



# WE GO GARDENING

## Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 8 Issue 10 October 2005

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### September Program – Fall Interest in the Garden

Speaker Nancy Carroll

by Chris Gicela

Apples, pumpkins and so much more is what our September speaker, Nancy Carroll shared with us. Did you know that there are over 7400 different types of apples and that Washington, New York and Michigan are the top three apple producing states? And that apples are a member of the rose family? Not only are apples fat free, but they contain vitamins and are beneficial to women's health. Nancy brought several varieties of apples to show us and also passed around her baked apples, recipe included, for everyone to sample.

Nancy's next focus was pumpkins and how they can be used as decorations. She said that polishing a pumpkin with furniture polish makes it shine and also makes it last longer. She uses mini pumpkins as decorations by spraying them with silver, gold, and copper spray paint. A pie pumpkin can be hollowed out and used as a centerpiece by adding 'green foam' and various flowers and grasses from your yard. As the finishing touch, she places the stem top on a stick and inserts it between the flowers. Nancy also showed us how to decorate a pumpkin with silk

flowers and a glue gun and a very simple way of making a pumpkin using a roll of toilet paper.

Nancy's final area of fall décor included leaves and perennials. She showed us how to make screen leaves; a very simple process using, of course, metal window screen, spray paint and Puff writing paint. She also discussed various types of leaves and how to use them in arrangements. Moving on to the topic of perennials, Nancy passed around various samples of late blooming perennials that are perfect for fall arrangements. She also talked about bulbs and gave different suggestions on how to plant and group them. Nancy concluded her presentation by discussing alliums and focusing on her favorite, Lucy Ball. Members had the opportunity to purchase Lucy Ball.

Nancy's background as a teacher was truly apparent in her presentation, both in its organization and in the handouts and recipes she shared. She demonstrated many simple ways to make everyday items into beautiful fall decorations.

### Next Meeting, Thursday, October 27

#### Speaker—Sandy Klausman – "Spring Bulbs for the Garden"

6:45 Sharing Time; 7:15 Business Meeting; 7:30 Speaker

A slide presentation on hardy spring bulbs, suited to the Chicagoland area. Also included in the presentation will be cultural information, soil and moisture tolerances, wildlife factors (both deer and Bunny) as well as some suggested design uses. All have been tested in Sandra's 1 1/2 acre garden with all the accompanying challenges.

## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**The Growing Place** — Saturday, October 29—”**Prune It Right**” - 9:30 am. Aurora location. Saturday, December 3 or Monday, December 5—”**Impress Your Friends, Wreath Making Classes**” 9:30 am Naperville location. Thursdays—November 17, December 1, 8, 15—”**Ladies Night Out**” - for more details visit [www.thegrowingplace.com/events](http://www.thegrowingplace.com/events)

**Platt Hill Nursery**—Friday, November 11 —10 am —**Holiday Open House**. Saturday, 11/26 “**Create a Live Greens Holiday Planter**” \$45 Fee. Saturday, 12/3 “**Create a Live Greens Holiday Wreath**” \$45 Fee.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse Garden Center —Thursday, October 27 6-7pm—”**Protect Your Garden for Winter**”, Fee \$10. Call 377-6288 to register.

**Cantigny Park**—Saturday, November 5—”**Metal Foil Luminaries**” 9:30am Greenhouse \$25 Fee. Tuesday, November 8— “**Blossoms and More for Your Holiday Table**” 6:30 pm Greenhouse \$20 Fee. Wednesday, November 9—”**Fresh & Dried Fall Bounty Centerpiece.**” 6:30 Greenhouse Workshop Fee \$40. Thursday, November 17—”**Creating an Ivy Topiary**” 6:30 pm Greenhouse. \$25 Fee. Saturday, November 19 “**Holiday Greenhouse Walk-All About Poinsettias**” 9:30-11:30 am Greenhouse. Garden Tour Fee \$5. To ENROLL or get more information on any of these programs, call (630) 668-5161.

**Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.**

- Elizabeth Lawrence

**October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter.**

- Nova Bair

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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
October 27	Sandy Klausman	Spring Bulbs
November 17		Potluck and Elections

### 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.

### WANTED—PROGRAM IDEAS

The Program Committee is looking for ideas for the 2006 programs.

Have you heard about a great speaker? Is there an aspect of gardening that you would like to learn more about?

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

**REMINDER:** The November meeting is early (17th). Members to ask to bring a side dish (salad/vegetable/dessert). Chicken and drinks will be furnished. In addition to elections, several members will do short presentations on selected gardening topics. This will be an interactive sharing of information about your gardening experience. Food and gardening, you don't want to miss it.

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# ASK our Gardeners

Several Members asked for the recipe for the pumpkin cookie treats Shirley Schramer brought to the September meeting. She credits Libby's Pumpkin for this.

## **Pumpkin Spice Cookie with Lemon Icing from the kitchen of Shirley Schramer**

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup Libby's solid pack pumpkin
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream shortening; gradually beat in sugar. Add eggs and pumpkin; mix well. Sift flour, baking powder, salt and spices together; add to pumpkin mixture; mix until blended. Add raisins and nuts. Drop by heaping teaspoon onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes or until cookies are firm to the touch. Remove cookies and cool on rack. Frost with Lemon Icing. Yields 4 dozen.

### **Lemon Icing**

Combine 2 cups confectioners' sugar with 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice and 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind. Add just enough cream or milk to make it spreading consistency.

**In the evenings I scrape my fingernails clean, hunt through old catalogues for new seed, oil work boots and shears. This garden is no metaphor -- more a task that swallows you into itself, earth using, as always, everything it can.**

- Jan Hirshfield, *November, Remembering Voltaire*



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## West Chicago Garden Club—Garden Walk 2006 by Lou Horton

By the time next June 24th comes around, it will have been three years since our Garden Club has hosted a Garden Walk. Next year's Walk will again feature porches as well as gardens, but there will be some significant differences. One will be able to buy a ticket for the porches alone, for the gardens alone, or a combo ticket for both. We will also provide an educational component with a demonstration garden that will feature composting techniques and the function of a portable greenhouse.

While several porches and gardens have already been selected for next year's event, we are still looking for one or

two more in each category. We also need volunteers who are willing to work on the various subcommittees needed to prepare for this major undertaking. We would love for every member of the Garden Club to pitch and do something to help us pull this off. We will need garden guides, refreshment people, people to help with publicity, and everyone to assist in ticket sales. Please help us showcase the gardens of West Chicago as well as the city itself.

Call Sam Childress (630 231-1971) or Lou Horton (630 293-7735) to offer your services or to suggest a garden or porch to be included on the Walk.



**Ball Seed Gardens— Photo by Pamela Darrah**



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## Kruse House Workday by Edie Streams

Ten members Club members turned out for the final scheduled Kruse House Workday on Sunday, October 9. The weather was perfect and a lot was accomplished in the garden. Flowers were deadheaded, plants were thinned, weeds were pulled. A number of branches were picked up and other branches were trimmed back. Connie Rurhwein had brought some plants to put in the garden and those were planted as well.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this

workday... and the big mulching workday, and folks who adopted and tended to their plots (and often other people's plots as well, the garden is in the best shape it has been in years. With such great participation, the garden was looking great at the end of a hot, dry summer. The Club should be very proud of what was accomplished this year.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in one way or another to making this project such a success.

## GARDEN CLUB DONATION

Using some of the proceeds from our Plant Sale, the Garden Club is donating two books and subscriptions to six gardening magazines to the West Chicago Public Library. The books are:

Annuals and Tender Plants for North American Gardens  
by Wayne Winterrowd

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs: an Illustrated Encyclopedia  
by Michael Dirr

The Periodicals are:

Fine Gardening \*\*\*\*\* Chicagoland Gardening

Horticulture \*\*\*\*\* Garden Gate

Northern Gardener \*\*\*\*\* American Gardener

These represent a valuable resource for Garden Club members and for the community at large. We hope you have the opportunity to use these magazines and books. Your feedback is most welcome. If you have suggestions for other library donations, please let Billie Childress or Linda Harlson know.



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