



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 9 Issue 10 October 2006**

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## IPM ... Be Patient and Thoughtful

by Sandy Saad

Sandy Lentz, another master gardener with a cause. She came to our meeting just after returning that afternoon from a trip to Idaho and Montana. She spoke of her sadness at seeing how polluted the formerly beautiful and pristine streams in that part of the country had become. She came to us with a message she cared a great deal about.

She talked very straightforward, with facts and ideas on how we could become wise in our own hearts and minds—to save the world—one garden, one stream, one town at a time. Daydreaming, lofty thinking? No, she told us that IPM (Integrated Pest Management) was just a matter of being patient, stopping to think before we rush to the shed to grab that powerful insecticide to lambast those darn flea beetles making a pin cushion of my picturesque eggplant leaves...Yikes!! Sounds like the stuff of a horror movie, right?

We all left our meeting, changed in our hearts about how we looked at that one single bug on our favorite perennial, and how did that pigweed have the nerve to grow right next to my cherry tomato plant. She suggested that a

healthy plant placed in the right location with enough water and enough light will not be stressed. A stressed plant will naturally be sought out by a fungus or a ton of obnoxious bugs. If you do use insecticides or weed killers, READ THE LABELS not once but twice and start with a low dose.

Do some reading, ask the extension people—Be Patient! Arm yourself with a jug of Safer insecticidal soap, horticultural oil. BT (Bacillus Thuringiensis), and the one I love—DE (Diatomaceous Earth] for those slugs who've gotten fat and sassy on my hostas all this past summer.

Sandy Lentz suggested in so many words to just imagine, if everyone in this world got out their sprayers once a week to rid themselves quickly of the bugs and weeds in their yards. just imagine....and you feel sad too.

What a powerful talk she gave us. She gave us a lot to think about.....

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 26**

**Caring for Your Garden Tools**

**Speaker: Sam, The Tool Man**

Back by popular demand: Sam is a very active volunteer at the Chicago Botanic Garden. He will share with us his famous expertise on the care and sharpening of our favorite garden tools before we put them to bed for the winter. Sam will bring his sharpening tools, so bring your dull pruners, etc.—you might be lucky and have the expert fix it up right then and there.

**Join us** at the First Congregational Church at the corner of Neltnor (Rt. 59) and Grove Sts.

6:45 - sharing time, conversation and refreshments

7:15 - brief business meeting

7:30 - speaker



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Platt Hill Nursery (advertiser)** Platt Hill Nursery's Open House features the latest in exciting new holiday decorations and ideas along with 20% off on Friday and 15% off Saturday and Sunday all holiday decoratives. (Does NOT include any live, fresh cut, firewood or previous purchases.) We will have workshops and refreshments and entertainment throughout the weekend.

**Date:** Friday, Nov. 10th - Sunday, Nov. 12th  
**Time:** Fri 4-8; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-5  
**Location:** Platt Hill Nursery  
 - 222 W Lake St, Bloomingdale, IL (630) 529-9394  
 - 2400 Randall Rd, Carpentersville, IL (847) 428-6767

**Heinz Bros. Greenhouse (advertiser) (630) 377-6288**

Pumpkin Centerpiece—Pumpkin, ivy and fall decorations for a fee of \$16.  
 Sat. 11/28 10-11 am

Winter Protection For Your Garden—Fee is \$10. Thursday, 11/2 6-7 pm

Pruning trees and Shrubs— Fee: \$10.00. Saturday, 11/11, 10-11am

Bird Feeding for Children— Fee: \$5.00. Saturday, 11/11, 2-2:30pm.

Tips on Decorating Indoors/Outdoors for the Holidays— Fee: \$5.00.  
 Saturday, 11/18, 10-11am and 2-3pm, Sunday, 11/19, 1-2pm.

Bow Making Class—Fee: \$15.00. Saturday, 11/18, 1-1:30pm, Sunday, 11/19, 11-11:30am

Winter Containers—Fee: \$15.00, plus materials: 10" container \$25.00, 12" container \$35.00, and a 14" container \$45.00. Thursday, 11/30, 6-7pm., Saturday, 12/2, 10-11am, Saturday, 12/9, 10-11am

**Oak leaves are good mulch**

Some worry about using oak leaves for mulch, thinking they are too acidic. In fact, they make great mulch. They are stiffer than most leaves, so the pieces trap more insulating air and they break down more slowly in garden beds. And as they decompose they lose their acidity. Our soils tend to be alkaline anyway, so a little acid wouldn't hurt. All fallen leaves (except diseased ones) are valuable to mulch. Running the lawnmower over them or using a shredding blower/vacuum makes small pieces that won't mat or blow around. Water well before mulching beds, shrubs and trees.



**Phil Graf**  
*Certified Arborist*

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

**2006 board**

President:  
 Linda Harlson (630) 377-5750  
 ashengal@prodigy.net

Vice President:  
 Billie Childress (630) 231-1791  
 billiec@covad.net

Treasurer:  
 John Warbiany (630) 293-5795  
 Fax: (630) 293-5795

Secretary  
 Angie Sadauskas (630) 231-5851

Information Director  
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350  
 mwsaad@comcast.net

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)

**Regular meeting location**

First Congregational Church  
 525 N. Neltnor (Rt. 59)  
 West Chicago

**Calendar of events - 2006**

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 26	Sam the Tool Man	Caring for your garden tools
November 16	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing and brainstorming

**Reminders**

**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at First Congregational Church. There is no fee to us 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 **Linda Harlson** at 377-5750 by the Wednesday before the meeting.

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## Notes and Announcements

**Slate of Nominees for 2007:** Angie and her committee will be presenting a group of our members who would like to be officers for our club in the next year. I'm wondering if we will have a historian???

**New Digs for our Meeting:** Speaking of change—Is anyone else grateful for our new location starting in January 2007? Is it 15 or 20 stairs we go down for our present meeting? And, what if you are hauling in containers and coffee-pots, etc.? Yes, the hospitality committee among others say "Hurray" for the new location, and, thanks for finding it. Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago is where we will meet in 2007!

**Holiday Bazaars and Craft Shows:** Please be on the lookout for crafters or vendors that might complement our Plant Sale/Bloomingfest 2007.

**Electronic newsletters:** Sign up to receive this newsletter electronically. See the story on page 3.

**Plant Sale Needs:** Bernice McFarland says we still need 4 and 6 packs. Also, save those venetian blinds that we use for plant markers.

**Germany:** No more will be said about the Sister Cities trip July 16 thru July 23. Hopefully if you are interested, you have contacted the right people for information.

**Feed Me:** Your newsletter needs your help. If you come upon an interesting subject and would like to send an article or a story from a magazine or newspaper. If you have a strong opinion on a gardening subject, tell us. Write a poem—send a recipe for something you make out of your vegetable garden. Do you have something to sell? Are you searching for something garden related, ask us. Also, any suggestions regarding the newsletter or the club will certainly be smiled upon and considered.

**Pride:** Since starting a subscription to the Daily Herald, there is an awareness that an awful lot is happening in the town of West Chicago. It is nice to know that the Daily Herald takes note of it.



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## Upcoming events (outside the club) - continued

### The Growing Place (advertiser) - news release

When looking for outdoor holiday decorating ideas, don't pass up the nature festive flare of container design. A few pointers may ensure success. Start with a winter hardy container. Though all containers that are filled and left outdoors in winter are susceptible to cracking, some are more winter resistant than others. Select from concrete, cast iron, fiberglass or high fired glaze and terra cotta. Make sure the drainage is good. Raise the container off the ground. Optional: To make the container more resistant to cracking, surround the interior of container with bubble wrap or add Styrofoam peanuts to the soil or bark mix. If the container is large enough and insulated, plants are more likely to survive winter freezing and thawing. Dwarf Alberta Spruce or ornamental grasses are good choices for plant that can span the seasons. A variety of fresh greens, winter berries, treated leaves, cones, bells, bows and branches will give containers a festive look. Remember to follow a color scheme and considered style when arranging components. Repeating colors will help coordinate wreath or, swage and garland with your container.

The Growing Place's design staff creates many one of a kind decorations, ready for you to buy or be inspired by. TGP designers are also ready to create especially for you, while you wait.

The Naperville Garden Treasures Shop will be open for holiday shopping from 9 am – 4pm Monday through Saturday beginning Nov. 4 through Dec. 23 and is located at 25W471 Plank Road in Naperville, 5 Blocks west of Naper Blvd.

A great way to learn tricks to designing your own container, wreath or swag is to take a Holiday Workshop led by TGP Designers offered at 9:30am on Saturday and Monday, Dec. 2 & 4 in Naperville. The cost is \$39, \$49 or \$29 respectively. Private workshops are available for groups of 10 or more. Also, don't miss 'Decorating for the Holidays' at 10am on Sat., Oct. 28 at TGP's Fox Valley location, 2000 Montgomery Road, Aurora. In keeping with their one of a kind philosophy, The Growing Place Designers offer fresh greens arrangements and potted amaryllis that are perfect for hostess, teacher and corporate gift giving. Special orders are welcome. For more information, call (630) 355-4000 or [www.thegrowingplace.com](http://www.thegrowingplace.com).

Visit the city of Naperville's Hometown Holiday Celebration in Central Park on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 25. TGP will be decorating the stage and entrance to the park as well as offering festive greens and product.

**2006 Chicago's Finest Painted Ladies contest awarded their GRAND PRIZE to Bobby and Marcie Schulien's House.** Marcie is one of our members and her porch was a significant part of our House and Porch Walk this past June 25th. The Daily Herald Real Estate section on October 20, 2006 had a great story about this great house. This prestigious award involves how these Victorian painted ladies (houses) have retained the exterior colors that coincide with their architecture and period. Marcie and her husband hired a consultant and had neighborhood parties to help them decide on just the right colors for their Italianate and Southern Colonial home. The mixing of the two styles is what made the chose of paint colors difficult. However, it is a winner in so many ways. Congratulations!

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**APPLE STREUSEL BARS**

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 c. flour                       | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt  |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar           | 1 c. butter or margarine |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking powder | 2 eggs                   |

Combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Cut in butter until crumbs are size of small peas. Separate eggs (reserve whites for later use); beat yolks slightly and stir into mixture. Press half of this mixture over the bottom of a 15 x 10 x 1 jelly roll pan. (Reserve other half for later use).

**Filling:**

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ c. peeled and diced cooking apples<br>(about 4 medium apples) | $\frac{1}{4}$ c. flour |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar  | 1 tsp. cinnamon        |

Combine all ingredients, arrange over bottom crust. Crumble remaining crumb mixture over apples. Beat egg whites slightly and carefully brush over all. Bake in 350° oven for 40-45 mins. Cool. Drizzle icing over and cut in bars.

**Icing:**

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ c. confectioners sugar | 1 tbsp. cream or half and half |
| $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. salt              | 1 tsp. lemon juice             |
| 1 tbsp. butter                       |                                |

Beat together first 4 ingredients. Add lemon juice and beat until smooth. Drizzle over bars. Makes 48 bars.

Recipe submitted by Irene Muilenburg.

We enjoyed these at our September meeting.

**KRUSE HOUSE WORK DAY**

**Keep this date 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.**

**Sat. October 28, 9-12**



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