

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 8 August 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.

Meeting Date: August 22

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**

Dahlias - Living Fireworks



Our August speaker is Carol Cichorski.

Carol and her husband Mike 'found' dahlias 18 years ago and their life has not been

the same since. They plant tubers in the basement in February and grow about 300 plants each year, with 65 of them going to their own garden. Mike is past president of the Central States Dahlia Society, while Carol loves to share their dahlia passion and let you know how you can grow dahlias too.



Carol was already garden addicted when they moved to their small house on a half-acre lot 19 years ago. She was very



much a novice gardener at that time. Much has changed since then. Carol is now past-president of the Elk Grove Garden Club, quite the gardener, and a blogger at www.OhWhatA.com. She speaks regularly at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, and manages their seminars on-site.



This lovely Dahlia is from Barb Melville's garden.

SEPTEMBER 26TH MEETING

**Bulb Bingo
by Pauline Briggs**

Notes from Barb Bizzarri—Weeds!

Despite our best attempts, weeds just keep on coming. Late Summer is not the time to stop the challenging task of pulling weeds. Here are 4 prolific weeds that need your attention now:

Creeping Charlie (Glechoma hederacea)

The name says it all: insidiously creeping stems allow this weed to spread like a ground cover. A perennial, creeping Charlie can thread its way through, above, below, and around other plants, making it difficult to remove. To remove: trace it back to its root nodes, then dig them out.



Poison Ivy.

Even children learn the phrase “Leaves of three, let them be,” the apt descriptor of poison ivy. The perennial plant can be a trickster, growing low and shrubby or high and vining. But it’s the allergic reaction that some humans have that’s the real risk- uncomfortable itching and rash! Always wear rubber gloves to pull or dig the plant, and dispose of immediately.



Nutsedge

Indicative of wet conditions, and often found in lawns, yellow nutsedge can look like regular lawn grass until it grows taller, powering up to a potential 8- to 36-inch height. Check the leaves for identification—they feel stiffer than lawn grass, and the stem is triangular (it’s a sedge, not a grass). Pull this weed as soon as you spot it—if left unchecked, it develops underground tubers and nutlets that make it difficult to control



Bindweed

Every gardener knows the horror of bindweed: the perennial, twisting, vine-like weed that climbs up the stems of other plants, defying attempts to unwind or pull its counterclockwise cling. If neglected, bindweed forms a thick mat and an extensive root system that overwhelms any garden. Get familiar with bindweed’s arrow-shaped leaf and search for the first tendrils at ground level while weeding. If the weed is already established, pull and clip the plant repeatedly to exhaust its roots.



America in Bloom

Barb Bizzarri

The America in Bloom judges visited West Chicago on July 22nd and 23rd.



Notes from Barb Bizzari: Getting to Know...

Shirley Schramer



Resident of West Chicago: Since 1958!
West Chicago Garden Club Member: 1998*
Hobbies: Baking, Shirley has become very proficient in baking gluten free desserts
Favorite Flower: Nasturiums. "I start the seeds indoors and once

established move them outdoors"

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Too many daylily

Past Career: Worked at the West Chicago City Museum for 20 years prior to retirement

What gardening chore do you hate? I would say weeding, however, I do enjoy pulling weeds with other WCGC members on Wednesdays at the Kruse House

Favorite Bird: Goldfinch

What Bird Is Most Entertaining In Your Garden: Cardinals...they're never still, always moving.

*Note: The West Chicago Garden Club was founded in May, 1925. It did take a "leave of absence" from 1978 - 1998. In 1998 our club was revived. Fellow current club members who began, along with Shirley, in 1998 include Barbara and Dick Darrah, Dan Beebe and Pamela Darrah, Jeff Handel and Becky Hall To all of them we say....Thanks so very much !!

Please check out our website westchicagogardenclub.org (under the "About Us" tab) for additional information about WCGC history.

Mary Schramer



Resident of West Chicago.. 3 years
West Chicago Garden Club Member since joining in the beginning of 2019

Hobbies: Gardening, arts & crafts; jewelry making and paper crafts

Favorite Flower: Coreopsis

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Planting things in the wrong spot. Once I built a little garden and right next to it was a roof downspout. My garden was either flooded or suffered drought. With gardens, it's always location, location, location

Current Career: Psychologist

What gardening chore do you hate? Digging and dividing plants.

If you could only have one flower in your garden, what would it be? Cone flowers...I have pink ,red and yellow

What's New in Your Garden? I was gifted an assortment of sunflowers ; from small to huge. I've enjoyed watching them grow throughout my garden (see a picture of Mary's sunflowers below).

Note: Mary is the daughter-in-law of Shirley Schramer, (see left) and mother of Kurt Schramer, both of whom are also Garden

Club Members.



A couple of Mary's Sunflowers.

July Meeting Recap

The 2019 President's Picnic at Reed Keppler Park was a great success!



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.



News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

It looks like the “lazy, hazy, crazy, days of summer” are coming to an end. August is here encompassing the “dog days” of summer named after Sirius, the dog star. In ancient Egypt, the name of this god meant “scorching” as the star rose prior to the sunrise during the dry days just before the annual flooding of the Nile. Summer doesn’t end that abruptly here but it is beginning to glide away toward autumn, leaving the workers at Kruse with less and less control over the gardens. We can only do our best to keep them weeded and deadheaded until the time for fall clean up arrives.

We’ve had some special times this summer, beginning with the arrival of the butterflies and then “Big Boy” the steam engine which helped draw new people into the city, and at least one family that I saw, to the Kruse Garden. Meanwhile, the butterflies have merged into the landscape beautifully and I will miss them if they go away.



As Shakespeare said:

“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date”

However, in the meantime, we have a chance to share one more magical moment as the annual ice cream social is coming up. Please join us for Summer’s last burst of color and help to support the museum on September 7.

P.S. The deserts are always fantastic. Get there early before Dan’s cherry pie is gone.

Photos from Dick Darrah

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.

September 26th	Pauline Briggs	Bulb Bingo
October 24th	Bill Kargas	TBD
November 21st	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner



Save the Date

DuPage Friends of Extension presents...

Brunch at Cantigny

Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019

Enjoy a beautiful brunch, full Cantigny Park access

Silent Auction & Music

Event 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & Brunch Buffet 12-2 p.m.
Master Gardeners will be on-hand to answer questions
Park Access 'til Closing

Tickets: \$50 each 'til Aug. 12 (includes brunch, park access & parking)
After Aug. 12, \$55 each. Limited tickets available at the door.

Hosted by DuPage Friends of Extension at
Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton

More details to be available at www.dupagefriendsofextension.webs.com
For questions, contact Marilyn at 630.534.6443 or Coleen at 630-440-0098

Proceeds benefit University of Illinois Extension programs in DuPage County, including Master Gardeners, 4-H Youth Development, and Health & Nutrition.



For more information or to purchase tickets, visit

<https://dupagefriendsofextension.webs.com/brunch-at-cantigny>

Local Events for Gardeners

- Sept 3: **Cantigny Tour: Butterfly Hill and Gold Pond** Visitors Center, 11 am. Learn about two of the park's newly designed landscapes, each part of the ongoing Project New Leaf. The tour, guided by Craig Kruckenberg and Matthew Fairfield from Cantigny Horticulture, will highlight the use of native species. Free with parking (\$5). [Cantigny September Calendar](#)
- Sept 5 & 19: **Cantigny Summer Evening Stroll.** Visitors Center, 5 pm. Enjoy a one-hour summer garden tour, conducted by the park's Master Gardener docents. Walk begins at the Visitors Center. Free with paid parking (\$5). [Cantigny September Calendar](#)
- Sept 7: **Cantigny Fall Container Workshop.** Greenhouse, 1:30 pm Dress up your front door area with a refreshed container sporting rich autumn color. Plants, compost, soilless medium and design/growing advice are included in the price of this 90-minute workshop. \$50 fee includes parking; \$45 for Cantigny members. Enter the park at Shaffner Road for easy access to the greenhouse parking lot. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162.
- Sept 17: **Morton Arboretum: Beginning Beekeeping Class,** Four Tuesdays, September 17 through October 8, 2019, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fees-\$95 member, \$109 nonmember. [More Information Link.](#)
- Sept 19: **Cantigny Garden Walk on the Wild Side** Visitors Center, 1 pm. New for 2019, this tour by Cantigny Horticulture takes place monthly through October, on the third Thursday. Staff members will choose personal favorite plants and share information about them—a bit of science, growing advice and perhaps a fun fact. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5). [Cantigny August Calendar](#)

Out and About

Barb Bizzarri

The Union Pacific Big Boy stopped by West Chicago for a 3 day stay in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad. 45,000 people came to West Chicago to see the Big Boy (133' long, 16'4" tall) before it departed for it's next stop in Iowa.



UP built a total of 25 Big Boys. They weigh 1.2 million pounds and are 132 ft long. They have a 4-8-8-4 wheel arrangement. There are 7 displayed in museums and No 4014 is the only one restored to running condition.



Photos of Big Boy visiting West Chicago from Pamela Darrah

Photo of Big Boy leaving West Chicago from www.westchicago.org.

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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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and add some beauty to your garden at

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