



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 11 Issue 2 February 2008

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"A Great Start to the New Year"

By Sandy Saad

First meeting of the year and we started out with a "big shot". Yes, you got to meet the publisher and executive editor of THE Chicagoland Gardening magazine, Mr. Bill Aldrich.

Mr. Aldrich, came loaded down with copies of the latest January/February 2008 issue of his pride and joy. Each and every person in attendance received one. Bill treated the group to gorgeous photos of the hot new plants and colors for 2008. This guy's a gardener too. He knows what lights our fires!

Well, I must admit to you now that Mike and I were not at this meeting. We were celebrating our 44th Wedding Anniversary with dinner at Nick's Fish House and tickets to see "Jersey Boys" in the city. A welcome Christmas gift from our three children.

You need to know this also. "Big Shot" or not, Mr. Bill Aldrich was not high in our thoughts that evening.

So, anyway...I did get my hands on a copy of that issue...and I gotta tell you something... The eye popping colors on the front truly jump-started my winter-weary heart. Honestly, I've never looked at this magazine before. But, this one is just for us in the Midwest. Why, on page 8, we were able to meet the co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm in Burlington, WI. We were there on our famous field trip of 2006. Right!! And, lots for houseplant people I noticed.

"Be still my heart". Do you think the mailman would mind delivering yet another magazine to my mailbox?????

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 28

"ADDING INDIVIDUALITY TO FRONT YARD GARDENS"

Speaker: Shirley Remes, a member of our garden club, a lady in-the-know and on-the-go. Put aside your catalogs and join us to hear and see some great new ideas.

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)

The University of Illinois Extension: (630) 955-1123 or dupage_co@extension.uiuc.edu
 March 18 from 7-8:30pm-no charge-master gardener, Beth Corrigan, will present Perennials: Work-horses in the Garden.
 April 8 from 1-2:30pm and April 10 from 7-8:30pm Orchids 101 a telenet class with a charge of \$10.

Morton Arboretum: Members are invited to purchase discounted books, seasonal items, overstocks and discontinued items on February 29 from 9am till 5pm. The public will be invited to check out the bargains on March 1st and 2nd.

Cantigny: See what's going on this winter at www.cantigny.org or (630) 668-5332. Joe Sable, director of production, proudly announced they were awarded the All-America Selections Exemplary Education Category IV Award for their historical display during summer 2007 "Gemstones in the Garden". Featured were more than 50 All-America Selection winners dating back to the 1930's. If you had a chance to see the display, you will agree how amazing it was.

Platt Hill Nurseries: (please see the ad below) will celebrate their Spring Preview Open House on April 5th and 6th. This will certainly get us in the mood to plant.

2008 Lilac Time Art and Craft Fair: May 4 in downtown Lombard will be a juried show where all items must be handmade, displayed and sold by the registered artist. Call the Lombard Chamber of Commerce at (630) 627-5040 for more information.

Garden Clubs of Illinois 2008 Convention: Sunday, April 20 and 21 "Save On Sprinkling—Make Every Drop Count" at the Hilton in Lisle/Naperville. Find more information in your Garden Glories Newsletter.

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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

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Information Director:
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350
 sitteh@comcast.net

Plant Sale Chair:
 Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900
 info@bwdarrah.com

Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church
 910 Main Street
 West Chicago

Calendar of events - 2008

Date	Speaker	Topic
January 24	Bill Aldrich	Best new plants for 2008
February 28	Shirley Remes	Adding individuality to front yard gardens
March 27	Marci Stewart Pyziak	Ornamental grasses for the landscape
April 24	Dan Costa	Insect pests in the garden
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 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 us 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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 SUN: 10-4 (4/15-6/30)



News and Announcements

Door Prizes: At our January meeting Marion Martin's name was picked for one of our club t-shirts. Dee Soustek contributed a truly unique and lovely calendar for a door prize. Each calendar month was heralded by an exquisite close-up of a flower. Dee, herself, did the photography and created this very unique work of art. Well, as the story goes, Lorraine Biang's name was chosen for this item. However, passionate "Oohs" and "Aahs" from our Billie Childress tugged at Lorraine's heart, and, she generously placed the work of art in Billie's hands. Only in the WeGo Garden Club would you hear such a heartfelt story. WOW!!!!

Slide Show of New Zealand Gardens: Yes, this is a MUST-SEE from a trip that Sam and Billie Childress took this past holiday season. March 6th at 7pm in rooms 3 and 4 at Faith Community Church in West Chgo.

The Best Treats in Town: We need to thank members Linda Harlson, Bonnie Reif and Shirley Schramer for bringing some wonderful treats to enjoy as we caught up with each other at the first club meeting.

Pansies are Coming: At our February meeting, Carole Bates will share a bit of SPRING with us when she tells us when the Pansies will arrive.

Garden Watchdog: Adelaide Zimmerman suggests we check out Garden Gate magazine Jan/Feb page 6 (or go to www.davesgarden.com and click on the Garden Watchdog section). Dave Whiting has very good info on "must-know mail-order tips". He tells us the 5 most highly rated and the 5 lowest rated major mail-order nurseries. Did you know that there are 5,800 gardening vendors? Thanks for sharing, Adelaide.

Plant Sale and Kruse House: This Winter season has been anything but quiet for some club members who are heavily and generously involved in these two endeavors. Be sure to read pages 5 and 7 for exciting updates on your favorite projects. Perhaps we need lots of applause and warm club hugs for these people at the February meeting. ABSOLUTELY!!!!

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News from Kruse

The January newsletter highlighted our opportunity to preserve a bit of the city's past for future generations by caring for the Kruse Garden. The Garden Club has been actively involved in Kruse Garden restoration and maintenance for the last 10 years and we can be very proud of our work! The January "news" also listed ways to participate in the maintenance and beautification of the garden. One way is to contribute plants from your garden or purchase plants to donate. There is still a lot of open space and the following heirloom plants would be very helpful.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Lady's Mantle...Alchemilla | Blue Lobelia |
| Windflower...Anemone | Bleeding Hearts...Dicentra |
| Columbine...Aquilegia | Hardy argeratum/Mist Flower ...Eupatorium Collestinum |
| Goatsbeard...Aruncus | Bouncing Bet...Betony |
| Pigsqueak...Bergenia | Rose Champion...Lychnis |
| Foamflower...Tiarella | Gayfeather/Blazing Star...Liatris Spicata |


This list is not all inclusive. There are many other plants, grasses, or shrubs that would help complete the planting. If you have something to donate, get in touch with Angie or Billie and we will work out the logistics. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated!

Work in the garden will begin in March but since the weather is unpredictable, setting a date in advance isn't feasible. Therefore, we will give notice of date/time for the first work day via calling post. Things to accomplish on the first work day include: general pick-up of trash, limbs, garden debris, compost area maintenance, minor tree pruning, etc. We sincerely hope you will be able to help out on these general work days. If this one doesn't work for you, there will be others coming up. Many hands make.....oh, you know! It will probably be too early to rake the leaves but getting the preliminaries out of the way will make it easier to accomplish that task later.

Think ahead to the March Garden club meeting. We will be distributing a sign up list to adopt Kruse Garden Plots. That list will also include a chance to sign up for two very important management positions.....Director of Waste Management and Compost Manager. Get your pencil sharpened. You don't want to miss this opportunity to commit to a specific role in the Kruse Garden!


As mentioned last month, we are very interested in your suggestions, ideas, for growing the garden and making it available to the community. Please help by sharing your thoughts. We are delighted to work with you on this very important project!

Angie and Billie, Kruse Garden Coordinators



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If you need help with your 2007 federal and state income taxes, contact your local AARP tax counseling center. It is convenient, confidential, fast and free, and you don't have to be over 65 or a member of AARP. Service is limited to individual returns—no businesses, partnerships, etc. To schedule an appointment, call a park district office:

Glen Ellyn—appointments on Mondays, call 630-858-2463 or
Wheaton—appointments on Tuesdays, call 630-665-1415.

For more information, contact Mike Saad (630-653-1350)

2008 Membership Dues

If you haven't already done so, please submit your 2008 dues—either at our regular meeting or by mail to the address shown on the membership form. Your prompt action will insure that you continue to receive this newsletter and are able to participate in all of our club activities. And, it will mean that our membership committee won't have to contact you. To all of you who have paid your dues, Thank You.



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Plant Sale: Dig, Divide, Donate

By Billie Childress

May 17, 2008, is the date for the Plant Sale this year! It's a big day for our club and it takes every one of us to make it successful. Last year many of you helped the "digging squad" collect scores of perennial plants from some **very generous** gardener's gardens. These wonderful perennial plants sold very well and were greatly appreciated by our customers. By all accounts this effort was deemed a tremendous success. Soooooooo.....here we go for the second spectacular 'Digging Squad' performance.

At the February Garden Club meeting we will be circulating two sign-up forms.

sign-up your garden so we can come and divide some of your plants

You don't have to be a garden club member or live in West Chicago to offer plants from your garden. If a neighbor or friend would like to donate plants, put their name on the list. The garden owner will need to provide direction to the team of volunteers but assisting with the process is optional. Even if you're not a 100% sure whether your plants would be candidates, please put your name on the list and we can discuss it. We will work out the schedule the first part of March.

sign-up to volunteer for the 'Digging Squad'.

There are many facets to the collection process (dig, divide, pot, label) so there is a job that suits everyone. This is a fun way to get to know other club members and you learn a lot about the plants too! You can participate in as many 'digs' as you want to. A 'dig' usually takes 2-3 hours.

The 'Digging Squad' has a very limited window of time in which to operate. We may be able to start as early as the end of March (weather dependent) but primarily working during April. We have to allow the plants a couple weeks to adjust to potted life and perk up prior to sale so we can't collect plants much past 1st of May. It will be labor intensive to collect approximately 1000 perennials (our goal) during this time but judging from last year's experience we have the right stuff to meet this challenge.

The "digging squad" is being coordinated by Angie (231-5851) and Billie (231-1791) so if you have any questions either one of them will be happy to talk with you. This is really a group effort so thank you in advance for pitching in to help in any way you can! This Garden Club rocks (digs too)....no doubt about it!

Note: With all the above attention on volunteers digging and potting up plants, please don't forget the DIY approach. If you can, help out by potting up your own plants. We will provide pots and instruction as needed.