



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 18 Issue 10 October 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.

October 23rd Meeting: Pressing Flowers Activity with Joann Loebel

This month's meeting is a hands-on flower pressing activity! We will be learning from Joann as to how to press flowers, and will craft a bookmark made of pressed flowers.

Don't forget—our next meeting is our Annual Dinner and Garden Dollar Auction!



*Special thanks to **Pauline Briggs** and **June Luther** for another fun Bulb Bingo at our last meeting! We appreciate all of their hard work planning our monthly programs.*

Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago

6:45pm - refreshments and gathering

7:00pm - brief business meeting

7:15pm - Flower Pressing!

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 20th

Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction



Upcoming events (outside the club)

Cantigny: Thanksgiving Centerpiece Floral Class. November 24. \$45 fee per person. 6:30PM. Advance registration required. 630.668.5161.

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.

West Chicago Farmers Market: Thursdays, 7am—1pm, until October 30th. Mosaic Crossing Shopping Center (64/59 near Hobby Lobby and McDonalds).

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

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



2010 East Main St. (Rt. 64), St. Charles
630.377.6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com

Your Gardening Source...



PLATT HILL NURSERY

www.platthillnursery.com

Bloomington
222 W. Lake St.
(630) 529-9394

Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Sun 10am-5pm

Carpentersville
2400 Randall Rd.
(Randall & Huntley Rds.)
(847) 428-6767

Club information

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
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

Vice President:

Dick Darrah, 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Treasurer:

Barb Darrah, 630-584-1900, info@bwdarrah.com

Secretary:

Kathy Reynolds, 630-293-7462,
kreynolds2656@sbcglobal.net

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs, 630-545-2234, pmbiggs@juno.com
June Luther, 630-876-1295, june@markluther.com

Information Director & Publicity:

Melissa Birch, 630-621-0128, melissabirch@gmail.com



Planned WCGC Events - 2014

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
28 Aug	Lou Horton	Beyond the Hosta	23 Oct	Joann Loebel	Pressing Flowers
25 Sep	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo!	20 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

As you know, if you've attended one of our fun November dinner/auction events in the past, we depend on our members to bring items they have or have found that could be won by others in a silent auction. It's great if these can be "garden-themed." In the past we've had hand-made gazing balls, note paper, yard tools, flower arrangements, plants, books, and even mystery boxes. The club supplements the members' items with gift certificates from our generous sponsors. In November, we hope everyone takes home something!

It's not too late take another look at what you might have at your house, or to keep your eyes open at a garage sale or dollar store—that could be the most bid-upon item of the night. If you have any questions about the auction, or already have an item(s) to donate, please contact Keith Letsche.



An Investment That Grows

THE GARDEN CENTER IS BLOOMING WITH IDEAS!

MEYER LANDSCAPING, INC.
Nursery, Landscaping Design & Construction

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185
Tel: (630) 293-4800

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR SPECIALS!!!
WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM

LARGE TREES & SHRUBS, ROSES, PERENNIALS, & ANNUALS

SPRING HOURS
MON-SAT: 9-5
SUN: 10-4 (4/15-6/30)

Spring Bluff Nursery, Inc.

Specializing in growing landscape quality trees and shrubs

**Retail Garden Center
Landscape Design & Installation
Trees, Shrubs & Perennials**

41W130 Norris Rd.
Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554

630.466.4278
www.springbluffnursery.com
plants@springbluffnursery.com

Growing, learning and educating since 1979...

Celebrating 87 Years & Still Growing

A lot has changed over 87 years but our commitment to our customers and to our community has not.

Quality Plants & Expert Service
... Since 1925



Come to the Grower

WASCO NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

630-584-4424

6 miles west of Randall Road on Route 64, St. Charles
1 mile west of Wasco
www.wasconursery.com

160 Acres of Nursery Stock * 10 Acre Garden Center * Landscape Design & Installation





News from Kruse

by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom

The West Chicago Historical Society's annual Ice Cream Social was a big hit again this year. It was a gorgeous day and people turned out to enjoy the excellent baked goods provided. The garden co-operated fully and never looked better, and everybody enjoyed a great event.

Well folks, here it is October already, and it's time to shut down our gardens for the winter. All the plants and flowers that we enjoyed so much this summer will be covered with snow in a couple of months.

Being that it is almost Halloween I'm going to relate what happened to me several weeks ago. For those of you who know me, and those of you who don't, I love Halloween. I decorate my house, and my yard. A couple of years ago a friend of mine gave me several Japanese Lantern plants. I have planted them in several areas of my yard. A number of these plants came up near the entrance of my driveway. One thing about Japanese Lantern plants is that they grow where they want to. For those not familiar with these plants, they have small flowers that look like little orange lanterns. Anyway, I have got these little lanterns growing and the more I looked at them the more I realized that they look like little pumpkins. I thought to myself, wouldn't it be great if these little "pumpkins" had little Jack-o-Lantern faces on them. My Granddaughter would just love them. So I get my black marker out, and draw small Jack-o-lantern faces on each lantern, all sixteen of them. It was a sight to behold. I couldn't wait for her to see them.

Not dwelling on what I had done, I kind of forgot about lanterns. That was until, a lady knocked on my front door holding one of the little lanterns in her hand. She said that her and her two children walking by and her five year old son had spied the Jack-o-Lanterns. He had run up and picked one of the little lanterns, and then brought it back to show his Mother. Being a good Mother, she felt it necessary to apologize for her son's actions. I thanked her, and told her to keep the lantern for her son. She then asked me about the plant itself, and wanted to know where she could buy these Jack-o-lantern plants. She said she was not from around here and had never seen anything like them. She expressed



an apparent interest to grow these herself. Oh-Oh, what do I say now? Do I admit that I'm a bit crazy, and spent an hour drawing faces on my plants. Or do I make up some story about how these are experimental plants that are not on the market yet. Now, for those of you who know me, and those of you who don't, Happy Halloween. Oh, and by the way, keep your eyes open for the new Jack-o-Lanterns plants, soon to be available at your local greenhouse.

-Tom



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	Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2014	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Pay dues before February 2nd	50

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

Prestige
NURSERY GARDEN CENTER INC.
Family owned & operated

28 W. 761 Army Trail Rd, Bartlett
(630)289-4868
www.prestige-nursery.com

Outdoor living done right...
design | build | maintain | enjoy!

8 acres of locally grown quality plants

Our Annual Dinner and Garden Dollar Auction is November 20th—be sure to arrive no later than 6:30pm, as dinner starts at 6:45pm!



Certified Arborists on Staff
ABBOTT
Tree Care Professionals
(630)681-8733
www.abbotttreecare.com

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

- 24-Hour Emergency Storm Damage Service
- Crane Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Removal
- Land Clearing
- Tree Spraying
- Deep Root Feeding

Family owned and operated for over 15 years!



Spring Beauty with Bulbs

by The Growing Place

Flowers from hardy bulbs are welcomed harbingers of spring, often sprouting through late winter snow. But I am getting ahead of myself. Beautiful spring, summer and autumn flowers from bulbs are the result of planning and planting in the fall. Simply follow these instructions for easy, goof-proof and colorful results.

When and Where to Plant Bulbs

With nighttime temperatures now dipping to the 40's and 50's, this is the perfect time to plant spring flowering bulbs. The bulb itself is a food storage unit surrounding a flower bud that evolved to survive harsh climate conditions. They actually need a cool period to activate their growth and can be successfully planted until the ground freezes. Choose a site that is well-drained. Though there are a few exceptions most bulbs don't like 'wet feet'. Heavy soils can be improved by mixing into the existing soil 3"-4" of a variety of organic materials such as Growing Place Garden Mix, mushroom or garden compost. Spring flowering bulbs prefer full sun, but will tolerate partial shade.

How to Plant

As a general rule, plant bulbs at a depth three times their height and two to three bulb widths apart. Plant bulbs point up, flat side down. If in doubt, plant the bulb on its side. Use a bulb planter tool to make individual holes, or dig out the entire area to be planted. Fertilizing encourages bloom production and increases longevity. Mix a low-nitrogen fertilizer, such as Espoma Bulb-tone into the soil when planting. Ideally, fertilize bulbs in the spring when foliage begins to emerge and again in the fall to help bulbs build strength to promote spring flowering. Water thoroughly after planting to encourage bulb growth, and throughout the fall until the ground freezes.

Design Tips

Bulbs offer more flower power when planted in groups. Avoid planting lone bulbs or single lines. You can make even modest numbers of bulbs look great by planting them in small clusters. Take into account plant height, flower timing and color when planning your bulb display. For example consider planting varieties with contrasting colors and textures that bloom at the same time; tall Daffodils in the back and short Grape Hyacinth in front. Or perhaps try staggering and extending bloom time by planting mid- and late-season bloomers together, creating a spring display that blooms in succession and brightens your garden for the entire spring. Here's a helpful hint: add a few Grape Hyacinth bulbs which sprout fine leaves in the fall to your bulb plantings to remind you of their location.

Spring bulbs can be planted in large 'drifts' to naturalize a site. Or consider planting bulbs in turf. Nothing says, "spring is just around the corner," better than clusters of Crocus or Glory of the Snow poking their flowers out of the grass. Consider planting enough bulbs to provide you with flowers for cutting. Bring the outdoor in all spring and summer by creating bouquets from varieties of Daffodils, Tulips and Allium that flower in succession.

Deterring Critters

Hungry deer and rodents can eat their way through an entire bulb bed of tulips (except Tulip Persian Pearl) and Crocus, but there are many bulbs critters don't like, and Daffodils top the list. Plants in the Amaryllis family, which includes Daffodils, Snowflakes and Snowdrops, are truly deer and rodent proof. They contain a bitter, poisonous substance called lycorine that no mammal will eat. Other bulbs that deer and rodents avoid unless very hungry include: Allium, Fritillaria, Hyacinth, Glory of Snow, Winter Aconite, Spanish Bluebells, Scillia, and Camassia. There are protective measures you can try which are intended to exclude and deter critters that include surrounding bulbs with chicken wire cages, or applying homemade or commercial animal repellent preparations.

Post Flower Care

After blooms fade, clip flower heads to channel energy back into the bulb. The leaves need to be left to wither, allowing photosynthesis to recharge the bulb, and then cut back to the ground. You may want to plant companion plants such as Daylilies or Hosta to hide bulb foliage as it fades.

With just a few hours of your time on a brisk fall day you can create a kaleidoscope of color in your house and garden next spring and summer.



Holiday Shops at
The Growing Place
Garden Center

Nov 1-Dec 23 * Mon-Sat: 9am-4pm

NOW OPEN Sundays: 11am-4pm

Fresh Greens * Unique Gifts * Custom Designed
Wreaths & Containers * Make & Take Workshops

Naperville... 630.355.4000 Aurora... 630.820.8088
25w471 Plank Rd 2000 Montgomery Rd

thegrowingplace.com | f