



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 17 Issue 1 January 2013

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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 and no reservations are necessary.

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



THANK YOU TO ELAINE
MCCLUSKEY FOR SERVING
AS OUR NEWSLETTER
EDITOR! WE APPRECIATE
HER PAST EFFORTS!

January 24th Meeting : "Pioneer Gardens" with Nancy Schumm-Burgess

Knowledge of plants was "woman's business" in the early settlement days of this country.

Pioneer women knew everything about garden flowers, and they passed this knowledge on to their children and grandchildren. From the 'viagra' of pioneer days to the cure for the common cold, this presentation explores the history of the kitchen garden, the wild gardens, and the more formal gardens that would surround a pioneer home.



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - speaker

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 28th:

"Vegetables" with The Growing Place

**LOOK FOR NEW MEMBERS Yoshiaki & Mari Takei
and John & Barb Warbiany AT THE JANUARY MEETING!**

Did you have fun at the auction in November? Be sure to start collecting **NEW Garden Dollars for 2013** 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. Saturday, February 9, 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 26, 10 AM or 1 PM, Aurora, \$40; Create a Mosaic Flower Pot, Saturday, Jan 26, 1 PM, 6" pot \$45, 8" pot \$60; call 630-355-4000 to register.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Orchids for Beginners. Saturday, Feb 9, 2:00—2:30 PM, St. Charles, \$5. Learn the basic techniques on how to keep these beautiful blooming plants happy in your home; Houseplants for Your Home. Saturday, Feb 16, 1—2 PM, St. Charles, Free. Lighting, watering techniques and selection will be discussed.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Seed Swap. Sunday, Feb 24, 3 - 5 PM, Parking fee applies for non-members

Morton Arboretum: Chocolate Expo & Market. Feb 2 & 3, 10 AM—4 PM, Visitor's Center. The Expo & Market will present chocolatiers who offer a unique array of chocolate products: truffles, chocolate sauces, preserves, and much, much more! *The Arboretum also features a Chocolate Exhibit all February 9 AM-4 PM, Visitor Center. This mini exhibit highlights the growing, harvesting, and production process of chocolate and its relationship to trees. Free with Arboretum admission.*

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn
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
westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership information

Dues for 2013: 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

2013 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 & Publicity:
Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2013

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
24 Jan	Nancy Schumm-Burgess	Pioneer Gardens	27 Jun	Bill Scheffler	Yogurt, Vinegar & Lawn Care
28 Feb	The Growing Place	Vegetables	25 Jul	All members	President's Picnic
28 Mar	James Rowan	Don't Squash That Bug	22 Aug	TBA	Monarch Magic
25 Apr	Wasco Nursery	New & Unusual	26 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
18 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	24 Oct	Bill Karges	Fall Garden Prep
23 May	Dave Wanninger	Low Maintenance	21 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction



**A special THANK YOU to
Dick Darrah for obtaining
gift certificates for our
Garden Dollar Auction!**

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News from Kruse

by Billie Childress & Angie Sadauskas

Our Garden Club will once again be supporting garden maintenance at the Kruse House Museum Garden. We started this project back in 1998 when this club was resurrected from dormant status by some ingenious Historical Society members. The Garden Club has invested many hours and dollars over the years and the garden has evolved into a very fine garden. We are confident that the Kruse family would be proud that it is still a garden enjoyed by the community. Their intent was to preserve a snippet of their lives; thus the property was donated to the Historical Society in the 1960s. The gardens were always important to them. It was only in their later years they were unable to maintain the grounds in the fine style they were accustomed to. The revived garden has matured to where it currently 'gives back'. We are able to dig quite a number of plants for our annual plant sale.

Most of our plans for the garden this year involve maintenance with the usual



tweaking as needed. However, we do intend to install a significant ginkgo tree as well. Gardens are never static and many of the old trees are dying off. It's high time we get a new one started. We would also like to redo a stone wall that is falling apart as you can see in the middle of this picture.

It is a dry stack wall original to the garden. **Is there anyone who would volunteer for that project?** It should be done early spring but we are so busy with general garden clean-up at that time that it's unlikely that we'll get to it. Let us know if you can help. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

Angie, Tom, and I work most every Monday morning in the garden.

Something to put on your calendar...join us!

Looking forward to a great year in the Kruse Garden! A&B



In Memoriam... Donations to West Chicago Public Library

In Memory of Bernice McFarland, who passed on May 12, 2012, we donated *Restoring American Gardens, an Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants* by Denise Wiles Adams.

In Memory of Irene F. Muilenburg, who passed on June 29, 2012, we donated *The Hypertufa How-To Manual* by Claudia F. Brownlie.



Garden Dollar Auction Sponsors—THANK YOU!

We can do our part to thank the businesses who so generously donated auction items by taking the time to shop in their stores, and personally thank them for their donation to our club.

The Growing Place
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IMPROVING YOUR WINTER LANDSCAPE by Heather Prince of The Growing Place

Winter is a great time to examine your views through your windows and evaluate what you see. Are the views boring? You can add interest in the winter with the textures of branches, a framework of trees and varying shades of evergreen. Here are some things to think about as you take a look around:

Color—Enliven your view and delight your eye by adding a splash of color.

Greens - Evergreens come in many sizes and shapes but also colors. The crisp blue of juniper or spruce lends distance to your view. The bright gold of false cypress can cheer up a part shade corner. Some types of arborvitae shrubs turn rich orange for added drama. Groundcovers may be evergreen, too. Pachysandra's glossy dark foliage stands out in winter. Ajuga's dark burgundy leaves add interesting accents at the front of the border.

Reds and yellows - Many shrubs such as yellow twig or red twig dogwood have beautiful winter bark that is especially showy in front of mature pines or spruces.

Late winter flowers - Watch for early blossoms! Some hardy plants and bulbs bloom as soon as the temperatures rise regularly above freezing. It's great fun to find the first flower of the year. Consider adding snowdrops, winter aconite, snow crocus, hellebores, witchhazels or Cornelian cherry dogwoods for an early bloom.

Views—Take a moment to pay attention to your views indoors and out.

What are some of your favorite views from inside? Are there picture windows that could use a focal point? A home office that needs inspiration? Kitchen windows that look out to an empty deck? Think about what sorts of colors and textures might enliven your view to the outdoors.

Step outdoors and step back to look at your house. You might even want to cross the street or stop next door. Do you like what you see? What do visitors experience when they walk to your front door? What do you see when you walk through your backyard?

Are there views that you do not enjoy? Winter can be a good time to notice areas where you may want some screening. Plants can soften unsightly views and disguise troublesome areas.

Birds—Our feathered friends are attracted to different plants each season. In winter try to provide food and shelter.

Birds are hungry in winter. Consider planting plants that produce berries and seeds such as crabapple, viburnum, chokecherry, ornamental grasses and junipers.

It's cold out there! Birds will frequently roost together in dense evergreen trees and shrubs such as yews, spruces and junipers. They also prefer dense shrubs as cover from hungry predators.



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2013

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2013 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 2013 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)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Used to distribute club information – may be shared with WCGC board.

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.)

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