

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 11 November 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: November 21

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

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

Potluck & Silent Auction

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

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

We are requesting that each and every member attending donate a minimum of one 'gently used' or new or hand-crafted gardening item for the Auction. All items should be garden or plant-related in some way, such as pots, gardening tools, gardening books, bird houses, etc. (but, please, no glass florist vases).

We have NEW drop off instructions this year. **Drop off your item(s) any time after 1 pm on the day of the meeting/Auction, Thursday November 21st**, at our meeting location, St Andrews Church **OR** bring the items with you to the meeting. For each item you donate, you will need to submit a description of the item which will be used that night for people to add their auction bid. (See form on page 7)

For those who are new, the Silent Auction bids are only in "Garden Dollars" which are earned by members by participating in the club. See page 7 for a chart and pick up your dollars before the Auction starts. They will be available at the November meeting before the bidding begins.



You will also need to pick up your "Bidder Number" when you arrive. 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.

The Auction is being organized this year by Chris Gicela (with Keith Letsche mentoring).

SEE YOU IN JANUARY!

Reminder: We do not meet in December.

Mystery Solved ...

Barb Bizzarri



In our October Newsletter I put out a call for the Mystery Woman who gave a good tip for a very effective homemade cleaner to clean your brick patio and get rid of weeds and moss. The mystery is now solved...it's Jean Ann Saarnio, who is profiled in this month's "Getting To Know" column.

Here's the recipe.

1 gallon of white vinegar
2 TBL Dawn dishwashing detergent
1 cup of salt

Thanks, Jean Ann !

Out and About

Barb Bizzarri



Shady Hill Gardens, one of our newsletter sponsors, is located in Elburn, 42 W 075 Rt 38/Roosevelt Road. Its only a few miles west of Randall Rd, you'll pass the Kane County Court House.

Shady Hill Gardens started in Batavia in 1974. It was moved to Elburn in 1992. Come see their spectacular Dutch glass greenhouses that house this business. The Holiday Season is abundantly evident with all the poinsettias, fresh evergreens, roping and wreaths. So come out for a visit.

FYI; Looking towards Spring, Shady Hill Gardens has gained a national reputation as a geranium specialist.

Check out page 6 for "Local Events for Gardeners" for two annual Shady Hill Gardens favorites, their Annual Artisan Christmas Market and Poinsettia Glow



Notes from Barb Bizzarri—

Couldn't be a better time of year to give THANKS to my fellow Board Members:

Dan Beebe, VP and Bloomingfest Chair. Thanks for your hard work and organization

Kerry Perry, Treasurer. Thanks for your expertise and keeping us all 'balanced'.

Pamela Darrah, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Thanks for keeping us in the 'know' and your creative stamp on every newsletter

Barb Melville, Program Director. Thanks for scoping out the best of the best speakers and tours (Mayslake) and making our annual craft project (hypertufa container) happen !

Chris Gicela, Director at Large. Thanks for serving and for your help on the upcoming November Auction.

Billie Childress, Kruse House Chair, Thanks for your gardening expertise, recruiting the Kruse House helpers and making the Gardens of Kruse House bloom!

Tom Fessler, Refreshments Chair, Thanks to you and Kerry for always setting up meeting refreshments and greeting everyone with a welcoming smile.

Jan Grismore, Hospitality Chair, Thanks for being the pleasant greeter to both old and brand new members. You set the stage and tone for the type of club we are !

Finally, to **all of our members** thanks for making the West Chicago Garden Club grow!!

For All you All do... Thank You !

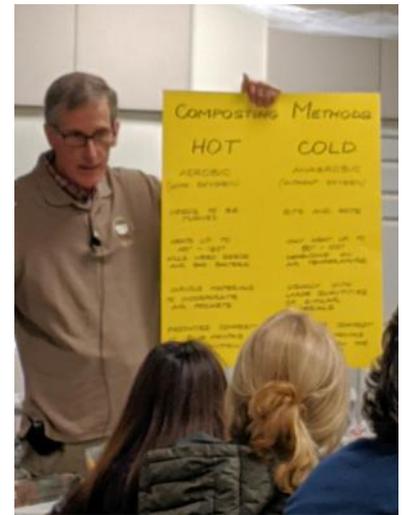
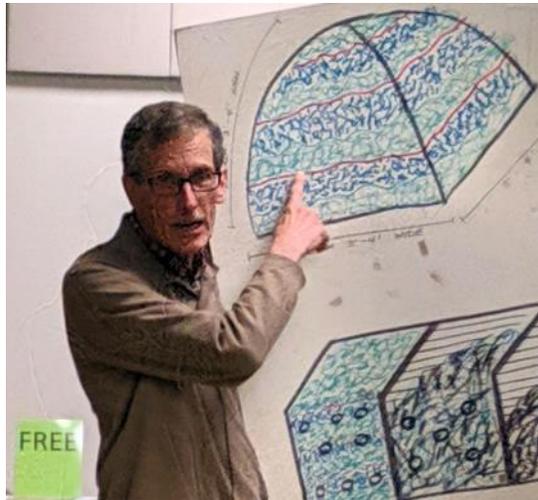
Barbara Bizzarri

A Seasonal Tip: If you have pots that you want to use for Christmas greens, dig out the top 8-10" of soil from your pots now while they're not quite frozen. Put the soil in your garage or basement. Once you're ready to make your pots, you can place it back in your pots and fill with greens and other decorations.



October Meeting Recap

WOW what a great presentation by Bill Kargas at the October Meeting; no wonder Bill was recommended by so many of the other garden clubs! As you can see by our pictures we had a great turn out and many members said how much they enjoyed Bill's talk. This was the first time that a presenter spoke on two separate topics: Composting and Putting Your Garden To Sleep For The Winter. Bill was extremely interactive with the group, answered everyone's questions and showed what a great sense of humor he has. Bill did such a super job that we might invite him back again!



Coffee Time!!
THANKS FOR THE TREATS
TOM FRESSLER
BARB B.
LINDA FISHER



We're at the end of the year and **what a year it was!**

I do not exaggerate when I say the **Garden was the "best ever"**.

Many things coalesced to bring that to fruition, but the most important factor by far, was these skilled and dedicated gardeners! These folks put in a lot of hours creating and maintaining the garden and they must be recognized as the bedrock to our success. Many thanks to Kerry, Shirley, Jan, Barbara, Chris, and Keith! You are the BEST!



We planted 200 of these **tulip bulbs** in the garden this fall. I think they will be a delight to behold next Spring! That may sound like a lot of work but it went pretty quickly. We put 5 bulbs in a hole and found places where we could put in three (sometimes five) holes together. We sent for the bulbs from John Scheepers. They were really nice big bulbs! I liked them so much I put in 200 at my house too!



Thanks to Barb Bizzarri for donating this **nice bench** to the Garden! It's not unusual to see visitors sitting there when I go at random times during the week to feed the kitties. It's a great addition to our garden!

Speaking of **VISITORS**....I wish I had a count, but I'm confident that we had more visitors in the garden this year than any other since the club took on the Garden as our Community Service project twenty years ago! And that increase in visitors was largely due to the spectacular garden art on display this year! Lots of people came to see the artful butterflies our members created, and enjoyed the garden while they were there. We hope they were all inspired to do some gardening of their own after their visit. Many thanks to Janine, Pauline, Marcy, Jodi, Dick, Barbara, Pamela, Jan, Jean Ann, Tom, Barb B, Barb M, Ruth, Kurt, and Kerry for the your artful creations! They were "frosting on the cake"!



Jean Ann Saarnio



Resident of West Chicago: for 20 years

West Chicago Garden Club Member: for 15 years

Hobbies: Gardening and swimming

Favorite Flower: Forget-Me-Not

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Planting a variety of flowers under a Black Walnut Tree!

Current Career: RN

What Gardening chore do you hate: Preparing the garden for Winter and cutting it all down

If you could have one flower in your garden what would it be: Hydrangea

What are your favorite and most entertaining birds in your garden: Wrens . Jean Ann has had one poor male build a nest for several Springs and no female has joined him : (

What plants are you currently most excited about? I'm thinking ahead to Spring and planting more anemones bulbs

Local Events for Gardeners

Nov 15-16: **Shady Hill Gardens Artisan Christmas Market**, 9am-4:30pm, Eight artists and makers from the area who will be showing their wares. [Shady Hill Website](#)

Nov 22: **Cantigny Shades of Crimson Poinsettia Display & Sale** Greenhouse, 11am-4 pm. 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. Groups are welcome, but notice is requested for parties of 10 or more. 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). [Cantigny November Calendar](#)

Nov 22—Dec 29: **Cantigny Community Trees Display**, Robert R. McCormick House, Christmas trees artfully decorated throughout the historic home by seven local non-profit groups with missions linked to Colonel Robert R. McCormick. Visitors can take a guided “tree tour” and then vote for their favorite. Participating nonprofits receive a grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and the organization with the winning tree earns additional funding. Museum visitors may also donate if they choose. Free with paid parking (\$5) [Cantigny November Calendar](#)

Nov 23-Jan 5: **Morton Arboretum Illumination Tree Lights**, 4:30-9:30pm p.m. Be surrounded by color as you walk a one-mile paved path amid immersive and interactive lighting effects that highlight the beauty of trees in winter. See their [website](#) for details of dates and prices.

Dec 3: **Shady Hill Gardens Annual Poinsettia Glow**, 4-6pm See candles interspersed amidst several hundred poinsettia plants ...A sight to see!

Dec 7: **Cantigny Celebrate the Season Holiday Festival**, 1-7pm, 9th annual holiday festival. Attractions include Mistletoe Market, horse-drawn “sleigh rides,” facepainting, live reindeer display and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free but a small fee applies for some activities. Parking is \$5 or free for those bringing a new and unwrapped toy for the Marine Toys for Tots drop box inside the Cantigny Visitors Center. [November Calendar](#)

We Go Gardening

Print and cut-out the Auction Item form to bring with your donation. Also available as a Word document sent with the newsletter email.

Auction Item	Bid																
	Number																
	Bid																
	Number																

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.

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

Park District Memorial Tree Information

Barb Bizzarri

At our August meeting, Supt of Parks, Mike Gasparini, presented the West Chicago Parks Memorial Tree Program. This would make a great Christmas 'living' gift.



Memorial Tree & Bench Program

The West Chicago Park District has opportunities available to memorialize your loved ones by purchasing a bench or a tree to be placed in the District's park system.

Memorial Trees

Memorial trees are a great way to honor a loved one and also be friendly to the environment. Memorial trees must be purchased through the District and can be done so at any time throughout the year. However, the trees will only be planted in the spring and fall of each calendar year. As the purchaser of a memorial tree, you may choose from a variety of different tree species at the time of purchase. After installation, purchasers will be notified of the exact location of their specific memorial tree so that everyone wishing to remember their loved ones can visit it. Due to maintenance issues, a memorial plaque is not included with a memorial tree or permitted after installation. The total cost of a memorial tree is \$240, which includes the purchase and installation of a tree, and a 1-year warranty.

Memorial Benches

Memorial benches are another way to memorialize a loved one and also enhance the aesthetics of the District's park system. Memorial benches must be purchased through the District and can be done so at any time throughout the year. Weather permitting, the installation of the benches can only be completed from April - October and will be completed at the earliest possible date from the District's receipt of the bench. After installation, the purchaser will be notified of the exact location of the bench so that everyone wishing to remember their loved ones can visit it. Although there is only one type of bench and a standard color to choose from, each memorial bench will include a 4" x 6" brushed stainless plaque that can be engraved with a short memorial message. The Parks Superintendent or designee must approve memorial messages. The total cost of a memorial bench is \$1,000, which includes the bench, three replacement plaques, delivery, plaque engraving and installation.

Additional Information

The West Chicago Park District cannot accept memorial trees or benches purchased outside of the framework listed above. The Parks Recreation Department makes the final determination as to where memorial benches and trees are placed within the park system. The West Chicago Park District is not responsible for damage to the memorial donation as a result of weather or vandalism. The West Chicago Park District does not guarantee the lifespan of a tree donation past the 1-year warranty period. The memorial benches have a 5-year warranty on product defects only, deemed as such solely by the manufacturer. The West Chicago Park District will remove damaged benches or diseased and non-living trees at their discretion.

Please fill out a Memorial Tree and Bench RequestForm (A copy is attached to the email that had the link to this newsletter or you can find it on the Park District website at <https://www.wegoparks.org/memorial-trees> and return to: West Chicago Park District, 201 W. National Street, West Chicago, IL 60185 or mmedeiros@we-goparks.org.

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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 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

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