

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 8—August 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: August 24

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**

Heirloom Plants & Loss of Diversity

Ruth Kyme



Jerome Johnson is the creative director of the Garfield Farm Museum in Campton Hills. Garfield Farm Museum is a living history farm that preserves the original 1840s farmstead. Jerome's presentation, "Heirloom Plants and Loss of Genetic Diversity in Domestic Cultivars," will be an introduction to the loss of genetic diversity in the plants that we humans depend on. Learn about how planting heirloom plants can increase genetic diversity.

Garfield Farm Museum offers a variety of educational, family, and entertainment events.

Seminars are held on such topics as prairie, woodlands, and wetlands management; bat and blue bird box construction; and fruit tree grafting. Specials shows bring rare breed livestock, heirloom garden products and seeds, and collections of antique farm tools. Prairie walks are conducted monthly. And there are social events like barn dances and a candlelight tavern reception at the Inn in December. It is in Campton Hills, IL on Garfield Road just north of Illinois Route 38 between Geneva and Elburn. You can find out more about the museum at www.garfieldfarm.org



SEPTEMBER 28TH MEETING

Ken Benson -

**"Sharpening Garden
Tools"**

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Even though the official end of Summer is a little over a month away, the beginning of the school year always makes me start thinking about all the things I still need to get done in my yard before the change of seasons. The pressure is on... that new garden bed needs to get started, the deck needs to be stained, the weeds are still coming on strong, and plans for fall planting need to be finalized... way too much to get done. To me, the up side to the onset of Fall is the planning for the addition of plants to my gardens, filling in the empty spots, moving plants around and, of course, deciding which plants need dividing and planning for my donations to next year's plant sale (see what I did there?). Of course, all of the new plants and bulbs and work dividing just adds to the 'to do' list but the anticipation of seeing the new plants growing and blooming in years to come makes it worth the effort. The cooler Fall weather is also much appreciated.



This Summer has been a very busy time for me personally and for the Club. As we move into Fall, we still have many great gardening related opportunities and speakers available to you. We are also starting our planning for next year's activities and speakers. We are always looking for opportunities to grow as gardeners no matter whether you are a beginner or a master gardener, our Club is here to help us all gain the knowledge to become better gardeners. If you have any thoughts or ideas of speakers, field trips (local or a little further away) or other activities you would like the Club to consider for next year, please let a board member know.

Thanks,
Dan Beebe

We are still looking for a volunteer!

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 July meeting or send an email to the club.



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:	OPEN
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

Volunteers Needed

Check out a variety of volunteer opportunities below, help the club and earn garden bucks for our silent auction in November! Click on the links to Signup Genius or email westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com to let us know you would like to volunteer.

Kruse Garden Mulching

If you haven't been able to join the regular Kruse garden crew on Wednesdays now is your chance to help either FRIDAY, August 18th 6-8PM or SATURDAY, August 19th 9AM-12PM. Come for 30 minutes or 3 hours! If able bring your gloves, shovel, bucket, or wheelbarrow. ANY time you can help is greatly appreciated. Location 527 Main Street West Chicago, IL 60185 Click the link to sign up: [Signup Genius Kruse Garden Mulching](#)

Refreshments

As many of you have noticed our membership has increased this year to over 150 individuals. At our monthly meeting we like to share refreshments and could use an additional person to help bring food for the remaining 3 months. (We will still meet in November, however it is a potluck.) Our request is for sugar free foods to serve approximately 30 people; for example, veggies, nuts, cheese, meat, or even chips/dip. Please bring your food between 6:30-6:45pm to allow members to have plenty of time to enjoy the treats and socialize before our evening program begins.—[Signup Genius Refreshment Link](#)

Meeting Setup

Are you only available once a month on the 4th Thursday? Consider helping set up chairs for our monthly meetings. Feel free to do this just once or every month. To help arrive between 6:25-6:30PM, a board member will be there to meet you. To sign up click the link: [Signup Genius Meeting Setup](#)

Christina Covarrubias



Perennial Plants Association Awardees

During the Perennial Plant Association's (PPA) 2023 National Symposium, perennial professionals were honored for their exceptional contributions to the industry with Special Recognition Awards. Two that may be of interest to our members:

The Award of Merit to Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm in Burlington, WI. This award is given for significant contribution to the herbaceous perennial plant industry in growing, marketing, contracting, writing, teaching, Extension, research, landscaping, hybridizing, promotion, or innovation.

The Retail Sales Award to The Growing Place, based in the Greater Chicago Area. This award recognizes a commercial representative instrumental in making an operation progressive and successful in outstanding sales and service.

Marilyn Santos McNabb



News from Kruse

Kerry Perry

The Kruse Garden is splendid! It's at its peak. Several varieties of hydrangea, false sunflowers, phlox, and more perennials are in full bloom. Annuals such as ornamental cabbage, coreopsis, and snapdragons are spectacular.

If you didn't have a chance to attend Twilight Tuesday at Kruse, visit the garden now. The three-quarter acre property is located at 527 Main Street, West Chicago. Enjoy!



Twilight Tuesdays

Pamela Darrah

We have had 3 more Twilight Tuesday events since our last newsletter. There were 2 evenings with member gardens and our special event at the Kruse garden. Watch your email for details on future Twilight Tuesdays. There are only 2 more events this summer: August 29 and September 12.

A few photos from the member gardens (from Kerry & Marilyn) are here and some more from the Kruse garden event are on a separate page. We have a Google Photo Album of all the photos that have been sent in this summer for these events. Click to view: [2023 Twilight Tuesdays](#). (These are not necessarily in order—they were added to the album as they were received.)



Photos from our July President's Picnic

Pamela Darrah

It was a terribly hot and muggy day, but we had a wonderful time at our annual President's Picnic. There was a bit of a breeze up on the hill by the pavilion in Reed-Kepler Park which helped and there was plenty of water, iced tea & lemonade!

You can see more pictures on our [Facebook Page](#) or our Google Photo Album. Click to view: [July 27, 2023 - President's Picnic](#)



Photos: Field Trip to Ball Display Gardens

Pamela Darrah

We had a fantastic turn out for our local field trip to see the Gardens at Ball. They were, as always, spectacular. You can see more pictures on our [Facebook Page](#) or our Google Photo Album. Click to view: [August 2, 2023—Gardens at Ball.](#)

Not everyone who attended is in the group shot—several people arrived just after.





Toni Birdsell

Lives on the border of Carol Stream/West Chicago ~ Since 2001

WCGC Member: Summer of 2023

How did you become a member: Blooming Fest 2023 with Marilyn's encouragement

What is your current profession: Retired Glen Ellyn 1st Grade Teacher

What are you most proud of in your garden: Peonies, veggie garden produce, herbs

A garden mistake you made: Over planting and underestimating the space needed for growth and height requirements—over crowding

What do you love most about gardening: Brings me so much joy and peace. My form of meditation.

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: Plants have souls, treat them with love and respect and they will thrive. I talk to them, they talk to me.

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: I like to bring back the forgotten half-dead plants/flowers at the Loews sale section, Ace, and Platt Hill

Favorite spot in your garden: On my medicine wheel

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: Peonies, herbs, veggies

What are you looking forward to this season: Seeing the bulbs, perennials bloom throughout the growing season and watching my annuals grow, multiply and flower. Watching what I started from seed become full grown plants and flowers. Watching veggies, greens and herbs produce.

To be included in a future "Getting to Know", please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn and add some beauty to your garden at



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Terror in the Neighborhood

I looked out my window to watch the wrens raising their second brood of the season. Yikes! The bird house was swinging like crazy and four wrens were chattering, scolding and frantically dive-bombing some critter,

Was the predator a squirrel or maybe a weasel? According to my Field Guide, it actually looked more like a mink! The coloring and body length seemed right. My neighbor, an expert nature observer, said she's occasionally seen both weasels and minks. A cashier at Prosecks, who volunteers at Willowbrook Wildlife Center, said it could have been a mink.



American Mink



Long-tailed Weasel

Minks prey on rabbits, mice, chipmunks, frogs and birds. They also raid poultry houses.

Weasels are wholly carnivorous, preying mainly on mice, but also rabbits, chipmunks and birds, including poultry. They will climb 15-20' up a tree after a squirrel. The Least Weasel is the smallest carnivore in North America.

The baby wrens survived the terror and within an hour the parents resumed feeding their chicks. I also observed one parent remove a fecal sac. That attack surely caused the little ones to poop.



Least Weasel

Local Garden Events

Ruth Kyme

Saturday & Sunday, August 19 & 20: Wisconsin Daylily Society Annual Daylily Sale, The Biergarten at Olbrich Park in Madison, WI. The largest daylily sale in the United States offers over 700 daylily cultivars and all have been grown in Wisconsin! - Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (or earlier if plants are sold out) on Sunday. Cash and credit cards accepted. Check the website, www.wisconsindaylilysociety.org for a list of cultivars available. SPECIAL NOTE-- Atwood Ave. near Olbrich Park is under construction, follow detour signs.

Saturday, August 27: Garfield Farm Museum holds its Annual Heirloom Garden Show. 11am to 4pm. \$8 for Adults, \$3 for Children. During the show, visitors can tour the museum's heirloom gardens and interact with Midwestern growers display and sell their favorite heirloom flowers, herbs, fruits, and vegetables.

Kruse Garden Open House

Pamela Darrah

Our August 8th Twilight Tuesday was a bit different than usual. In celebration of our 25 Years of collaboration with the West Chicago Historical Society on the Kruse House Museum Gardens, we had an open house at the garden. Several members brought special treats and the Kruse garden volunteers did a wonderful job preparing the garden. It was a lovely evening!. Photos from Billie, Pauline & Pamela.

A group of photos were published on our [Facebook page](#). We also have a Google Photo Album of all the photos. Click to view: [August 8: Kruse Garden](#)



Kruse House Ice Cream Social

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.

September 9th 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 at the entrance of the Kruse House on the day of the event.



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 & 2 blocks west of Naper Blvd

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For the Love of Gardening...



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 2023 Dues by Feb 23rd	\$ 50
		Pay 2024 Dues by Nov 16th	\$ 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.

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	

Please note that the October & November meetings are for Members Only.

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