



# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

Volume 12 Issue 10 October 2009

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## October 22nd Meeting :

### “Gardening for the Birds” with Bob Fischer

A well planned garden, coupled with feeders for the birds, brings many avian friends to our yards year round. The birdsong and color they add to the garden landscape is a true source of joy, but their presence brings more practical benefits – like eating many insect pests as they feed their young during the breeding season. Bob will share with us the most effective ways of attracting our native songbirds to your garden, some of the birds you can expect to see, and the very real conservation benefits of ‘gardening for the birds’. Bob is past president of DuPage Birding Club and the Bird Conservation Network.



**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

**7:00 - refreshments, 7:15 - brief business meeting, 7:30 - speaker**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19th - at 6:30 p.m.:**

### “Presidents Dinner and Garden Dollar Auction”

Come for one of the most entertaining events of the year. Bring a dish to pass, plus your Garden Dollars to get fabulous prizes! **Have a prize to donate for the auction? See page 5.**

**Welcome new members Lalo and Linda Ponce!**

**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.

**Rides**— Need a ride to the meeting? Call **Billie Childress** at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.

## The Hosta: America’s Favorite Shade Perennial - September Meeting

Many thanks to our own Lou Horton for a wonderful presentation on his favorite topic - hostas! We learned that this plant with so many varieties started from just four original types. We were wowed with pictures of hostas from not only Lou’s yard, but from hosta society garden walks, too, showing us many varieties not yet on the market. The tips for snail control and care will help us have success with these indispensable garden treasures.



**Upcoming events (outside the club)**

**Winfield Flower Shoppe:** Holiday Open House, Sunday, November 8, 12-4. Present ad on page 3 for 20% off. [www.winfieldflowershoppe.com](http://www.winfieldflowershoppe.com)

**Forest Preserve District of DuPage County : Herrick Lake, Sunday, November 8th, 1—3 p.m.** Hear about the how, when and why of the District's prescription-burn program, and see a burn in progress, weather permitting. Free. Registration begins Oct. 26. Call (630) 933-7248.

**Platt Hill Nursery:** Winterizing the Garden, Saturday October 24 at 10 a.m. and Sunday, October 25 at 1 p.m. Free, but call to register to attend in Bloomingdale, (630) 529-9394.

**Morton Arboretum:** Trick or Trees Annual Fest, Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25. 9:30 a.m.—5 p.m. The free celebration features candy, pumpkin play, Haunted Maze, crafts, ghoulish games, and other bat-tacular events.

**The Growing Place:** Fall Fun at the Farm, Aurora, every Saturday in October, 10 to noon. Hayrides, cider and popcorn, plus special activities each week.

**Garden Club Service Project**

We have been working with our host, Faith Community Church, to landscape any area adjacent to the building along Main St. The club prepared a landscape plan, then, using the donated pavers from Sam and Billie Childress, a patio and low wall have been installed. In the spring, the plants will be installed. It would be great to get some donated plants from club members. If you have multiple clumps of tall grasses, any shrub roses, or shade plants such as hostas and ferns, please contact a board member.



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**We Go Gardening**



*Winfield Flower Shoppe*  
**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Open House**  
 Sunday, November 8, 2009 ~ 12:00 - 4:00 PM  
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 Refreshments served ~ Invite a friend!  
 Present this card at our event and receive 20% off your purchases!  
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 And let them know that you appreciate their support of our club.  
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**Club information** www.westchicagogardenclub.org  
 West Chicago Garden Club  
 P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
 (630) 585-4005

**Membership information**  
 Dues for 2009:  
 Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

**2009 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  
 Program Chair:  
 Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, lehorton85@ameritech.net  
 Information Director:  
 Elaine McCluskey (630) 293-4773, emccluskey@sbcglobal.net  
 Plant Sale Chair:  
 Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

**Regular meeting location**  
 Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street, West Chicago

**WCGC Board Meetings**  
 Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Faith Community Church, West Chicago, and are open to anyone at any time. Please contact Mark Luther, board president for more information on any board activities.

**PLATT HILL NURSERY**  
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 (847) 428-6767



### October News From Kruse - by Angie and Billie, Kruse Garden Coordinators

This is our 8<sup>th</sup> and final 'News' for the year. Well, we've gone from grape hyacinths to 'Tidy Time'. The garden has dazzled and delighted through-out the year. The Kruzies, (Tom, Angie, Billie), have been rewarded for their efforts! From buds to decay, the ever changing, always interesting, garden has been a pleasure and the company ain't bad either!

**Thank you garden club members** one and all for your support throughout the year. Also, a **special thanks to Historical Society leadership** for their encouragement and assistance in our work. We had a great time at the Ice Cream Social in September. It's such a good time to relax and enjoy the garden without a tool in hand. Also, great to win some loot at auction!

Thanks to one of Tom's generous neighbors we had an opportunity to add some fading white picket fence sections to the back fence. We think they soften the chain link and add a bit of whimsy. **We would love to hear what you think...stop by and have a look.** While you're there don't be too surprised at the disappearing (well, only a small bit disappeared) compost pile. The bottom of the garden debris pile has matured into 'good dirt' and we used it to pot up some hostas for next year's plant sale. There you have it.....the cycle of nature! Boy, are we Green!

In February we reminded ourselves that our goal is a charming low maintenance garden to be enjoyed and appreciated, now and for years to come. We are satisfied that we remained on that track and look forward to continuing that journey next year. To that end we are formulating a list of resolutions ..... "We will bravely throw out every plant that is a misfit", "Specimens that require coddling need not apply" .....etc.

**As part of your new year's resolutions we hope that you resolve to join us in the garden.** Believe us, the rewards are many!

See you in the garden.....A&B





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**FOR THE NOVEMBER AUCTION:**

We're looking for donations for the November auction. These can be hand-crafted items, artistic garden accoutrements, garden-related miscellany, preferably new items. If you have something, bring it to the October meeting, and leave it with Jeff Handel.

***Redeem your Garden Dollars in November***

This is the last month to collect your Garden Dollars before the November auction. Garden Dollars will be the **only currency accepted at the November auction**, where you will be able to use them at the auction to bid on fabulous prizes, like the mosaic gazing balls and other hand-crafted items, gift certificates to local retailers, and plants.

**Make sure you know where your Garden Dollars are that you've been saving all year, and bring them to the November meeting.**

Garden Dollars are always available at the welcome table at meetings—just look for the bowl. This is done on the honor system, so take the dollars you've earned for any activities this year. (Pick up a handy envelope, too, so you don't loose them!) Contact Jeff Handel with any questions, 231-6765.

Earn Garden Dollars by:

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs)	75 -150	Donate plants for the sale <50 plants, 50-149 plants, ≥150 plants	75, 200, 300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Trip attendance	25	Pay dues before February 2nd	50
Donate to Kruse House	50		

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## Elections

November is time for West Chicago Garden Club election of officers. Our club has been blessed with very able and extremely willing leaders for the last decade. This has resulted in a very high quality program that includes speakers who are expert in their field, entertaining field trips, inventive crafts, community service projects, interaction with experienced gardeners, and a unique plant sale. Such a high quality has resulted in a diverse and growing membership, and one of the best-respected garden clubs in the area. We thank those who have been serving as our leaders for many years! (See page 3 for the list of our current officers.)

Success can breed apathy, and perhaps we have come to take the running of our club for granted. Without strong leadership, any organization may become stagnant and unable to fulfill the vision of its membership. At the end of 2009, our president, Mark Luther, and our secretary, Aimee Townsend, will step down from their posts. All this year we have also had open the position of publicity director. These key posts need to be filled. Current leaders would be glad to assist as new leadership learns the positions.

Can you fill one of these positions? Are you interested in finding out what it might entail? Any board member (see page 3 for contact info) can provide information. You need not be a long-time member, in fact, we'd love to have new leaders with new ideas. The position will be what you make it.

In reality, if we are not able to fill these positions, our club will not be able to continue as it is today. Do you enjoy our meetings, the opportunities for learning and fellowship? Think about what you might be able to do to keep the club going.

**TALK TO ONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS TODAY!**

The City of West Chicago will be installing a new monument sign at the corner of Illinois Route 59 and Main Street at the east gateway to the downtown district. The sign, which will contain a double-sided LED component, will serve as a communication tool for City programs, information and activities.

The sign will contain room for up to ten (10) bronze, etched medallions depicting the logos of ten active service clubs operating within the City. The West Chicago Garden Club will be represented with a medallion, look for this in the future!