

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 21 Issue 4 April 2017



Meeting Date: April 27

Meeting Location:

Faith Community Church

at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

Meeting Time:

6:45PM Refreshments

7:00PM Business Meeting

7:15PM Program

Exciting Annuals: Getting Ready for Spring by Tim Pollak

Tim Pollak earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Horticulture with a concentration in Nursery and Greenhouse Management from Colorado State University. He currently works as the Outdoor Floriculturist at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Tim is the grower and buyer of all the seasonal display annuals, containers, hanging baskets and specialty plant displays seen throughout the Garden each year. He also assists with the seasonal (spring, summer and fall) annual design and plant selection process. Tim is a key staff member involved with developing and planning the high impact horticulture displays and unusual plants and flowers the Garden displays to create excitement for plants. Tim enjoys the challenge of growing plants for the most difficult requests and the vast diversity of plants that are requested each year. He gets particular satisfaction from overhearing visitors say "oh wow" as they are looking at plants or displays as they walk through the gardens during different seasons.

Next Month:

May 25 Program: "Posey Mosey"

A "Posey Mosey" awaits us as we tour four gardens in one neighborhood!

More details will follow.



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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 2017: 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

2017 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

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

Information Director:

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

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WCGC 2017 Calendar

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
20 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	24 Aug	TBA	TBA
25 May	TBA	Posey Mosey!	28 Sep	TBA	TBA
22 Jun	TBA	TBA	26 Oct	TBA	TBA
? Jul	TBA	TBA	16 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

March Program Summary

It was different. Usually our presentation informs us on a horticulture or nature topic, but this program was all about our Plant Sale. Barb Melville put together a power point slide presentation and members walked us through all the behind the scenes work that goes into the Plant Sale. It was educational and fun. The audience was receptive and helpful!

Everyone went home with a lovely daffodil or hyacinth plant that was in the perfect stage.... blooms fat but not open..... And a renewed commitment to participate in our one and only fundraiser! -Billie

Did You Miss Our First Potting Party?



On April 8th we had our first potting party with a pretty good turnout of members to help. We potted over 400 plants including some very nice trees and bushes. Everyone enjoyed themselves and pitched in so we actually finished early, even though we transported all the potted plants from the barn to the new holding location on Hawthorne (see photo at left). We still have 3 more potting parties this Spring so come out and join the fun!

They are scheduled for **Saturday, April 22nd** starting at 9:00 AM, **Sunday, April 30th** starting at 1:00 PM, and **Sunday, May 7th** starting at 1:00 PM.
Really, they're fun, and it's very satisfying work!



News from Kruse

Tom Fessler

Most of the members of our club have visited the Kruse House at one time or another. While there are a great many wonderful plants and flowers to see, there is one area that gets passed by most of the time. And that area is our great herb garden.

The herb garden is located on the East side of the garage in a very large wooden planter. The planter itself was donated by Billie and was made with planks from trees she had cut down on her property. There are different herbs in the planter from time to time so I thought it just might be interesting to take a look at a few of them.

THYME, Thyme belongs in every herb garden. It is easy to grow and does well in pots. Gargling with thyme tea is excellent for treating bronchitis, sore throats, laryngitis and tonsillitis. This plant has been in our planter from the start and does very well.

SAGE, Silvery green sage looks beautiful in the garden and it's as beneficial as it is good looking. Sage tea is an old remedy for hot flashes and was used to reduce fever. Sage has been used for centuries to improve memory and cognition, and a number of studies have suggested that the herb has the potential to treat age-related memory deficits as well as attention disorders in children.

Parsley, yes parsley is more than just a garnish. Some say it is Mother Nature's breath mint because fresh parsley is a very effective cure for halitosis. Parsley is a diuretic and parsley tea is recommended for treating and preventing urinary tract infections. Many people swear it also prevents and shrinks kidney stones, detoxes the liver and helps you lose weight. Warm compresses of parsley tea are used as a treatment for sties and inflammation of the eyelids.

So that's my suggestions for the beginning herb Gardner. It's amazing how many ailments you can treat using just the fresh leaves of different herbs. And since they are the same herbs you cook with, you know they are safe.

As Henry David Thoreau once said, "A man may esteem himself happy when that which is his food is also his medicine".

That's it for now folks, see you at the potting party.

Happy Spring,

Tom



BSA Eagle Project Honors Pioneer Environmentalist Aldo Leopold



Driving up to his family's cottage in Northwest Wisconsin, Darrah Beebe has often stopped at the Rest Area honoring Aldo Leopold and his pioneering Sand County Almanac. When it came time to choose a project for his Boy Scout Eagle Rank, his grandmother suggested that he build some of Leopold's iconic benches.

Leopold designed his simple and comfortable bench during the first part of the twentieth century to create a place where people would pause to rest and contemplate nature. Trying to think of an appropriate place to put his project, Darrah immediately thought of the Kruse House Museum Garden in his home town of West Chicago. The house was built in 1917 and reflects the typical life of a railroad family at that time. The Kruse sisters, who donated the house to the people of West Chicago, were avid gardeners and the West Chicago Garden Club has established and maintained a public garden there in their honor. What better place to honor Leopold's love of nature than in a quiet garden in the midst of a busy shopping area?

The garden club agreed to pay for the materials and Darrah and Troop 99 went to work. Now people can pause in this lovely garden (which was featured in *The Secret Gardens of Chicago* on HGTV) and become part of Leopold's vision of "Harmony with the land".



We Need Your Help! List of Volunteer Opportunities for Plant Sale 2017

We are smack dab in the middle of Plant Sale preparation! Thank you to all who have already participated in getting plants ready for sale! However, we still need help with the Potting Parties on 4/30 and 5/7, 1-4 pm., as well as Sale Day tasks!

Sign up at the meeting or contact the coordinators below:

1. **Pick up plants at Midwest Groundcovers.** Saturday Morning TBD. Requires: vehicle with enough room to haul a lot of plants!
Contact Dick (630) 650-4745 info@bwdarrah.com
2. **Pot Cantigny plugs on Monday mornings.** Dates TBD.
Contact Angie (630) 776-9432 ramunegs@yahoo.com
3. **Potting parties x 4. Sign-up sheets.**
Contact Pauline (630) 254-2969 briggspm@gmail.com
4. **Plant maintenance and watering.** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, starting April 10 and continuing until Sale...pick your day and time. Plants located at 831 Hawthorne Lane. Contact Kerry (630) 231-3010 kerry7000@yahoo.com
5. **Labeling and pricing of plants at Hawthorne Lane.** Saturday, May 13, 9am—12pm. Contact Billie 630-862-1213, billiedc@sbcglobal.net
6. **Put out yard sale signs around community.** City divided into 4 quadrants. Works best as a team of 2 for each quadrant. Contact Keith (630) 347-1924 keithletsche@aol.com
7. **Sale Set-Up on Friday, April 19, 2-4 pm.**
Contact Billie 630-862-1213, billiedc@sbcglobal.net
8. **Sale Set-Up on Friday, April 19, 5-8 pm. Sign-up sheets.** Load, haul (provide vehicle transport), or unload at tent. Contact Pauline (630) 254-2969 briggspm@gmail.com
9. **Various jobs all day on Sale Day. Sign-up sheets.**
Contact Pauline (630) 254-2969 briggspm@gmail.com

We work better together! Thank you!