



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 17 Issue 9 September 2013

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September 26th Meeting:

BULB BINGO! with June and Pauline

Once again, it's time for Bulb Bingo! We'll be playing bingo, and the prizes will be bulbs. And, these won't be your everyday red tulips, yellow daffodils, or purple muscari. We've tried to get bulbs that are a little out of the ordinary.



No need to bring anything, except yourself, and a friend! We'll supply cards, markers, and the bulbs. It's still a little early to plant them, but then you'll be ready when the time comes.

The common wisdom is: plant spring blooming bulbs when average night-time temperatures drop to around 50° or cooler for about two weeks. So, come on out, bring your friends, and have fun!

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45 - refreshments and gathering

7:00 - brief business meeting

7:15 - BINGO!

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.

ARE YOU REMEMBERING TO PICK UP YOUR GARDEN DOLLARS?

By participating in club events, contributing to the newsletter, and attending club meetings, you earn GD's that can only be used at the famed WCGC GD Auction in November. Stop by the check-in desk and pick up at least 25 GDs for attending our Bulb Bingo meeting.

You may collect for past events at any time!



Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 24:

"Fall Garden Prep"



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Fall Festival. Oct. 12th, 10AM. Free Hayrides (with paid parking fee) Oct. 19th & 26th.

Growing Place: Pumpkin PALOOZA. Oct. 5th, all day. Aurora. More Bang for Your Bulbs. Oct. 12th, 10AM, Aurora. Fall and Winter Pruning. Oct. 19th, 10AM. Aurora. Putting the Garden to Bed. Oct. 26th, 10AM, Aurora.

Heinz Brothers Greenhouse: Scarecrow Making Class. Oct. 5th, 2PM. \$15.00 fee. St. Charles. Pruning Trees and Shrubs. Nov. 2nd, 10AM. \$10.00 fee. St. Charles.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Fall Bulb Festival. Oct. 4th-6th, 10AM start. Trains, Tricks and Treats. Oct. 19th, 10am. Enjoy a frightfully good time in the model railroad garden!

Morton Arboretum: Glass Pumpkin Patch. Oct. 16th-18th. Explore a dazzling world of glass pumpkins.

Wasco Nursery: Lunch & Learn—Fall Bulbs for Spring Blooms. Oct. 1st, 11:30am-1pm. \$10. Register by Sept. 29th to 630-584-4424.

West Chicago American Legion Post #300: Halloween Party featuring the Valentine Singers. Oct. 26th. 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:
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Program Co-Chairs:
Pauline Briggs 630-545-2234, pmbriiggs@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	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
26 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo	24 Oct	Bill Karges	Fall Garden Prep
			21 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

November is right around the corner!

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.



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Fall Fest: 9/21 & 9/22, Aurora

Fantastic Fall & Terrific Tree Saturday:
9/28, Both locations - Fall Potting Party 1-3pm,
Tree specials - Planting Demos - Ask the Experts

Pumpkin Palooza: 10/5, Aurora

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News from Kruse

by Angie, Tom & Billie

Well Folks, it looks like fall is just about here again. The events are all over here at Kruse for the year, and now it's time for us to prepare the garden for winter. There is almost as much work to be done now as in the spring. We will continue to work as long as the weather holds out. And of course Angie is already thinking about the plant sale as she wants to sort out the pots in the shed at the farm. I guess you can't start too soon.

Before going any further we would like to thank the Gallery at Gateway, (the apartments next door), for being so generous and providing us with seven yards of mulch. For those that do not know, that's a lot of wheelbarrows of mulch. I think we would have preferred two yards, but you take what you can get. They also took down two dead trees, in the back of the property, and trimmed the large pine tree on the Kruse property.

The Historical Society's Annual Ice Cream Social was a great success again and was very well attended. The name "Ice Cream Social" is a little misleading. Oh sure you get ice cream, and you do get to talk to those there. But this event is so much more than that. They have tables and tables of some of the finest baked goods you could ever wish for. And there is a "Silent Auction" where you can find unique items. There is something about sitting under the huge Maple tree on a warm Saturday afternoon eating cake and ice cream. And on top of all this you can wander through the garden and see how really beautiful they are. This event is a great way to show off the garden and all of our hard work.

-Tom



Photo by Melissa Birch



Kruse Garden Photos

courtesy of Melissa Birch



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Add a Little Something to Your Gardens This Fall by Heather Prince of The Growing Place

Leaves are falling, perennials are fading and trees are turning. October is the perfect opportunity to add, amend and plant for a great start in spring. Take advantage of the cool days that make working in the yard a pleasure.

Plant a Tree

Fall is a wonderful time to plant trees. The soil is still warm and increased rains make it the perfect situation for root growth. Many of us have lost trees this year to storms or emerald ash borer. Planting a tree this fall means you can enjoy the architecture this winter and start the spring with fresh new leaves or flowers. The Growing Place still has a good selection of trees in all types and sizes.

Amend Beds for Spring Planting

Adding organic materials such as compost, leaf mulch, or untreated lawn clippings now allows them to slowly break down and enrich the soil over the winter. Chopped leaves work best as the smaller the pieces, the faster it breaks down. The natural freeze/thaw cycle, microorganisms and beneficial mycorrhizae all help to work important micronutrients into your beds and open up more spaces for air and water to move through. Add about three inches of amendments and dig them in a little. Then top it off with a layer of mulch and let nature take its course.

Start a Compost Pile

Fallen leaves can become a wonderful garden amendment by spring simply by allowing them to decompose. Check with your homeowners association before starting a compost pile to make sure it is allowed. You can add any type of vegetable matter including grass clippings, leaves, flowers, twigs and more. Add kitchen vegetable scraps as long as there is no meat, bones or fatty foods present. It's best to use a ratio of one third leaves and small twigs (dried materials) to two thirds fresh materials. This allows the pile to have good air spaces for microorganisms to thrive. In general, start with a six to 12 inch layer of chopped up, moist organic matter, then an inch of soil to introduce microorganisms. Continue layering until you reach the desired size. The best size for a hot compost pile above ground is one cubic yard or three feet high, wide, and deep. You can build one from wood planks, cinder blocks, wire or plastic fencing or purchase a pre-made bin. To ensure the best air and water movement, make sure there are ventilation spaces along the sides.



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