



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 10 Issue 9 September 2007

Inside this issue

Events Outside the Club	2
Calendar of Events	3
News and Announcements	4
Native Trees and Shrubs	5
Kahlil Gibran on Beauty	6

"Backyard Pond Maker"

By Sandy Saad

Garden club president, Mark Luther, was very prepared to show with pride the pond he constructed in his yard. Using our new club screen, which he did the research to purchase, Mark came equipped with photos and visual layouts for the screen so we could appreciate more fully what it REALLY takes to install a pond in your own backyard.

Mark started by showing us some ponds he had seen which inspired him to have his own. There are many important questions to ask yourself before you start digging a hole in your backyard. Such as, why do you want a water feature? Are you willing to do the necessary research? Do you have the finances and a realistic budget to work with? The physical aspect...are you able to do the labor (digging, hauling

boulders and installing pumps) or do you need to pay to have it done?

Mark was fortunate in this respect due to the fact he is young and strong, and, he has a sixteen year old son (lots of free grunt labor) and his willing, able and lovely wife, June, to call upon. Oh yes, let's not forget that youngest daughter, Rosemarie. I'm certain that Mark had her hustling too.

The Luther's made this a family project! A project of this magnitude does take a toll on a families time, effort and finances...but, I sensed that it was all worth it from the their point of view.

If you think that you might want to do a water feature—first e-mail Mark to find out all the DO'S and DON'TS. I'm sure he will give you an ear full. 'Cause he's "been there and done that"!!!!

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 27

HEALTHY GARDENS

Speaker: Lynn Bement, The Compost Queen"

Yes, "The Compost Queen" cometh! All loyal subjects of the garden club will be in attendance, or, "Off with your heads"! Truly, Lynn's years as a master gardener and a passion for all things organic, including composting, makes this meeting a winner.

Join us at the 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)

The Growing Place nursery and flower farm, inc.: Naperville at Plank Road, just west of Naper Blvd. Tel: 355-4000 and a Fox Valley location at Montgomery Road, just North of Ogden. Tel: 820-8088.

- It's Not Too Late! Demos: October 6 — Admission is free — 10 am at Montgomery Road location and 1 pm at Plank Road location.

Master Gardeners will have shorter Fall and Winter hours at the NEW University of Illinois Extension Office: The new hours are 10 am till 1pm Monday through Thursday. The DuPage office has moved 1/2 mile west of Naperville road on the south side of Warrenville Road. They're in a beautiful new office on the first floor. NEW ADDRESS: 1100 E. Warrenville Road, Suite #170, Naperville, IL 60563. TEL: (630) 955-1123. [www.extension uiuc.edu/dupage](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage).

- Growing Backyard Grapes: a telenet class for \$10 each. Taught by Elizabeth Wahle, an extension specialist. Classes are held at the extension office on October 16 from 12:45 to 2:30 pm and October 18 from 6:45 to 8:30pm.

The Morton Arboretum: Among all the amazing things at the arboretum, perhaps the childrens garden has been forgotten. The Daily Herald had a great full-color, full-page ad for the children's garden there.

Cantigny : Their Fall catalogue is out and it is amazing!!!!!! Did you receive one in the mail?

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse and Garden Center in St. Charles: Lots of fall stuff for our home and garden. Plus, classes for fall decorating, making a scarecrow and carving special pumpkins are available. Call at (630) 377-6288

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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 2007:
 Individual: \$15
 Family: \$25

2007 board

President:
 Mark Luther (630) 876-1296
 mark@markluther.com

Vice President:
 Mike Saad (630) 653-1350
 mwsaad@comcast.net

Treasurer:
 John Warbiany (630) 293-5795
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 Pamela Darrah (630) 293-4130
 pdarrah@sprynet.com

Information Director:
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350
 mwsaad@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 - 2007

Date	Speaker	Topic
September 27	Lynn Bement	Healthy gardens by "The Compost Queen"
October 25	Bill Scheffler	Organic lawn, tree and shrub care
November 15	Elections, Potluck and Nora Liu	Ornamental vines

Reminders

Babysitting—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community 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 **Billie Childress** at 231-1791 by the Wednesday before the meeting.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

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News and Announcements

Elections Are Coming! The slate of board nominees for 2008 will be presented at the October meeting. If you have an interest in being on the board, please send an email to info@westchicagogardenclub.org or phone Aimee and her committee at 876-8588. The board positions are as follows:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, Information Director, and At-Large Director.

Raffle Prize: Member, Bernice McFarland, won the raffle prize at the August meeting. In case you might not have seen it— a fall planter from Prosek's with Heuchera, mums and grasses.

Membership Lists are available: Full membership lists will be available on the sharing table at the next meeting. Please take one for your convenience.

Plant Sale Needs: Bernice McFarland reminds that we will need old window blinds (that we cut up for plant markers). Also needed are 4 and 6 pack containers, plant trays and pots. The Digging Team especially needs two gallon pots. Please, don't throw these things away. Bernice McFarland stores our plant sale potting needs in her shed. Please call her and drop off your things. Her phone# is 231-0635. Her address is 555 E. National in West Chicago. She'll be glad to hear from you and give you directions if you need them.

Workshops: Is anyone interested if we re-instate these? My vote is YES.

Meet and Greet: The West Chicago Park District has invited us to "meet and greet" two new directors: Executive Director, Gary Major and Supt. of Recreation, Leslie DeMoss on Wednesday, October 3rd from 5pm to 7pm at St. Andrews Golf Club. Refreshments will be served.

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Native Trees and Shrubs

Thanks to Matt Zerby of Wasco Nursery. 630-584-4424.
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Almost all plants provide shelter or food for wildlife in some way. However, planting native Illinois plants in your backyard habitat will deliver more benefits to you and to wildlife year after year.

Native plants naturally adapt, providing shelter and food to native wildlife more consistently, even during drought or freezing conditions. Planting native flowering species will provide an abundance of nectar, whereas nonnative, novelty counterparts do not.

Native plants are beautiful, hardy, easier to maintain and beneficial to the environment. Once you have established your native habitat, you will save time and money, and you'll reduce air pollution by eliminating or significantly reducing the need for fertilizer, pesticide, water and lawn-maintenance equipment.

American Plum (*Prunus americana*)

This is a fast-growing, great screening and habitat-developing plant with excellent snow-white spring blooms in April and May. Fall color is maroon-red.

Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

This might be the most finely branched of our oaks; acorns never reach the ground. This unique oak is one of the faster growing oaks at

two to four feet per year. Bark and structure are very similar to White Oak. The small, very sweet acorn is highly sought after by wildlife.

Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*)

This multi-stem plant grows to 15 feet tall, provides a great screen and smells great in the spring. It will grow in half to full sun and can grow on very tough sites. Flowers, leaves and fruit are aromatic.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Truly magnificent in bloom, this plant has white flowers in late July and early August that bear a striking resemblance to Sputnik. The leaves are an eye-catching glossy green. This shrub will grow in a marsh, swamp or floodplain as well as in good garden soil.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

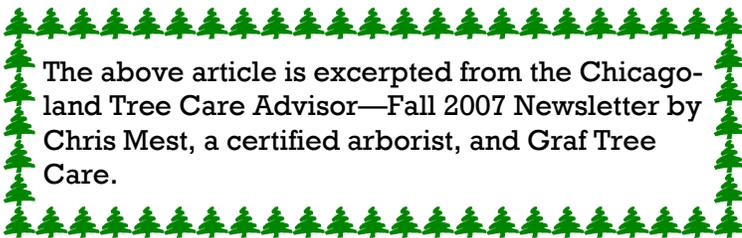
This tough, durable plant is also beautiful when flowering in June. It is a great plant for shrub borders that have a half-day sun. The purple-black fruit in August to September is relished by birds and humans alike.

Spicebush (*Kubdera benzoin*)

This very shade-tolerant shrub has yellow flowers in early April before the plant leafs out and beautiful scarlet-red fruit in the fall. The leaf and stem have a very aromatic lemon fragrance when crushed.

Indigo Bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*)

Unique purple-blue flower spikes are three to six inches long and spectacular when blooming in June. A shrub of the wetland and flood plains, it also does well in a full-sun garden. Cut it to the ground every three or four years to keep it from getting too leggy.



The above article is excerpted from the Chicago-land Tree Care Advisor—Fall 2007 Newsletter by Chris Mest, a certified arborist, and Graf Tree Care.

Phil Graf
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An excerpt on Beauty from "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran

Beauty is not a need but an ecstasy.
 It is not a mouth thirsting nor an empty hand stretched forth,
 But rather a heart enflamed and a soul enchanted.
 It is not the image you would see nor the song you would hear,
 But rather an image you see though you close your eyes and a song you hear though you shut your ears.
 It is not the sap within the furrowed bark, nor a wing attached to a claw,
 But rather a garden for ever in bloom and a flock of angels for ever in flight.

People of Orphalese, beauty is life when life unveils her holy face.
 But you are life and you are the veil. Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror.
 But you are eternity and you are the mirror.

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