

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 20 Issue 4 April 2016



**Meeting Date: April 28, 2016**  
**Meeting Location:**  
**Faith Community Church**  
**at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

**Meeting Time:**  
**6:45PM Refreshments**  
**7:00PM Business Meeting**  
**7:15PM Speaker**

## From the program coordinators desk: April 2016

The **April program** for WCGC will be: **Best New Plants 2016**

PowerPoint presentation will be shown, color handouts will be provided, AND many samples of **plant material** will be **shown and will be available for sale** after the presentation!

**Kim Hartman**, landscape designer, Illinois Certified Nursery Professional and Master Gardener, will guide us through an interactive program of what's new and exciting for this season. She will highlight the best new annuals, perennials, roses, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Only those plants with unique new features that are successful in our region make the list. **Come see what's new!**

**IMHO** (in my humble opinion)

You have already been overexposed to what's new for 2016. No doubt! The garden magazines, garden catalogs, Internet, nurseries, and big box stores work hard to catch our attention and fix our hopes on the newest, latest, and best plants. I focus on the 'New Perennials' listings, but each category of plant gets its due. Annuals or vegetables may be your focus. As the years go by I've added the tree and shrub lists to my perusal. Less maintenance if I have more trees and shrubs is the theory! However, if you are a follower of the "new" lists and indulge in your fantasies, I'd bet you've been burned a time or two. Actually I have a stack of the plant labels of "new" plants acquired over the years that have been removed from my garden (usually due to thug tendencies) or never got started, or that I can't tell the difference from an older variety. I'm not a cynic regarding new plants but I am more, analytical, shall we say. Nonetheless, I'm interested in the "new" plants and find that past year's listings, more often than not, turn out to be terrific mainstays in my garden. Geranium "Rozanne", Perennial Plant of the Year in 2008 is an example of a stellar plant I bought on the market's promise and was never disappointed. So I'm here to tell you that you would be wise to check out what's new. The intrigue cannot be denied! -Billie

**Next Meeting: May 26, 2016 AT Cantigny.** A quick summary of what to expect: plan to car-pool as parking fees are \$5 per car. Arrive between 6:45pm & 7pm, gather in front of the Visitor's Center where garden tours will begin. There will be three tour groups led by Master Gardeners. No business meeting—enjoy Cantigny!



*We've been here since heirloom tomatoes were just called tomatoes*

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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 2016: 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

**2016 WCGC BOARD:**

President:

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

Vice President:

Keith Letsche, 630-293-0192, keithletsche@aol.com

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

Annette Wulfe, 630-462-0208, annetewulfe@yahoo.com

Program Director:

Billie Childress, 630-231-1791, billiedc@sbcglobal.net

Information Director:

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



# WCGC 2016 Calendar

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
28 Apr	Kim Hartman	What's New for 2016	28 Jul	President Dick Darrah	President's Picnic
21 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	25 Aug	TBA	Butterflies
26 May	Master Gardener Tours	AT Cantigny	22 Sep	TBA	Birds
23 Jun	John Wills and Tracy Atkinson	AT Kruse Garden	27 Oct	TBA	TBA
			17 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

## Garden Word of the Month

**Cauliflorus:** Trees or shrubs that grow flowers directly from a trunk or branch, such as the way a redbud blooms. The word comes from Latin caulis (stem or trunk) and flora (flower).



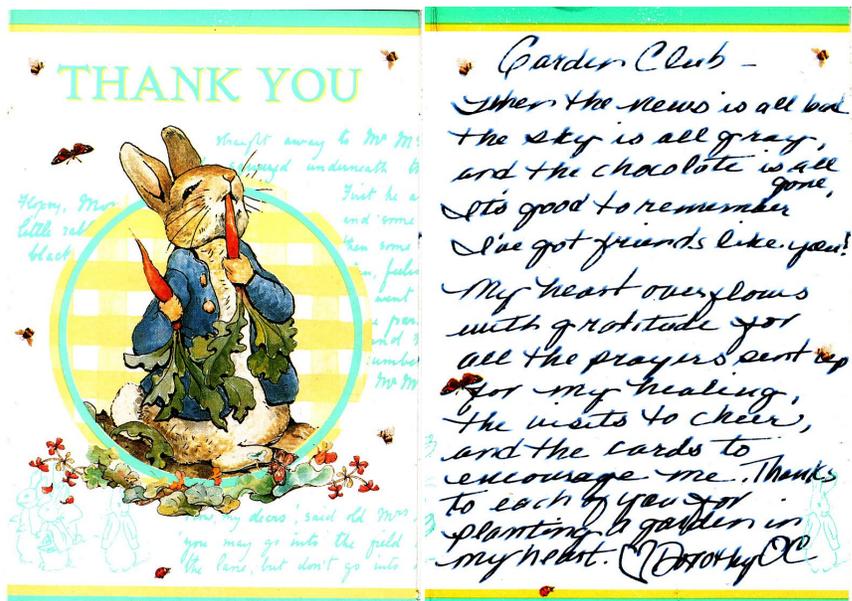
## March Program Recap

It was fun! Ed Max talked about vegetable gardening and there were lots of questions from the audience. The evaluations were overwhelmingly "very satisfied" and the following is a sample comment.

**"Ed was a very good speaker and talks so that everybody can understand him. His home grown stories are very interesting and he had excellent photos to show."**

Thanks Ed! Great job! -Billie

We received a Thank-You note from Dorothy O'Connor





WEST CHICAGO GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS:

# Posey Mosey

A FREE event for Garden Club Members and guests to walk through and view members' gardens.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PARTICIPATING GARDENS**

**TYPE OF GARDEN**

Dick and Barbara Darrah  
30W546 Diversey Pkw.

A sun-shade garden bordering the forest preserve with a cultivated garden as well as woodland areas. The grove of white trilliums and other spring natives is memorable. See the straw bales that are prepared for vegetable planting.

Jeff Handel  
935 Knollwood Lane

Mostly a sun garden featuring plantings of daffodils, tulips as well as pasque flowers, poppies, bleeding hearts and many more—a mass of color.

Keith Letsche  
215 E. Washington Street

A dappled shade garden in the Historic District of the city exemplifying the beauty that can be achieved in a smaller garden complimenting a Victorian home.

Ed Max  
28W665 Hickory Lane

A very large woodland garden with plantings of many native flowers, trees and shrubs. The garden is a designated Conservation Home, environmentally friendly to wildlife. There is also a large raised-bed vegetable garden.

The four gardens are all located in West Chicago and can be viewed in any order.

Refreshments are available at the Ed Max garden.

Come see a touch of spring!

*Pictured at right: Keith Letsche's front garden*





## News from Kruse: A Trip to The Kruse House!

Well Folks, I think Spring has finally arrived. The weather was in the 50's so I decided to take my three-year-old granddaughter to the Kruse House for the first. I thought it would be a good experience for her to see the house now, and again when it was in full bloom.

After dressing her in her new Minnie Mouse coat, and her new Minnie Mouse boots which flashed a little blue light each time she took a step, we headed out on our trip. But not before my daughter and wife gave me strict instructions to be very careful with her as this was the first time I had taken her by myself, and they didn't want her clothes, or boots to get dirty.

We arrived at the Kruse House and I took her around the grounds, showing her the new gate, and the trees and all the other plants that were there. She seemed to have an unnatural attraction to the pond. So I took her over to the pond and she wanted to walk on the ice which was still on the pond. I thought, what can that hurt. So I took her hand and was in the process of helping her onto the ice, when her foot, Minnie Mouse boot and all, broke through the ice. Needless to say this did not make her too happy and she started to cry. In my attempt to get her to stop crying, I told her I would take her to McDonald's. This did the trick so off to McDonald's we went.

When we got to McDonald's she said she wanted a shake. So I ordered her a small vanilla shake and gave it to her in her car seat. Apparently the shake was too thick and she couldn't get it to come through the straw, so I took the top off the shake and let her drink it from the cup. This was probably not one of my better decisions. We had just started for home when I heard her say "Yuck", I looked around and saw that she had just spilled almost half of the shake on the front of her Minnie Mouse coat. I quickly pulled into the hardware store and attempted to clean off her coat. So I'm sitting in the parking lot looking at my granddaughter, little Minnie Mouse boot flashing even though she is not taking a step, her coat with a huge chocolate stain on the front, thinking how am I going to explain this one to her mother.

I drove home and walked in to the kitchen, when I heard her mother say well did you have a good time, from another room. When her mother saw her child, she screamed, "what did you do"? I tried to explain but I could tell she was not interested in what I had to say. As my daughter was ranting at me, I could not help but notice her little Minnie Mouse boot flashing a little blue light as she was sitting there. Does anybody know how long the batteries last in one of those shoes? And, by the way, she did tell her mother she had a good time and wanted to go again.

Keep Warm,  
Tom



**P.S. at the end of March**, we did Spring cleanup at Kruse Garden. I'm getting too old for such hard work! Marci and son Jack are pulling the tarp filled with cleared debris to the Votavas Lawn Care truck. They hauled away two truckloads! Angie is raking and on far right there's a glimpse of Kerry. Not pictured are but hard working were Linda Fischer, Billie, and of course the two Votavas guys!

We uncovered a lot of weeds. Guess what the next step is. Man could we use some help! - Billie



## Plant Sale 2016

April is our last club meeting before our annual fundraiser, THE PLANT SALE!

The club needs ALL members to pitch in and help again this year. It's actually fun to work side-by-side with fellow club members, and the following will give you an idea of some of the items that need staffing.

Of course there are the potting parties. As of this moment we have already had two successful potting parties and there are two more to come: **April 16 and April 24**. We especially need several more people for our potting party on **Sunday, April 24**, from 1 to 4, at "the barn," 30W15 Wilson Rd. If you can possibly help at either party, please contact either Pauline Briggs ([briggspm@gmail.com](mailto:briggspm@gmail.com), 630-254-2969) or Billie Childress ([billiedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billiedc@sbcglobal.net), 630-231-1791).

**The week of May 15<sup>th</sup>**, the club needs three volunteers to help put up the roadside signs. Anyone able to help Keith Letsche, please call him at 630-293-0192, or e-mail him at [keithletsche@aol.com](mailto:keithletsche@aol.com).

On Thursday evening, **May 19<sup>th</sup>**, we have our members pre-sale. At that time, most of the plants will be at either the barn or Marcy's. This is the opportunity for members to get their pick of the plants. Many of the choicest plants never make it to the sale tent. And, we prefer members work the day of the plant sale, not shop.

On Friday evening, **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, we will be moving the plants to the tent in downtown West Chicago. We need loaders, drivers, unloaders, and members to move plants around the tent.

Plant Sale Day is **May 21<sup>st</sup>**. The day of the sale we will need cashiers, sales persons, plant holding area watchers, tally sheet people, and a clean-up crew. The shifts will be 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. However, we could use you any time you are available.

If you will not be at the April meeting, please feel free to contact any of your club board members to volunteer for the job(s) with which you are able to help. This is our only fundraiser for the year, and the yearly dues don't come close to paying for all the great programs, crafts, field trips and dinners throughout the year. There is a job for everyone and we need EVERYONE to take on at least one of the jobs.

THANK YOU! -Pauline



## April 9, 2016 Potting Party!

Dorothy, Jan, Sandy, potting and Bill furnishing dirt, and tom and Angie cutting, using new saw. Pauline, Kerry, June L. and Billie not pictured but worked industriously as well.

