

# We Go Gardening

## Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 11 November 2020



*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: Canceled

## Donated Trees Planted

Late last month, Mike Gasparini from the West Chicago Park District, let us know that the trees donated by the Garden Club have all been planted.

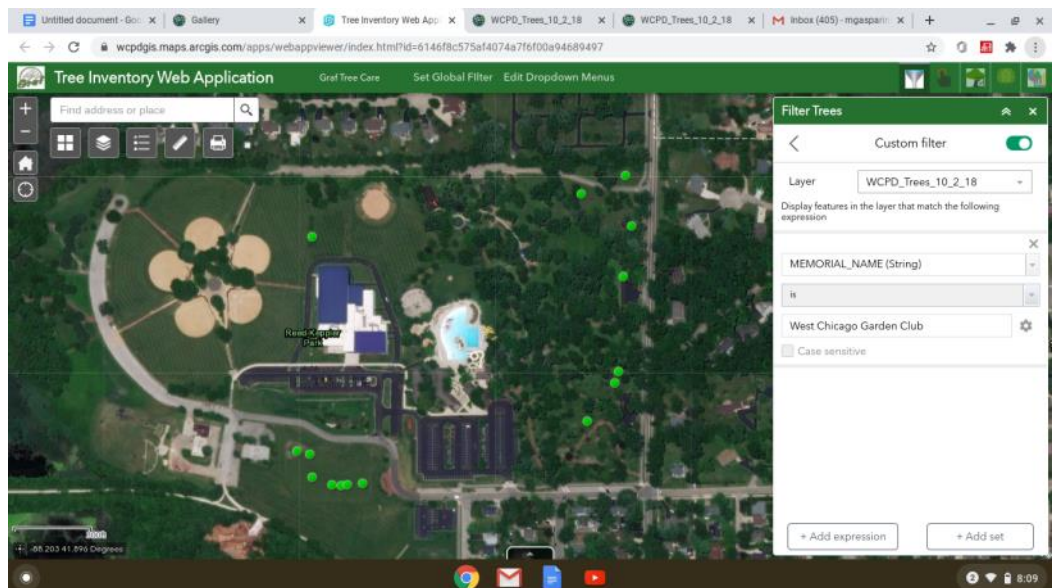
From his email: *I want to again thank you and the West Chicago Garden Club for this extremely generous donation. All of these trees were purchased over the past couple of weeks and planted within days of arrival. They are somewhat spread throughout Reed Keppler Park but the majority of them are on the hill across the street from the ARC Center. This was an area that was in need of trees. It was very bare. We now have a total of 23 trees on this hill and it has a much more "Reed Keppler" feel to it. I can't wait to see it in 20 years, lol. I have attached a map showing the locations of the trees. This may be somewhat hard to follow but you can always look them up on the tree app that you can use to see all the trees within Reed Keppler. This app can be accessed by the QR code found on the signs within the park or you can also find the QR code on the [we-goparks.org](http://we-goparks.org) web page and click on the "Parks" tab. All of them are marked as memorial tree from West Chicago Garden Club. All trees that were planted this fall have gator bags on them so that also makes*

*them easier to find. Below is a list of trees that we chose for the donation along with the inventory number associated with them.*

### Hill across from the ARC building

- 2354- Nyssa Sylvatica Black Gum
- 2366- Cork Tree Eye Stopper
- 2484- London Planetree Platanus Exclamation
- 2356- Glditsia Skyline Locust
- 2362- Golden Raintree
- 2485- Redpointe Maple
- 2361- Heritage Oak

- 2360 Prunus Pink Snow Showers – Near Flower Gardens, Corner of Arbor & National St.
- 2364- Malus Prairiefire Crab Apple – North-West Corner of North Arbor Parking Lot
- 2481- Aesculus Hoppocastanum Baumannii Horsechestnut – Just Off of Arbor Ave. South of North Drive
- 2349- Aesculus Autumn Splendor Horsechestnut – Just off of North Drive
- 2318- English Elm – North of ARC Center Between Field 5 & 6





## October Mini-Meeting

What a beautiful day it was to spend time at the newly constructed beautiful Kress Creek Farm. After several days of cold rainy weather....the sun came out and the temperature was perfect for sitting, relaxing and listening to a great speaker talk about "Plants For Fall Color".



Kim Hartman from Countryside Garden Center brought lots of plants so that we could actually see what would look great in our outdoor pots as well as indoors as table center pieces or just an arrangement sitting in your front hallway that makes the statement, "Fall Is Here".

Kim gave everyone a great color handout with many suggestions how to make your outdoors look fabulous from summer to late fall: many beautiful plants that turn different colors as the seasons go on. Kim finished her presentation with a raffle where each attending member went home with one of the plants that she had demonstrated and she also gave each member a little mum plant to take home.



## Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Wow... Can it possibly be Thanksgiving already? As I sit at my kitchen counter, which is also my not so temporary home office, I find myself searching for something interesting and upbeat to write for my article in this month's newsletter. After hours of contemplation (yes, really), I have decided to write down a list of things I am thankful for this year... most of which have nothing to do with gardening... but when you are faced with a big blank section of newsletter to fill up... anything goes.

First off, I am extremely thankful that all of my extended family is healthy and only a handful of people I know personally have been sick (or at least not very sick) in the last 11 months while a pandemic rules the headlines. Second, I am really enjoying my new job as IT Director despite a team of foreign hackers encrypting 500 computers and more than 30 servers in my company and attempting to extort \$1.2 million to 'unlock' the data (yes, really). I am thankful for this because it helped show me what a great group of dedicated people I have working for me and how supportive everyone in my company can be as we brought every system back on line without have to pay a ransom (insert BIG SMILEY EMOJI here). Third, I am thankful that the weather this year was and continues to be mild and I have been able to spend some quality time outside to help keep me clear headed and focused, despite all that 2020 has thrown at all of us. Fourth, I am thankful that there are starting to be signs that many things are looking like they will be, at least somewhat, better next year.

So... I want to thank all of you for putting up with 2020 and me for the last 11 months and I am wishing all of you a better 2021.

-Dan

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## Virtual Workshops

Barb Bizzarri

The Growing Place will be hosting a couple virtual workshops via Zoom.

### DIY PORCH POTS & WREATHS VIRTUAL CLASSES

While we can't host our popular workshops this winter, we can still let you in our secrets to beautiful porch pots and wreaths. Register for the live classes on Nov 30.



11/30/2020 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<a href="#">Holiday Porch Pot Winter Workshop</a>
11/30/2020 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<a href="#">Holiday Wreath Winter Workshop</a>



## Getting to Know ...

**Barb Bizzarri**



**Linda Harlson**

**Resident of West Chicago:** For over 30 years resided in West Chicago raising my family, I moved to St. Charles 14 years ago

**West Chicago Garden Club Member:** Since 1998

**Hobbies:** Sewing, quilting, knitting and gardening

**Favorite Flower/bush/plant:** Daisy.....and 'anything daisy like'

**Biggest Gardening Mistake:** "Planting the right thing in the wrong place"

**What gardening chore do you dislike the most?** Weeding

**What do you plan on planting in your Fall garden:** I've moved several hostas and planted some new ones

**Current Career:** Grammar School Teacher and substitute teacher in West Chicago

**If you could travel now, where would you like to go:** If money were no object ... Borneo or Thailand

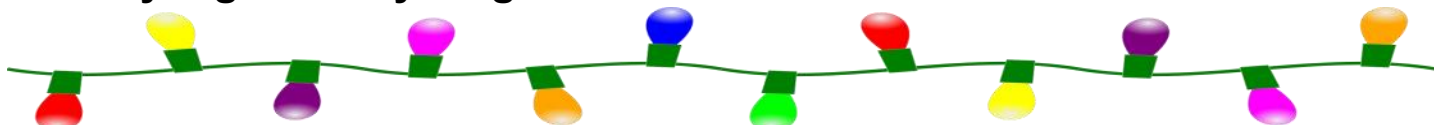
**How did you keep busy these past months:** I've caught up on so many of my hobby projects, time with friends and sewing.

**Favorite Restaurant:** Cotto A Legna in Geneva

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## Holiday Lights Recycling

**Dan Beebe**



November 27, 2020 - January 17, 2021

The West Chicago Environmental Commission is once again helping to keep the holiday "green" this season by coordinating the free recycling of strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights and extension cords that no longer work.

Residents, businesses, clubs, churches and organizations may drop-off these items at designated bins at following locations:

- City Hall, 475 Main Street
- First United Methodist Church of West Chicago, 643 East Washington Street
- Murphy Ace Hardware, 319 South Neltnor Boulevard
- West Chicago Water Treatment Plant, 1400 West Hawthorne Lane
- West Chicago Public Library District, 118 West Washington Street
- The ARC Center, 201 W. National Street

The program is coordinated with Groot.



### CLOSING THE GARDEN GATE AT KRUSE FOR 2020

Though the fall asters are still in flower and the warm Indian summer days continue to beckon us out of doors, the Kruse House crew has wrapped up the gardening season at the house. Having spent September and October pulling out dying annuals, pruning bushes and trees, and thinning and trimming dead leaves and blooms from perennials, the crew finished up on October 21st by cleaning out the urns and stowing pots and garden ornaments in the shed. The garden is now ready for the first blooms of spring.



*Though still profuse with blooms, the reddening leaves of this begonia foretell the coming of the cold weather.*

The crew can point to a number of accomplishments in the garden this year. New plants were purchased and added at the west end of the garden in the back, including Japanese and other kinds of grasses to fill in the areas around trees. At the west end also the rock terrace was reconstructed. An American hornbeam tree, three cranberry crush hibiscus, and two aurelia were put in the new bed on the east front of

the house. The bed filled out very nicely this year, making it look long established



Next year's projects include painting and possibly reconfiguring the fence panels in rear of the garden as backdrops to the plantings there and creating a flower bed in the northeast corner.

The crew is ready to welcome any new members to join who want to help with these tasks.

*The ornamental butterflies which graced the garden this year all have "flown," leaving just the metal stakes that supported them .*



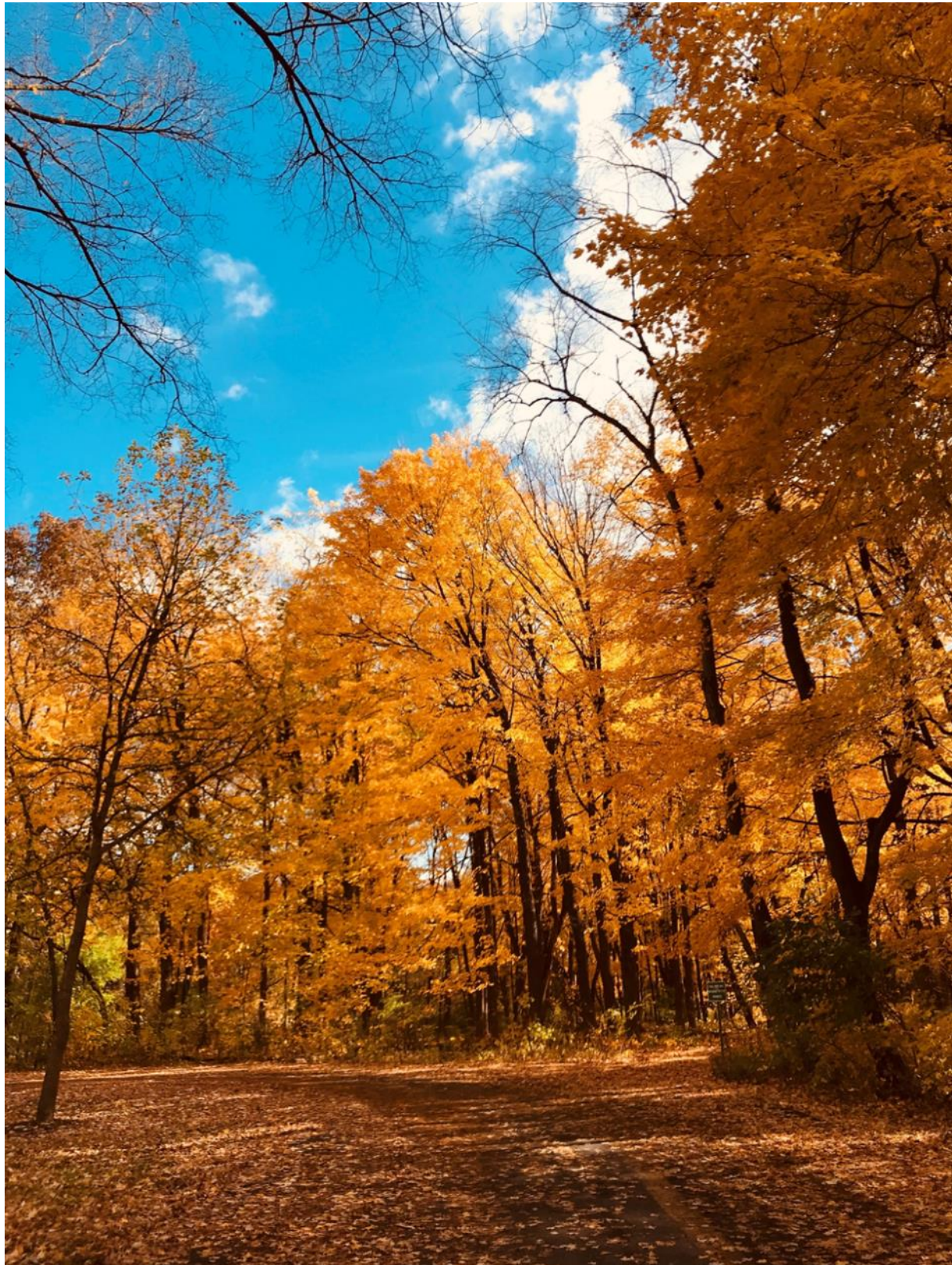
*Alice, who stood watch over the garden since early spring, is stowed away along with a wire plant stand and some ornamental balls in the shed.*



## **Out and About**

**Kerry Perry**

This lovely photograph was taken by Kerry Perry a couple of weeks ago at the West Dupage Forest Preserve - Route 59 and Forest Ave. West Chicago





## Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

There are several beautiful old oaks in my backyard and I noticed some of the leaves appeared to be much larger than in past years. Here's a photo of one that measures 13 inches long and 9.5 inches wide. What caused this? Time to do some research.

When it comes to leaf production, experts say it's less of a weather-driven process and more about solar energy. Leaves that grow in the shade — so-called “shade leaves” — generally have a larger surface area for absorbing light energy for photosynthesis. Comparatively, “sun leaves” are smaller and thicker, with more layers of cells.

Last fall a woman in Alabama found a Cherry Red Oak leaf that is about 17 inches long and roughly 16 inches wide. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest oak ever documented was 16.14 inches long and 11 inches wide, and was discovered in Barry's Cove, Ontario, Canada, in Oct 2010. .



Oak leaf from my backyard



Claire in Alabama



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## Club Information

Website: [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

West Chicago Garden Club

P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186

E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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

### 2020 WCGC BOARD:

President: Dan Beebe

Vice President: Barb Bizzarri

Treasurer: Kerry Perry

Secretary: Cherie Kraft

Program Director: Barb Melville

Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe

Information Director: Pamela Darrah

Kruse House Chair: Billie Childress

Hospitality Chair: Jan Grismore

Director at Large Mary Schramer

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to  
[WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

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