



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

**Volume 10 Issue 10 October 2007**

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## "It Was An Honor!"

By Sandy Saad

In this world of "throw-away", Lynn Bement, alias "The Compost Queen" encouraged us passionately to "save"!!! Our world is struggling to go GREEN. Newspapers bombard us daily—telling us how to do it. Are you listening? Do you care? YES YOU DO!!! The time has come to care, right!

Al Gore has the name, media and now the "Nobel" to raise our awareness. You know what? Lynn Bement deserves a nobel prize too. Her life's work is to get your garden off its "junk food diet" of chemicals—to use what nature has provided.

I may not be able to pull off raising worms in my basement, but, I was proud to meet someone who does. Be honest— wasn't it interesting? How many of you thought you might try it? I'll raise my hand. Lynn made it sound

so easy. I left the meeting not with "sugarplums dancing in my head" but dreams of starting "my own vermiculture project". Unfortunately, reality stepped in—my husband—and I knew in my heart that it wasn't going to happen. However, I still gave him "what for" as he threw his banana peel in the garbage instead of my compost bucket.

Let's face it, it takes a heart full of fire and courage and a long list of other real items to do what Lynn Bement is doing. She's a bright star on the green horizon. Lynn Bement is an organic garden coach, certified soil foodweb advisor, master gardener/composter specializing in healthier landscape design-consultation and treatment. Contact Lynn at (708) 482-7765, [compostqueen@comcast.net](mailto:compostqueen@comcast.net)

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 25**

**"YOUR GARDEN NEEDS YOGURT, MOLASSES, VINEGAR & AMMONIA"**

**Speaker: Bill Scheffler of Pure Prairie Organics in Wheaton**

You gotta meet this guy!! Come prepared to listen, learn and be entertained.

**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 Growing Place nursery and flower farm, inc.:** 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.

- Tent Sale 10/27 thru 11/3 — Holiday Decorating (Fox Valley 10am on 10/27) Have tea and cookies with Laury Hartman. She has great ideas.— Holiday Shop opens on 11/2.

**Cress Creek Garden Club:** Annual Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It Luncheon, Silent Auction, Raffle and Boutique. Friday, November 9 at 10:30am at White Eagle Country Club, 3400 Club Drive, Naperville. Fee: \$27. Ticket info: Nancy at 355-4851, Juayne at 357-5826 by November 4th.

**Winfield Flower Shoppe:** 29th Annual Open House on Sunday, November 11 from Noon till 4pm. Please join them in a preview of the holiday season. Refreshments will be served. (See ad below)

**Platt Hill Nursery:** 7th Annual Holiday Open House Friday, 11/9 thru Sunday 11/12, Friday 4-9; Saturday 9-6; Sunday 10-5. 20% off on Friday and 15% off on Sat and Sun. Workshops, refreshments and entertainment. (See ad below)

**The Garden Club of Downers Grove:** "A Festive Touch" Boutique and Luncheon at the Carlisle in Lombard. Sip & Shop at 10:30am-Needlework, Crafts, Raffle, Everlasting & Fresh Floral Arrangements. Luncheon 12 noon and Program at 1pm. Fee is \$25 till 11/5 (\$30 after) Contact Wini at 968-4101.

**West Chicago Library:** Make your own fall centerpiece on November 1 at 7pm. Fee is \$15. Also, the first Thursday of every month they have a "Brown Bag and Speaker, Book Review. Call: 231-1552.

**Morton Arboretum:** Fall Color Festival is on through October 28. Info: 968-0074 or mortonarbo.org.

**Cantigny:** Pumpkin Cornucopia 11/14 Fee \$50. Parade of Poinsettias 11/17 9:30 Greenhouse-Free. Candle-Lit Fresh Harvest Centerpiece 11/19 Fee\$40. Info and Reservations at 668-5185.

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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 2007:  
 Individual: \$15  
 Family: \$25

**2007 board**

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

Vice President:  
 Mike Saad (630) 653-1350  
 mwsaad@comcast.net

Treasurer:  
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 Cell: (630) 464-5710  
 jjbwarbil@juno.com

Secretary:  
 Aimee Townsend (630) 876-8588  
 aleaa5@sbcglobal.net

Publicity Director  
 Pamela Darrah (630) 293-4130  
 pdarrah@sprynet.com

Information Director:  
 Sandy Saad (630) 653-1350  
 mwsaad@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 - 2007**

Date	Speaker	Topic
<b>October 25</b>	Bill Scheffler	Your Garden Needs Yogurt, Molasses, Vinegar and Ammonia
<b>November 15</b>	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

**Elections Are Coming!** Our secretary, Aimee Townsend, will present the slate of officers and committee chairpersons for 2008 at the October meeting.

**Needed:** A chairperson for Community Improvement. Would you like to be part of this committee or any other? Jump in and be part of us. Halloween ghoulish thought: the club needs fresh blood—YOURS! Phone Aimee at 630-876-8588.

**Raffle Prizes:** Member, Ed Malinowski, won a \$10.00 gift certificate donated by Meyer Landscape (one of our advertisers). Also, a black-eyed susan was won by member Suzanne Abbott.

**Membership Lists are available:** Full membership lists will be available on the sharing table at the next meeting. Please take one for your convenience.

**Sharing Table:** Schedules and notes for holiday open houses are available and so much more.

**Garden Clubs of Illinois:** Carole Bates and Sandy Saad attended the GCI District II meeting on Sept. 21. If you have not yet received your Garden Glories, Fall 2007 issue—please let Linda Harlson know. Every member of our garden club should receive one. It has some very interesting stories and information.

**Think and Feel:** At our November Potluck meeting on November 15 we will ask you for your ideas for workshops, field trips, speakers and what you'd like to see our garden club do. Thanks!

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## Girdling Roots

The most common cause of tree decline and mortality in the Chicagoland area is not due to disease or insects but to girdling roots. Girdling roots grow in a circular or spiral pattern. They may form in root bound container grown plants, begin when a tree is transplanted, or develop as the tree grows. Poor planting techniques, deep mulch, or compacted soil seem to encourage the development of girdling roots at the base of the trunk.

Any tree can develop girdling roots but certain trees are more prone to this problem than others. The most common in Chicagoland is Maples, especially Red Maples, followed by Birches, Lindens and Hawthorns.

As roots circle the trunk, they can slow and eventually cut off the flow of fluids in the tree.



Carbohydrates produced by the leaves through photosynthesis, are unable to move through the vascular system to the roots. Weakened roots are unable to provide adequate water and nutrients to the leaves. Trees with girdling roots tend to decline over a 5-10 year period.

Symptoms associated with girdling roots are caused by a weakened root system. The crown of the tree may be thin, with stunted growth. If you compare the tree crown to a clock, damage may first occur in the upper portion, between 10 and 12 o'clock. Leaves may be lighter green, scorched, show early fall color, and early leaf drop. Twig or large branch dieback can occur. When one side of the trunk is straight (flat), with no natural flare, this usually indicates a girdling root below the soil surface. Trees with severe girdling roots may lean or completely break off.

During the storms of August we saw many trees with girdling roots fail. This is because these type of roots can not support a tree in high winds. Reduced sap flow caused by girdling roots makes the tree more susceptible to insects, disease and environmental stress.

Once a tree reaches maturity, it is very hard to fix girdling roots. This involves excavating the root system and physically cutting the girdling roots. In most cases, this can do more harm than good.

Mycorrhizae fungi treatments can be used to help the tree to compensate for girdling roots. The mycorrhizae fungi will put on a secondary root system and allow the tree to more efficiently take in the nutrients in the soil. This allows the tree to live longer than it would if nothing was done. The best way to treat girdling roots is to avoid them in the first place with proper planting and cultural techniques.

The above article is excerpted from the Chicagoland Tree Care Advisor—Fall 2007 Newsletter by Chris Mest, a certified arborist, and Graf Tree Care.



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**APPLE COFFEECAKE from Sandy Saad**

Cream together in large bowl: 1/2 C. butter, 3/4 C. brown sugar, and 1/2 C. sugar.

Add: 2 eggs and 1 cup of milk and mix in.

Mix in medium bowl: 2 1/4 C. flour, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp baking soda and 1 tsp baking powder.

Peel, core and chop 4 to 5 cups of apples (not Red Delicious) in another bowl.

Add dry ingredients gradually into mixture with butter, sugar, eggs and milk.

Then, add the apples and blend. Pour into your greased 13 X 9 and add topping (below).

Topping: 1/2 C. chopped nuts, 2 Tablespoons sugar and a sprinkle of cinnamon & nutmeg.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 45 mins. TEST WITH TOOTHPICK.

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