

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 20 Issue 11 November 2016



Meeting Date: November 17, 2016

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

6:45PM Annual Dinner

Faith Community Church

and

at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

Garden Dollar Auction!

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 3 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. 14th, 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.

Recap of October Program, The Magic of Minor Bulbs by Jill Selinger

We learned. We laughed. We took home a bag of bulbs to plant.
That's the executive summary.

But to expand a bit, here are a couple of comments from the evaluations.

"Wonderful -- learned SO much! Has motivated me to plant more bulbs in different places."

"Jill was very interesting and a fun speaker. Such a personality."

Jill's expertise in bulbs was apparent. She spoke of them like old friends. She's tried them all and her personal experience spoke volumes. I'm always afraid of accidentally digging up bulbs when planting perennials but never thought about tucking the new bulbs in safe spots like under the leaves of a Hosta or around the base of a shrub or mingling them in the ground cover. Great ideas! Can't wait to see what my *Chionodoxa forbesii* "Pink Giant" looks like next Spring. I'm sure it will be gorgeous! Jill said planting bulbs was "easy peasy". So, if you haven't planted yours yet, hop to it. It will only take a minute. And you'll be so glad when early next Spring you're walking around your garden, eyes glued to the ground, and SURPRISE there's that new patch of bulbs.

Next Meeting: January 26, 2017—see you next year!



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SPRING HOURS
MON-SAT: 9-5
SUN: 10-4 (4/15-6/30)

Club Information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org
West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2016: 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

2016 WCGC BOARD:

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

Vice President:

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WCGC 2016 Calendar

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
28 Jul	President Dick Darrah	President's Picnic	22 Sep	Sharon and Dan Peterson	Bats
25 Aug	Trish Beckjord	Pollinators	27 Oct	Jill Selinger	Bulbs
10 Sep	Chicago Botanic Garden	FIELD TRIP!	17 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

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	75, 200, 300
		<50, 50-149, ≥150	
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 2016	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Pay dues before February 2nd	50



News from Kruse

Angie Sadauskas

All wrapped up--another gardening season at the Kruse garden. It did not take long to store equipment, garden decorations, etc. for another season. We pulled all the annuals from the flower pots and beds, even though they were still blooming. We were ruthless in the clean-up. Kerry saved seeds of the zinnias, which again did very well--no mildew, no flopping, no extra water. We saved some seeds of marigolds, orange and yellow, which were donations from Cantigny. They bloomed well in part shade.

The trees and shrubs that we planted five years ago or more are growing very well. They are filling their space making less need for annuals. We planted a Jane Magnolia this year which flowers a bit later thus is not as susceptible to frost. Perennials have multiplied providing stock for the plant sale. Surprisingly the bulbs Jeff donated, *Colchicum* 'Lilac Wonder', popped up with very lovely blooms.

When it's the middle of winter we will again leaf through magazines and think of ways to improve the garden. We now have six regular volunteers, we all have our likes, dislikes, and opinions in what should be done to enhance the garden.

Sandy and Keith are our newest gardeners. As yet they have been very diplomatic and have not voiced opinions on plants that they really dislike, or the jobs they would prefer not to do. Having seen Sandy's own garden it's obvious she has a very good eye for garden design. She'll be the one to ask when we don't know where to tuck a plant in. Keith has done everything asked of him, and I have noticed that he has a very nice collection of saws and pruners. As yet we do not know what garden chore he would rather not do.

Billie and Kerry like all plants even giving the straggly ones a chance. They notice fall color, butterflies, and are not eager to pull a plant out. They see beauty in all. Kerry has many ideas and is especially clever in the repair of our equipment. Billie donates many plants to our garden. I'm not sure the cottage garden look is her gardening style as there is no such thing as too much mulch for Billie. And both are meticulous weeders.

Tom has plants he seriously dislikes--feverfew, sweet peas, and almost any plant that sprawls or seeds. He likes plants regimented, in their proper place, and preferably in a straight row. And there is no greater joy than when he can prune and shear and cut back and bring plants and shrubs under control. I myself am more of the 'good enough' gardener, good for the rough weeding. And I also have many plants I dislike. I pull straggly plants frequently because it makes Tom happy. I don't particularly like *Coleus*, but only because it doesn't grow in my own garden and always seems to thrive at Kruse--to spite me. And I have to confess, though it is close to heresy--that I really dislike the common milkweed. These plants are too tall, too scraggly, fall over, sprout everywhere. Kerry and Billy stake them, Tom and I pull them. I wonder if we can just grow the swamp milkweeds, genus *Asclepias*, which are just two and a half feet tall, stay in place, have lovely bloom and are loved by monarchs. Can I talk my fellow gardeners in pulling out the common milkweed? Or at least planting them in the back somewhere? What happens when the garden is overrun by common milkweeds?

We all like different plants, have different gardening styles and ideas--an open garden, shorter plants, more structure, maybe a meadow, more color, this shrub or that, etc. And so, we discussed, we worked, we laughed, we did well. We enjoyed gardening together.

-Angie



One Member's Thank You

by Billie Childress

"I get much more than I give."

My personal reflection of Garden Club membership.

It's the end of the 2016 Garden Club year.

So, I am reflecting on all the good things I get from GC.

The **9 Educational Programs** we had this year at our monthly meetings were fun for me.
(At the November meeting I will ask you which 3 you liked the best.)

January, **"Trees"** by Richard Hentschel, U of I Extension Educator

February, **"People and Nature"** by Peggy Doty, U of I Extension Educator

March, **"Organic Edibles"** by Ed Max, avid organic gardener and heirloom tomato nut

April, **"Best Plants for 2016"** by Kim Hartman, Nursery Professional and Master Gardener

May, Master Gardener led **"Tours of Cantigny Gardens"**.

June, Kruse Garden and **"Floral Design"** by Tracy Atkinson

August, **"Pollinator Habitat"** by Trish Beckjord, Native Plant Specialist

September, **"Myths and Benefits of Bats"** by Dan Peterson, Incredible Bats Inc

October, **"The Magic of Minor Bulbs"** by Jill Selinger, Manager of Education at Chicago Botanic Gardens

*The July Picnic and the November Potluck and Auction are considered Social Events.

In addition to the above educational programs that I thoroughly enjoyed, I also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the following:

Plant a Hypertuffa pot with sedum in a **March Workshop** led by Marci.

Tour 5 member gardens on May 1st **Posey Mosey**

Buy plants at the **Member's Only Plant Pre-sale** in May

Bring a **tool** for **sharpening** at the June meeting at the Kruse garden

Stuff myself at the **July Picnic**

Tour the Chicago Botanic Garden in September with friends

Win a gift certificate and more from the **Garden Bucks Auction**

As you can see, I participate in pretty much all the programs and activities the GC offers. I enjoy learning and socializing with fellow members, and consider you friends, and mentors. Without you there wouldn't be a Garden Club for me to enjoy! And so, **I thank Each and Every One of You** from deep in my heart for making our garden club the best ever!

***PS** I'll bet you are wondering why I didn't mention Plant Sale activities like potting parties, and caring for, hauling and selling all those plants. Well. Some members consider such activities work. And it certainly is! However, there is no doubt that these activities are a benefit as well.*

I love chatting and laughing at potting parties! When I work with you I get to know you. What a pleasure! And I always learn something. Yes, I have a million things to do at home in the Spring, and sometimes it's cold and rainy but without our big fundraiser we couldn't have all those programs that I reflected on above. We give. We get. For me, as I said, I get more than give.



Prepping Roses for Winter

The Growing Place

As we head into winter, think about how to care for your roses. Some of our most popular roses such as hybrid teas, need a little extra care in the winter, because they are usually grafted. Grafted roses will need more protection, as they are more sensitive to severe cold. Others roses like shrub and species roses grown on their own roots are very hardy and do not need winter protection. Frequently planted roses such as Knock-Out or Flower Carpet are very hardy and will not die completely to the ground come winter.

Grafted Rose Protection

For grafted roses, mulch and leaf clippings are perfect protection. These amendments offer protection from winter winds, but are loose enough to allow some air circulation so that the stems and crown do not rot. Do NOT use the Styrofoam rose cones as they hold in moisture and heat, creating a perfect environment for fungus and rot. The Growing Place recommends mounding your amendment loosely up about eight to twelve inches. If you have a hybrid tea, you may want to create a cylinder of chicken wire and fill it with loose mulch and leaf clippings to about two feet high for extra protection. Evergreen boughs make terrific mulch that also keeps the rabbits away. We have also found that it is best to wait until spring to prune the canes. With our tough winters, expect to see some cane dieback and the longer the canes, the more chance you'll have living tissue come March.

Timing is Everything

It is important to wait until the ground is truly frozen and often in our area that isn't until around or after the holidays. Our November and December temperatures can bounce up and down and we will frequently go from rain to snow to rain again. You want to mulch roses when it is as dry as possible and when the ground has completely cooled down. Once the weather begins to warm in March, it's time to take away that mulch layer. Roses benefit from good air circulation and good drainage.

Save Roses from Hungry Bunnies

If you have severe rabbit problems, you may want to cage your roses with chicken wire or graduated rabbit fencing over the winter. When there is nothing else to eat, roses become the favorite snack of hungry rabbits!

Mounding



Mulching



Covering

