

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 21 Issue 2 February 2017



**Meeting Date: February 23**  
**Meeting Location:**  
**Faith Community Church**  
**at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

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

## Mark Spreyer will present Who's Who of Owls

He will bring 5 raptors and loads of information to fill Our minds and hearts. A book of nature essays titled Natural Digressions that Mark wrote will be available For purchase (price is \$20) and ALL proceeds go to support Stillman Nature Center, a 501(c)(3) organization.



### About the Speaker

Mark did his graduate work in Minnesota on Great Gray Owls and then went on to organize and direct Chicago's Peregrine Falcon release program. In 1989, he returned to Minnesota where he worked with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and other conservation organizations. In early 1995, after completing work on a 5,000 square-foot raptor exhibit with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Mark migrated back to Illinois to become Executive Director of the Stillman Nature Center in Barrington. He co-authored the life history of the Monk Parakeet for the A.O.U.'s Birds of North America series. During his career, Mark has also worked with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, National Audubon Society, and Chicago Academy of Sciences plus he has taught courses for the College of Lake County and Northeastern Illinois University.

We have a new babysitter that started last month! Her name is Anna Savino, and she will be at all future meetings to take care of children. The church has a lovely room for kids to play in with all sorts of toys and board games. Thanks, Anna!

*March 23rd Program: "Members Present".  
We will meet in the sanctuary....not in the gym!*




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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 2017: 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

## **2017 WCGC BOARD:**

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## WCGC 2017 Calendar

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
26 Jan	Erik Neidy, DuPage Forest Preserve District	Habitat Changes in West Branch Forest	22 Jun	TBA	TBA
23 Feb	Mark Spreyer from the Stillman Nature Center	"Who's Who of Owls"	? Jul	TBA	TBA
23 Mar	Members Present	Members Present	24 Aug	TBA	TBA
27 Apr	TBA	TBA	28 Sep	TBA	TBA
20 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	26 Oct	TBA	TBA
25 May	TBA	TBA	16 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

## January's Meeting: Fun, Informative and Engaging!

Erik Neidy, Director of Natural Resources DuPage County presented to the group for over an hour telling funny stories like the time the flying squirrel landed on his head or the time the owl was staring at him and his coworker from a tree one foot away. But Eric was not just funny; he presented current and interesting information about the forest preserve properties of DuPage County and what he and his department are doing to ensure that the mission statement is always first and foremost in their daily work:

### ***OUR Mission:***

*To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education pleasure and recreation of DuPage County Citizens.*

Eric holds a Bachelor's of Science in Zoology from Western Illinois University and a Master's of Science in Environmental Biology, from Governors State University.

Erik began working for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in 2001. During the last 15 years his focus has been aimed at Native ecosystem restoration, enhancement, creation, and management. The primary focus has been on roughly 12,000 of 26,000 acres of open space in DuPage County. Restoration of wetland, woodland, prairie, and stream/aquatic habitats aimed at maximizing biodiversity and increasing wildlife utilization across all habitats. Eric's presentation covered a wide array of restoration programs, such as prescribed fire and deer management, as well as specific projects such as the West Branch of the DuPage River, Springbrook Prairie Creek Meandering, Oak Woodland and Wetland Restoration, Blanding's Turtle population augmentations, as well as methods used for restoration programs.

-Barb Melville





## News from Kruse

Kerry Perry

From a distance the Kruse House Garden looks rather bleak. If you walk about and look closely you will still see a bit of color and interesting textures.



All the leaves have fallen from the trilobum viburnum, but brilliant red berries remain. A new infestation, the Viburnum Leaf Beetle (VLB) has hit our area. Might those little bugs show up at the Kruse Garden? Cornell University has a top of the line search engine. Go to [gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening](http://gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening), type in viburnum and you will see the link to the VLB and also a terrific article "Which viburnum is it?" There are more than 150 varieties of viburnum world wide.

The Northern White Cedar has pretty variegated green foliage and clusters of cones. Seeds are dispersed from the tiny cones in September. These trees are typical of limestone soils.



We cut back all of the Annabelle hydrangeas in the fall. The Snow Storm hydrangea was left standing and some of its flowers weathered the snow and wind. Although the color has faded it's still lovely.



## Plants to get excited about!

## The Growing Place

Although the calendar says it's still winter, we're getting excited for spring! Every year there's always new plants to grow in your garden. At The Growing Place Garden Center, our staff researches up and coming varieties that look promising and add the very best to our selections. While some of these are not brand new this year, they have been tested and when planted in the right place will be strong performers!

### **Geranium 'Pink Penny' (perennial)**

An easy to grow, long-blooming plant that is very similar to our other favorite geranium 'Rozanne'. They will have saucer-shaped blooms of bright magenta purple summer into fall. Great for mass planting as a groundcover or edging a border. They grow 12-18"H x 18-23"W in full sun or part shade in average or moist soil.

### **Black Pearl Coral Bells (*Heuchera* 'Black Pearl') (perennial)**

This brand-new addition from Proven Winners has stunning black foliage plant and will grow in both shade and sun. It forms a dense habit of shiny, jet black leaves with scalloped, ruffled edges and rosy purple undersides. In spring, it will have white flowers with pink stems. They will grow 8-10"H x 26-30"W.

### **Little Moonshine Yarrow (*Achillea* 'Little Moonshine') (perennial)**

This yarrow has the same bright gold flowers and delicate gray-green foliage as its larger cousin 'Moonshine' but with a more compact habit that's ideal for containers and smaller garden spaces. A long-blooming treat from May through September they will rebloom if cut back after the initial flush of flowers. It will grow 9-12"H x 10-12"W in full sun. It's also rabbit resistant, attracts butterflies and can be used as a cut flower too.

### **Salvia 'Love & Wishes' (annual)**

This tough plant is cousin of 'Wendy's Wish' Salvia with deep magenta-purple tubular flowers and dark stems from early spring to frost. Hummingbirds love it and it will make a statement as it grows 36-48" tall in the sun.

### **Rex Begonia 'Autumn Embers' (annual)**

This new Rex Begonia has leaves that go from a light green to a brilliant orange to a light burgundy red. It has a compact growth habit that will bring a unique color statement to your containers.

### **Penta Falling Star Bicolor Pink (annual)**

A new trailing Penta. This pretty annual is a butterfly magnet, does well in sun or part sun, does not need deadheading, and will be available in hanging baskets this June!

### **North Wind Korean Maple (*Acer x pseudosieboldianum* 'North Wind') (tree)**

North Wind is the flagship member of the Jack Frost series that combines the hardiness and durability of the Korean maple with the beauty of the Japanese Maple. The leaves emerge red in spring, changing by midsummer to light green followed by a dramatic orange-scarlet in fall. An excellent substitute for the Japanese maple in colder climates, it has withstood temperatures of -30 degrees in Iowa testing grounds. It has a broad upright shape and will grow 12-15 inches per year and reaching 20'H x 15'W.

### **Spiraea japonica 'Double Play Red' (shrub)**

A flower coloring breakthrough, this is the first and only spirea with true red flowers. It will also have beautiful dark burgundy spring foliage, growing 24-36"H x 24-36"W in full sun to part shade and makes a good border plant.

### **Yankee Doodle Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* 'Yankee**

**Doodle')** The large, deep purple flowers have a delightful lilac fragrance. It's a hardy, easy to care for shrub that makes a good windbreak or privacy screen. It's disease and pollution tolerant and slightly smaller than common purple lilac it grows 8-10'H x 5-6'W in full sun.

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