

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 3 March 2019



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: March 28

Meeting Location:

**St Andrew Lutheran Church
NE Corner of Prince Crossing &
Geneva Road.**

Meeting Time:

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

Program: Jumping Worms & Other Invasives

Our March speaker comes to us from the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener program. Tricia Bethke not only gives talks for the Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau, but gives presentations as a Morton Arboretum employee. She is a Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator at the Arboretum and co-authored the [Management of Invasive Plants and Pests of Illinois](#) guide.

According to the UofI Extension [Invasive Species Alert: Jumping Worms](#):

Jumping worms, (*Amyntas* spp.) have recently been discovered in Illinois. This new invasive species was first identified in Illinois in 2015 in northern Illinois and in 2016 in southern Illinois. Jumping worms are earthworms native to East Asia. They also have been called crazy worms, Alabama jumpers, and snake worms.

Jumping worms are voracious consumers of organic material, which can affect soil quality.



They breed quickly and eggs survive Illinois winters. Adults reach maturity in approximately 60 days, allowing populations to grow exponentially during the growing season. These worms are also capable of reproducing without mating.

APRIL 25TH MEETING

April Speaker: Ed Max—"Ephemerals"

Don't Forget our New Location

St. Andrew Lutheran Church is located on the northeast corner of Prince Crossing and Geneva Roads.

Notes from Barb Bizzarri

New WCGC Scholarship

Back in October of 2018, we took a membership survey. We shared the survey results with our members and now we've acted on them. I'm proud to announce that our West Chicago Garden Club is now sponsoring a \$500 scholarship for students, who reside in West Chicago, attend either West Chicago High School or St. Charles East High School and are pursuing a major in environmental fields of study, such as: Agronomy/agriculture, botany, conservation, environmental concerns, forestry, horticulture or landscape design/architecture. Look for the application on our home page: westchicagogardenclub.org



Application deadline is April 15, 2019

Time to Divide Perennials

Dividing perennials keeps your garden healthy and productive. Irises, daylilies, hardy hibiscus, peonies, phlox and ornamental grasses benefit from regular division. An added benefit is that divisions become a form of horticultural currency between gardeners—who doesn't like to swap plants (and stories about them!). An added plus is helping support your garden club. We need your plants...so take a walk in your garden and decide which ones should be divided. You can also make a holding or "nursery" area in a sheltered part of your yard that you have cleared out and added some organic matter. You can temporarily plant ("Heel in") bare-root shrubs, trees and rosebushes until they are ready to transport to our potting parties. There will be a Potting Parties sign up at our next meeting and we're depending on you to share your garden bounty so that our May Blooming Fest will once again be a "blooming" success.

Spring = The start of garage sale seasons.

So when you're "sailing" around, be on the lookout for garden items that you can donate for our November Auction. Remember, we are looking for new or very "gently used" items.

Getting to Know ...April Murphy



Resident of West Chicago: "For a Long Time". I moved to West Chicago at the age of 4!

West Chicago Garden Club Member: I joined the Garden Club 15 years ago, took some time away due to job demands.

Hobbies: Botanical art. My medium is colored pencils. I've taken several classes at the Arboretum.

My Favorite Flower: Zinna. I think it's because my grandmother had a beautiful garden and there were many zinnias.

Biggest Gardening Mistake: I do a lot of moving my plants around. I rip it apart if it becomes messy.

Career: Business Manager for the West Chicago Press. After I retired, I also served as a Wayne Township Clerk.

Favorite Restaurant: Pilot Pete's, Schaumburg. "They have the best salmon!"

Favorite Vacation: : A Blue Danube River Cruise.

Why Should Someone Join WCGC?: "It's the best garden club around!" I always learn something new at each meeting.

February Meeting Recap

Nina Kozial came well prepared to deliver a great presentation to our club members. Nina handed out two flyers entitled: "Pots and Plants with Panche" and "Painting Your Garden with Plants". Nina's presentation focused on how to get the most out of your plantings by putting in plants whose colors compliment each other. Nina handed out a color wheel to each member and explained what colors should or should not be planted in the same pot, planter or the garden: colors opposite on the wheel were recommended.

Barb Melville



Do you have a Gardening Tip you could share?

Past issues have included tips about Canna Lilies, Spotting Poison Ivy, Attracting Birds and Butterflies With Coneflowers, Parasitic Wasps, Mums as Perennials, and Honey Bees.

If you have a tip to share, please sign up at the next meeting or send an email to your Newsletter Editor, Pamela at WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

I looked out the window this morning and saw an exquisite winter landscape. There was a new skim of snow over the old which reflected a bright blue sun filled sky. It is early in March and the latest polar vortex has our temperatures plunging and I am thinking of spring. Why? Because I know that under that dead-looking landscape, life is stirring. Microorganisms are busily enriching the soil. Roots are writhing and bulbs and corms are sleepily starting to move.

Also, I was at last week's garden club meeting and felt the fervor starting to build in me to get out there, begin planting and enjoy the "Simple Pleasures" of the garden.

This is the time when I'm grateful that I live in the Midwest. I have had time to rest and regenerate my gardening genes (and jeans) and am itching to get started.

Dick and I visit other gardens during the summer and get ideas for "next year" but we often forget over the winter. Nina Koziol's pictures reminded us of the glorious Cocoa Bean plants we saw at Cantigny. We also discussed putting some blue flowers over by the bee hive. We are thinking about more Japanese Forest Grass – much more. Out come the seed catalogues and here go our imaginations again.

Finally, I am going to make more efforts to stop weeding, sit back and enjoy the view – not only in our own garden but at Kruse House as well. We have convenient benches there and you might enjoy stopping in as well, especially this summer when the butterfly art appears. Ours is almost done and we have had lots of fun planning and putting it together. I read that butterflies might have originally been called flutter-bys and over time the initial letters were reversed. I love the image of them fluttering by.

With this image in mind, I hope that by the time you read this, I can truthfully wish all of you a Happy Spring.



Calling all Volunteers

Barb Bizzarri

Every Summer, Aquascape Inc (located in St. Charles) holds their annual Water & Garden Showcase to introduce people to the pond lifestyle. This year they're changing it up a bit and making it a larger, community event by partnering with local garden clubs and our West Chicago Garden Club has been selected. We've been asked to have

members volunteer to act as greeters at each spot. In return, Aquascapes will donate a portion of all ticket sales for that day back to our club. We can also encourage attendees to join our club as well. The cost for this event is \$15 a ticket (kids 18 and under free.). This will be a fun, family-friendly way to get people outside this summer. The date for these tours will be June 15th from 10am to 3pm. There are 10 locations so at minimum we will need 10 members to be a greeter/check tickets at each location. If members would prefer to double up, so they have someone working with them, that is fine. You will need to stay for the entire 10 am - 3 pm duration but if members would be willing to split shifts that would be great too! Please contact Barb Bizzarri by phone, text or email at 630-780-7334 or barb.bizzarri@gmail.com to sign up for this event.



Flight of the Butterfly 🦋🦋🦋 Project

Billie Childress

The dedicated butterfly artists have put in many hours on their creations and they are truly works of art. It's not too late to pick up a small butterfly to decorate for your own piece of garden art. They are available at Gallery 200.

There will be Butterfly Effect postcards available for distribution at the meeting



For more photos, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub>

**See Page 7 for more information about our
May 18th Plant Sale**

Plant Sale—Needed Supplies:

Member Plants – Bring to Potting Parties

1 Gallon Pots for Perennial Plants

\$\$\$ Donations to Offset Increased Tent Costs

Box Flats – Bring to Sale Setup on Friday 5/17

1" Wide Vinyl or Aluminum Mini Blinds

Save the Date!

**Blooming Fest (and our Plant Sale)
will be on Saturday, May 18, 2019**

Potting Parties

1pm Sunday, April 7th (NEW DATE!!!)

9am Saturday, April 13th

~~**1pm Sunday, April 21st (Canceled)**~~

9am Saturday, April 27th

1pm Sunday, May 5th



Local Events for Gardeners

March 20-24: **Chicago Flower & Garden Show**. Wednesday-Saturday: 10 am to 8 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 6 pm. Adult ticket: \$20 (at the box office) Child ticket: \$5 (ages 4-12)

March 30: **The Growing Place, Aurora: Dig In Day / Opening Day** 9:00AM - 5:00PM Welcome spring with us on opening day as the birds chirp and bulbs bloom in celebration. See <https://www.thegrowingplace.com/calendar> for the schedule of speakers.

April 2: **Cantigny Garden Tour**, Visitors Center, 11 am. On this guided stroll, an expert from Cantigny Horticulture will discuss the park's collection of flowering trees, shrubs and wildflowers and answer questions. No registration required. Free program; parking \$5.

April 4: **Cantigny Gardens 2019 Preview**, Visitors Center Theater, 9 am. Enjoy a free presentation by Cantigny Horticulture (about 90 minutes) highlighting the park's plant selections and plans for the main gardens, golf course and Idea Garden, spring through fall. Get the latest news about Project New Leaf, too! Parking \$5

April 14: **Cantigny Garden Photo Tips**, Visitors Center, 2 pm. Learn how to take better pictures on a stroll led by one of Cantigny's volunteer photographers. Beginners welcome. First in a series of free monthly photo walks. Group size limited to 10; register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. Parking \$5.

April 20: **Cantigny Spring into Gardening**, Visitors Center, 9-11 am. Take a walk through the gardens with Cantigny horticulturist Samantha Peckham as she discusses the best ways to prepare your garden for the season. Learn valuable time-saving tips and sustainable techniques to start your garden on the path to greatness! Limit 20 participants; register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. Free with paid parking (\$5). Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. Parking \$5.

Upcoming Programs for 2019

These are the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters.

April 25th	Ed Max	Ephemerals
May 23rd	Marcie Kozlowski	Workshop - Making a Hypertufa
June 27th	TBD	Garden Walk (Posey Mosey)
July 25th	Barb Bizzarri	President's Picnic
August 22nd	Carol Cichowski	Glorious Dahlias
September 26th	Pauline Briggs	Bulb Bingo
October 24th	TBD	TBD
November 21st	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner



Plant Sale 2019

Dan Beebe

The potting parties are a great chance for members to socialize and meet other members of the club. **We really need a few people who are willing to help transport plants from the barn to the location that the plants will be located until the sale.** We will send help with you to unload the plants. Anyone with access to a vehicle that can haul a lot of plants would be very much appreciated. This year's potting parties will be held at the Park District Barn located at the Kress Creek Farms Park (formerly Manville Oaks) West of the corner of Joliet and E. Wilson Street. For those of you who have not been there before, go South on Joliet St or Route 59 to E. Wilson St and turn right (heading West). The Barn is at the West end of E. Wilson St. Signup sheets are available at our monthly meetings.

The success of our plant sale has always been dependent on our club volunteers. I am still looking for a few volunteers to help coordinate care of Member Plants. Most of the work that needs to be done involves coordinating of volunteers to water the plants potted at the Potting Parties; you can choose how much you want to be physically involved in watering and care of the plants. Also, still looking for someone to fill the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the Plant Sale Setup Day (typically the afternoon & evening before the sale) and for the day of the Plant Sale. This role will involve recruiting members to help, managing signup lists and calling/e-mailing volunteers to remind them of their commitments. **Please let me know if you have any interest in volunteering for any of these activities, these roles are critical to making our sale success!**

We are also looking for businesses or individuals who would be willing to donate money to the club to help offset the cost of the sale tent. We are looking for at least 3 additional tent sponsors to donate \$250 each. **Each sponsor we can get will help the club save 50+ plants worth of profits for club activities.** If you know of any local business who might be willing to help us out, please let me know. We will put all sponsors names/logos on a banner at the sale and acknowledge their generosity.

In addition to potting up members' plants at the potting parties, we are always looking for new sources of plant material. **If you have any connections with local growers who might be able to help us obtain more plants, let me know.**

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to e-mail me at dbeebe@yahoo.com. — Dan Beebe

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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 2019: 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, West Chicago

2019 WCGC BOARD:

President: Barb Bizzarri
Vice President: Dan Beebe
Treasurer: Kerry Perry
Secretary: Pamela Darrah
Program Director: Barb Melville
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah
Director at Large: Chris Gicela

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

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