

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 25 Issue 8 August 2021



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: August 26

Meeting Location:

**St Andrew Lutheran Church NE
Corner of Prince Crossing &
Geneva Road.**

Meeting Time:

**7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program**

Birds are Amazing



During this presentation, the audience will hear amazing facts, stories, and behaviors about birds. This program will give you a photographic look at birds as you have never seen them before. Pictures will allow the birds to come alive before your very eyes as you enter into their lives.

Kathy and Bob Andrini have been educators their entire working lives (Kathy as a preschool teacher for 20 years and Bob, with a masters degree, as a high school biology teacher for 33 years). Although retired, they are still actively engaged in different forms of teaching (nature programs for the St. Charles Park District, organizing and leading field trips for Kane County Audubon Society, and teaching birding classes at the College of DuPage). They possess a keen interest in nature and the environment, and like to share this awareness of the outdoors through their presentations.

Kathy and Bob were proud recipients of the 2012 "Excellence in Conservation Education



Barb Melville

Award" from the [Kane - DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District](#).

In addition, they have been featured in two web publications. The first, a local e-newspaper called St. Charles Patch, profiled the pair in a ["Fox Tales" column](#) authored by Jackie Birks. The second feature, written by Lee Ramsey, appeared in the February edition of a regional e-magazine, ["Monitor News,"](#) directed at birders in the northeast Illinois region. This is a publication of the Bird Conservation Network, a coalition of organizations dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats.



SEPTEMBER 23RD MEETING

**Poisonous Plants and
Venomous Animals
Presented by Kevin Luby**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Well... thank you to all of you that came out for last month's President's Picnic. I had a lot of fun seeing all of you outside enjoying the absolutely perfect weather and each other's company. It never ceases to amaze me how our common interest in gardening can bring together so many people with completely different life stories and backgrounds!

Our annual elections are coming up in November (after a one year COVID hiatus) and we are looking for new faces on the Garden Club Board of Directors. The time each board member spends varies based on position but no one position requires a huge commitment. If you have any interest (yes, even the teeny, tiniest bit of interest counts), please reach out to a board member at our August or September meeting. I am sure that any board member would be happy to discuss what each member of the board is responsible for and how the board functions.

I would also like you to take a look around your yard and start thinking about which plants might be ready to be split and make good donations for next year's plant sale. I have been asked if we can split and pot plants in the late summer or early fall and I am contemplating overwintering a few hundred plants (up to 1000) in the rows between my raised bed vegetable garden. If you might be interested in digging up and donating some of your plants now for next year's sale, please let me know at a meeting or send an email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com.

See you at the next meeting,

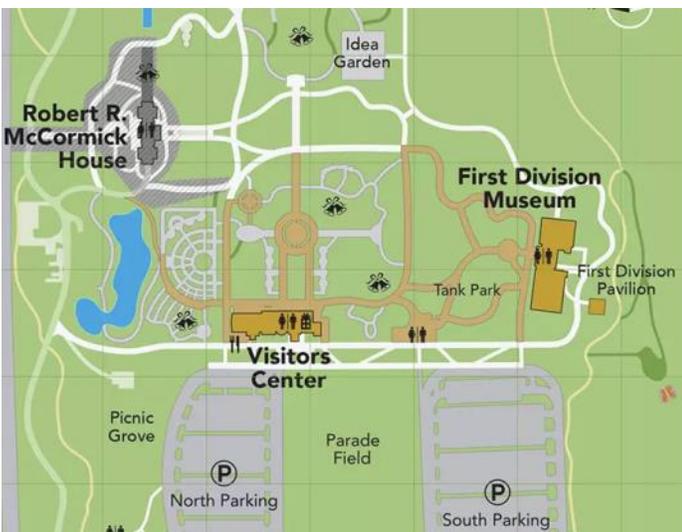
Dan

Cantigny Park Field Trip

Barb Melville

Join us for our guided tour of Cantigny Park on **Wednesday, September 1 at 5:30pm**

All club members and one guest, are invited to join us for this guided tour of Cantigny on September 1st at 5:30pm. Parking is free on this day but it may be a little crowded since



there will also be a concert in this park starting at 6pm. A Horticulture representative will meet our group at the visitor's center and start our tour at 5:45pm. After the tour you can continue to enjoy this beautiful park until it closes around sunset.

Cantigny is located at 1s151 Winfield Road, Wheaton IL. Park in the public parking lot in front of the visitors center.

July Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

This year's President's Picnic (Christmas in July Luau) was such great fun and everyone came dressed for the occasion! I'm still trying to figure out where Dan and Pamela found Christmas Music with a Hawaiian/Tropical background.... it made me feel like I was on a Caribbean Cruise!

Dan was sure busy grilling up sausages, burgers and dogs to go with all the salads and side dishes that were delicious and homemade pies and cookies!!! The back yard was decorated beautifully like we were at a Luau and I know it took a lot of time and creativity to make it all come together! Where did you find such a handsome bartender?

Dan and Pamela thank you for all your hard work !



July Meeting Recap Continued

Barb Melville

More Photos!



Tour of Ball Display Gardens

Barb Melville

Thanks to everyone that came out last week for our tour of the Ball Seed Corporation. I find it unbelievable that a company like this is in our own "backyard". We got to see so many beautiful gardens, flowers and plants that it was hard to take it all in and remember everything! The Ball Rep. was correct when she said it would take about 90 minutes if you followed their map and saw their many acres of loveliness!



We Go Gardening

Tour of Ball Display Gardens Continued

More Photos from Barb Melville, Dick Darrah and Pamela Darrah.



August in the Garden

August begins the period of diminishing returns for gardeners. At the Kruse House Garden, a number of perennials have already bloomed and are cycling into their seeding and dying phase. July's glorious lilies are now just withered stems and yellowing leaves, and the clusters of crimson bee balm, so richly thick only two weeks ago, are have started to fade.

But there's still a lot to see and enjoy. The summer phlox, exceptionally lush this year perhaps because of the recent rains, is just reaching the height of its bloom. There are also profuse clumps of purple cone flowers and rudbeckia. August is additionally high season for many annuals, especially those that are sun loving, like the marigolds that edge some of the Kruse House beds. And it is in August that one of the Garden's more exotic blooms, the moon flower, makes its debut. So come see the Garden now if you haven't recently. With September, Mother Nature will be folding up the tent of this years' show as she moves on to fall.



Three Kruse House Garden perennials at the height of their bloom in August: rudbeckia, purple cone flower, and summer phlox.



Soaking up a lot of sun as well as moisture from recent rains, the marigolds are particularly lush.



Moon flowers around the lily pond making their first appearance.

Save the Date: We Grow Dreams' Fall Festival



Fall Festival will be on Saturday, September 25-26 from 9:00 – 3:00

Spectacular mums will be available for sale along with other fall plants such as cabbage and kale, fall pansies, traditional and heirloom pumpkins, corn stalks and straw bales, and more.

Also for sale will be apple cider donuts, apple pies, cider and taffy apples!

It will be a wonderful day to bring the family and get in the fall spirit.

The [We Grow Dreams Greenhouse](#) is at 1055 West Washington St in West Chicago.



Getting to Know ...

Barb Bizzarri

Hayley Hawkinson



Resident of West Chicago: Moved to West Chicago in 2020

WGCG Member: Newest WGCG Member

Current/Past Career: RN consultant for major insurance liability division

Hobbies: Gardening, historical architecture, hiking with her two dogs, and "I'm a gym rat".

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: Naturalized flowers

What is your earliest memory of a favorite garden ? My dad's rural Yorkville Tall Grass Garden was my favorite. Also, I never met my grandmother, however, family lore says she was an outstanding gardener.

Who taught you to garden or are you self taught? Self taught

Some gardeners do everything 'by the book' others 'wing it and watch'. Are you a 'wing it and watch' Gardner or a 'by the book gardener? "By the Book"; Of course utilizing "Evidence-based Practice".

What is your summer garden success so far? Dahlias

What's the hardest plant you ever tried to grow? Houseplants

Recent special garden projects? Gardening in my new home. I'm establishing garden rooms; sundial garden, hosta garden, and fire pit garden

Read any good books lately? Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover NY TIMES ; One of the most acclaimed books of our time; an unforgettable memoir about a young woman who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge

Garden Notes

Some of the goals of our monthly meetings are friendship, fun, and learning new things (and probably many other benefits that we just don't think about). I have to say that I really learned a lot and was so impressed with Carol Cichorski and her husband when they did the Dahlia presentation for us. That presentation inspired me to plant Dahlias for the last two years and I am thoroughly in love with these beautiful flowers. The only negative for me is that they have to come out of the ground each fall and be stored till the next spring, which I haven't been very successful in doing. But I have purchased new bulbs each spring from Costco and love what I am seeing so far. I know Dahlias come in all sizes from small to something that looks like a plate! I purchased a bag of fourteen bulbs that had four different colors and produced medium size flowers. I would say that the only thing I would do differently next year is to plant them all closer together to make a nice grouping rather than spread them all over my garden on the side of the house.

Barb Melville



Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

While looking out my living room window recently I saw what appeared to be a bit of cotton moving across the window. It was much smaller than a cottonwood seed or the tip of a Q-tip. A few of us noticed a similar bit of fluff flying about at the Garden Club picnic in July. Upon closer inspection the little creature appeared to be a large mosquito wearing a white ballerina tutu. A friend described it as a miniature fairy.



So, I googled “fuzzy white insect, northern Illinois” and up popped Woolly Aphid. Sure enough that’s what we spotted. The University of Illinois notes adult woolly aphids appear as flying lint, tiny drifting angels, or white fuzzies, close to ¼ inch in diameter, which seem to float through the air. There are several species of woolly aphids in Illinois. They feed on a variety of trees and are more curiosities than pests.

Did I see a woolly aphid or was it really a fairy?

Correction

Kerry Perry

The expert Wasco team that planted a new tree at the Kruse House in July was Tom and Mario, not Jim and Mario. Tom has been employed at Wasco since 1974 and is also an expert pumpkin grower. One of his pumpkins weighed in at more than 1,600 pounds. Impressive!



Garden Tip

Barb Bizzarri

Vegetable summer crops are at their best right now for harvest. Did you know that you can still plant some nice container gardens in August?

The following can be “direct-sown” in your garden or container as seeds. Just make sure to amend your soil.

- Arugula
- Cool season lettuce
- Radishes
- Basil
- Beets (remember the leaves are edible!)
- Carrots



Photos of the “Kruse Crew” from Kerry Perry



A Growing Legacy

A lot has changed over the years but our commitment to our customers and to our community has not. Our goal remains providing high-quality, locally-grown plant and landscape material, expert advice and professional installation and design services.



Since 1925

WASCO
NURSERY
& GARDEN CENTER

630-584-4424

6 miles west of Randall Road on
Route 64, St. Charles
1 mile west of Wasco
www.wasconursery.com

Find everything you need for your beautiful garden



PLATT HILL NURSERY

222 W. Lake St. • Bloomingdale • 630-529-9394
2400 Randall Rd. • Carpentersville • 847-428-6767
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 10am-5pm • www.platthillnursery.com



An Investment That Grows
THE GARDEN CENTER IS
BLOOMING WITH IDEAS!

MEYER
LANDSCAPING, INC.
Nursery, Landscaping Design & Construction
27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
Tel: (630) 293-4800

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR SPECIALS!!!
WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM

LARGE TREES &
SHRUBS, ROSES,
PERENNIALS,
& ANNUALS

SPRING HOURS
MON-SAT: 9-5
SUN: 10-4 4/15-6/30



85 years of planting joy!

Naperville | 630.355.4000 | 25w471 Plank Rd
1 block south of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
& 2 blocks west of Naper Blvd

Aurora | 630.820.8088 | 2000 Montgomery Rd
2 blocks north of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
& Rush-Copley Medical Center

thegrowingplace.com |

The Growing Place
Garden Center | Gift Shop | Gardens

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

2021 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

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn
and add some beauty to your garden at



2010 East Main St. (Rt. 64), St. Charles
630.377.6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com
Your Gardening Source....

Spring Bluff Nursery, Inc.

*Specializing in growing landscape
quality trees and shrubs*

Retail Garden Center
Landscape Design & Installation
Trees, Shrubs & Perennials

41W130 Norris Rd. Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554
630.466.4278
www.springbluffnursery.com
plants@springbluffnursery.com

Growing, learning and educating since 1979...