

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 22 Issue 10 October 2018



**Meeting Date: October 25**

**Meeting Location:**

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

**Meeting Time:**

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

## ENGLISH GARDENS: INCIDENTAL GLIMPSES



In July 2017 one of our Club members, Keith Letsche, spent two weeks touring England. While the tours focused mainly on architecture and history, he managed to snap photos in spare

moments of the surrounding grounds of the sites visited. At our next meeting, he will take us on a casual tour through these photographs of the gardens and plantings of about 15 or so of these places. So join us October 25th as we take a glimpse at English gardening."

There will also be some extra Door Prizes this month.

**Note different location:**

**St. Andrews Lutheran Church — Northeast corner of Geneva Rd and Prince Crossing**



NOVEMBER 15TH MEETING

**Potluck & Silent Auction  
(see below)**

## November Potluck & Silent Auction—3rd Thursday (Nov 15)

We will once again be holding our Annual Potluck dinner and Member appreciation Silent Auction in November. For those who are new, the Silent Auction bids are only in "Garden Dollars" which are earned by members by participating in the club. See page 6 for a chart and pick up your dollars before the Auction starts. They will be available at the October & November meetings.

Keith is organizing the items for the Auction and is **looking for donations**. New or gently used items are needed. Please donate garden/plant-related items except for the clear glass vases that florists provide with floral arrangements.

Smaller items may be dropped off at Keith Letsche's, 215 East Washington Street, West Chicago, beginning November 12th (not before that time, please!). Larger items should be brought the night of the meeting (Let Keith know what you are bringing).

## **Forcing Fall Bulbs by Barb Bizzarri**

As you plant the last of your Fall bulbs, don't forget to put some away for forcing. Pick up some tulips on sale and try 'water forcing' them. You'll be rewarded with tulips in the middle of Winter.

- 1) Pick good size bulbs. You'll have bigger blooms with bigger bulbs.
- 2) Put the bulbs "asleep". Tulips need between 12-15 weeks in your refrigerator (This amount of time cannot vary!). Pack in a plain paper bag with a hole or two to allow some air to circulate and avoid moisture buildup. Keep the bulbs away from fruit like apples since the gas produced by fruit will prevent the tulips from blooming.
- 3) Once the "sleep time" has elapsed, take the bulbs out and place in a tall glass vase that has been prepared with 2-3" of glass marbles (Dollar Store has them for guess what?? \$1) Arrange several glass marbles around each bulb in order to maintain upright position.
- 4) Fill vase to just below the bottom of the bulbs. **DON'T ALLOW WATER TO TOUCH THE BASE OF THE BULBS.** The roots will work their way down through the marbles.
- 5) Place your vase in a bright room with indirect sunlight.
- 6) Enjoy an early touch of Spring by staggering another batch or two.

### **Getting to Know ...Marcy Kozlowski**

Resident of West Chicago 19 years

West Chicago Garden Club Member for 9 years

Besides Gardening My Hobbies Include:  
horseback riding, cooking, raising chickens, and I  
enjoy household remodeling.

My Favorite Flower: Daisy

Advice to New Gardener: Don't overwhelm  
yourself, start small, listen to fellow gardeners  
and look ahead to the maintenance requirements.

Biggest Gardening Mistake: vegetable gardens  
are much harder than they look and I made the  
mistake of planting too many vegetables and I  
made the vegetable garden too big. Less will  
equal better quality.

Last or Present Career: Owner: Marcy's Garden  
Landscaping Co: which besides garden design  
and maintenance includes installation and  
maintenance of ponds, gardens and  
greenhouses, container gifts and with the  
upcoming holidays, puts up and takes down  
holiday lighting both indoor and out. Her  
business # is 630-846-3466 (PS: I put in this plug  
not Marcy!! — Barb Bizzarri)

Favorite Restaurant; Meson Sabika, Naperville

Favorite Vacation: Caribbean and anywhere  
tropical and near the ocean.

Why Should Someone Join WCGC?:  
Really good cookies! The members  
are sharing and you learn so much.

### **MEET YOUR BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBER: Barb Bizzarri, President**

Resident of West Chicago since: 2000

West Chicago Garden Club Member for 5 yrs

Favorite Flower/Plant So many to choose  
from! Baptista/False Indigo, Hellebores and  
Lilly-of-the-Valley

Last or Present Career: I've had two major  
careers. Critical Care RN and my last 23  
years career as an Agency Field Executive  
with State Farm Insurance

Biggest Gardening Mistake: When I was  
expecting my second daughter, I decided to  
plant some bulbs that Fall with my oldest  
daughter. I told her, 'you'll have pretty flowers  
once your brother/sister arrives in the Spring'.  
Imagine my disappointment, when not one  
single flower bloomed. I did some research  
(after the fact!), inexperienced gardener that I  
was and realized I had planted all those bulbs,  
carefully, upside down!

Hobbies: Reading, cooking, sewing,  
volunteering at Marcells in Glen Ellyn as a  
'Culinary Assistant' and of course, gardening.

Favorite Local Restaurant: Bien Trucha  
(Geneva) and Town House Cafe <attached to  
the Town House Bookstore> (St. Charles)

My Top Three Favorite Vacation  
Destinations: Italy, National Parks  
and Panama Canal

## September Meeting: Bulb Bingo

Last month's garden club meeting, which included Bulb Bingo, was a lot of fun and attended by 40 members of our club. Each member won at least two individually packaged prizes of beautiful bulbs. Pauline did a great job purchasing many different types of flowers and describing them to the group as the game went on. Thanks to Pauline, one more time, for a job well done.

Barb Melville



### Garden Quotes:

I grow plants for many reasons;  
to please my eye or to please my soul,  
to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience,  
for novelty or for nostalgia,  
but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow

— David Hobson



Stop and say hello to Jan our new club greeter

## Fall Leaf Collection

Barb Bizzarri

For five weeks beginning **October 29 – November 30, 2018, on the regularly scheduled garbage pickup day.** Residents may dispose of an unlimited quantity of leaves during this time.

No stickers are required for leaves during this time period, however, no other yard waste may be mixed in with them. All leaves must be placed in a biodegradable "Kraft" yard waste bag which does not exceed 50 pounds when full, or a 95-gallon yard waste cart. Leaves will not be accepted in plastic bags or cardboard boxes.

For questions regarding this service, you may call the Public Works Department at [\(630\) 293-2255](tel:630-293-2255).

## News from Kruse

October again, and all the plants we have babied all Summer long, will soon be dead. I really kind of hate to see this happen but I know that most, if not all, will return next year.

The Kruse House has had a major clean up this Summer, which may not be as noticeable at first look. The area on the East side of the property, along the fence by the shopping center, has been totally cleaned up. All the debris has been removed, the bushes have been trimmed, and mulch has been placed on the ground to keep the weeds down. This was a big project, along with all the other things that go on here. Thanks to all the volunteers who pitched in with their help. This area now looks just great.

I don't want you to think that I do not like October, because I do. Halloween is my second favorite holiday, (Christmas being the first). I have always liked Halloween since I was a kid. In the 50's Halloween was quite different than it is today. We were allowed to Trick-or-Treat alone. No parents, no big brothers, just me and my friends. We accepted candy from anybody who would give it to us, and a lot of our loot was unwrapped. This is not to mention apples, popcorn balls, or popcorn.



But I have to say that the one thing I really didn't like were Brach's Mellowcream Pumpkins. It was the worst Halloween candy of all time. It is everything people hate about candy corn just more of it. The Mellowcream Pumpkin is not a pumpkin at all, it is just the evolution of candy corn, which was invented in

the 1880's. The Mellowcream Pumpkin was originally called "Buttercream Pumpkins" despite a lack of butter or cream in them. Bite into one of these little pumpkins and you will notice a shell is holding its insides in place: sugar, corn syrup, gelatin, sesame oil, (so the packaging says) real honey. The ingredients also include something called "shellac" to give these little pumpkins a nice shine. All things considered the only useful thing I have found for this candy, after all my years dealing with them, is to throw them. I was hit in the cheek with one of these things and I can tell you it hurt. We used to have pumpkin fights with this candy. If anyone doesn't believe me about these "Mellowcreams", just buy yourself a bag and enjoy.

Another candy to stay away from this Halloween is Circus Peanuts. I ate a whole bag of these things once and have never been so sick in my life. Anyway have a great Fall and an even greater Halloween.

*There is a child in every one of us, who is still a Trick-or Treater looking for a brightly lit porch. — Robert Brault*



## Tom Fessler



## Gardening Tips & Questions—A tip from Jeff Handel

Do You Want To Keep Those Mums As Perennials?

Buy them in the fall and plant them in a place with half sun to full sun. Enjoy the blooms. Dead head when necessary. After the first hard frost when the plant looks pretty dead, trim the plant leaving 3 to 6 inches of stems. Then leave them alone and do nothing. Come spring still do nothing. If you must clean off debris do it by hand. Don't disturb the stems. Once I raked out the leaves and they all died. When their growth is about 3 inches the roots are more stable. Let them grow to 6 inches, then start cutting them back to 6 inches. This will create more branching and therefore more flowers. Keep trimming them back until July 15. As you trim them back let the height go from 6 to 8 inches. After July 15, just let them grow like normal. Please remember perennials are not forever. I have found that some just die off, but most spread a little every year. As far as dividing, spring is out. You can either divide in late July or August or late fall. When you divide make sure they get enough water.



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### IMPORTANT REMINDER:

**Our October meeting will be held at  
St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
N/E corner of Geneva Rd & Prince Crossing**

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### Cantigny Park Events

- November 6: **Tree Walk & Talk** Visitors Center, 11am—Learn about Cantigny's magnificent trees and enjoy the fall foliage on this guided tour led by Cantigny's expert foresters. The walk will focus on new additions to the gardens such as the Oak Colonnade and offer helpful information for homeowners. Free with parking (\$5).
- November 15: **Lunch & Learn: Birds of Cantigny** Visitors Center, 12-1pm—Jeff Reiter will discuss birding opportunities at the park and the species that make Cantigny a special place to enjoy our feathered friends. Bring a lunch or reserve one. To register or order a box lunch (\$13) call 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).
- November 16: **Shades of Crimson Poinsettia Display & Sale** Cantigny Greenhouse, 11am-7pm — Visitors are invited to the Cantigny Greenhouse to enjoy a sea of poinsettia plants at their holiday best. See 15 or more varieties and 3,000-plus poinsettias in total, all grown on site from cuttings. Plants will be available for sale, and Cantigny horticulturists will be available to answer questions at points along your self-guided tour. Groups are welcome, but notice is requested for parties of 10 or more (call 630.260.8162). Visitors should park in the main lot at the Cantigny Visitors Center, then walk to the greenhouse or ride the free trolley. Free with parking (\$5).

## America in Bloom

The results are in....

I'm pleased to say West Chicago was rated 8 out of a possible 10 stars AND was awarded the "Best Community Celebration" special award.

Club members who opened their gardens to the America in Bloom judges this past Summer were Jeff Handel, Mark and June Luther, Gary Jackson and Barb Bizzarri. The Judges commented on residential gardens: "Visits to a number of residential gardens in West Chicago provided ample evidence of that 'flower fascination' interpreted in uniquely personal ways. Each and every private Garden of Eden was a pleasure to experience and we thank the generosity of these gardeners in sharing their accomplishments'. You can find these comments in the "Flowers" category on the AIB evaluation results on the [westchicago.org](http://westchicago.org) website.

Barb Bizzarri



Make sure to watch for our America In Bloom Roadway sign which will be installed

## 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 **Silent 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. There will be Garden Dollars available at both the October and November meetings.

### 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	<b>Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2018</b>	<b>75</b>
Donate to Kruse House	50	<b>Pay dues before February 2nd</b>	<b>50</b>

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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 2018: 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

### 2017 WCGC BOARD:

President: Barb Bizzarri  
Vice President: Keith Letsche  
Treasurer: Kerry Perry  
Secretary: Billie Childress  
Program Director: Barb Melville  
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe  
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah  
Director at Large: OPEN

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

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