

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 9 September 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: September 24th

Meeting Time: 12:30 PM

**Meeting Location: Sunny Acres Farm
29W310 North Ave**

Lunch at Sunny Acres Farm

Barb Melville

Come and join your West Chicago Garden Club for lunch on Thursday, September 24th at 12:30 pm, at the newly renovated beautiful Sunny Acres Farm located on North Ave. between Prince Crossing and Rt. 59.

The Farm now has a restaurant with plenty of outside social distance seating where you can order from the menu and enjoy your complimentary lunch.

We will also have some fun raffle prizes to make your day even more enjoyable, (if you are hanging on to some items that you were going to bring to the silent auction in November you may want to bring them with you and we will add them to the raffle).

We hope everyone will attend this event and support your local business.



**Please RSVP to Barb Melville at
630-293-4776
by September 22nd.**

After lunch your time is your own to look around the farm.

This event will not be held if it is raining.



OCTOBER 22ND MEETING

???

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Greetings fellow gardeners... I hope that all of your gardens have been refreshed with our recent rainy weather, that you are all in good health and are all looking forward to Fall, as I am. In truth, I may not be looking forward to the yard and garden cleanup associated with the season, but I am looking forward to spending time outside in the cooler weather.

As you look over your garden, keep an eye out for plants that need to be split and be sure to mark their location. I am hopeful that we may have a Plant Sale next year; it may not be the same as our sales in the past, but I've been looking at how other garden clubs have managed to conduct sales while maintaining social distance and with some planning we might be able to have a limited sale in 2021. As we have done in the past, we will need member plants for the sale. Please keep this in mind as you prepare your gardens for Fall. We have some members who split their plants in the Fall, pot them up and then overwinter them by burying the pots in the ground or placing them in a sheltered spot and covering them with leaves. If you want to try doing this, let me know if you need pots... I have a limited supply at my house.

As I mentioned last month, if you have any ideas on how we can "meet" as a club in a socially distant, safe manner feel free to email your ideas to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com. Although I feel that online meetings will be a poor substitute for our "normal" meetings, if the need to maintain social distancing continues into next year, we will need to consider hosting monthly online speakers on Zoom. Perhaps we can organize some small gathering Zoom watch parties or other ways to responsibly meet in small groups. If you would like to participate in a conversation on how we can move forward as a club in a socially distant world, please send an email to the club email address above and I will host a Zoom meeting to discuss your thoughts in early October.

-Dan

Garden Notes

Billie Childress

This is a silver-spotted skipper butterfly on a butterfly bush at Sprig Bluff Nursery.



This is a silver-spotted skipper butterfly on a butterfly bush at Sprig Bluff Nursery.



Getting to Know ...

Barb Bizzarri

Lisa Wiemann

Resident of West Chicago: I was born and raised in West Chicago. I moved 5 years ago to Warrenville

West Chicago Garden Club Member: past 10 years

Hobbies: gardening, baking, cooking, crafts, crocheting, and painting (acrylics)

Favorite Flower/bush/plant: Poppies

If you could have only flower in your garden, what would it be: Black Eyed Susans

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Planting impatiens in the sun

What gardening chore do you dislike the most? Deadheading

What do you plan on planting in your Fall garden: A variety of bulbs, Rose of Sharon, and a climbing vine to replace the one that never bloomed!

Current Career: Medical Staff Manager, Bolingbrook Hospital

If you could travel now, where would you like to go: Germany and the Netherlands

How did you keep busy these past months: I discovered 'paint by numbers' (they've been so improved), reupholstered my two kitchen chairs and took the big step of whitewashing my brick fireplace....it turned out great!

Favorite restaurant: Honeymilk in Warrenville and Pepe's Mexican in Naperville

Pets? Gracie, my 16 year old cockapoo

Garden Notes

Barb Bizzarri

"Look who has been visiting my garden"





The Kruse Garden is constantly changing. As one perennial fades away, another plant blooms anew. I think September's yellows are my favorite. Black-eyed Susan, false sunflowers and marigolds; their colors are bright and sunny. Maybe the blues and purples are best; Caryopteris, Lespedeza, phlox and cone flowers are so cool. Pastels are wonderful; the Pinky-Winky hydrangea and zinnias are pretty. But wait, maybe the reds and oranges should get top billing. The orange marigolds attracting bees, the reddish orange rose hips, the red berries on the viburnum have such rich, warm hues. Even pure white is stunning - Sweet Autumn clematis and Moon flowers. A complete palate of color appears now at Kruse. Do you have a favorite? The choice is difficult.

At the beginning of the month our dedicated Kruse crew was watering more than weeding. The hot, dry summer days have transitioned to cooler weather. The recent rain was welcomed, in fact I believe the plants perked up and literally said "aahhh". Our crew also sighed relief. Fall will be here in just a few days. Time to think about plantings for next spring. And, we're planning a new bed in the empty, colorless area under the lilac bushes in the back.

There are still plenty of days to help at Kruse. Stop by on Wednesday mornings beginning at 8:30. Or, stop by anytime to take a stroll and enjoy the beauty.



Planning for Future Blooms

Garden Media Group

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Every gardener knows it. Fall is for planting. There are many benefits and every gardener dreams of gearing up for next spring.

First of all, it's starting to get cool outside! The cooler temperatures make it much more appealing to be outdoors planting. And accomplishing your garden task list may feel more leisurely. Yet, the soil is still warm enough for roots to thrive. They will grow and get established until the ground freezes.

Secondly, fall plant sales are the best. Many garden centers offer deep discounts because they don't want to overwinter plants. Take advantage of these deals to add new plants to your yard and garden that will delight you come spring.

Planting spring-blooming bulbs and perennials now gives plants a chance to settle into your garden during the winter. And just when you want new blooms the most, they'll burst forth with beautiful new growth in the spring. Azaleas especially, are some of the most beautiful and rewarding spring blooming shrubs you can buy in the fall.

Planning ahead? We've got you covered. Put the power in planting and prep now for a beautiful spring.

How to Plant in Fall for a Spring Garden

1. **Start by Reflecting.** Think about what you love most about your garden. Jot down your flowers, edibles, and shrubs. Mark your favorite and most successful plants. Cross off the ones that didn't produce, thrive or required too much effort. What plants do you wish you had? Add those to your plant list.
2. **Think Ahead.** Sketch your current garden space or take pictures. Are you considering expanding for next year? Consider how big your plants will get when they are full-size when deciding on where you'd like to place new garden beds or containers. While many plants can be moved later, it is so much easier if you find a permanent home for them now.
3. **Visit the Garden Center.** Scrutinize your list to make sure you have a variety of plant types, scents, bloom times, beneficial plants, textures, sizes, and color. Find out which plants on your list that can be planted now.
4. **Dig In.** Once you've selected your plants, you'll want to get them in the ground quickly. The window for fall planting ends six weeks before your average first frost, usually September or October for most people. Visit our [auger guide](#) to find the right Power Planter Auger to make your gardening tasks easier. From bulbs to large shrubs, we'll help you dig.
5. **Water.** Deeply water in plants. In many regions of the country, fall showers will keep your plants watered. But you should water plants if you're not getting at least 1" of rain per week until the ground freezes.

Enjoy your newly planted garden while you can and keep dreaming of a beautiful spring. If you're looking for more garden projects, check out Power Planter's [other blogs](#)!



Upcoming Programs for 2020

Due to COVID-19, most of our meetings for this year have been canceled. We are still looking at options for socially distanced meetings or an on-line Zoom meeting.

October 22nd	???
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November 19th	???
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Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

Did you know? Buckeyes have been carried as good luck charms since Colonial times. Just like a rabbit's foot or a horseshoe or a four-leaf clover, the buckeye attracts good fortune.

The buckeye got its name from Native Americans, who thought it resembled the eye of a deer. Buckeyes are spiny-shelled nuts that grow on trees and are related to the horse chestnut. The foliage and fruit contain tannic acid that's poisonous to cattle and humans. It's said that just half the nut is lethal and only squirrels know which half. That might explain why they sometimes eat only a portion of the buckeye.



A Viewing Suggestion

Barb Bizzarri

I recently came across this outstanding 1 hour documentary on a beautiful garden in Quebec on Amazon Prime (I checked and it's also available at your library on DVD).

You'll love this show, I promise you:



The Gardener is a film that reflects upon the meaning of gardening and its impact on our lives. Shortly before his passing at the age of 86, influential gardener and plantsman Frank Cabot recounts his personal quest for perfection at Les Quatre Vents, his twenty-acre English style garden and summer estate that was opened to a film crew for the first time ever in 2009. Nestled amongst the rolling hills of the Charlevoix County in Quebec, Les Quatre Vents has become one of the world's foremost private gardens. Created over 75 years and three generations, it is an enchanted place of beauty and surprise, a horticultural masterpiece of the 21st century. Through the words of Cabot and his family, and with the participation of gardening experts and writers, the film looks back at this remarkable man's personal story and the artistic philosophy that gave birth to one of the greatest gardens in the world.

Calorie Free Ice Cream Social Non-event

Usually in September, the Historical Society (The non-profit that maintains and runs the Kruse House Museum) holds an Ice Cream Social & Silent Auction. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are holding a Calorie Free "Non-event". Details can be found at their website at:

<https://www.krusehousemuseum.org/events>

Note that the Kruse House Museum is not related to the City Museum and does not receive any city government funding. The Ice Cream Social has always been their primary fundraiser.



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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 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

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and add some beauty to your garden at

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