



# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club  
www.westchicagogardenclub.org

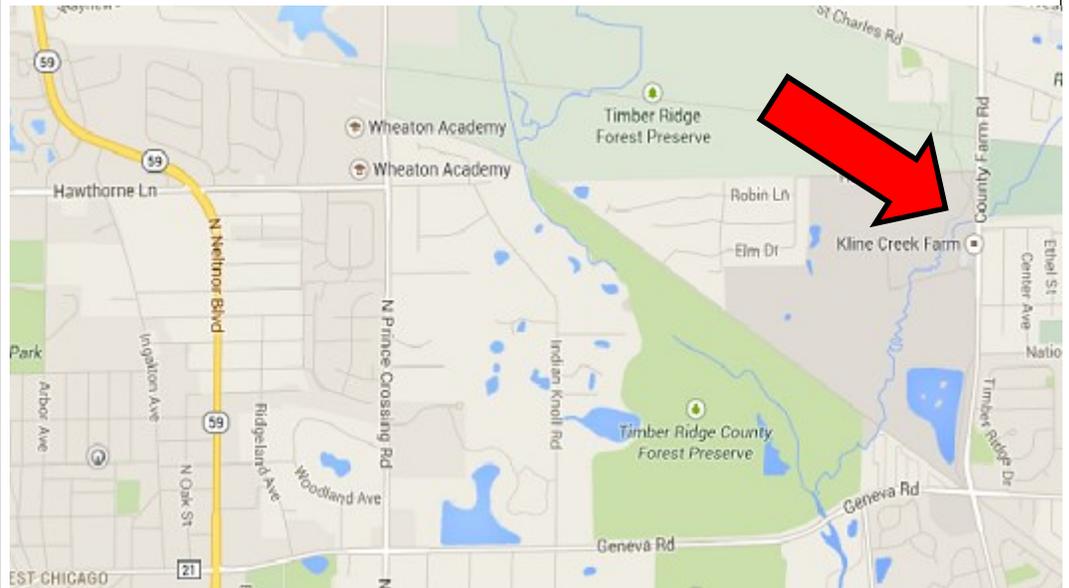
Volume 18 Issue 7 July 2014

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## July 24 Meeting: President's Picnic at Kline Creek Farm!

*Our Annual Picnic will be held at a new location this year!*

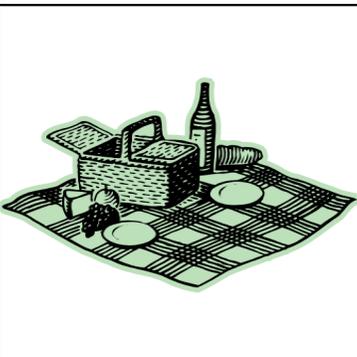


**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to you for the service and no reservations are necessary.

**Rides**— Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.

Arrive at 6:00pm. Enter off County Farm Road (address is 1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago) and park in the front parking lot. The farmhouse garden will be open for viewing. We will enjoy a catered dinner and end around 8:00pm. More details will be provided in the Calling Post message.

Please note: Attendance is limited to WCGC members and those in their immediate household.



**Next Meeting: Thursday, August 28**

***“Made in the Shade II” with Chicagoland Gardening***



### Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Cantigny:** Dog Days. August 2. 10AM-4PM. Free with \$5 parking fee. For one day only dog lovers may bring their "best friend" to the park! Wine Through the Gardens. August 13. 6:30PM \$25 per person. Call 630-260-8162 for details.

**Growing Place:** Make & Take Miniature Gardens. August 2. Both locations. 12—3PM Cost of materials.

**Chicago Botanic Garden:** Mid-America Bonsai Society Show & Sale. August 15-16. Enjoy a display of 200 bonsai trees. Visit [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org) for information on workshops. More information: 847-835-5440.

**Wasco Nursery:** Exhibiting Artist Sharon Malec. July 2—Aug 4.

**NEW! West Chicago Farmers Market:** Thursdays, 7am—1pm, until October 30th. Mosaic Crossing Shopping Center (64/59 near Hobby Lobby and McDonalds).

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](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 2014: 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

### 2014 WCGC BOARD:

President:

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

Vice President:

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

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

Kathy Reynolds, 630-293-7462,  
[kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net)

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs, 630-545-2234, [pmbiggs@juno.com](mailto:pmbiggs@juno.com)  
June Luther, 630-876-1295, [june@markluther.com](mailto:june@markluther.com)

Information Director & Publicity:

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



# Planned WCGC Events - 2014

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
24 Jul	All members	President's Picnic	23 Oct	Jo Ann Loebel	Pressing Flowers
28 Aug	Chicagoland Gardening	Made in the Shade II	20 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction
25 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo!			

Did you know? There is an Herb Trough at the Kruse House Garden!




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**News from Kruse**

*by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom*

Such a pleasure to see you at the Kruse Garden for our June meeting! The garden was lovely and we appreciated your compliments. You might have noticed that we were a bit proud of our work. It was 50 years ago that Celia Kruse was honored by The Garden Clubs of West Chicago for extraordinary beautification of premises. (Note copy of certificate on page 5!) History does repeat. The legacy of the Kruse family lives on!

Strewing: To scatter here and there.

There are few norms established for our work in the garden but **No Strewing** is repeatedly reinforced. Some of us can't get it into our heads that dropping a weed where ever (lawn, sidewalk, flower bed) is not acceptable. If strewing is a practice you do at home it's a hard habit to break. Therefore, much reminding is required. That is why we all need a basket to collect the debris as we go. If anyone has a bushel basket to donate, that would go a long way to keep us in compliance. Thank you in advance for your part in relieving reprimand!



**Shrub Rose:** picture taken June 13. What a beauty this year! Nary a bit of dieback on this rose even with that dreadful winter we had. No dead-heading necessary either. It's one of those self cleaning types. All plants should be this good. The Canadian Explorer series just can't be beat.

You may have noticed the Smoke bushes were really smoking (blooming) this year. Usually the 'shear without fear' in our group cut them way back each Spring. They only bloom on old wood so generally we don't get the beautiful plumes of smoke. For some unknown reason they got a reprieve this year.

**Dawn Redwood:** This tree was donated by Meyer Landscaping about 8 years ago. It has tripled in size and is a joy to have in the garden. Meyer Landscaping has been a longtime supporter of the Garden Club. They have advertised in our newsletter for years and always give thoughtful consideration in our dealings with them. Dan and Mary Meyer are good people. In June they held a "best of new perennials" event with Lou Horton presenting an educational walkabout. 10% of their sales that weekend were donated to the Kruse Garden. Now we are giving careful consideration to how we can best use the \$275 donation. We are fortunate to have good friends in horticultural business! Thank you Mary and Dan! (Remember to shop at and support our many newsletter advertisers!)



**Pass Along Sign:** *"it takes a long time to grow an old friend"* Dorothy O'Conner originated the gifting of this sign, meant to be passed along each year to a garden friend. Travels thus far: Billie, Angie, Tom, Irene M. Now Tom passes the sign to Kerry Perry! Next year it may reside at your house.



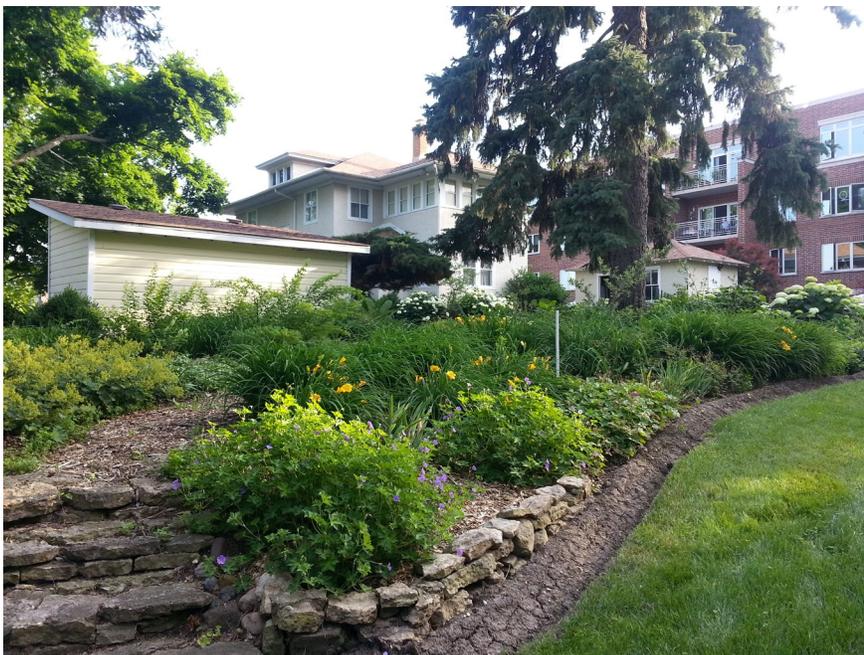
Thank you to everyone who attended our June meeting at the Kruse House!

Special thanks to the West Chicago Historical Society for providing us with a copy of the Home of the Month Award as presented to Celia Kruse on October 18, 1964!





# Kruse Garden June 2014





## Creating Bird and Butterfly Landscapes

by The Growing Place

Butterflies and birds are colorful flying creatures that bring us much joy in the garden. Though they occupy different places in the ecosystem, both birds and butterflies share the need for food, water and shelter. Why not invite them to your garden by creating the habitat they need to thrive?

There are many ways to feed birds, but to create a lasting haven, try creating a landscape that feeds them year-round. Each species of bird has its own specific instinctive needs, but in general include plants that flower and attract insects. Birds also enjoy fruits, seeds, and berries. The more diverse types of food you provide, the more species of birds you will attract. Also, think about having plants that flower and form seeds or fruits at different times of the year. For example, coneflower sets seeds in late summer and is beloved by goldfinches. If you allow the flowers to set seed, finches will seek them out. The new cultivars of crabapples have small, hard berries that persist through winter to feed birds in early spring when there are few options.

Adult butterflies feed on nectar producing flowers. They are attracted by fragrance and color, especially purple, orange and red. If you want butterflies to lay eggs in your yard you must have her preferred larval host plant. For example, the monarch butterfly lays her eggs on milkweed; swallowtails like parsley and dill. Providing a water source is an effective way to encourage both birds and butterflies to visit your garden. Birds love clean, fresh water year round, so we recommend checking your birdbath daily and emptying it every few days to discourage algae and mosquito larvae. Many birds enjoy running water, so consider adding a fountain, bubbler or pump that moves water. Butterflies prefer shallow water. Provide them with a dish filled with pebbles or a damp sandy area.

Offering hiding places and nesting sites will encourage birds to make your yard their home. Consider adding dense shrubs, evergreens and trees for birds to hide and build nests. A mix of open areas and denser plantings creates habitat for a wider range of species. The same plantings that favor birds will also provide butterflies with protection from wind, and night time roosting places. Additionally, since butterflies are cold-blooded you might provide them with dark stones to use as warming perches.

Birds and butterflies play important roles in the ecosystem, yet worldwide habitat loss has put more pressure than ever on these flying jewels of the garden. For the benefit of birds, butterflies and all wildlife use pesticides sparingly, or not at all. Remember the key: the more varied your landscape, the more varied the species of wildlife you'll attract. The Growing Place staff can provide you with advice and an informative brochure for making your yard, whether large or small, a beautiful haven filled with diverse and abundant wildlife.