



# WE GO GARDENING

## Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 11 Issue 11 November 2008

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### “LaDeDa Lady Shares Her Gift”

By Sandy Saad

There was “joy in Whoville” and there was also much joy in the club meeting room at Faith Community Church on October 23rd while our members, led by Karen Caldwell, highly renowned and talented historian/artist of The GOURD, were making their very own birdhouse treasures.

This Gourd Lady, as I will affectionately call her, came all the way from Worth, IL to visit us. As a member of the Illinois Gourd Society, she competes regularly with fellow artists in that venue. Karen is an artist, first and foremost by nature. Through her world travels and life journey though, she has come to revere the history and longevity of the lowly gourd. The Lagenaria type of gourd forms a hard shell similar to wood when it dries—only harder—thus the longevity. This knowledge sparked another avenue for the artist—that of carving and creating

works of art from these gourds. Thus, forming her own business: LaDeDa Gourds.

Karen Caldwell is in demand to teach workshops and participate in world markets, farmers markets and art shows to display/sell her gourds. Well, from what I heard, this workshop of hers went over the top.

You already know that I like to get the pulse of a situation.....the underlying hum of humanity, the joy of chatting and working together and the camaraderie of it all. So, why don't we plan to have more of such events or workshops. What do you think?

Fellow club members—hands on, thoughts and hearts engaged—at these times we are all novices in life..... learning together.

### Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov 20

### “POTLUCK, ELECTIONS AND PRESENTS”

#### Very Important:

- Bring a dish to pass (anything your heart desires)
- White Elephant Gift Exchange (Bring a wrapped garden-related item from home or limit spending to \$5).
- **NOTE:** Please arrive at 6:30 and we'll eat at 6:45. Fried Chicken, beverages, plates and table settings will be club-provided



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Morton Arboretum:** "The Oaks of Illinois" on Friday, November 21. Register: 630-719-2468.

**The Growing Place:** Holiday Event on Saturday, November 22 at both locations and December 1 at Naperville location only. Lots of inspiration, bulbs on sale yet, workshops to create your own perfect wreath, swag or container. TGP Tip: Don't forget to shred your leaves and mulch with it or mix into your garden soil. Wait till the 1st or 2nd week in December to mulch. Six inches of loose mulch will make your roses and your favorites more winter hardy.

**Cantigny:** (630)260-8162 or Cantigny.org Berties Coffee Shop, LeJardin Restaurant and Gift Shop in the Visitors Center. So much going on here during November and December, so call for info and register.

- 11/19 6:30pm Make an Artificial Pumpkin Cornucopia w/silks, gourds, leaves: A Keeper at \$50.
- 11/22 9:30am Annual Parade of Poinsettias—3,000 plants—Tips on how to buy and care for them.
- 11/24 6:30pm Make a FRESH Thanksgiving arrangement in a Pumpkin. Fee is \$45.
- 11/20 9:30am Make a fresh 20" evergreen wreath (\$45) or Advent Wreath (\$50).
- 11/16 Janet Gallagher of Kishwaukee College instructs on an Xmas round centerpiece w/pillar candle, berry sprays, artificial apples and ribbon in the greenhouse. Fee: \$45.
- 12/20 7:30am Special Christmas Bird Count—This is an all-day annual nationwide event with the DuPage Birding Club. Call 630-260-8218 or e-mail: jreiter@mccormickfoundation.org.
- 12/21 Christmas Concert "A Christmas For Grown-ups"—Freedom Hall—Limited Seating (lottery). Call between 8am and 4pm to make a reservation.

**Christmas at Northwind:** Burlington, Wisconsin, 11/22 till 12/14 One of my favorites and yours also, as it made up for the Bus/Tire Incident on a field trip our club members took two years back. Go back for a visit if you can.....262-248-8229 or [www.northwindperennialfarm.com](http://www.northwindperennialfarm.com).




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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
<b>November 20</b>	Elections & Potluck	ENJOY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Reminders**

**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 .

**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.

**2009 Membership**

Yes, it's that time of year again! It's a busy time what with getting gardens ready for winter, preparing turkeys for Thanksgiving and celebrating Christmas. So, please fill out and submit your 2009 membership form with your dues—it will be one less thing to worry about. And, it will make it easier for your board. A membership form is attached for your convenience.

**RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!**

You can now receive your monthly newsletter electronically, rather than a paper copy. The many advantages include: receive it faster, save paper and processing time, save the cost of stamps, and see some items in color.

To subscribe to the electronic version, simply send your e-mail address to Mike Saad at mwsaad@comcast.net.



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## News and Announcements

**New Members:** We had FIVE new members join (for 2009) at our October meeting: Pat and Linc Read of Wheaton, Jan Grismore also of Wheaton, Jen Rasmussen and Kathleen Garcia, both from Batavia, and Amy Steben from Geneva. Please stop to introduce yourselves, and say hello and WELCOME!

**October meeting Treats:** Irene Muilenburg, Irene Nickelson and Angie Sadauskas.....I heard they were outstanding! Besides enjoying gardening, these ladies have a knack for serving up good food.

**Door Prizes:** Dorothy O'Connor was the recipient of a one-year subscription to a gardening magazine.

**Website News:** Club President and Webmaster, Mark Luther, would really like to have your feedback on his "pride and joy" which should be up and running by the November meeting date.

**Happy Bird Watching:** Those lucky club members who took home one of Karen Caldwell's prize gourds should, as we go to press, be watching those late "bird-house-hunters" flying around eyeing THE GOURD to set up housekeeping, etc. before the snow and ice arrive. Think of the extra joy in Spring with "adopted" baby birds to watch out your kitchen window.

**Variety Is Truly The Spice Of Life:** See you at 6:30pm next Thursday evening with your dish to pass. I'm drooling already! We will have so many good dishes there to sample. Don't pick between meals 'cause you won't have to room for the wonderful HOT AND CRISPY Fried Chicken that Linda Harlson will carry in at 6:45 pm—on the button. The first one in line will be the wise one! And, by the way, you really know I'm right on when I tell you to save room for The Potluck!

**Adopt-A-Highway:** Our application to take part in this endeavor has finally been approved. For now, the good news is that we won't do our first pick-up until Spring.

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# West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2009

Our club year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Membership dues for 2009 are due by the February meeting and will be considered over-due as of February 28th. The board would appreciate receiving dues as soon as possible

With your paid membership you receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication Garden Glories.

### Individual Membership:

**\$15 per year**

### Family Membership:

**\$25 per year**

(For multiple members at a single address)

Our meetings in 2009 will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

Please make checks payable to the West Chicago Garden Club. You can bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club  
c/o Mike Saad  
27W206 Manchester Rd.  
Winfield, IL 60190-1440

### Application

**type:**  New or  Renewal

**class:**  Individual or  Family

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

### Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/other: \_\_\_\_\_

### E-Mail Address(es):

Note: e-mail addresses may be shared with garden club members.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletters via:  E-mail or  Mail

Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will not get phone reminders of any garden club events.)