

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 4—April 2023



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, sustainable environment in which to live.

Meeting Date: April 27

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

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

**6:45PM Arrive & Mingle
7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program**

Success With Woodies

Ruth Kyme



Our April speaker will be Glenn Grosch. Glenn is an experienced horticulturist and has been a certified arborist. He is an entertaining lecturer with strong academic credentials. Glenn has been on the Chicago Botanic Garden teaching staff since 1997.

Glenn's program, 'Success With Woodies,' will provide us with all the information we will ever need to know to successfully grow all types of woodies (trees, shrubs, deciduous, conifers). The presentation will cover details on site selection, plant selection, planting, pruning, fertilizing, watering and mulching. Some of the newer concepts on planting, pruning, and fertilizing will be a part of the program. Glenn will also give recommendations on his favorite woodies for your home garden.

Glenn was the speaker at our February 2020 meeting where he gave a presentation on Organic Gardening.



ONLY 30 DAYS UNTIL PLANT SALE 2023!

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

MAY 25TH MEETING

**“Envisioning Garden
Designs” by Liz Omura**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

In the past month, I've been reminded about how much fun we have together as a club and the amount of work that many of our members do to keep the club moving forward. Having fun and dedicated members makes my job as President of the club so much easier. Because of this, I would like to take a little time to acknowledge our volunteers.

First, a huge Thank You to Patti Zaputil who was Member at Large last year and is currently Secretary on the club board. Patti is moving to Wisconsin. Her insights, conflict resolution skills and assistance in so many events and meetings will be missed. If you see her, please join me in acknowledging her for the great work she has done for the club and wishing her well in her new home.

Second, a heartfelt Thank You to all of our board members. Ruth Kyme has truly gone above and beyond this year with programming. Our monthly speakers, monthly local field trips and informal Twilight Tuesdays are all driven by Ruth's hard work. Kerry Perry's dedication to keeping our finances in order. Plant sale cashiers, collecting member dues, paying our bills, IRS filings and setting up our COD Horticulture scholarship are among Kerry's many contributions. Janet Frogner has stepped up taking on the daunting job of leading our Nominating Committee, as well as, the equally daunting annual potluck and silent auction. Lisa Marie Vogt and Ruth Gauss are doing a great job managing the club's social media presence; we are definitely getting noticed. Pamela Darrah puts in many hours collecting and putting together the newsletter and email communications to members. Christina Covarrubias is bringing many ideas to the table as she helps define her newly created role and has volunteered to assist in coordinating events in the Kruse Garden. Marilyn McNabb is heading up our efforts to start taking long distance, day long field trips. Our awesome committee chairs, Mary Schramer and Billie Childress whose dedication to the Plant Sale and Kruse Garden make these activities possible. What a great group of people to work with... Thank you!

Finally, THANK YOU!!! to all of you who volunteer with the club. Your time and work is truly appreciated!

SAVE THESE DATES

Perennial Potting Parties:

Saturday, April 22, 9 AM to 12 PM
Sunday, April 30, 1 to 4 PM
Saturday, May 6, 9 AM to 12 PM

Plant Sitters now through May 18th

Plant Labeling and Pricing: Saturday May 13, time to be determined

Member Only Plant Sale: Thursday, May 18th 5:30 to 8:30???

Plant Sale Set Up: Friday, May 19th, time to be determined

Plant Sale:

Saturday, May 20th, 7 AM to 3 PM
(Sale open from 9AM-2PM)

Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2023: 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

2023 WCGC Board & Committees:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Janet Frogner
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Patti Zaputil
Publicity Director:	Lisa Marie Vogt & Ruth Gauss
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Program Director:	Ruth Kyme
Member Services Director:	Christina Covarrubias
Director at Large:	Marilyn McNabb
Plant Sale Chair:	Mary Schramer & Dan Beebe
Kruse Garden Chair:	Billie Childress

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

Our Fantastic Volunteers!

Spring is always a very busy time for our club. In the last month our members have come out to help with all sorts of activities. The Kruse gardeners have started their weekly work on Wednesday mornings. We have had 2 Pop-Up Annual Potting Parties. The tents were put up over at the Park District facility and we held our first Perennial Potting Party there this last weekend. Our springtime Adopt-A-Highway pickup was also well attended.

There isn't room here to picture everyone who has volunteered, but here are some of our amazing, smiling members.



Kruse Gardeners



Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup



Pop-up Potting Parties



Tent Set up



Perennial Potting Party #1



Volunteer Information

Pamela Darrah



Thank you to the 3 members who have volunteered for the Field Trip Planning Group! Evelyn Wiley, Marilyn Santos McNabb, and Julie Blazek have all offered to help organize a field trip for this summer.

We have had one volunteer, Christina Covarrubias, who has agreed to help coordinate Kruse Garden

Events. She would really like another 1 or 2 members to help her.

Unfortunately, we are still looking for a volunteer to be on the board as Secretary.

Please let us know if you are interested in helping with either of these positions:

- Board Member: Secretary—This involves taking notes at our board meetings and a short summary of our general meeting. If you would be interested in joining the board, let an existing board member know at the March meeting or send an email to the club.
- Kruse Garden Event Coordinator—(with Christina Covarrubias) This position has very limited physical demands and does not necessarily involve any hands-on gardening. We need someone to assist in planning weekend work days in the garden, act as a liaison to the West Chicago Historical Society who owns the property, work with the Historical Society on developing new, innovative ways to showcase all the work that has been and continues to be put into the garden and most importantly share the garden with the community.



Please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer.

Do you have Plant Sale questions?

Pamela Darrah

Last month, we put together a new document that has information about our Plant Sale. It includes background history and how we plan and accomplish this huge sale every year. There is information on how you can volunteer and help, what happens at a Potting Party, how to split up your plants to donate and much more.

If you have questions that are not answered here, please let us know. We plan to continue to edit and expand this document as needed to help both current and new members find the answers to all their Plant Sale questions.

Check out the **NEW** [Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about the WCGC Plant Sale document.](#)

WCGC Plant Sale
Everything you Ever Wanted to Know

If you have been a member for a while, then much of this information will look familiar. We have pulled information from past newsletters to create this Plant Sale Overview document. Most of this was written at some point by Belle Childress, Dan Beebe, Pamela Darrah and Mary Schrammer. Rather than repeat the same information in every year's newsletter, this document will put it all into one location.

Whether you are a new member who is looking to learn about what is involved in preparing for our plant sale every year, or an existing member who is just looking up a detail, we hope that this is helpful.

If you have suggestions on information that we should add, please let us know.

What, Where, When, Why

The WCGC Plant Sale is our main fundraiser for our club. Aside from our annual dues, this is the only revenue stream for our club. It allows us to bring in speakers for meetings, schedule workshops and field trips, cover the costs of the annual president's picnic and the November buffet. And these are just the direct to member benefits. Our club also supports our community with donations for various garden related causes in the West Chicago area and beyond.

The sale is held in downtown West Chicago during the Bloomingest event in mid May. The majority of the plants are dug up from our member's gardens and potted at our "Potting Parties".

The Plant Sale offers many opportunities for members. We get to know each other better as we work together, we learn more about plants, and we can shop at the members only pre-Sale for the best plants you'll ever buy! It's also a chance for us to share our knowledge and passion for plants with the public, fulfilling our mission to "Grow Gardeners". And it's often at our plant sale that we recruit new members to the Club.

Plant Sale Volunteer Opportunities

Mary Schramer

We had a wonderful turnout for the first Potting Party on April 16th. Thank you to all those who brought plants and those who potted them all up. We had over 450 completed pots by the end of the event!

We do still need members signing up for potting parties and other opportunities to help with our sale on May 20, 2023.



We are using Sign Up Genius again to make it easy to organize the many volunteers it will take to get and acquire our plants, grow them on, get them to the sale and get them sold. Sign up genius can be accessed from a smartphone or computer. Its easy to use but be mindful to avoid clicking any ads. You do not have to create an account to sign up. If you are on the member roster with an email address available, when you choose a time slot to sign up, you will enter your email and it will prompt you for your name if its not already in the system. Once you sign up, you will get reminders about what you signed up for with further instructions. If there is a last minute change to the plan, I can message everyone signed up with the update.

We need your plants. If you have plants to offer, use this sign up link to let us know when you expect to be bringing them and what you think you may have. Bring plants to any or all of the potting parties. You can sign up by clicking this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A8AE29A75-donate2>.

To let us know you will attend a **potting party**, sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A8AE29A75-perennials>.



Now that we have plants out in the field, we need a garden club member to **check on the plants** every day to make sure they have enough water, but not too much, haven't been knocked over by high winds or curious animals, have the right amount of light to thrive, and so on. As of today, we still have 10 days that need someone to tend the plants. Remember each time you water, you earn garden bucks. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A8AE29A75-tending1>.

Watch your email for more information about the Member Sale (May 18) & the Sale Set-up (May 19).

Other sign ups are available for the week of the sale. You can find these by going to www.signupgenius.com and using the search tool by entering my email,

mhschramer@gmail.com. You will see a list of all the active garden club sign ups. I'll also send periodic reminders from the program to sign up for the tasks we need to cover or remind you what you signed up for.

NOTE: If you do not like doing this online, we will continue to have sign-up sheets at our meetings or you can email Mary and let her know what you want to do.

Don't forget to check

Search for a Sign Up

by sign up creator's email

mhschramer@gmail.com

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Getting to Know ...

Janet Frogner

Getting to Know is skipping this month due to the difficulty in finding a member to feature. The members that Janet tried to contact either didn't want to be featured or didn't respond to her calls or email. If you would like to be included in a future "Getting to Know", please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com.

March Meeting Recap

Ruth Kyme

Our March speaker, David Kusnierz, gave a very informative presentation on insects and diseases that can be an issue for trees and shrubs in the Chicago Metropolitan area. Make an effort to water your trees and shrubs regularly, especially during dry spells, so that they can stand up to the many pests and diseases that might affect them.



Mark Your Calendars: May22 - local field trip

Ruth Kyme

We have been invited to visit Pat Olson's iris garden in Roselle, Monday evening, May 22. Pat has a wide variety of irises that should be at their peak of bloom when we visit. More information regarding location and time will follow in an email as we get closer to the date.



News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

It's April, known as both the sweetest and the cruelest month.

Last week, she danced in, made a brief pirouette and flitted out again.

Last week, my garden was a sea of daffodils, Virginia bluebells and scilla. This morning, they were barely peeking up through a light layer of snow. But this is no surprise here in Northern Illinois and we know that she will be back, glistening in the sunlight and bursting with color.



Barbara's Daffodils, Virginia Bluebells and Scylla

In March, the intrepid volunteers at Kruse House came out, when the weather allowed us, to prune and clean up beds without much to show except piles of branches and brush .Last week, however, to our great

happiness, we uncovered daffodil, bluebells, scilla, may apples, magnolia blossoms and a beautiful and bountiful scattering of grape hyacinths throughout the western side of the garden. I have never seen so many massed in such a glorious spread of purple. [my favorite color]. Then, came the cold and snow.



Nevertheless, we know that it will warm up again, the snow will melt quickly and April will leap out again to fill our gardens with abundant and glowing color.

"April, April, laugh thy girlish laughter, and the moment after, weep they girlish tears." [Angus Wilson]



If you are interested in volunteering, our Kruse Gardeners are out in the garden (527 Main Street) every Wednesday morning (weather permitting). All are welcome!

WCGC Celebrates Arbor Day

Billie Childress

Our Garden Club has donated three Swamp White Oaks (*Quercus bicolor*) to the City of West Chicago in honor of Arbor Day. They will be planted at the Water Treatment Plant on Hawthorne Rd.



- Thank you to all club members who volunteer to make donations like this possible.
- Oaks are a keystone species known to provide food and support for a substantial number of wildlife species

West Chicago Environmental Commission Openings

The West Chicago Environmental Commission is looking for a few new members who are interested in promoting environmental ideas in our city.

The purpose of the Environmental Commission is to research, discuss and recommend to City Council various environmental programs and policies that would facilitate the protection and improvement of the environment, efficient management of natural resources, promote a sustainable community, and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the city.

The committee meets once per month on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00pm. (If enough members are available for a quorum.)

Due to a couple of members moving out of town and Dan Beebe's election as a Ward #1 Alderman, the Environmental Commission is down to only 3 members. The Commission cannot function at this size and if new members cannot be found, it will cease to function.

If you would like more information, please contact Dan Beebe at dbeebe@yahoo.com.

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Out and About

Kerry Perry



Recently some of our Club members visited the College of DuPage Horticulture Department's greenhouses and grounds. Experienced staff members of the College of DuPage Horticulture Dept. led the tour along with a member of the College of DuPage Foundation. The tour was exceptional.

The facility has fully automated heating, cooling, lighting and water systems. Great care is taken to control pests, to use sterile



soil, add proper nutrients and follow proper greenhouse practices. Methods viewed and explained included hydroponics and propagation.

COD offers students a wide variety of horticulture topics. WCGC now awards an annual scholarship to a qualifying student enrolled in these programs.

Greenhouse Tours are free to the public. Call 630-942-3806 for more information.



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So you want to be a citizen scientist? I've got a recommendation! Ruth Gauss

Hello there, gardening friends! I have been involved with the I-Pollinate program through the University of Illinois Extension over the past few years and thought it might be something club members might be interested in doing. The program focuses on pollinators in three different ways—any insect pollinators visiting flowers in your garden, monarch butterflies, and native Illinois bees.

The program asks gardeners throughout the state to plant a specific type, color, and number of annuals and four swamp milkweed plants in one area. To start you sign up online and take the online training which might take one hour in total. You will be assigned a type of garden depending on the program needs in your area and you are given a list of plants to choose from. Once you purchase your choices from the list, you plant your garden within a 6'x9' area with full sun (which is 6-9 hours of direct sunlight from June through September—it's important to follow the instructions for the planting as closely as possible to make sure that the conditions are as similar as possible from garden to garden.) During June through September there are 4 specific weeks (starting with pollinator week in June) when everyone collects data from their I-Pollinate gardens and also they will do a survey of their yard to identify other plants that the pollinators are attracted to and they will check the swamp milkweed that is planted in their research garden for monarch eggs and larvae. You submit your findings through forms online—the whole process takes about an hour and a half for each week of data collection.) For me, this part of the program has made me more observant of what pollinators prefer and also I've learned quite a bit about the life cycle of the monarch and also how to differentiate between different types of insects—it can be surprisingly tricky, but so satisfying!

The Beespotter program is the third part of the I-Pollinate program. This is something that anyone can do (although going through the training is definitely helpful) and basically creates an online database of which bees (honey bees and bumble bees) have been 'spotted' throughout the state. You share a high quality close-up picture (sometimes more than one picture) with the special markings that help to identify the bumble bee through the website and you can share what species you think you have captured in the picture. I've really learned a lot about how many different species of bumble bees we have in Illinois and how they each have something special to differentiate them from the others.

The website for everything having to do with the I-Pollinate is: <https://ipollinate.illinois.edu/>

Sign-ups have already started so dive right in! And please feel free to contact me through our club Facebook group or at a garden club meeting if you have any questions.



**I-POLLINATE
CITIZEN SCIENCE**

A local citizen scientist planted this research garden to help researchers at the University of Illinois learn how native pollinators like bees, monarchs, and flies perform in gardens throughout the state.

Yards can provide vital resources for declining pollinators. Citizens tend the garden and collect data here during the summer.

To learn more visit
ipollinate.illinois.edu

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Nature Notes: Ticks!

Kerry Perry



It's that time of the year to be out in the garden and also time to be cautious. Yikes! There are some nasty critters out there.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the most common diseases associated with tick bites reported in the state are Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and ehrlichiosis. With this in mind, make sure to take certain precautions to avoid tick bites.

Adult ticks are most active in Illinois during April, May and June. Though not impossible, instances of tick bites are much less common throughout the fall and winter.

There are simple precautions you can take to limit your exposure to ticks:

When spending time outdoors, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toe shoes – this limits how much skin is exposed to ticks. Light-colored clothing also helps in identifying ticks.

Wear insect repellent with at least 20% DEET.

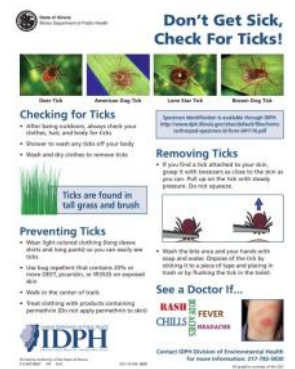
If hiking through wooded areas, remain on the center of the path and avoid brushing against vegetation or low leaves, as ticks could hide within them and latch on to you.

Once you are done spending time outdoors, check yourself, as well as your pets and family, for ticks. It is possible for pets to bring in ticks from outside and transfer them to bedsheets and other places around the home.

Be careful out there!

Note: Member Jan Grismore suggests taking a look at this flyer from the Illinois Department of Public Health on Tick safety:

<https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/publications/tick-flyer-050818.pdf>



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Garden Bucks

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2023 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 2023 meeting.

Upcoming Programs & Events for 2023

These are the currently scheduled programs. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters. The last column shows who has signed up to bring treats.

Apr 27	Glenn Grosch	Success with Woodies	June L, Marilyn S, Lisa Marie V
May 20		PLANT SALE	
May 25	Liz Omura	Envisioning Garden Designs	Jean W, Debbie G, Vicki F.
June 22	TBA	Meeting at Kruse Garden	Barb M, Barb B., Jean Ann S.
July 27	President's Picnic	Arboretum Tree Walk	
Aug 24	Jerome Johnson	Heirloom Plants & Loss of Diversity	Billie C, Kerry D, Lisa Marie V.
Sept 28	Ken Bensen	Sharpening Garden Tools	Marion M, Cindy B, Dee S.
Oct 26		Bulb Bingo	Tom F, Dorothy O., Christina C.
Nov 16	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner	

A poster of our 2023 schedule can be downloaded at <https://westchicagogardenclub.org/wp-content/files/2023PosterWithSchedule.pdf>
