



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

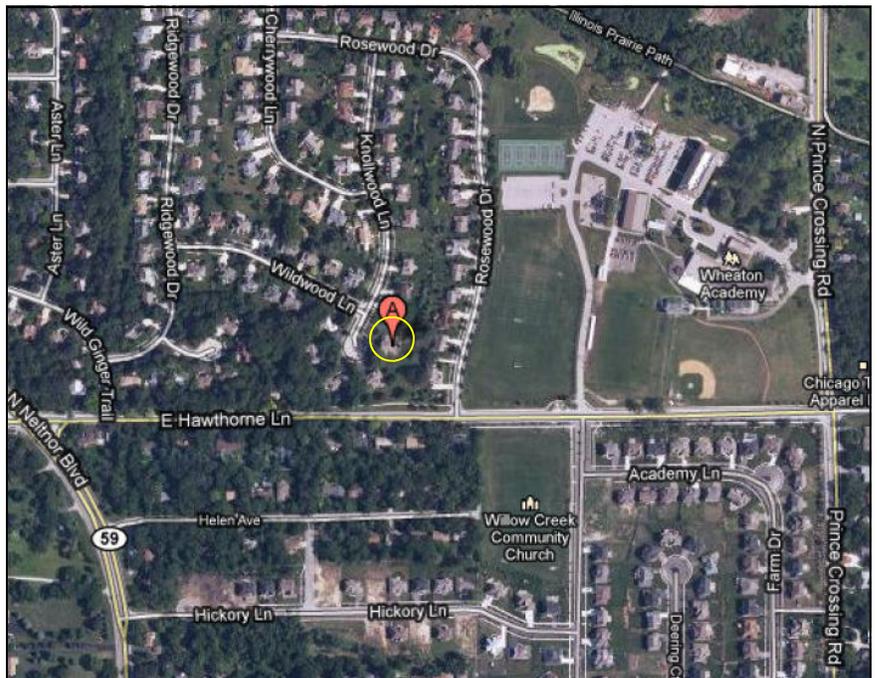
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July 22nd Meeting : "President's Picnic" - start time 6:30!

Join us at VP Jeff Handel's lovely garden and home for an evening picnic and fellowship at **935 Knollwood Ln** in West Chicago (see circle on map). The club will provide drinks, the main course (chicken and burgers) and plates/utensils. Please bring a **chair to sit on, plus a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.**



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.



Next Meeting: Thursday, August 27: TOUR OF BALL SEED DISPLAY GARDENS on Town Rd in West Chicago. Meet at 6:30!

BE SURE TO GREET OUR NEWEST MEMBER, PAMELA CALIGIURI, AT THE JULY PICNIC MEETING!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

West Chicago Prairie: Guided tours in conjunction with West Chicago City Museum exhibit "A Prairie Primer," June 24, July 31, August 17, 10 a.m. to noon Free, but reservations required. 630-231-3376 or email museum@westchicago.org.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Keep your planters looking great during the summer heat! RSVP July 24, 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Free program, please call 630-377-6288 to register.

Open Garden Day in Lake Forest: Four private gardens open during the Garden Conservancy Open Garden Day, July 25. \$5/garden, payable at the first garden. Start at the Garden at Elawa Farm, 1401 Middlefork Dr, Lake Forest. <http://gardenconservancy.org/opendays/events.pl?ID=388&SortBy=&State=>.



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Your Gardening Source....



The Passalong Plaque

A few years ago a friend gave me a beautiful plate full of baked treats that had these words on it: *This plate shall have no owner for its journey never ends. It travels in the circles of our family and friends.* I was very touched by her gift, and passed the plate along to another friend with my special chocolate raspberry bars. This tradition has connected many people over many years.

Traditions are important in our gardens just like they are in other parts of our lives.

In 2008, Dorothy O'Connor gifted Billie Childress with a plaque that says *It takes a long time to grow an old friend.* In 2009 Billie passed it along to Angie Sadauskas. Recently Angie gave it to Tom Fessler, as seen in the photo to the right. Billie said, *I trust this is just the beginning of many years for this passalong tradition.*

Do you have a tradition in your garden you'd be willing to put a newsletter article? If so, please contact your newsletter editor.





Calendar of events - 2010

| Date | Speaker/Organizer | Topic/Event | Date | Speaker/Organizer | Topic/Event |
|--------------|-------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|---|
| July 22 | All Club Members | President's Dinner | October | Billie & Angie | Gazing Ball Workshop |
| August 1 | All Club Members | Open Gardens - garden walk & Kruse Garden open house | October 21 | Joannie Rocchi | Bulbs from A to Z |
| August 26 | Susan Schmitz | Club Meeting - Tour of display gardens at Ball Seed | November 18 | All Club Members | Potluck Dinner Garden Dollar Auction |
| September 23 | The Growing Place | Club Meeting - Paths and Walkways | | | |



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LOOKING FOR PLANT INFORMATION?

Longwood Gardens has launched its Plant Explorer website. Plant Explorer allows you to look up any plant by name and provides unprecedented access to Longwood's plant records, plant images, garden information and interactive maps.

You can access Plant Explorer at <http://plantexplorer.longwoodgardens.org/>



Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
(630) 585-4005

Membership information

Dues for 2009:
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

2010 WCGC BOARD:

President: VACANT

Vice President:
Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765, jjhandeldds@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Barb Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:
Dee Soustek (630) 393-0652, dsoustek@aol.com

Program Chair:
Lou Horton (630) 293-7735, lehorton85@ameritech.net

Information Director:
Elaine McCluskey (630) 293-4773,
emclluskey@sbcglobal.net

Plant Sale Co-Chairs:
Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com
Tom Fessler (630) 231-0535, fess2000@aol.com



News from Kruse by Angie & Billie, Kruse House Garden Coordinators

“And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Matthew Ch. V11, V 28-29



Many compliments were paid to the lilies of the Kruse Garden this past month! The warm pink L.A. (longiflorum-asiatic) hybrid named Algarve, located by the front door especially garnered a lot of attention, as it's easily from the street on drive by and was magnificently showcased by the brilliant yellow of the Mary Todd daylily in the foreground! What a stunning display it was! This L.A. lily is as sturdy as a young tree with abundant flowers that hold up well and have fragrance of raspberries and roses. It is the second year for this rock star and we hope it keeps performing for many years to come.

Cultivation of lilies in this country is recorded as early as 1654 by Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Massachusetts and the popularity of the genus never fades. From natives to cutting edge hybrids they provide breathtaking displays of color, form, and fragrance! It's not too early to prepare your shopping list for 'must have' lilies to plant this fall. Anyone interested in a group order? Let Billie know by the end of July if you are.

What??? You saw an old livestock trough planted with herbs by the back door of the Kruse House?! Well, what you actually saw was a **replica** of an old livestock trough that resides in Prince Charles garden as seen in a recent copy of English Garden magazine. The magazine article tells that Prince C doesn't like to throw anything away so old trough became a splendid planter. Angie decided we needed something like that for the space by the back door. Put a good idea like that together with a skilled carpenter and waalaa....a rustic 'box' that looks very much like the real deal! We are tickled pink with this 'new' addition! Since herbs by the back door were common historical arrangement, rosemary, thyme, oregano, basil, and such, grace the trough planter. What will we think of next?! Yes, you can snip an herb or two on your visits to enjoy the Kruse Garden. Happy to share with you!



Looking forward to seeing you at the annual celebration of **The Secret Garden at the Kruse House and the Posey Mosy garden stroll** (see the article on page 5) on **August 1st!**

See you in the garden.....A&B





SECRET GARDEN AT THE KRUSE HOUSE & POSEY MOSEY GARDEN STROLL

The West Chicago Garden Club is again sponsoring its annual free **Open Garden Day at the historic Kruse House Secret Garden** at 527 Main Street in downtown West Chicago on Sunday afternoon, August 1st. The West Chicago Historical Society will be offering tours of the Kruse House during the afternoon.



In addition to tours of the Kruse House garden, there will be **several other gardens on this free tour**. These gardens were participants (including winners) in the 2009 **Wonderful Gardens of West Chicago contest**, sponsored by the West Chicago Garden Club. One garden on the tour is a large suburban garden with trees and shrubs planted in honor of each grandchild, a small garden railroad, and many lovely garden features and plantings.

The remaining gardens are on a cul-de-sac in the Woodboro townhouse complex. These gardens were started eleven years ago by several dedicated gardeners and the entire cul-de-sac now represents what a group of dedicated gardeners can do. There are many interesting garden features, a wonderful garden waterall and pond, and unique and lovely garden ornamentation.



The gardens will be **open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** The Kruse Garden is “stop 1” of the Posey Mosey garden stroll. Enjoy the delights of the Kruse Garden, and taste test the home baked treats and lemonade. Then, follow your program and map to visit award winning contest gardens located around town! Please don't miss this opportunity!

We still need a few more volunteers to bake 4 dozen goodies or to help visitors at a garden the day of the event. You can sign up at the July meeting if you haven't already done so, or call Billie Childress to volunteer to bake (630-231-1791) and Carole Bates (630-293-4953) to volunteer to be a garden host. Your help is greatly appreciated!!!



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Watering Tips for Homeowners by Heather Prince from *The Growing Place*

Summers in the Chicago area can be challenging for plants. We often need to water the landscape, especially if you have added new plants.

When you water, water the ground slowly and deeply. Plants drink water through their roots, and keeping water off the leaves can reduce some diseases. When sprinklers are needed, water in the morning whenever possible so foliage has time to dry. Watering deeply encourages roots to grow deeper.

How to know if water is needed? Put your finger down into the soil 2 inches deep (under the mulch). When the soil is dry, water.

In your gardens:

Sprinklers should run just long enough to equal an inch of rain. You can test how much water your garden receives by using a rain gauge.

If you have mulch over your beds, the water will need to get through to the soil.

Use a low sprinkler, not a fan sprinkler. They lose too much water to evaporation.

Soaker hoses are efficient. Use a portable 10 foot section that can easily be moved or place longer sections throughout the garden. The hose must run long enough so that the soil is wet 4 inches deep. Soaker hoses may need to be moved so all sides of the plants will be watered.

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- 7/2- 8 Red, White & Blue Sale
- 7/15 Growing Rewards Member Night
6 pm – 8 pm (both locations)
- 7/16-8/7 Summer Sale
- 7/17 Summer in the Garden (Aurora)
10 am Containers – Create a "Grown Up" Miniature Garden (cost of materials, call to register)
- 11:30 Landscaping – Hydrangeas for Every Home
- 1 pm Edibles – Veggie Gardener's Forum! All welcome
- 1 pm Kids – Inviting the Fairies: Miniature Gardens (c.o.m.)
- 2:30 Perennials – Big, Bold, and Bodacious Beauties
- 8/21 Taking the Garden into Fall (Aurora)
- 9/18-19 Fall Festival (Aurora)



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