

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 20 Issue 8 August 2016



**Meeting Date: August 25, 2016**  
**Meeting Location:**  
**Faith Community Church**  
**at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

**Meeting Time:**  
**6:45PM Refreshments**  
**7:00PM Business Meeting**  
**7:15PM Program**

## August 25, 2016: Pollinator Habitat

### What's The Buzz!

#### The Buzz Is ON! Pollinators in the News!

With all the publicity about Colony Collapse Disorder in honeybee populations and the declining populations of the Monarch butterfly, more and more people are becoming interested in pollinators. With this, we are also increasingly aware of the impacts of the plant choices we make in our gardens. This presentation will help you understand the world of pollinators and the key elements you need in your garden to support them from an overall habitat perspective. Our speaker will also share some of her favorite native plants and talk about how to add them to your own garden.

Trish Beckjord, RLA

Before joining the Midwest team as their Native Plant and Green Infrastructure Specialist, Trish worked as a Landscape Architect in planning and design for 14 years in Michigan and Illinois. Most recently her work has focused on ecological design, a principle close to her heart, where she has specialized in sustainable planting and site design - particularly the integration of native species and native landscapes and sustainable storm water management best practices. Trish has also led small-scale ecological restoration and scenic corridor planning projects, served as a senior project manager and been responsible for construction oversight. Trish is an experienced public speaker on sustainable design topics and has a Master's in Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment.

*Next Meeting: September 22 program, "Myths and Benefits of Bats" by Sharon and Dan Peterson  
Looking Ahead: October 27 program, "Magic of Minor Bulbs" by Jill Selinger*

Find us on 

**West Chicago Garden Club is now on Facebook!**  
[www.facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub)

**We are also on Instagram: @westchicagogardenclub**



*We've been around since  
heirloom tomatoes  
were just called tomatoes*



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SPRING HOURS  
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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 2016: 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

**2016 WCGC BOARD:**

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

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

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



| <b>WCGC 2016 Calendar</b> |                        |                    |               |                         |                                |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Date                      | Speaker/Organizer      | Topic/Event        | Date          | Speaker/Organizer       | Topic/Event                    |
| <b>28 Jul</b>             | President Dick Darrah  | President's Picnic | <b>22 Sep</b> | Sharon and Dan Peterson | Bats                           |
| <b>25 Aug</b>             | Trish Beckjord         | Pollinators        | <b>27 Oct</b> | Jill Selinger           | Bulbs                          |
| <b>10 Sep</b>             | Chicago Botanic Garden | FIELD TRIP!        | <b>17 Nov</b> | All members             | Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction |

### Primer for our August Education Program on Pollinators

**What is a pollinator?** A pollinator is an animal that causes plants to make fruit or seeds. They do this by moving pollen from one part of the flower of a plant to another part. This pollen then fertilizes the plant. Only fertilized plants can make fruit and/or seeds, and without them, the plants cannot reproduce. Bees don't intentionally move that pollen around for the plant's benefit. It just happens while they are collecting the pollen (protein) and nectar (carbohydrate) for their food. Bees are the most effective pollinators but butterflies, beetles, wasps, flies, spiders, hummingbirds, bats, and wind pollinate also pollinate plants.

**How can you help pollinators? Provide food and water, provide a place to live, and don't kill them with pesticides!**

### 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 **auction to bid on fabulous prizes**. Here's how to earn them:

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, pick them up at special events from the event organizer, or see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned.

**Pick up the Garden Dollars you've earned before the auction in November!**

|                                                                           |          |                                                          |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs) | 75 - 150 | Donate plants for the sale                               | 75, 200, 300 |
|                                                                           |          | <50, 50-149, ≥150                                        |              |
| 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       | <b>Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2016</b> | <b>75</b>    |
| Donate to Kruse House                                                     | 50       | <b>Pay dues before February 2nd</b>                      | 50           |



## News from Kruse—What's new in the Kruse Garden



**Wheelbarrow:** We have a new bright yellow, ergonomic handled wheelbarrow! It barely gets through the door of the shed but it works fantastic. It's the one garden tool we use every time the whole time we work there. So, it has a big impact on all of us. I'm not one to jump up and offer to dump a full wheelbarrow but it's a lot easier with this one. For one thing, the tire isn't flat all the time! May the old gray one RIP. You served us well many years old gray!

**Mason Bee House:** Sandy Nicholson brought us an interesting gift. Have you ever seen a Mason Bee House? Well most of us hadn't even heard of a Mason Bee. It is one of our native "cavity nesting" bees (as opposed to native "ground nesting" bees). They nest in long tubes preparing the first nest at the back of the tube. They collect pollen and store it in the nest, then lay an egg and close off the space with mud. The bee repeats this process until the tube is full and then starts on another tube. Pretty cool huh?



**Angie:** Well, Angie isn't really new to the garden but she fractured her femur (now pinned), and it was a big deal to have her back in the garden with us. She wasn't gone long but we sure missed her!

**Drought and Heat:** Minimal rain and intense heat have taken their toll in August! We want the garden to look nice for the Ice Cream Social, September 10, but it's been a challenge to keep the plants going with hand watering and sprinklers. The Museum's special displaying the house this year is "99 Bottles...". Featuring bottles of all types including perfume, liquor, soft drinks, decorative

and many miscellaneous. If you haven't toured the house yet this year it would be a great idea to stop by the IC social (great home-baked pie and cakes of all kinds plus the Ice Cream) eat, tour the house and garden, and be happy.

**Keith Letsche and Sandy Nicholson:** Keith and Sandy have established themselves as "regulars" on our Wednesday work days! Ho boy, are we glad to have them! They are such good gardeners!

—Billie



## Fall Field Trip: Chicago Botanic Garden



WE ARE GOING TO THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10  
— RAIN OR SHINE!

WE WILL BE CARPOOLING FROM FAITH CHURCH AT 9 AM SHARP  
THIS IS RSVP & PREPAY ONLY SO PLAN TO SIGN UP AND PAY AT THE MEETING

COST IS \$20 FOR MEMBERS THIS INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, AND A  
NICE BOX LUNCH IN ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE GARDEN MEETING ROOMS  
COST FOR GUESTS \$30 INCLUDES EVERYTHING ABOVE

TOUR YOUR FAVORITE SPOTS OR EXPLORE SOMEWHERE NEW!

TAKE A TRAM RIDE (COST NOT INCLUDED DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE) OR LISTEN TO A VEGGIE LECTURE

TRY ONE OF THE SUMMER WALKING ROUTES AND BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE GARDEN APP ON YOUR  
SMARTPHONE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

OUR CLUB SECRETARY ANNETTE WULFFE MUST HAVE YOUR RSVP AND MONEY AT THE MEETING OR SEPT  
1 AT THE VERY LATEST SORRY NO EXCEPTIONS OR REFUNDS!

IF YOU CAN'T BE AT THE AUGUST MEETING HAVE A FRIEND BRING THE RSVP ENVELOPE HOME FOR YOU  
JUST BE SURE TO GET IT BACK ON TIME SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS SPECIAL EVENT

**Any questions? Call Annette Wulffe at (630) 346-0406.**

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You are cordially invited to The **West Chicago Historical Society's Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction** to be held on **Saturday, September 10th, 2016, from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** This year's event will be held in collaboration with the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum. Help support both of our local history organizations at this great event!

**Come enjoy the afternoon!** A slice of homemade cake or pie and ice cream with a refreshing drink are waiting for you! Our talented bakers will once again dazzle you with their treats. Spend the afternoon with us, meeting with friends, sitting on the lawn and viewing the Kruse House Gardens. The West Chicago Garden Club continues to do a wonderful job maintaining the fabulous surroundings of the Kruse House. Olde-time children's games will also be setup on the lawn for all to enjoy. Tickets are \$5.00; they can be purchased in advance from a Historical Society Board Member, at the City Museum at 132 Main Street or at the entrance of the Kruse House on the day of the event.

Remember, your ticket includes the chance to win a door prize, bid on the silent auction items and have your child participate in a cake walk. A 60/40 raffle will also help raise money to benefit local history. Our 2016 display "99 bottles" will also be open for viewing. Make sure you take a tour through the Museum with one of our docents! The Silent Auction runs from 12:00 until 2:30 p.m. No bid numbers will be given out after 2:15 pm.

**Want to help out with this great event?** If you have any new, antique or collectible items or gift certificates, tickets, etc. that you would like to donate for the raffle, please call Sara Phalen at [630-231-3376](tel:630-231-3376) or email at [wegohistory@gmail.com](mailto:wegohistory@gmail.com). Or maybe you would like to bake a cake or pie and watch the participants savor your contribution? If so, please contact Donna Orlandini at [630-231-2671](tel:630-231-2671).

*A rain date of Sunday, September 11th, 2016, has been set if needed.*



## **Watering Tips for Homeowners**

## **The Growing Place**

Summers in Chicagoland can be challenging for plants. We often need to water the landscape, especially if you have added new plants.

When you water, it's best to water the ground slowly and deeply. Plants drink water through their roots not their leaves, and keeping water off the leaves can reduce some diseases. When sprinklers are needed, water in the morning whenever possible so the leaves have time to dry. Watering deeply encourages roots to grow deeper. How to know if water is needed? Put your finger down into the soil 2 inches deep (under the mulch). When the soil is dry, water.

### **Lawns**

DO NOT program your sprinkler systems to run on a schedule. Lawns need no more than one inch of rain or water per week. Running your system less often but for longer periods mimics a rain shower. Put out a rain gauge to determine the length of time to run your sprinkler. Lawns left to go dormant in the summer save water, maintenance time, and even emissions (if you have a gas mower) because you won't have to mow the lawn as much. As an added benefit, Japanese beetles are less likely to lay their eggs in a dormant lawn.

### **New plants**

Always water the day of planting. Water slowly so the soil will soak into the ground. Trees can take 20 to 30 minutes, shrubs 15 to 20 minutes, perennials and annuals just a few minutes.

Mulch right after plants have been watered in and you'll have less watering to do.

Mulch perennials and annuals no more than 1 inch deep and none around the base of the plants

Mulch trees and shrubs no more than 3 inches deep and none around the base of the plants.

Plants may need shade for a few days if they wilt in the hot afternoon sun. Use a lawn chair or umbrella to shade them temporarily. Water only if the soil is dry.

You may dig a shallow temporary 'doughnut' ditch around the plant to retain water if plantings are on a slope.

Know your plant's moisture needs! Some plants need more water than others. How to know when to water again? Put your finger down into the soil 2 inches deep (under the mulch). When the soil is dry, water.

Plants near established trees may require more water. The roots of trees absorb a lot of the ground moisture and light rains can evaporate before reaching the ground under large shade trees.

### **Established plants**

Know your plant's moisture needs! Some plants need more water than others. Drought tolerant plants can go for a lot longer without water than plants that require even moisture.

When there hasn't been rain for 2 weeks or more, check the soil around moisture loving plants first.

### **Gardens**

Sprinklers should run just long enough to equal an inch of rain. You can test how much water your garden receives by using a rain gauge.

If you have mulch over your beds, the water will need to get through to the soil.

Use a low sprinkler, not a fan sprinkler. They lose too much water to evaporation.

Soaker hoses are efficient. Use a portable 10 foot section that can easily be moved or place longer sections throughout the garden. The hose must run long enough so that the soil is wet 4 inches deep. Soaker hoses may need to be moved so all sides of the plants will be watered.