



# WE GO GARDENING

**Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

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

**Volume 18 Issue 9 September 2014**

## Inside this issue

Non-Club Events & Club Information	2
Planned WCGC Events	3
News from Kruse	4
Growing Place Article	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.



## September 25th Meeting: Bulb Bingo! with June and Pauline

Once again, it's time for one of our favorites—Bulb Bingo! We'll be playing bingo, and the prizes will be bulbs. And, these won't be your everyday tulips, daffodils, or purple muscari. We've tried to get bulbs that are a little out of the ordinary.

No need to bring anything, except yourself, and a friend! We'll supply cards, markers, and the bulbs. It's still a little early to plant them, but then you'll be ready when the time comes.

The common wisdom is: plant spring blooming bulbs when average night-time temperatures drop to around 50° or cooler for about two weeks. So, come on out, bring your friends, and have fun!

**Faith Community Church at 910 Main Street in West Chicago**

**6:45pm - refreshments and gathering**

**7:00pm - brief business meeting**

**7:15pm- BINGO!**

### DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR GARDEN DOLLARS!

By participating in club events, contributing to the newsletter, and attending club meetings, you earn Garden Dollars that can only be used at the famed WCGC Garden Dollar Auction in November. Stop by the check-in desk and pick up at least 25 GDs for attending our Bulb Bingo meeting.

You may collect for past events at any time!

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 23rd**

***"Pressing Flowers Activity" with Jo Ann Loebel***



## Upcoming events (outside the club)

**Cantigny:** Fall Fest. Oct. 11. 10am—4pm. Free with paid parking.

**Growing Place:** Fall Planting Celebration Weekend. Sept. 27-28. Details at <http://www.thegrowingplace.com/classes.html> or by phone 630.820.8088

**Heinz Brothers:** Scarecrow Making Classes. October 4, 5, 13, and 14. Fee applies. For more information call 630.377.6288 or email [info@heinzbrothers.com](mailto:info@heinzbrothers.com).

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

**25th Anniversary of Tales Tombstones Tell:** Oct. 11. Oakwood Cemetery, West Chicago. Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Garden Street entrance with the final tour group beginning at 7:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the program in St. Mary's Church basement. While the program is free, donations are encouraged. In case of inclement weather, the program will be cancelled. For more information, contact the West Chicago City Museum at (630) 231-3376 or [museum@westchicago.org](mailto:museum@westchicago.org).

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)



## Planned WCGC Events - 2014

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
<b>28 Aug</b>	Lou Horton	Beyond the Hosta	<b>23 Oct</b>	Jo Ann Loebel	Pressing Flowers
<b>25 Sep</b>	June & Pauline	Bulb Bingo!	<b>20 Nov</b>	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 early to start thinking about 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.



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**News from Kruse**

*by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom*

As summer is winding down and the coneflowers, daisies and day lilies are fading, we've been dead heading, but leaving some seed heads for the birds. Many flowers are still brightly blooming including sweet pea, moon flowers, black-eyed susan, caryopteris and sunflowers. The hosta Royal Standard, planted last year, produced numerous white blossoms that are incredibly fragrant.

**Double False Sunflower**

Double false sunflower (*Heliopsis hilianthoides* 'Asahi') a mid-sized, bushy clump of dark green leaves and golden yellow fully double daisy flowers; height 24–36 inches; soil - moist/well drained; blooms July, Aug, Sept.



Check out this sunny specimen located between the tool shed and the pond.

**Monarch Butterfly**



This Monarch was spotted mid-August in the garden. Did you know in their larval stage, monarch caterpillars feed almost exclusively on milkweed and as adults get nutrients from the nectar of flowers? Monarchs that live east of the Rocky Mountains will migrate to Mexico while monarchs that live west of the Rockies migrate to southern California. The number of monarchs has significantly declined, so please help protect these beautiful little creatures and plant milkweed in your gardens.

**Weeding**

Angie's philosophy of weeding is "when in doubt, toss it out". Billie prescribes to the rule of "use your soil knife to dig out the root". Kerry is learning not to micro-manage weeds, but to be ruthless – dig them out! Tom's favorite gardening tool is a sharp hoe that works well for weeds with very shallow roots. The best time to remove weeds is when the soil is damp and moist.

**Lively Conversation**

As we tend the Kruse garden, conversation goes in all directions or down many paths. Pulling pig weed led to recalling a TV episode of Julia Child guiding a pig through the woods searching for morel mushrooms. Then, Tom was reminded of the phrase "even a blind pig finds an acorn once in a while". That led to the derivation of curious expressions. Join us; not only is weeding fun, but the chatter is too.

**A Rose is a Rose is a Rosa**

A frequent debate among gardeners is whether we should call plants by their common name or their botanical names. A plant's botanical name is its only positive identification. Master gardeners use the botanical names or what some refer to as *real* names. Have at it...it's fun to learn new languages, especially the language of flowers.

**-Kerry, Billie, Angie, and Tom**



## Decorating Ideas for Fall Into Winter

by The Growing Place

As summer gives way to autumn, Nature graces us with her own unique color palette with which to create: shades of red, gold, yellow, orange and brown. With your summer annual plants running out of steam and perennials cycling out of bloom, consider all the possibilities for bringing cheerful, fresh color into and around your home.

### Pots of Every Color

Using containers in a variety of sizes, shapes and colors can be the foundation of your outdoor holiday decorating efforts. It's a good idea to purchase quality, high-fired glazed pots for their durability, especially in cold weather. Most people choose pots that complement the plants. Consider the bold statement you can make by placing a yellow mum in a glazed, bright blue pot, or creating a combination arrangement in a bushel basket. Although it is safest to store pots in the garage or basement for the winter to avoid damage, if you choose to leave them outside in the cold weather here are some tips to help them last a long time. Make sure pots have drain holes and that they're not blocked. When planting add foam peanuts or chunks of foam packing material to your planting mix to allow for expansion caused by freezing. Avoid ground contact by placing your pot securely on bricks or blocks; again, making sure the drainage holes remain unblocked.

...continued on next page!

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(Continued from page 5)

**Plants for Fall Festivities**

There are still many weeks to enjoy cold tolerant plants, either in containers or in the ground. Your porch or front walk can pop with color provided by a couple of big mums or asters, or perhaps a pair of combination planters. The same principles of design apply to fall combination pots as those created in the spring. Include a tall plant (also called a thriller), a medium height plant, (a filler) and a trailing plant, (a spiller). Examples of thrillers are upright sedum, chard (colors intensify as weather cools), and Pennisetum or Miscanthus ornamental grasses; their seed stalks provide texture and movement. There are a wide variety of cold tolerant fillers including pansies, coral bells, snap dragons, cabbage, dianthus, kale and Angelonia. Spillers to consider are Lysimachia ‘Goldilocks, English ivy, and trailing sedum. Top off your planters with a pumpkin or scarecrow stake or even a colorful ceramic mushroom and you’re ready for fall. Here’s a season-extender tip: by adding evergreen boughs to planters containing grasses, cabbage or kale they can easily be converted from fall to Christmas.

Cold tolerant herbs are great in combination containers that are not only attractive, but also edible. Herbs that can handle some frost and can be planted together or mingled with flowers include, sage, especially bi-color types, oregano, parsley, thyme and trailing rosemary. Fun fact: did you know that pansy flowers are edible and used by chefs to garnish their creations? Don’t forget perennials with interesting foliage like coral bells, hosta, and ferns. They make great container plants too.

**Fall Accessories Galore**

Nothing welcomes Halloween and Thanksgiving like pumpkins, squash, gourds, mums, straw bales, and broom corn! For those that want convenience, visit your local garden center for a selection of custom-design wreaths and pre-planted containers. And for those crafty types, create your own wreath using artificial and dried plant accents for indoor and outdoor decorating to make your own. Bittersweet vine, a popular and attractive natural accent, is great for fall containers and wreaths. Some other great materials to fuel the creative imagination include dried wheat stalks, mushrooms, fragrant eucalyptus, yarrow and much more.



**Fall Fest:** 9/20 & 21, Aurora  
Hayrides - Pumpkins - Mums - Games & Crafts

**Fall Planting Celebration Weekend:**  
9/27 & 28, Both locations  
Silent Auction - Classes - Demos

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Welcome fall into your home as well. Fall interior can be as simple as filling a basket with real or artificial pumpkins and gourds or switch out a picture and tossing a hand-painted pillow on a chair.