

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 25 Issue 7 July 2021



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: July 22

Meeting Location:

Dan Beebe's Yard

Meeting Time:

6:30PM Picnic

President's Picnic

This month's meeting on Thursday, July 22nd is the annual President's Picnic. The meeting will start at 6:30pm, a little earlier than normal, but feel free to arrive a little later. We will be holding the picnic at our house. Since this newsletter is posted on the internet, directions to the picnic will be emailed separately to Garden Club members.

Please remember that this meeting is primarily for members. Caregivers, spouses and dependent children are welcome to attend, but please do not bring your aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other members of your extended family. Basically, use your best judgement... if your great grandmother is visiting for the summer, bring her along... Uncle Wally, Aunt Melba and their 5 children who are visiting, please leave them behind.

As we were not able to gather together as a club before the holidays last year, I have decided to use a Christmas in July theme for the picnic... BUT, with a tropical, tiki twist... SO, we are having a ****Tropical Christmas in July**** picnic. Be sure to wear your best tropical clothes... think Hawaiian, Caribbean, and Polynesian... be creative and have fun with it... I will.

We will have traditional American picnic foods & beverages. All you need to do is bring yourself and be ready to socialize with our great, gardening family.

A NOTE ON RAIN... this picnic, like most, will be held outside. In the event of inclement weather on Thursday, July 22nd, the picnic will be

Dan Beebe

postponed to 6:30pm on Friday, July 23rd. If the picnic is being postponed, an email will sent out by 5:30pm on the 22nd notifying you of the date change.

If you have any questions, or need to contact us about the picnic, please send email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com.

Here are a few photos from a "Tropical Christmas" theme from my office decorating contest a couple of years ago for inspiration.



Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Well, the Plant Sale supplies in the barn are ready for next year's sale. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jeff Handel and Mary Schramer for helping finish the sorting supplies and the cleaning of the barn (clean relative to where it started... it's still a barn).

If you have additional pots or 1" blinds to donate, please bring them to our monthly meetings, let me know that you have them in your car and we can move them directly to my car. In the interest of keeping cleanup to a minimum, please do not bring them into the church.

Remember to stop by the Kruse House garden and see all of the bee art created by our members. The City has been doing a great job helping us publicize the project. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors, especially the ones with small children, about the art and encourage them to stop by and visit the garden. A special shout out to Billie Childress and Kerry Perry for all of their work on getting this project airborne and special thanks to all of the artists and their bee-utiful creations.

Hope to see you all at the President's Picnic on Thursday, July 22nd.

- Dan



Photo from Mary Schramer: I've never been dive-bombed by a robin until today. I looked up in the bush I was weeding under and saw these guys. Now I get it.

June Meeting Recap

Barb Melville



Carol Cichorski, our June Presenter, was absolutely delightful, entertaining and very informative! Carol's program was taken from her experiences with many well known gardeners in the area and their favorite things about gardening. Here are a few examples that you may want to try in your own back yard:

Take Richard Hawke for example. He manages the Plant Evaluation program at Chicago Botanic Gardens. When Richard gave a 106 slide presentation on clematis in 2016, 'Marie Boisselot' was on his list as the best white clematis tested. It has a 7" flower and blooms in June/July. When inundated with clematis options at the nursery, Richard's choices are going to be on my list.

Oh, there are lots more. Wasn't I surprised when Jennifer Brennan picked the Root Slayer from RadiusGarden.com. After all, if you've seen Jennifer at the Chalet Nursery, on the ABC Morning News, or the Dig In Chicago TV Show, you would expect her to choose a flower as lovely as she is. So what do I get from Jennifer, a brute of a garden tool. Way to go Jennifer!



Jim Ault, Dir at the Chicago Botanic Garden likes Baptisia "Sunny Morning" false indigo!

Scott Stewart, Dir Lurie Gardens likes Geniana Andrewsii bottle gentian, Calamintha nepeta "Nepeta" calamint and Pycnanthemum muticum mountain mint.

Susan Fox, Rosaria Extraordinaire likes: Peace, Miracle on the Hudson, Ana's Promise and Julia Child. GO TO THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY WEBSITE TO PURCHASE THE HANDBOOK FOR SELECTING ROSES!

Check out Carol Cichorski, our June Speaker on her web page: www.OWhatA.com for great information like this article about getting rid of bugs that attack your garden!

[How to Get Rid of Bugs \(and Deer and Rabbits\) That Attack Dahlias and Other Garden Plants](#)



Photos from club member Ruth Kyme. Do have some favorite pictures from your garden? Send them to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com to see them in future newsletters.

News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

It's been an unusual summer in the Kruse garden. First, we had to worry about the annuals getting water during the drought and then we were being flooded with rain. At home, my pot of snapdragons and dusty miller was suddenly overflowing. I'm watching them, but they may have to be replaced with whatever I can find this late in the summer.

Before the storms Dick and I went over to Kruse to collect the blue chairs and benches that our grandson Darrah had made for his Eagle Scout project. After four years of weather and mowing, they were starting to look worn and needed repainting. We took them over to Darrah's house where he helped to power wash them. We were all set to paint them the next weekend when the showers started to fall and fall and fall. Finally, we had enough clear weather to dry them out and put on two coats of paint. Darrah is now working on adding some decoration and then we will bring them back to Kruse House. If the weather cooperates, that should be soon.



At the time we picked up the furniture, the garden was a sea of white. Now, those blooms are gone and the deep rich colors of the daylilies are taking over. A garden is an ever changing surprise.

Of course, the bees also provide lots of color and whimsy. Each one has its own personality, but I felt that something was missing. Where was the busy little worker bee? We had some plywood left over and I convinced Dick to cut out little "Wanda the worker bee". She's in the garden now. Why don't you all stop by and see if you can find her. Invite your friends and neighbors. It's a great garden and it is always open.

Large.....Medium.....Small

Billie Childress



Dick and Barbara went above and beyond with their creation and donation of three artistic bees to the Kruse Garden! The large one "Her Majesty" (photo left) was their first creation. Dick downsized the pattern and "America the Bee-utiful" (below right) was created. Another pattern downsizing, more innovative ideas, more design features and "baby bee" (below right) with pots of gold came into being. The family of three, two sided bees are a joy to have on display in the garden! Thank you Dick and Barbara!



For more about pollinators, check out this wonderful blog post from the forest preserve: [The Power of Pollinators](https://www.dupageforest.org/blog/power-of-pollinators) (https://www.dupageforest.org/blog/power-of-pollinators)

We Go Gardening

U-Pick Vegetable Garden

Kerry and Billie found this Nursery delightful when we visited about a month ago. GREAT vegetables in you pick and there is a sale going on as well!

Spring Bluff Nursery & Garden Center
41 W 130 Norris Rd—Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Check [Spring Bluff Facebook page](#) for vegetables that are available each day.

Summer Sale July 10 - 18

25% OFF EVERYTHING ON HAND IN THE SALES YARD

Sale includes the following:

B&B and Container Trees
Shrubs
Perennials
Annuals

Billie Childress



U-Pick as of 7/14

Spring Bluff Nursery
41w130 Norris Road
Sugar Grove IL

U-PICK OPEN EVERY DAY

beets-red/golden	onions	Lemon grass
green beans	cabbage-red/green 2 for 1!	cilantro
carrots	chinese cabbage-2 for 1!	basil
radishes	turnips	parsley
swiss chard	kohlrabi	oregano
kale	hot peppers/	sage
head lettuce	jalapeno/pobiano	thyme
okra	zucchini	
eggplant	yellow squash	

WE ALSO HAVE PICKED FOR YOU, IN THE FRIDGE ON THE PORCH:
HEAD LETTUCE, CARROTS, BEETS, CABBAGE-RED/GREEN, GREEN BEANS, CHINESE CABBAGE, ZUCCHINI
WE USE ALL ORGANIC METHODS

Getting to Know ...

Barb Bizzarri



Jodi Otzwirk

Resident of West Chicago: 25 years

WGCG Member: past four years

Hobbies: art, reading, volleyball bicycling and nature

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: Gladiolus

What is your earliest memory of a favorite garden? My grandmother's garden. she was a great cook and baker and she grew the first rhubarb plants that I ever saw

Who taught you to garden or are you self taught? My mom taught me. She had the greenest thumb one would ever know. she could save any dying plants, she loved to replant, divide plants, pruning and trimming. she was a great teacher

Some gardeners do everything 'by the book' others 'wing it and watch'. Are you a 'wing it and watch' Gardner or a 'by the book gardener? Definitely a 'wing it gardener' when it comes to gardening, I do what I can. If some plants need TLC, I give it to them and see if it works

What is your summer garden success so far? I was so very pleased when this year out of the blue bulbs that I won 2 years ago at our annual Bulb Bingo meeting popped up! I had totally forgot about them. What a delightful surprise! Pure joy!

What's the hardest plant you ever tried to grow? Vegetables. I'm terrible at it

Recent special garden projects? No specific project for I've been busy with garden cleanup and tending to the overall landscaping

Garden Notes

I'm sure everyone is thinking the same... where is summer going? We're halfway through and also halfway through our flowers blooming. I had a great year with my lilies, some of them had 9 blooms and were 4 to 5' tall which was absolutely stunning. Those that I transplanted last year were probably the biggest and the tallest which prompts me to transplant more at the end of this summer.



Barb Melville



Photo from Kerry Perry
Bee Balm

Tip from Barb Bizzarri

At the end of this month you can plant peonies or divide peonies through October. Late summer or early autumn is the best time to divide perennials that bloom in the spring and summer

New Addition

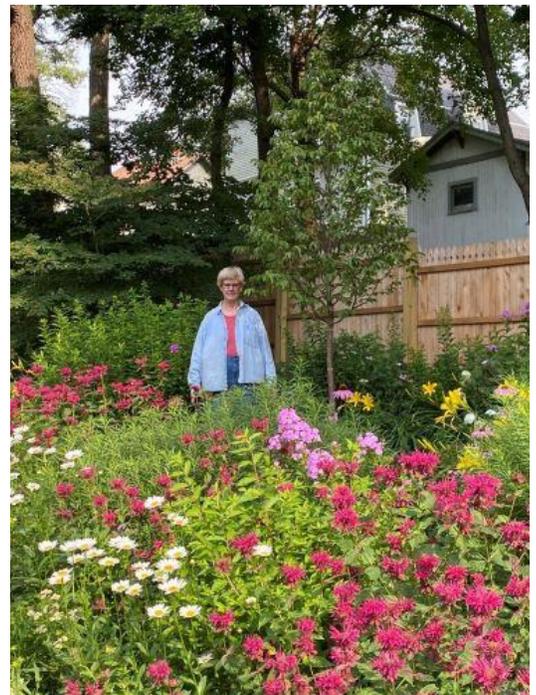
A tree hugger? Yes, I am and happy to admit it. One of my life's little missions is to plant trees, especially native species. Trees are the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilize the soil and give life to the world's wildlife.

On a recent visit to Wasco Nursery, I spotted a beautiful Ironwood tree, also known as an American Hophornbeam. It's a good understory tree with a generally rounded crown and will grow about 25' tall with a slightly smaller spread. Flowers are monoecious (having both male and female flowers) and appear in separate catkins on the same tree. The female catkins will drop clusters of seed-bearing pods which, as the common name suggests, somewhat resemble the fruit of hops. The tree is also commonly called Ironwood because of its extremely hard and dense wood.



I thought the Ironwood would be a nice addition to the Kruse Garden, to provide a few new "bones" to the yard. So, Wasco's team, Jim and Mario, delivered and planted the tree last week. Jim has been with Wasco since 1974 and both men did an expert job of planting my special gift.

Come visit the Kruse Garden, give my tree a hug and think about planting a tree somewhere.



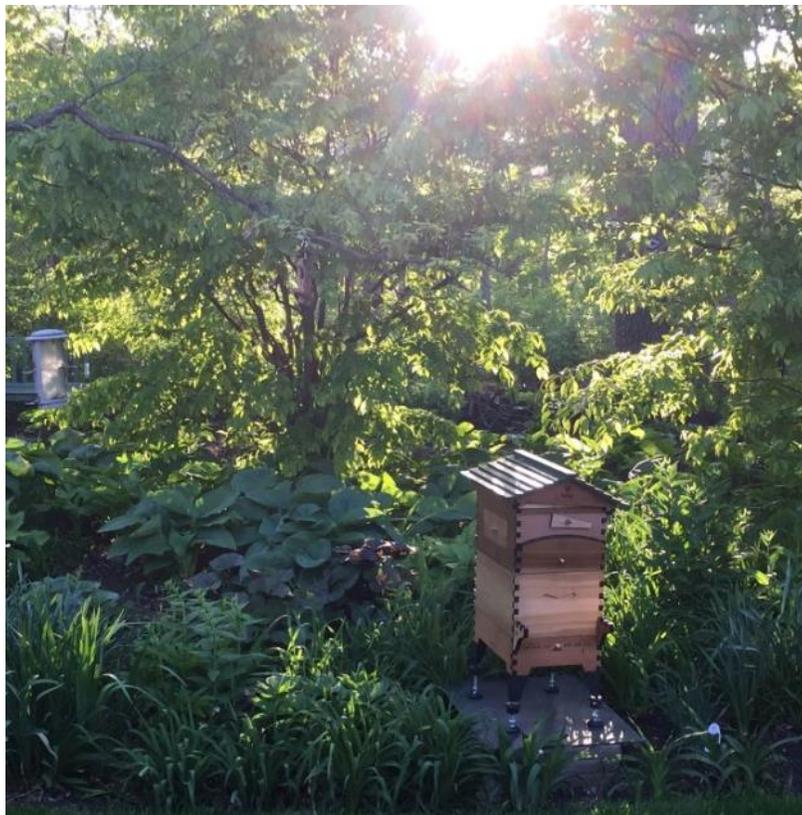
My newest hobby

Barb Bizzarri

My daughter and son-in-law gave me a wonderful gift in the Spring. It came all the way from Australia!

It's the 'Flow Beehive'. This particular type of beehive makes harvesting honey easier for the beekeeper and it lessens the impact on the bees (www.honeyflow.com)

Shout out for Dick Darrah, a seasoned bee keeper, for sharing information on starting a beehive and pointing me in the right direction. The first hurdle was actually buying the bees and then praying that they stay in and like their new home. They have and the honeycombs are flourishing and dare I say the bees are as busy as a bee. I'll keep you posted on my success



Local Events for Gardeners

Have you visited the gardens at Cantigny this year? Sometimes it is easy to forget that we have a gorgeous, award winning garden so nearby. In addition to visiting the gardens, Cantigny has a number of outdoor entertainment options this summer. Most are free with paid parking fee.

Below is a sample of the events for the next few weeks. For more events, info and details, visit <https://cantigny.org/>

July 16: Movie Night—The Goonies, 8:30pm at the Bandshell

July 18: Live music—Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers, 3pm at the Bandshell

July 30: Movie Night—Sixteen Candles, 8:30pm at the Bandshell

July 25: Live Music—June's Got the Cash, 3pm at the Bandshell

July 28: Live Music—One Night Band, 6pm at the Tank Park

July 30: Movie Night—Trolls World Tour, 8:30pm at the Bandshell

July 31: Live music—West Suburban Symphony Orchestra: Together Again, 7:30pm

August 1: Prairie State Bonsai Show, 1pm-4pm at the Picnic Pavilion

August 14: Shakespeare in the Park: A Midsummer Night's Dream, 5pm at the Bandshell

August 15: Event—French Connection Day, 10am-4pm

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SUN: 10-4 4/15-6/30



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& 2 blocks west of Naper Blvd

Aurora | 630.820.8088 | 2000 Montgomery Rd
2 blocks north of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
& Rush-Copley Medical Center

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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 2020: 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

2021 WCGC BOARD:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Barb Bizzarri
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Kruse House Chair:	Billie Childress
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To Contact any Board Member, please send email to
WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

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