

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 25 Issue 6 June 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: June 24

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

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

These are a Few of Our Favorite Things!

An eclectic collection of gardening favorites from oh-so-many gardeners. Surprising favorites from local pros and celebs – Everyone from the owner of the Chicago Flower & Garden Show to Chicago Botanic Garden experts and more.

As seen at the 2017 and 2019 Chicago Flower and Garden Shows.



Carol Cichorski

Carol was already garden addicted when they moved to their small house on a half-acre lot 20 years ago. She was very much a novice gardener at that time. Much has changed since then.

Carol is now past-president of the Elk Grove Garden Club, quite the gardener, and blogs at www.OhWhatA.com. Carol speaks regularly at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show and often manages their seminars on-site.

Our June Meeting will be held at our usual location of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in the actual church not in the large meeting room that we have used in the past (no refreshments will be served in the church). During the last year, St. Andrew has used their facility to help the community with breakfast and lunch pickup for

families in district 33, a weekly food pantry and a vaccination center. Vaccinations were given on Tuesdays and food deliveries from the Northern Illinois Food Bank and local churches on Thursday and Friday with drive up distribution on Saturday mornings. Pastor Josh Ebener has done a wonderful job of working with his community and helping those in need.

Barb Melville



JULY 22ND MEETING

President's Picnic

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

I want to start out by thanking all of you who came out to help with our first Barn & Supply Cleanup last month. The weather was great, except for the gusty winds, and we



really got a lot done. The gallon pots, smaller perennial pots and perennial trays were all sorted and stacked...

they look great! Having everything organized will really come in handy when we re-start the Plant Sale next year. We will be having one more organizing event at the Barn on June 26th from 9am-Noon. We will be tackling the larger pots, annual trays and miscellaneous plant sale supplies. If you are able to

help with the sorting and stacking of pots, please email westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com or let me know in person at the June meeting on the 24th

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, our meeting in July will be a traditional President's Picnic held in our yard. Beverages, grilled meats, all of your favorite summer cookout salads (or at least a lot of them) and some interesting desserts will be provided. You just need to bring yourself and a positive attitude. Rumor has it that the picnic may be themed... we will be working to put together the final details over the next few weeks... be sure to watch for your July newsletter... you won't want to miss it. In case of rain, a rain date will also be provided.

In the meantime, I will see you all at our June meeting on the 24th at the church and at least some of you on the 26th for the Barn & Supply Cleanup – Part 2



- Dan

Barn Cleanup—Saturday June 26th, 9am to Noon



If you are able to help with the sorting and stacking of pots, please email westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com or let Dan know in person at the June meeting on the 24th.

As your plant your gardens, save your pots and mini blinds (for plant labels) and we will allow drop offs at the Barn during the cleanup sessions. We are most in need of 'trade gallon' pots, but will take other pots, too. We also use a lot of 3 1/2" round pots and trays at the sale and can always use these, too. We do *not* need any large pots (over 2 gallons) that would usually hold shrubs or trees.

May Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

AMAZING BEES!

We had a great turnout for our May meeting even though the weather was terrible and we had to change our location at the last minute from the Kruse house to St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

May's meeting, with Bill Whitney, the owner of City Bee Savers, was probably one of the best programs we've had! Bill spoke about his 28 years of experience with bees for almost two hours! Bill had many great stories about bees and entertaining facts that I'm sure were enlightening to most of our group....one of those was the question about where is the worst place to get stung? Any thoughts?

ANSWER: up inside your nose which is the most excruciating pain because there is a nerve there that goes to your teeth and gives you a horrible toothache in every tooth in your mouth and if that isn't bad enough it also blinds you for two days!

I think everyone had a fun time and all attendees received "Honey Money" to take home a jar of Bill's honey.



News from Kruse

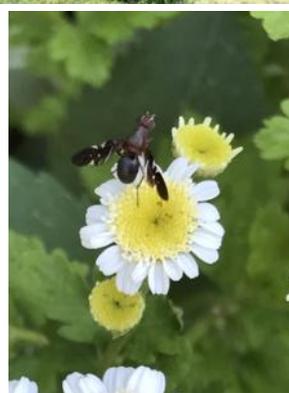
Kerry Perry

The Kruse crew worked diligently preparing for the May meeting and the garden looked spectacular! Unfortunately Mother Nature didn't cooperate so our meeting was held at St. Andrew's Church. The peonies, roses, lilacs, giant irises and more were in full bloom. And, of course the BEES had been installed and look whimsical and fun.

This week, a profusion of self-seeding orange poppies is still pretty. Sweet pea is climbing the trellis on the west side of the house. Native milkweed buds will burst open soon. The red hot poker torch lily has spikes that do look like little blazing torches. The royal purple smoke bush is "smoking". Purple larkspur contrasts nicely against the masses of one-inch, white and yellow, daisy-like feverfew.

The new hosta bed that Billie put in under the lilacs in the back is doing well. The variations of colors and sizes fill pleasingly in what was a blank spot in the garden.

Please, visit the garden even for just a few minutes. See what's in bloom and enjoy the artistic bees. Let us know which your favorites are. And, as you stroll around always feel free to pull a few weeds.



We Go Gardening



Getting to Know ...

Barb Bizzarri



Pamela Caligiuri

Resident of West Chicago: Since 1983

WGCG Member: Past 10 years

Hobbies: Gardening, reading and cooking

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: Hostas

Did you have a garden growing up or what is your earliest memory of a favorite garden?: My grandfather's garden. He grew irises in his South Side Chicago garden

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" gardener or "by the book"

gardener? I'm a little of both!

What is your Summer garden success, so far? My tomato plants. For the very first time, I grew tomato plants under lights. I started them in March. So far they look great.

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

Some people think growing hostas is the easiest plant to grow, however, I have tried some types of finicky hostas without success.

Recent special garden projects? Yes, we had a "Turfstone" path installed and I'm very happy with it. (Turfstone has a unique design and allows rain water to be gradually filtered back into the soil naturally, resulting in the control and stabilization of soil erosion)

Any suggestions for a WGCG meeting speaker or topic? A speaker to talk about shade companion plants for hostas. Like heukeria and epemidium and astilbe.

Garden Notes

Barb Melville

Isn't nature beautiful! the garden did exceptionally well this year!. We should ask all members to send pictures of their most beautiful flowers. These are some of mine!



Looking out of my kitchen window today, I saw something black and white flying along the edge of the pond. Really not much of a pond because of the drought. Anyway, it was either a dragonfly or a damselfly. Time to do a little research.

Damselflies have wings that are both the same size and shape, which taper where they attach to the body. **Dragonflies**, however, have different shaped fore and hind wings. Their hind wings are much broader and don't taper so much where they attach to the body, giving them more of a plane look.

Well, this black and white insect did look a bit like a bi-plane. Illinois is home to 98 dragonfly species. Identification would be really thought. As near as I could determine, it might be a four-spotted skimmer. Photo is courtesy of Univ. of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

Last summer I took this photo of, what I believe to be a yellow meadowhawk. She looks so pretty on the lime-green colored hosta.

In some cultures, **dragonflies** represent **good luck** or prosperity. So make a wish when you see a **dragonfly** and it'll come true.



Local Events for Gardeners

Local Summer Garden Walks

Pottawatomie Garden Club Garden Walk

Saturday, June 26, 9-3 pm

See Website for details <http://www.pottagardenclub.org/Garden-Walk.html>

This year, five spectacular gardens will be offered to the public along with the garden walk's popular Garden Gate Boutique.

Pick up tickets (\$15 each) at Blue Goose Market, Blumen Gardens, Heinz Brothers Greenhouse & Garden Center, Shady Hill Gardens, The Growing Place, Town House Books II & Cafe, Sentimental Gardens, Wasco Nursery & Garden

Midwest Pond & Koi Society's Pond Walk

July 18 OR July 24, 9-5

See Website for details <https://mpks.org/garden-pond-tour/>

\$20 per family Call 312-409-2081 to place your order with a credit card

Sunday July 18th, **CENTRAL**; Lombard, Carol Stream, River Forest, Riverside, North Riverside, Brookfield.

July 24th, **Southwest/West**; Downers Grove, Wheaton, Winfield, Bolingbrook, Naperville, Lisle, Elburn,, Batavia

Elmhurst Garden Walk & Faire *An Afternoon in the Garden*

Sunday July 11, 2021

See Website for details <https://elmhurstgardenclub.org/garden-walk-faire/>

Tickets will be sold with five different entrance times;

(10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm and 2 pm) Purchase tickets online at : Elmhurstgardenclub.org

Four private gardens and two public gardens will be showcased.

Darien Garden Club Walk & Bazaar

Saturday, July 17, 2021 9:30-3:30

See Website for details <https://www.dariengardenclub.com/garden-walk-2021>

Every Garden Tells A Story — Six gardens, creative and diverse, each a story...the gardener the land, the plan and the challenges

Tickets \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the walk at dariengardenclub.com

(tickets may be purchased the day of the walk at the individual homes)

McHenry County Master Gardeners & MCC Garden Walk

Saturday, July 10, 2021, 9:00-4:00.

See Website for details <https://www.mchenry.edu/gardenwalk/>

Tour the McHenry County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden at McHenry County College and then experience some of the most unique, creative gardens across Algonquin, Lake in the Hills, and Crystal Lake. From gardens overlooking a sparkling lake to those with magnificent trees, all nine gardens on the tour are a must-see.



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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 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



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