



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 11 Issue 4 April 2008

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"Things To Know"

2nd. POTTING PARTY is set for May 3.

- Further info on time and location at the April 24th mtg. We call it a PARTY 'cause it's FUN...So what if our fingers and toes were COLD on March 29th, the more we giggled, the better we felt. We were "Comrades For The Cause". Silly...Yes indeed!

- THE DIGGING SQUAD is truly trucking along with shovels, pots, crumpled newspaper, and, best of

all—helpers with a heart. At Carole Bates garden alone, 150 plants were dug in the morning with 150 more to dig hopefully another day. Billie has a schedule and a small dedicated crew (Boy Oh Boy, she'd love some help). All interested "Comrades for the Cause" please call Billie at 231-1791.

- BLOOMING FEST signs: Call Mark Luther to take a sign home for your front yard. Manchester Rd. in Winfield is already taken

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 24

"Insect Pests in the Garden"

Speaker: Dan Costa, owns and runs a garden problem solving service.

Join us at the Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.

6:45pm - sharing time, conversation and refreshments

7:15 - brief business meeting

7:30 - speaker



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Chalet Nursery Garden Faire: Friday 4/25 thru Sunday 4/27 Lake Ave. at Skokie Rd. in Wilmette 847-256-0561 or ChaletNursery.com for more on the lectures, demonstrations and so much more.

La Grange Garden Club Garden Faire: Saturday, May 3rd from 10 to 3pm at Kiwanis Park (LaGrange Rd. & Elm St.) Perennials, hanging baskets, Mother's Day Gifts, and artisans.

Schaumburg Garden Club Native Plant Sale & Backyards for Nature Fair: Takes place on Sunday, May 4 from 10 to 2pm. At Spring Valley Nature Center. 111 E. Schaumburg Rd. Call 847-985-2100 or go to www.schaumburggardenclub.com.

2008 Lilac Sale sponsored by The Lombard Garden Club: Great selection of lilacs at great prices. 3 days: 5/8 from 3 to 7:30pm, 5/9 from 8 to 5pm and 5/10 from 8am to sell out. More information at www.gardencentral.org/Illinois/Lombard.com.

Bloomingsale Garden Club Plant Sale: Friday and Saturday, May 16th and 17th at the Bloomingdale Village Hall on Bloomingdale Rd. Call Joyce at 630-327-3871.

Winfield Flower Shoppe: Proud owners Gary and Valerie, remind us that May 11 is the 100th Anniversary of Mother's Day. Did you forget? Every Mother would love something from their shop.

Meyer Landscaping: Looking for a Mother's Day present for your "garden-loving Mother"? Pick out a Prairie Fire crabapple tree, a serviceberry or a fringetree. Freshly dug and just waiting for a loving home...there's lots to choose from. IDEA: Bring your Mom and let her pick out what she'd like.

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE THE BEST AROUND: The Growing Place, Platt Hill Nursery and Wasco Nursery donated plantings for the "Secret Garden". And, yes, Ball Seed donated generously also.

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Club information

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

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Membership information

Dues for 2008:
Individual: \$15
Family: \$25

2008 board

President:
Mark Luther (630) 876-1296
mark@markluther.com

Vice President:
Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765
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Treasurer:
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Plant Sale Chair:
Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900
info@bwddarrah.com

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church
910 Main Street
West Chicago

Calendar of events - 2008

Date	Speaker	Topic
April 19		Kruse House work day.
April 24	Dan Costa	Insect pests in the garden
May 3		Hypertufa class at Planters Palette
May 17		PLANT SALE!
May 22	Dave Wanniger	Herbaceous and tree peonies
June 26	Lou Horton	Underused ornamental trees
July 24	None	President's dinner
August 3		Secret Garden at Kruse House
August 28	Mary Russell	New and underused perennials
September 25	Katrina Lewin	Woodies 101
October 23	Karen Caldwell	Making gourds into birdhouses
November 20	Elections & Potluck	Member Sharing and brainstorming

Reminders

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.

Guests and Visitors are always welcome. Members are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor.

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



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News and Announcements

Potting Party March 29th at Bernice McFarland's Home: As parties go, it was a great one! We had food (coffee and donut holes). We had tiny little seedlings that needed a bigger home and we had twelve hardy and happy workers to give the seedlings a different home. Please, may it be said here the names of those hardy, happy souls who braved the chill to save the seedlings: Bernice McFarland, Carole Bates, Dorothy O'Connor, Shirley Schramer, Angie Saudauskas, Aimee Townsend, Lorraine Biang, Barbara and Dick Darrah, Pamela Darrah and Dan Beebe, and myself.

Plant Sale: Only (4) four more weeks till the Plant Sale. Please, Please.....will you give some thought to helping with the digging squad. Billie is working like a beaver to dig up all the member plants she can for the Plant Sale. How about us all shouldering a bit of responsibility for our club. We really have just ONE BIG moneymaking event and this is it. Yes, there is always a request in for help at the Kruse House.....but, this digging squad.....ARE YOU READING THIS?????...Thank You, and, please call Billie at 231-1791

Begging Etc.: Forgive me if I sounded heavy-handed, BUT, I meant it. Your box tops are still needed for the sale. Oh Hey, you know that shredding I suggested, I dumped ours in the compost pile where it is very happy. Our potting expert, Billie Childress, said that with the short time we have to establish member plants in their pots—crumpled newspaper works better. Also, come party and pot with us on May 3.

New Member: Katrine Maguire joined our club at our March meeting. Please stop by to introduce yourself and make Katrine feel welcome.

HYPERTUFA: Planters Palette on May 3rd from 10-12am. Busy month, right!

Door Prizes: Suzanne Eiserloh: Oxalis plant, Pamela Darrah: lovely book of short stories from Shirley Remes, Irene Muilenburg: huge Jade plant (so big she needed help to her car).

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News from Kruse

By Billie and Angie.....Kruse Garden Coordinators


We are writing this before the big work day to be held on the 19th so we can only speculate that it was a huge success. We thank all of you who came out to help. We couldn't do it without you! For those that didn't get a chance to help on the 19th, we will be looking forward to your assistance in the future.

A huge thank you to Dick Darrah who lead the effort to obtain plant donations from local nurseries! We will be adding approximately 25 new shrubs, one good sized tree, roses, grasses and vines to the gardens as a result of this effort. Donations have been made by Meyer Landscaping, The Growing Place, Platt Hill Nursery, Wasco Nursery, and Ball Seed. These plantings will provide some much needed structure to the gardens. Celia, Bertha and the aunts would undoubtedly be as excited as we are with this major addition to the gardens. It is a big step towards completing the planting of the gardens. Hooray!

We are looking for a volunteer (or two) to regularly pick up the trash that inevitably litters the yard. You would have the title of Director of Waste Management and receive all sorts of recognition (no monetary of course) for performing this critical task. Is this the opportunity you have been waiting for? Call Billie 231-1791 and volunteer today. All kidding aside, we really need someone to do this and would greatly appreciate a volunteer.


Does anyone have a 1 or 2 gallon sprayer they could donate to the Kruse Garden? We need one, or even two, if they could be donated. We are also looking for two substantial hose carts and a 50-75 foot hose. Always think of the Kruse Garden if you have an extra or no longer used garden tool or supply. We need lots of things and would appreciate not having to go out and buy them. Just let us know what you have.

Until next month.....happy gardening.



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Woman for the Ages!

By Sandy Saad

Marci Stewart Pyziak was our meeting speaker in March and perhaps I should say she was our instructor also. You'd think there was going to be a test on the material because all eyes and ears were very intent on what she was telling us. We learned so much from this lady who has learned from and taught with knowledgeable people like Schuster and Greg Stack in Will County for a lot of years.

There's no one at this moment that I would prefer to put in this newsletter as we approach Earth Day and Arbor Day this week. She spoke to us of Ornamental Grasses....grasses that were around when the covered wagons rolled over this DuPage County landscape. Durable, native plants that can withstand our clay soil and our windy and ever changeable weather. Grasses with big clumpy roots just right for surviving the hot sun and drought. In fact, they love the sun! And, from all that I gathered, they don't need much maintenance except that they'd love to be burned down in the Spring. A BURN on my Switchgrass Heavy Metal—as much as I'd love to do that for them, I'm sure a petition would be circulated to ride me out of Winfield on the rails if you know what I mean.

As a group, we sat transfixed by the manner in which she taught us. We and she, I believe, could have gone on for another half hour or more. There were more slides to show us and more tips to pass on....but alas, we knew that the hour grew late especially since she had a long drive home. She came with her husband (the gentle slide projector man) from 14 miles south of Joliet.

Marci Stewart Pyziak has her own group called the Gardener's Tutor at 815-478-5125. "Word of Mouth" is the best recommendation for anyone and she sure has ours.



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How To Pot your own Plants



Once you have dug up your plant, use a knife (or the shovel blade) to cut it into pieces that are about the size of your pots. Place a piece of crumpled newspaper in the bottom of the pot and add some dirt (enough dirt that the plant will sit fairly close to the top of the pot.) Place a clump of plant into the pot. If it is a little too large, trim it to fit.



Add a little more dirt and fill the pot around the plant—you may want to use your knife or a stick to get the dirt down around the plant. When you are finished, water the plant well. Put some sort of label into each pot to identify the type of plant. The plant may wilt a bit at first, but usually they start looking good within a week. Make certain the plant doesn't dry out and then bring it to Pamela & Dan's yard the weekend of May 10/11.





How To Pot Up a Seedling



1.

Make a hole in the soil using a pencil, stick or dibble.



2.

Push the plug up out of the tray from the bottom. If you try to pull it up by the leaves, it may be damaged.



3. Place the plug into the hole you made in step 1. Keep the plug even with the top of the dirt—not underneath, not sticking out.



4. Carefully press the dirt in around the plug. It should be firm, but not totally solid.

EARTH DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 22. Give it your best shot. This is the only world we have.

ARBOR DAY IS FRIDAY, APRIL 25. Yes, absolutely, plant a tree and enjoy watching it grow as it protects us by absorbing all the noxious fumes it can.