

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26 Issue 4 April 2022



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: April 28

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

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

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

A Well-Rounded Garden

Ruth Kyme



Our April speaker will be Landon Gibbs, horticulturist at Cantigny Park. His presentation will focus on creating "A Well Rounded Garden." Some gardeners want more native plants, some want more annuals, and everyone wants color in every season. Landon will provide us with ways to build a landscape that gives us both habitat and color throughout the seasons using shrubs, perennials, natives, and annuals.

We are planning to hold the April meeting in person as usual this month. If there are changes due to the ongoing pandemic, we will notify everyone via email and calling-post. Masks are now optional and we will be having refreshments before the meeting.



**Save the Date
BloomingFest &
our Plant Sale
are May 21st!**

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

[westchicagogardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/westchicagogardenclub)

MAY 26TH MEETING

**Tour of the
Batavia Wildflower
Sanctuary**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

It is hard to believe that there are only 5 weeks left until Bloomingfest 2022 and our Plant Sale. With 900 plants potted at parties, 600 plants in my greenhouses and additional flats of annuals at Jeff & Louise Handel's greenhouse, we are off to a great start! After a 2 year hiatus, it has been great to see all of you out enjoying the excitement and camaraderie at our Potting Parties. As you will read in the rest of the newsletter, there is still a lot to be done in the upcoming weeks. If you have already participated in or signed up to help with sale related, THANK YOU! If you have not signed up yet, please consider doing so. If you have any questions about how you can help, feel free to reach out to Mary Schramer, Billie Childress or me.

Billie has also organized a tree planting event for Arbor Day, April 29th at Noon at the Kruse House Garden. If you can please carve a little time out of your busy schedule and join us for this event. This is a great way to celebrate the holiday and show our appreciation to the Kruse House Garden crew for all of the work they do!

Now for a shameless (but gardening related) plug... As many of you know I am also a member the West Chicago Environmental Commission. The Commission, in partnership with the Conservation Foundation and Upcycle Products, is sponsoring a rain barrel sale. Rain barrels may be ordered online and picked up locally on Saturday, June 4th in the Metra parking lot during the Commission's annual paper shredding event. The barrels are repurposed, industrial-sized food containers and a great way to divert plastics from landfills. Compost Barrels are also available. More information can be found at <https://westchicago.org/news/rain-barrel-program/>

Hope to see you all at a Potting Party and the next club meeting!

Dan



Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186

E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2022: Individual: \$20 Family: \$30 (2 people)

Board Meetings

2nd Thursday most months at 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location

St Andrew Lutheran Church—155 N Prince Crossing Rd

2022 WCGC Board & Committees:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Janet Frogner
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Hayley Hawkinson
Program Director:	Ruth Kyme
Plant Sale Chair:	Mary Schramer & Dan Beebe
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Kruse Garden Chair:	Billie Childress
Hospitality Chair:	Jan Grismore
Director at Large	Patti Zaputil

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

Volunteering for the Plant Sale

Mary Schramer

With our plant sale about a month away, we are constantly watching the weather. Despite a cold wet March, member garden perennials began poking up through the soil as they do every spring.

Thanks to everyone who braved the wet, chilly weather or found a moment when the sun was shining (there were a few good days) to start digging and dividing for our first 2 potting parties this year. We've been potting in tents set up on the Park District lot at 830 Hawthorne Drive (to find us take Hawthorne west of 59 and keep going just past Atlantic and right before the train tracks on the south side of the street) and we've had sunny (though windy and chilly) weather so far.



Volunteers potted over 900 plants, shrubs and trees at this location but we can still use more plants for the **April 24** and **May 1 potting parties** which will be from 1 to 4 PM. If you need help transporting plants to the tents reach out (mhschramer@gmail.com or text 630-790-9943). More volunteers are needed for the May 1st date and we can always use extra hands April 24 as well.



We still need a few days covered for [tending to and watering plants](#), particularly in May. Check signup genius to see what days are still open.

If you are looking at this newsletter online, the colored text should link to the appropriate Sign Up Genius page. You can also see all the West Chicago Garden Club volunteer opportunities by going to the [Sign Up Genius webpage](#) and searching for signups by mhschramer@gmail.com.

We need help [setting up for the plant sale](#) and the [day of the plant sale](#). See the online signup or sign up at the April meeting.

- On Friday, May 20th, we can use all hands available to help load plants at 830 Hawthorne and Dan's greenhouse for transport to the Big Tent on Galena Street and to help unload and stage them in the tent.
- The day of the sale, we will need as many volunteers as we can muster to make the day run smoothly. You can choose the position that sounds like it is the best fit for you and sign up at the April meeting or online. We'll have two shifts, 7:30 to 11:30 and 11 to 3. Those who are on the morning shift will help in the finishing touches of setup and stay until their replacement arrives and they have trained them in their position. The afternoon shift will help with clean-up but we can always use more members to drop by from 2 to 3 so we can clear the street on time. Of course, you are welcome to sign up for both shifts!



Remember we need your help to advertise the sale by [putting up signs](#) in key locations around town. Bring any signs you aren't putting up to the April meeting so we can get them distributed and put out for the public the Sunday prior to the sale (May 15th).

One perk of being a garden club member is an invitation to attend the members only plant sale on Thursday, May 19, from 5 to 8. Watch your email for details for the Member Sale.

We Go Gardening

Club T-Shirts

Mary Schramer & Pamela Darrah

We are hoping to have Garden Club T-Shirts with our club logo available for members to wear at the Plant Sale and around town. As a member, your cost will be \$5 for a shirt. The t-shirts will be a shade of blue to complement the blue watering can in our logo photo with the words West Chicago Garden Club beneath.

You can sign up either using [Sign Up Genius](#) or on a sign-up list at the April meeting. You will need to indicate what size and style (men's, women's cut). The men's style is a "normal" t-shirt. The women's style has a V-neck and is usually more fitted. Women often wear "Men's style" t-shirts and you are welcome to order whatever style you prefer.

Limit one shirt per member at this price. Please get your order in before the end of April. Money will be collected when the shirts are distributed.



Monarch Community Science Training

Come learn how to monitor monarch caterpillars at your site. This training will cover everything you need to know to become an active Monarch Community Scientist and contribute data to protecting this iconic species. Registration is required.



WHEN:

Wednesday, May 18th
Noon - 2pm
Or
Saturday, May 21st
10am - noon
Or
Thursday, May 26
6 - 8pm



WHERE:

Online via Zoom Webinar. Please RSVP through the link below to receive the Zoom link.

Registration:

bit.ly/monarchmonitors



shared by womenafter50.com

Potting Parties

Sunday, April 24 from 1-4

Sunday, May 1 from 1-4

Park District lot at
830 Hawthorne Drive



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please register for our email list at: bit.ly/monarchmonitors



Greenhouse Drama!

Billie Childress

The greenhouse was erected in Jeff's driveway March 14. So far we have potted up 35 flat of annuals and with Jeff's diligent and expert care they were thriving and even starting to bloom in our serviceable little greenhouse. Then, on Thursday April 14, in a 70 mph gust the greenhouse took flight! It liked flying so well it made it all the way over to the neighbor's backyard! And as it lifted off all the shelves collapsed and some of the plants flew too. Other plants got stalled under the boards. Well, you get the picture...it was a mess.



But never fear. It's all put back together again thanks to some responsive and handy volunteers. Emergency rescue was accomplished by Jeff, Louise (Jeff's wife), Dan and Barb Melville, and Billie and the reconstruction the next day was handled by Dick & Barbara Darrah, Patty and Tony Zuputil, Ruth & Tom Kyme, Jan Grismore, Kerry Perry, Dan Beebe, and Louise Handel.

The plants might be a little mixed up but they are fine. The greenhouse has been put on the no fly list with additional anchors and we are back in business. No problem! Thanks everyone!





Lou Ann O'Malley

Resident of: Wheaton since 1996

WCGC Member: I joined 2 months ago with my sister

How Did You Become a Member: We were notified about the club by my niece, who read about it in an article detailing events in your area (not sure which particular one...I am just glad she found it).

Current Occupation: I have been self-employed as a court reporter for 43 years.

Hobbies: The activities that bring me joy are photography, hiking/exploring/being outdoors, and GARDENING.

Favorite Garden Tool: A simple hand shovel is my favorite gardening tool; however, drip/weep hoses are an item I find essential.

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: After several decades of gardening, I am primarily interested in growing vegetables; sweet peppers, in particular, of which I have planted and collected seeds from 350+ varieties.

I have transitioned over the years from flowers, bushes and the like, to strictly vegetables. Over the last decade, I have perfected a growing system that is highly successful; to the extent that I am able to share my bounty with family, friends, neighbors, and the local food pantry.

Earliest Memory of a Favorite Garden: My earliest memory and, I'm sure, the catalyst for my interest in gardening was being exposed to the planting my grandfather and mother engaged in on an acre plot of land beginning when I was approximately 10 years old. As a homemaker, my mom planted a garden in our backyard behind our playhouse. By her example, we learned and enjoyed the "fruits" of nurturing and patience. To this day, I remember the feeling of joy upon seeing her vegetable plants produce their first flowers of the season; anticipation, upon seeing the potential of tiny vegetables that next made their presence known; and sadness when the last of the green tomatoes had to be removed.

What Is Your Summer Garden Success: At this point, I have conquered my greatest challenge which has been protecting my vegetables from wildlife. Another challenge I have successfully addressed and devised procedures for is small space gardening.

A Garden Mistake I Have Made: My most difficult challenge to date is attempting to naturally thwart cucumber pests and diseases.

Recent Garden Projects: My most recent gardening project has been to create enough homemade organic compost and compost tea to last an entire gardening season.

My desire is to run and help maintain a community garden at some point in the future.

A Garden Tip To Share: I have a multitude of gardening tips to share. The most relevant would be the use of vertical gardening and drip hose irrigation.

Favorite Nature-Related Location to Visit: The Morton Arboretum is my "happy place". My desire is to volunteer there in the future.

Favorite Place to Purchase Plants: The Growing Place in Aurora.

Welcome Lou Ann!

Recap of March Meeting

Ruth Kyme

Our March speaker, David Brooks, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on foraging for wild edibles in our area. Several of which can be found right in your own backyard. Purslane can be an annoying weed in the home garden; but is also a highly nutritious and tasty edible. Dandelion or red clover flowers can be used to make some tasty fritters. Bon Appetit!

Photos from Ruth Kyme



Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

Ed Max, one of our club members, is a horticulturist and owns his own landscaping company. He is incredibly knowledgeable and a down right nice guy! I had the opportunity to take a quick tour with him through his own garden last week and he pointed out the buds on a witch hazel shrub. He said they have unusual blooms in early spring and have ballistic or explosive seed dispersal.

Later I thought Ed was loosely using the term ballistic. To me it brings to mind ballistic missiles or when a kid goes ballistic, has a major temper tantrum. Well, it was time to do a little research. Holy smokes! There's a real scientific term for this mechanism used by the plant. Ballistochoric plants project seeds away from the parent plant so that offspring can avoid competition for nutrients and sunlight. Indeed, witch hazel does go ballistic.



Promoting our Club

If you read all the way through to the end of this newsletter, you will find on the very last page a "Poster" to help promote our club to new members. Please feel free to print it out and put it up at your work, church, gym, coffee shop or anywhere else that has a place for these types of announcements. We will also have a printed out copies available at the March meeting if you would prefer to pick one (or more) up then.

Pamela Darrah



News from Kruse

Kerry Perry

It's early April at the Kruse Garden and the anticipation is immense to see winter wither away and new growth emerge. Already, the cream colored hellebores planted last fall are in bloom and the Gentian-blue flowers commonly known as Glory of the Snow are showing



their bright color.



The red eyes of the peony in the front yard are peeking out and in early June will be spectacular. Soon the white bearded irises will be four feet tall with gigantic blooms. Rudbeckia (sunny yellow flowers) are pushing out tiny green leaves among last years dried stalks. This summer the plants will be nearly six feet tall. Aah the anticipation.



The variety of plants in the Kruse Garden is impressive. Visit any time and let the Kruse Crew know if and when you'd like to help! Come plant, prune, weed and perhaps pick up some gardening tips.



The Kruse Garden is located at 527 Main Street, West Chicago, IL 60185

Garden Bucks

Kerry Perry

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2022 meeting you will be able to use your Bucks to bid on donated items at the Silent Auction.

The chart below shows how to earn your Garden Bucks. Keep track of your dollars earned. Either pick up your earnings at each meeting or collect them before the auction.

Come out and volunteer. Your participation keeps our club going strong.

Volunteer for Workdays at Kruse, Plant Sale or other events		Donate plants for Plant Sale	
1 to 4 hours	\$ 75	Less than 50	\$ 75
More than 4 hours	\$ 150	50 - 149	\$ 200
Donate pots for plant sale	\$ 50	More than 150	\$ 300
Donate snacks for meeting	\$ 75	Write newsletter article	\$ 100
Set up or clean up at meeting	\$ 25	Bring a guest to a meeting	\$ 50
Attend Field Trip	\$ 25	Attend Meeting	\$ 25
Donate plants to Kruse Garden	\$ 50	Pay 2022 Dues by Feb 24th	\$ 50
		Pay 2023 Dues by Nov 17th	\$ 75

Refer a new member and participate in a raffle for a gift card at the Nov 2022 meeting.

Local Garden Events

Cantigny Spring Bulb Sale

Visitors Center Parking Lot
Thursday, May 19
7am – 9am or until sold out

No parking fee required

Last fall we ordered and planted thousands of tulip bulbs. And when they have graciously bloomed for us and put on quite a show we need to prepare our garden beds for the summer planting season. What to do with those bulbs? If

you are interested in trying those same varieties out in your own landscape, we've dug up the bulbs and are offering them at a greatly reduced price. We are offering 25 bulbs for the price of \$5! If previous bulb sales foretell what the outcome will be for this year, they will be scooped up quickly! The early bird will get the worm (and some tulips too).

Please bring bags or boxes to package your bulbs for transporting home.



"Month-By-Month Gardening Illinois, Indiana, Ohio: What To Do Each Month To Have A Beautiful Garden All Year" by Beth Botts

"In April, spring is for real."

PLAN:

- Be sure you are ready to care for purchased plants
- Continue to record spring blooms and garden gaps in your journal
- Make notes as to which daffodils need to be divided in June
- Mow lawn 2-3 weeks after crocuses, scilla and daffodils bloom in the grass
- Good time to plan and prepare a rain garden (transform a mucky spot into a lovely spot that never needs watering and help solve a stormwater runoff problem)

PLANT:

- Ground should not be soggy before you dig
- Empty, inspect, and wash with soapy water last year's containers
- After ground has thawed and drained, sow cold-season vegetables
- Don't forget to plant pansies along with your early veggies
- Start planting hardy perennials at end of April
- After last frost date plant perennial seeds right in the ground, i.e. yarrow, monkshood, fall anemones, butterfly weed, campanula, columbine, coreopsis, coneflower, hardy geraniums, shasta daisy, lupine, monarda, Jacob's ladder, & rudbeckia

CARE:

- Weed early and often
- Mulch helps fight weeds; rake occasionally to keep weeds from taking root
- Pinch off spring flower stalks after blooming but leave foliage for plant energy
- Divide dense clumps of snowdrops after flowering and replant right away
- Tidy up groundcovers and cut back last year's grasses and perennials
- Prune shrubs that bloom in early spring within 2 weeks after finished blooming



ANSWERS TO EARTH DAY QUIZ from page 5:

1.B 2.A 3.D 4.A 5.D 6.D 7.B 8.B 9.A 10.A

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West Chicago Garden Club

The West Chicago Garden Club is a place for all gardeners: new gardeners with their first flowerbeds, master gardeners with years of experience, vegetable gardeners, flower gardeners, etc. Our members are both male & female, young & old—all are welcome.

We meet on the **4th Thursday** of each month at St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Corner of Prince Crossing & Geneva Rd) at **7:00PM**.

If you are interested, please come to one of our meetings. We are glad to welcome you!

Membership Information

We have two types of memberships:

Individual Membership costs \$20 per year.

Family Membership costs \$30 per year for 2 members living at the same address.

If you would like more information, please visit our website at

www.WestChicagoGardenClub.org

or send us an email to

WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

Please follow us on **Facebook**

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub) and

Instagram [@WestChicagoGardenClub](https://www.instagram.com/WestChicagoGardenClub).

Schedule for 2022

Date	Event
March 24	Meeting: “Foraging for Wild Edibles “ presented by naturalist David Brooks from the Schaumburg Nature Center
April 28	Meeting: “A Well Rounded Garden “ presented by Landon Gibbs from Cantigny
May 21	Plant Sale at BloomingFest
May 26	Tour of Batavia Wildflower Sanctuary
June 23	Meeting: Garden Tour
July 28	Meeting: President’s Cookout—Members only
August 25	Meeting: “Be an Herbal Gourmet” presented by Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh
September 22	Meeting: “Biomimicry” presented by Kim White
October 27	Meeting: Bulb Bingo—Members Only
November 17	Meeting: Annual Elections, GardenDollars Silent Auction, Raffle, Potluck Dinner (Note this is the 3rd Thursday) - Members Only