



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 17 Issue 8 August 2013

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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.



August 22nd Meeting: "Monarch Magic" with Pat Miller



Pat Miller has been a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener since 2003, a Plant Technician at Morton Arboretum since 2006, Master Naturalist since 2012, Conservation Specialist since 2012 (Monarch Watch, University of Kansas).

She has been gardening for over 50 years. Pat teaches Continuing Education classes in Horticulture at College of DuPage, Morton Arboretum, and the Chicago Botanic Garden. She is also Conservation Chair of the Elmhurst Garden Club.

Within the Master Gardener Program, Pat has offered advice to homeowners while working the Help Line at the Extension office. Pat is an active team member for the "Squirmin Herman" educational worm program for elementary school children and a popular member of the Speakers Bureau. She was instrumental in reviving the Downers Grove YMCA entrance garden in 2005. Each summer Pat raises hundreds of butterflies (mostly monarchs) in her home. She has travelled to the overwintering sights in Mexico several times. Each fall she tags monarchs for their migration to Mexico. Pat has written a monarch program and presents it to DuPage County students, from kindergarten to 6th grade. Pat's many speaking engagements take her throughout the Chicago area. She has been a speaker at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Chicago Wild Things, and McHenry College in addition to her speaking engagements for garden clubs, environmental groups, and libraries throughout DuPage County.

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, Sept. 26:

"BULB BINGO!"



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Garden Tour of the Prairie. 9/3, 11AM. Free with paid parking, no registration required. Have You Tagged a Monarch Butterfly? 9/5, 1PM. All Ages (child-friendly). Free with paid parking. Registration required: 630/260-8162.

Growing Place: Fall Fest. 9/21-22. Aurora. Fall Potting Party. 9/28, 1PM—3PM. Cost of Materials. Call for more information 630/820-8088.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Fall planter demonstration. Saturday, 9/7, 10AM—10:30AM and Sunday 9/8 2PM—2:30PM. Free, but reservations required. Call 630/584-0473.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Behind the Scenes Greenhouse Tour. 9/6 & 9/7, 11AM and 1PM. Members Only. \$5 per person. Meet at Visitor's Center. Advance ticket purchase required. 847/835-5440.

Morton Arboretum: Honey Bee Weekend. 9/5-9/8. Call for more information. 630/968-0074.



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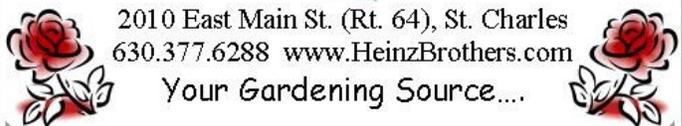
Bloomington 222 W. Lake St. (630) 529-9394	Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm Sun 10am-5pm	Carpentersville 2400 Randall Rd. (Randall & Huntley Rds.) (847) 428-6767
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Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org
West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership information

Dues for 2013: 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

2013 WCGC BOARD:

- President:
Keith Letsche 630-293-0192
- Vice President:
Dick Darrah 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com
- Treasurer:
Barb Darrah 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com
- Secretary:
open
- Program Co-Chairs:
Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, pmb Briggs@juno.com
June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com
- Information Director & Publicity:
Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2013

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
25 Jul	All members	President's Picnic	26 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo
22 Aug	TBA	Monarch Magic	24 Oct	Bill Karges	Fall Garden Prep
			21 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

We're **STILL** thinking ahead...

To next January. And, we're asking for your help. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We would like to do a home grown program. Since we don't get to see everyone's gardens, we'd like to put together a slide show of our gardens. Or, maybe you would like suggestions as to what to do with that problem spot. Or, maybe you would like to tell us about your favorite tool? So, take pictures throughout the seasons.

Then, in December, or early January, e-mail your best, or worst, pictures to Pauline: briggspm@gmail.com or mail to:

3S071 Cypress Dr, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-7311. THANK YOU!



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News from Kruse

by Angie, Tom & Billie

“Zip a dee doo dah, zip a dee ay. My, oh my what a wonderful day!”

We've had a lot of wonderful days with plenty of sunshine and, until recently, plenty of rain. So, it's been a pleasure gardening this year! The Kruse garden is looking good, and it better be, because there's a big event coming up.

Attention Please! Historical Society's **Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction**, 12-3 PM, Saturday, September 7, (nice of them to have it on B's birthday) in the Kruse Garden. It's a great opportunity to tour the house (special display this year is 'cats & dogs....& bunnies too') **and**..... have a big brick of ice-cream with a huge selection of home baked cakes, pies, and other tantalizing treats! The auction items always include unique, useful and 'one of a kind' items. It's fun! Stop by, eat, tour (house & garden), bid, and visit with friends...what a great way to spend some time on a fall Saturday afternoon. See you there!

This lovely weeping Norway Spruce tree has been planted in the Kruse Garden in memory of Keith Letsche's aunt, Dorothy Letsche. She was an avid gardener all her life. Her gardens were neat and precise and Keith's mother would say "a weed wouldn't dare think of growing in Dorothy's garden."



Thank you, Keith, for the donation! We are so pleased to remember your aunt with this tree. Since we want the garden to look extra nice for the Ice Cream Social we would greatly appreciate some help with the usual garden maintenance chores. We are there every Monday morning at 9AM. Come join us. No reservations necessary!

As always.....gardening with pleasure, A, T & B



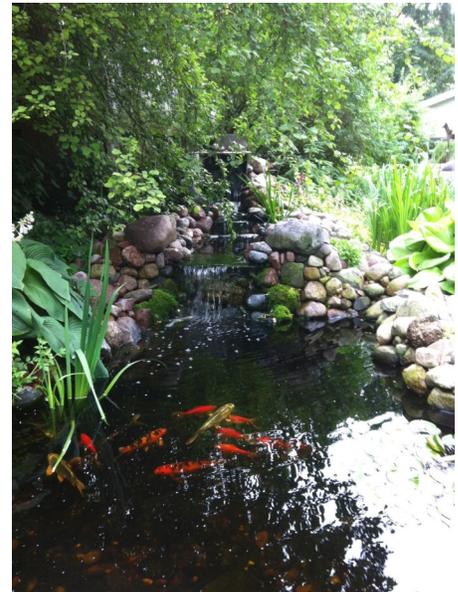
Posey Mosey Garden Stroll Photos

courtesy of Becky Hall

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The Pleasures of Fall

by Heather Prince of The Growing Place

September heralds the beginning of autumn and all its pleasures. Cooler days send us outdoors to enjoy. We harvest our vegetables and herbs and find new ways to cook with them. Pumpkins arrive as well as gourds, squash, and cornstalks. Fall flowers bloom, offering a last hurrah for pollinators before winter snows.

September is the perfect time to refresh containers with cheerful frost-tolerant flowers like pansies, mums, calibrachoa, cabbage and kale. Mum season is a special time at The Growing Place. We've planted more than 6,000 early, mid, and late season blooming varieties. They are big, healthy and filled with buds, ready for your garden beds and containers.

Why not give butterflies a boost? Mums and asters can be an important source of nectar for late season pollinators. Among the best types of plants to encourage them are those in the aster family. These composite daisy-like flowers pack a big punch in nectar and many varieties will bloom into November. Our native asters tend to be clouds of small pale lavender or white blooms on two to three foot plants. However, perennial mums, goldenrod, and perennial sunflowers are also good choices. Often, these plants will create a nice splash of color in your autumn garden even through several frosts. There is a large range of sizes and blossom colors in this group of plants and they can thrive in full to part sun, in average soils. When planting, tuck them in with other perennials and shrubs that bloom at different times to maximize your flowering season. Asters will be a mass of foliage throughout the summer before bursting into starry bloom, so they tend to be a good plant to blend into a bed. To control size, create a bushier plant or delay flowering, pinch back the plants until about mid-July.

September also sees the beginning of the harvest as pumpkins and gourds begin to become available. We celebrate the harvest with the Fall Festival at The Growing Place in Aurora on September 21 and 22 with two days of hayrides, children's crafts, live music and treats. In October, we celebrate Pumpkin Palooza at the Aurora location on October 5. We will create giant pumpkin art to support local charities. Each giant pumpkin, weighing between 300 and 600 pounds, is decorated by our creative Growing Place staff and benefits a charity. Vote for your favorite pumpkin and its charity will win a donation. Pumpkins will be displayed through the end of October, so visit and vote often.



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