

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 22 Issue 5 May 2018



**Meeting Date: May 24**

**Meeting Location:**

**Kruse House Garden  
527 Main Street, West Chicago**

**Meeting Time:**

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

## Succulent Planter Workshop at Kruse House

Have you noticed every plant store is carrying succulent gardens?

We will supply everything (plants, stones, shells, wood chips and soil) except your planter/container and any special items like fairies or little statues.

Since we need to make sure we have enough plants, stones, shells, rocks, dirt etc....we ask that everyone RSVP...so far we have 28 members that signed up. If you are attending and did not RSVP yet, please email Barb Melville or call 630-293-4776 and leave a message.

Please bring your own lawn chair (if you have one). **If the weather does not permit us to be outside we will have this meeting at our usual location Faith Community Church, 910 Main Street.**

Our own garden club member, Marcie, has graciously agreed to facilitate this class. Marcie has years of experience working with plants and gardens and has been conducting classes and training in this field.

Marcie's Tips For A Succulent Garden:

- The container should be at least 2" deep
- The container should be large enough for 3 small plants, stones, shells, or other decorative items
- If the container is to be outside it should have adequate drainage holes

- **MAKE IT YOUR OWN!** you can find miniature statues, angels, fairies in just about all plant stores

The West Chicago High School Orchestra will provide our club with a group of string musicians for our enjoyment.



### June 28th Program:

Field trip to a stunning 3 acre garden in Lisle.

### THIS WEEK:

#### Thursday—Member Sale

See email sent Monday with details

#### Friday—Plant Sale Setup

Starting around 4:30 at the tent

#### Saturday— Plant Sale

Morning shift starts at 7:30am. Sale runs from 8am to 2pm and afternoon shift should be done by 3pm

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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 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: Billie Childress  
Program Director: Barb Melville  
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe  
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah  
Director at Large: OPEN

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

## Plant Sale 2018

Dan Beebe

### Friday, May 18th – Setup for Plant Sale

Almost there... We need to move all of the plants potted up at potting parties to the sale site. We will be starting the move-in process at about 5:00PM, but suggest that all volunteers arrive around 4:30PM to help get tables set up and ready to go.

Drivers and everyone that signed-up to help on Friday, should have received an e-mail confirming the location they should report to. If you did not receive an e-mail or did not sign-up and are still available to help on Friday, stop by the sale location at 4:30PM.

Bring your **boxes** that you have been saving to the tent on Friday evening. These are among the last items we want to load into the tent; if possible, please bring these after 7:00PM (or before 7:30AM on Saturday)

### Saturday, May 19th – THE Plant Sale

This is it... What all of your work has been leading up to... We really need every available member to help with the day of the sale.

We expect to have a club information/membership table, so even if you can't help move plants or be on your feet all day we have a job waiting for you.

#### Volunteers Still Needed:

We only have a few people signed up to help Saturday from 11:00 to 3:00. Please come help finish up the sale and pick up the space afterwards.



Everyone that signed-up to help on Saturday, should have received an e-mail confirming their participation. If you did not receive an e-mail or did not sign-up and are still available to help on Saturday, stop by the sale location starting at 7:30AM.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to e-mail me at [dbeebe@yahoo.com](mailto:dbeebe@yahoo.com). — Dan Beebe

#### Needed Supplies:

Box Flats – Bring to Sale Setup on Friday 5/18

**Start saving up for next year!**

1" Wide Vinyl or Aluminum Mini Blinds

Gallon pots

**West Chicago Garden Club Plant Sale at Blooming Fest**

Most plants are from our members' gardens or raised in their greenhouses!

**Saturday May 19, 2018 8:00 AM—2:00 PM Downtown West Chicago**

NATIVES  
Annuals  
Perennials  
Vegetables  
Garden Festival  
Entertainment  
...and more!

*Rain or Shine!  
Arrive early for the best selection.*

For more information, visit [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

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## News from Kruse

## Barbara Darrah



When T. S. Eliot wrote that “April is the cruelest month” he was voicing someone who, unlike our fellow gardeners, didn’t want to break out of the doldrums of winter. However, this year his words certainly applied to us as we suffered through a cold, snowy, rainy month that offered little hope of spring. Nevertheless, the Kruse crew turned out to start bringing the garden out of its winter sleep. I was able to join them at the beginning of May to find everything in excellent shape. Since I am only able to be there occasionally, I concentrated on weeding while the regulars worked on other chores as well.

While pulling up creeping Charlie, my mind wandered back to the early days in the Kruse garden. We started out with the intention of restoring it to its original state. We divided the garden into its separate historic areas and asked members to choose one to restore and maintain. Dick and I chose the iris bed to the side of the path behind the garden shed. We brought bearded iris from home, planted them and weeded throughout the summers. Alas, they kept dying out because of the heavy shade from the pear tree. We started replacing them with Siberian iris, but they weren’t holding up either. Finally, we started putting in daylilies where we could and bought and planted some Azalea bushes. About that time, everyone agreed that we weren’t going to be able to actually restore the garden unless the Kruse House board decided to cut down some of the trees.



Having given up on that idea and realizing that those of us still working were getting burned out, the club decided that we needed to concentrate on planting things that were more easily sustainable and I am amazed at what a great job the new crew of volunteers have done. They came along at a time when they were needed and saved a project that many of us feared might be doomed to failure. I’ve enjoyed being able to join them occasionally and suggest that some of you might enjoy doing so as well. Just show up on a Wednesday morning for a few hours and the crew will find something for you to do.

In the meantime, I encourage you to come to our May meeting and see what a wonderful garden we have created.



## **Notes from Barbara Bizzarri**

It's hard to believe that it was only 6 months ago when I conducted a survey to continue our participation with Blooming Fest. The survey revealed that 98% of the members wanted to continue. I stressed that in order to continue with Blooming Fest there would be one caveat and that was that we would need many volunteers to make this a success.

I'm so proud of the volunteer response we received:

Despite wide weather extremes, you showed up!

Plant Donations?...you delivered

Potting Parties... working together, we got it done and had a good time

Making labels, printing labels placing labels and I'm sure Pamela dreamed about labels....Done!

Donations for the expensive tent....Thank you , Jel Sert, North Star Credit Union, Ball Horticulture, Bond-Dickson and West Chicago UPS Store

Places to hold the plants....Dick, Marcie and the West Chicago Park District stepped up



### **2018 Membership Drive**

Every time you refer someone to the West Chicago Garden Club and they become a member make sure to let us know. You will be entered in an end of year raffle for a \$100 gift card.

One entry for EACH new member you have referred to the club..

### **Meet Your Board/Committee Member:**

Barb Melville, Program Director

Resident of West Chicago since 1996

West Chicago Garden Club Member since 2013

Last or Present Career: Director Human Resources at Arthur Anderson (Q Center) Training Center in St. Charles

Favorite Flower: Gardenia

Hobbies: Art classes, reading, hanging out with family (especially her 2 granddaughters), Theater/Opera/Music Concerts and dancing.

Favorite Local Restaurant: St. Charles Place

My Top Two Favorite Vacation Destinations: Switzerland and Aruba

Finally, special and heartfelt thanks to Dan Beebe. His leadership as the Plant Sale Chairman, clear, concise communication throughout the process and 'can do' attitude made everything come together. Know that when anything looks easy...it never is easy. Thanks, Dan. Finally, we know that behind every successful person, there's someone close to them, listening, encouraging, working alongside them and pushing them forward....Thanks, Pamela. You two make a great team.

So expect GREAT weather for Saturday (we deserve it!) If you haven't signed up to volunteer, just show up and join your fellow members. We can always use your time, talent, expertise and happy attitude.

See you at "the tent"

Barb

### **Don't Forget**

For all of you who placed Blooming Fest signs and flyers around town, Thank You! Please make sure to take them down after the close of the sale.

## We Go Gardening

### Rain Barrel Sale

Did you know that a quarter-inch of rainfall on an average home is estimated to produce over 200 gallons of water? A rain barrel is an easy and environmentally-friendly way to collect clean water for outdoor use, including watering plants and washing your car.

The barrels are repurposed, industrial-sized food containers. The tops are modified to keep mosquitoes and other pests out while letting the water flow freely into the barrel. A spigot is installed to make water easy to access.

Rain barrels are offered for sale through a partnership between the West Chicago Environmental Commission and The Conservation Foundation. Rain barrels may be ordered online through May 28, 2018, and picked up on Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the West Chicago City Hall Parking Lot, 475 Main Street.

For more information, or to purchase a rain barrel, visit <http://upcycle-products.com/westchicagoil.html>

### April Meeting

### Barb Melville

WOW, what can we say about Jim Nau from Ball Horticultural Company. Jim, our April Speaker, gave a 90 minute presentation on almost a hundred new plant varieties for 2018.

Jim literally went from A to T in his handout starting with *Ageratum* and ending with

*Tradescantia*. Jim's colorful presentation and sense of humor added to this great program and giving us a list to follow along with all the plant names will help even the most experienced members of our club.



### Cantigny Park Events

**June 2: Grow It Forward!** Visitors Center Theater, 9 am Hear a talk about vegetable gardening by Liz Omura from Cantigny Horticulture, then take home two tomato plants and two pepper plants and put her advice to work! In return, you commit to sharing your plants, knowledge or the produce you harvest with someone in need. Advance registration is required to receive plants: [Cantigny.org](http://Cantigny.org) or 630.260.8162. Free with paid parking (\$10).

**June 5: Garden Tour: Perennials** Visitors Center, 11 am. - Join Samantha Peckham from Cantigny Horticulture on a leisurely walk focusing on perennials that bloom in early summer. Free with paid parking (\$5).

**June 7: Garden Tour** Visitors Center, 6 pm Cantigny Horticulture offers complimentary evening garden tours on the first and third Thursday of the month, June through September. Tours are conducted by Master Gardener docents and start from the park's Visitors Center. Free with paid parking (\$5).

**June 16 & 17: "Art in Bloom" Fine Art Festival** 10 am to 4 pm. Features a juried art show, nearly 100 exhibiting artists, activities and crafts for kids, demonstrations, live music (Guitarra Azul, Classical Blast and R-Gang), delicious food and more! Free with paid parking (\$10).