



# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club  
www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 16 Issue 7 July 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 and no reservations are necessary.

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



## July 26th Meeting :

### **"President's Picnic" at Hawthorne's Backyard!**

Our annual picnic will have a new spin this year - catered at **Hawthorne's Backyard Bar and Grill at 1200 W. Hawthorne Lane, West Chicago.** All those attending should have called in advance for reservations. If you are late to do this, please call June Luther at 630-876-1295 or Keith Letsche at 630-293-0192 to see if there's room.

*Make a new gardening friend - sit next to someone you don't know yet!*



6:30 - gather  
7:15 - dinner is served!

Be sure to welcome our newest members when you see them at the picnic:

Joanne Hellman, Marilyn Moody, Pat and Linc Read

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 23rd: *The Shaded Garden*



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

DuPage County Forest Preserve: Field Exploration of West Chicago Prairie, Saturday, Aug 11, 8-11 AM. Free. Register by calling 630-293-1627.

Cantigny: **Wine Through the Gardens: Stroll the gardens, stop at 3 'hotspots' and partake of wine while you listen to horticultural specialists. Finish the tour with tasty treats.** Tuesday, Aug 7, 6:30 PM, \$25. Register at <http://www.cantigny.org/events/event.aspx?id=ad85a4a4-26c2-dd11-90f4-0016355d9f60>.

Spring Bluff Nursery: Fairy Garden Festival, Friday-Sunday, July 27-29, more at [http://www.springbluffnursery.com/documents/FairyFestival2012\\_000.pdf](http://www.springbluffnursery.com/documents/FairyFestival2012_000.pdf).

DuPage County Fair: Vegetable & Flower Competitions. July 25-29 in Wheaton. <http://www.dupagecountyfair.org/>

Chicago Botanic Garden: Herb Garden Weekend, July 28-29, 11 AM to 4 PM. Details at [http://www.chicagobotanic.org/calendar/event/herb\\_garden\\_weekend](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/calendar/event/herb_garden_weekend).



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## Club information

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://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](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

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

Secretary:  
open

Program Co-Chairs:  
Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, [briggspm@gmail.com](mailto:briggspm@gmail.com)  
June Luther 630-876-1295, [june@markluther.com](mailto:june@markluther.com)

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Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, [melissabirch@gmail.com](mailto:melissabirch@gmail.com)



## Planned WCGC Events - 2012

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
26 Jul	J Hawthorne's backyard	President's Picnic	27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
23 Aug	Mel Zaloudek, Garden Clubs of Illinois	The Shaded Garden	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
			15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

### The Garden Conservancy: Open Garden Days - West Chicago *The Gardens at Ball*

July 29th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm 622 Town Road

Guests will enjoy the opportunity to visit the Gardens at Ball, usually reserved for the wholesale customers of the 107-year-old Ball Horticultural Company, a world leader in the breeding, production, distribution, and marketing of horticultural products. An exciting new sustainable landscape will be completed along the front of the Ball property with enhancements to the perennial and container gardens also planned for 2012, totaling more than ten acres to view. Thousands of annual, perennial, and shrub varieties will be showcased in the main gardens along with flowers and vegetables in the All-America Selections evaluation trials. Additional native plantings (mostly prairie plants) can be found in the wetlands and woodlands restoration areas. Guides will be available throughout the day to give garden tours and answer questions. Allow two hours or more to visit these exceptional gardens.

Directions: Entrance to parking is just north of Roosevelt Road/Rt 38 in West Chicago. Turn north onto Town Road off Roosevelt Road. Watch for signs to the parking and main garden entrance west of the Ball Building.



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News from Kruse *by Elaine McCluskey, roving correspondent*

This month's news is about last month's club meeting, held *in the garden!* A little hot weather and thunderstorms all around us couldn't keep a crowd away from the lovely gardens on a long summer's night. Several enjoyed the West Chicago Historical Society's opening of the historic Kruse House Museum for tours. They are open every Saturday from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. through September (except Labor Day weekend), so if you didn't get in the house on June 28, there's still time to see the "Treasures of Tea" exhibit. Others came early for personal tours of the garden by Billie, Angie, and Tom, our hardest-working Kruse House garden workers.



The non-melting refreshments did their job providing a tasty treat (thanks to all those who provided those), and we had a great program from Joan Rocchi of The Growing Place about how to add vertical plant accents to your garden, using plants brought from the collections at the nursery - lots of great ideas to take home.

**There's still lots of summer left** - come out anytime to see the garden for the 1st time or again and again. As with all gardens, it's always changing. With the semi-automatic watering system, the long, hot days aren't getting the better of the garden. Come sit on one of the benches and enjoy the cool shade and the beauty that is the Kruse House Garden.





## What's New?- Unique Plants at Chicago Botanic Garden

by Elaine McCluskey



Recently I visited the Botanic Garden and saw groups of unusual container plants in the Circle Garden. I photographed them so I could find out more when I got home.

**The plant label said “Kangaroo Paw”** with the genus *Anigozanthos*. It turns out there are many species in several hot colors. Not surprisingly, this plant is native to western Australia, where it is prized and in some areas, a protected species.

The bright colors made for a very attractive combination, where red, orange, and yellow were placed together in separate containers. The flowers reminded me of forsythia in bloom, one of my favorite plants.



If you see an unusual plant, take a photo, find out more about it, and send it to the newsletter editor for inclusion in a future article!



## Watering Trees in Drought *by Heather Prince of the Growing Place*

This year has been quite a challenge for plants because of our dry winter and limited rain this season. If **you can't water all of your plants, you may want to prioritize your watering according to plant value.**

Trees are generally your biggest investment and the biggest loss if they suffer or die. Damage from drought stress on trees may not be noticeable right now, but it impacts their health two to three years down the road. At this point, even mature trees, shrubs and evergreens are drought stressed and could use a good soak. Here are some tips from the Colorado Extension Service:

### *How much water does a tree need?*

How much water your tree should receive depends upon the tree size. A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering. Measure trunk diameter at knee height. *General formula:* Tree Diameter x 5 minutes = Total Watering Time.

Example: When you hand water using a hose at medium pressure, it will take approximately 5 minutes **to produce 10 gallons of water. If you have a 4" diameter tree, it should receive 40 gallons of water** - multiply by 5 minutes to equal total watering time of 20 minutes.

Water should be distributed evenly under the dripline of the tree. This means watering should not be done against the trunk, but where the fine feeder roots are located at the tips of the branches.

### *How often should I water my trees?*

Trees should be watered about three times a month. If your tree is newly planted this year or is particularly water needy such as birch or linden, you may need to water more frequently. Check the soil moisture by placing your fingers two inches into the soil below any mulch.

### *How should I water?*

**Small Trees (1-7" diameter):** A soaker hose coiled through the root zone; End of the hose using a soft spray attachment at medium pressure; A 5-gallon bucket (with ¼" holes drilled in bottom) or watering bags – filled and set under the dripline. Newly planted and smaller trees can get adequate water by hand watering with a soft spray hose attachment.

**Medium Trees (8-15" diameter):** Soaker hose coiled several times under the dripline of the tree; End of the hose with a soft spray attachment to disperse the flow – use a medium pressure.

**Large Trees (16"+ diameter):** End of the hose with a shower like hose attachment to disperse the flow – use a medium pressure.

### *More helpful tips:*

Up to three inches of mulch will conserve moisture, keep down weeds and keep soil temperature cooler. Be sure that you put no more than one inch in flower beds and that anywhere you add mulch, you keep it away from the bases of the plants. Check under the mulch to see if your soil is dry. Sometimes mulch can trap moisture and sometimes it can keep moisture from reaching the roots!

<p>The Growing Place</p>	
	<p><b>Winging it Day... August 11</b>                  Celebrating nature! Winged fun all day!  <b>S.O.A.R. @ 3:30</b>  <b>Summer Sale!... 7/27- 8/12</b></p> <p>Aurora: 630-820-8088 Montgomery Rd                  Naperville: 630-355-4000 Plank Rd</p>



**Dangerous Weed Alert! Poison Hemlock!** *Thanks to Billie Childress for passing this along!*

From the Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic:

The Plant Clinic has received a number of reports on poison hemlock (*conium maculatum*) popping up in yards and along roadsides. University of Illinois is reporting this across the state in greater abundance than in previous years. Poison hemlock is a member of the carrot family which contains both edible and toxic plants, so beware!!).

Most members of the family have the same type of umbrella flower cluster known as a umbel. So the Queen Anne's lace and the flower cluster of poison hemlock look similar. This can lead to incorrect identification and potential contact with a dangerous plant.

Poison hemlock is a large, non-native plant (often 6 feet or more). The smooth stem is stout, has a ridged appearance and is marked with purple spots. The stem is hollow. Leaves are large and very ferny in appearance. Poison hemlock is a biennial plant, which means it will form foliage in the first year and flower and set seed in the second year. Plants in their second year are flowering now and have the typical white flower cluster of the carrot family. Queen Anne's lace has one red floret in the center of its flower cluster, poison hemlock does not.

**ALL PARTS OF THE PLANT ARE TOXIC AND MAY LEAD TO DEATH!**

The plant's oil may be absorbed through the skin, long sleeves are a must.

*Management:*

Plants can be cut down or dug out. Do this before plants go to seed. Do not burn plants. In spring, smaller, actively growing plants may be treated with an herbicide containing glyphosate.



More at:

<http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?>



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