

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 22 Issue 1 January 2018



Meeting Date: January 25

Meeting Location:

**Faith Community Church
910 Main Street, West Chicago**

Meeting Time:

**6:45PM Refreshments
7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program**

A Landscape Love Affair – 28 Years of Landscaping and Learning

Our January speaker will be Laura Christensen. Laura is an experienced landscape designer and public speaker. She has her bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and her Master's degree in City Planning from Northwestern University. She is a 30-year member of The American Society of Landscape Architects.

Laura has had her own landscape design business, Design With Nature, in Wheaton for eight years. Prior to taking time off to raise her three children Laura was the staff landscape architect and a city planner for the Village of Schaumburg, Il. and subsequently a landscape architect and planning consultant for Camiros, Inc. a design consulting firm in Chicago. She is an active member of the Wheaton Garden Club. Laura has been designing and gardening on her own property in Wheaton for 28 years. She greatly enjoys sharing her love of plants and design with others.

Laura describes the program she is bringing to us as:

Sit back and enjoy the before, during and after photos showing the progression of my home landscape, which I have been designing and implementing for 28 years. My bare, basic suburban 1/3 acre lot has evolved into a beautiful, four-season oasis for me and my family. I will share my favorite plants and plant combinations, gardening tips, triumphs, (minor) tragedies, lessons learned and joys garnered from gardening on my own property.



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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 2018: 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: Barb Bizzarri
Vice President: Keith Letsche
Treasurer: Kerry Perry
Secretary: OPEN
Contact Barb Bizzarri if you are interested

Program Director: Barb Melville
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah

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

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Growing, learning and educating since 1979...

Mosaic Workshop

Attention all Garden Club Members—The Garden Club is Sponsoring a Mosaic Art Class. This is a great opportunity for you to create a unique piece of art for your home or garden

- Dates: February 24 and March 3, Saturday mornings 9-noon. Must be able to commit to both classes.
- Place: Galley 200, at the corner of Fremont and Washington in downtown West Chicago
- Cost: \$10 (the GC will assume the other half of the class cost)
- Description: Mosaic art piece will be created on a 6 x 16 slate tile. The tile, mosaic pieces, glue, grout, and sealant will be provided.
- Instructors: Angie and Billie will be available for guidance
- Sign up: Contact Billie Childress by February 10
call/text: 630-862-1213, email: billiedc@sbcglobal.net

Beyond Monarchs: Preserving Endangered Butterflies, Bees & Dragonflies

An upcoming program sponsored by DuPage Monarch Project and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The annual winter program goes beyond monarchs to three endangered species, the Baltimore checkerspot butterfly, Hine's emerald dragonfly and rusty-patched bumblebee. Ecologist Andres Ortega will speak about measures being taken by the FPDDC to protect these species and Community Engagement Specialist Shannon Burns will speak to strategies that can be undertaken in the community to help pollinators and monarchs.

February 20, 2018: Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 31st St, Oak Brook.
6:30pm Socializing, 7:30pm Program

Morton Arboretum Events

January 27

Seed Swap: Browse a selection of ornamental and edible seeds, then take home a variety to plant this spring at home. 11am to 1pm. For more Info call 630-968-0074 or visit mortonarb.org Free Event

Seed Saving Workshop: Learn how and why to save your own seeds. Watch demonstrations and get hands on practice saving seeds from both ornamental and edible plants. Learn how to store seeds for future use and how to test seed viability before planting. Also tips on seed starting. 9 to 11am, Info and registration: 630-719-2468 \$34.00 fee

February 17 or 22

Seed Starting for the Edible Garden: Explore lighting, soil types, containers, sowing schedules and plants selection with an Arboretum expert. Improve seed starting success and take home a tray of seeds ready to germinate. Saturday 9 to 11am, Thursday 7-9pm. Info and registration 630-719-2468 \$34.00 fee

News from Kruse

Billie Childress



*The two faces of January.
One to look forward and one to look back.*

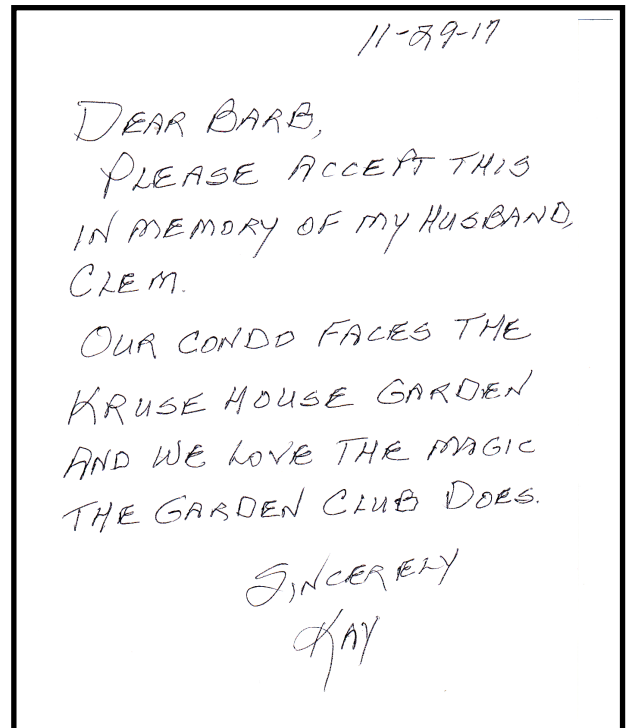
Back: the Kruse House Gardeners estimate they collectively spent between 450 - 500 hours in the garden last year. Angie, Tom, Kerry, and Billie worked pretty much every Wednesday morning and Keith and Jan Grismore were there about half the time. Barbara Darrah is considering throwing her hat into the garden. We hope to see her regularly next year as well.

We maintained and beautified. Nothing exceptional, but the garden looked good all year. The GC held our June meeting in the garden, Gallery 200 sponsored an "art in the garden" event, and the Historical Society held their Ice Cream Social in the garden. The Saturday Kruse House Museum visitors enjoyed the garden and the neighbors, especially the condo dwellers, found pleasure in the garden as well. (See card on right). The garden is a casual sanctuary for an untold number of guests. The birds and the pollinators left notes thanking us for providing home and food for them as well.

Forward: April will be right along and we will again clean up the garden and meet the new year with enthusiasm. The "to do" list includes trimming shrubs and removing some of the mountain of yard waste that has accumulated along the east fence. That's just for starters. Our planning is fluid so we'll report progress as it develops.



The Kruse House Gardeners gathered for a holiday lunch at Kerry's. Barbara Darrah also present....taking picture.



This lovely note accompanied a \$100 donation to the Garden Club for the Kruse Garden.

A New Year

Barbara Bizzarri

Happy New Year ! As the new President of the West Chicago Garden Club, I want to extend my thanks to our Past President, Dick Darrah. Dick's support over the years has been invaluable. Tough shoes for me to fill.

You may not realize that the West Chicago Garden Club started in 1925, took time off from 1978 to 1998. Our current version of the club began again in 1998. So this year marks our 20th anniversary!

A little about me... I've lived in West Chicago for the past 18 years (Cornerstone Lakes subdivision), along with my husband, Joe. We have two grown daughters, one resides in Chicago and the other daughter resides in St. Charles. We have 4 grandchildren.

I've always enjoyed gardening. So why did I join this garden club? I always promised myself that I would join a garden club when I retired. So when I did retire 4 years ago, I did my research on several garden clubs in the area and I must say I was most impressed with both the web presence and online newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club. Attending the first meeting with a diverse and friendly membership, sealed the deal.

My hope for the year ahead is that as a member myself, we all take on the responsibility of increasing our membership. I will speak about a new member incentive at our January meeting.

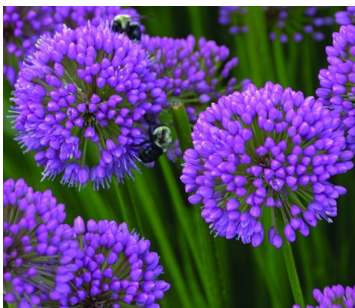
Hats off to our new Board and Committee members (Look for the listing in this newsletter) They've taken on the responsibility of making a difference, so that the West Chicago Garden Club is around for another 20 years.

See you at our January meeting.

Barbara



Perennial Plant of the Year



Barb Melville noticed in Chicagoland Gardening that the 2018 Perennial Plant of the Year has been announced by the Perennial Plant Association. The 2018 Perennial is Allium 'Millenium' (Yes, the spelling is odd). Chicagoland Gardening tells us that drought resistant 'Millenium' "is an herbaceous perennial like the ubiquitous 'Summer Beauty', not a bulb. It was bred by Mark McDonough, a researcher from Massachusetts and was introduced in 2000. It is hardy up to Zone 3 and grows best in

well-drained soils in full sun. It is a butterfly magnet and not as prone to reseeding as other alliums. It has no serious insect or disease problems and is usually avoided by deer and rabbits."