

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 7 July 2019



*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: July 25 at 6:30pm**

**Location: Reed Keppler Park**

## President's Picnic

**Barb Bizarri**



Join us for an

### **Old Fashioned American Picnic**

on Thursday,  
July 25th.



This year's Presidents Picnic will be held at 6:30 pm in the Central Pavilion in Reed Keppler Park. Enter on Arbor, west side of the street, at the first driveway, NORTH of where National St heads into the ARC Center and pool. There is a parking lot there with a Porta-Potty in view so you won't miss it! ([Link to Map](#) or see [page 6](#))

- ◆ There are picnic tables with seating, but you may want to bring your own outdoor chair.
- ◆ It is suggested that you bring bug spray.
- ◆ Rain or shine!
- ◆ **Food has been ordered based on your prior RSVP.**

Along with the picnic, there will be an opportunity to visit the West Chicago Prairie (for more info see [page 2](#)).

West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group volunteer and West Chicago resident, Scott Hensey, will join us. Scott will give an overview of this prairie and take those interested on a short hike to see this natural resource first hand.

**AUGUST 22ND MEETING**

**Glorious Dahlias  
by Carol Cichowski**



Did you know we have a piece of natural history right here in West Chicago?

The West Chicago Prairie is a 358-acre premier natural area. It contains 60 species of native plants and animals. In addition to wetlands and an upland oak savanna, the preserve is home to one of the most biologically diverse sites in northeastern Illinois, the 126 acre Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve. It is one of eight

state-designated nature preserves in DuPage County. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and West Chicago Park District jointly own 115 acres of West Chicago Prairie.

Nine linking footpaths meander through West Chicago Prairie. Many connect with the Illinois Prairie Path and with West Chicago's Reed-Kepler Park. Many volunteers invest their time and energy to help protect the ecological health of this rare Illinois ecosystem, offering the Forest Preserve District assistance in caring for this natural area.

We're fortunate that West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group ( [www.wcpsg.org](http://www.wcpsg.org) ) volunteer and West Chicago resident, Scott Hensey, will join us at our Thursday, July 25th President's Picnic at Reed-Kepler Park. Scott will give an overview of this prairie and take those interested on a short hike to see this natural resource first hand.



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## America in Bloom

**Barb Bizzarri**

The America in Bloom judges will be arriving in West Chicago on July 22nd and 23rd.

A two-day itinerary with stops throughout the City, will introduce the judges to the many people and organizations, like WCGC, that contribute to West Chicago's community vitality, environmental stewardship, noteworthy flowers and landscapes, urban forestry efforts, rich heritage and overall impression as a City that cares for its people and its natural resources. The purpose of their visit is to assess the collaborative work being done, recognize the success stories and provide further recommendations that will help the community continue to grow and thrive.



## Notes from Barb Bizzari: Getting to Know...

### Pam Caligiuri



Resident of West Chicago:  
Since 1983—36 years!

West Chicago Garden Club  
Member: 8 years

Hobbies: Gardening, cooking  
and reading

My Favorite Flower: Peony

Biggest Gardening Mistake:  
Planting too close together  
and not realizing the size of  
the plant or bush when it  
matures.

What's New In Your Garden: Planted a new  
area of outstanding hostas

What Bird Is Most Entertaining In Your Garden:  
Hummingbirds

Current or Past Career: Full Time Mom

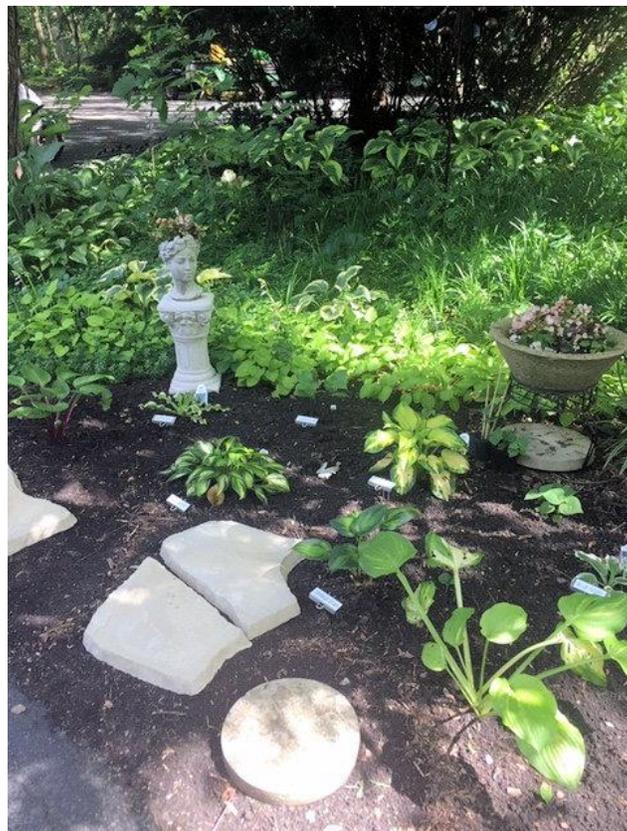
Favorite Restaurant: Red Lobster

Recent Family Vacation: Hawaii and Colorado

It has been said that gardeners are defined as  
much by the plants they despise as by those  
they love. Is There A Plant You Dislike?

Poison Ivy !!

Why Should Someone Join The West Chicago  
Garden Club: Great speakers on gardening and  
you'll always learn something new.



**Note:** Pam and her husband were gracious in opening their garden for our June 27th annual garden tour. Thank You! The Caligiuris will once again be opening their garden for the America In Bloom Judges. On behalf of the City of West of Chicago America In Bloom Committee and the West Chicago Garden Club... THANK YOU ....again!

## Garden Tips

Pam hates poison ivy. She's constantly checking for it in her garden. Pam came up with a quick way to remove small poison ivy. Use a plastic sleeve/bag from the morning newspaper, place your hand inside the bag, pick and remove the offending plant then pull the bag over the weed which will then be covered and release your hand. Great idea, Pam!



## June Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

A big thank you to Pam Caligiuri, her neighbor Evelyn, and David Wilcox and his brother Daniel Wilcox, for a lovely evening touring their gardens. Pam and her husband have the most beautiful yard with over 700 different varieties of Hosta, Evelyn was most gracious and invited our group into her gazebo for wonderful homemade pastries and the Wilcox Brothers were extremely hospitable and informative telling us about their restoration prairie project and have invited any club members that wish to return when the garden is in full bloom (just about now) to return to their yard.



### November Auction

Remember to be on the lookout for garden items that you can donate for our November Auction. Remember, we are looking for new or very “gently used” items. We are particularly hoping for items related to gardening or that we can use in our yards.



The Kruse Garden looks fabulous, thanks to the hard work of some very special garden club members. Join the crew even if it's for a few minutes to pull weeds. Remember, the weeds are there to grow your character. Our gardeners have tons of character as evidenced by the huge mulch pile hidden behind the line of spirea (bridal wreath) bushes.

### Art in the Garden

The West Chicago Historical Society and People Made Visible / Gallery 200 sponsored Art in the Garden at the end of June. Maggie Capettini, a local artist, was inspired by the massive bed of purple larkspur and orange

poppies. We watched her create a wonderful painting under the large maple tree in the yard. ZAZZ, an alternative jazz quintet provided really cool music. Wow, they are great! If you have a chance to hear them, do it.



### Butterflies

Our own members' artwork is a hit and has definitely increased the awareness of the Kruse House. During this hot weather, it's a good idea to leave a water source for the live butterflies.



### Color

Every week the garden colors change. Just when the lavender malva (mallow) faded, the brilliant raspberry colored monarda (bee balm) burst into bloom.



Miniature orange zinnias are doing well in the sunny front yard. And the giant, four foot tall zinnas in the back have a fabulous color design.

Come out to the Kruse House Garden. Bring a friend. Enjoy.

## Upcoming Programs for 2019

These are the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters.

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August 22nd	Carol Cichowski	Glorious Dahlias
September 26th	Pauline Briggs	Bulb Bingo
October 24th	TBD	TBD
November 21st	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

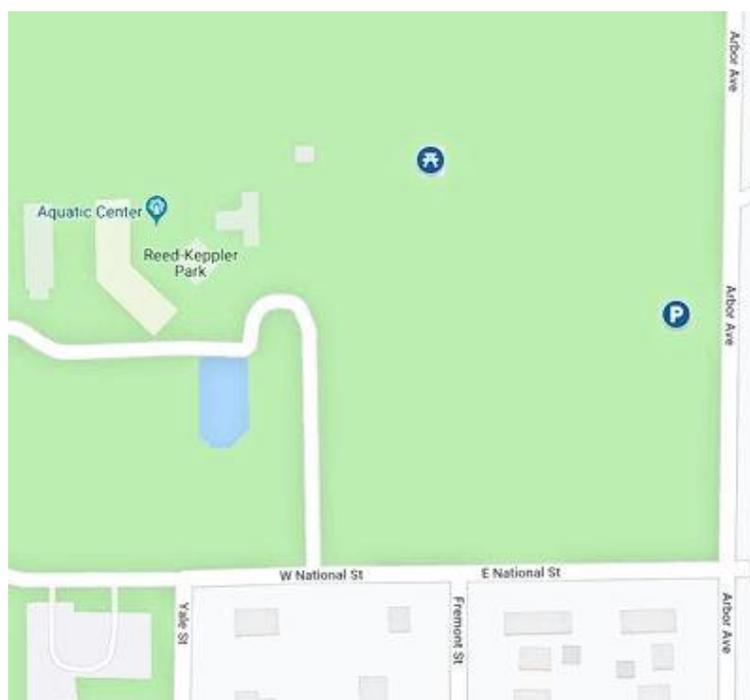
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## President's Picnic Map

 Central Pavilion  
Reed Keppler Park

 Parking Lot



Web Link:

[Google Map](#)

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## Local Events for Gardeners

- Aug 1 & 15: **Cantigny Summer Evening Stroll**. Visitors Center, 6 pm. Enjoy a one-hour summer garden tour, conducted by the park's Master Gardener docents. Walk begins at the Visitors Center. Free with paid parking (\$5). [Cantigny August Calendar](#)
- Aug 3-4: **Morton Arboretum Destination Asia Festival** 10am-4pm, Explore the diverse cultures of Asia through music, dance, food, and more. Join us for a fun-filled weekend that will transport you across the globe. Included with Arboretum admission . [Website Link](#)
- Aug 6: **Cantigny Lower Display Garden** Visitors Center, 11 am. Jackie Kosbab from Cantigny Horticulture will guide you through this all-new garden space, redesigned and freshly planted as part of the park's ongoing Project New Leaf. Free with parking (\$5). [Cantigny August Calendar](#)
- Aug 15: **Cantigny Garden Walk on the Wild Side** Visitors Center, 1 pm. New for 2019, this tour by Cantigny Horticulture takes place monthly through October, on the third Thursday. Staff members will choose personal favorite plants and share information about them—a bit of science, growing advice and perhaps a fun fact. Register at [Cantigny.org](#) or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5). [Cantigny August Calendar](#)
- Aug 17-18: **Morton Arboretum Wine and Art Walk** , 10am-5pm, Meadow Lake Trail, located near the Visitor's Center, Enjoy live music, sip wine, and shop for unique nature-themed art as you stroll around Meadow Lake. Browse this juried art show featuring photography, woodturning, jewelry, digital and traditional painting, ceramics, fused glass, and more from Midwest artists. Included in Arboretum admission. [Website Link](#)

## Pride with Perennials (edited for space)

## The Growing Place

Gardening requires work to produce results. Time spent in a garden is always rewarding and hearing success stories from others becomes a good source of reference. Here are 9 perennials that would make any gardener proud.

### For the Trendsetting Gardener - New & Noteworthy

*Hemerocallis 'Primal Scream'*: An award winner, this daylily stands 3' tall with enormous 8" tangerine orange blooms in June and July. The petals are narrow, twisted and ruffled, and seem to glimmer with a golden dust. Rabbit resistant and great for cutting, 'Primal Scream' is hardy, reliable and easy to grow.



*Heuchera 'Lemon Love'*: A jolt of bright lemon-lime green will brighten up a shade garden! The best leaf color will be in filtered shade. In mid-summer, creamy white flowers bloom above the ruffled chartreuse foliage. Plant a group of 'Lemon Love' with contrasting blue hosta or red huechera for a vivid show in the shade.



*Phlox 'Cloudburst'*: This Tall Cushion Phlox is a hybrid of the low mounding types with the tall cottage phlox. The lavender-pink flowers become bright pink and attract butterflies and pollinators with their sweet fragrance. Blooming in June then intermittently reblooming through the season, Cloudburst will grow 18"-24" in moist, well-drained soil with full sun to part shade. Avoid overhead watering and plant well-spaced apart for good air circulation.



### For the Novice Gardener - Tried & True

*Rudbeckia speciose*: Bright orange-yellow flowers on strong, wiry stems make a show of this native Black-eyed Susan. Blooming June through September, Rudbeckia provides a long season for cut flowers. It is a good native substitute for R. 'Goldsturm'. Birds and butterflies will be attracted to the flowers of this 2'-3' versatile perennial.



*Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'*: This coneflower is a long-lived beloved favorite of gardeners. The rosy purple flowers are huge, with non-drooping petals highlighted by a coppery cone center. The blooms start in July and fade to pink as they age, intermittently reblooming through the season. Growing 2'-3' in full sun to part shade, this dependable pollinator plant is good for cutting. Be sure to leave some seed heads as food for songbirds and for winter interest.



### For the Adventurous Gardener - Prized & Particular

*Opuntia humifusa*: Did you know there is a cactus native to northern Illinois? The prickly pear cactus is very hardy, loves full sun and works wonderfully for rock and container gardens. It does require dry, sandy, well-drained soil. The thick, fleshy leaves shrivel over winter and plump back up each spring. Summer brings exquisite yellow blooms. No worries about critters eating this pollinator perennial!



*Buddlia 'Miss Molly'*: Vibrant, dark magenta blooms July through September are a magnet for hummingbirds and other pollinators to this butterfly bush. A tender perennial, Miss Molly prefers full sun to part shade and average, very well-drained soil. Regular deadheading will help promote extended bloom time of this fragrant sub-shrub. Plant by mid-September for winter hardiness and don't look for new life to emerge until late May.



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## Club Information

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

West Chicago Garden Club  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com)

### Membership Information

Dues for 2019: 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 , West Chicago

### 2019 WCGC BOARD:

President: Barb Bizzarri  
Vice President: Dan Beebe  
Treasurer: Kerry Perry  
Secretary: Pamela Darrah  
Program Director: Barb Melville  
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe  
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah  
Director at Large: Chris Gicela

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to  
[WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

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