

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 12 December 2020



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.

BONUS December Newsletter



2020 has been such a strange year for all of us and for our Garden Club. We don't usually have a December newsletter or meeting since we are usually so very busy and our gardens all are dormant. However, given this strange year, we have chosen to create a short newsletter to share with our members. There isn't really any real news right now, so this issue will just have a few things a couple of our members sent to us to share.

We hope that this little extra will brighten your day.

Best Wishes for the holidays and the New Year!

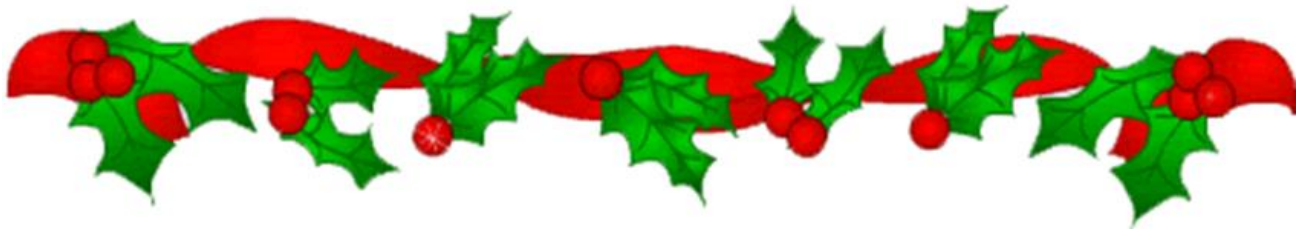
Your Garden Club Board.



"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.

'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."

- Oliver Herford, *I Heard a Bird Sing*



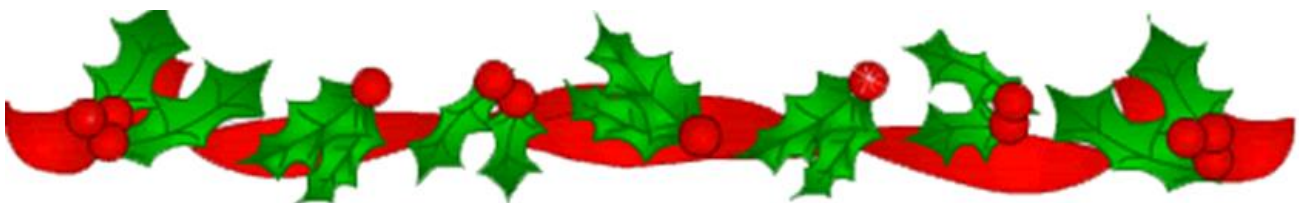
Dear Members,

*We value you as a member of our Club
and appreciate your support.*

*As a small way to say thanks, your
2020 membership will be extended
through December 2021.*

*We look forward to seeing you soon.
Happy Holidays!*

Your West Chicago Garden Club Board



Website Suggestion

Annette Musil

Member Annette Musil sent us a link in case any of our members are interested in their yards be added to the Home Grown National Park.

<https://homegrownnationalpark.com/>

Homegrown National Park™ is a grassroots call to action to restore biodiversity and ecosystem function by Planting Native Plants and Creating New Ecological Networks.



Visit their website for more information about their organization and information about native plants.



"So the shortest day came, and the year died,
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-
white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.
They lighted candles in the winter trees;
They hung their homes with evergreen;
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive,
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake
They shouted, reveling.
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing behind us - Listen!!
All the long echoes sing the same delight,
This shortest day,

As promise wakens in the sleeping land:
They carol, fest, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends,
And hope for peace.
And so do we, here, now,
This year and every year.
Welcome Yule!!"

- Susan Cooper, *The Shortest Day*

Holiday Photos

Karen King

Member Karen King sent us pictures of “Christmas for 2nd year in my new little house!”



Holiday Lights Recycling

Dan Beebe



November 27, 2020 - January 17, 2021

The West Chicago Environmental Commission is once again helping to keep the holiday “green” this season by coordinating the free recycling of strands of incandescent and LED holiday lights and extension cords that no longer work.

Residents, businesses, clubs, churches and organizations may drop-off these items at designated bins at following locations:

- City Hall, 475 Main Street
- First United Methodist Church of West Chicago, 643 East Washington Street
- Murphy Ace Hardware, 319 South Neltnor Boulevard
- West Chicago Water Treatment Plant, 1400 West Hawthorne Lane
- West Chicago Public Library District, 118 West Washington Street
- The ARC Center, 201 W. National Street

The program is coordinated with Groot.





Dick & Barbara Darrah's holiday lights are perfect for the woods in front of their house. Can you see the ornaments in the trees?



"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens—the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."

- Katherine S. White, *Onward and Upward in the Garden* (1979)



"At Christmas I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows."

- William Shakespeare

Out and About

Kerry Perry

This lovely photograph was taken by Kerry Perry along the path at St. James Farm last week. A bonus day...53 degrees.



"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st, and ends on December 31."

- Marie Huston

Nature Notes

Kerry Perry



A few days ago I went to visit one of my favorite trees. It's an old, majestic oak in an open field at St. James Farm. The farm is now a DuPage County Nature Preserve in Warrenville.

A friend said the reason for a lonely tree in a field is because the farmer used it as an anchor to clear all the other trees and large rocks. I wasn't sold on this story, so time to do some research.

According to the Farm Progress Bureau, a tree standing all by itself, smack-dab in the middle of a field is simple. Before tractors with cabs were invented, the tree

provided a shady spot for the farmer to have lunch or just to escape the brutal sun. It may also have provided shade for cattle and perhaps a nesting place for bats that eat insects.

Weather permitting, go out for a walk and enjoy the splendor of nature!

Holiday Photos

Dan Beebe

Stop by and see this year's display. The lights come on around 4:00-4:30pm and are on until 10:00pm on weekdays and 11:00pm on Friday & Saturday. The lights "dance" to music from 6:00-9:00 on weekdays and from 6:00-10:00 on Friday and Saturday. Tune your car radio to 97.7FM to hear the music. Come see them on Colford Avenue.



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Club Information

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

Membership Information

Dues for 2020: 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

2020 WCGC BOARD:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Barb Bizzarri
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Secretary:	Cherie Kraft
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To Contact any Board Member, please send email to
WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

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and add some beauty to your garden at

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