





**Fall Festivities**  
Weekends in September & October!  
Visit the [thegrowingplace.com](http://thegrowingplace.com) for full schedule



**The Growing Place**  
Garden Center

Naperville: 25w471 Plank Rd | 630.355.4000  
Aurora: 2000 Montgomery Rd | 630.820.8088

*Rooted in the community since 1936 | [thegrowingplace.com](http://thegrowingplace.com) |  *



*An Investment That Grows*

THE GARDEN CENTER IS BLOOMING WITH IDEAS!

MEYER LANDSCAPING, INC.  
Nursery, Landscaping Design & Construction

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

LARGE TREES & SHRUBS, ROSES, PERENNIALS, & ANNUALS

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR SPECIALS!!!  
[WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM](http://WWW.MEYER-LANDSCAPING.COM)

**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](http://www.springbluffnursery.com)  
[plants@springbluffnursery.com](mailto:plants@springbluffnursery.com)

*Growing, learning and educating since 1979...*

**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](http://www.HeinzBrothers.com)

Your Gardening Source....

**91 YEARS A Growing Legacy**

A lot has changed in 91 years but our commitment to our customers and to our community has not. Our goal remains providing high-quality, locally-grown plant and landscape material, expert advice and professional installation and design services.



Since 1925

**630-584-4424**

6 miles west of Randall Road on Route 64, St. Charles  
1 mile west of Wasco  
[www.wasconursery.com](http://www.wasconursery.com)

**Find everything you need for your beautiful garden**

**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:  
Keith Letsche, 630-293-0192, [keithletsche@aol.com](mailto:keithletsche@aol.com)

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

Secretary:  
Annette Wulfe, 630-462-0208, [annetewulfe@yahoo.com](mailto:annetewulfe@yahoo.com)

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

Information Director:  
Melissa Ferguson, 630-621-0128, [melissabirch@gmail.com](mailto:melissabirch@gmail.com)



<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

## Time to Start Thinking of Things for the Silent Auction

November will soon be here and, with it, our Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction. So please start thinking of gardening-related items that you no longer want but others may find desirable. More information on the Silent Action will be in next month's newsletter.

## 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	75, 200, 300
		<50, 50-149, ≥150	
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

As the seasons are changing and the days are getting shorter, there's a lot happening in the Kruse Garden. There's still an abundance of beauty and color.



**Sweet Peas:** A Victorian flower dictionary defines sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) as delicate pleasures. Both white and pink sweet peas are growing on the west side of the Kruse House. Some of the vines are going up the wooden trellis, but more of the vines creep out to the beds in the driveway. A mass of pure white sweet peas grows on the east side of the garden. Peas use tendrils to



climb; they can grasp anything that's a quarter-inch or less. The best support is string, twine, or netting with a grid that's at least 2" x 2", anything smaller will not work well. News - garden suppliers have both nearly-invisible and even biodegradable netting. How sweet.



Our plants are self-seeding and grow profusely. The pea pods dry, split and curl into little spirals. Pick up some of the seeds at the next garden club meeting.



**Black Walnuts:** Black walnut trees are native and grow from Canada to northern Florida and west to the Great Plains. Our black walnut tree, in the far northwest corner of the garden, is about 50 feet tall and has begun to drop its nuts that are good-tasting and good for you. The best time to collect walnuts is when the outer husk softens, but is still green in color. When cracking the nuts, you need to wear gloves and old clothing as the **juice in black**



**walnuts will stain!** The black walnut's roots exude a natural herbicide known as juglone that prevents many plants from growing within their reach. Tomatoes, apples, pears and some landscape plants may be killed or stunted if grown nearby. We noticed at Kruse that of three pagoda dogwoods, the one nearest the walnut tree is quite stunted. In autumn, the walnut tree leaves turn bright yellow, contrasting nicely with the tree's rugged, dark bark.

**West Chicago Historical Society (WCHS):** The society maintains the Kruse House Museum and opens the house for tours Saturday 11 AM – 3 PM May through September. In the WCHS Fall 2016 newsletter, the society gave the West Chicago Garden Club a big thank you for maintaining the garden and also noted "the grounds have been wonderful to enjoy again this year!" For museum exhibit information at the Kruse House, go to [krusehousemuseum.org](http://krusehousemuseum.org).

Visit the Kruse Garden any time and witness the glorious seasonal transition.

- **Kerry**



**We went on a field trip to the Chicago Botanical Gardens and spent the day enjoying them. It was a moist morning, but after lunch the sun came out and it was just glorious. Pictures courtesy of Dick Darrah.**





## September is for Color

## The Growing Place

Just about everywhere you look, mums are showing up all over the place. It signals a true change in the seasons. Every September we get excited for all the beautiful blooms that are still to come in the garden. It's also a really great time to plant so you can get a jump start on next spring. This month we've combed through our shelves to find some beautiful plants that you might not know about for your fall garden.

### Pinks

*Anemone* – Grape Leaf or Japanese Anemone – The large, coarse textured leaves make a tidy mound, and come September, are topped with tall airy stems full of pink or white blossoms. Elegant, single petal blooms boast golden yellow centers. Robustissima, Honorine Jobert, and September Charm are favorite cultivars.

*Chelone* – Turtlehead – The variety called 'Hot Lips' has deep rose pink hooded flowers (perhaps resembling a turtle's head) late summer into early fall with glossy green leaves. It loves moist soils, full sun to part shade and will grow about 3-4' high.

*Lespedeza* – Bush Clover – A semi-woody sub-shrub, bush clover is a crowd pleaser with delicate, graceful, arching stems covered in pea-like blooms in late summer to fall. The dwarf variety 'Yakushima' is a diminutive 12 to 18 inches tall and blooms a bit earlier. *Lespedeza thunbergii* is much larger at around five feet and may be white, pink, or magenta in flower.

*Sedum* – Stonecrop – Fleshy foliage is topped by large flat clusters of pink, magenta and also white blooms on this tough, drought tolerant plant. Sedum comes in a variety of sizes and foliage colors, but in fall, the tall cultivars really stand out. Consider allowing the blossoms to dry for winter interest.

### Blues

*Caryopteris* – Blue Beard, Blue Mist Shrub – This compact shrub-like perennial adds great blue color to the early fall garden. Butterflies and hummingbirds love their true blue flowers. They grow best in well-drained loamy soils and can reach 3-4' tall.

*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* – Leadwort or Plumbago – An attractive politely colonizing groundcover, plumbago features a pure cornflower blue blossom. Although slow to emerge in the spring, it will also offer outstanding rich red to reddish purple fall color.

*Eupatorium coelestinum* – Hardy Ageratum – The compact clusters of fuzzy bluish purple flowers are stunning in combination with the gold and red flowers of other fall bloomers. This perennial emerges late in spring, readily forms colonies in moist soils.

### Yellows & Whites

*Helianthus* – Sunflower – The hardy sunflowers charm us with bright yellow daisy-like flowers. They are large plants, perfect for the back of the border, that bloom beginning in July or August and continuing into October. An excellent cut flower, they are also an important late season nectar source for butterflies and bees.

*Aster* – A tough, beautiful plant that is a must for the butterfly garden, asters come in a variety of sizes and colors including white as well as blue, lavender, and pink. Taller varieties can be pinched back in July to delay flowering and to maintain a more mounded habit.

*Eryngium yuccifolium* – Rattlesnake Master – This unusual native has spiky, yucca-like leaves and spiny globes covered by tiny cream flowers. It's unusual foliage and texture looks great combined with ornamental grasses. It can grow 3-4 ft tall and has a deep taproot, so it's a good idea to plant it where you won't need to move it.



### Color without blooms

*Amsonia hubrichtii* – Arkansas Amsonia – These dependable and long-lived plants are valuable for adding structure and interest to the garden with needle-like foliage that turns a gorgeous butterscotch color in the fall.

*Callicarpa* – Beautyberry – Tiny clusters of bright purple berries (pictured at left) form along the stem in the fall. It's a must for great fall color! It can grow up to 3-4' tall in average soils, full sun to part shade. An added benefit is its clusters of pink flowers in the spring.