marcie Stewart Pyziak from the south suburbs. Marcie showed us lots of beautiful photos of how to effectively use perennials in our gardens. Her slides showed not only her own designs in various stages of maturity, but also some she just had to stop and photograph in her travels. We all took home ideas for how to use those great plants she described. Her yard of several acres must be something to see!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Animal Houses, May to November. See 11 human-scaled, whimsically-imaginative Animal Houses.

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County : West Chicago Prairie Field Exploration, Saturday, June 7, 8—11 a.m. Observe birds, butterflies, and wildflowers in bloom. 630-961-2041

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Growing and Using Herbs fresh from the Garden! Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. \$5 fee. Call 630-377-6288 for registration.

Platt Hill Nursery: Weekend seminars on many subjects at 10 a.m. through June. Information at <http://www.platthillnursery.com/seminars.html>

The Growing Place: Gardener’s Art Festival, June 20, 9 a.m.—5 p.m. Enjoy live music, garden artists, and refreshments. More information at <http://www.thegrowingplace.com/eventdetails/gardfestival.htm>

Cantigny: Garden Tips & Tastes in the Idea Garden - Begins June 3rd, continues on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month at noon. Bring your lunch, meet new friends, and get timely garden tips. No fee,

Garden Dollars

Remember to pick up your Garden Dollars earned from plant sale activities at the information table at the May meeting— let them know what your contribution was. Use the dollars at the November meeting auction. Contact Jeff Handel for more information, 231-6765.

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| 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, |
| 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 | | |



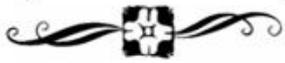
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May News From Kruse by Angie & Billie: Kruse Garden Coordinators

Did those gorgeous pink tulips in the front-dooryard garden almost knock your socks off as you drove by the Kruse House? The name is Pink Impression (Darwin Hybrid)..... a coveted award winning tulip with huge soft pink flowers that mature to deep rose. We certainly enjoyed its debut in the garden. However, the real stars of the tulip show are the clumps of the old ones that were recovered as one leaf loners from amidst the grass. We can still spot a few of those old tulip leaves in the grass and Tom may just try his hand at excavating those treasures. We accidently placed some of the new Purple Sensation alliums next to a lavender-white-streaked tulip in the back garden. What a pretty vignette that produced! Last year the short purple iris was divided and now graces 3 more locations. Its rich color is a delight as it carries the eye around the garden complementing the bright mixture of tulips.

The Lilacs and Bridalwreath Spirea are having a joint 'coming out' party. It would be a grand idea to stop by the garden and stroll by these shrubs that are sure to provoke nostalgia strong enough to carry you back to a time when the fragrance of the lilac was imprinted in your memory. Alice Morse Earle wrote in Old Time Gardens (published in 1901) of a favorite garden with a lilac walk. "Every sense is gratified, even that of touch, when the delicate plumes of the fragrant Lilac blossoms brush your cheek as you walk through its path; there is no spot of fairer loveliness than this Lilac walk in May." An experience you don't want to miss!

Speaking of things you shouldn't miss....the 3 types of euphorbia plantings on the west hill are spectacular! Neither of us have much success with Donkey Tail and Cushion Spurge at home but they sure love it on that slope with their feet in some pretty yucky soil. We don't know the name of the third type of euphorbia so we call it "George". Really folks, the euphorbia are stunning! Go see!!!

Of course, all is not 'peaches and cream' in the gardens. There are a few aggressive unwanted plants (weeds) that need to be dealt with. We are relocating them to the compost pile and all is under control.....or at least we like to think so! We will have more time to spend in the garden now that plant sale preparations are history. We would love to have you join us. Monday mornings at 9AM is our 'usual' work time so feel free to stop by and get 'to do' jobs from the straw boss. There is always work to be done and fun to be had!.

See you in the gardens! A&B



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Plant Sale by Dick Darrah

It was another successful plant sale and we were really, really lucky with the weather. We will have a **complete accounting of how we did at our meeting on May 28th**, so if you're curious, be there.

Lots of members pitched in to help make this a great sale, that's what makes this such a great club. However, we do need to offer **special thanks to Billie and Angie** for their Digging Squad work (see article below) – we wouldn't have a sale without them.

I find it particularly satisfying that year after year we have **repeat customers** coming for plants, advice and just to chat. I had one customer this year bring pictures so they could show me just what they had done and what they wanted to do. Needless to say, we happened to have exactly the plants they needed.

Saturday was a very long day, but every member who helped with the sale knows it was a job well done.

Digging Squad ... Signing Off by Billie Childress

Just wanted to wrap up for the year with **huge thanks** to all of you who participated in getting perennials from member gardens potted up for the plant sale. The generosity of those who donated plants was phenomenal! It was a pleasure to be invited to your gardens to dig! Your plants were top notch! And thanks very much to those of you who dug and brought your plants for us to pot.

Hats off to the skilled hard working Saturday and Sunday crews of dividers, paper stuffers, dirt mixers, potters, and transporters who got all those wonderful plants in pots ready to sell! There were many "new" garden club members working side-by-side with "regulars" and the mix of folks was nothing short of delightful! You were all exceptional! You worked hard and did a great job! Thank you, thank you!

Don't forget to **pick up all those hard earned 'garden dollars'** at the next meeting. You can start planning how best to use all that 'cash' at the November auction.

If you have suggestions to improve the dig squad process I would love to hear from you. Until next year then.....**save those pots!** We will need them!

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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.

Garden Club members are encouraged to enter their own gardens in the contest, as well as suggest friends and neighbors enter the contest—see the forms for how to do this.

IDEAS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Bernice McFarland says: Mow your grass as long as you can, to keep the weeds at bay!

Lorraine Biang did “winter sowing” and was able to contribute 300 parsley seedlings for the plant sale. Thanks Lorraine! Have other “winter sowing” success? Let your newsletter editor know!

Shirley Remes says: First of all, if you still have a copy of the April Better Homes & Gardens lying around, there is a photo of my shed and raised bed garden on page 94. Secondly, many people say what they loved and miss the most about my gardening column is my calendar. Well, I have just had my website, shirleyremes.com, redesigned and on the home page is a calendar which I will try and keep updated with all the latest local gardening events. Just scroll over the days of the calendar with your mouse and events will magically. Click on any events you are interested in to get more info. Depending on your feedback, I may then publish my own newsletter this fall if the demand is there.



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