



# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

Volume 14 Issue 11 November 2011

## Inside this issue

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Non-Club Events  | 2 |
| Club Information |   |
| Elections        |   |
| Club Events      | 3 |
| News from Kruse  | 4 |
| Fall Reflections | 5 |
| Garden Dollars   | 6 |
| Membership Form  | 7 |

**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.

## November 17th Meeting : "Potluck, Election, and Garden Dollar Auction"



**Come for one of the most entertaining events of the year.**

We have many items for the silent auction that will take place before, during, and after our dinner.

**For dinner**, a chicken main dish, beverages, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, arriving no later than 6:30 p.m.

**For the auction**, bring your Garden Dollars with you—they are the only currency that will be accepted to redeem auction items.

25 Garden Dollars will be given to each attendee as they enter the meeting.

**Do you still have uncollected Garden Dollars from this year's activities?** (see sheet on page 5 for how to earn) Figure up how much you're owed, and collect them from the welcome table as you enter. Renew your membership at the November meeting, and earn 75 Garden Dollars!

**Do you still items to donate for the auction?** Bring new or gently used garden-themed items by no later than 5:45 p.m. (afternoon is ok) to Faith Community Church, so those setting up can ensure everything is in place in time.

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.**

**Arrive no later than 6:30, dinner starts at 6:45**



**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 26th**  
**Get out of the house to hear a speaker from the**  
**DuPage County Forest Preserve**





## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Wasco Nursery:** Holiday Decorating Seminar Learn how to create masterpieces to adorn your home or business. Saturday, Nov 19, 10:0-11:30 AM. \$5 fee goes to Northern Illinois Food Bank. Registration required call 630-584-4424.

**Naperville Garden Club:** Cup of Cheer Holiday Housewalk Souvenir china cup/saucer, raffles, coffee/tea, cookies; tour fabulous homes readied for the holidays. Dec 2 (\$35), Dec 1 preview (\$55), event HQ at White Activities Center/North Central College, 10am-8pm, more info at [www.napervillegardenclub.org/cupofcheer](http://www.napervillegardenclub.org/cupofcheer) .

## Slate of Officers for 2012—Elections will be at November Meeting

In accordance with the WCGC By-laws, we will have an election for the new officers for 2012 during the November meeting. The slate of officers are:

President: Keith Letsche

Vice President: Dick Darrah

Treasurer: Barbara Darrah

Secretary: open

Program Co-Chairs: Pauline Briggs and June Luther

Information Director: Elaine McCluskey

Publicity: Melissa Birch



Several board members will retire from leadership positions after this month, having worked tirelessly on our behalf for many years. These volunteers are:

**Jeff Handel** (president), **Dee Soustek** (secretary), **Tom Fessler** (plant sale chair). **Many thanks** to them for all their hard work and long hours!

### 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 2011: 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

### 2011 WCGC BOARD:

President:

Jeff Handel 630-231-6765, [jjhandeldds@yahoo.com](mailto:jjhandeldds@yahoo.com)

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:

Dee Soustek 630-393-0652, [dsoustek@aol.com](mailto:dsoustek@aol.com)

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)

Information Director/Newsletter Editor:

Elaine McCluskey 630-293-4773,

[emclluskey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emclluskey@sbcglobal.net)

Plant Sale Chair:

Tom Fessler 630-231-0535, [fess2000@aol.com](mailto:fess2000@aol.com)

Publicity:

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



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 MON-SAT: 9-5  
 SUN: 10-4 4/15-6/30!



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

From *Olde News Now*, West Chicago Historical Society's Nov-Dec 2011 newsletter .....

"a big thank you to the West Chicago Garden Club and their members for all the hard work they do on the garden at the Kruse house. We could not maintain this historic garden without all the time they volunteer and the dedication they bring to this project."

We appreciate the recognition of our efforts! Thanks for the thank you!

It has been a good year in the garden. We keep moving steadily forward and are satisfied with our progress. We want to recognize Tom Fessler's faithful presence and helpful efforts in the garden. It will be good to have our seasonal winter break. But, we plan to be back in full force when spring rolls around again. Until then we will be happy to view the pictures taken this year and toy with some new and better ideas for next year.



Native Viburnum Triloba, fall display.....there are several in the Kruse Garden

Happy garden hibernation to all of you! A&B



**Fall Reflections** by Don Engebretson

Each year at the end of the gardening season, I have a moment of remorse, when everything I dislike about gardening tumbles across my mind like the unkempt clusters of filthy gardening tools and oily power equipment currently usurping an entire parking space in my garage.

My fingernails have been some degree of dirty since April, all the while on exhibit to the public at restaurants, retail stores, business meetings, cocktail parties, weddings, and funerals. My back aches in the morning, and my left ankle—broken while snowboarding some years ago—stiffens by evening from six months of self-induced manual labor. I think of the hours I’ve lost this summer digging holes, pulling weeds, pruning shrubs, fertilizing flowers, laying stone, moving dirt, and mowing that godforsaken lawn.

I try not to think of the money spent.

Is it all worth it, I ask myself? Of course it is. My remorse lasts but an instant before it is overpowered by memories of countless gracious moments bestowed only on those who garden.

I remember spring, when a glance at dry and winter-beaten evergreens revealed the amazing emergence of soft and succulent candles of the freshest green. Tiny sprigs of leaves appeared on shrubs and trees, while the tender tips of perennials nudged aside last year’s skeletal remains to reclaim (and enlarge!) their spot on earth. I saw, but more important, felt my tiny patch of planet awaken from desolate slumber, and soon I was blissfully in step with the true and primordial rhythm of the earth. Anyone with eyes notices the landscape greening up, but the intricate magic behind nature’s rejuvenation is gleaned only by the gardener.

I remember the giving and receiving of many plants during the summer, to and from whom (and exactly which plants) I need not remember. To garden is to share. To comment favorably about a perennial in the garden of a neighbor (or that of a barest acquaintance) is to solicit the automatic response, “You want a piece of it?” It’s a little game, a skit only gardeners can play, where everyone knows their lines and no one keeps track of how much they’ve given or received; it all evens out. A pot, a spading fork, and a hose appear, and in the back of your pickup or trunk of your car you drive home with a prized new possession, a gift of life from a fellow gardener.

I remember solving all my and the world’s problems while watering in early morning. One day I had eased away all anxiety about a potential business problem before I was halfway finished flooding a bed of thirsty *Ligularia*. A dazzling lead sentence for an article on shade gardening that was refusing to write itself popped into my head while I was giving a newly planted magnolia a good, stiff drink.

I love watering plants. The soft, hypnotic sound of water being sucked into the earth, combined with the utter mindlessness of the activity, bathes the brain in intensely creative juices. Whenever I hit a brick wall while writing, I get up, walk outside, and water. Arriving back at my computer, new words inevitably flow. Watering is better than music for soothing the beast within. When I receive bad news, I water; when angry, I water; when my garden needs water, I water. No matter the reasons, when turning off the hose, I always feel at peace.

There are those with fancy irrigation systems that automatically water fine gardens installed for them by others; the keepers of these homes are too busy and too important to water the nameless plants themselves, and that’s fine. Their houses will always be bigger than mine, their bankbooks fatter, and they will die with more toys than I, but they will never know what happens to heart and soul when you gently wake the bees at sunrise while watering a garden.



This article is reprinted from *Northern Gardening* magazine, November/December 2010 issue, with permission. This magazine is associated with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, and is one of 6 magazines sponsored by WCGC at the West Chicago Public Library to broaden the world of gardening for our community. Be sure to check them out yourself! Thanks to Billie Childress for arranging for permission to reprint!



## Garden Dollars - remember to collect them!

WCGC distributes tokens (Garden Dollars) to members who participate in club activities. At the **November meeting**, you will be able to use them at the **auction to bid on fabulous prizes**. Here's now to earn them:

|   |             |  |                    |
|---|-------------|--|--------------------|
| Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs) | 75 -<br>150 | Donate plants for the sale<br><50, 50-149, ≥150          | 75,<br>200,<br>300 |
| Donate pots   | 50          | Write newsletter article                                 | 100                |
| Donate snack for meeting  | 75          | Donate door prize  | 50                 |
| Set up or clean up meeting  | 25          | Meeting attendance                                       | 25                 |
| Trip attendance   | 25          | <b>Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2011</b> | <b>75</b>          |
| Donate to Kruse House   | 50          | <b>Pay dues before February 2nd</b>                      | 50                 |

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, pick them up at special events from the event organizer, or see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned.



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# West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2012

Our club year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 November 17th 75 GD**  
**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):

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.)