

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 9 September 2019



*The purpose of the West Chicago Garden Club shall be to increase interest in gardening through sharing our ideas and knowledge, promoting and participating in community beautification and protecting and promoting a clean environment in which we live.*

**Meeting Date: September 26**

**Meeting Location:**

**St Andrew Lutheran Church  
NE Corner of Prince Crossing &  
Geneva Road.**

**Meeting Time:**

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

## Bulb Bingo



It's time for the most popular meeting of the year!

*Brought to us, once again, by Pauline Briggs.*



Hard to believe that one full year has gone by and it's time again for everyone's favorite fun event: "BULB BINGO!"

For our new members that haven't had the pleasure of attending before...."Bulb Bingo" is always something we all look forward to playing with our friends and fellow club members. Just bring your lucky charm, rabbits foot or four leaf clover and every time you get a "BINGO" you win a bag of beautiful bulbs to plant in your garden (one prize per person per game - we usually play 2 or 3 games).

Pauline has been working hard selecting the best bulbs for our members and is putting together this program along with pictures and descriptions so the winners can pick bulbs that are their favorites.

**OCTOBER 24TH MEETING**

**Putting your garden to bed  
by Bill Kargas**

## **Notes from Barb Bizzarri—**

Can't believe Fall is here! Although we have had some "Dog Days of Summer" the lawns and gardens show no sign of the brown burn we usually see at this time of the year. The Fall colors are just around the corner.

Your program director, Barb Melville made sure to have a great lineup of speakers this year.

Our two local Garden Tours (thanks again Pam Caligiuri) was a Summer hit. For those who signed up, a tour of Mayslake's Gardens on October 5th will also be interesting and educational.

Enjoy these soon to be dwindling days of outdoor gardening. Take some pictures so that when the cold wind blows you remember your glorious garden.

I'll close with my favorite garden quote:

*Spring, summer, autumn, winter...every season has its beauty. Do not force time, do not linger in the past; but look around you at the present. Keep a leaf from summer days to remind you that after the coldest winter there will be spring again. ....*

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## **Out and About**

**Barb Bizzarri**



One of our newsletter sponsors is Spring Bluff Nursery, 41W130 Norris Rd, Sugar Grove. They also donate a gift card to our annual "auction" each November. It's worth the trip out to Sugar Grove. It's been a farm since 1844! The staff are knowledgeable and so very helpful and in addition to plants, flowers and landscape supplies, there's "u-pick" vegetables and a pottery shop with many beautiful works of art. So enjoy the Fall colors and take a ride to support our sponsor...its straight out Fabyan Parkway!



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## **MAYSLAKE, INSIDE AND OUT!**

**Barb Melville**

Field-trip to Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook on Saturday, October 5th at 12:30pm.

Francis Peabody moved into the Tudor Revival-style country retreat, Mayslake Hall, designed by noted architect Benjamin Marshall in 1921. But he died a year later and the 39 room mansion was sold to the Franciscan Friars. It was purchased in 1992 by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The estate has been restored to its original opulence and is available for visitors and tours. Some of us that have lived in this area for a long time, may remember sneaking in to see "Peabody's Tomb" which was rumored to have a glass casket somewhere on the grounds and being chased off by either the monks or the local police (I was one of those crazy teenagers).

There is more to the estate than what's inside the mansion. An 87 acre area, part of the original estate, is home to a diverse landscape. Our club can tour this property with two guides, at 1717 W. 31st Street, Oak Brook. All club members are invited free, however you can bring a guest or two and their cost would be \$8.00 each. We have 20 members/guests signed up. We'll talk about carpooling at our meeting.

## Notes from Barb Bizzari: Getting to Know...

### Dick Darrah



Resident of West Chicago: Since 1970  
West Chicago Garden Club Member: 1998\*  
Hobbies: Gardening, Ballroom Dancing, Fly Fishing for trout, travel, nature (especially in the woods)

Favorite Flower: Purple Cone Flower

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Repeatedly make mistakes in growing things from seed.  
Example: I fail to refrigerate seed for those that need a period of refrigeration

Current Career: Self-employed, International Trading Company. Exporting heavy industrial equipment and machinery

What plant do you think is overrated: Roses

What plant are you currently excited about?  
Purple Castor Bean

It's been said that gardeners are defined as much by the plants they despise as by those they love. Is there a plant you dislike? Burdock and its Fall cocklebur. These are so hard to remove from clothing. Dick shared that dogs are actually attracted to the scent of cockleburs!



*Purple Castor Bean in Dick & Barbara's garden.*

### Barbara Darrah



Resident of West Chicago: Since 1970  
West Chicago Garden Club Member: 1998\*  
Hobbies: Gardening, reading, ballroom dancing, travel, helping to maintain the Kruse House gardens on Wednesdays, Naperville chorus, playing the hammered dulcimer.

Favorite Flower: Lilly of the Valley

Biggest Gardening Mistake: I'm obsessed with weeding. I start weeding and I don't know when to stop!

Current/Past Career: Former English Professor; now work with Dick

What gardening chore do you hate?  
Transplanting

If you could only have one flower in your garden, what would it be? Clematis

What plant is overrated: Hybrid roses

What's your favorite bird in the garden:  
Cardinal

What bird is most entertaining:  
Woodpeckers and their suet

What plant are you currently excited about?  
Tuberous begonias. We planted them this summer and they were phenomenal !

\*Note: In 1998, Dick and Barbara, along with Dan Beebe, Pamela Darrah, Shirley Shramer, Jeff Handel and Becky Hall were among those who resurrected the West Chicago Garden Club. Our Club started in 1925 but was officially dormant from 1978-1998

Please check out our website [westchicagogardenclub.org](http://westchicagogardenclub.org) (under the "About Us" tab) for additional information about WCGC history.

## August Meeting Recap

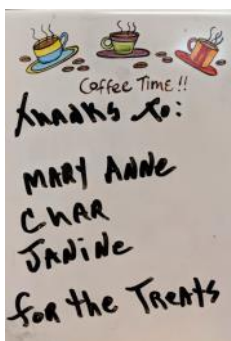
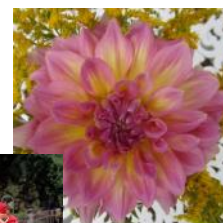
WOW, our last meeting on August 22nd was another homerun! Not only did we have one speaker whose expertise was Dahlias but we had two: Carol and Mike Cichorski, [ccichorski@comcast.net](mailto:ccichorski@comcast.net)

Several lucky club members were given beautiful dahlias to take home and enjoy!

Both Carol and Mike were very passionate about Dahlias, had a wonderful color presentation and left everyone with a great handout on planting, fertilizing, cultivating and other great information on growing spectacular Dahlias.

For more information see:

- [www.centralstatesdahliasociety.com](http://www.centralstatesdahliasociety.com)
- [www.dahlia.org](http://www.dahlia.org)
- [www.dahlias.net](http://www.dahlias.net)
- [www.OhWhata.com](http://www.OhWhata.com) (Carol's blog)



### November Auction

We will once again be holding our Annual Potluck dinner and Member appreciation Silent Auction in November. For those who are new, the Silent Auction bids are only in "Garden Dollars" which are earned by members by participating in the club. See page 7 for a chart and pick up your dollars before the Auction starts. Be on the lookout for garden items that you can donate for the Auction. Remember, we are looking for new or very "gently used" items. We are particularly hoping for items related to gardening or that we can use in our yards. Chris Gicela, Board Member-at-large is in charge of this event if you have any questions.

## News from Kruse

Keith Letsche

Seared yellow leaves beginning to accumulate along the edges of driveways and flower beds, nights in the lower 60s and 50s—tell-tale signs that fall will be here shortly and with it, the end of the 2019 growing season. For the Kruse House garden, September is the “last hurrah,” but this year, what a great hurrah it is. With above average rainfall and slightly cooler temperatures this summer, the garden still looks much as it did at its height in July and early August, save for a few withered stalks and heads among the cone flowers and rudbeckia. And with the Kruse House crew



working diligently virtually every Wednesday this year, the garden is immaculately groomed.

In the front of the house, the zinnias, and salvia are still redolent with mid-summer orange and crimson. In the urns, light green potato vine and dark-leaved red begonias tumble profusely over the sides, and even the johnny jump-ups, a spring flower, are still lush.



*Annual beds, Kruse House front yard*

*Urn with potato vine and begonias*

In the back yard the tall phlox, that quintessential summer flower, continues its reign, along with the yellow heliopsis (false sunflower) and the unreal-looking moon flowers.



*Panorama of Kruse Garden taken during the Ice Cream Social*

## Upcoming Programs for 2019

These are the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters.

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October 24th	Bill Kargas	Putting your garden to bed.
November 21st	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

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### West Chicago/Groot Leaf Program:

Leaves will be collected at no charge for (5) weeks beginning the last week in October through the end of November; Leaves will only be collected if put in the paper yard waste bags. Any leaves in plastic bags or cans will not be collected.



"In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November."

Rose G. Kingsley,  
*The Autumn Garden*  
1905

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## Local Events for Gardeners

- Sept 20: **Morton Arboretum: Annual Bulb Sale**, September 20 through October 31, 2019 (while supplies last) 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Arboretum Store. Shop for dozens of varieties of spring-blooming bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, iris, alliums, crocus, and fritillaria, ready for fall planting. [More Information Link](#).
- Sept 21: **Cantigny Putting Your Garden to Bed** Visitors Center, 9 am. Learn how to prepare your garden for winter at this two-hour outdoor session. Cantigny Horticulture's Samantha Peckham will offer advice on what needs to be pruned, cut-back, mulched, watered, rodent-proofed and more. Free with parking (\$10). . [Cantigny September Calendar](#)
- Oct 12: **Cantigny Fall Festival** . Parade Field, 10 am to 4 pm. Celebrate autumn with family fun at Cantigny Park! Activities for all ages includes pumpkin decorating, hay rides, petting zoo, Wax Hands, inflatables, facepainting, craft fair, children's book sale, food trucks and live entertainment. Free with parking (\$5); nominal fee for some activities. . [Cantigny October Calendar](#)
- Oct 13: **Cantigny Garden Photo Tips** . Visitors Center, 2 pm. Receive advice, share your own knowledge, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow shutterbugs in beautiful surroundings. A skilled Cantigny volunteer leads the one-hour walk. Group size is limited to 10—register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5).
- Oct 17: **Cantigny Garden Walk on the Wild Side** Visitors Center, 1 pm. New for 2019, this tour by Cantigny Horticulture takes place monthly through October, on the third Thursday. Staff members will choose personal favorite plants and share information about them—a bit of science, growing advice and perhaps a fun fact. Register at Cantigny.org or 630.260.8162. Free with parking (\$5). [Cantigny October Calendar](#)

## WEST CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT AWARDED LEVEL II ARBOTEMUM BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Lily Medina

The West Chicago Park District has been awarded a Level II Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum, for achieving standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. The District is also now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.

The Arboretum accreditation established this year stems from over 400 acres throughout 11 parks, including Reed-Keppler Park known as “the heart of the community”. The park is home to the ARC Center, Turtle Splash Water Park, ZONE250, six baseball/softball diamonds, four picnic shelters, skate park, 2 dog parks, Keppler Academy Preschool, several trails, and multiple playgrounds.

The Park District has developed a web-based application through ARCGIS where visitors can explore the parks and find out information about the trees around them including species and height among other details. Superintendent of Parks, Michael Gasparini, is working on collaborating with other community organizations to expand the vision of the arboretum; the West Chicago Garden Club donated 3 pecan hickory trees in celebration of arbor day. Additional goals include creating tree identification educational programs to offer to the community.

### 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 **Silent Auction to bid on donated items and gift cards**. Here's how to earn them:

See the chart below for the amount assigned for each activity and come out to volunteer and keep our club going strong. **Keep track of your dollars earned**. Near the end of the year, we will have dollars available at the meetings to pickup and then use for the auction at the November meeting.

Volunteer for workdays, plant sale or other events		Donate plants for the sale	
	1 to 4 hrs 75		Less than 50 75
	More than 4hrs 150		50-149  200
			More than150 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
Field Trip attendance	25	Pay 2020 dues before Garden Dollar Auction in Nov 2019	75
Donate to Kruse House	50	Paid 2019 dues before February 4th	50

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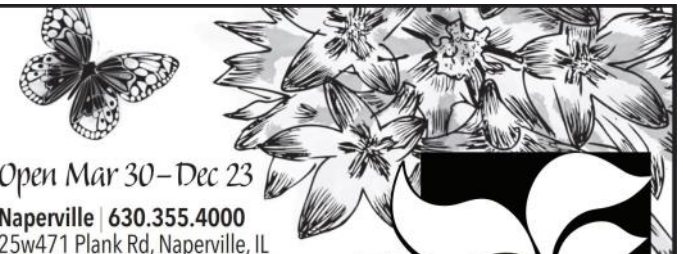
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## Club Information

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

West Chicago Garden Club  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com)

### Membership Information

Dues for 2019: Individual: \$15 Family: \$25 (2 people)

### Board Meetings

2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

### Regular Meeting Location

St Andrew Lutheran Church  
155 N Prince Crossing Rd, West Chicago

### 2019 WCGC BOARD:

President: Barb Bizzarri  
Vice President: Dan Beebe  
Treasurer: Kerry Perry  
Secretary: Pamela Darrah  
Program Director: Barb Melville  
Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe  
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah  
Director at Large: Chris Gicela

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to  
[WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

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