



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 11 Issue 10 October 2008

Inside this issue

Events Outside the Club	2
Calendar of Events	3
News and Announcements	4
News from Kruse	5



“Professor Lewin Extraordinaire”

By Sandy Saad

With a chill in the evening air, many WeGo Garden Club members filed into the meeting room. Such a good turnout for our “speaker extraordinaire”, Katrina Lewin from the well-known Morton Arboretum. The steaming hot coffee and tea were poured out and the treats were being enjoyed. A hush fell upon the room—munching and breathing only—really! Such drama at a garden club.....

Suddenly, a strong and sure voice said “Hello, I’m so happy to be here and speak to such a large audience.... I’m Katrina Lewin, a Woodies specialist at your neighborhood Arboretum and a friend to every noble tree and woody shrub in this fine world of ours”.

Now, I will tell you THIS, that is perhaps not how she really greeted us. I will also tell you that I’m not a great note-taker but this little lady had me at

HELLO. Katrina has a real gift for delivering information and there is no doubt in anyone’s mind why she is the Arboretum’s ambassador of Woodies.

She knows her Woodies intimately....inside, outside and upside down. Katrina stands real tall for these centurions lining the street where I live, and in your neck of the woods too. Beautiful trees, big and small, and shrubs.....who but God and Mother Nature could coordinate this beauty which frames and affords us a backdrop for our lives. What would we do without them? How naked and empty the landscape would be. Monet, yes, and others.....poets. Oh yes, we could all “wax” poetic about our love for Beauty and Nature. Let us be respectful of it so our landscape will never, ever be vacant as in the war photos we see too much of lately.....

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct 23

“Making Gourds into Birdhouses”

Karen Caldwell: Talented artist, carver and historian of GOURDS.

Come and make a gourd birdhouse that will last longer than life.

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.

6:45pm - sharing time, conversation and refreshments

7:15 - brief business meeting

7:30 - speaker



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Horticulture Classes at the Extension Office in Warrenville: Class schedules on the sharing table and get more info at 630-955-1123 or dupage_co@extension.uiuc.edu. Some of the interesting titles like Prairies and The Benefits of a Rain Garden are classes that await you.

The Growing Place: Always a place to spend a couple of hours or so.....

Cantigny: (630)260-8162 or Cantigny.org This place is a hop, skip and a jump from all of us in the club and there is so much going on. This place just gets better and better every year—you name it and I'll bet they have it. The parking fee of \$7 used to bug me so I finally bought the year pass for \$55. Why not, I love this place and support their efforts. The sharing table will have more up-to-date info, in color.

Winfield Flower Shoppe: Holiday Open House on Sunday, November 9 from noon till 4pm. Cards for 20% off purchase are on the sharing table.

A thought for 2009—Submitted by Mike Saad, publisher.

Our monthly club meetings provide an excellent opportunity for our members to share, and learn, and participate in many of our activities. And, as in many organizations, direction, planning, and budgetary issues are discussed and approved (or not approved) at the board meetings. Many of our members are unable to attend these board meetings but would like to know what topics were discussed and what decisions were made. One approach would be to publish the meeting minutes on our web site—there are pros and cons to this suggestion. Perhaps a better solution is to publish a brief summary from the board meeting in our monthly newsletter. A short one sentence summary of each topic (more if needed) and a brief summary of approved expenditures could be included. Then, our members could be more aware and involved with our club. I hope the board will consider how to share this critical club information with our members.



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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
October 23	Karen Caldwell	Making gourds into birdhouses
November 20	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing and Brainstorming

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.

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News and Announcements

News from Lou Horton our Program Director: The First Annual West Chicago Garden Club "gift exchange" is scheduled for our November Meeting. In an effort to increase the "FQ" (**thats fun quotient**) for our November Meeting, we decided to ask all participants to bring a wrapped garden related gift with them to the meeting on November 20th. It can be a garden tool, sign, decoration, plant, book, whatever you might wish. Please disguise it by wrapping (OK, a guy's wrap is a brown paper bag, whatever). These gifts will be exchanged in a way you do not need to know about just yet. If you must buy something, (and we hope not) Please keep the cost to five dollars. Got any questions? Give me a call at 630 293 7735.

Snacks and Treats for the September meeting: Madeleine Bartsch, Connie Ruehrwein and Shirley Shramer were the "little elves" that baked their hearts out for us. Thanks so much. Boy oh boy, I'd love one of those sweets right now with a cup of steaming hot cocoa as I sit here tapping away.

Guests: We had two guests at our September meeting: Pat and Linc Read of Wheaton and Jan Grismore also of Wheaton. We'll send them a newsletter and hope they attend a meeting again.

Door Prizes: Pamela Darrah won a neat combination planter and water fountain donated by Mark and June Luther. Two tickets for the Home Show at Pheasant Run were won by Billie Childress. The tickets were donated by Larry and Aimee Townsend.

November Elections: Sandy Saad and Pamela Darrah will be withdrawing from their elected positions at the close of this year. Sandy serves as Information Director and is responsible for publishing our newsletter. Pamela serves as Publicity Director and is mainly responsible for media releases, seeking advertisers, and delivering Calling Post messages. They both deserve a round of applause for the time and effort they have dedicated to our Garden Club. Please consider sharing your talents and join our Board! All positions are open to any member for the upcoming 2009 election. If interested, please phone Aimee at 630-876-8588.

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News from Kruse Garden

By Angie and Billie

This is the seventh and last “News from Kruse” column for this year. We have appreciated this opportunity to keep you updated on the activities and glorious results throughout the year in the garden. It has been quite a year! We met last January (oh so long ago) and laid out four goals for the year. Now it’s time to reflect on the results.

Goal: Continue maintenance, design, planting the garden

Yes.....a lot was accomplished on all fronts! There was a huge effort this spring to add shrubs to create more structure in the garden. We had no idea how successful we would be! We were able to add 30+ shrubs plus one lovely tree (donated and purchased) to help the garden stand tall! These specimens already have a significant effect, but given a few years to mature their contribution will be invaluable. Of course, you always need small stuff to compliment the big stuff, and to that end we added lots of perennials and bulbs to round out the plantings. I won’t say the garden is full but it’s getting closer!

We also spent a chunk of time redesigning. Tom can tell how to remove overgrown daylilies and Angie has a real talent for placement and combination of plants. The test of design is in the outcome and the landscapes were sweet treats for the eye! Every season brought delight and beauty. We urge you to catch the spectacular ‘late show’ going on now in the garden. The west hill has never looked finer with the ornamental grasses, helianthus, zinnias, and cosmos in full bloom! We don’t want it to end but it the garden must sleep and rejuvenate.....caretakers too!

Goal: Engage Garden Club members in the project

You are the best judge of this.....do you feel engaged???....., but from our perspective you have been there with us all the way in thought and deed! This is a huge project made possible only with a group effort! Thanks to each and every one of you for your help! Please know that your efforts are appreciated and are reflected in the beauty of the garden. Small signs were placed throughout the garden this year to recognize ‘Gardens restored and maintained by WCGC’ and we plan to add that same recognition to the big sign out front. You deserve to be recognized!

Goal: Enhance community awareness of the garden

The August 3rd garden party was a perfect opportunity for showcasing the Museum and showing off the gardens. “I’ve lived in town a long time, but this I the first time.....” was a rewarding comment. There was a distinct community feeling that warm summer day. That’s a commodity we hope to build on for the future.

Goal: Collaborate with Historical Society

We have collaborated throughout the year and it shows! The Garden Club and Historical Society have joined forces to restore and maintain the gardens. Many times we called on Kent Orlandini to take care of a hanging tree limb and the newly painted, repaired shed is a genuine photo op! They are as proud of the gardens as we are and we appreciate their support!

No doubt as we reflect, it’s been a great year in the garden! Tom, Billie, Angie, kittens, birds, and butterflies probably got the most up close and personal look and joy from its beauty. However, it is our fondest wish that you all share in the joy as well as the work of the garden. Please, catch the ‘late show’ now and make your motto for next year.....go early, go often. With that seasonal note we are signing off for the year.

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