

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 22 Issue 7 July 2018



Meeting Date: July 26

Meeting Location:

**Fabyan Japanese Garden
1925 S Batavia Avenue, Geneva**

Meeting Time:

Garden open: 5:30-8:00pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

President's Picnic



Please join us for the annual President's Picnic, Thursday, July 26th. This year the picnic will be held at Fabyan Forest Preserve in Geneva on the Fox River. This garden has delighted visitors for over 100 years. The one-acre garden was designed circa 1910 for George and Nelle Fabyan.

Special arrangements have been made with Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley to have the Fabyan Japanese Garden (which is on the estate grounds of Fabyan Villa) open for us. The garden will be available for us to walk around and explore starting at 5:30pm. Dinner will be catered by Hawthorne's around 6:15pm. The event will end at 8:00pm so there should be more time to visit the garden after we eat.

The entrance is on the east side of Route 31, just North of Fabyan Parkway. The address is [1925 S Batavia Avenue, Geneva](#). (Click the address to see a map) There is a sign at the entrance and we will add some balloons or something to make it stand

out. Drive down through the parking lot to Pavilion #1. There is plenty of parking.

Our dinner will be at Pavilion #1 which is covered. The seating in the pavilion is on picnic benches. If you need something else, please bring your own lawn chair. You may need mosquito repellent. Should we experience very severe weather, the event will be canceled.

Please RSVP for this event to Barb Bizzarri by July 19th:

Call or text 630-780-7334. (Text preferred)



AUGUST 23RD MEETING

Beth Botts, featured writer in the Chicago Tribune garden section, will speak at our August meeting.

Notes from Barbara Bizzarri

America In Bloom

I'm sure by now, you may have noticed the the hanging baskets, colorful street banners and botanical banners proclaiming West Chicago in Bloom. A number of community organizations in West Chicago, including our West Chicago Garden Club, have stepped up to the plate assisting our city in applying for America in Bloom (AIB) status. America in Bloom is a National 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work and play, benefitting from colorful plants and trees, enjoying clean environments, celebrating heritage and pride through volunteerism. As part of the AIB committee, representing our West Chicago Garden Club, I've been impressed with all that our city offers.



AIB Judges will arrive on July 25th and over the next 3 days will tour our community. Here are some of the places judges will visit

- Methodist Church's Pollinator Garden
- Prairie Landing
- Ball Horticulture
- Kline Creek Farm
- We Grow Dreams
- Kruse House Museum and Gardens
- Kindred Coffee — showcasing new small businesses
- City Museum
- St. Michaels Community Gardens
- Prairie Tour
- West Chicago Community High School Horticulture Club
- ARC Center
- Gallery 200

I'm very pleased to announce that 3 West Chicago Garden Club members have opened their gardens for the judges to view;

Jeff and Louise Handel, June and Mark Luther and my own garden will be open for AIB judges viewing. These garden all have 3 things in common and thus reflect the theme.....**Walnut Trees, Shade and Clay....Oh My!** Special thanks to Jeff, Louise, June and Mark for welcoming the AIB judges to their garden.

We have a lot to be proud of in West Chicago and our future is bright!

See Page 3 for photographs from the participating member's gardens.

Did you know?

A new book "The Woman Who Smashed Codes; A True Story of Love, Spies and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies" by Jason Fagone is



outstanding. The site of our President's Picnic, Fabyan's Woods, is where this story begins. The story takes you back in time to Geneva, IL, where the heroine goes to work for George Fabyan in 1916. Its a great Summer read for you and for book clubs.

America In Bloom—Member Gardens



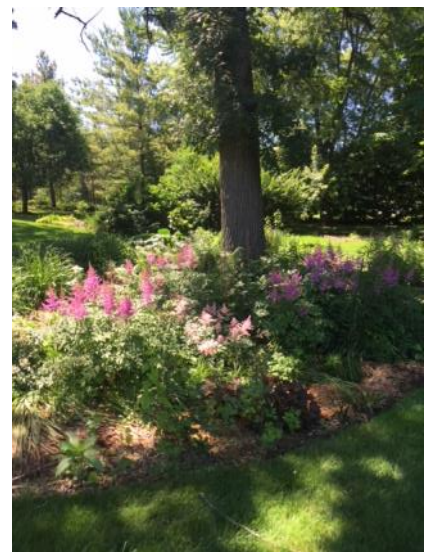
Barb's Garden



June & Mark's Garden



Louise & Jeff's Garden

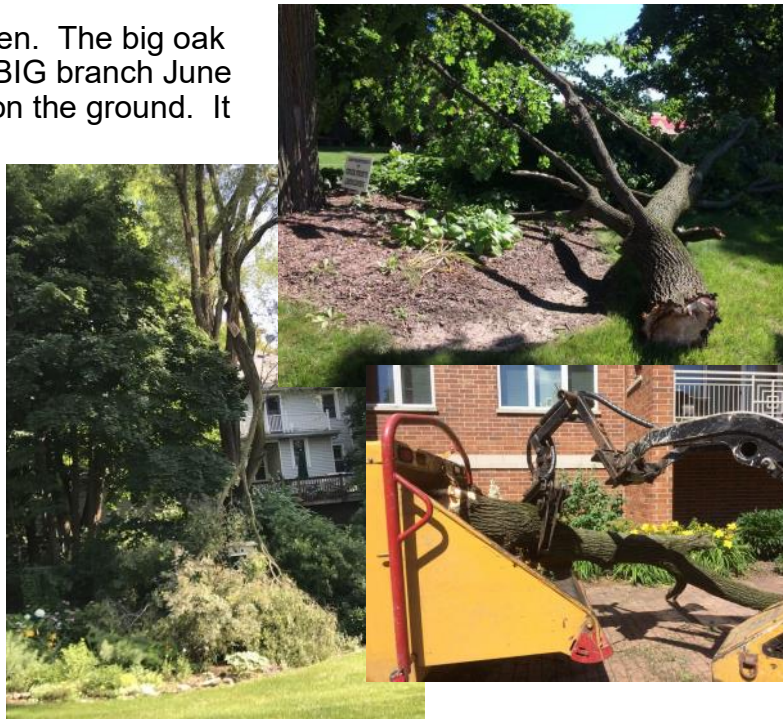


News from Kruse

Wind: Sizable limbs down at the Kruse Garden. The big oak near the east front of the Kruse House lost a BIG branch June 30. It broke clean off the tree and was found on the ground. It took the tops of two pagoda dogwoods out, but fortunately no injury or major damage. Wind was a factor but the tree also appears unhealthy. Soft wood and fungus at the break spot indicate a questionable future for that tree.

The second incident, about a week later, draped a large limb over the back garden. This limb remained connected by a thread, making it challenging to deal with. If we pulled the end of the branch that was sitting on the garden it was likely to crash down on our bird house trellis structure.

In both cases Mike Pineda, Wheaton Tree Service, (Mike is also a new GC member) kindly took care of the limbs. Thanks Mike!



Weeds: Too many! The generous Spring rains germinated tons of weeds and while weeding, rates pretty high on my list of garden tasks, it's been a bit overwhelming! And missing a workday because July 4th fell on a Wednesday didn't help either. However, we've gone after those weeds with a passion and are quite pleased with our progress. Don't hesitate to stop by and pull some weeds anytime. We saved a few just for you!

Hot and Dry: "It's July." you say, "What do you expect?" I expect mild temperatures, low humidity, and frequent gentle rain. Oh that's right. That was that other state (Utopia). Well it's been tough on the plants this month and no end in sight! The recently transplanted Ninebark shrub is struggling. I'm not happy with myself for not getting over there to water it.



Above and Beyond: That would describe Kerry Perry. She stops by the Kruse Garden more than any of us and waters, weeds, and fixes on her own! Thanks Kerry! You are a gem!

Bright Spot: The zinnias that Jeff Handel grew from seed are attention grabbing vibrant colors. Planted right behind the garage, they are a pleasing sight when you drive up. Thanks again Jeff!

Salutation: While July may not have provided the best working conditions in the garden, the pleasure of laboring toward a common cause with gardening friendspriceless!

Kudos to the Kruse Gardeners!

June Meeting

Barb Melville

It was a beautiful night and we had a great turnout. I think everyone enjoyed themselves. We had refreshments at the converted stable.



Cantigny Park Events

August 2 & 16: Evening Stroll Garden Tour Visitors Center, 5 pm Cantigny Horticulture offers complimentary evening garden tours on the first and third Thursday during the summer. Tours are conducted by Master Gardener docents and start from the park's Visitors Center. Free with paid parking (\$5).

August 7: Tour: Lower Bur Oak Garden! Visitors Center, 11 am—Craig Kruckenberg, Cantigny landscape architect, will guide you through this all-new garden, redesigned and freshly planted as part of the park's ongoing Project New Leaf. Free with parking (\$5).

August 8: The Spirited Botanist Idea Garden, 6:30pm. - Host Liz Omura will demonstrate a cocktail (alcoholic & non-alcoholic) featuring a fruit, vegetable, herb and/or edible flower as the main ingredient. The cocktail this evening will feature pineapple sage, peaches and bourbon. Advance registration required. Cost: \$25. Parking free. Meet at Visitors Center.

August 9: Garden Bike Tour Visitor Center, 6:30pm –Guides from Cantigny Horticulture will escort visitors on a leisurely ride with plenty of stops at different areas of the gardens and other park attractions. Adults and children ages 8 and up welcome. Limit 15 people. Advance registration required at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).

August 15: Garden Photo Tips Visitor Center 6:30pm -Receive advice from a skilled Cantigny Horticulture volunteer, share your own knowledge, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow shutterbugs in beautiful surroundings. Group size is limited—register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).

Gardening Tips & Questions—A tip from Barb Melville



Four years ago I was on a garden walk at Ed's house (Ed is a WCGC member) and outside his house he had a box of tubers with a sign that said "Free Canna Tubers". I helped myself to a couple and planted them in the yard in full sun and had the most delightful surprise - in a couple months I had the largest plants with beautiful leaves and giant red flowers. Although these tubers have to be dug up after the first frost and put in a paper box in a dry spot over winter, it prompted me to buy more the following summer which I found at Jewel in several colors: yellow, peach, and orange.



Each year I plant them again and with basically little to no care this is what I have!

Those of you that love Dahlia's which can be tiny or huge can do the same each year.

Have a tip to share or question about gardening? Email it to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com and we will include in future issues.

August Field Trip—Save the Date

BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir Temple

Mark your calendar: tour of BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir Temple , 1851 s Rt 59 Bartlett, IL

August 13th, Monday 10:15 am. All members welcome along with guests, meet there by 10am, tour approx. 2 hours. Please note the dress code.

Dress Code: Casual attire. Please note: No sleeveless tops. No shorts. No skirts shorter than knee length. Visitors who do not have the appropriate dress code would be requested to wear wraps which are provided in the Haveli.

Shoes: Please remove all footwear before entering any of the Mandir buildings. Shoe racks are provided in the Haveli area.

Photography and Videography: The Mandir complex is a sacred and spiritual place of worship. Please follow these guidelines to respect the sanctity of the Mandir.

ALLOWED Photos and video can be taken for personal use only and only from ground level, outside the Mandir and Haveli.

PROHIBITED No photo-videography is allowed inside any building.

Mobile Phones: Visitors are requested to turn off their Cell phones during their visit inside the Mandir. Mobile phones with cameras must not be used to take photo or video inside the Mandir or the Haveli.

Parking : Free. There are ample parking spaces for cars in the rear of Haveli.

Please refrain from touching the delicate carvings. To maintain the spiritual atmosphere observe silence inside the Mandir.



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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:

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