

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 10 October 2019



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: October 24

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

6:45PM Refreshments

7:00PM Business Meeting

7:15PM Program

Let It Rot & Putting the Garden to Bed

Bill Kargas

This is one meeting that no one should miss! Instead of one presentation on one topic, we will have two separate presentations on two different topics! Bill Kargas, famous speaker and presenter from Villa Park will give us a presentation on Practical Composting called "LET IT ROT". This program addresses all aspects of composting, emphasizing the easiest ways to convert yard waste into a rich soil amendment.

Bill's second presentation will be "Putting the Garden to Bed" and everything you need to know how to prepare your perennial garden for winter: what to cut, when to mulch and fertilize, and how to prevent this year's problems from returning next year.

Bill has been working in the gardening arena most of his life and currently is employed at Pioneer Gardening and Feed in Villa Park. Bill is a hands on presenter and will bring samples of things that he will address in his talk.

November Potluck & Silent Auction—3rd Thursday (Nov 21)

Our November Meeting is fast approaching. Have you set aside 'gently used' or new gardening items to donate for our ever popular Auction.? We have NEW drop off instructions this year. Drop off your item(s) any time after 1 pm on the **day of the meeting/ Auction, Thursday November 21st**, at our meeting location, St Andrews Church OR bring the items with to the meeting.

For each item you donate, you will need to submit a description of the item which will be used that night for people to add their auction bid. (See form on page 7)

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 7 for a chart and pick up your dollars before the Auction starts. They will be available at the October & November meetings.

The Auction is being organized this year by Chris Gicela (with Keith Letsche mentoring).

Mystery Woman ... Please come forward

Barb Bizzarri

On our Summer Garden Tour, back in June, the neighbor of club member, Pam Caligiuri, Evelyn Ennsmann, opened her garden to tour. We enjoyed Mrs Ennsmann's screened gazebo and avoided the rain shower. As we waited out the shower, one of our club members shared a secret recipe for a homemade cleaner to clean your brick patio and get rid of weeds and moss. The recipe she used was:

- 1 gallon of white vinegar
- 2 TBL Dawn dishwashing detergent
- 1 cup of salt.

Let us know who gave this tip so we can give credit. I used it on my patio and it worked great.



Out and About

Barb Bizzarri



One of our proud sponsors of our West Chicago Garden Club Newsletter

Since 1980 Platt Hill Nursery in Bloomingdale and Carpentersville has been serving customers. Platt Hill is located approx 1 1/2 miles, east of Bloomingdale Road on the south side of Lake Street. You'll find a wide selection of plants and knowledgeable staff to assist you. Platt Hill prides itself on a large inventory with plants you may not find elsewhere. Platt Hill also holds several different 'make and take' classes throughout the year so check out their website www.platthillnursery.com for their calendar of events.

REMINDEROur November meeting is NOT held on our usual "4th Thursday of the month" due to Thanksgiving.

Our November Meeting date is Thursday, November 21st. Please mark your calendar

NOVEMBER 21ST MEETING

**Annual Pot Luck &
Silent Auction**

Notes from Barb Bizzarri—

Spooky

Check out these poisonous plants that you might have in your garden.

#1 Nightshade Both the foliage and the berries of this plant/weed are extremely toxic.



#2 Daffodils There's nothing better than daffodils heralding in the Spring. Most daffodils are deer and vermin resistant making them a great choice for your garden, BUT don't overlook the dark side of this plant.



#3 Castor Beans Castor beans contain one of the most poisonous substances in the world, ricin. Just one castor bean has enough ricin to kill an adult within a few minutes. Despite this grim quality, castor bean plants are frequently grown for decorative purposes even in parks and public places. Dick Darrah profiled his Castor Bean plant in our newsletter.



#4 Angel's Trumpet Angel trumpets are woody-stemmed bushes with pendulous flowers that hang like bells. They are prized as decorative additions to the garden because of their elegant flowers. The catch is that all parts of these plants contain dangerous levels of poison and may be fatal if ingested by humans or animals.



#5 Monkshood Monkshood is a deadly plant, popular in Midwest gardens. It may be blooming right now in your garden!



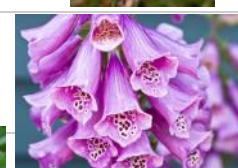
#6 White Snakeroot White snakeroot contains the toxin tremetol which can be poisonous if consumed directly or second-hand. When snakeroot is eaten by cattle, the animal's beef and milk become poisonous and ingesting those substances can lead to a condition called milk sickness. Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, reportedly died after swallowing snakeroot-contaminated milk.



#7 Larkspur Seeds and young plants of the larkspur are toxic to both people and animals. Toxicity decreases as the plant ages.



#8 Foxglove Seeds, stems, flowers and leaves of the foxglove plant are poisonous. They contain digitalis glycosides, which are organic compounds that act on the heart.



#9 European Yew Nearly all parts of this slow growing tree can be poisonous



August Meeting Recap

A BIG THANK YOU to Pauline for doing another excellent job on Bulb Bingo! The club very much appreciates all the work that goes into planning, ordering, separating the bulbs and creating all the pictures and descriptions that Pauline does to make this a fun and also educational meeting.

We had approximately 40 members that went home with at least two or three bags of bulbs for fall planting. It looked like everyone had a good time at St. Andrew Church, our new location this year which has been very accommodating to our group providing tables with the chairs, a lovely passthrough kitchen and pull down huge screen and in ceiling projector...things that have been much appreciated by the set up/take down team!



Field Trip Recap

On Saturday October 5th, twenty plus members of our club along with guests, went on a wonderful and informative tour of the Peabody Mansion and Mayslake Grounds. Not only was it the most perfect fall day but our tour guides were very passionate, knowledgeable and interesting. Would you believe a house built in 1921 would have a central vacuum system, shower with 16 jets, hall ceiling light with multiple electrical outlets and of course.... no home is complete without a secret staircase leading from the owners suite to the kitchen 3 floors below. We had a great time learning about the family that built this estate and how it came to be part of the DuPage Forest Preserve District.



News from Kruse

Tom Fessler

I really think that Fall is my favorite time of year. Anyone who has been to the Kruse House lately knows how outstanding it looks. And the seven large butterflies also add to the overall look. The Kruse House is constantly changing. And that is the thing I like best about it.

People that know me, know that I used to be a Police Officer, and that I like Halloween. So this year, after watching 23 spooky movies, I have decided to provide all our members with a list of 10 Halloween safety tips:

1. When it appears that you have killed the monster, never check to see if it is really dead.
2. Never read a book of demon summoning aloud, even as a joke.
3. As a general rule, don't solve puzzles that open the portals of hell.
4. If appliances start operating by themselves, do not check for a short circuit, just get out.
5. If you find a town which looks deserted, there is usually a good reason. Don't stop and look around.
6. If you are running from a monster, expect to trip or fall down at least twice. Also note that despite that you are running, and the monster is shambling along, it is still going fast enough to catch up to you.
7. If your companions suddenly begin to exhibit uncharacteristic behavior such as hissing, fascination for blood, glowing eyes, increased hairiness, and so on. Get away from them as fast as you can.
8. Stay away from certain geographical locations some of which are listed here: Amityville, Elm Street, Transylvania, The Bermuda Triangle, or any small town in Maine.
9. Beware of strangers bearing strange tools, for example; chainsaws, staple guns, hedge trimmers, electric carving knives, combines, lawnmowers, soldering irons or band saws.
10. If you find that your house is built upon a cemetery, now is the time to move in with your in laws.

These safety tips should help you to get through another Halloween, so Happy Halloween everybody.

Tom



West Chicago/Groot Leaf Program:

Leaves will be collected at no charge for (5) weeks beginning the last week in October through the end of November; Leaves will only be collected if put in the paper yard waste bags. Any leaves in plastic bags or cans will not be collected.



Don't Trash Your Pumpkins - COMPOST THEM!



**DROP OFF YOUR PUMPKINS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd
9 A.M. - NOON
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CO-HOSTED BY THE WEST CHICAGO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



Local Events for Gardeners

- Oct 17: **Cantigny Garden Walk on the Wild Side** Visitors Center, 1 pm. New for 2019, this tour by Cantigny Horticulture takes place monthly through October, on the third Thursday. Staff members will choose personal favorite plants and share information about them—a bit of science, growing advice and perhaps a fun fact. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5). [Cantigny October Calendar](#)
- Nov 5: **Cantigny Tree Walk & Talk** Visitors Center, 11 am. Learn about Cantigny's magnificent trees and enjoy the fall foliage on this guided tour led by Cantigny forester Chris Roberts. The walk will focus on new additions to the grounds such as the Oak Colonnade. Free with parking (\$10). [Cantigny November Calendar](#)
- Nov 22: **Cantigny Shades of Crimson Poinsettia Display & Sale** . Greenhouse, 11 am to 4 pm. 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) . [Cantigny November Calendar](#)

Print and cut-out the Auction Item form to bring with your donation. Also available as a Word document sent with the newsletter email.

[illegible]

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 donated items and gift cards**. Here's how to earn them: See the chart below for the amount assigned for each activity and come out to volunteer and keep our club going strong. **Keep track of your dollars earned**. Near the end of the year, we will have dollars available at the meetings to pickup and then use for the auction at the November meeting.

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or other events		Donate plants for the sale	
1 to 4 hrs	75	Less than 50	75
More than 4hrs	150	50-149	200
		More than150	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
Field Trip attendance	25	Pay 2020 dues before Garden Dollar Auc- tion in Nov 2019	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Paid 2019 dues before February 4th	50

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Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

West Chicago Garden Club

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

E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2019: 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, West Chicago

2019 WCGC BOARD:

President:	Barb Bizzarri
Vice President:	Dan Beebe
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Pamela Darrah
Program Director:	Barb Melville
Plant Sale Chair:	Dan Beebe
Newsletter:	Pamela Darrah
Director at Large	Chris Gicela

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to
WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

Open Mar 30-Dec 23

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