



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 17 Issue 10 October 2013

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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.

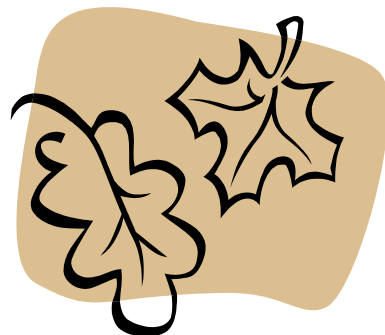
Rides—Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.

October 24th Meeting:

Fall Garden Prep

with Bill Karges from Pioneer Garden and Feed

Bill will be speaking to us on fall garden preparation and what we should be doing now. He is very knowledgeable on all aspects of gardening and will share his expertise with our group!



Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - program

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013, EARN GARDEN DOLLARS—SEE LAST SHEET IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Special thanks to **June Luther** and **Pauline Briggs** for another fun Bulb Bingo at our last meeting! We appreciate all of their hard work planning our monthly programs.



Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 21:

ANNUAL DINNER & GARDEN DOLLAR AUCTION!

NOTE START TIME: 6:30 PM



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Bird Walk. Nov. 9, 8:30AM. Free event. Meet at Visitors Center kiosk.

Growing Place: Holiday Event. Nov. 16, 9AM—4PM. Both locations. Get into a festive mood with refreshments, decorating ideas, workshops, demos, and a first look at our fresh greens.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Pruning Trees and Shrubs. Nov. 2, 10AM—11AM. \$10 fee, St. Charles.

Chicago Botanic Garden: HallowFest. Oct. 26-27. Celebrate Halloween at the Garden!

West Chicago American Legion Post #300: Halloween Party featuring the Valentine Singers. Oct. 26th. \$15 each/\$25 for 2. 123 Main St. West Chicago. Call 630-231-2112 for more information.



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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 2013: 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

2013 WCGC BOARD:

President:

Keith Letsche 630-293-0192

Vice President:

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

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

open

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, pmbiggs@juno.com
June Luther 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com

Information Director & Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2013

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
21 Nov	All Members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

Garden Dollars Auction:

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 Keith Letsche, or any board member (see page 2).



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News from Kruse

by Angie, Tom & Billie

Work at the Kruse House is almost over for the year but not before a number of things are done. For the last few weeks we have been planting for the coming year. Thanks to Marion, who was kind enough to donate some of her plants to the house. These plants were planted at various areas, but a good portion were planted on the East side of the property. This is a difficult area as we have planted there before with some problems. The new plants should fit in well. We presently have a number of Rose of Sharon trees which we planted from seedlings. Several of these trees were dug up and moved into the area near the tool shed. All of these trees had their top and bottom branches removed in order to make them bushier next year.



The area of the tool shed also had some major cutting done to the large evergreen bushes located there. This evergreen had become just a bit overgrown and was up against the tool shed itself. We removed a lot of material from the bottom, as well as the top, and it now looks great. This cutting will also allow the plants under it to grow much better as the sun light can finally get to them.

Several of the old sections of wooden fence placed around the garden were starting to look a little ragged. We decided to paint one of them pink a while ago and thought it would look good. We realized the error of our ways and have since painted several of them Sage green. Although the green doesn't jump out at you, like the Pink did, it looks a lot better. And speaking of things that look better, we would like to again thank Pam and her husband for the outstanding job they did rebuilding the wall around the pond. We have had a number of comments from visitors on how good this wall looks.

Another of the things being done for next year is the collecting of seeds from the Cone flowers, Black Eyed Susan's, and the old fashion Petunia's. These seeds will be dried and stored over the winter and planted in the spring. We always try to look forward and plan not just what might look good, but more importantly where it would look good. Over the winter a lot of ideas are acquired from books and magazines. Some of these ideas have been put into place at the Kruse House.

One of the things that we would like to plan is the number of members who would be willing to help us. Everyone is welcome, and we promise not to work you too hard.

Right, Billie and Angie?

-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.

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 2013	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Pay dues before February 2nd	50

Pick up the Garden Dollars you've earned before the auction in November!

We're **STILL** thinking ahead...

To next January. And, we're asking for your help.

We would like to do a home grown program. Since we don't get to see everyone's gardens, we'd like to put together a slide show of our gardens. Or, maybe you would like suggestions as to what to do with that problem spot. Or, maybe you would like to tell us about your favorite tool? So, take pictures throughout the seasons.

Then, in December, or early January, e-mail your best, or worst, pictures to Pauline: briggspm@gmail.com or mail to: 3S071 Cypress Dr, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-7311. THANK YOU!

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Dress Up Your Containers

by Heather Prince of The Growing Place

Fall has arrived and now is a great time to add fall accents to your containers and plan for holiday decorating. Think about adding gourds, pumpkins, cabbages, preserved leaves and more to capture the essence of the harvest. Spray gourds and pumpkins with a repellent labeled for rodents to deter squirrels and chipmunks. Add birch branches, curly willow twigs and evergreen touches such as ivy, boxwood or dwarf Alberta spruce that can take you into winter. These elements can stay as you swap out plants for greens, cones and berries.



The most important thing to think about as you prepare your containers for winter is water. Not every container is suitable for our Chicago winters, so plan to bring in to the garage or basement most glazed ceramics and terracotta as our temperatures dip below freezing. Thick-walled, high-fired ceramics, cast iron, and concrete will do just fine if prepared. Make sure these types of pots are raised and have drainage holes. Empty out some of the old soil and add with foam blocks or peanuts, bubble wrap, bark - anything that can contract and expand with ice and snow. Check for areas in your containers that collect water such as lips, curves, or depressions. Water will freeze in them and can cause cracks or chips. For containers that collect water, dry them thoroughly and make sure they are protected from the winter weather, for example under eaves or on the porch.

After Thanksgiving, visit the Holiday Shops at The Growing Place to select beautiful greens such as incense cedar, pine branches and blue berried juniper. Browse an extensive selection of natural and glitter branches, winterberry twigs and more. Need ideas? Ask! The Growing Place staff loves to design with natural elements for the holidays.



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2014

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. Membership dues for 2014 are due by the February meeting and will be considered over-due as of March 1st. The board would appreciate receiving dues as soon as possible.

With your paid membership you receive a copy of the monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Clubs of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication Garden Glories.

Individual Membership:

\$15 per year

Family Membership:

\$25 per year

(for multiple members at a single address)

Our meetings in 2014 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).

Please make checks payable to West Chicago Garden Club. You can bring this form and your check to a club meeting, or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
c/o Mike Saad
27W206 Manchester Rd
Winfield, IL 60190-1440

Application

Type: ☐ New or ☐ Renewal

Class: ☐ Individual or ☐ Family

Name(s) (please print):

Address:

City/ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell/other: _____

E-Mail Address(es):

Used to distribute club information—may be shared with WCGC Board

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 receive phone reminders of any garden club events).