



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 19 Issue 1 January 2015

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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.



January 22nd Meeting : "Tips for the Lazy Gardener" with Cindy Tyley

Cindy is the owner of Carriage House Garden Design by Cindy Tyley. She has a certificate in Landscape Design and is a member of the Western Springs Garden Club. Several garden clubs in our Garden Clubs of Illinois district listed her as one of their top presenters for the year. Her program will help us discover useful ways to save time, energy, and money while gardening. This show and tell presentation demonstrates tips for both indoor and outdoor gardening throughout the year.

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, February 26th:

**"Basics of Pruning - Proper Tools, Timing, Techniques
and Best Practices " with Don Guzan**

Did you have fun at the auction in November? Be sure to start collecting **NEW Garden Dollars for 2015** when you participate in club activities. One way to earn an easy 50 GD is to renew your membership prior to February 2nd - see the last page of this newsletter for the form, and bring it to the January meeting!



Plant Sale Chairperson Needed

We need a member to step up and take over running the 2015 plant sale. Please give this serious consideration as it is almost impossible to have a successful plant sale unless one member is willing to invest some of their time.

It's not an onerous job as we have a format pretty well laid out and many of the sub-positions are already filled with volunteers from last year's sale. There are many members that will gladly offer support and advice to whomever is willing to do this job for 2015.

But, we need one person to whom everyone can report and who can keep track of who is doing what when and remind volunteers when they forget for what they volunteered.

The plant sale is our only fund raising activity. Member dues do not cover even a fraction of the costs of running the club. Without the plant sale we won't have perks like bulb bingo, the president's picnic, the silent auction and dinner, and we'll have to cut way back on the quality of our speakers at our monthly meetings. I don't think anyone wants to cut back on the quality of the club activities, but we need to fund them and we can only do that through the plant sale.

If you are willing to help your club out with this please contact Dick Darrah, either by email (info@bwdarrah.com) or phone (daytime 630-584-1900, evening 630-231-4745). If you're not sure, but are willing to consider it and want to discuss it further, again contact Dick Darrah.

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn
and add some beauty to your garden at



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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 2015: 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

2015 WCGC BOARD:

President:

Dick Darrah, 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Vice President:

Keith Letsche, 630-293-0192, keithletsche@aol.com

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah, 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:

Annette Wulfe, 630-462-0208, annettewulfe@yahoo.com

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs, 630-254-2969, briggspm@gmail.com
Marcy Kozlowski, 630-846-3466
marcellakozlowski@yahoo.com

Information Director & Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2015

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
22 Jan	Cindy Tyley	Tips for Lazy Gardener	25 Jun	TBA	At Kruse Garden
26 Feb	Don Guzan	Basics of Pruning	23 Jul	All members	President's Dinner
26 Mar	TBA	TBA	27 Aug	TBA	TBA
23 Apr	Billie Childress	Kruse House History	24 Sep	Bulb Bingo	Pauline
16 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	22 Oct	TBA	TBA
28 May	TBA	TBA	19 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

Healthy West Chicago is a collaborative between community organizations committed to strengthening the health of West Chicago.



An open, public forum for the Healthy West Chicago Initiative will be held from 7-8:30p.m. on Thursday, January 29 at the ARC Center, located at 201 W. National Street, West Chicago. Everyone living or working in the community is invited. RSVPs are helpful, but not necessary.

To RSVP, please email:

admin@sevendgenerationsahead.org, or phone (708)660-9909.



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News from Kruse

by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom

The Garden is now a “White Garden”, laden with snow.



Here's a serene place to sit, assuming you've dressed warmly. Plan a different kind of White Garden for your yard. Consider white flowers such as Daffodils, Bleeding Hearts 'Alba', Candytuft, Moonflowers (*Ipomoea alba*), Rose 'Iceberg', 'Casa Blanca' Oriental Lilies, and Dahlias 'White Perfection' or 'Eternal Snow'.

Tucked away in the tool shed at the Kruse House is our wheel barrow, bushel baskets, plant guides and garden hoses.



This wooden trough, made of lumber from an old barn and resting on tree stumps, contains a wonderful herb garden in the summer.

The clumps of Sedum were such a pretty pink this summer and fall, but even now the rich rust color is a beautiful contrast against the snow.

Spring will be here officially on March 20th. Only two months away. Join us, get your hands dirty and help tend the Kruse House Garden.

The Krusies: Kerry, Tom, Angie and Billie





Garden Dollar Auction Sponsors—THANK YOU!

We can do our part to thank the businesses who so generously provided auction items by taking the time to shop in their stores, and personally thank them for their donation to our club.

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Winter Birding

by The Growing Place

Winter in Chicagoland is tough for birds. Three things are essential for survival of our feathered friends: food, water and shelter. Feeding birds in the winter is both humane and rewarding. In winter the natural vegetative food supply is either depleted or covered by snow, and insects are dormant. Unfrozen drinking water is scarce and shelter is limited to evergreens or manmade bird houses. Here's what you can do to supply the essentials birds need to survive the rugged winter and at the same time provide you with backyard entertainment throughout the snowy months ahead.

Supplying Food & Shelter Birds are warm-blooded creatures and to maintain their high metabolisms they need energy rich foods, especially in the winter. Like people, birds have their favorite foods. If you've been disappointed in the past by lack of success at attracting birds, perhaps you're not feeding the right foods. There are three basic types of foods: large seeds, small seeds and suet. If you're new to bird feeding, it's best to start by purchasing a high-quality mix. Not all mixes are created equal, and generally with bird food mixes, you get what you pay for. Cheap mixes contain lots of unappealing filler like red milo and low percentages of high energy seeds like sunflower. You'll attract the widest variety of birds with good, high-energy mixes that contain black-oil or white stripped sunflower, cracked corn, white millet, and perhaps peanut hearts and safflower seed. Cardinals, Blue jays, chickadees, American goldfinches, titmice, Evening and Pine grosbeaks, nuthatches and House and Purple finches favor sunflower seeds.

With a little success under your belt you might want to customize your own bird feed mixes by purchasing individual components, or providing individual specialty foods like thistle seed that attracts Pine siskins, red polls, and a variety of sparrows and finches. Peanuts are very nutritional and tend to invite chickadees, Blue jays, woodpeckers and cardinals. Millet seeds, despite their small size, pack plenty of energy and attract juncos, Mourning doves, and a whole host of sparrow species. Suet, made from rendered fat, provides birds with an excellent source of energy. It can be offered by using old mesh onion bags, or special wire feeders. Suet is a favorite of woodpeckers, but also attracts starlings. Clustering several feeders, each containing a different food offering, can bring on a fun-to-watch bird feeding frenzy under the right conditions.

Providing a sheltered location for your feeders not only helps birds cope with the elements, but makes your feeders more attractive to more types of birds. Locate feeders out of the wind; and on the southeast side of the house, if possible. Placing feeders near a row of trees provides perches birds can use to survey for danger or escape predators such as cats and hawks. Feeders located near evergreens provide, night time roosting sites as well as wind and predator protection. If you use ground feeders make sure there is a clear perimeter so birds can monitor for danger.

Supplying Water Water is essential for the health of birds all year round. Clean, fresh water keeps birds hydrated and able to tolerate cold weather. Backyard birders who provide that water will be surprised at the wide variety of species that visit even on the coldest days.

Not all bird baths are suitable for use in winter. Store out of the weather or securely cover ceramic, mosaic or cement bird baths as freeze and thaw cycles may cause damage. Metal or plastic bird baths work best and are better yet when water is kept ice-free with the addition of a heater specifically designed for this purpose. There are also bird baths available that have integrated heaters. Don't use chemical additives to de-ice bird baths as these may harm birds. Consider locating your bird bath where it's convenient to keep it clean and filled. Situating your bird bath in the sun will keep it ice-free longer.

For the birds' sake, prior to the approach of winter storms, make sure your feeders and bird baths are topped off. And one more suggestion, consider keeping a bird field guide and a pair of binoculars handy, so you can enjoy bird watching from the comfort of your home.



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2015

Our meetings in 2015 will be held on the 4th Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3rd Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

With your paid membership you receive a copy of our monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Club of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication *Garden Glories*.

Individual Membership:

\$15 per year

Family Membership:

\$25 per year

(For multiple members at the same address)

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. 2015 Membership dues should be paid by February 26th, our February meeting.

Please make your check payable to:

West Chicago Garden Club

Please bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
c/o Barbara Darrah, Treasurer
30W546 Diversey Pkwy
West Chicago, IL 60185

Application

Type: ☐ New or ☐ Renewal

Class: ☐ Individual or ☐ Family

Name(s): _____
(Print) _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Send newsletters via: ☐ E-mail or ☐ Mail

☐ Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will **not** get phone reminders of any garden club events.)

Please Note: A membership list with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, will be distributed to Club members, unless you check below the information you do not wish to appear:

In the circulated membership list, do not include my: ___ name; ___ address; ___ telephone number; ___ e-mail address