

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 5 May 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: May 23**

**Meeting Location: Marcie's house  
29W028 River Glen, West Chicago  
(Just North of Roosevelt Road and  
East of Rt 59)**

**Meeting Time:**

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

## Workshop: Hypertufa + Blade sharpening

**Barb Melville**



Anyone interested in having fun, learning something new and creating your own work of art? Please join us at Marcie's house, 29W028 River Glen, West Chicago, (North of Roosevelt Rd & East of Rt 59).

Each participant will create their own planter/pot/container from our concrete mix, better known as a Hypertufa! The club will provide all materials except the form that you will use to put the cement into and make your creation. The form can be a bowl, plastic container or small box, none to be larger than 12 inches in any direction. Your container can be lined with plastic so when you remove your "cured" creation, your container will still be in good condition. Since these cement items have to "cure" for several weeks, you should bring a cardboard box to place your item into - to transport to your home.



If you absolutely cannot locate a container to use as your mold, Marcie has a few extra but not enough for everyone. **Please RSVP to the newsletter email if you will be participating in this activity and if you are bringing your own mold or need one from Marcie.** You may want

to bring gloves and a small wooden dowel, and if you plan to add some of your own bling, perhaps some colored stones or marbles! Be creative!



Members that don't wish to make this project should come and visit with friends, enjoy the refreshments and view Marcie's beautiful yard. Bring your item/items to be sharpened by John (see sharpening information on page 2). If you have any questions, please send an email.

Note: Marcie suggests that you bring a chair as she doesn't have enough seating for everyone.

**JUNE 27TH MEETING**

**Posey Mosey**

## Blade Sharpener at May Meeting

John's Sharpening Services will be offering each member, that attends the May meeting, a complimentary one tool or up to two knife sharpenings. John will be arriving at Marcie's house at 6:30pm to begin checking in your items. We have contracted with John for the following items to be sharpened:

- Kitchen knives
- Hunting, fishing, fillet or utility knives
- Pocket knife
- Scissors (not hair scissors)
- Pinking Sheers
- Loppers
- Hedge Clippers
- Snippers
- Pruners
- Axe or hatchet



Barb Melville

### Garden Dollars — remember to collect them!

WCGC distributes tokens (Garden Dollars) to members who participate in club activities. At the **November meeting**, you will be able to use them at the **Silent Auction to bid on donated items and gift cards**. Here's how to earn them:

See the chart below for the amount assigned for each activity and come out to volunteer and keep our club going strong. **Keep track of your dollars earned**. Near the end of the year, we will have dollars available at the meetings to pickup and then use for the auction at the November meeting.

### BYOC



### Kerry Perry

Reminder: Coffee and tea will no longer be served at our meetings. We've found that more coffee is thrown out than what members drink.

Bottled water will still be provided. Please Bring Your Own Coffee (BYOC). Thank you.

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or other events		Donate plants for the sale	
1 to 4 hrs	75	Less than 50	75
More than 4hrs	150	50-149	200
		More than150	300
Donate pots	50	Write newsletter article	100
Donate snack for meeting	75	Donate door prize	50
Set up or clean up meeting	25	Meeting attendance	25
Field Trip attendance	25	Pay 2020 dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2019	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Paid 2019 dues before February 4th	50

## Plant Sale 2019

Dan Beebe

### Friday, May 17th – 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 between 4:30 and 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 6:30PM (or before 7:30AM on Saturday)

### Saturday, May 18th – 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. 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 7:00AM.

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

## Don't Forget!

Thursday, May 16  
Member Plant Sale

Friday, May 17  
Plant Sale Setup

Saturday, May 18, 2019

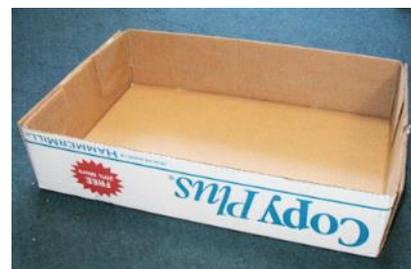
**PLANT SALE**

All volunteers welcome on  
Friday & Saturday



Potting Party 3 may have been our first ever that had snow. We've had cold and rainy weather before, but this late April snowstorm was unique.

Bring Cardboard Box flats to the Sale Tent on Friday, May 17th during our setup.



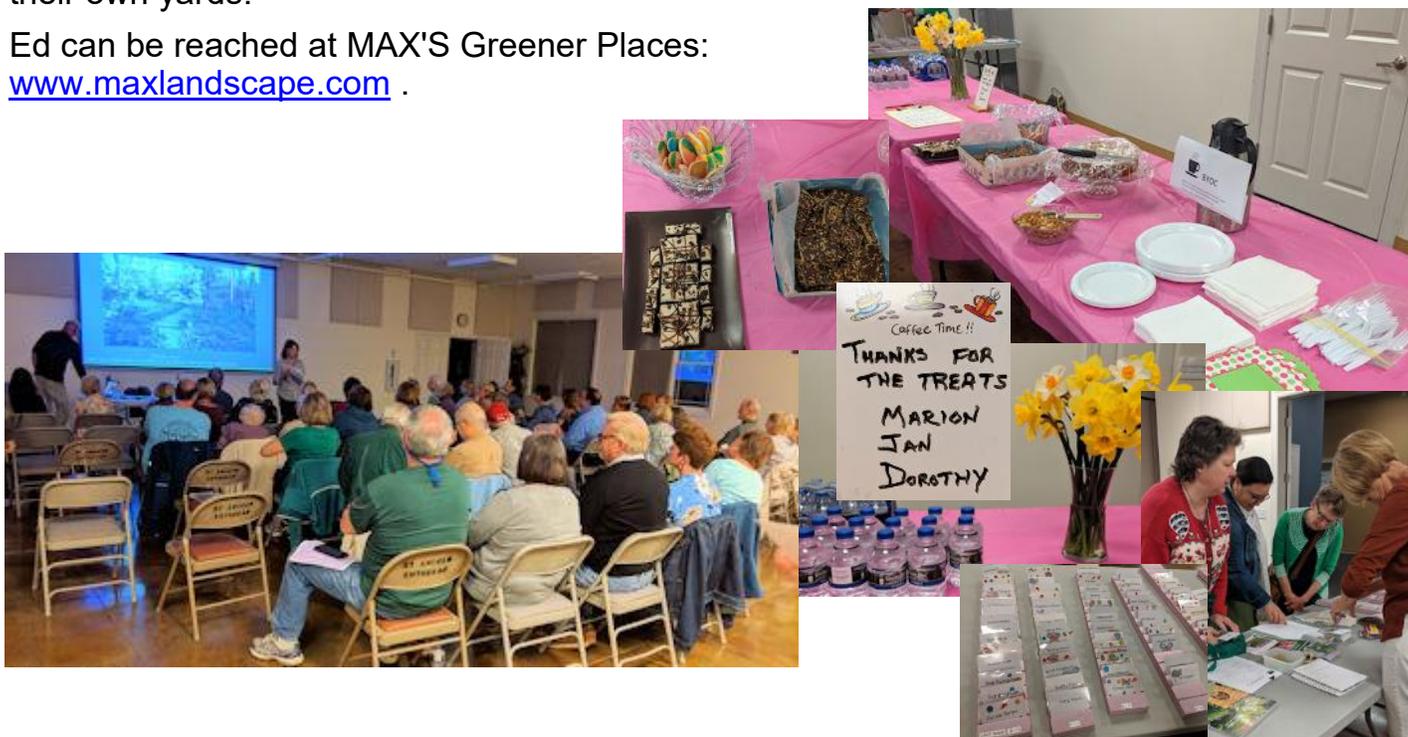
## April Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

Another great speaker and another great presentation! Ed Max, who is also a member of our club, did an outstanding job presenting information on Ephemerals, those lovely flowers that pop up and are gone before you know it! Ed had a great power point presentation with many beautiful flowers such as the ever popular Virginia Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches, Anemone, Bloodroot, Jack In the Pulpit and the ever popular and beautiful Red Trillium (to name just a few). It was very interesting how some of the club members mentioned at the last potting party that they had gone home and discovered many of these plants growing in their own yards!

Ed can be reached at MAX'S Greener Places:

[www.maxlandscape.com](http://www.maxlandscape.com) .



Thank you to all the members who came to the Arbor Day Ceremony at Reed-Kepler Park last month. We had a nice turnout for this quick event. The 3 new trees will look lovely for many years to come.

### **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.



## News from Kruse

Keith Letsche

“Something there is that doesn't love a wall,” Robert Frost once wrote about winter. And not much else in a garden either, he could have added. And so, when Mother Nature finally let the West Chicago Garden Club crew into the Kruse House garden in mid-April after two successive weeks of snow and cold weather, the place had all of the marks of winter's ravages—a litter of fallen branches, topple trellises, and, of course, the beginnings of a hearty crop of new weeds under last year's debris.

The crew went to work immediately. Billie, Barbara Darrah, and Jan spent the day cutting last year's growth and pulling weeds. Keith reconstructed one of the log-and-plank benches that had rotted away. And Kerry removed all of the dirt from the rustic planter box next to the garage so that the rotted-out bottom boards could be replaced. All of the crew's energies were focused on knocking the garden into basic shape early this year for the opening on May 12th of the city-wide Year of the Butterfly celebration, for which the Kruse House Garden is one of the sites where artist-designed butterflies will be displayed. .



Keith Letsche takes a break on his newly complete log-and-plank bench.



Mark Luther, Dick Darrah, and Kerry Perry putting up stakes for artists' butterflies to be displayed in the Kruse House Garden for the Year of the Butterfly celebration.

On April 29th a crew of Mark Luther, Dick Darrah, and Kerry Perry began putting up the stakes for the butterfly exhibit. With one more work day and warmer weather, the garden will finally be ready for the butterflies--both the natural kind and the artist-created ones. Come out to the garden and enjoy both!

*Photos taken at Kruse Garden by Billie Childress*

## Flight of the Butterfly 🦋🦋🦋 Project

The butterflies have taken flight! Our WCGC artists created 7 butterflies and there are an additional 36 butterflies that are scattered around the city. There is a map available to help you to locate each of the butterflies. The print map will be available at City Hall, 475 Main Street; Gallery 200, 118 West Washington Street; and West Chicago City Museum, 132 Main Street. There is also an online [Interactive Map](#). (click link)

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## 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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June 27th	TBD	Garden Walk (Posey Mosey)
July 25th	Barb Bizzarri	President's Picnic
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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## Orioles

**Barb Melville**



Within the last couple days I have noticed an Oriole flying across my deck but did not land anywhere that I could see. I remembered that Orioles love oranges and/or grape jam....not having any grape jam.... I found an orange and a "cutie" and cut them in half and placed them on this metal trellis! Not only did they immediately come to the fruit but they were lined up on the rail waiting their turn to eat from the orange and the tangerine. I think they really liked this trellis because it had a place for them to sit while eating. I have spent a lot of time watching these beautiful birds and enjoying their spectacular orange color.

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## Local Events for Gardeners

- May 24: **Morton Arboretum—Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® bricks by Sean Kenney** Opens May 24 , Daily, May 24–Sept. 15, 7 a.m.–sunset, Free with Arboretum admission—Marvel at 15 larger-than-life, nature-themed displays created from nearly half a million LEGO bricks in this award-winning exhibition from New York artist and “professional kid” Sean Kenney. Walk the Arboretum’s tree-lined east side to discover an oak tree sprouting from an acorn, a monarch butterfly boasting an eight-foot wingspan and a hummingbird perched above a colorful trumpet flower as it sips nectar.
- June 4: **Cantigny Garden Tour: Perennials** , Visitors Center, 11 am. An expert from Cantigny Horticulture will lead a casual exploration of Cantigny’s early-summer blooming perennials. Free with paid parking (\$5).
- June 6: **Cantigny Summer Evening Stroll** , Visitors Center, 6:00pm. Enjoy a one-hour guided stroll with a Master Gardener in Cantigny’s colorful and lush gardens, many of them newly designed and planted in 2018. Advance registration is requested: [Cantigny.org](http://Cantigny.org) or 630.260.8162. Free with paid parking (\$5).
- June 20: **Cantigny Garden Tour**, Visitors Center 6:30 pm, Enjoy one of the longest days of the year on this guided stroll with Craig Kruckenberg and Jackie Kosbab from Cantigny Horticulture. Advance registration is requested. Free with paid parking (\$5).
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Whether you have little space or a deck to fill, container gardening adds color all season long. Pick a pot or combination of containers that work for you. A trio of ceramic pots spruces up a corner. Planters on a windowsill or along a deck rail draw attention. Containers set in the landscape become artful conversation pieces.

**Once you create your Hypertufa container at our May meeting, here are some ideas from The Growing Place for filling it up with the perfect plants.**

Sun, soil and water are essential ingredients for successful blooms. Will your pots be in sun or shade most of the day? Knowing this will help determine which flowers to plant. Using a soil-less potting mix that is made specifically for container gardening will help the roots flourish and not get waterlogged in heavy soil. Plants in containers typically require more frequent watering than plants in the ground. Now, let's pick flowers!

**Fun in the Sun**

Does the sun shine on your patio most of the day? If so, you are in luck when it comes to the variety of annuals available for container gardening. Most people are familiar with the design principle of thriller-filler-spiller to make a well-rounded container. Choosing plants to attract butterflies and birds brings added entertainment into view. One long-blooming combination to try is 'Blue Frost' Salvia with 'Superbells' Calibrachoa and Sweet Potato Vine. Adding fertilizer for soil nutrients is best for maximum performance with Calibrachoa. Don't be surprised if you see some hummingbirds flitting about for nectar!

**Made in the Shade**

Nothing stands out more in the dark than light and bright colors. Begonias love shade and come in assorted colors, blooming all season. Most are low mounded, except for Angelwing Begonia, which could be used for height at 10"-14". New Guinea 'Magnum Series' Impatiens have enormous flowers in a range of colors. Browallia in blue or white is a nice shade alternative to impatiens. The 'Wizard' series of Coleus provide multi-colored foliage in part shade to full shade. Perennial ferns and ornamental grasses for shade add height, variegation, and contrast to dark green leaves and large blooms of color.

**Less Work, More Play**

Are your pots far from a water source or do you just want to relax when you get home? Succulent plants have thick, moisture filled leaves, are drought tolerant and need little fertilization. This means they are low-maintenance! They also come in many forms and colors, so choosing your favorites may be a difficult decision. Succulents can also be overwintered indoors as a houseplant on a sunny windowsill if kept very dry. They are perfect for first-time plant parents and favorites of veteran gardeners.

The best thing about container gardening is the options available to you. Each season gives you the opportunity to pull out an annual that is done blooming and replace it with another. You can plant vegetables, herbs and fairy gardens in containers or plan themes around holidays. Get ideas from containers on site made by The Growing Place designers or pick up a free Plant Guide and look under Annuals. Plants that attract butterflies, birds and hummingbirds are clearly marked. Each plant listed includes best conditions for sun, soil, and water. The color, height, and width are also written next to each plant. Make your wish list then pick out your choices. You will have beautiful blooms in no time!

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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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