

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 8 August 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: Cancelled

Notes from the President

Wow... I can't believe that another month has passed and that Labor Day is fast approaching. I want to start by thanking all of the Kruse House Garden volunteers for all of their hard work in the garden. As all of you who joined us in the garden for our informal meeting in July know, the work they put in really shows. The garden looks great. If you need a place to go to get out that is away from other people, consider stopping by the garden for a stroll.

For those of you with online access, please stop by our Facebook page. Our account administrators are always looking for new, interesting items related to our gardens to post. Kruse House Garden blooms, interesting member's plants, pollinators, exotic insects, online gardening events/speakers and what to do with all of your extra tomatoes have all been posted in the last month. Feel free to comment on posts and

share them with your friends if you find them interesting. If you have anything you think we should be sharing with our members, email us at



WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com.

I still have no concrete plans for future meetings to share with you. 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 the club address above. In the meantime, we will continue to post links to online gardening events/speakers on our Facebook. I really feel that online meetings would be a poor substitute for our "normal" social gatherings, but as we move into Fall we may need to try hosting an online meeting and see how it goes.

Hope you are all having a good summer and staying safe.

Dan

SEPTEMBER 24TH MEETING

Butterflies?



From our Facebook Page



Garden Notes: Cleomes

Barb Melville

I started growing cleomes by purchasing a couple plants several years ago. Each year they have seeded themselves and pretty much stayed in one spot; this year due to the wet spring (my opinion), the seeds sprouted all over the area around my fence. They are super easy to grow and often can be 5 feet tall and have a rather dramatic look in your flower beds.

Growing cleomes (Cleomes spp.) is a simple and rewarding garden adventure. Planting cleomes is often necessary only once, as this attractive annual flower re-seeds prolifically and returns year after year. Seed pods may be removed before bursting for use in planting cleomes in other areas of the flower bed and garden.

How to Grow Cleome: Growing cleomes is most easily done by planting seeds in the chosen location. Most any location is appropriate as cleomes will grow and produce the cleome “spider” flower in full sun to part shade locations and do not need any particular type of soil, other than well draining.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Cleome Spider Flower – How To Grow Cleome <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/cleome/growing-cleomes.htm>



Getting to Know ...

We know that this “Getting to Know” is a popular part of the newsletter, but not having regular meetings is making it difficult for Barb Bizzarri to contact members about being included. If you would like to be interviewed for next month’s newsletter, please give Barb a call or send an email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com.

Out & About



I visited Reed- Kepler Park and checked out our 2 WCGC trees that we donated in 2019. They look healthy and tall and helped to contribute to the ‘arboretum status’

The grounds of Reed -Kepler Park look outstanding with a large variety of trees, flowers and sculpture. Take the time to check it out. It’s worth a visit and a walk.



Barb Bizzarri

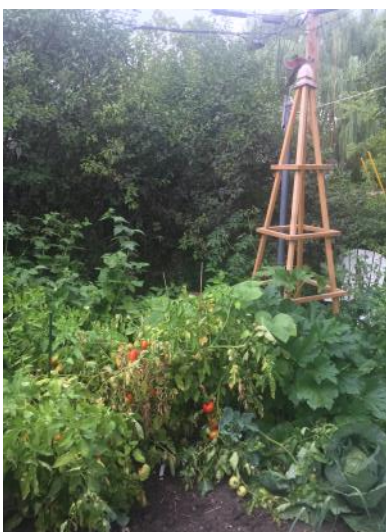
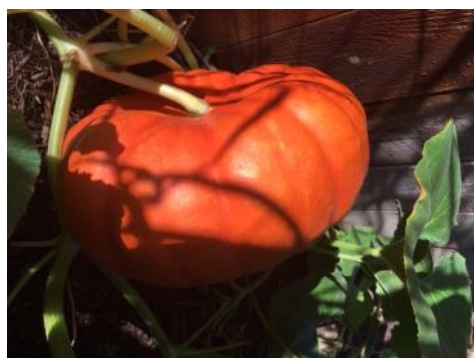
Garden Notes



Club member, Christina Covarrubias, opened her garden to family and friends recently and I wanted to share photos from her beautiful garden. Christina took advantage of every nook and cranny in her yard. Pumpkins, watermelons, cabbage, and tomatoes galore were throughout her garden, interspersed with beautiful flowers.



Early in the season she did have some words with the bunnies but she installed chicken wire and “won” the battle. She even made the tall cedar obelisk (perhaps a future WCGC craft idea).



Barb Bizzarri

When you do your best with love, even things that are far from perfect can be absolutely beautiful.

That's what we do at the Kruse Garden.



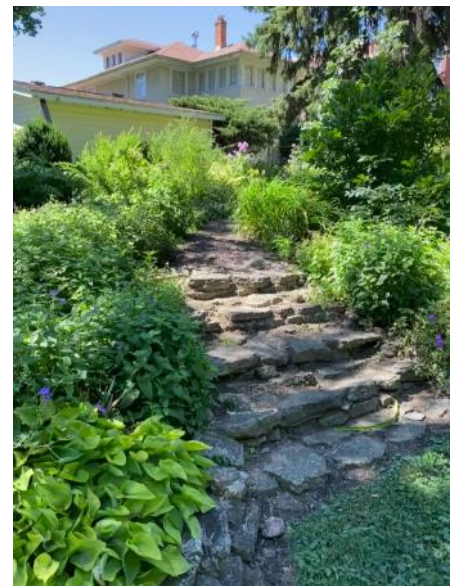
We Kruse Gardeners were delighted that so many garden club members came to visit the garden in July! We are proud of our work and love to have company. It was a lovely evening! Thanks to Jean Ann, Marcy, and Harlene for the tasty, safe, treats! Greatly appreciated!

Our philosophy at Kruse is: Keep up with the work and the work will get easier. So, we go every Wednesday morning and tend the garden. We're waiting for the "easier" part to kick in. This hot dry weather is tough on the plants...especially the new ones. Our biggest investment, the American

Hornbeam tree, looks a bit spooky at times but I think it's settling in. On the other hand, the three new Cranberry Crush Hibiscus are a joy to behold! It's unusual for a plant to be beautiful it's first year in the garden. Chris suggested that plant, and it looks like a winner! Thanks Chris...the garden just keeps getting better!

We hope you are enjoying your gardens as much as we are ours. All of us have two gardens, our own, and the Kruse Garden that we share. We have a lot to enjoy! Since our Kruse garden still needs plants, we welcome any donations. Marion Martin recently gave us a nice group of day lilies, Chris Gicela brought tall bearded iris, and Ruth Kyme donated some lovely pulmonaria ! Thank you ladies! All lovely additions!

I'll certainly be glad when safe living allows us to see each other in regular monthly club meetings. I miss you all! Until then, stay safe and enjoy nature and your garden!



An article by Katie Rotella, spokesperson for Ball Horticultural Company.

Throughout our 115-year history, Ball Horticultural Company has pursued garden solutions and built a portfolio of plants that fit the lifestyles of gardeners in every generation. Each spring, after many seasons of trials and production at our research farms across the globe, our plant breeders launch new products into the world for consumers to enjoy.

I'd like to highlight a few NEW products that debuted in spring 2020 – and perhaps tease a few additional plants to look forward to in spring 2021. The Ball breeding companies have new introductions in annuals, vegetables, indoor potted plants and perennials – offering something for every type of gardener.

NEW for 2020

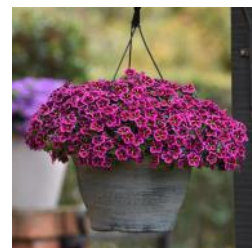
Basil Everleaf™ Emerald Towers

This dark green, glossy leaved, and beautiful basil has a tall, columnar habit. Its traditional Genovese flavor is perfect for eating fresh in caprese salad or chopped fresh in recipes. Very late to flower – up to 12 weeks later than standard basil – with huge leaf-harvest potential.



Calibrachoa Cabaret® Good Night Kiss

An abundance of bright blooms cover these full, trailing plants. They are self-cleaning, so they stay neat and tidy all season. This year's exciting new bicolor offers a dramatic texture to your hanging baskets and patio containers.



Calibrachoa MiniFamous® Neo Double OrangeTastic

Great for hanging basket and containers, calibrachoa are available in single blooms and NEW double blooms, like this fancy "OrangeTastic" color.

Coleus Heartbreaker

Full-bodied plant is great for the landscape or large pots. It takes both sun and shade areas, and its vibrant color offers a leafy alternative flower blooms.

Dahlia Venti™

Garden dahlias are a beautiful addition to your colorful yard. The new Venti series is excellent in the landscape, and it makes an exciting upright feature in containers. Its double-flower form is available in a broad range of core single colors and exciting bicolors.



Digitalis Arctic Fox Rose

Looking for a hardy Floxglove? Arctic Fox Rose is hardy to our zone 5 and is a stately choice for your butterfly or cottage garden design.



Gerbera ColorBloom™

We continue our breeding into indoor potted plants, and this gerbera series is a winner! ColorBloom offers several long-lasting, vibrant colors for indoor sunny spaces. Great for decorating your home, office, or give as a gift.

— Continued on Next Page —

Building Excitement in the World of Flowers Continued from previous page

[Impatiens Beacon®](#)

A must-have plant for shade gardens and a breeding breakthrough! Beacon impatiens have high resistance to the devastating disease Impatiens downy mildew. You'll enjoy season-long color and fast-filling flowers for your shade locations. Available in 6 colors and 2 mixes.

[Pepper Mardi Gras Fun Orange, Red, Yellow, Purple](#)

From our Burpee® brand of vegetable plants, Mardi Gras Fun continuously produces sweet, snackable peppers in eye-catching colors that beg to be eaten. Grow all four colors together in one large container for a fun patio display.

[Petunia Midnight Gold](#)

This petunia has huge double flowers in a very unique, first-of-its-kind novelty color. It's a conversation starter for sure.

[Wave® Petunias](#)

The popular Wave Petunia Family has its origins in West Chicago. Check out two new additions for 2020: Easy Wave Lavender Sky Blue comes in shades of lavender and its colors show darker under cooler and lower light conditions. Wave Carmine Velour is an All-America Selections award winner, and its hot carmine-cherry color can be seen from far away, with the same groundcover habit as Wave Purple Classic.

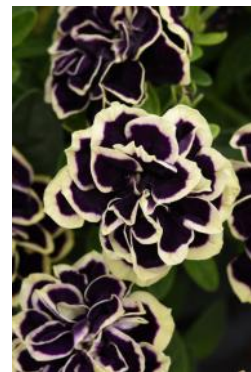
[Zinnia Zesty™](#)

The large double blooms of the new Zesty series has extraordinary garden appeal. The flowers are vibrant and create impressive large containers or mix well in combinations or in garden borders. Butterflies LOVE landing on these puffy zinnia blooms.

SNEAK-PEEK at 2021

Here's a few photo sneak-peeks at more new products on their way to your local garden center:

- Petunia Bee's Knees
- Spanish Lavender Primavera
- Petunia Headliner™ Electric Purple Sky
- Kitchen Minis® Potted Tomato Siam
- Echinacea Artisan™ Collection
- Petunia Shock Wave® Purple Tie Dye



Building Excitement in the World of Flowers Continued from previous page

Ball®

As mentioned earlier, our new flowers, vegetables and shrubs are many years in the making, and it's through the efforts of our breeders across the globe that we make new introductions possible. To assist them, at the home office of Ball Horticultural Company in West Chicago, we're gearing up to address new garden challenges by expanding our research facility on campus. Our Ball Helix Innovation Center is currently under construction, and will house our plant pathologists, research labs and scientists who explore solutions to plant disease, and raise the bar in the greenhouse industry by building enhancements to seed technology.

The new R&D center will complement our existing campus, and its unique building design allows for natural lighting, collaboration spaces and sweeping views of The Gardens at Ball. It's slated to be completed in 2021.

Further on-campus growth includes extensions to our research greenhouses, providing our team a modern space to conduct plant trials and provide an upgraded facility for their staff. Our Gardens & Grounds crew also received a revamped area for landscape plant production, storage and overall work efficiencies. For our main building, standing proud in West Chicago since the 1930s, an interior redecorating has improved workflow among our employees, updated lighting and mechanicals for energy savings and comfort, and puts a fresh, welcoming face on our lobby for our customers and guests. All these changes are an investment in the future of gardening and show our commitment to remaining a Great Place To Work®.

Be sure to look for – *and ask for!* – the new plants listed above at your local garden store, or watch for them in upcoming mail-order seed catalogs. Cheers to a new season of exciting new plants and ongoing innovation at Ball!

From our Facebook Page



West Chicago Garden Club

August 5 at 8:54 PM · 🌐

...

Member Dan Beebe sent us pictures of a Luna Moth in his yard yesterday evening.

Wikipedia description: The Luna moth (*Actias luna*) is a Nearctic moth in the family Saturniidae, subfamily Saturniinae, a group commonly known as giant silk moths. It has lime-green colored wings and a white body. The larvae (caterpillars) are also green. Typically, it has a wingspan of roughly 114 mm (4.5 in), but can exceed 178 mm (7.0 in), making it one of the larger moths in North America. Across Canada, it has one generation per year, with the winged adults appearing in late May or early June, whereas farther south it will have two or even three generations per year, the first appearance as early as March in southern parts of the United States.



Upcoming Programs for 2020

These were the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. As of now, all meeting for this year are tentative and changes are likely.

September 24th		Butterflies & Other Interesting Creatures
October 22nd		TBD
November 19th	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

Nature Notes

Kerry Perry



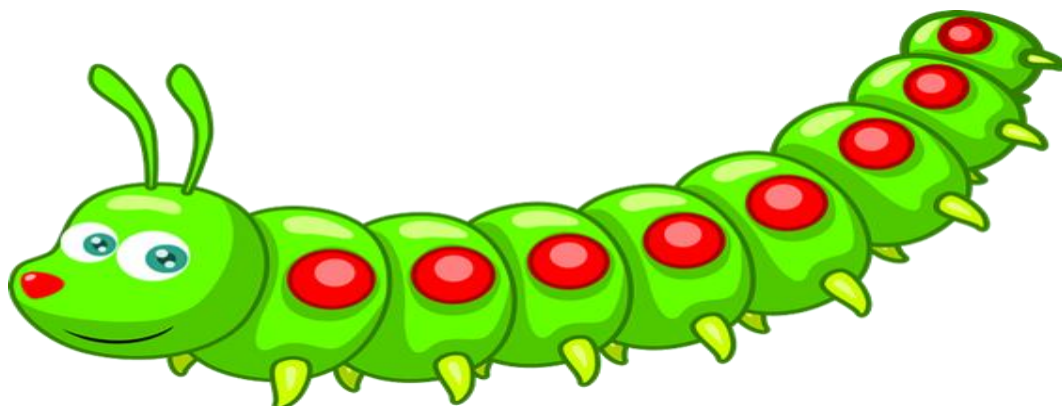
This fuzzy yellow guy was creeping along the door frame of my garage and of course I wondered what kind of butterfly it might turn into. Time to research...so I googled “fuzzy yellow caterpillar” and bingo! It’s a Yellow American Dagger Caterpillar that turns into a moth. According to the entomologists, one should not pick up this pretty thing as it can cause severe irritation and hives!

Another interesting caterpillar was crawling on the edge of my birdbath. It’s a Tussock Moth Caterpillar. Four tufts stand out from its back; the tufts contain barbs that make it difficult to remove from skin. The caterpillar also has lots of stinging hairs and when touched can set off allergic reactions.

Later in the day I spotted a Monarch Butterfly caterpillar munching the Prairie Milkweed in my garden. She’s really pretty and can be touched without consequence.

What’s the difference between moths and butterflies? Typically, moths fly at night and butterflies fly during the day. Most moths have feathery antennae and butterflies have threadlike antennae. At rest, moths usually hold their wings open, either flat or tented over their bodies; most butterflies hold theirs closed overhead.

I’m ok with taking photos of caterpillars and watching them, but I’m certainly not going to pick any up for a closer look. Yikes! Hives are not fun!



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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
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Secretary:	Cherie Kraft
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To Contact any Board Member, please send email to
WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

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