



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 8 Issue 11 November 2005

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October Program – Spring Bulbs for the Garden

Speaker Sandy Klausman

by Chris Gicela

Sandy Klausman's presentation focused on daffodils, but touched on several bulbs. Although the daffodil bulb is poisonous, it is very hardy and does well in clay soil. Wildlife will not bother daffodils, while digging up most other bulbs. Sandy cleared up the age-old question...what is the difference between Daffodils, Narcissus, and Jonquils? Actually, nothing; they are all names for the same bulb. Daffodil is the American name, Narcissus is the Latin name and Jonquil is a specific class of Daffodil.

The speaker showed us some bulb samples and noted that when choosing bulbs, they should be firm, not soft, and the tunic (brown covering) is not required to ensure a good bulb. 'Top size' is the largest size bulb for that type of bulb for that year. When dividing bulbs Sandy said you should be sure that each division has part of the basal plate (the flat part on the bottom of the bulb where the roots develop). She also suggested if you naturalize bulbs in your lawn, you should

wait until at least 6 – 8 weeks after they bloom to mow the grass, otherwise the bulbs won't die back properly and may not come up the following year.

While Sandy has purchased bulbs from stores such as Menards and Franks, she has sometimes been surprised to find that the bulbs were not always properly marked. She endorsed three of her favorite catalog suppliers: Dutch Gardens, Van Engelen, and John Scheepers.

The slide presentation started with early-blooming bulbs, and showed varieties that bloom through the season. The slides were mostly of her gardens and included samples of Snow Crocus; Purple Sensation Allium; Tarda and Toronto Tulips; February Gold, Las Vegas, Cheerfulness, and Ice Winks Daffodils just to name a few.

Sandy's presentation was very informative and motivating. I don't know about you, but I felt like buying some bulbs, planting them and waiting for the big surprise in spring!

Next Meeting, Thursday, November 17

Potluck - Speakers (from the Club) - Elections

Starting at 6:45 pm

POTLUCK—The Club will be providing chicken and drinks. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share

SPEAKERS/DISCUSSIONS— Dorothy O'Connor (you'll have to come to the meeting to find out her discussion topic); Lou Horton (something about roses—perhaps); and Billie Childress with a slide show on her garden and perhaps some highlights from the Garden Club's activities this year.

ELECTIONS—Approval of bylaws, election of officers for next year. There is a full slate of candidates but people can still be nominated from the floor.

Upcoming events (outside the club)

The Growing Place — Saturday, December 3 or Monday, December 5—**Impress Your Friends, Wreath Making Classes**” 9:30 am Naperville location. Thursdays— December 1, 8, 15—**”Ladies Night Out”** - for more details visit www.thegrowingplace.com/events

Platt Hill Nursery— Saturday, November 26 **”Create a Live Greens Holiday Planter”** \$45 Fee. Saturday, December 3 **”Create a Live Greens Holiday Wreath”** \$45 Fee.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center —Tuesday , November 29 6-7pm; Thursday, December 1 6-7pm; or Saturday, December 3 10-11am—**”Winter Container Party”** - Design your own winter container with huge selection of fresh cut greens, berries and holiday decorations. Program cost \$15 includes 10-12 inch plastic container and soil. Additional charge for materials. Call 377-6288 for reservations or additional details.

Kimball & Bean —Friday, November 25 10am-6pm, Saturday, November 26 10am-5pm and Sunday, November 26 12pm-5pm. **Fifth Annual Open House—”Home for the Holidays”** 3606 South Country Club Road, Woodstock, IL 815 444-9000.

If do not plan to attend the meeting, please send your absentee ballot to
Angie Sadauskus, 29W649 Hickory Lane, West Chicago, IL 60185



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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) 293-5794

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)
(630) 231-3217

Calendar of events 2005

Date	Speaker	Topic
November 17		Potluck and Elections and Garden Talk

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.

Save the Dates

Plant Sale - May 20

Garden Walk - June 24

WANTED—PROGRAM IDEAS

The Program Committee welcomes ideas for 2006 programs.

Bring your ideas to the November meeting or

contact Linda Harlson (293-1057) or any member of the Board with any suggestions or to volunteer to help select the programs.

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ASK Our Gardeners

Have you thought about using the winter down time (from garden tasks) to do serious planning for the year ahead?

Better Homes and Gardens allows you to plan your garden on line. The site is www.bhg.com. You need to register (FREE and they just want your name and address), you can "design anything from a patio-sized container to your whole yard" You design by dragging and dropping the shape you want the area to be ... and then you can pick from over 150 different plants about

which you can get information.

The site features many other topics as well. In the section on garden maintenance there is an article on "Winterizing Your Garden" and there is a even a regional checklist of tasks to do to prepare for winter.

Another feature is "The Garden Doctor" which has articles answering a variety of garden questions. These articles are the sort you would find in the pages of Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Www.bhg.com is a site worth visiting.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

- Rachel Carson



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from the Editor

This is the final issue of We Go Gardening for the year. The newsletter and the Club traditionally take December off. This is one tradition I intend to honor. Look for a January newsletter with information about some or all of the activities that are planned for the year. This year is going to hard to top!

The newsletter this year has truly been a club effort. The editor has the privilege (and the challenge) of pulling it together each month, but this editor would have packed it in long ago had it not been for the wonderful help from so many members. Whenever I needed a picture or an article, someone stepped up.

THANK YOU ALL! You made this job so much easier. It is dangerous to attempt to mention everyone who contributed to an effort... the list is bound to be incomplete. That being said, I will try it anyway.

THANK YOU

Pamela Darrah (great pictures)

Becky Hall

Dick Darrah

Barbara Darrah

Billie Childress

Dan Beebe

Linda Harlson

Lou Horton

Michael Horsley

Chris Gisela

Connie Ruehrwein

Shirley Schramer

Barb Warbiany

Sandi Saad

And others who suggested web-sites or sources of plants or who I have somehow neglected to mention.



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