

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 23 Issue 2 February 2019



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: February 28

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

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

Program: Simple Pleasures--Inspiration for Gardeners

Winter is the calm before the storm—the hectic spring clean up when all hands are on deck in the garden. Spring is several weeks away, so join Nina Koziol as she takes you on an inspirational tour filled with ideas to help you get more from your garden this year. You can see some of her own garden at thisgardencooks.com

Nina Koziol has taught garden design and horticulture classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Morton Arboretum since 1998. She was a long-time contributor to the Chicago Tribune. She writes for the Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicagoland Gardening magazine and The Landscape Contractor magazine. When she's not weeding, reading, fishing, hiking, bird watching or writing, she's sure to be in her garden, watching the sun set and debating with her husband over the exact names and heights of the cloud formations. Her website is aimed at new and experienced gardeners, those who enjoy

fresh vegetables, herbs and fruits, and those who simply like to observe and reflect on nature.



MARCH 28TH MEETING

**March Speaker: Tricia Bethke—"Jumping
Worms & Other Invasives "**

Don't Forget our New Location

St. Andrew Lutheran Church is located on the northeast corner of Prince Crossing and Geneva Roads.

Gardening Notes from Barb Bizzarri

As I sit here in my kitchen looking out at a beautiful WHITE landscape, it seems like Spring will never come. What can a person do....Think Spring! Get out and get a glimpse of what's to come at the [Chicago Flower and Garden Show](#) which returns to Chicago at Navy Pier, March 20/Thursday through March 24/Sunday. This year's theme is "FlowerTales; The Story Grows On". This year's gardens will interpret the unique role flowers, plants and gardens play in the stories of our lives and literature.



Another cure for the Winter doldrums is [Orchids by Hausermann's](#) Open House and Orchids Show in Villa Park. This annual show has been offered for over 55 years. This year it will be held on TWO weekends; March 1 - 3 AND March 8-9. Hours are from 9 am - 5:30 , FREE admission FREE parking. This tropical wonderland of beautiful orchids will surely be the best Rx for Winter Doldrums.



So create your own Spring! In a past issue I gave a tip on 'overwintering' my bulbs from Bulb Bingo. I just potted several of them this past week and already they're poking their heads out. I'll keep you posted on the final results.

Getting to Know ...Christina Covarrubias

Resident of West Chicago: 23 years but now live in St Charles

West Chicago Garden Club Member: May 2018- I joined at last year's plant sale!

Hobbies: Of course gardening, but I also enjoy reading historical non-fiction books, checking out independent coffee shops, playing the piano, traveling, and going to a variety of concerts (especially at Ravinia).

My Favorite Flower: Geraniums (pelargoniums)

Biggest Gardening Mistake: I've made many and one of my most recent ones was not pulling out all the volunteer tomatoes seedlings that came up last year. I had cherry tomatoes coming out of my ears. Not even the chipmunks wanted them!

Career: I've been an intensive care nurse for almost 11 years.

Favorite Restaurant; El Paiasa Fresh Mexican Grill- the best Mexican food ever, unfortunately, it's in San Diego.

Favorite Vacation: : The Maritime provinces- Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island with my sister. We circled Cape Breton, took a ferry, and stayed at a hotel with the claim to fame of being Canada's "oldest continually operated family owned business".

Why Should Someone Join WCGC?: The benefits of being a garden club member are unbelievable. From the access to private gardens on WCGC field trips to monthly meetings that include free plants or bulbs how could anyone NOT want to be a member! I've also enjoyed the local garden tips shared in meetings, newsletters and the Facebook page. Last but not least I've enjoyed getting to know fellow garden club members. Everyone is so welcoming and down-to-earth!

Out and About



Kerry Perry's garden after the ice storm.

January Meeting Recap

Barb Melville



January's meeting was a delight to attend. Carolyn Ulrich, the editor of Chicagoland Gardening Magazine, did a wonderful presentation regarding perennials from England to Chicagoland. Carolyn's beautiful slides showed over 50 wonderful perennials that would do well in our area.



Coffee Time!!
THANKS FOR
THE TREATS
RUTH
PAULINE
DAN + PAMELA



The West Chicago Environmental Commission in partnership with Sustain DuPage present:

Starry Skies in West Chicago?

Facts about environmentally responsible community lighting

Presented by:

Drew Carhart

Board Member, Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Ball Horticulture, 622 Town Rd, West Chicago, IL

For more information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/WeGoStarry>

In the US, we consume billions of kilowatt hours of electricity each year lighting up the outdoors around our homes, businesses, towns and cities. Little attention is paid to whether we're doing that effectively and efficiently, and even less attention to the effects of artificial light has on the environment around us. This presentation is geared to raise awareness of the impact of artificial light, and present available lighting methods that are efficient, effective, and environmentally responsible.

Drew Carhart is a board member of the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting, where he specializes in environmental issues and lighting engineering. He is an avid amateur astronomer, and works at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.





Every week I make a short visit to the Kruse House Garden to see what's happening. All the bright colors are absent, but it's still beautiful.

In winter you can see the bone structure of the yard. There's a sharp contrast of the dark of the tree trunks and branches against the white snow and blue sky. The fading sunlight leaves interesting shadows.

The heavy snows leave a seamless layer of clean, white quietness. Under that blanket are many perennials that will wake up soon and show their splendor.

The Kruse Gardeners are already thinking

about spring and wanting to get our hands dirty. Look back at the January Newsletter for our To Do and Wish List. One of our long-time members has graciously offered to donate bushes for the side yard and to join the crew. Any help, whether it's pulling weeds, spreading mulch or trimming back plants will be greatly appreciated.



Calling all Volunteers

Barb Bizzarri

Every Summer, Aquascape Inc (located in St. Charles) holds their annual Water & Garden Showcase to introduce people to the pond lifestyle. This year they're changing it up a bit and making it a larger, community event by partnering with local garden clubs and our West Chicago Garden Club has been selected. We've been asked to have members volunteer to act as greeters at each spot. In return, Aquascapes will donate a portion of all ticket sales for that day back to our club. We can also encourage attendees to join our club as well. The cost for this event is \$15 a ticket (kids 18 and under free.). This will be a fun, family-friendly way to get people outside this summer. The date for these tours will be June 15th from 10am to 3pm. There are 10 locations so at minimum we will need 10 members to be a greeter/check tickets at each location. If members would prefer to double up, so they have someone working with them, that is fine. You will need to stay for the entire 10 am - 3 pm duration but if members would be willing to split shifts that would be great too! Please contact Barb Bizzarri by phone, text or email at 630-780-7334 or barb.bizzarri@gmail.com to sign up for this event.



Flight of the Butterfly Project

Billie Childress

Butterfly artists to begin work.

Saturday, February 23, the metamorphosis of the flat white wood butterflies into glamorous art will begin at Gallery 200. Seven butterflies will be transformed into show pieces for the Kruse Garden. We have exceptionally creative members in our midst. Prepare to be amazed when you see the completed work!

Gardening Tips: Honey Bees

Dick Darrah

I started keeping bees this past Spring and I'm hoping that my colony over-wintered successfully. I insulated the hive and the colony is supposed to generate their own heat by clumping into a ball around the queen and beating their wings. They kind of rotate from the inner part of the clump to the outer and then back again so nobody needs to do all the work. But, with the Winter we've had I won't know until the temperatures rise to a level that allows me to open the hive.

When the temperature reaches 50 degrees the bees will become active and they'll be hungry. Over the Winter they've been eating honey they stored last Summer, but that food supply will probably be depleted. As soon as there is any hive activity, I'll start feeding them sugar-water to give them a boost, which is mixed heavy on the sugar side, about 3-parts sugar to 1-part water. I've also planted some early blooming flowers near the hive (Snow Drops) to give them access to some early nectar.



Plant Sale 2019

Dan Beebe

Even though Winter shows no signs of releasing us from its icy grasp, it is time to start thinking about our 2019 Plant Sale at Blooming Fest scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. We had a great sale last year and, based on some great feedback from members and the public, we have some big plans in the works for this year's sale. We have a lot of work to do and I have always been amazed by the number of people who have stepped up and volunteered to help with the sale, but we can always use more help!

I am looking for a few volunteers to help coordinate care of Member Plants. This role is really not as daunting as it might seem. Most of the work that needs to be done involves coordinating of volunteers to water the plants potted at the Potting Parties; you can choose how much you want to be physically involved in watering and care of the plants. I will also be looking for someone to fill the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the Plant Sale Setup Day (typically the afternoon & evening before the sale) and for the day of the Plant Sale. This role will involve recruiting members to help, managing signup lists and calling/e-mailing volunteers to remind them of their commitments. Please let me know if you have any interest in volunteering for any of these activities, even if you do not want a coordinator role.

The potting parties are a great chance for members to socialize and meet other members of the club. We may be moving the location of this year's potting parties... stay tuned.

We are also looking for businesses who would be willing to donate money to the club to help offset the cost of the sale tent. This year we are looking for three new tent sponsors to donate \$250 each. If you know of any local business who would be willing to help us out, please let me know. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to e-mail me at dbeebe@yahoo.com. — Dan Beebe

Save the Date!

**Blooming Fest (and our Plant Sale)
will be on Saturday, May 18, 2019**

Potting Parties

9am Saturday, April 13th

1pm Sunday, April 21st

9am Saturday, April 27th

1pm Sunday, May 5th



Local Events for Gardeners

March 5: Cantigny Greenhouse Tour: 11AM Take a behind-the-scenes look at the park's spring bedding plants and the beginning stages of its summer plant series on this guided tour. The greenhouse is normally closed to the public. Free with paid parking (\$5). Register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. Park at the Visitors Center then walk to the greenhouse or ride the tram.

March 10: Fabyan Japanese Garden: Winter Walk —1:00-3:00PM It is a garden of all seasons, meaning the vistas change and adapt depending on what foliage is in season, and it is deliberately designed to look like a whole other world in the snow. **ONLY IF** there is snow. If there is no snow, the walk will **NOT** happen. Please call (630) 377-6424 or check the [website](#) the morning of the event. \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for kids



March 24: Cantigny Introduction to Grafting Fruit Trees—Cantigny Greenhouse, 1:30 to 3 pm The Midwest Fruit Explorers, a garden club for backyard fruit growers, offers this class for beginners. The workshop is free but advance registration is required. Register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. Parking (\$5) is at the Visitors Center with free tram service available to the greenhouse.

March 30: The Growing Place, Aurora: Dig In Day / Opening Day 9:00AM - 5:00PM Welcome spring with us on opening day as the birds chirp and bulbs bloom in celebration. We can't wait to 'dig in' to spring! Visit with some of our favorite people to work with including Espoma, Proven Winners, Burpee Seeds, HOFFIE Nursery, Chicagoland Gardening Magazine, U of I Extension Master Gardeners, and GrowIt! (a mobile garden community). See <https://www.thegrowingplace.com/calendar> for the schedule of speakers.

Upcoming Programs for 2019

These are the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters.

March 28th	University of Ill.	Jumping Worms and other Invasive Species
April 25th	Ed Max	Ephemerals
May 23rd	Marcie Kozlowski	Workshop - Making a Hypertufa
June 27th	TBD	Garden Walk (Posey Mosey)
July 25th	Barb Bizzarri	President's Picnic
August 22nd	Carol Cichowski	Glorious Dahlias
September 26th	Pauline Briggs	Bulb Bingo
October 24th	TBD	TBD
November 21st	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner



Life in the Greenhouse—The Growing Place

Winter is in full swing with cold winds, empty branches and monochromatic scenery. Are you waiting in anticipation for the first signs of spring while planning for new life, texture and color in landscape design? The Growing Place greenhouse is actively raising a nursery of locally grown, healthy plants. Take a peek behind the greenhouse door and see what's in store.

All edible herbs and vegetables are non-GMO and only products approved for organic growing are used. Integrative Pest Management (IPM), a common sense way of letting nature take its course is utilized in the greenhouse for all edibles, annuals and perennials. Beneficial bugs reduce the pests that cause damage to plants. This is an eco-friendly occurrence in nature that The Growing Place replicates in the greenhouse.

Banker plants are started each week beginning in late November. They are a food source and reproductive site for the preying beneficials. It takes 3-4 weeks to raise an adult beneficial that will fly away from the banker plants and prey on the pests that like starter plants in the greenhouse. The best line of defense begins before seeing the enemy pests, such as aphids and thrips. A continual source of beneficials is raised throughout the growing season.

Does this mean you will see bugs on your plants? Probably. That is a good thing! Along with thriving plants, beneficial insects will be added to your landscape, fighting the pests already existing there. Nature has a sustainable system already in place. Root for the good bugs to keep the bad bugs from eating your plants once you take them home!

The knowledgeable greenhouse staff enjoy giving tours throughout the year, explaining the growing process and offering gardening advice. Except for May, when they are too busy filling the outdoor shelves with all they have grown over winter, you can visit by calling 630-355-4000 to set up a tour. See what's new. Ooh and ahh over the babies in the nursery.

Think of winter as a blank canvas for you to create or re-design for year round color. Get inspired as you plan for spring in our February and March classes. Make your wish list at thegrowingplace.com, then Dig In on opening day, March 30th with garden talks, vendor booths and more at the Aurora location. Your landscape will be bursting with color soon!

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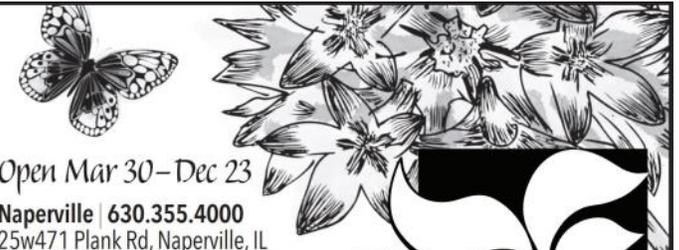
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Club Information

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 2018: Individual: \$15 Family: \$25

Board Meetings

2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location

St Andrews Lutheran Church
155 N Prince Crossing Rd, West Chicago

2017 WCGC BOARD:

President: Barb Bizzarri
Vice President: Dan Beebe
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Secretary: Pamela Darrah
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Plant Sale Chair: Dan Beebe
Newsletter: Pamela Darrah
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To Contact any Board Member, please send email to
WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

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