



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 15 Issue 1 January 2012

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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.

NEWS FROM KRUSE IS ON VACATION THIS MONTH, BUT WHY NOT TAKE A WINTER STROLL IN THE KRUSE HOUSE GARDEN IN WINTER AND TELL US HOW IT LOOKS!

January 26th Meeting : "Open Spaces—Restoring Nature's Treasures"

This month we welcome Jayne Bohner from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. She will speak on Open Spaces—Restoring Nature's Treasures, during which we will not only learn about the mission of the District regarding conservation, education, and recreation, but will gain insight into their natural-resource-management efforts. With forest preserves in and around West Chicago, this program will help us understand the treasures just around the corner.



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

7:00 - refreshments and gathering

7:15 - brief business meeting

7:30 - speaker

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23rd:

"HUMMINGBIRDS" with Nancy Carroll

Did you have fun at the auction in November? Be sure to start collecting **NEW Garden Dollars for 2012** when you participate in club activities. One way to earn an easy 50 GD is to renew your membership prior to February 2nd - see the last page of this newsletter for the form, and bring it to the January meeting!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Bird Walk around the grounds looking for finches in particular. Saturday, February 11, 8:30 AM. Meet at the Visitor's Center. Parking is complementary and no fee for the event.

Growing Place: Make a Hypertufa Trough, Saturday, Jan 28, 9:30 AM or 1 PM, Aurora, \$35; Create a Mosaic Flower Pot, Saturday, Feb 4, 9:30 AM, 4" pot \$35, 6" pot \$45; call 630-355-4000 to register.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Orchids for Beginners, Saturday, Feb 12, 2 p.m. \$5, please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Guerrilla Gardening. Tuesday, Feb 8, 7 - 9 p.m., \$10/\$12, register online at <https://register.chicagobotanic.org/tickets/show.asp>.

Morton Arboretum: Prairie Restoration: Does it Work? Explore diversity of Schulenberg Prairie. Lunch and Learn, fee includes lunch. Wednesday, Feb 1, 11:30 AM. Member fee \$22.



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and add some beauty to your garden at



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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 2012: Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

Board Meetings

2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church

910 Main Street, West Chicago

2012 WCGC BOARD:

President:

Keith Letsche 630-293-0192

Vice President:

Dick Darrah 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:

open

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, pmbiggs@juno.com

June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com

Information Director:

Elaine McCluskey 630-293-4773,

emclluskey@sbcglobal.net

Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2012

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
26 Jan	Jayne Bohner, DuPage Forest Preserve	Open Spaces / Restoring Natures Treasures	28 Jun	TBD, Growing Place	Vertical Gardening
23 Feb	Nancy Carroll, Garden Clubs of Illinois	Hummingbirds	26 Jul	J Hawthorne's backyard	President's Picnic
22 Mar	Jan Hanson, Master Gardener	Body Smart Gardening	23 Aug	Mel Zaloudek, Garden Clubs of Illinois	The Shaded Garden
26 Apr	Dave Wanniger/Beaver Creek Nursery	Woodies that fit	27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
19 May	All members	Plant Sale!	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
24 May	Colleen Graudens & Tony Koch	Alternatives to Invasives	15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

GARDEN CLUBS OF ILLINOIS IS ONLINE
 Did you know that as a WCGC member, you are also a member of the Garden Clubs of Illinois? You should be receiving the magazine *Garden Glories* quarterly. If you aren't please contact the editor at emcluskey@sbcglobal.net.
 You can also find them online with a calendar of events of area garden clubs, book reviews, and much more.
http://gci.esiteasp.com/garden_glories/index.htm



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The Growing Place
 celebrating 75



AWARD-WINNING PLANTS FOR 2012

Many organizations give out awards for great plants. Each group creates its own criteria for the awards, from new plants to particular climates, to the reach of the plant internationally. We've all been attracted to that tag in the garden center identifying a particular plant as an award-winner. This doesn't guarantee that the plant will grow in your garden, but likely they will do well somewhere! From the www.gardeners.com website, here are some of the lucky plants for 2012:

All-America Selections (AAS):

- Black Olive ornamental pepper
- Summer Jewel Pink salvia
- Cayennetta pepper
- Fairie watermelon

Perennial Plant Association (professional trade group):

- Jack Frost brunnera

Gold Medal Plants (Pennsylvania Horticultural Society):

- Rising Sun redbud
- Darts Duke viburnum
- Japanese cornei dogwood
- Portugal laurel

Fleuroselect (international ornamental trade group):

- Agastache hybrid* "Astello Indigo"
- Alcea rosea annua* "Spring Celebrities Crimson"
- Echinacea hybrid* "Cheyenne Spirit"
- Salvia coccinea* "Summer Jewel Red"
- Viola corunta* "Sorbet XP Delft Blue"

The National Garden Bureau, a nonprofit trade group, declared 2012 the Year of the Heuchera, the Year of the Geranium, and the Year of the Herb.

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RIVER BIRCH BARK PEELING AT MORTON ARB



Website for Illinois' Best Plants



The Chicago Botanic Garden maintains a database to help you select the perfect plants for your landscape. This great tool is accessible to the public from the website <http://www.bestplants.org/>. You can search in a variety of ways, and there are helpful tips for using the tool. As an example of how it works, I put in that I wanted a small flowering tree, with no particular shape, from 8-15 ft tall, and got back 3 possibilities: Shadblow serviceberry, Star magnolia, and Crab apple. It tells me the bloom color, the shape, and other types of interest in that plant. As you dream of new ideas for your garden during these dark, winter months, this could be a source of inspiration for you. There is also a great list of printed resource in case you want to dig deeper.



BOOK CORNER

Here's another in an occasional series on books of interest to gardeners. If you've read a book you'd recommend to a fellow gardener, send the editor a short review, along with the book title and author. Thanks to Shirley Remes for submitting this one:

“My First Ladies: Twenty-five Years as the White House Chief Floral Designer”

by Nancy Clarke

This was a fascinating book and a quick read, telling all the secrets of how they make the White House floral arrangements, how many they make, and how they choose the designs, plus the long hours the designers, staff, and volunteers put into decorate the White House and make flower arrangements for all the many events. Clarke shares the differences between the First Ladies from Rosalynn Carter to Michelle Obama. Even if you're not into floral design, you will enjoy this book for the inside look at how things run at the White House.

This book was available at the St Charles Public Library, and is also available at the West Chicago Public Library by request through the Library Integrated Network Consortium (LINC) system.

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ENJOYING BIRDS IN WINTER *by Heather Prince of the Growing Place*

Birds brighten our winter days with their winged acrobatics and musical songs. Welcoming birds to your yard can be easy with a little planning. Birds require food, water, shelter, and nesting sites.

There are many ways to feed birds, but to create a lasting refuge, try to create a landscape that feeds them year-round. Each species of bird has its own specific needs, but in general include plants with fruits, seeds, berries, and cones. The more diverse types of food you provide, the more species of birds you will attract. Choose high-quality bird seed with a small percentage of millet to attract the greatest variety of birds. Consider adding a suet feeder for woodpeckers and other birds that enjoy the high-fat treat. Also, think about having plants that form seeds or fruits at different times of the year. For example, the new cultivars of crabapples have small, hard berries that persist through winter to feed birds in early spring when there are few options.

A heated birdbath is a favorite place for our feathered friends in winter. There are several types of heaters designed for birdbaths available. Fresh water not only provides a drink but helps birds preen and clean themselves.

Offering hiding places and nesting sites will encourage birds to make your yard home. Many birds nest between five and eight feet above the ground. Consider adding dense shrubs, evergreens and trees for birds to hide and build nests. A mix of open areas and denser plantings creates habitat for a large range of species.

For a fun project, get the kids involved to make a gift for your backyard birds by creating pinecone bird feeders. You'll need:

- * Large, open pine cones
- * Peanut butter
- * Birdseed, chopped dried fruit, and/or chopped nuts
- * Fishing line, twine, ribbon or string
- * Plate or dish
- * Butter knife



Cut a piece long piece of twine and tuck it up under the top sets of scales on the pinecone, then tie securely. Spread the peanut butter on the inside and outside of the cone. Sprinkle seed mixture on top of cone, then roll it in a dish of seed to get maximum coverage. Hang the cone from a branch near where birds are likely to shelter such as evergreens or dense shrubs. Tip: If you have collected cones from the neighborhood, consider drying them on a foil-lined cookie sheet in a 200 degree oven for about 45 minutes with the door cracked. This will kill any critters and allow the sap to melt, making them much less sticky to work with.



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GARDEN DOLLAR AUCTION 2011

What a great time we had at our November auction and dinner. Thanks to all our sponsors and members who provided auction prizes and to all those who planned and carried out the event. Start collecting your GD for 2012 in anticipation of this November's auction!





West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2012

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2012 are due by the February meeting and will be considered over-due as of February 28th. The board would appreciate receiving dues as soon as possible

With your paid membership you receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication Garden Glories.

Individual Membership:

\$15 per year

Family Membership:

\$25 per year

(For multiple members at a single address)

Our meetings in 2012 will be held on the 4th Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3rd Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

Please make checks payable to the West Chicago Garden Club. You can bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
c/o Mike Saad
27W206 Manchester Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190-1440

Members paying dues early will receive Garden Dollars!

by February 2nd 50 GD

Application

type: New or Renewal
class: Individual or Family

Name(s): _____
(Print) _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

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Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Note: e-mail addresses may be shared with garden club members.

Send newsletters via: E-mail or Mail

Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will not get phone reminders of any garden club events.)