

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 20 Issue 10 October 2016



**Meeting Date: October 27, 2016**  
**Meeting Location:**  
**Faith Community Church**  
**at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

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

**October 27, 2016: "Magic of Minor Bulbs" by Jill Selinger**

## **Minor Bulbs Make a Major Difference in Your Garden**

Jill Selinger, Manager of Adult Education at Chicago Botanic Garden, will present "***The Magic of Minor Bulbs***" at our October 27 meeting. In addition to learning about these little know Spring stars, there will be a goodie bag of various bulbs featured in her talk for you to take home! A Spring surprise to look forward to!

## **September program recap: Bats and Bella the Skunk! What a Treat!**

What beautiful brown eyes bats have! And they have soft fur instead of feathers! And bats really do hang upside down. Even on Dan's arm as he carried them around for our close up look. And.....We heard the sounds they make!

"Incredible Bats" was an apt title for Dan Peterson's program! I'm now a bat fan and an advocate for these unique little animals. "Bella" the 16# soft cuddly skunk was also a star! We all had a great time and left reminded of the wonders of our natural world.

*Next Meeting: November 17 Annual Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction*

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**We are also on Instagram: @westchicagogardenclub**



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

**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 2016: 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

**2016 WCGC BOARD:**

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

Vice President:  
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Program Director:  
Billie Childress, 630-231-1791, [billiedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billiedc@sbcglobal.net)

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<b>WCGC 2016 Calendar</b>					
Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
<b>28 Jul</b>	President Dick Darrah	President's Picnic	<b>22 Sep</b>	Sharon and Dan Peterson	Bats
<b>25 Aug</b>	Trish Beckjord	Pollinators	<b>27 Oct</b>	Jill Selinger	Bulbs
<b>10 Sep</b>	Chicago Botanic Garden	FIELD TRIP!	<b>17 Nov</b>	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

### Silent Auction coming in November

Our November 17th meeting will be our Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction. So please start thinking of gardening-related items that you no longer want but others may find desirable. Things may be dropped off at Keith Letsche's 215 East Washington Street, beginning Monday, November 14th (not earlier, though, please!) or brought to the church the night of the meeting.

### 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.

**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 2016</b>	<b>75</b>
Donate to Kruse House	50	<b>Pay dues before February 2nd</b>	50



## News from Kruse

Tom Fessler

The Annual Ice Cream Social was again a great success. If you have never attended this event, I would suggest that you do so. Not only is the food great, but the Kruse Gardens never fail to impress. In addition to all of this, you meet the nicest people there. This after all, is a social event! I have attended the Ice Cream Social for many years and just never get tired of it.

Don't you just love the Fall? The colors, the crisp fresh air, and of course the seasonal foods. But one of my favorite parts of the Fall is Halloween. I have always loved Halloween. It was not only fun when I was a kid, but it also allowed us to acquire a month's worth of candy, for free. And I'm talking about the good stuff like popcorn balls, caramel apples, or home made caramels. I find it interesting to look at the costumes we wore as kids compared to the costumes the kids wear today. A lot of our costumes were homemade. In my case, it may have been the fact that there were six kids in my family, and there was no way my parents were springing for six costumes. Needless to say there were a lot of ghosts and hobo costumes in my family. Some of the costumes today are "electrically assisted" with lights and sound. My daughter bought her daughter a horse costume for Halloween this year. When you squeeze the horse's right ear, it makes a clippy-clop sound, and when you squeeze the left ear it makes a neighing sound. Just why you would want either of these sounds is a mystery to me...

Here are a few interesting facts about Halloween:

1. There are approx. 500 seeds in a large pumpkin.
2. 44% of people plan to wear a costume.
3. 19% plan on making their own costume.
4. The average person spends \$26.52 on their costume.
5. Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween.
6. Ireland is thought to be the birthplace of Halloween.
7. In 2014, 72.2% of those surveyed by the National Retail Federation will hand out candy, 43% will carve a pumpkin, and 20.8% will visit a haunted house.
8. More than 93% of children under age 12 will go out Trick or Treating.

That's about it for now folks, have a very Happy and Safe Halloween

—Tom



## Our Cookie Caravan of Thanks

There are a few organizations/people that provide critical support to our GC throughout the year.

**Cantigny** for the many plants they donate.

The **Fire Department** for filling our water tanks at the barn last year.

The **Park District** for use of the barn for potting, storage, and getting us planting soil.

**Faith Community Church** for providing us a great location to meet

We would like to would like to say THANK YOU to them by delivering home baked cookie treats the week before Thanksgiving.

I need 8 members to volunteer to bake and deliver 3 dozen cookies each to Billie's house on Tuesday November 15. Trays will be packed and delivered to our supporters on Wednesday the 16th.

We did this last year and it was both fun and well received. Let me know if you can volunteer to bake by informing me at the October GC meeting, sending me an email at [billiedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billiedc@sbcglobal.net), or call cell 630-862-1213. Thank you. It's always a pleasure to work with you!

Cookie Delivery to 29w385 Glen Rd, West Chicago. Anytime on 11/15.

-Billie Childress



Did you ever think you would cuddle a #16 pound skunk?!

Bella was a remarkable treat to meet at our September meeting!



## Evergreen Prep for Winter

## The Growing Place

Although this fall has been unseasonably warm, it's just about the right time to start thinking about protecting your evergreen trees and shrubs. We love evergreens for their four-season interest especially in a fresh snowfall. Since they keep their needles or leaves year round, it is important to take some steps to make sure evergreens remain healthy through the winter months. They will continue to lose water throughout the winter and be susceptible to damage from sunscald or windburn. The best protection against winter damage is moderate moisture in the soil. Continue checking the soil under evergreens into early winter or until the ground is frozen. If we have a dry fall, make sure to keep these plants well-watered, especially new plantings.



Some evergreens, planted in windy or sunny sites may need to be treated with an anti-transpirant spray like Wilt-Pruf<sup>®</sup> to help reduce water loss through the needles. The window to apply Wilt-Pruf<sup>®</sup> is just after there has been enough cool days and nights for the evergreens to go dormant but temperatures are still above freezing. The spray needs to be applied during the day when temperatures are above 40 degrees and dry thoroughly before dark so it doesn't freeze on the leaves/needles and properly bonds to the surface. It

creates a protective film so that the leaves do not lose as much moisture in the dry winter wind. This coating is a natural product derived from pine resin and it gradually wears away over a period of four to six months.

The beginning of October is the time to start protecting cedar, cypress, yews, and arborvitae that are planted in sunny, windy sites. Broadleaf evergreens such as boxwood and rhododendron may also be protected from winter damage. Because broadleaf evergreens have a different leaf structure, you can apply the product well into winter, as long as it's a sunny day when temperatures are above freezing. One application usually is sufficient, but follow the directions on the label.

You can also use it to protect Christmas trees, wreaths and garland for the holidays. Spray thoroughly and allow them to dry before bringing the greens indoors.