



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 8 Issue 5 May 2005

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Next Meeting

May 26

At Kruse House

6:45—Plant Exchange

FREE Leftovers from Plant Sale

7:15—Business Meeting

7:30 Program—Kruse House Watering System

April Program – “Annuals”

by Becky Hall

The March club meeting was a “Show and Tell” of new plants from BallFloraPlant, a division of Ball here in West Chicago. Jen Calhoun brought twenty-three different plants to showcase the many varieties sold to retailers. Many of these plants were from the Simply Beautiful line. BallFloraPlant has a web site, www.simplybeautifulgardens.com, where you can enter a ZIP code on the Find a Garden Center page to find area nurseries that stock these plants.

The plants produced by BallFloraPlant are propagated by cuttings, rather than by seed. This results in more vigorous plants with more vivid colors, though they also tend to cost more. This makes them more practical for containers and accent plants than large-scale landscape planting. The plants also produce sterile seed, which means that in a plant that would normally be a self-sower there are no seedlings the next year.

All varieties go through twenty-one different tests before they are introduced for sale, including a test for powdery mildew resistance. Jen had copies of the wholesaler’s catalog, which includes detailed information about shipping to the growers and tables on how retailers grow the plants from the cuttings received. Many of these plants are patented, and further propagation is prohibited.

Kruse House is at 123 W. Main St. Come early and pull some weeds or work on your Kruse House plot.

You might want to bring a lawn chair and bug spray.

NOTE: In case of rain or thunderstorms, we will meet at the First Congregational Church on Route 59.

We saw many beautiful plants in lovely colors, primarily annuals, but a few perennials as well. Most of the plants are new colors introduced for this year, but a few were colors that won’t be available until the 2006 growing season.

Some of the highlights included:

- a yellow Impatiens, from the Fusion line, called Fusion Glow. It’s yellow with a blush of orange in the center.
- a compact variety of Coleus, the Aurora line, which is bred to be more compact with smaller leaves, and can tolerate low light to full sun.
- a Magilla Perilla, which is a mounded, spreading plant with beautiful green and pink striping of the deep purple leaves, much like a Coleus. It flowers in October, and has more variety of color to the leaves in shade.
- a spreading Verbena, from the Wildfire line. The one she brought is a dark red color that will be available in 2006. The colors available this year are Rose, Purple, violet, and Lavender Pink. This has great color and will spread up to 4 feet, making it good in **the landscape**



Dick Darrah sets up for Plant Sale

or in a large container.

- a summer Snapdragon, Angelonia Angel Mist, with a pliable stem that doesn't snap in wind and a fuller growing habit. The color shown was one of the striped varieties, which have a white blossom with a stripe of color.

At the end of the meeting Jen explained that Ball has a "one-way door" policy on plants, so the plants couldn't come back to the green house (rather smart, as it protects from the introduction of foreign elements). So we had to keep the plants. Whether by chance or secret planning, there were twenty-three attendees, and twenty-three plants. So we drew numbers and got to select a beautiful plant by turns. What a great opportunity to get something new for our gardens this year!

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Have you worked on your Kruse House plot recently?

The recent rains will make the weeds easier to pull... and help them grow if they aren't pulled.

We hope to see you at the work-day. Members are welcome whether or not they have a plot!

Upcoming events (outside the club)

Do-it-right Series— The Growing Place, Aurora. Saturday, **June 4** 9:30 am (Free) "Water IT Right—Watering & Fertilizing Instructions." Saturday, **June 18** 9:30 am (Free) "Vertical Planting Right—Small Space Selections" **Gardener's Art Festival, Saturday, June 11** 9am -5pm Garden Art by 25 or so artists, live music and free garden talks. Go to www.thegrowingplace.com to see the classes.

Platt Hill Seminars: Sat., **June 4** 10am "Hummingbird & Butterfly Gardening; Sat., **June 11** 10am "Ornamental Grasses"; Sat., **June 18** 10 am "Rose Care"; Sat., **June 25** 10am "Planting & Pruning Trees & Shrubs"

Morton Arboretum—May 21– August 21 "Live on the Hedge" the new maze garden. Visit the web site www.mortonarb.org for a full listing of all the many programs and events that are scheduled from container gardens to theatre hikes.

Garden Walks, Garden Walks, and more Garden Walks. Here's a link to the Chicago Tribune's May 8 list of garden walks: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/home/chi->



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Club information

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

(630) 585-4005

www.bwdarrah.com/wcgarden

Membership information

Dues for 2005:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$25

2005 board

President:

Linda Harlson (630) 293-1057
ashengal@prodigy.net

Vice President:

Billie Childress (630) 231-1791
billiec@covad.net

Treasurer:

John Warbiany (630) 293-5795
Fax: (630) 293-5794

Secretary

Angie Sadauskas (630) 231-5851

Information Director

Edie Streams (630) 231-4821
westreams@hotmail.com

Plant Sale Chair

Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900
info@bwdarrah.com

Garden Walk Chairs

Lou Horton (630) 293-7735
Sam Childress (630) 231-1791

Calendar of events 2005

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 26		Plant Exchange, Sharing and Work Night at Kruse House
June 23	Diane Hunter	Japanese Gardens
June 25	FIELD TRIP	Anderson Japanese Gardens Klem Arboretum—Rockford
July 28		President's Potluck and making Japanese Lanterns (at Billie's)
August 25	Connie and Carole	Making Decorative Concrete Leaves (at Carole's)
September 22	Nancy Carroll	Fall Interest in the Garden
October 27	Sandy Klausman	Spring Bulbs
November 17		Potluck and Elections

Reminders

Babysitting—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at First Congregational Church. There is no fee to us the service, but if you plan to use it, please **call Linda Harlson** at 293-1057, 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. If you came to our plant sale, you might want to see what great programs we have and how much you can learn from Club members.

Another web site from our members:

Www.easywildflowers.com

we go
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2006 GARDEN WALK Scheduled for June 24

The West Chicago Garden Club WILL be conducting a Garden Walk in 2006. Lou Horton and Sam Childress are chairing the Walk, but as with the Plant Sale, this is an major effort that requires help from the whole club. Some early decisions have been as reported by Lou Horton:

DATE: June 24, 2006

FORMAT: Once again we will be mounting a Garden and Porch Walk. This time tickets can be purchased for either the Garden Walk or the Porch Walk or a combo ticket can be purchased for both walks.

GARDEN and PORCH NOMINEES: A committee will be selecting the gardens and porches for the walk THIS June. PLEASE contact Lou (293-7735) or Sam (231-1791) by June 7th to nominate a garden or porch. Nominee gardens do not need to belong to Garden Club members. They may be a friend or neighbor's garden that you admire.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and MEMBERS NEEDED: We can't pull this off without plenty of help. Of most immediate need is someone to coordinate the Porch Walk. Volunteers for that role or in general should contact Lou or Sam.

KRUSE HOUSE

Planting/Mulching Work Dates

Sunday, June 5 (rain date June 12) 1-4



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WELCOME to the Plant Sale Attendees
who signed up to receive the West Chicago
Garden Club newsletter. We are a friendly,
active group of hands-on gardeners. For
those of you who might like to join, a mem-
bership form is included with this newsletter.
We hope to meet you at a future meeting.
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PLANT SALE 2005—A Great Success— Notes from Dick Darrah

Although the final accounting is not in, we know the sale was a wonderful success.

There were lots of plants sold, but best of all, there was outstanding Club participation. THANKS to everyone who worked to make this successful. Members were involved in potting parties, baby-sitting plants, digging and donating their own plants, setting up, working the sale, and helping clean up. More members put in more effort this year than ever before.

THANK YOU from those of us who coordinated things. It makes it so much easier when we have such good club participation. **THANK YOU AGAIN.**

Besides the obvious benefit of supporting the club, think how many great plants we were able to send home with new owners for their gardens. Those of you who didn't get a chance to work at the sale itself, missed the most fun part of all, talking to customers-gardeners. We had gardeners from miles away who came specifically to buy our plants and talk to our gardeners.

If you missed this year's sale, there will be a chance to get in on the fun next year. The opportunity to work with club friends and interact with other gardeners is just great.

Another big opportunity to get involved with the club is the 2006 Garden Walk, planning for which has already begun!

**We NEED
Nominations
for
Gardens or
Porches for
the 2006
Garden Walk**



We have plants! Bring on the customers!



Linda Harlson helps set up

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