



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 8 Issue 9 September 2005

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August Program – Carole’s Garden and Concrete Leaves

The August program featured a concrete cast garden and check out her husband’s train leaf workshop led by Connie Ruehrwein and (and train garden). Carole Bates. Dozens of “permanent”

concrete leaves were created and members The montage on page six gives you a look at also had a chance to wander through Carole’s some of the fun that night.

WANTED

Another garden (or two) and porch (or two) for the 2006 Garden Walk. Contact Lou Horton 293-7735 with suggestions.

Splitting or Dividing Plants (and benefiting the Plant Sale)

by Dick Darrah

Splitting or dividing is a great way to improve the health of your large plants and a good time to split or divide your plants is the Fall. Besides improving the health of your garden, **the extra plants you create are just what we need at our annual PLANT SALE next May.**

Division entails splitting plants apart into smaller plants. Perennials such as iris or daylily will have fewer blooms over the years if they are not divided. In general, dividing should be done every two to four years.

It is normally best to dig the plant up in order to divide it, although it is possible to use a spade to divide the plant without removing it from the ground. Some plants like ornamental grasses or irises may require knives, machetes, or even hatchets to get the job done.

Some things to keep in mind, the more plants you make, the less show next year. If you divide and have six irises from that one in the ground the divided plants will be so small it’ll be two years before you see a flower again. Splitting in half gives you two decent plants, but they may need dividing next year! Figure out how often you want to do this job and find your happy medium.

Plants should generally be divided in the fall, although fall-blooming flowers should be divided in the early spring. With some basic upkeep and care, your perennials will produce beautiful blooms and keep your garden looking beautiful over many seasons and many years.

Dividing fleshy rooted plants (such as Delphiniums, Lupins, Astilbe and Hosta) Dig up the plant and with a sharp knife separate the woody crowns. Make sure that each new piece has strong roots and several bud growths. If it’s an old big clump that’s been in the ground for several years or more, then throw away the center part.

Upcoming events (outside the club)

The Growing Place — Saturday, October 22—**Fall Roundup Event**. Visit thegrowingplace.com for a details on this event.

Platt Hill Nursery—Saturday, October 15—10am. “Overwintering Your Roses, Perennials and Grasses.”

Splitting Contd.

Fibrous rooted plants (such as Artemisia, Asters, Bee Balm, Coneflower, Golden Rod, Herbaceous Campanulas, Herbaceous Geraniums, Loosestrife, Masterwort, Meadowsweet, Pearl Everlasting, Perennial Spiraea, Perennial Sunflowers, Shasta daisy, Sneezewort, Tickseed and Yarrow.) Dig the plant out of the ground and place two garden forks or hand forks back to back and then lever their handles together. This pulls the plant apart and untangles the roots. You will need to repeat this technique several times to end up with small divisions of the main clump. A golden rule is usually to throw away the center part of the main clump and keep and replant the outer parts of the plant. The centre of the clump is the older part and becomes woody.

Dividing rhizomes (such as Flag Iris, Lily of the valley and Orris Root). Dig up and select young outer pieces . Use a sharp knife to separate the rhizomes. Select pieces that have at least one or two fans of leaves from the outside of the clump and discard the center rhizomes. Get rid of any rhizomes that show damage from Iris Borer.

What can you do with the extra plants you are saving for our Plant Sale? I’ve been successful over the years potting the divided plants up and burying the pots in a part of my garden I won’t need until I dig them up in the Spring. This is normally part of my vegetable garden. In the Spring I dig them up, hose off the pots and they are ready for labeling. Sometimes I need to put some identifying label in them in the Fall as my memory isn’t quite what it should be.

Some of our other members, Dan Bebee and Billie & Sam, have had luck with putting all the pots together in a group and covering them with mulch and/or leaves to protect them over the Winter.

However you do it, splitting and dividing your plants this Fall will improve your garden and help your club.

A Plant to try:

Spider Asters come in pink, soft peach, and orangey pink.

Recommended by Sandy Saad

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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
September 22	Nancy Carroll	Fall Interest in the Garden
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.

Garden Clubs of Illinois—Study Schools Schedule

Landscape Design Study Course I—October 18-20, 2005 Cook County Farm Bureau, 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525. Contact: Dorie Lederer (708) 447-5828

Environmental Study School Course III—November 10-11, 2005. Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL Contact: Jeannette Muench (815) 444-1622

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ASK Our Gardeners

Several Members asked for the recipe for the delicious asparagus dish that Barbara Warbiany brought to the President's Potluck

Gail's Asparagus Recipe

2-3 lb. Asparagus, fresh

3 T. Pine nuts (Slivered almonds work well too)

¼ c. Olive oil

1 T. Lemon Juice

1 clove Garlic, crushed

½ t. Salt

½ t. Basil, dried whole

½ t. Oregano, dried whole

Pepper, freshly ground

1. Snap off tough ends of asparagus
2. Remove scales from stalks, if desired
3. Steam spears over boiling water, covered, for 4-5 minutes or until crisp-tender.
4. Transfer to serving platter, and set aside
5. Combine olive oil and remaining ingredients in small saucepan.

6. Blend with wire whisk and cook over medium heat 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly.
7. Pour over asparagus.
8. Sprinkle with pine nuts
9. Let stand to room temperature. (can be served warm or cool).

Note: I have been told the same recipe can be used with fresh green beans, too.



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Final Kruse House Work Day—Sunday, October 9

The Final Kruse House work day is on October 9. The focus will be end of season clean-up, deadheading, relocating existing plants... and filling spaces with plants from member gardens. See the list below for plants we are looking for.

Come for an hour, come for the whole time. Let's have another great turnout! We need lots of pairs of hands.

The Kruse Garden needs plants! Here's what we need:

- Ajuga—Bugleweed~~~~~Alchemilla mollis—Lady's mantle
- Aruncus—Goat's beard~~~~~Asarum—Wild ginger
- Baptisia—False/Wild indigo~~~~~Bergenia—Pigsqueak
- Callirhoe—Wine cups/Prairie mallow~~~~~Ceratostigma—Plumbago
- Doronicum—Leopard's bane~~~~~Echinops—Globe thistle
- Gaillardia—Blanket flower~~~~~Geranium macrorrhizum—Bigroot
- Geum—Prairie Smoke~~~~~Liatris—Gayfeather
- Oenothera—Sundrop~~~~~Thalictrum—Meadow Rue
- Tiarella—Foamflower~~~~~Valerian—Heliotrope
- Northern Sea Oats—grass~~~~~Peony (old fashioned ones)

It would be great if any of these plants could be brought to the Sunday October 9th work day. That's the day we will be relocating some of the existing garden plants and we need many additional plants to fill in and make the garden glorious! **Any help you can contribute in the form of plant contributions and/ or labor on the 9th of October will be enormously appreciated!!!**

PROGRAMS FOR 2006

The Program Committee is looking for ideas about possible speakers.. Or topics for next year's programs.

Contact Linda Harlson (293-1057) with your thoughts.



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At our November meeting we will elect officers, share potluck, and look at pictures of member gardens. We also plan to talk about plants members have discovered this year, plants that have done well in the less ideal growing conditions this year. **So start thinking about the plants to let the rest of us know about.**

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Enough of trying to keep plants alive in the heat and drought, we are making concrete leaves!



Montage by Pamela Darrah

Wanted: Volunteer to assist in auditing the Club books. Call Linda Harlson 293-1057

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