



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 11 Issue 9 September 2008

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"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary"

By Sandy Saad

CONTRARY, states The Random House College Dictionary, "stubbornly opposed or willful". That sounds like my sister, Bernice. Because she was very smart with a mind of her own, she was called "stubborn" and "contrary". That girl became a woman who taught and loved "problem" children for 35 years. And so, I'll lay you odds, our speaker might have a somewhat similar story to tell—maybe not—it's probably just her favorite nursery rhyme!

Mary Russell aka Contrary Mary runs her own garden and design center on a farm out in Minooka, not that far away actually. Three pygmy goats and three sheep dogs complete the farm aura along with lots of display gardens. "Seeing is believing" and she loves to show off the unusual perennials she sells. Mary brought about twenty-five

under-utilized and under-appreciated perennials to prove her point.

While admitting to being a "hosta fanatic" and not caring too much for grasses, what she really enjoys doing is getting the word out about all the beautiful, interesting and very adaptable plants that people never see or even hear of. The program got underway as she passed her "beauties" around for us to touch and see up close. Mary gave us a full story on each one. Meanwhile we admired, "oohed" and "aahed" like "kids in a candy shop".

It's hard to believe that these plants are relatively unknown. Why? Perhaps we need to set up a field trip so we can check out this farm in Minooka and get some answers and buy some very unique plants. (815) 521-9535 or www.contrarymarysplants.com

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sep 25

"WOODIES 101"

Speaker: Katrina Lewin is a Horticulturist at the Morton Arboretum and is a specialist in trees and woody shrubs. She will speak on their uses in the backyard landscape.

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)

Horticulture Classes at the Extension Office in Warrenville: Class schedules on the sharing table and get more info at 630-955-1123 or dupage_co@extension.uiuc.edu. Some of the interesting titles:

Going Green with Evergreens, Tucking In Your Garden Bed, Backyard Composting, Introduction to Prairies and The Benefits of a Rain Garden.

The Growing Place: Always a place to spend a couple of hours or so..... Their Fall Fest was rained out last weekend and so this weekend, September 20 and 21 they are celebrating with Harvest Days. Notably, they have 50 or so types of gourds and pumpkins grown by the Somonauk Future Farmers of America.

Meyer Landscaping: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC just a bit east of County Farm Road on North Avenue. Gorgeous, Healthy trees, evergreens, shrubs and perennials. 25% off NOW on evergreens and perennials. All roses are priced at \$20. It's not too late — Fall is a great time to plant.

Cantigny: (630)260-8162 or Cantigny.org This place is a hop, skip and a jump from all of us in the club and there is so much going on. This place just gets better and better every year—you name it and I'll bet they have it. The parking fee of \$7 used to bug me so I finally bought the year pass for \$55. Why not, I love this place and support their efforts. The sharing table will have more up-to-date info, in color.

Winfield Flower Shoppe: Holiday Open House on Sunday, November 9 from noon till 4pm. Cards for 20% off purchase are on the sharing table.

Another cookie recipe from the celebration of the Secret Garden:

Irene Muilenburg's **STIR-N-DROP SUGAR COOKIES**

Oven temperature: 400 degrees (moderate/hot oven)

Baking time: 8 to 10 minutes

Number of cookies: About 3 dozen 3" cookies

Beat with fork until well blended: 2 eggs. Stir in 2/3 cup of cooking oil, 2 tsp. vanilla, and 1 tsp. grated lemon rind.

Blend in until mixture thickens: 3/4 cup sugar. Sift together and stir in: 2 cups sifted flour, 2 tsp baking powder and 1/2 tsp salt.

Then, Drop by teaspoon full, about 2" apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Flatten with greased bottom of a glass dipped in sugar. Bake until a delicate brown. Remove immediately from baking sheet.



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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
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Vice President:
Jeff Handel (630) 231-6765
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Plant Sale Chair:
Dick Darrah (630) 584-1900
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Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church
910 Main Street
West Chicago

Calendar of events - 2008

Date	Speaker	Topic
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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SUN: 10-4 (4/15-6/30)



News and Announcements

News from Lou Horton our Program Director: At our October meeting, Karen Caldwell will lead a hands on workshop on turning gourds into great bird houses. Karen will supply properly prepared gourds and other materials necessary to design and decorate a bird house. Garden Club members are invited to participate. There will be a charge of \$12 per bird house and of course you get to take the finished product home with you. So Karen can come prepared with the necessary number of supplies, please call Lou Horton at 630 293 7735 if you want to build a gourd bird house.

Ice Cream Social: Anna and Denise who work and do great things at the Winfield Flower Shop went on and on about what a nice affair it was. And, THE GARDEN was gorgeous. This was their first time there and they were blown away with its beauty. Good words and sentiments like this need to be heard. I'm sure our Chuck Schramer will give us a glowing report on the Ice Cream Social. Such a great of collaboration of fine folks.

Cantigny: Forgive me if I digress here. I've never been to the Chicago Botanic Garden. OH MY YOU SAY! Why should I make that long trip when Cantigny is my WINFIELD BOTANIC GARDEN!

Elections are Coming Up: Would you like to take part in the direction of our garden club? You have great ideas—you know you do—we all do. When our club secretary, Aimee Townsend, calls or e-mails you to take a chance and do more—say SURE, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO ASK ME!

Newsletter Editor: I'm looking for someone to take over my job. Do you enjoy writing, being sassy and speaking your mind in print rather than face-to-face? Alright then, you're the new Newsletter Editor!!!

Pots, Pots and More Pots: Bernice McFarland encourages us all to get our empty plant pots together and drop them off at her house. Call her if you can beforehand. Check your membership name and address list for information.

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