



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

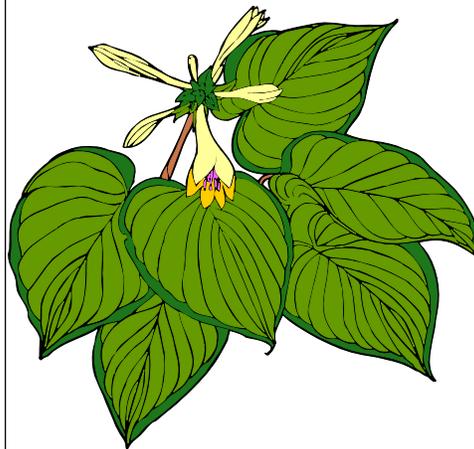
www.westchicagogardenclub.org

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Inside this issue

Non-club Events	2
2010 Garden Walk	
WCGC Calendar	3
Club information	
Green Tips	4
Garden Dollars	5
Greener Gardening	6

September 24th Meeting : “The Hosta: America’s Favorite Shade Perennial”



featuring our own Lou Horton

Lou’s passion has been hostas for well over a decade. He is currently President of the Northern IL Hosta Society and of the Midwest Regional Hosta Society, as well as a Master Gardener. He operates a small hosta retail business from his home. Come to hear all about these wonderful perennials!

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago
7:00 - refreshments, 7:15 - brief business meeting, 7:30 - speaker**

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22nd:

“GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS”

Bob Fischer has been involved with local birding organizations for many years, and focus on the most effective ways of attracting our native songbirds to your garden, some of the birds you can expect to see, and the very real conservation benefits of ‘gardening for the birds’).

Did you use your gourd birdhouse from last year’s craft meeting for the birds this summer? Share a story (and photo) with your editor!

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.

Rides— Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.

How Easy it is to be Green! - August Meeting

University of Illinois Master Gardener and environmental science educator, Susan Grupp, shared ways to incorporate sustainable and “green” practices into our gardening. Watering, types of and positioning of plants, and much discussed. See page 4 for more details on ways to save our resources through more sustainable gardening practices.



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Platt Hill Nursery: Winterizing Your Garden, Oct 24, 10 a.m., Oct 25 1 p.m., call for reservations 630-529-9394. www.platthillnursery.com

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County : Mayslake Nature Tour, Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oakbrook, Oct 3, 1:30 - 3:00. Explore the outdoors at Mayslake Forest Preserve, including the woods, lakeshore and grounds around the mansion. Free, but call to register, 630-206-9581.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Fruit, daffodil bulbs, and lily bulbs for sale Oct 17-18, featuring the Midwest Fruit Explorers, Midwest Daffodil Society, Wis-III Lily Society. www.chicagobotanicgarden.org/plantshows/fall.php

Cantigny: Cantigny Green Fair: Cantigny and SCARCE will host this first-ever Green Fair on Saturday, September 26. The event, from 10 am to 4 pm, will celebrate what's working in our community—for people, businesses and the environment. The Cantigny Green Fair line-up includes expert speakers, eco-activities for kids, a local and organic Farmers Market, cooking demos, organic wine tasting, live music and a "FashionEcoNista" show. All the events are free, and more than 100 vendors will be participating. In addition, high school and college students are invited to enter a Recycled Art Contest with cash prizes. This day will inspire all who attend. Questions? Please call 630 260 8266.

West Chicago Garden Club — 2010 Garden Walk

Looking for volunteers to help!

Plans are underway for our 2010 garden walk. By September the committee will have selected the gardens for the walk, scheduled to coincide with the Kruse Garden Open House, August 1, 2010. Several members have already volunteered to help on the garden walk committee, but we need more!. If you would like to **help with this event**, please contact Carole Bates, 630-293-4953.

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News From Kruse is on vacation - enjoy September!

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How Easy it is to be Green - Tips from Susan Grupp

These ideas may not be new to you, but practicing them can make a real difference!

- Water less frequently, but more deeply. This is not only better for the plants, but a more efficient use of our water resources.
- Incorporating native plants into at least part of the landscape is advantageous because they're less disease-prone, less likely to have insect problems, are more drought-tolerant due to deep root systems.
- Use "rain garden" type plants near downspouts to solve runoff problems.
- Recycling yard waste by composting provides a steady supply of nature's fertilizer which mitigates PH problems as well as feeding the soil.
- Planting deciduous trees on the west and south sides of buildings can produce as much as a 10% difference in the energy used for heating and cooling.





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Garden Dollars—have you been collecting yours?

Have you been saving your Garden Dollars? You earn them by participating in club activities. Examples of what you can earn:

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs ,	75 -150	Donate plants for the sale <50 plants, 50-149 plants, ≥150 plants	75, 200, 300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Trip attendance	25	Pay dues before February 2nd	50
Donate to Kruse House	50		

Garden Dollars will be the **only currency accepted at the November auction**, where you will be able to use them at the auction to bid on fabulous prizes, like the mosaic gazing balls and other hand-crafted items, gift certificates to local retailers, and plants.

Garden Dollars are always available at the welcome table at meetings—just look for the bowl. This is done on the honor system, so take the dollars you've earned for any activities this year. (Pick up a handy envelope, too, so you don't loose them!) Contact Jeff Handel with any questions, 231-6765.

FOR THE NOVEMBER AUCTION:

We're looking for donations for the November auction. These can be hand-crafted items, artistic garden accoutrements, garden-related miscellany, preferably new items. If you have something, bring it to a meeting, and leave it with Jeff Handel.



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Greener Gardening: Making Better Choices in the Garden (continued)

By Sharon Yiesla. Extension Educator, University of Illinois Extension

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An area of the garden that needs to be looked at closely is the lawn. While it gives our yard a green (color) appearance the lawn is usually the least “green” (environmentally sound) part of the yard. Lawns are often over-watered and over-fertilized. The ideas on proper watering and fertilizing that were outlined earlier in a previous issue should definitely be applied to lawn care.

Lawns also frequently receive far more pesticides and fertilizer than they should. Many lawn products are sold together as a program to be followed regularly every year. Instead of doing that, consider what the lawn really needs. If the lawn has never had grubs, skip the grub control chemicals. Following proper guidelines for watering, mowing, and aerating a lawn can produce a thick healthy lawn that greatly reduces the need for weed killers.

To make the lawn an even greener place, take a hard look at your lawn mower. Gas power mowers are big polluters. There are some things you can do to reduce pollution problems. Avoid spilling gasoline when filling the mower. Provide proper maintenance for your mower including periodic tune-ups. Consider an electric mower or even a reel-type (push) mower. Both are much more environmentally friendly. Another way to reduce pollution from the lawn mower is to reduce mowing time. Mowing time can be reduced by decreasing the size of the lawn. Turn lawn areas into flower beds that won't require any mowing.



**Have you switched to a reel or electric mower instead of a gas-powered mower?
Share your story with your editor!**