



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

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

**Volume 18 Issue 4 April 2014**

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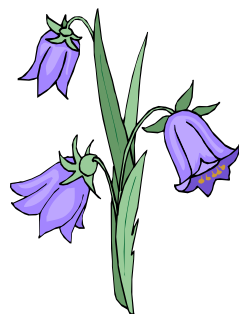
**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to you for the service and no reservations are necessary.

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

## **April 24th Meeting: "Spring Ephemerals" by Ed Max**

Club Member Ed Max will be sharing a program on Spring Ephemerals with us this month.

Spring Ephemerals are perennial plants that emerge quickly in the spring, bloom, produce seed, and then die back. Examples are: spring beauties, trilliums, and harbinger of spring.



Have you volunteered for the Plant Sale yet? See page 5 for more details on the upcoming plant prep—digging and potting parties! We need everyone's help for a successful sale. Contact Dick Darrah at 630-584-1900, [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com) with questions.

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

**6:45 - refreshments and gathering**

**7:00 - brief business meeting**

**7:15 - speaker**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 22nd:**

***Program To Be Determined***





## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Cantigny:** Greenhouse Open House. May 4. 10AM—3PM. Free event, parking fee waived. Morning Garden Tours each Tuesday at 11AM. Free with paid parking. Spring Bulb Sale. May 19. 8AM—11AM. 25 for \$5 sold in assorted bags. Enter at main gate and tell attendant "bulb sale."

**Growing Place:** Quick Tips: Planting for Success. May 3 & 4. 12PM—3PM. Both locations. Landscaping 101: Rain Gardens. May 24. 10AM, Aurora. Learn how to build a rain garden in sun or shade!

**Heinz Brothers:** Summer Container Planting Party. St. Charles. May 12, 17, and 20. Times vary. \$15 plus cost of materials. Reservations required—630-377-6288.

**Lombard Garden Club:** Lilac Sale. May 8—10. Lilacia Park in Lombard. 18 different cultivars. More information at [lombardgardenclub.org](http://lombardgardenclub.org).

**West Chicago Public Library:** May 14. Invite Nature to Your Yard: Using Native Plants to Attract Birds and Butterflies. 7pm Program by the Conservation Foundation, visit [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org) or contact Jim Kleinwachter 630-272-8375 for more information.

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn  
and add some beauty to your garden at



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## Club information

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

West Chicago Garden Club  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
[westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com)

## Membership information

Dues for 2014: Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

## Board Meetings

2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

## Regular meeting location

Faith Community Church  
910 Main Street, West Chicago

## 2014 WCGC BOARD:

### President:

Keith Letsche, 630-293-0192, [keithletsche@aol.com](mailto:keithletsche@aol.com)

### Vice President:

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

### Treasurer:

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

### Secretary:

Kathy Reynolds, 630-293-7462,  
[kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net)

### Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs, 630-545-2234, [pmbriggs@juno.com](mailto:pmbriggs@juno.com)  
June Luther, 630-876-1295, [june@markluther.com](mailto:june@markluther.com)

### Information Director & Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, [melissabirch@gmail.com](mailto:melissabirch@gmail.com)



## Planned WCGC Events - 2014

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
24 Apr	Ed Max	Spring Ephemerals	24 Jul	All members	President's Picnic
17 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	28 Aug	Chicagoland Gardening	Made in the Shade II
22 May	TBD	TBD	25 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
26 Jun	Bill Karges	*at the Kruse House	23 Oct	Jo Ann Loebel	Pressing Flowers
			20 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

The West Chicago Garden Club is saddened to announce that Wayne Bates, husband of founding member Carole Bates, passed away March 17, 2014. Memorials may be made to the First Congregational Church of Des Plaines or the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, Illinois.



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## News from Kruse

by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom

**Special Exhibit :** Each year the Kruse House Museum has a special exhibit along with the ongoing household and railroad memorabilia. The 2014 display is "It's A Doll's World" featuring dolls both old and new, doll accessories, doll houses and furniture and just about anything pertaining to dolls. The museum is open each Saturday from 11 AM to 3 PM starting in May. Stop by for a tour when you can and check out the garden while you're there. You'll probably want to invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

**There is much to be done, we must get to it:** We have rakes and shears in hand but the weather has not been cooperating. We'd like a little less talk and a lot more action! We have clean up to do. We have plants to dig for the Plant Sale but first we must uncover them. Generally we know where the plants are located but on occasion some clever fool sneaks into the garden and relocates one or two over the winter when we aren't looking. It happens at my house too. There really is no time to detect the culprit with so many pressing tasks at hand. Better to accept it as one of those spring mysteries. The plant names are another spring mystery! "Oh, you know, what's that called?" is a common refrain heard in the spring garden walk about. For me it takes until midsummer before the nomenclature cobwebs are dusted off and by midwinter they are again dormant. Spring is a reawakening of more than just plants!

**Gone but not forgotten:** There are those plants that disappear from our gardens. This variegated yellow flag iris was a glory unfurled each spring in the Kruse garden. But alas, the iris bore got it....big fat juicy ones. Angie can provide the details. We may try again and provide the new planting with a little GrubX. It's a gem!



See you in the garden....Angie, Billie, Kerry, Tom





## PLANT SALE 2014

by Pauline Briggs

Blooming Fest is Saturday, **May 17!**

We are still planning for things like: digging, potting, watering, moving plants, and all the things that go along with selling the plants! We will have signup sheets available at the next meeting. Check your calendars again!

There will be a potting party on Sunday, **April 27**, from Noon to 3 p.m., and 2 potting parties on Saturdays, **April 26** and **May 3**, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

We will need people to water and care for the plants until the day of the Member's Sale - **May 15**. We will also need a few people to help at the Members' Sale.

Then, we'll need to move the plants from the different holding areas to the sale area. That will happen on Friday night, **May 16th**. We'll need people with large vehicles, and people to load and unload them.

And then, of course we'll need lots of help the day of the sale! **May 17th**.

Again—volunteering for any of these things is a great way to get to know other garden club members better? We all know gardeners are great people. **And, you'll earn garden bucks!** There are jobs for everyone, no matter what shape you're in. So, check your calendar and plan on signing up for a few things.

If you have any questions, or haven't signed up yet and are curious where help is especially needed—call Pauline at (630) 254-2969 or Dick at (630) 584-1900.

We need everyone's help for a successful sale!

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## **Saving Time and Sanity in the Garden**

*by Heather Prince of The Growing Place*

We love vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees, but we may not love the time it takes to maintain them. To truly enjoy your garden this year, take a little time to think about your expectations for your yard and what you want to get out of it.

### *Planning*

If you're doing a vegetable patch, grow the crops your family likes best. This way you're not spending precious time and resources on food that goes uneaten. Decide what to grow from seed and what to start from transplants. If your family loves salads, plan on starting new crops of quick-growing lettuces from seed every couple of weeks for a fresh supply. For crops that take longer to ripen, like tomatoes, sometimes it's worth it to use transplants so you get fruit sooner.

### *Watering*

Where is your hose? Where are your most water-needy plants? We've got plenty of moisture now, but come July, rains tend to peter out. Placing containers in easy reach of hoses or watering cans makes far less work for you. Think about placing a bird bath in the midst of plants with high water needs. Between birds splashing about and you refilling the bird bath, those water craving plants get extra moisture with little effort. Mulching trees and shrubs keeps weeds away and moisture available. Try winding soaker hoses through your beds under mulch for a simple solution to getting water to plant roots easily.

### *Planting*

Get to know your yard and how much you enjoy working in it. Sometimes a mass planting of a few kinds of perennials makes more sense than a bed filled with thirty kinds of flowers, each with a different maintenance need. Shrubs add wonderful structure to your yard with minimum fuss. Love herbs for cooking? Herbs are undemanding in the garden and many do well in containers. Place them right outside your kitchen door or near the grill for easy harvesting.

### *Preparing Soil*

Spring is a great time to add amendments to your soil before you plant to give your plants a great start. Add BioTone Biostarter and top dress or if possible, dig in an inch or two of compost or The Growing Place Garden Mix for a nice rich material. This will slowly work its way into your soil, loosening it and giving beneficial microbes plenty to work with.

For more tips and techniques on making your gardening more rewarding, check out The Growing Place blog on [www.thegrowingplace.com](http://www.thegrowingplace.com).

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