



# WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

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

Volume 18 Issue 11 November 2014

## Inside this issue

Non-Club Events & Club Information	2
Planned WCGC Events	3
News from Kruse	4
Garden Dollars	5
Growing Place Article	6

**Babysitting**—The Club provides babysitting during its regular monthly meetings when held at Faith Community Church. There is no fee to you for the service and no reservations are necessary.

**Rides**— Need a ride to the meeting? Call Billie Childress at 231-1791 the Wednesday before the meeting.



## November 20th Meeting:

### Annual Dinner and Garden Dollar Auction

**If you've never been to our auction and dinner, you are in for a treat!**

**The auction:** We have several items for the Garden Dollar silent auction that will take place before, during, and after our dinner.

**For dinner,** a main dish, beverages, and tableware will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, arriving no later than 6:30 p.m.

**For the auction,** bring your Garden Dollars with you—they are the only currency that will be accepted to redeem auction items. 25 Garden Dollars will be given to each attendee as they enter the meeting.

**Do you still have uncollected Garden Dollars from this year's activities?** (see sheet on page 5 for how to earn) Figure up how much you're owed, and collect them from the welcome table as you enter. Renew your membership at the November meeting, and earn 75 Garden Dollars!

**Do you still have items to donate for the auction?** Anyone wishing to donate to the auction can leave things on the back porch of President's Letsche's house, 215 East Washington Street, until Nov. 18th.

We will hold our Annual Business Meeting during this event—if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact Keith Letsche.

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago. Arrive no later than 6:30, dinner starts at 6:45 p.m.**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015, EARN GARDEN DOLLARS—SEE LAST SHEET IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2015**



### Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Cantigny:** Shades of Crimson Poinsettia Display. Dec. 2, 10AM—2PM. Free. Over 3000 poinsettias on display throughout the estate, select available for purchase. Free parking for this event.

**Growing Place:** Holiday Shop Opens Nov. 1. Holiday Open House Nov. 21-23rd. Details at <http://www.thegrowingplace.com/classes.html> or by phone 630.820.8088

**Heinz Brothers:** Arrange Your Own Winter Container. \$15 plus materials. Nov. 25, 28, 29. For more information call 630.377.6288 or email [info@heinzbrothers.com](mailto:info@heinzbrothers.com).

**Morton Arboretum:** Illumination: Tree Lights at the Morton Arboretum. Nov. 21—Jan 3. 5PM—8:30PM. Advance ticket purchase recommended. Call 630-725-2066.

**West Chicago's Frosty Fest:** December 6, 4PM—7PM, Main Street West Chicago. More information at: <http://westchicago.org/community/frosty-fest-2014/>

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn and add some beauty to your garden at



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### Club information

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

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

### Membership information

Dues for 2014: 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

### 2014 WCGC BOARD:

President:

Keith Letsche, 630-293-0192, [keithletsche@aol.com](mailto:keithletsche@aol.com)

Vice President:

Dick Darrah, 630-584-1900, [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah, 630-584-1900, [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

Secretary:

Kathy Reynolds, 630-293-7462,  
[kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net)

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs, 630-545-2234, [pmbiggs@juno.com](mailto:pmbiggs@juno.com)  
June Luther, 630-876-1295, [june@markluther.com](mailto:june@markluther.com)

Information Director & Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, [melissabirch@gmail.com](mailto:melissabirch@gmail.com)



## A Message from President Keith Letsche

The November Potluck Dinner and Auction is my final meeting as President. It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity for the past three years. While some clubs and volunteer organizations falter, we have continued on, unabated, with interesting member programs, one of the major suburban plant sales that is each year more successful, and the on-going refinement of the Kruse House garden into a unique space of beauty and serenity in our City.

I want to acknowledge the other members of the "administration": Dick Darrah, Vice President and Plant Sale "Czar"; Barb Darrah, Treasurer; Kathy Reynolds, Secretary; Marcy Kozlowski, our Board member at-large; Billie Childress, Tom Fessler, Angie Sadauskas, and Kerry Perry, the Kruse House team; Angie also as our "sunshine" gal; Pauline Briggs and June Luther for our programs; Melissa Birch, our newsletter editor and Calling Post "voice"; Shirley Schramer, our refreshments chair; Mike Saad, our membership chair; and Marion Martin, our greeter and door prize manager. Without their unremitting support, I would not have made it through three terms as President.

I also want to thank all Club members for their commitment to participate in Club programs and events. Without it, our Club would not be a club.

-Keith



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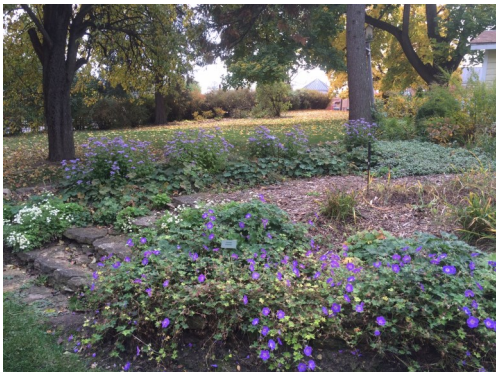
**News from Kruse**

*by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom*

The last Monday in October was our final work day at the Kruse Museum. We admired the fall colors of the serviceberries, maples, and smoke bushes. We noted the last great plant combinations—blue ageratum with cream feverfew, pale yellow nasturtiums with a blanket flower. The cotoneasters are beautiful in fall. They have small red-orange leaves with many red berries.

We cut back perennials and annuals, stored garden decorations and generally spruced up the garden for the winter. Our time together in the garden was fun. It's a place where we tried out plants, discussed plants, admired some and pulled others. I'm sure this winter we will again look through garden books and hopefully find some new ideas for "our" garden.

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, here are some taken in the garden.



Till next year----Angie

Special thanks to our "Krusies" for all of their hard work over the past year!





## 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 **auction to bid on fabulous prizes**. Here's how to earn them:

To receive your Garden Dollars after earning them, pick them up at special events from the event organizer, or see club officers at the information table at any meeting, and let them know what you've earned.

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or garden contest (1 to 4 hrs , >4hrs)	75 - 150	Donate plants for the sale <50, 50-149, ≥150	75, 200, 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
Trip attendance	25	<b>Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2014</b>	<b>75</b>
Donate to Kruse House	50	<b>Pay dues before February 2nd</b>	50

**Pick up the Garden Dollars you've earned before the auction starts in November!**

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No meeting in December—we'll see each other again on January 22nd!



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## Winding Down in the Garden

by The Growing Place

We've had a couple of frosts, signs that gardening activity is winding down. But it's not quite time to put away the garden tools and gas up the snow blower (we hope). Here are some recommendations for fall clean up to help you to prepare for the holidays and get a healthy start next spring.

### There's Still Time to Plant

We plant trees and shrubs well into November. With the proper care, you can plant new or move existing trees or shrubs successfully. Although we don't recommended transplanting conifers (pines, spruce, etc.) at this time, deciduous trees and shrubs can be transplanted successfully if you dig a generous root ball. Water well at installation and monitor moisture until the ground freezes. You can also continue planting spring flower bulbs until the ground freezes. Remember to water bulbs well at time of planting.

### Protecting Pots and Plants

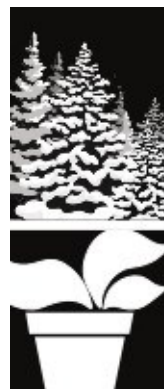
Protect vulnerable plants from rabbits and other gnawing varmints by placing a cylinder of chicken wire, graduated wire fencing or netting around the trunk. Make sure protective fences are high enough to deter rodents standing on accumulated snow. Some plants that need winter protection from rabbits include: roses and recently planted trees and shrubs. It's still too early to mulch roses. Wait to place protective mulch around roses until the ground has frozen solid. Consider using a wire ring of fencing to hold mulch around plants and protect against critters. Ceramic pots and garden décor should be stored in your basement or garage if they are not too heavy to move. If you can't move them, provide protection outdoors by raising pots and statuary off the soil onto pavers or bricks and cover with a waterproof plastic tarp. Bird baths, not equipped with an electric heater, should be covered or the bowl flipped over so water does not freeze in the basin.

### Pruning, Holiday Prep and More

Now that the leaves have fallen and exposed the branch architecture of trees and shrubs consider removing dead, diseased and crossing branches. **Important note:** Don't prune early spring flowering trees and shrubs at this time unless you're willing to give up some flowers. As a general rule, prune trees and shrubs just after flowering, but before setting new buds.

Remember last winter? All the soil froze in our containers before we had a chance to add fresh greens for the holidays. This year, we suggest removing the soil now before it freezes solid. You can keep the soil in your garage or basement until you're ready to create your holiday arrangements. To extend the life of your holiday greens, spray with an anti-transparent like Wilt-Pruf®. This will help reduce moisture loss. Be sure to follow the directions on the label. After the last cut of the season, run your lawn mower out of gas—in spring you'll be glad you did.

Get out and garden. Enjoy the unique beauty fall weather brings to your yard and garden.



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