



WE GO GARDENING

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Volume 19 Issue 9 September 2015

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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 24th Meeting: BULB BINGO!

Once again, it's time for one of our favorites—Bulb Bingo! We'll be playing bingo, and the prizes will be bulbs.

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!





Upcoming events (outside the club)

Morton Arboretum: Annual Bulb Sale. Oct. 3 & 4, 9 AM—6 PM. Shop dozens of varieties of beautiful Dutch bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, iris, alliums, crocus, fritillaria, and many more!

Growing Place: Pumpkin Palooza! Oct 10 & 11 at Aurora location. Garden Photography, Oct 17, 10AM, Aurora location.

Chicago Botanic Garden: Various bulb sales and fall events—visit <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/calendar/october> for more information!

City of West Chicago: Downtown Halloween Parade! Oct. 24, 11:30AM—1PM. Parade steps off from the Library Parking lot and ends at the Wayne & Helen Fox Community Center.

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

West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership information

Dues for 2015: 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

2015 WCGC BOARD:

President:

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

Vice President:

Keith Letsche, 630-293-0192, keithletsche@aol.com

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

Annette Wulffe, 630-462-0208, annetwulffe@yahoo.com

Program Co-Chairs:

Pauline Briggs, 630-254-2969, briggspm@gmail.com

Marcy Kozlowski, 630-846-3466

marcellakozlowski@yahoo.com

Information Director & Publicity:

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



Planned WCGC Events - 2015

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
22 Jan	Cindy Tyley	Tips for Lazy Gardener	25 Jun	Nancy Carrol: Grow and Go Green	At Kruse Garden
26 Feb	Don Guzan	Basics of Pruning	30 Jul	All members	President's Picnic
26 Mar	Shawn M. Odneal	Vertical Gardening	27 Aug	Rich & Susan Eyre	Inspirational Gardens & Plants
23 Apr	Billie Childress	Kruse House History	24 Sep	Bulb Bingo	Pauline
16 May	ALL MEMBERS!	PLANT SALE!	22 Oct	Mel Zaloudek	Epiphytes
28 May	Blumen Gardens	FIELD TRIP!	19 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction



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News from Kruse

by Billie, Angie, Kerry and Tom

The Garden Gate is Open



Several years ago Billie rescued a garden gate from her grandparents' farm in South Dakota. She fondly remembers the gate opening to the yard next to their little farm house. Dirk and Henrietta emigrated from the Netherlands in the late 1800's so the gate is anywhere from 60 to 100 years old.

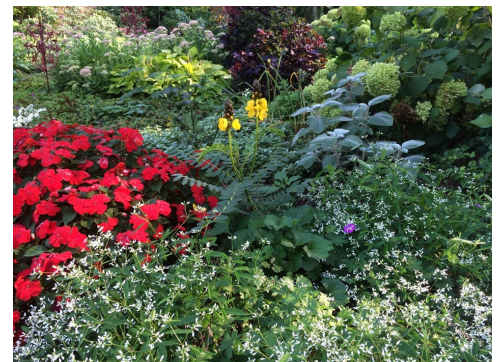


On a garden walk in Hinsdale, Billie and I saw a garden gate with posts covered in china mosaic tiles. Billie immediately imagined something similar to support her grandparents' gate for the Kruse Garden. Garden club members were asked to donate old china plates and cups to be broken and placed on posts.

It took us a while to assemble the posts and the four of us installed the gate last week. It looks spectacular. Please come and see the new addition and try to spot the pieces you provided. Thanks especially to Dorothy O'Connor for her generous donation of china.



The garden is fabulous, fabulous, fabulous.... The zinnias that we planted from seed, stand four feet tall and are gorgeous. The monarch butterflies look so pretty on the blooms, but we still have not captured a photo. The monarch caterpillars have been munching the milk weed plants. This guy was on a swamp milkweed plant. The common milkweed pods are beginning to mature...seeds for next year. Placing seeds in paper bags is best as plastic bags will trap moisture and possibly rot the seeds. Paper lunch bags work well.



The colors in the garden are wonderful. The yellow blooms in the photo are on a popcorn plant. If you rub the leaves it smells just like buttered popcorn. The feathery white flowers are Diamond Frost Euphorbia, a nice companion plant with the red impatiens.

Come enjoy the garden and see the "new" old gate.

Happy Gardening.....Kerry



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	Pay dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2015	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Pay dues before February 2nd	50

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 Dick Darrah.



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Not Your Grandmother's Groundcover

by The Growing Place

We're all familiar with vinca and ivy but there are so many great options for color and texture beyond the traditional groundcovers. Let's explore!

The Benefits of Groundcovers

Think of a groundcover as a living carpet. They provide protection from erosion, help retain moisture and improve the aesthetic appearance by covering bare earth. Sweeping banks of groundcovers not only solve problems, they unify your landscape.

Try planting a groundcover this season with your fall bulbs. The bulbs will come up and bloom in the spring and then as their leaves die back the groundcover will grow over it. These plants create a living mulch that will spread to cover the area. Once the plants are established, just think how much less traditional mulch you will need!

Sweet Woodruff (Latin name: *Galium odoratum*) has become one of the most popular groundcovers for shady areas. Plants form a spreading clump of small green leaves, whorled like spokes of a bicycle around the stem. Clusters of tiny white flowers make a pretty display in spring. In average and moist soil it spreads steadily to form a thick carpet. Great with spring bulbs of all kinds.

Spotted Dead Nettle (Latin name: *Lamium maculatum*) is well suited to a variety of growing conditions. It's drought tolerant and also deer and rabbit resistant. Foliage can vary from the silver-marbled, green-edged leaves of 'Shell Pink' to the bright golden leaves with a silver center of 'Aureum'. *Lamium* provides a bright silvery touch to a shade location. "'Pink Pewter' is looking particularly nice at the moment. The extra amount of silver on the foliage, when compared to 'Shell Pink', really shines in the shade," says Kyle Lambert, Perennials Manager.



Ajuga reptans
'Burgundy Glow'



Galium odoratum
Sweet Woodruff



Lamium maculatum
'Pink Pewter'



Sedum kamtschaticus
Stonecrop



Thymus praecox 'Coccineus'
Red Creeping Thyme

Red Creeping Thyme is such a fragrant, tough and versatile groundcover. It quickly forms a thick green mat and has an abundance of magenta flowers in summer. Plant Red Creeping Thyme in between stepping stones or along a path where its fragrance can be released when walked upon. Thyme likes well-drained soil and is drought tolerant. It is perfect for a living mulch under roses.

Perfect Planting Time for Groundcovers

Now is the perfect time for planting groundcovers, not to mention all sorts of perennials, trees and shrubs! One word of caution when planting groundcovers later, they may require mulching to prevent frost heaving of the plants. Space the plants depending upon the plant's habit, rate of growth, and how fast the area needs to be covered. In general, space faster growing groundcovers further apart than slow growing types. By the second growing season the area planted should become a completely established 'Living Carpet'!

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