

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26—Issue 8—August 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: August 25**

**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**

## Be an Herbal Gourmet

**Ruth Kyme**

Our August speaker, Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh, the creator and owner of Backyard Patch Herbs, an online purveyor of salt-free, gluten-free, preservative-free herb cooking and tea products. She began growing herbs in 1994 with a small kitchen garden. Currently, after 25 years, she has expanded to a 3/4 acre garden. Over the years she has learned much about herbs, their growing habits, uses and quirks. She began speaking in the 80s as a museum curator and director and moved to sharing herb information in the 90s including at the Morton Arboretum, Chicago Flower and Garden Show, online on the Backyard Patch Herbal Blog, and at local libraries and garden clubs in Chicagoland.



During her program, 'Be an Herbal Gourmet,' Marcy will demonstrate how, by adding even the most basic herbs to your culinary palette, you can make your cooking more interesting, delicious and enjoyable. Demonstrations will include how to create herb mixtures to replace salt in food, techniques for infusing vinegar, sugar, compound butter and herb paste. Techniques will be demonstrated. Discussion of herbs and samples will be included.



Adding herbs can enhance flavors and allow for more healthful cooking. It is easy to create herb mixtures to replace salt in food. This and other tips for using herbs to cook with everyday are included in this lecture.

The discussion includes flavor families, what herbs to use with certain dishes, and how to create herbal vinegars, butters and other items which can add herb flavors to cooking when herbs themselves are not appropriate.

**SEPTEMBER 22ND MEETING**

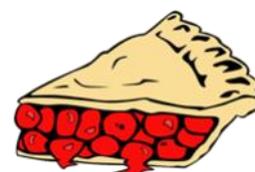
**"Biomimicry"  
presented by Kim White**

## Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

As you probably know, our club has had a close working relationship with the West Chicago Historical Society for many years. The West Chicago Garden Club, as we know it, was founded in the late 90's by two docents, Chris Baxter and Nancy Assian, at the Historical Society's Kruse House Museum to assist in the restoration of the Kruse House Garden. For more details on the early days of the club, take a look at page three of the City newsletter that can be found online at <https://westchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/windowstowestchicago-english-update-1.pdf>. Every year, our dedicated club volunteers put in many hours maintaining and expanding the gardens at the Kruse House Museum.

If you haven't been to the gardens lately (or even if you have), there is a great reason to visit the Kruse House Garden coming up on **Saturday, September 10th**. After a two year hiatus, the West Chicago Historical Society will be hosting their Ice Cream Social fundraiser in the Kruse House Garden. The event will run from noon to 3pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased the day of the event. Included in the price of your ticket you get ice cream, drinks and a selection from many baked items baked and donated by members of the community (including my almost world famous cherry pie made with home grown cherries ).



Please consider stopping by the Kruse House Garden on September 10th and enjoy some good old fashioned socializing in the beautiful gardens while supporting an organization that supports our efforts in the community. I'm sure that our volunteers and the members of the Historical Society will appreciate your visit. I'll be there, I hope you will be too.

One last piece of news, your Plant Sale chairs have finally recuperated from the sale and will be hosting a pot donation and barn cleanup event on **September 17th** from 9am-noon at the barn at Kress Creek Farms Park, 30W150 Wilson Rd, West Chicago. More details at this month's meeting on the 25th.

Dan

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## Member Survey

Dick Darrah

Many of our members have already completed and returned the WCGC Survey and we really appreciate their input.

If, for some reason, you haven't yet been able to complete the survey we urge you to do so. It is important to the future direction of the club that we get your and everyone's ideas of how you would like the club to go forward in the months and years to come.

Even if you are a brand new member, we want your input.

If you need to have the survey emailed to you again, or if you would prefer to have a paper copy to fill out, just email [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com) or let any board member know and it will be done.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.





Most of our Ball tour group



Barb Melville with her favorite petunia Bees Knees

The Pollinators of DuPage  
**BioBlitz**  
August 20 - 28



Discover the butterflies and bees in your neighborhood with the iNaturalist app on your smartphone, curiosity and your powers of observation. Help catalog the bees and butterflies in DuPage parks, open spaces and gardens. Open to everyone, young and old, new and experienced observers.

Join at:  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pollinators-of-dupage-county>



Nature fans are invited to grab their smartphone and help catalog the bees and butterflies for the “Pollinators of DuPage” Bioblitz Aug. 20 – 28 in DuPage parks, forest preserves, open spaces, and gardens.

The DuPage Forest Preserve District and other members of the DuPage Monarch Project invite nature fans to discover the butterflies and bees in their neighborhood to raise awareness of these important animals.

To participate, people simply take photos Aug. 20 – 28 of any pollinators they see — hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, etc. — anywhere in DuPage County and upload them to the iNaturalist app. Ecologists with the DuPage Monarch Project will then review the images to get a better idea of what’s going on in wild DuPage.

For more info visit: <https://dupagemonarchs.com/2022/08/01/lets-get-ready-for-the-bioblitz/>

# Pot Drop-off and Barn Clean-up

**Pamela Darrah**

## Save the Date—Saturday, September 17th, 9:00AM—Noon



We will be out at the barn on Saturday, September 17th starting at 9:00am. The plan is to be available for members to drop off pots they want to donate. We will use the time while we are there to organize/sort the pots that we have there and the ones that are dropped off so everything is ready for next year.

Our biggest need is for 4" pots that we use for small plants and vegetables and for the standard gallon pots. Trays for both are also great. Ideally, we prefer pots that don't have names/advertising printed on them, but we will take those. It would help, if you have the chance, to use a large

sharpie to cross out whatever is printed.

Volunteers who would be able to work with us that morning and organize the pots at the barn would be deeply appreciated.

"The Barn" belongs to the West Chicago Park District and they kindly allow us to store our plant sale items there. It is located at 30W150 Wilson Rd, West Chicago, IL 60185 at the Kress Creek Park. The park entrance is at Joliet St and Wilson Rd.

### **Club Information**

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

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

E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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:	Open
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](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)



### **Where to find us online**

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

 Facebook:  
[facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub](https://facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub)

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

The dog days of summer at the Kruse garden. Heat, drought and weeds don't stop the volunteers. The garden is looking good and always amazes! Just like your home garden; we plant, mulch, pull weeds, deadhead, transplant, cut back, trim the shrubs, water, and update. There is always something that needs doing! It's fun doing the work as a team. It's not overwhelming and it always feels good, that the area you worked, looks better than when you started. Stop by and visit the Kruse Garden and see what's in bloom.



Picture: Volunteers and mulching the fence line.

“Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.” - unknown

## Visit Kruse House & Garden this Summer

Pamela Darrah

Although you can stop by and visit the garden any time, the Kruse House Museum is only open the 2nd and 3rd Saturday of each month from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The next few dates are August 20th, September 10th & 17th. September 10th from Noon to 3:00pm will be the Ice Cream Social, primary fundraiser for the Historical Society that runs and maintains the Kruse House Museum. This event is held out in the garden and is a wonderful opportunity to visit the garden, the museum and enjoy some tasty desserts.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased in advanced from a Historical Society Board Member, at the Kruse House Museum, the West Chicago City Museum or at the entrance of the Kruse House on the day of the event.





**Cindy Banks**

Resident of: West Chicago since 1990

WCGC Member: May 2022

How did you become a member: At Bloomfest in the pouring rain :)

What is your current profession: Tony and I own the RE/MAX Cornerstone office here in West Chicago

Hobbies: Gardening, Travel and Photography

Favorite garden tool: Lopper

Favorite Flower, Plant, Bush, or Vegetable: All rose bushes!

What is your earliest memory of a favorite garden: With my grandfather on his 10 acre homesite in Flossmoor, Illinois

Who taught you to garden or were you self-taught: My grandfather and my dad

What is your summer garden success: My 20 x 20 elevated vegetable garden

A garden mistake you made: Still having poisonous plants pop up!

What is the hardest plant you ever tried to grow: A yellow magnolia tree

Recent garden projects: A new trellis

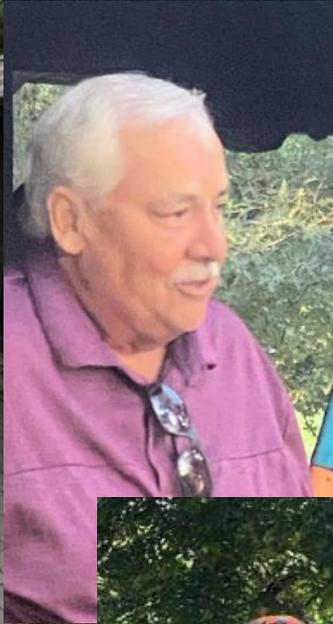
A garden tip to share: Be gentle with yourself - - it is all an experiment!

Favorite garden / nature-related location that you LOVE visiting: The Chicago Botanical Gardens – I'm totally amazed at their ingenuity, variety and meticulous maintenance of all of their gardens and exhibits

Favorite place to purchase your plants: We Grow Dreams, West Chicago



Photos: July President's Picnic



## Out & About: Anderson Japanese Garden Summer Festival Hayley Hawkinson

My first visit to the Anderson Japanese Garden in Rockford, IL - and it was the Summer Festival! What a wonderful way to experience Japanese culture. Music, art, wandering the gardens!

The tea houses are open for Tea Ceremonies - which my husband and I enjoyed thoroughly. The ceremony begins before even entering the teahouse - in the roji - the garden in front of the teahouse. Each step the guests make across the roji takes them another step away from the mundane



and another step closer to the peace of the tea ceremony. There is an outer and inner tea garden, both with mountain "scenery." The teahouse was up on the hill ("mountain"), near the waterfall, drowning out the sounds of the Summer Festival.



It was easy to transport yourself to a secluded mountain in Japan. I left with ideas about layering the sounds of water to create even more secluded spaces in my garden. Worth a visit!



For more videos and photos of traditional dance and music- check out @AndersonJapaneseGardens on Instagram & Facebook

<https://www.instagram.com/andersonjapanesegardens/>

## Out & About: Big Rock, Illinois

Hayley Hawkinson



A perk of being a Master Naturalist or Master Gardener is often tours of fantastic places. The first week of August, I met with some fellow MN & MG's for a tour of a private estate in Big Rock, Illinois. A team of 4 gardeners, led by Jeff Rugg - horticulturist & ornithologist, manage this 30-40 acre estate, everyone has their own zone. Prairie, front of house, back of house, and pruning/shaping. There are woodlands, prairies, a secret garden, tons of hostas, daylilies, a creek, bronze statues, a pergola garden, and more.

The owners of the estate are snowbirds, enjoying their Winter's in Florida - so the Spring ephemerals & bulbs are not a focus of this garden. But WOW - hardy perennials

are. The hosta collection was incredible, happy in the shady space under the mature trees. I walked away inspired to plant trees with edible fruit - I had an apple fresh off the tree and a tart cherry-experience from a crabapple. Even a cornelian dogwood will give you beautiful purple fruit in the fall.



This garden has its challenges too! Specifically with Deer. The fallen apples, they pick up every day to avoid wasps, and place far in the woods to lure the deer away from the hosta. Often the bronze buck statue will be knocked over, pushed down by an angry competitor. Sadly, once cold 17inch snowfall, the entire bottom of a hemlock hedge in the formal garden was eaten away by Bambi and his friends. Hungry! To add, the re-blooming roses at the base of the statue did not reach their promised height. Gardens, regardless of size, are always evolving!

Another oddity in the post-ash borer world

was their two healthy gorgeous Ash trees that they treat regularly. I even got some seeds to grow my own. Wish me luck.

For more pictures follow me on Instagram or Facebook @HayleyHawkinson

Interested in becoming a volunteer Master Gardener or Master Naturalist through the University of IL Extension? Get on the interest list at - <https://extension.illinois.edu/dkk/dupage-county-master-gardeners>

Want more information on author Jeff Rugg -

Youtube channel - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_fEmeMv-m11AxyzLO2bg/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_fEmeMv-m11AxyzLO2bg/featured)



## Nature Notes – Things That Go Bump In the Night

Kerry Perry

It was 3:00 am and I was awoken by a loud BANG. Yikes! What happened? Then another BANG. Ahaa, Shagbark Hickory nuts hitting the skylight in the bathroom. Either the wind or raccoons brought the nuts down. A few days later squirrels, chipmunks and birds started going for the Bur Oak acorns ... BING, BING, BING as the acorns hit the deck.



I love the Shagbarks. A hickory nut is a large, hard oval that's 1.2" to 2". And from experience I know it hurts when one hits you in the head.



My very favorite tree is the Burr Oak. The acorns measure 1.5" and about ¼ to ½ of the acorn is enclosed in a cup or cap. Douglas Tallamy, in his book "Bringing Nature Home," claims that an oak tree supports over 4,000 different species of insects and animals, more than any other tree. Please, plant an Oak in your yard this fall.

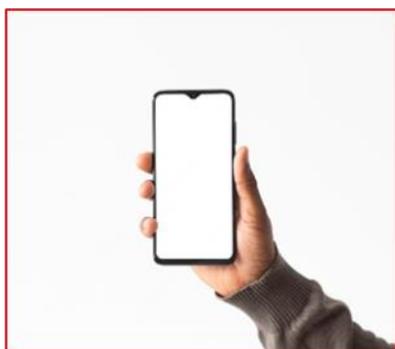
"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## Calling Post

Kerry Perry



Did you receive a phone call from Oklahoma City, area code (405)?

It's probably from The Calling Post announcing a Garden Club event.

The Calling Post has a bank of 100 different caller IDs that helps their system lower the risk of Spam popping in on peoples caller ID. Just so you know.

## 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

Pamela Darrah

**Sunday, August 21:** West Cook Wild Ones presents “A Brief History of Trees in America” with Cindy Crosby—2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

From oaks to maples to elms: trees changed the course of American history. Native Americans knew trees provided the necessities of life, from food to transportation to shelter. Trees built America’s railroads, influenced our literature and poetry, and informed our music. Discover the roles of a few of our favorite trees in building our nation—and their symbolism and influence on the way we think—as you reflect on the trees most meaningful to you. [Register on Eventbrite](#)

**Thursday, September 15:** [Walk on the Wild Side](#) at Cantigny Park—11am (\$5)

Join us on a Horticulture Staff tour that will meet the third Thursday of each month from April through October. We’ll be looking at trees and shrubs, perennials and annuals, natives and tropicals, even aquatic plants. Each staff member will pick their favorite plant of the month, each month. We’ll give a bit of science (botanical names and culture) but we’ll also be telling some stories and some fun facts. Each staff member will give a two-minute explanation of why that plant is their favorite and then we’ll move on to the next plant. The route will be a bit different each month. Visitors Center Kiosk. Register at their [website](#)

**Saturdays thru September:** Alebrije Art Walk at Cantigny Park—Time varies, check [calendar](#)

Step into the fantastical world of Cantigny Park’s 2022 art installation, “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World.” The guided walk will feature a giant octopus named Octavio and 48 other whimsical creatures displayed throughout the gardens and grounds. This is your chance to learn about what inspired the colorful sculptures and how they were made, and about the six artists from Mexico City who created them. Visitors Center.

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

“It’s August, and pretty much everyone and everything except the cicadas is taking it easy. We’re in a beach-and-hammock holding pattern until the weather cools off. But there still is work to do.”

## PLAN:

- Order spring-blooming bulbs for fall planting
- Save seeds from favorite annuals and perennials from straight-species plants and store in moisture-proof zipper bags; add grains of rice to absorb moisture; store in freezer or cool, dark place



## PLANT:

- Plant fall veggie crops
- In containers—pull out faded or leggy annuals and replace with ornamental kale, mums, heuchera, hostas or other fall plants
- Plant trees and shrubs in late August when weather has cooled

## CARE:

- Watering needs focus in August
- To produce more pick veggies regularly and cleanly
- Do not let zucchini get too large to draw energy from smaller ones
- Keep weeding in order to keep seeds from spreading; do not compost
- Dry Herbs—hang bunches inside a hole-punched paper bag in a cool place for a few weeks; shake the bunch to collect the dried leaves
- Freeze Herbs—chop herbs and freeze with a little water in ice cube trays and store in ziploc bags
- Do not mow dormant lawns; mow only if growing and keep at 3” or higher



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