



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 15 Issue 3 March 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.

March 22nd Meeting : "BodySmart Gardening"

Have you ever come in from the yard with aches and pains? Jan Hanson, U of I Extension Master Gardener, will help us learn how to protect ourselves from injury while gardening. BodySmart Gardening involves the tools we use and how we use those tools. It also addresses things that are within our control; such as skin and eye health and the prevention of muscle aches and strains. In addition to offering advice like this, Jan also works Help Desks at local libraries, volunteers at Kline Creek Farm, and presents Squirmin' Herman worm lessons to 3rd graders.



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, April 26th:

"WOODIES THAT FIT" with Dave Wanninger

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AT THE MARCH MEETING!

Please make our new members feel a part of the WCGC family by welcoming them and making sure they find the coffeepot and a friendly smile.

Rich & Cheryl Gallian , Marcella Kozlowski, and Len & Willine Mahony joined as new members in February. We're glad you are part of our club!



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Spring Garden Party: Be inspired by regional garden experts, Sat-Sun, Mar 31—Apr 1, 9 AM—4 PM. Register at www.mortonarb.org/education.

Growing Place: Designing for Birds & Butterflies, Saturday, Apr 14, 10 AM, Aurora. \$50, call 630-355-4000 to register.

Wasco Nursery: Planning & Pruning Seminar, Saturday, Mar 31, 10 AM-noon. \$5 proceeds payable at door benefit Garfield Farm. Call 630-584-4424 or email info@wasconursery.com to register.

Garden Clubs of Illinois: *Night and Day*, State Flower Show, free. Judging Friday, open to public Saturday, June 9, 7 AM—4 PM. Lincoln Square Village, 300 S. Broadway, Urbana, Illinois.

Art Institute of Chicago: Art in Bloom: Art Institute Garden Tour with museum's groundskeeper, Wednesday or Thursday, Apr 25 & 26, 1 PM, \$10, reservations required 312-499-4111, www.artic.edu/memberevents.

West Chicago Public Library: Conservation at Home program: receive native plant guide and butterfly identification guide, rain barrels for sale. Wednesday, Apr 18, 7 p.m.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Spring Container Planting; \$15, Wed, Apr 11 or Mon, Apr 16 @ 5:30 PM, Saturday, Apr 14 @ 10 AM, Sunday, Apr 15 @ 11 AM. please RSVP by calling 630-377-6288 to register.

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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,
emcccluskey@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
22 Mar	Jan Hanson, Master Gardener	Body Smart Gardening	28 Jun	Kruse House! Speaker from Growing Place	Vertical Gardening
7, 14, 22, 29 Apr	All members!	Potting Parties Manville Oaks Park	26 Jul	J Hawthorne's backyard	President's Picnic
26 Apr	Dave Wanniger	Woodies that fit	23 Aug	Mel Zaloudek, Garden Clubs of Illinois	The Shaded Garden
19 May	All members	Plant Sale!	27 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
24 May	Colleen Gaudens & Tony Koch	Alternatives to Invasives	25 Oct	Orchids by Hausermann	Orchids
			15 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

GARDEN STUDY COURSE I from Garden Clubs of Illinois

The popular **Garden Study** beginning with Course I will be offered **Thursday and Friday, May 2 and 3, at Garden Clubs of Illinois Headquarters in Elmhurst**. Learn from professionals in the gardening world. Fees are reasonable and no "volunteer time" is mandatory, just your interest in sharpening your gardening skills, expanding your horticultural knowledge, and meeting "hoe mates" who share your enthusiasm for becoming a more successful gardener.

Flyers with full details can be obtained from the GCI office: e-mail gardenclubsill@aol.com or telephone 630-617-9269 during office hours MWF 10 am - 3 pm.

Course II is scheduled October 2 & 3 providing an opportunity for attendees to continue the school courses and becoming eligible to gain Garden Study Consultants status.



GCI has a large and active Garden Study Council which meets regularly for exchange of ideas and field trips.

	Begin Grow Create Celebrate Design Kids Club <i>Informative Classes, Good Advice, Quality Plants, Fun Activities, Beautiful Gardens,</i>	Opening Day Festivities March 31st <i>Talks, Sales, Fun! Both locations!</i>
	Friendly Staff at... The Growing Place Aurora...630.820.8088, Montgomery Road Naperville...630.355.4000, Plank Road, www.thegrowingplace.com	



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

"Daffodils" (1804)

I WANDER'D lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretch'd in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed -- and gazed -- but little thought
What wealth the show to me had
brought:
For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.
By **William Wordsworth** (1770-1850).



Wordsworth's Daffodils—A Spring Rite of Passage

"Here I come, ready or not". No, it's not kids at play...it's the plants as they burst forth with the warm temperatures! Spring cleanup has begun and we realize that plants aren't the only thing dormant over winter. The muscles (oh my back) and memory (what did we plant there?) also need to reawaken. Votavas Lawn Care can't come until April because the refuse dump places don't open before then but April 2nd (weather permitting) we are on schedule.

Of course, the pervasive Grape Hyacinths stand out this time of year and the Ghost Lilies are thick bundles of strappy green foliage. As we inspect and stroll, great plans are made. Mrs. CW Earle 1897 pointed out in ***Pot- Pourri from a Surrey Garden*** "Half the interest of a garden is the constant exercise of the imagination". We love to exercise the imagination!

Until next time...rediscover the benches as well as the plants. A&B



PLANT SALE NEWS

The Plant Sale Committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for the **May 19th** sale at BloomingFest in downtown West Chicago. Since this is our only fundraiser of the year, the committee's planning work is critical for a successful sale.

PLANTS ARE NEEDED! The sale depends on the quality plants from our members' gardens. Without them, there is no sale. There will be a signup sheet for what plants you think you might be able to provide for the sale. Especially needed are **purple coneflowers**. Since this is the new official flower of the City of West Chicago, the committee would like to see as many purple coneflowers as possible at the sale. Ask your neighbors!

POTS ARE NEEDED! As always, pots are needed for all the plants that are dug out of member's gardens. Please bring your pots to the March meeting. All sizes are needed.

DIGGING HELP IS NEEDED! Our new plant sale committee needs volunteers who can dig plants from other people's gardens and get them to Manville Oaks Park, where they will be potted. If you have a little spare time to become a member of the Digging Squad, please sign up at the March meeting. Time commitment is during April only.

POTTING IS NEEDED! Thanks to those who already signed up at the previous meetings for a potting party. These are fun times at Manville Oaks barn where we turn the dug-up perennials into saleable items. We need 16 at each party, and with the signups we have right now,

we still need:

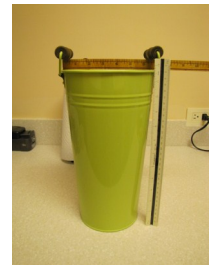
April 7th: 8 people

April 14th: 3 people

April 22nd: 6 people

April 29th: 8 people

**SO PLEASE SIGN UP AT
THE MARCH MEETING!!**



PLANT SIGN HOLDERS NEEDED! To display information about the plants we're selling, we need pots in which to place signs on wire frames. The pots need to be ~ 7" diameter, and 10-12" high. They will be filled with sand to weight them down. These are sometimes found at craft stores—see picture.

Can't make it to a meeting, but want to help or sign up? Please contact one of these Plant Sale Committee members:

Marion Martin	630-916-0357	oreomart@aol.com
Pam Lurz	630-768-1225	pam@8500ft.com
Linda Fisher	630-876-8122	lofisher977@ameritech.net
Coleen Gloss	630-951-0302	cgloss@victorypackaging.com





LAWN & LANDSCAPE SUMMIT - March 30—31

What: Organic lawn and garden care

Where: Chicago Botanic Garden

Lawn care professionals, gardeners and homeowners are invited to attend the first Lawn and Landscape Summit on March 30-31, 2012, at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill., to learn about eco-friendly and organic methods. "We are thrilled to bring together a brain trust of the industry's green leaders and hope it sparks great dialog, learning and positive action," said Brian Milam, Calcium Products brand manager and conference chair.

On Friday, March 30, the all-day summit will be geared toward turf and landscaping professionals — golf course superintendents, groundskeepers, city employees and athletic field curators. The day includes a variety of topics and speakers including Paul Cushing of Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, Peter Wild of ArborJet and Howard Garrett, landscaper, radio personality and author of 14 books.

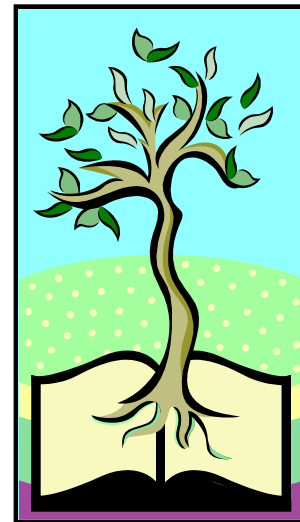
On Saturday, March 31, the general public can participate in presentations and discussions that run all morning. Topics include **organic lawn and garden care, dealing with emerald ash borer** and more. Speakers include Wild, Brian Milam of Calcium Products and William Sadler of Sadler's Natural Solutions.

Both days include presentations from Paul Tukey, founding editor and publisher of *People, Places & Plants* magazine and author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*. He is also the founder and spokesperson for SafeLawns.org.

The Summit is co-presented by Calcium Products, Inc., an Iowa company making natural soil amendments, and the **Lawn to Lake program**, which focuses on raising awareness of the connection between fertilizer and pesticide use and the health of local waterways. Sponsors include Natural Industries, Milorganite and Bradfield Organics.

"Natural Lawn care not only benefits water quality but also opens new markets for lawn care professionals and demonstrates green initiatives to customers," explained Margaret Schneemann, with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and Lawn to Lakes program manager.

To register or learn more, visit www.LawnAndLandscapeSummit.com. Registration is also available at the event. The cost for Friday's sessions geared toward industry professionals is \$75; **Saturday's general public sessions are \$40**. The first 100 attendees each day will receive a goody bag filled with samples, coupons and information.



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Chicago Botanic Garden celebrates 40-year Anniversary!

This year the Chicago Botanic Garden in Chicago's north suburbs celebrates 40 years of being open to the public. In 1965 they broke ground on 300 acres in a low, marshy area of Glencoe, then worked to expand and plant to open 7 years later. Their website has a pictorial history of the growth of the garden, along with many fun facts. Did you know that in 1979 they had 220,000 visitors and in 2009 788,893 visited? Or that the plant collection has grown from 75,000 plants in 1979 to 2,306,875 30 years later? You can add your own memory of the garden to the website at <http://forty.chicagobotanic.org/>.

This wonderful regional treasure also has a general website that is a great resource for all gardeners. Get new ideas from their Gardening Tips & Techniques page <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/how-to/>, such as how to build a Bee Condo (video included) or Growing a Salsa Garden.

Thanks to Lou Horton for sending along this well-known garden saying:

Three great reasons gardening is fun: 1. You can bury your mistakes in the compost pile. 2. You can blame your failures on the weather. 3. Gardening has nothing to do with politics.

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Season Creep from Wikipedia:

In phenology, **season creep** is a neologism that refers to observed changes in the timing of the seasons, especially earlier indications of spring widely observed in temperate areas across the Northern Hemisphere. Phenological records analyzed by climate scientists have shown significant temporal trends in the observed time of seasonal events, from the end of the 20th century and continuing into the 21st century. In Europe, season creep has been associated with the **arrival of spring moving up by approximately one week in a recent 30 year period**. Other studies have put the rate of season creep measured by plant phenology in the range of 2–3 days per decade advancement in spring, and 0.3–1.6 days per decade delay in autumn, over the past 30–80 years.

Observable changes in nature related to season creep include birds laying their eggs earlier and buds appearing on some trees in late winter. In addition to advanced budding, flowering trees have been blooming earlier, for example the culturally important cherry blossoms in Japan, and Washington, D.C. Northern hardwood forests have been trending toward leafing out sooner, and retaining their green canopies longer. **The agricultural growing season has also expanded by 10–20 days over the last few decades.**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Season_creep

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