



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 19 Issue 10 October 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.

October 22nd Meeting: Epiphytes with Mel Zaloudek

Our speaker this month will be Mel Zaloudek. Mel graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor's Degree in Taxonomic Botany, and served on the Horticulture Faculty of Triton College in River Grove for 20 years. He is currently an independent landscaping consultant.

On Thursday, October 22nd, he will take us on a photographic tour of exotic orchids, aroids, bromeliads and other rare and/or threatened plant species of tropical origin. This is the enchanting world of epiphytes, from the remarkable collections at Selby Gardens, Florida's internationally esteemed conservatory. Biology of the tropical flora will be discussed, and indoor gardeners will gather many ideas for raising their house plant hobby to a whole new level.

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45pm - refreshments and gathering

7:00pm - brief business meeting

7:15pm - program

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016, EARN GARDEN DOLLARS—SEE LAST SHEET IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19:

ANNUAL DINNER & GARDEN DOLLAR AUCTION!

NOTE START TIME: 6:30 PM





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.

Chicago Botanic Garden: HallowFest. Oct. 24-25. Celebrate Halloween at the Garden!

Cantigny Park: Bird Walk, Nov. 14, 8:30AM—11AM. No fee & complimentary parking. Bring your own binoculars.

Wasco Nursery: Pruning Seminar, October 24, 10AM and 1PM. Call for reservations: 630-584-4424.

Platt Hill Nursery: Christmas Open House, November 13. 4PM—8PM.

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn
and add some beauty to your garden at



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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



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Special thanks to **Pauline Briggs** and **Marcy Kozlowski** for another fun Bulb Bingo at our last meeting!

We appreciate all of their hard work planning our monthly programs.

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

The Growing Place
Garden Center

Naperville: 630.355.4000 Aurora: 630.820.8088
25w471 Plank Rd 2000 Montgomery Rd
thegrowingplace.com |



News from Kruse

by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom

For those of you who attended the Annual Ice Cream Social, you know what a great event this is. And the Kruse Gardens did not disappoint, either. Not only were the gardens in bloom, but it was the official unveiling of our new garden gate (pictured at left). This gate was decorated with dishes from our members, and looks very nice.



At Right: another view of the Kruse Garden



Fall is the time for us at the Kruse House to prepare the gardens for the coming year. Cleaning, cutting, and planting are all part of the program. One of the new things we are doing this year is the collecting of seeds for the next year. This was Angie's idea, and so far we have collected quite a few seeds.

This time of year has always been my favorite. I love the Fall, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. Halloween has been a time of great memories for me, when we would Trick-or-Treat it was quite different that it is today. Our parents never went with us, and the things we acquired could be eaten without fear. We would get things like homemade cookies, popcorn balls, and apples. Today anything not wrapped and sealed is thrown into the garbage. Today the most popular candies for Halloween are: Reese's, M & M's, Snickers, Hershey's, Kit Kats, Twix, Three Musketeers, Hershey's Cookies and Cream, Milky Way, and Almond Joy.

I read an article about Trick-or-Treating at the White House. It seems that the White House picks, at random, 2000 school children from the Washington, DC area. These lucky children are allowed to enter the grounds and knock on the White House door. They are rewarded with small bags of dried fruit, packs of M & M's with the White House printed on them, or sugar cookies in the shape of the White House. While the Trick-or-Treating is going on, a brass band plays gypsy type music, while make up artists paint children's faces. There is also a local farmer who shows off his 1300 lbs. prize winning pumpkin.

So here is wishing all our members a very happy Halloween, and hope to see you at our October meeting.

-Tom



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

As you know, if you've attended one of our fun November dinner/auction events in the past, we depend on our members to bring items they have or have found that could be won by others in a silent auction. It's great if these can be "garden-themed." In the past we've had hand-made gazing balls, note paper, yard tools, flower arrangements, plants, books, and even mystery boxes. The club supplements the members' items with gift certificates from our generous sponsors. In November, we hope everyone takes home something!

It's not too early to start thinking about what you might have at your house, or to keep your eyes open at a garage sale or dollar store—that could be the most bid-upon item of the night. If you have any questions about the auction, or already have an item(s) to donate, please contact Dick Darrah.



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Back to Bulb Basics

by *The Growing Place*

Bulbs are a simple, minimal fuss option for great early and mid-spring color. Here are a few surefire tips to help you have success.

Planting Tips

Bulbs do best in a sunny to part shade location with well-drained soil. When you are planting, add in Espoma® Bulb-tone and mix in some compost or our TGP Choice Garden Mix. Dig the hole about 2 inches deeper than the actual depth needed. This will give them some nice soft soil under the bulb also. For example, daffodils like to be about 6 inches below the surface so dig down about 8 inches to mix in the amendments and then plant. Bulbs like to be planted pointy side up. A general rule of thumb is to plant the bulb about 3 times deeper than the height of the bulb and about 3 inches apart. If you are not sure which side is up, don't fear. Just plant them on their side and Mother Nature will sort itself out. Your bulbs will still find their way to the surface next spring. The only exception to the 3 times deeper rule is tulips. Plant these 10 inches below the surface to help give them a longer life. If your garden tends to be on the damp side, try planting these naturalizing bulbs: Galanthus, Puschkinia and Camassia. Water your bulbs once right after planting and then forget about them. After the blooms fade in the spring, clip the flower heads to channel energy back into the bulb and not seed production. Letting the foliage die back naturally also helps to recharge the bulb for next year.

Avoiding Critters

Critters find many bulbs irresistible. Mix daffodils in with your tulips to help deter the critters from munching on those tasty tulips. They tend to avoid daffodils because their bulbs, flowers and stems produce a numbing effect to the animal. Other critter resistant bulbs include: Allium, Scilla, Chionodoxa, Galanthus, Muscari, Fritillaria, Eranthis, and Hyacinthoides hispanica. You can also apply Plantskydd® Repellent Rabbits and Small Critters to the soil or dip the bulbs in Ropel® Animal and Rodent Repellent and let dry before planting. For both of these products, be sure to follow the label directions.

Dividing Tips

When bulbs have been in the ground for several years, you might notice that you have more leaves than flowers. It might be time to divide your bulbs. Once the leaves start to fade in the spring, you can dig some of the bulbs up and then replant them right away in a new location. Don't wait until fall to replant.

A Few Favorites

Alliums are one of our favorite critter resistant bulbs, growing in full sun to part shade. New this year we have 'Summer Drummer'. It's an eye-catcher producing 6-8 inch flowers on 4-6 foot stems. Great planted between Hosta, Peonies and Oriental Poppies. Golden Ducat Daffodil is a yellow, double flower variety with multiple layers of petals. It resembles a Camellia or small Peony. New selections of Lilium include, Martagon Hybrid Lily, a long-lived addition to a sun or part shade garden with nodding flowers, and Rose Lily, with pollen free, fragrant flowers that have multiple petal layers.



Allium
'Summer Drummer'



Daffodil
'Golden Ducat'



Lily
'Manitoba Morning'



Rose Lily
'Carolina'



Colchicum
'Waterlily'

Fall blooming Colchicum 'Waterlily' can be planted now and you will see flowers this fall. In the spring they have shiny oval leaves which will disappear late spring/early summer letting the flowers surprise you around the first week of September. Try mixing them in with a low growing sedum.



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)

Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Send newsletters via: ☐ E-mail or ☐ Mail

☐ 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