



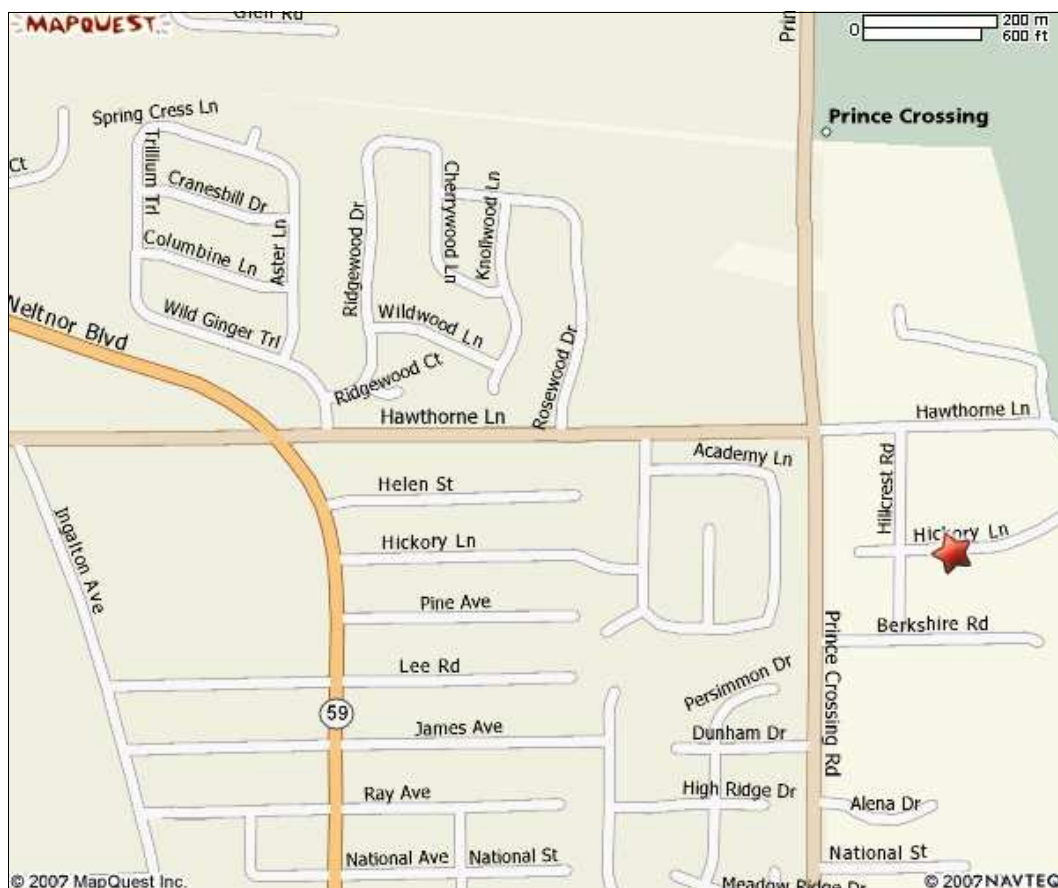
# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 10 Issue 7 July 2007**

## Inside this issue

Events Outside the Club	2
Calendar of Events	3
News and Announcements	4
Tree Care Advisor	5
June Speaker Summary	6



**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 26 - Member Picnic and Potluck**

**Where: Angie Sadauskas' home**

**28W649 Hickory Lane in West Chicago (see map above)**

Family members are welcome. Please bring a dish to pass: appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert. Bring a chair if you can. Angie will have chicken, sausage, her very special potato kugeli....also, drinks and utensils ...perhaps even a tippie of wine.....

Come as early as 6 pm and see Angie's garden. Also, you might want to wander into member, Ed Max's garden too as his property adjoins Angie's. We'll eat about 6:30 or so.

For more information or directions, please call Angie at 630-231-5851.



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Ball Horticultural Garden Conservancy Day** on August 5 between 10 am and 4 pm. No registration is required. A \$5.00 donation will be requested for entrance to see the Ball Gardens. Master gardeners will be helping with tours and answering questions.

**The Growing Place:** has two locations: (Naperville at Plank Road, just west of Naper Blvd. Tel: 355-4000 and a Fox Valley location at Montgomery Road, just North of Ogden Tel: 820-8088.

- 6/30 DEMO Get your questions answered to keep your garden looking good for the rest of the summer. Handouts available. 10 am in Fox Valley and 1 pm at Naperville location.
- 7/14 KID'S GARDEN EXPLORATION DAY at the Fox Valley location from 10 am to 4 pm.  
Harry Patterson, Bee Keeper and Naturalist. Make a butterfly hatching house and a butterfly sun bathing bath.
- 7/21 THE FARMSTAND opens at the Fox Valley location only.  
SUMMER SALE BEGINS at both locations.
- 8/11 KIDS GARDEN EXPLORATION DAY at the Fox Valley location from 10 am till 4 pm.  
Create your own puppet show or watch our Nature Troup present one, splash in Ribbet and Toad's water feature, meet native animals up close and personal, see a Praying Mantis, dig for worms, paint and plant a pot.
- 8/18 DEMO: Outdoor Cooking at Fox Valley location only from 11 am to 1 pm.

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## Club information

West Chicago Garden Club  
P. O. Box 313  
West Chicago, IL 60186

(630) 585-4005

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

## Membership information

Dues for 2007:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$25

## 2007 board

President:

Mark Luther (630) 876-1296  
[mark@markluther.com](mailto:mark@markluther.com)

Vice President:

Mike Saad (630) 653-1350  
[mwsaad@comcast.net](mailto:mwsaad@comcast.net)

Treasurer:

John Warbiany (630) 293-5795  
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[jjbwarbil@juno.com](mailto:jjbwarbil@juno.com)

Secretary:

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Pamela Darrah (630) 293-4130  
[pdarrah@sprynet.com](mailto:pdarrah@sprynet.com)

Information Director:

Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350  
[mwsaad@comcast.net](mailto:mwsaad@comcast.net)

Plant Sale Chair:

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

## Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church  
910 Main Street  
West Chicago

# Calendar of events - 2007

Date	Speaker	Topic
July 26		Picnic and potluck and socializing
August 1	Field Trip	Ball Seed Gardens— <i>Note: the date for this activity has changed.</i>
August 23	Mark Luther	Pond construction: step-by-step
September 27	Lynn Bement	Healthy gardens by "The Compost Queen"
October 25	Bill Scheffler	Organic lawn, tree and shrub care
November 15	Elections, Potluck and Nora Liu	Ornamental vines

## 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.

## RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY!

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## News and Announcements

**Notes from our June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:** raffle prize winners: June Luther won the ticket to the Wayne Countryside Garden Walk; and, Madeleine Bartsch won the Earth Machine composting wizard donated by June and Mark Luther. We had, as usual, a great meeting with lots of interesting things on the sharing table—magazines, books and brochures regarding upcoming events.

**Railroad Days:** We did, indeed, share the booth with Sister Cities. Our banner was up and lots of our colorful brochures and membership forms were available. Thanks to all of our members who donated their time to work at the booth. One of our member workers added a touch of color with five potted geraniums (who was that thoughtful person?). The feeling was good about our participation and, hopefully, we'll do it again next year and include a raffle to help draw even more people to the booth. As it is, several people showed interest in our club.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** The Ball Seed Field Trip has been changed to Wednesday, August 1. Scheduling became a problem for Ball Seed since this is their big sales month. The time and place will be sent to members on a Calling Post message and we hope lots of you can attend. Please note on page 2 that Ball Seed will have a Garden Conservancy Day on August 5.

**Wayne Countryside Garden Walk:** Their garden club graciously gave us a free ticket which June Luther won in our raffle. June and several other club members did attend the garden walk. By all reports, June 30<sup>th</sup> was a perfect day for a garden walk and they saw six large, varied and lovely gardens. Our club member, Lou Horton, was a vendor at the garden walk.

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## We Go Gardening

### When Should I Water?

The most predictable thing about weather is that it's unpredictable. So we are only guessing when we say that summertime will be dry. With the drought of 2005 not far in the past, it's not a bad guess and it's probably a good idea to talk about proper watering of trees. A lot of people have sprinkler systems for their turf but these are usually not set up for the trees. Even if they are, trees require a different kind of watering than turf grass.

Before talking about how to water trees we need to talk about when and if we need to water our trees. Most trees like an inch of water a week. The weather report on T.V. will tell us how much rainfall has happened at various places throughout the Chicagoland area. The official weather statistics are measured at the airports, but no one lives at the airport! The most important figure for your trees is how much rain you got at your location. The best way to measure this is by having your own rain gauge. These are very inexpensive and can be purchased at your local nursery or garden center. Some businesses give them away as promotional items. With your own rain gauge you can tell if you received the required inch of rain and if not you know you need to do supplemental watering. The important thing to keep in mind is that water and other nutrients are taken up by the ends of the roots.

Okay, so now you know if you should water your trees. The next thing you need to know is how to water your trees. If you go to the end of the limbs and draw a line straight down to the ground this is what we call the **drip line**. This is a good guide to use for where the ends of the roots are (although we know the fine feeder root hairs can actually go much farther). So you run your hose out to the drip line (no sprinkler needed) and turn it on very slowly. The idea is to get the water to soak in and not down the driveway into the sewer. Don't worry about how much you need to put down, the soil will tell you. Once one area is saturated, move the hose to another area. Do this until you have covered all the area under the drip line of one tree and then move on to the next tree. It is important to only do this once a week. Unlike turf grass, where the sprinkler system might be set up to water three times a week, trees need a period for the soil to dry out.

Supplemental watering of trees is very important in times of drought. It is more critical to water your trees than your grass. Turf will usually come back after times of drought whereas a tree will not. You can replace the tree but you can't replace the years or decades it took to grow it. But don't over water because that can be harmful too.

### Thanks for Asking

By Chris Mest

I had the pleasure of attending the St. Charles Arbor Day celebration thanks to the St. Charles tree council and Chris Scott. It was a very nice ceremony with lots of informative literature and free plants.

Great job to the Winfield Public School Student Council! They raised money to purchase a White Oak which was planted on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Winfield and Beecher Roads. I was there to supervise and talk about our state tree.

Thanks to the West Chicago garden club for having me at their plant sale. I was there to answer questions about tree care. The sale was very busy and I look forward to being there again next year.

### We Want to Hear From You

If you have any questions about tree care please contact us.

If you want to make sure you are on our mailing list please send us your name, address and phone number.

Contact us at:

[chris@mestupenterprises.com](mailto:chris@mestupenterprises.com)

Or write to:

Mest Up Enterprises  
P.O. Box 2373  
Glenview, IL 60025

The above articles are excerpted from the Chicagoland Tree Care Advisor—Summer 2007 Newsletter by Chris Mest, a certified arborist, and Graf Tree Care.



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# "Plant Lady from Ball FloraPlant comes bearing gifts"

By Sandy Saad

This was Jan Calhoun's third year in a row to visit us from Ball FloraPlant.

No wonder she is one of our favorites; she has a quiet and knowledgeable demeanor—and—she refuses to return her sample plants to Ball FloraPlant—therefore, she blesses us with them. Yes, a firm rule abides that once out of the greenhouse, no plant returns there. They want no new bugs or contamination.....so, lucky us!!!!

If you were at the meeting, you got to see so many unique and desirable plants. The colors and shapes were spectacular. Jan Calhoun is actually the person who gets to name 100 or so of these plants after they are bred and trialed. It was her brilliance that came up with names like "Electric Lime" coleus and "Starry Night" viola, or, how about "Lemon Chiffon"

heuchera. At first it sounded like an easy job as so many of the plants almost "cry" out their name due to their special color and habit. But, Jan even admitted that it gets tough to name all one hundred of these beauties.

Jan gave us each a spiral booklet, also prepared by herself, for showing and selling to their greenhouse growers and distributors. I wish I could frame each and every one of the beautifully photographed plants in there. Did I tell you she's also in charge of photographs??—yes, she is!

Jan will donate her speakers fee to "America in Bloom", a not for profit, in which towns, like Warrenville, compete with other towns their size in plantings, recycling, eco-friendliness, and sustainability within their town.

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