We Go Gardening
Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 4 April 2019

The purpose of the West Chicago Garden Club shall be to increase interest in gardening through sharing our ideas and knowledge, promoting and participating in community beautification and protecting and promoting a clean environment in which we live.

Program: Spring Ephemerals

Our April speaker is Ed Max. Ed Max is a WCGC member and avid organic gardener as well. Ed is also a certified arborist and naturalist and by occupation is a landscape designer- owning and operating Max's Greener Places, here in the West Chicago / Winfield area. His blog of horticultural musings can be seen on at his web-site www.Maxlandscape.com.

Ed is passionate about native floral and fauna, and utilizes native species in his design work ,as well volunteering in natural areas on habitat restorations. He advocates for more use of native species- as the populations of both native insects and native flora they depend upon are in dangerous decline.

Ed also leads hikes with Sierra club, and is active with the Ill Native Plant Society.

His talk will be on native wildflowers, and spring colors in the Chicagoland garden and woodlands, including 'Spring Ephemerals'. Many of the photos are from his own shade gardens here in West Chicago.

Meeting Date: April 25
Meeting Location: St Andrew Lutheran Church NE Corner of Prince Crossing & Geneva Road.
Meeting Time: 6:45PM Refreshments 7:00PM Business Meeting 7:15PM Program

Don’t Forget our New Location
St. Andrew Lutheran Church is located on the northeast corner of Prince Crossing and Geneva Roads.

MAY 23RD MEETING
Workshop : Making a Hypertufa
We Go Gardening

Arbor Day Celebration Friday April 26

Our Garden Club has donated three pecan hickory trees, Carya illinoinensis, to the Park District.

There will be a planting ceremony in Reed Kepler Park on Arbor Day.

- When: Friday April 26, 5:00PM
- Where: Reed Kepler Park, South Arbor Parking Lot
- What: Tree Planting
- Why: Opportunity to lead by example

Please join in this tree planting celebration!

Click here to see the Park District Press Release

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Garden Dollars — remember to collect them!

WCGC distributes tokens (Garden Dollars) to members who participate in club activities. At the November meeting, you will be able to use them at the Silent Auction to bid on donated items and gift cards. Here’s how to earn them:

See the chart below for the amount assigned for each activity and come out to volunteer and keep our club going strong. Keep track of your dollars earned. Near the end of the year, we will have dollars available at the meetings to pickup and then use for the auction at the November meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or other events</th>
<th>Donate plants for the sale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 4 hrs</td>
<td>Less than 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 4 hrs</td>
<td>50-149</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate pots</td>
<td>Write newsletter article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate snack for meeting</td>
<td>Donate door prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set up or clean up meeting</td>
<td>Meeting attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip attendance</td>
<td>Pay 2020 dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donate to Kruse House</td>
<td>Paid 2019 dues before February 4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BYOC

Kerry Perry

Beginning at the April meeting, coffee and tea will no longer be served. We’ve found that more coffee is thrown out than what members drink.

Bottled water will still be provided. But, please Bring Your Own Coffee (BYOC). Thank you.
Notes from Barb Bizzarri

Thankfully Spring has arrived. Although it’s snowing like crazy this early Sunday morning as I write this, our gardens are patiently waiting for us. Did you know that there’s a strong positive connection between good health and being outdoors? Scientific research confirms that spending time outdoors:

- Improve short-term memory distresses
- Enhances creativity
- Reduces inflammation
- Eliminates fatigue
- Fights depression and anxiety
- Lowers blood pressure and pain
- Improves your ability to focus
- Boosts your immune system

A great book to check out is “The Nature Fix: why nature makes us happier healthier and more creative “by Florence Williams.

Science demonstrates what we intuitively know ...nature makes us happy. so now you have a reason to go outside and play! Have fun!

The Butterfly Effect

“The phenomenon where a minute localized change in a complex system can have large effects elsewhere”

It’s been great seeing the butterfly effect in our very own West Chicago Garden Club. Hats off to Billie Childress and Kerry Perry for spearheading the Flight of the Butterfly project. This project created a change and showed just what can be done when you get together a talented group of WCGC members.

Other butterfly effects were exhibited this past weekend at our second potting party. Thanks to all who attended. Each one of you made a difference in bringing the plant sale to fruition. Join us for the last two potting parties: Saturday, April 27 starting at 9 AM and Sunday, May 5 at 1 PM.

It always amazes me how the Bloomingfest plant sale gets done!

With your help you’ll see more butterfly effects throughout the year in our GardenClub. Be a part of it! Remember “many hands make light work”. special recognition for the Darrahs and Beebe’s; Dick, Barbara, Dan, & Pamela. Their “get it done attitude “ is a big part of the success for this annual plant sale.

Now that Spring is cooperating, PLEASE take a walk in your garden and divide your plants. We’ll find them a new home at our plant sale... Promise!

Getting to Know …Marion Martin

Resident of Lombard
West Chicago Garden Club Member: Since 2012
Hobbies: Gardening, reading, volunteering at Morton Arboretum, Cantigny and the Mac
My Favorite Flower: Zinnias.
Past Career: Commercial print estimator
Favorite Restaurant: Greek Islands in Lombard
Favorite Vacation: : Montreal.
Why Should Someone Join WCGC?: Guest speakers and nice people
Have you visited the [WCGC Facebook Page](#)? Take a minute and check us out! Anytime you “Like” or “Share” our page, an article or an event, you help us get the word out about our club. We usually post one or two photos, tips, articles, etc each week.

How do you choose the type of tomatoes that you want to grow in your garden? We will have over 20 varieties at our plant sale on May 18th. That is a lot to choose from!

Should you pick Heirloom or Hybrid? Determinate or Indeterminate? What do those weird letters mean? Keep reading for a little more information.

There are many opinions on what makes an “Heirloom” tomato, but in general they are usually at least 50 years old (often pre-WWII). Heirloom seed is usually handed down for generations in a particular region or area, or was hybridized in the very early days of commercial breeding. Heirlooms are open-pollinated by insects or wind without human intervention. There is a general agreement that heirlooms have stronger/better flavor than hybrid tomatoes, but they may not produce as well or be more prone to disease.

Hybrid tomatoes have been created by cross-pollinating tomato varieties to improve various characteristics. Hybrids are usually bred to be more disease resistant or to have better yields or larger fruit, etc.

Determinate vs Indeterminate: These terms describe the growth type of the tomato plant. Determinate tomatoes are often called “Bush” tomatoes. They grow to a final height and produce their fruit around the same time. Indeterminate tomatoes are a “Vine” type and continue to grow through the season. They will create tomatoes up until first frost. Determinate tomatoes are better for growing in a container. Indeterminate tomatoes may require staking.

Disease Resistance Codes for Tomatoes: When looking at the information for hybrid tomatoes, you will often see a series of weird letters, such as VFN or TSWV. These are codes that tell you what common tomato diseases this particular hybrid has been bred to resist. If you want specific details, try google, but here is a quick summary:

- **V** - Verticillium Wilt
- **F** - Fusarium Wilt
- **FF** - Fusarium, races 1 and 2
- **FFF** - Fusarium, races 1, 2, and 3
- **T** - Tobacco Mosaic Virus
- **N** - Nematodes
- **A** - Alternaria
- **St** - Stemphylium
- **TSWV** - Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus

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**Save the Date!**

**Blooming Fest will be on Saturday, May 18, 2019**

**Potting Parties**
9am Saturday, April 27th
1pm Sunday, May 5th

Please **Donate Plants** for our last 2 potting parties.

**See Page 8 for more information about our May 18th Plant Sale**

**Plant Sale—Needed Supplies:**

- Perennial Plants (bring to potting parties)
- Trade Gallon Pots (bring to potting parties)
- Cardboard Boxes (bring to sale tent on 5/17)
- 1” Mini Blinds (bring to meetings)
- Tent Donations

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*Pamela Darrah*
We Go Gardening

March Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

Last year we conducted a survey with our membership asking where our club should make a donation that would make the most impact and drive our cause of education in the field of gardening. One of the top responses was a donation to the U of I Extension Program. The U of I Extension Program provides so many worthwhile services to our county that it would be impossible to mention them all, but just a few would be.... providing volunteer Master Gardeners that offer a network of gardening programs, horticultural activities, speakers for events, help desk, garden walks and garden help line at the extension office. We were honored to donate a check for $500.00 from our club to this worthwhile program.

The speaker for our March Program was Tricia Bethke, a U of I Extension volunteer Master Gardener. Tricia was one of the best speakers we have had and provided us with lots of information on invasive species, in particular, the Jumping Worm which has been a big concern as of late. Tricia has extensive experience in the research of this worm and gave us the answers to all of our questions. Tricia was extremely knowledgeable, had great communication skills and also entertaining with her sense of humor.

Do you have a Gardening Tip you could share?

Past issues have included tips about Canna Lilies, Spotting Poison Ivy, Attracting Birds and Butterflies With Coneflowers, Parasitic Wasps, Mums as Perennials, and Honey Bees.

If you have a tip to share, please sign up at the next meeting or send an email to your Newsletter Editor, Pamela at WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com
News from Kruse

Well it’s Spring Time in Illinois again, yesterday was in the mid 70’s and today there is a trace of snow or sleet in the air. Things at the Kruse House are getting off to a great start, with the annual Spring clean-up. I stopped at the house on clean up day, the crew were at lunch but I could see the work they were doing. It is amazing how much debris piles up here during the Winter months. And not just leaves and sticks. There is a lot of paper, cans, bottles, plastic and for whatever reason a lot of apparently losing lottery tickets. It seems like people from miles around come to the Kruse just to throw their old lottery tickets away.

I think this was a bad Winter for the trees in this area. As I walked around my own house as well as the Kruse House I saw large amounts of small and medium size sticks and branches. In my yard alone I picked up almost a yard bag and a half of them.

The next time you drive by the Kruse House you will notice it has a different look. One of the large tree in the very front has been removed. I am not sure why it was removed. Now that the tree is gone, along with the shade it provided, the plants placed there may have to be moved as now they are in direct sunlight. It’s kind of amazing how we don’t pay attention to trees until they are gone.

If you get a chance to stop by the Kruse House you will notice that there are many plants already up and some are even blooming. So have a great Spring.

Photos taken at Kruse Garden by Kerry Perry

November Auction

Remember to be on the lookout for garden items that you can donate for our November Auction. Remember, we are looking for new or very “gently used” items. We are particularly hoping for items related to gardening or that we can use in our yards.

My ‘Bulb Bingo’ bulbs that I overwintered in my garage. I only took them out a week ago and look how they popped up—Barb Bizzarri
Flight of the Butterfly 🦋🦋🦋 Project

The artists have all completed their creations and the butterflies are being prepared for their May 12th debut. Our WCGC artists created 7 butterflies and there are an additional 36 butterflies that will be scattered around the city. There will be a map available to help you to locate each of the butterflies.

Alice in the Garden: Barb Bizzarri & Barb Melville
Sunshine and Lollipops: Janine Jordan
Kaleidoscope: Jean Ann Saarnio, Jan Grismore, Tom Fessler
Milky: Pauline Briggs, Marcy Kozlowski, Jodi Otzwirk

Cute as a Button: Ruth Kyme, Kurt Schramer, Janet Frogner
Tropic-Anna: Kerry Perry & Billie Childress
TigerFly: Dick & Barbara Darrah, Pamela Darrah, Dan & Darrah Beebe
Back side of TigerFly

Cantigny Events for Gardeners

April 20: Spring into Gardening, Visitors Center, 9-11 am. Take a walk through the gardens with Cantigny horticulturist Samantha Peckham as she discusses the best ways to prepare your garden for the season. Learn valuable time-saving tips and sustainable techniques to start your garden on the path to greatness! Limit 20 participants; register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. Free program; parking $5.

May 5: Open House Cantigny Greenhouse, 10am-3 pm, Bring the family and your green thumb to this popular annual event! Enjoy tours, exhibits and get answers to your gardening and plant questions from the Cantigny Horticulture staff. Admission is free with paid parking ($10). Use Cantigny’s main entrance on Winfield Road, then walk to the greenhouse or use the complimentary tram service.

May 7: Garden Tour: Spring Annuals & Bulbs, Visitors Center, 11 am. Join a Cantigny Horticulture staff member for an up-close look at the park’s stunning spring annuals and bulb displays. Free with paid parking ($5).

May 12: Cantigny Garden Photo Tips, Visitors Center, 2 pm. Receive advice, share your knowledge and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow shutterbugs in beautiful surroundings. Group size limited to 10—register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with paid parking ($10).
Upcoming Programs for 2019

These are the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 23rd</td>
<td>Marcie Kozlowski</td>
<td>Workshop - Making a Hypertufa</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27th</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Garden Walk (Posey Mosey)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25th</td>
<td>Barb Bizzarri</td>
<td>President's Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22nd</td>
<td>Carol Cichowski</td>
<td>Glorious Dahlias</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 26th</td>
<td>Pauline Briggs</td>
<td>Bulb Bingo</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24th</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21st</td>
<td>Silent Auction</td>
<td>Pot Luck Dinner</td>
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Plant Sale 2019

Despite the recent heavy snow, so far this year, Mother Nature been kind to us. The relatively warm weather was greatly appreciated at our first two Potting Parties where we potted around 240 perennial plants. Billie reported similar success with the first Annual Plant Potting Party held at Marcy’s house where around 15 flats of annuals were planted.

Hopefully our weather will continue to warm up and we can have more plants ready for planting at the remaining potting parties scheduled for April 27th at 9am and May 5th at 1pm.

We REALLY need more perennial plants.

Please consider bringing some plants from your yard to the last two potting parties.

There will be a number of signup sheets at the April club meeting for Tent Move-In Day (Friday, May 17th) and Plant Sale Day (Saturday, May 18th). We welcome the help of friends and family, especially for the Friday Tent Move-In on the 17th. If you will not be at the next meeting and would like to volunteer on the 17th/18th, please contact me as soon as possible. For those of you who have volunteered to help with making the plant labels, label ‘kits’ will be available at our April meeting.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to e-mail me at dbeebe@yahoo.com. — Dan Beebe
We Go Gardening

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Club Information
Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org
West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information
Dues for 2019: Individual: $15 Family: $25 (2 people)

Board Meetings
2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location
St Andrew Lutheran Church
155 N Prince Crossing Rd, West Chicago

2019 WCGC BOARD:
President: Barb Bizzarri
Vice President: Dan Beebe
Treasurer: Kerry Perry
Secretary: Pamela Darrah
Program Director: Barb Melville
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah
Director at Large: Chris Gicela
To Contact any Board Member, please send email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

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