



# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

[www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

Volume 20 Issue 1 January 2016

## JANUARY IS "BRING A FRIEND" MONTH!

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2016

**Program Topic:** Trees

**Presenter:** Richard Hentschel, U of I Extension Educator, for DuPage/Kane/Kendall who is an expert on Woody Ornamentals. He will talk about selection of trees, what ails them, and winter pruning, with an emphasis on Oaks. You won't want to miss this one and you have the opportunity to share this informative experience with a friend!

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

**6:45 - refreshments and gathering**

**7:00 - brief business meeting**

**7:15 - speaker**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 25th:**

**"People and Nature" with Peggy Doty**

### Inside this issue

WCCHS News!	2
Planned WCGC Events	3
From the Program Coordinator's Desk	4
Cookie Caravan	5
Growing Place Article	6
Membership Form	7

**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 630-231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.

Did you have fun at the auction in November? Be sure to start collecting **NEW Garden Dollars for 2016** when you participate in club activities. One way to earn an easy 50 GD is to renew your membership prior to February 2nd—see the last page of this newsletter for the form, and bring it to the January meeting!



## **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 Wulffe, 630-462-0208, annettewulffe@yahoo.com

Program Director:

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

Information Director & Publicity:

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



## **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

## **We are pleased to announce a collaboration with the West Chicago Community High School Horticulture Club!**

Students participating in the club will be making informative 5-minute presentations at our monthly WCGC meetings starting in February. We will have an opportunity to meet the students and their instructor, Corrie Stieglitz, at our January meeting.

Please welcome these young gardeners with the effervescent enthusiasm our club is known for! I'm delighted to have this opportunity!

Billie Childress, Program Coordinator



# WCGC 2016 Calendar

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
28 Jan	Richard Hentschel	Trees	23 Jun	TBA	AT Kruse Garden
25 Feb	Peggy Doty	People and Nature	28 Jul	TBA	President's Picnic
24 Mar	Ed Max	Edible Gardens	25 Aug	TBA	Butterflies
28 Apr	TBA	What's New for 2016	22 Sep	TBA	Birds
21 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	27 Oct	TBA	TBA
26 May	TBA	AT Cantigny	17 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

***"If we throw Mother Nature out the window, she comes back in the door with a pitchfork." -Masanobu Fukuoka***

(2 February 1913 – 16 August 2008) was a Japanese farmer and philosopher celebrated for his natural farming and re-vegetation of desertified lands. He was a proponent of no-till, no-herbicide grain cultivation... wikipedia.org

## Feedback Needed



## West Chicago Garden Club Program Survey

Starting with our January meeting we will ask for member evaluations immediately following the program (see form at right).

Speaker \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your level of satisfaction with the program?**

Circle one:

*Very Dissatisfied*

*Somewhat Dissatisfied*

*Neutral*

*Somewhat Satisfied*

*Very Satisfied*

Your opinions will help the program coordinator better meet your needs.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## From the Program Coordinator's Desk, January 2016

I've already learned that being program coordinator is a stimulating job! Our first 2016 program on trees rustled up some new facts for me. What I've learned:

- A 2007 analysis of the "Urban Forest" of Chicago revealed that tree canopies cover 17.2% of the city (for comparison New York's coverage is 20.9%). The most common trees (accounting for 46% of the total trees) were white ash, mulberry, green ash, tree of heaven, silver maple, American elm, European buckthorn, Norway maple, and Boxelder. The study extols the economic and environmental virtues of these trees but I couldn't help but think ...."really?! Are diseased and 'weed' trees the best we can do?" Given the fact that a large percentage of these trees are found in single family residential settings indicates that backyard gardeners could significantly influence this selection.
- Our songbirds and butterflies need trees and shrubs native to northeastern IL because of intricate food chain requirements. Two trees that have very high ecological value are oaks and black cherry. At the January meeting there will be a list of trees and shrubs native to northeast IL at the greeting table. Be sure to pick up a copy.
- There are about 60- to 200-million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs. *National Wildlife Federation*
- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- In one study, 83% of realtors believe that mature trees have a 'strong or moderate impact' on the saleability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98%. *Arbor National Mortgage & American Forests*
- Trees can have a calming effect on humans, and studies have shown that neighborhoods with more trees have fewer incidences of violence than communities with fewer trees.

The tree benefits listed above are only a few of the many benefits of trees.

All this tree talk lead to a fabulous idea at our last board meeting:

**Complete a tree inventory/analysis of garden club member's gardens.**

We would love for all members to participate in this activity! You may pick up a form to complete at the greeter's table at our monthly meetings.

Some of us may not know the names of our trees. This is a great time to figure out what they are. Use garden club colleagues, extension services (send 2 digital photos, tree and close-up of leaf/branch), or reference books to help identify your trees. **Our goal is to have all inventory forms turned in by the end of June** so you have plenty of time for this project. Have fun with this!

**Questions? Concerns? See me! -Billie**



### 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...*



# Cookie Caravan



The Garden Club wanted to demonstrate our thankfulness to some of our crucial supporters. So, the week before Thanksgiving a cookie caravan was formed.



The **bakers:**

Linda Harlson, Dorothy/Kate O'Conner, Barb Bizzarri, Tom Fessler, Lisa Wiemann, Kerry Perry, and Billie Childress, produced a mouthwatering array of cookies to die for!

Kerry and Billie packed them up and delivered them to: West Chicago Park District, Cantigny, the Fire Department, and Faith Community Church (pastors, secretary, and custodian).

A huge **Thank You** to all who participated in this effort! Our Garden Club has the best, most delightful people to work with!

**90 YEARS A Growing Legacy**

A lot has changed in 90 years but our commitment to our customers and our community has not -- provide 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

**MLA** *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

LARGE TREES & SHRUBS, ROSES, PERENNIALS, & ANNUALS

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

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



## ***Making the Most of Your Holiday Greens***

***by The Growing Place***

You've decorated your home for the holiday with live greens and a gorgeous tree, but their usefulness doesn't need to end with the holidays. The Growing Place offers these simple and practical ideas for re-purposing your evergreen trees, holiday wreaths and boughs.

### **Trees for the Birds**

After the holidays, place your cut tree in the garden as a shelter for birds. Choose a back corner or out of the way place and birds will welcome the additional shelter from winter weather and predators. Or, stake it upright, add a bird feeder in or under the tree and a heated bird bath nearby and you've created a backyard bird sanctuary. Come spring the tree can be cut up and added to the compost pile.

### **Protecting Plants**

Place branches over shallow rooted plants such as mums, coral bells, strawberries and spring bulbs to insulate their roots through freezing and thawing. Christmas wreaths, stripped of their decorations, are just the perfect size to place around sensitive perennials for added insulation. Acid loving and shallow rooted plants such as rhododendron and holly appreciate a layer of evergreens as the needles add a slight acid boost. When removing boughs in the spring, give them a shake to let the needles fall and mix in with your mulch.

Mulch 'Endless Summer' and other varieties of *Hydrangea macrophylla* with evergreen boughs. They will add another layer of protection for next year's sensitive buds. Now that we've had a couple of hard freezes to set dormancy, tender roses such as hybrid tea, grandiflora and floribunda benefit from a layer of compost, then leaves or straw and a final layer of evergreen boughs.

### **Outdoor Decorating**

Re-purpose your evergreen boughs to easily create a natural winter look you'll enjoy until spring. Instead of leaving large expanses of mulched beds where last year's annuals were planted, spruce up your beds, especially around your entranceways, with a layer of evergreen boughs. Mix and match different kinds for a richer look and perhaps add some red or yellow twig dogwood stems or a birch log for a little bit of color.

The holidays may be over, but your live greens and trees can keep on giving.

Experience  
**The Growing Place**  
Garden Center

Growing Place grown plants • Beautiful gardens  
Special events & activities • Landscape services

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><b>Naperville...</b> 630.355.4000 25w471 Plank Rd <a href="http://thegrowingplace.com" style="color: white;">thegrowingplace.com</a></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><b>Aurora...</b> 630.820.8088 2000 Montgomery Rd Find us on Facebook!</p>
--	---





# West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2016

Our meetings in 2016 will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

With your paid membership you receive a copy of our monthly newsletter and membership in the Garden Club of Illinois, which includes the quarterly publication *Garden Glories*.

### Individual Membership:

**\$15 per year**

### Family Membership:

**\$25 per year**

(For multiple members at the same address)

Our club year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. 2016 Membership dues should be paid by February 25<sup>th</sup>, our February meeting.

**Please make your check payable to:**

**West Chicago Garden Club**

Please bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club  
P.O. Box 313  
West Chicago, IL 60186

### Application

Type:  New or  Renewal

Class:  Individual or  Family

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers:** (include area code)

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell/other: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address(es):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Send newsletters via:**  E-mail or  Mail

Please **do not** add my phone number to the Calling Post. (Note: if you check this box, you will **not** get phone reminders of any garden club events.)

**Please Note: A membership list with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, will be distributed to Club members, unless you check below the information you do not wish to appear:**

In the circulated membership list, do not include my: \_\_\_ name; \_\_\_ address; \_\_\_ telephone number; \_\_\_ e-mail address