

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 22 Issue 11 November 2018



**Meeting Date: November 15**

**Meeting Location:  
Faith Community Church  
910 Main St, West Chicago**

**Meeting Time:**

**6:30PM Arrive & Mingle  
6:45PM Annual Dinner  
and  
Garden Dollar Auction!**

## November Potluck & Silent Auction

We are back to Faith Lutheran Church for our November Meeting which is our Annual Potluck and Silent Auction.

This meeting IS NOT being held on our regular 4th Thursday of the Month, rather one week earlier, the **third Thursday** of the month, November 15th, due to Thanksgiving.

The club will provide a main dish, beverages, and tableware. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

**IMPORTANT**; remember to include your November Potluck offering recipe so that we can start to compile a WCGC Cookbook.



Our annual silent auction will also be held in conjunction with the potluck supper.

Small items for the auction may be dropped off at Keith Letsche's, 215 East Washington Street (Washington and Sophia Streets), West Chicago, beginning November 13, 2018. Bring larger items with you the night of the auction. All items should be garden- or plant-related, such as pots, gardening tools,

gardening books, etc. (but, please, no glass florist vases).

At the beginning of the evening, please pick up your bidder number and garden "dollars." A schedule of garden-dollar-eligible Club activities and the number of garden dollars allotted to each activity will be near the door to the room. The Silent Auction bids are only in "Garden Dollars" which are earned by members by participating in the club. (See page 6 for a chart.)

Bids are entered on bid sheets next to each item by bidder number and garden dollar amount.

Bidding may be done at anytime during the meeting until the announcement that the auction is closed. There is no reserve.

You must take all items won with you that night, as there is no storage for them at the church.

Please contact Keith Letsche at (630) 293-0192, with any questions about the auction.

**SEE YOU IN JANUARY!**

**Reminder: We do not meet in December.  
January Speaker: Carolyn Ulrich, Editor of  
Chicagoland Gardening Magazine**

## Gardening Notes from Barb Bizzarri

Parsley can be saved. You may have already noticed that it is a cold tolerant herb. Pick the last green stems, rinse off the dirt, dry with paper towels and place them in a zip lock plastic bag with the air squeezed out. They'll keep in the freezer for months and they are a perfect addition to your Winter soups and stews.

Close the compost pile for the winter. It's activity has been slowing for a while now and tossing kitchen scraps on it at this point leads only to a pile of frozen garbage that doesn't break down. Give the pile one last turn, if possible, and cover with a tarp

Buy your amaryllis bulbs right now, if you want them to be part of your holiday season decor. It typically takes 6-8 weeks to flower. Pick up amaryllis "kits" (your local garden center, Target, Menards, etc) or buy loose bulbs and plant them yourself. These are best purchased at a garden center/nursery (check our sponsor listing in this newsletter) for high quality and best selection. Just remember that these hefty bulbs should be planted half in and half out of the potting mixture.



### Getting to Know ...Nadine Buck

Resident of West Chicago 4 years

West Chicago Garden Club Member for 3 years

Besides Gardening Art; Painting, Bookmaking/ Book Arts, Mix-Media. (Nadine displays her work at Gallery 200.)

My Favorite Flower: Gardenia

Advice to New Gardener: Attend the WCGC meetings. You'll learn so much.

Biggest Gardening Mistake: "I've made plenty of them"! I once planted sun loving plants in the shade. I'm still learning even though I've learned a lot through the years.

Last Career: Art teacher for K-8th grade. I also was a 5th grade teacher for a number of years.

Favorite Restaurant; Pietanza's, located on the southwest corner of Rt 59 and Army Trail Road. It's a newer restaurant with excellent Italian food.

Favorite Vacation: : I've travelled to 7 continents. I love to travel. Last destination was a Cunard Cruise on the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth where one of the stops ended up being my favorite, the Canary Islands

Why Should Someone Join WCGC?: Interesting programs, you'll learn a lot, very active group and the membership is made up of a variety of people who are all very nice. I also joined because I knew Dick Darrah, (former President of WCGC) We attended Wheaton High School together.

### MEET YOUR BOARD/COMMITTEE

MEMBER: Keith Letsche, Vice President

Resident of West Chicago since: 1999

West Chicago Garden Club Member since 2000

Has held the following WCGC Board Positions: Current VP, President, and past VP

Favorite Flower/Plant Zinnias, Wisteria and a late fall blooming Allium

Last or Present Career: Municipal Attorney in private practice

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Planting wild ginger which escapes

Hobbies: Collector and student of lighting. Keith is a member of the Rush Light Club, a Historical Lighting Club and is their editor of their historical lighting journal "Rushlight"

Favorite Local Restaurant: Hugo's Frog Bar, Naperville and Aliano's Ristorante, Batavia

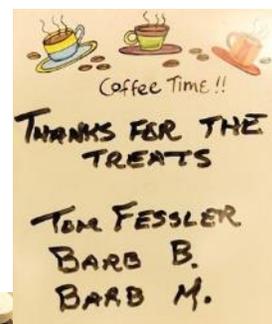
My Top Favorite Vacation Destinations: Upstate New York and New England in the US, England and Italy in Europe

**Fall leaf collection began October 29th and ends November 30, on your regularly scheduled garbage pickup day. **NO STICKERS** are required.**

## October Meeting Recap

Keith Letsche/Barb Melville

At the October meeting, our own Keith Letsche presented a garden travelogue of photos from a tour of England he took last year. Titling his presentation “English Gardens: Incidental Glimpses,” Keith explained that the tour focused on 19th century architecture and art, and that the garden shots we’d be seeing were taken at odd moments before or after a site visit, waiting for the bus, or just walking around a town. They ranged from shots of large formal gardens of country houses, to suburban yards, cottage flower boxes, and even a pub covered with hanging baskets. One of the most interesting gardens he showed was that of Gertrude Jekyll, the late 19th-early 20th century landscape designer and horticulturalist, who advocated informal planting arrangements that relied on native British species. This very interesting presentation was enjoyed by all the attending club members.



Based on our recent Member’s Survey results, starting in January, 2019 meetings, will be held at our new location:

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

## Holiday Light Recycling

Free holiday lights recycling is offered through the West Chicago Environmental Commission from November 23 to January 18. Strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights and household extension cords in any condition may be dropped off at:

- **City Hall**, 475 Main Street
- **First United Methodist Church of West Chicago**, 643 East Washington Street
- **West Chicago Water Treatment Plant**, 1400 West Hawthorne Lane

Other locations are expected to be added to the list. Please check the city website for more information. <https://westchicago.org/>



## News from Kruse

Keith Letsche

For the final report of 2018 on Kruse House, Keith Letsche, one of the Kruse House Crew, gives us this poetical reflection, written last year, on the end of the gardening season:

Cold Snap, November 8, 2017

From high atop their trellises,  
the Black-eyed Susan vines have seen  
the cold rays of a morning sun that  
can no longer climb above the roof top,  
and bow their heads in unconditional surrender to  
the message of the night.

A lone woodpecker  
taps out a knell on the silver maple  
in a frantic quest for the lost creatures of summer.  
Amid the carpeting leaves  
from the weeping trees  
only the silly Purple Tower,  
feeling invincible in its cast-iron urn,  
spreads its thick insensate leaves  
in a still joyous expression of immortality.

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**Our club Slate of Officers will be voted on at our November Meeting.**

Both the Vice President position and Director-at-large position are open.

**Become involved. It'll be a rewarding experience**

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## Be On The Lookout for Deer

*From the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County*

This time of year DuPage drivers need to do more than just keep their eyes on the road. They need to be on the lookout for deer, too.

Fall is mating season for deer, which means these 100-pound mammals will be crossing roads more frequently and with less caution in pursuit of partners. In fact, between October and December an Illinois driver has a 1-in-200 chance of getting in a deer-related accident

## **Attract Birds and Butterflies With Coneflowers—A tip from Barb Melville**

The beautiful, daisy-like flowers of coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) make it a must-have for any perennial bed. However, coneflowers aren't just pretty – they also attract both butterflies and birds to your garden.

Coneflowers get their name from their 'cone-shaped' center. Like most of my favorite plants – coneflowers aren't fussy. They aren't particularly bothered by pests and do not require any fertilizer. All they ask for is well-drained soil, a spot in the sun and regular watering. They are native to the United States and are easy to grow in zones 3 – 8.

Coneflowers attract all types of butterflies, including Fritillaries, Monarchs, Painted Ladies and Swallowtails, who feed on the sweet nectar.

Birds also enjoy coneflowers in the garden. Blue Jays, Cardinals and Goldfinches enjoy eating the seeds from spent flowers. Don't prune off the dead flowers. Instead, let them stand throughout winter, where they will offer food to hungry birds. Once spring arrives, simply cut back your coneflowers to the ground. They will soon grow back to bloom in summer.

Coneflowers, are available in a variety of colors. In addition to lavender, you can find them in white, yellow, orange, red and green colors.

So, if your perennial garden has a few bare spots to fill,(or even if it doesn't), plant some coneflowers in your favorite color and enjoy the butterflies and birds that it is sure to attract!



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### **TIME TO RENEW**

**Renew your membership at the November meeting,  
and earn 75 Garden Dollars!**

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## **Cantigny Park Events**

**November 16: Shades of Crimson Poinsettia Display & Sale** Cantigny Greenhouse, 11am-7pm — Visitors are invited to the Cantigny Greenhouse to enjoy a sea of poinsettia plants at their holiday best. See 15 or more varieties and 3,000-plus poinsettias in total, all grown on site from cuttings. Plants will be available for sale, and Cantigny horticulturists will be available to answer questions at points along your self-guided tour. Visitors should park in the main lot at the Cantigny Visitors Center, then walk to the greenhouse or ride the free trolley. Free with parking (\$5).

**December 1: Celebrate the Season Holiday Festival** Park Wide, 1-7pm—Families and children of all ages will enjoy the park's 8th annual holiday festival. Attractions include Mistletoe Market, horse-drawn "sleigh rides," facepainting, live reindeer display and of course a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Event is free but a small fee may apply to some activities. Parking is \$5 per car.

**December 15: Holiday Stroll & Open House** 4-7pm—Enjoy the park at its lighted holiday best! Visit The Great Holiday Tank Bake-Off at the First Division Museum and the annual Community Trees display inside McCormick House. Vote for your favorite tree, decorated by a local charity. Both museums will host self-guided tours and festive photo opportunities. At the Visitors Center, Bertie's Bistro and the Cantigny Shop will offer holiday specials. Free with parking (\$5).

## Did You Know....Turner Town Hall, 132 Main Street

Barb Bizzarri

Turner Town Hall originally functioned as the seat of government for the first Village of West Chicago, providing police and fire control services to the community.

West Chicago was originally known as Junction, as three railroads crossed through it. The Galena and Chicago Union Railroad erected the first railway station in the town in 1849, and in five years' time, the town was an important railway maintenance stop. Working on steam engines and railway cars at the time induced a great fire hazard, but there were no city services to fight the blazes. All fire control was ineffectively provided by private companies.

In 1883, the village, now known as Turner, approved the construction of a Town Hall. Aside from its town safety functions, the hall also provided a meeting place for citizens of the village and hosted a local museum. Fire protection was officially added in 1888. The town hall maintained its functions until 1976 when it was re-designated the West Chicago City Museum. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.



### 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 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. There will be Garden Dollars available at the November meeting. **Pick up the Garden Dollars you've earned before the auction in November!**

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 2018</b>	<b>75</b>
Donate to Kruse House	50	<b>Pay dues before February 2nd</b>	<b>50</b>

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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)

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