



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 19 Issue 11 November 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.

November 19th Meeting: Annual Dinner and Garden Dollar Auction

If you've never been to our auction and dinner, you are in for a treat!

The auction: We have several items for the Garden Dollar silent auction that will take place before, during, and after our dinner.

For dinner, a main dish, beverages, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, arriving no later than 6:30 p.m.

For the auction, bring your Garden Dollars with you—they are the only currency that will be accepted to redeem auction items. 25 Garden Dollars will be given to each attendee as they enter the meeting.

Do you still have uncollected Garden Dollars from this year's activities? (see sheet on page 5 for how to earn) Figure up how much you're owed, and collect them from the welcome table as you enter. Renew your membership at the November meeting, and earn 75 Garden Dollars!

Do you still have items to donate for the auction? Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can leave things on the back porch of Keith Letsche's house, 215 East Washington Street, beginning on Nov. 16th, or bring to the meeting!

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting during this event—if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact Dick Darrah.

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago.

Arrive no later than 6:30, dinner starts at 6:45 p.m.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016,

EARN GARDEN DOLLARS.

SEE LAST SHEET IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2016



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Growing Place: Holiday Shop Opens Nov. 7, both locations, Fresh Cut Greens, Trees, Garlands/Wreaths until Dec. 23. Holiday Open House Nov. 21 & 22, both locations.

Cantigny Park: Shades of Crimson Poinsettia Display, Dec. 1, 10AM—2PM. Free event, free parking. Mistletoe Market, Dec. 5, 1PM—7PM, free event, but parking fee applies. Holiday Festival, Dec. 5, 4PM—7PM, free event, but parking fee applies.

City of West Chicago: Frosty Fest, Dec. 5, 4PM—7PM in downtown West Chicago.

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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	Nancy Carrol: Grow and Go Green	At Kruse Garden
26 Feb	Don Guzan	Basics of Pruning	30 Jul	All members	President's Picnic
26 Mar	Shawn M. Odneal	Vertical Gardening	27 Aug	Rich & Susan Eyre	Inspirational Gardens & Plants
23 Apr	Billie Childress	Kruse House History	24 Sep	Bulb Bingo	Pauline
16 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	22 Oct	Mel Zaloudek	Epiphytes
28 May	Blumen Gardens	FIELD TRIP!	19 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

THINKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, 2016...

Our January meeting is "bring a friend" month! Our program will be on trees, presented by Richard Hentschel, a U of I Extension Educator for DuPage, Kane, and Kendall counties. Richard is an expert in Woody Ornamentals.

He will talk about a selection of trees, what ails them, and winter pruning, with an emphasis on Oaks. You won't want to miss this one and you'll have the opportunity to share this informative experience with a friend!

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Holiday Shop Open: Nov 7-Dec 23
Mon-Sat: 9am-4pm; Sun: 11am-4pm

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News from Kruse

by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom

An Outstanding Year in the Garden

Yes indeed. It *has* been an outstanding year in the garden. From tree trimming in March to gathering the plant supports for winter storage in October. The dahlia even bloomed before it froze (**see picture on page 5**)! The garden was never too much trouble. It needed us, but not obsessively. Most of the time it looked good and we never failed to enjoy our initial tour on work days. The garden has grown on us.....we appreciate it more over time *and* the garden continues to mature. Both, are good things that probably happen to you in your own gardens.

Reflecting on **highlights of the year** I'd include the following:

#zinnias. Angie planted them from seeds she had saved. The planting was casual at best, following Angie's operative approach of "good enough". Tom later asked about the germination rate of the planted seeds. You will have to imagine the answer since it's not suitable for publication. The first photos I took of them were in mid-July....multiple bright colors, single, double, and bomb type petals, all screaming **beautiful**. They got tall....4-5 feet at maturity, but stood straight without support. The last day we worked at the end of October we took home bouquets of zinnias. They were still gorgeous! Yes Angie, Kerry, and Tom collected seeds, each brown paper bag labeled with color and type. I expect we will try for a repeat performance next year, however we never count our seeds before they're hatched.....or is that chickens?

#gate. We have been talking about installing my grandma's garden gate in the Kruse Garden for a couple of years now and finally got it done. And what a thing it is to behold! Grandma would be proud. We each did a portion of the china mosaic on the gate posts and no surprise....we all had our own style, which worked to our advantage. Actually, I'd like to point out that this characteristic of individuality is what makes our group successful in the garden as well. Kerry plants and weeds different than Tom but even though we sometimes nag each other about the approach we often find it doesn't matter. I've learned to relax a lot in my gardening style by working in the Kruse Garden. But, I digress. Back to the gate. If you haven't seen it yet you should stop by and have a look. Who knows how it will withstand the winter but we sealed the grout and expect it will be fine. We are all pleased with it and hope it is a long standing unique feature of the garden.

#condo garden. We have adopted the driveway border along the condos and have been slowly adding plants. And, guess what! It's starting to look like a garden! There are daisies, day lilies, purple cone flowers, peonies, and we add whenever an opportunity arises. That area started out as spiraea shrubs, one per nook, and mulch. Most of the shrubs died so then it was just mulch. Open space, being an alien concept to gardeners, made this a natural target for planting. The forces were strong. We couldn't resist! It's not like we didn't have enough already but I know every one of you would have succumbed as well. It isn't full (I was going to say finished, but no garden ever is) by any means so it's an enticing area to be continued.

And so, dear garden, and dear readers of "news from kruse," it's time for a break. We will be **back next year** refreshed and ready to go. We sincerely hope there are one or two of you out there who are contemplating joining us in the garden next year. I promise you, it is a lovely thing to do! We would love to have you!

-Billie



Garden Dollars — remember to collect them!

WCGC distributes tokens (Garden Dollars) to members who participate in club activities. At the **November meeting**, you will be able to use them at the **auction to bid on fabulous prizes**. Here's how to earn them:

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, pick them up at special events from the event organizer, or see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned.

Pick up the Garden Dollars you've earned before the auction in November!

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs)	75 - 150	Donate plants for the sale <50, 50-149, ≥150	75, 200, 300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Trip attendance	25	Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2015	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Pay dues before February 2nd	50



A Dahlia at the Kruse House Gardens



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2016

Our meetings in 2016 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. 2016 Membership dues should be paid by February 25th, 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
P.O. Box 313
West Chicago, IL 60186

Application

Type: ☐ New or ☐ Renewal

Class: ☐ Individual or ☐ Family

Name(s): _____
(Print)

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Phone Numbers: (include area code)

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☐ 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