

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 21 Issue 9 September 2017



Meeting Date: September 28

Meeting Location:

Faith Community Church

910 Main St, West Chicago

Meeting Time:

6:45PM Refreshments

7:00PM Business Meeting

7:15PM Program

September 28 Program: Pollinators and Pollinator Plants growing in Lurie Garden by Laura Ekasetya, Director and Head Horticulturist of Lurie Garden



Laura joined Lurie Garden in February of 2011 as a horticulturist working to maintain the integrity of Piet Oudolf's perennial plant design. She came from Chicago Botanic Garden where she tended to perennials grown under research evaluation.

After attending the public opening of Millennium Park in 2004, she became a regular visitor to the garden. Watching the garden grow from little gallon sized plants into a rangy tapestry of color and texture has been a delight. Piet's vision for planting design as presented in his books, visits to the garden, and his very active Instagram account, is a regular source of inspiration. In the beginning of 2017 Laura became the director of Lurie Garden.

Laura enjoys stalking insects, birds, and other creatures that make the garden their home and finds any sort of faunal association with plants to be most intriguing. Laura has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and she studied horticulture at Harold Washington City College of Chicago.

She enjoys helping out with community gardens throughout the city, and hiking the Indian Dunes and marshes and wild areas in the Forest Preserves of Cook County. She is currently trying to learn to identify the various birds that migrate through Chicago along the Mississippi Flyway and is always tracking down veteran birders to double-check her sightings.

Next Month:

October 26 Program: Plantscaping for Fall



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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 2017: 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

2017 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, annettewulffe@yahoo.com

Program Director:

Billie Childress, 630-231-1791, billiedc@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter:

Melissa Ferguson, melissabirch@gmail.com

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WCGC 2017 Calendar

Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event	Date	Speaker/Organizer	Topic/Event
24 Aug	Mary's Wholesome Living	Use/Preserve Edibles	26 Oct	TBA	TBA
28 Sept	TBA	TBA	16 Nov	All members	Dinner & Garden Dollar Auction

August Program Recap

Our August program presented by Mary Krystinac on preserving food was an informative fun program. She demonstrated how to make tomato jam and we knew it was good because we got to taste it on the spot! We all got to take home a jar to enjoy with cream cheese on crackers, or with eggs, or as a sauce on a pork roast. Yum! She also talked about using dehydration to preserve food. We were introduced to some nifty canning and dehydrating equipment. The audience was pleased with the program giving it a 4.5 out of 5 rating!

2017 Ice Cream Social



The mason bees are nesting in the bee house.



Unusual and fun to see bikes and kids at Kruse house.





News from Kruse

Tom Fessler

This past week end the West Chicago Historical Society held their annual Ice Cream Social and Silent Auction at the Kruse House. This event has been taking place on the lawn of the Kruse House for many years. This is the only event that the Historical Society has in order to raise money for the Kruse House. I don't know how many of our Garden Club members have attended but I suggest that you do. Not only do they provide a large array of homemade baked goods, coffee, lemonade, and ice cream. There is just something about sitting on the lawn of the Kruse House on a beautiful Summer day eating great food and talking to nice people. And speaking of people, there are all kinds there. There were two mayors, a number of business men and women, teachers, kids, and also two dogs. Just plain nice people. You get all of this plus a chance to walk around the garden and see what is new this year, and there is always something new. I noticed a number of people talking to each other about the plants and trees which are there.

Besides all of the above, they have a silent auction where you can bid on a wide variety of items which have been donated to the Historical Society. The items in this years auction are to many to list so I'll just pick a few to describe. One of the really great items was a handmade pen made by Garth Keck. Mr Keck has made a number of pens which he makes out of various materials. I have a pen he made out of piece of Cherry wood which he got from a Cherry tree that was cut down in back of the garage here at the Kruse house. Once he got the wood he stored it for almost twenty years before making the pen. Another of the wonderful items you will find are etchings made by Frederica Kraus Howard who is a local artist, teacher and long time resident of West Chicago. Mrs. Howard was my Art teacher at The West Chicago High School in the early 60's. Mrs. Howard donates each year and her work is both prized and collected by many people. Along with the above there are gift certificates, wine, flowers and many more items.

I guess at this point I must be sounding like a salesman for this event, which I guess I am. But I can say that of those I have convinced to attend, they keep going back each year. I'll get down off the soapbox now and start cleaning up the thousands of walnuts which have fallen in my yard in the last week. If you come to my house, wear a hard hat.

Happy Fall,
Tom



Club Officer Openings for 2018

President	Treasurer
Vice-President	Director-at-Large
Secretary	Newsletter Editor

Please contact Dick Darrah if you are interested in serving our Garden Club as an officer next year!

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 2017	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!