



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 9 Issue 9 September 2006

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CONTAINER WATER GARDENING MADE EASY

by Sandy Saad

Were you at the August meeting? If you were, you remember Kathy Thomas from the Growing Place relating to us how easy it is to make a water garden or a water feature. She is one of those folks who gets paid for doing what she dearly loves. She also knows what she is talking about and it shows.

Kathy brought many containers and saucers, plain and fancy. She showed how we can plug them with a plug from Ace Hardware if there is a drain hole in our chosen container. We also need to brush on some polyurethane to seal our containers, if they are porous. And, because I was more interested in making a water feature.....I found out I could borrow my husband's rotary sander to make a notch in one of my containers to make a spillover all by myself. Then, I need some plumber's putty, tubing, a pump and a spitter and "WaaLaa".....there I am sitting on my deck listening to the soft sound of trickling water, reading my newest historical novel, *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland, about Emily Carr, a

pioneering painter and adventurer in British Columbia.

For those of you interested in a real water garden, the copious notes I took on August 24th at our meeting are a bit overwhelming as I read them over today. Kathy Thomas brought many beautiful plants that would be appropriate for those gardens and she seemed to know each one intimately. I have a feeling that our speaker would be very generous with her knowledge and passion for this subject if I needed some extra help in finding the right pump for my trickling water feature or if you needed more extensive information on mosquito discs, fertilizer tablets, how to shape the coated chicken wire or whether that big, beautiful umbrella plant would be right for your new water garden.

Kathy Thomas is also a firm believer in the Rain Garden Initiative and she left some marvelous handouts for us.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 28

Integrated Pest Management

Speaker: Master Gardener, Sandy Lentz

Even if you have no pests to manage at the present time, come and meet our speaker who comes to us from Oak Park where she volunteers and is on the board of the Oak Park Conservatory. She's been a master gardener since 1999, is a member of their speakers bureau, and, writes a column on herbs for their bi-monthly newsletter. Sandy also participates in the Master Gardener Program at help desks at area garden centers and also the Naperville Farmers Market.

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)

How Insecticides and Miticides Work: October 26 at 6:45—8:30 pm Dr. Raymond Cloyd a state extension entomologist will show how insecticides and miticides kill plant-feeding insects and mites and how these materials should be applied safely. Contact the U. of Illinois Extension office in Wheaton (630-653-4114). This will be a teleconference class and the fee is \$10.

Platt Hill Nursery (advertiser) offering free seminars—(630) 529-9394

Saturday, 10/14 at 10 am Overwintering Your Roses, Perennials & Grasses
Friday, 11/10 4-8 pm Holiday Open House

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

Scarecrow Making Classes—Clothes, Straw and additional materials supplied for \$12.
Sat 9/30 10-11 am, Tues. 10/3 6-7 pm, Thurs. 10/5 6-7 pm, Tues. 10/10 6-7 pm

Green Hairy Scary Creature—Make a scary creature and watch its top grow into a spiky green hairdo. Fee is \$5. Saturday, October 7, 2-3 pm

Pumpkin Painting—Paint a pumpkin and take home a masterpiece. Fee is \$5.
Thurs. 10/12 6-6:30 pm, Tues. 10/17 6-6:30 pm, Sat. 10/21 11-11:30 pm

Pumpkin Centerpiece—Pumpkin, ivy and fall decorations for a fee of \$16.
Sat. 10/21 1-2 pm, Sun., 10/22 11am to 12pm, Sat. 11/28 10-11 am

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

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the meeting?**

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day before the
meeting.**

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
 * Like children, mint *
 * will get into *
 * anything, so be *
 * careful where you *
 * plant it. *
 * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **Lou Horton is a State Outstanding Master Gardener:** ★
 ★ Lou and his wife, Nicki, attended a special banquet where ★
 ★ he received this special award for his dedicated service to ★
 ★ the University of Illinois Master Gardener Program. Lou is ★
 ★ active at the DuPage County office in Wheaton. It was ★
 ★ noted that he was a problem solver, he was an active ★
 ★ member of the garden clinic team that diagnosed samples ★
 ★ brought in by the public twice a week and he was a mem- ★
 ★ ber of the interview team that presented the candidates ★
 ★ for the new class of interns at the extension office. ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



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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
September 28	Sandy Lentz	Integrated Pest Management
October 26	Sam the Tool Man	Caring for your Tools
November 16	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing

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.

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Notes and Announcements

Nominating Committee: Angie Sadauskus (231-5851) would love to talk to you if you'd like to be the club's historian. The club's history is really interesting. Also, Angie says the slate of nominees will be presented at the October meeting and then we will vote in November when we have our annual potluck/voting/sharing meeting.

Be on the Lookout: This is the time of year for 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.

A new location has been found for our meetings! Three elves by the name of Linda, Billie and Irene N. checked it out. Its one floor with a kitchen and it's nice. Change can be good. As of January, 2007 we will hold our meetings at Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago. A big thank you to the elves for all the research, time and effort on the club member's behalf.

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

Photographers: Is it possible that you have any photos from the Garden and Porch Walk? Pamela is still looking for any and all photos — would you please e-mail or snail mail her copies of your pics.

Germany, anyone?: July 16 thru July 23—those are the dates for the big Sister Cities Trip to Germany. They need 15-20 people to make the trip feasible. A representative from Sister Cities will be available at the September meeting to answer your questions. **IMPORTANT** Anyone interested in the trip needs to declare their interest by the end of the night of our September meeting.

We made the news again: Sept 17th Sunday Tribune Home and Garden section — an article titled "Walking the Walks" highlighted our garden walk with a photo and commentary on Lou Horton's giant Hostas.

Newsletter input: We need your input—articles, stories, recipes, suggestions, items for sale or wanted, etc. for inclusion in your newsletter.



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The Brown Recluse Spider

By Lou Horton

Many people are aware of the reputation of the Brown Recluse Spider (*Loxosceles reclusa*) but few residents of northern Illinois realize that some have made their way into our area and in fact have been here for some years. You are not likely to run into one while working in your garden because they are not yet winter hardy this far north. They can, however, survive very nicely within buildings and are doing so, perhaps in more locations than we realize. Left undisturbed, a population of Recluses introduced in containers, furniture, firewood, etc. which was moved here from their native habitat from central Illinois south can thrive. A Recluse is relatively long lived (up to two years) and a single female is capable of producing hundreds of young in that period of time. Since they are non-descript in appearance and secretive by nature, they well may exist in a building for years along with humans and not be noticed. In fact, a sizable group of perhaps a hundred or more was recently found living in a house in Wheaton along with a family including two small children with no evidence that anyone had been bitten. That is probably due to the fact that the Recluse is not large or aggressive and bites only when it feels threatened.

The Recluse has earned a scary reputation because its bite can result in long lasting injury to those individuals especially sensitive to it's venom. In those people, the bites often lead to necrotic lesions that require medical treatment and can take years to heal fully. Fortunately, the spider's fangs are short and almost any type of clothing will protect a person from being bitten.

So, how does one know a Recluse if one runs across one? The Recluse has two distinguishing features which make positive ID possible. The bad news is that both features require a good magnifying glass to see properly. The Recluse has a violin shaped mark on it's back and has six rather than the usual (for a spider) eight eyes arranged in pairs in a semi circle on it's head. Other than that, it pretty much looks like many small spiders we see in our homes and our gardens. It never makes a web and prefers to hunt at night for the bugs that make up it's diet. Male Recluses are normally smaller than the females and have somewhat longer legs.

Those bitten by Recluses often encountered them while rummaging through boxes in storage areas or rolled on them while in bed. In the South, the Recluse is common. Some experts contend that in some areas they are to be found in as many as 90% of homes and outbuildings. The fact is, however, there are relatively few reports of Recluse bites. If one is concerned that Recluses or any other spider for that matter may be lurking in the basement, crawlspace, or shed a sensible precaution would be to wear a long sleeved shirt and some sort of gloves when working there. It is also wise to remember that spiders are generally considered the gardener's friend since they prey on many types of insect pests.

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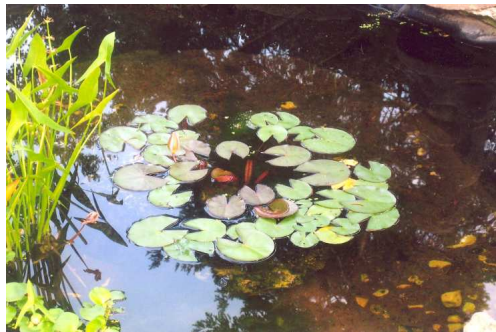
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Kruse House Photos

By Angie Sadauskus



KRUSE HOUSE WORK DAYS

Keep these dates 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. September 30, 9-12 & Sat. October 28, 9-12



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