

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 2 February 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.

Meeting Date: February 27

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

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

Organic Gardening with Glenn Grosch

Organic appears to be the new paradigm in home gardening. While it's popularity continues to grow, there is as much fact as fiction both on the benefit, as well as, the methods of organic gardening. This presentation will discuss organic gardening from an unbiased perspective starting from the premise that it does have significant value. Considerable time will be spent on a discussion of how to implement an organic approach both in the areas of plant nutrition and pest control. The concept of "integrated pest management" will be introduced and explored. Finally, we will discuss a new gardening approach simply called "Smart Gardening".

Glenn Grosch is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in Agronomy. In addition he has associate degrees from Harper College in

Plant Science Technology and Parks & Grounds Management. He has been certified as a Master Gardener and has been an instructor in the University of Illinois Master Gardener Continuing Education Program. In addition, Glenn has been recognized by the ISA as a "Certified Arborist". He currently is on the teaching staff at the Chicago Botanic Garden and has been in that position since 1997. Since 1998 Glenn has been offering programs and presentations to over 150 garden clubs. His personal garden featuring an extensive hydrangea collection, an orchard and a large vegetable garden has been featured in the press on numerous occasions.



MARCH 26TH MEETING

February is Bring a Friend Month

Help Grow Our Club



Bring a friend to the February meeting. By joining our club you can catch up with friends and foster new friendships. The garden club offers comradery and the opportunity to share gardening experiences and successes. Our educational programs provide information on horticulture, nature, how to protect your environment and more. Have the ability to give back and enrich your community.

**Amazing Birds
presented by Bob & Kathy Andrini**

Save these Dates!

2020 Plant Sale Schedule

Potting Party Prep (The Barn)
Sunday, April 5th - 1pm

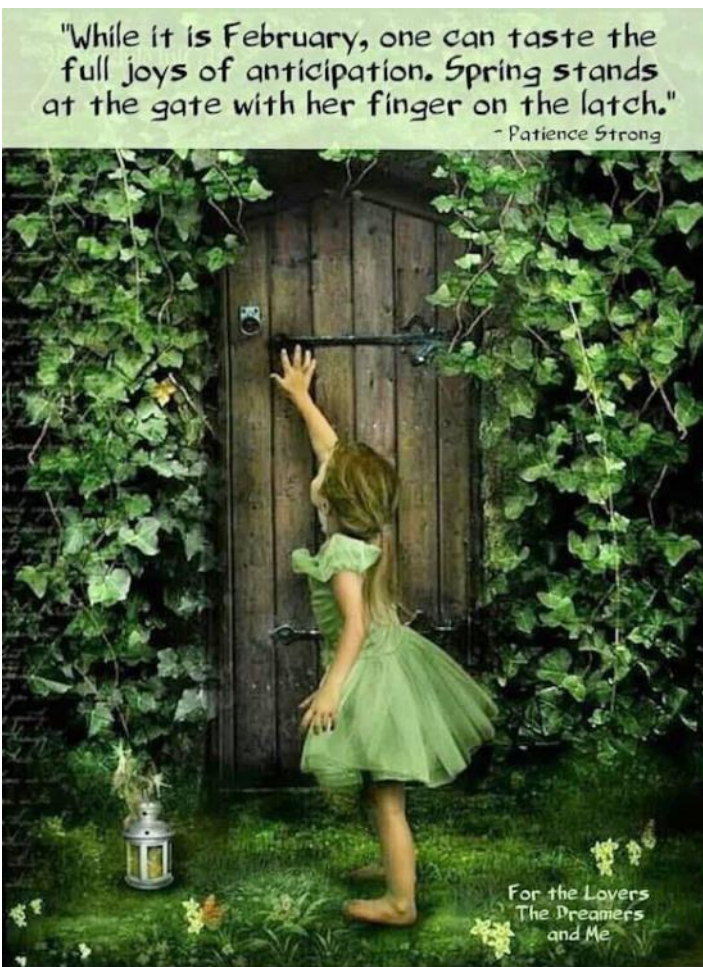
Member Plant Sale (locations TBA)
Thursday, May 14th – 5pm

Potting Parties
(Park District on Hawthorne)
Saturday, April 11th – 9am
Saturday, April 18th – 9am
Sunday, April 26th – 1pm
Saturday, May 2nd – 9am

Plant Sale Setup
Friday, May 15th – times TBA

Plant Sale @ Bloomingfest
Saturday, May 16th
times TBA

Plant Pricing/Labeling
(Park District on Hawthorne)
Saturday, May 9nd – 9am



Gardening Tips

Barb Bizzarri



This is the time to plan your garden! Shop early for seeds from catalogs and garden stores. You'll have the best choice of seed varieties.

Start onions from seed now. They'll be ready for setting out in April. Onions from seed are generally firmer and longer-lasting than from sets.

Start parsley indoors now also. You may think you have successfully wintered-over your parsley plants, but parsley is a biennial.

Notes from Dan Beebe —



As I sit here writing this, I can look out the window and see snow on the ground, the temperature is below freezing outside and I am already making this season's plans for my garden projects. Online orders have been placed, seeds and other hardscape items have started arriving and I am reminded that it is also time to start making plans for our 2020 Plant Sale at Blooming Fest scheduled for Saturday, May 16th. We had another great sale last year and I look forward to working with all of you on this year's sale. For those of you who are new to the club or have not been involved with the Plant Sale in the past, I feel that it is one of our club's best social activities and it is absolutely the best way we have to engage the gardening public and introduce our club to potential new members.

As always, we have a lot of work to do and I am confident that our members will step up and volunteer to help with the sale as they have done in the past, but we can always use more help! The potting parties are a great chance for members to socialize and meet other members of the club. As I announced at last month's club meeting, the location of this year's potting parties will be moving to the Park District Garage on Hawthorne Lane where we have been storing and caring for our potted plants over the past few years. This move will remove the need to move the plants from "The Barn" to the facility on Hawthorne. This year will have a 20' x 20' walled tented space for our potting parties that will provide us shelter from the elements, better lighting than we have at the barn and the potential to heat the interior of the tents.

Over the next two months, there will be sign-up sheets at our monthly meetings for Plant Sale Supplies Preparation (at the Barn), Potting Parties (on Hawthorne) and Plant Sale related volunteer opportunities. All members are encouraged to participate in any way they feel comfortable and new ideas to improve our sale are welcome from all members. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to e-mail me at dbeebe@yahoo.com. — Dan Beebe

2020 Dues?

Have you paid your 2020 Garden Club Dues yet? About 40% of our members still need to renew for this year. If you still would like to receive this newsletter and be a part of our club, please renew now.

Dues remain at the low price of \$15 for a single membership and \$25 for a family membership (2 people).

The membership form can be found on our website at:

www.WestChicagoGardenClub.org

You can renew either at our February meeting or by mail.

January Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

The Trees Near My Home

Dr. Megan Dunning, Manager of Adult Learning Programs at the Morton Arboretum gave us a look into her childhood and why she grew up with a passion for trees! Spending her early years in Washington State, Megan grew up climbing trees taller than her home and has passed that same love of nature onto her children. Megan demonstrated how trees close to your home affect your life in so many ways – and how you are also important to those trees. Megan discussed the benefits trees bring to our lives, shared what community members are doing to protect and care for trees, and how individuals can volunteer at the Arboretum.



A Note from Megan:

Thank you so much for inviting me to speak to the West Chicago Garden Club yesterday! What an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of gardeners. I've attached the selfie I took to this email.

I also wanted to share some links for the resources we talked about during the Q&A. Here is:

[The Arboretum's page on community forestry resources](#)

A booklet that the Arboretum and ComEd collaborated on [discussing care and selection of trees under powerlines](#)

And the [Chicago Region Trees Initiative Resource Library](#), where you can find many, many more links to resources for selecting, caring for, and protecting trees.

Looking forward to seeing folks from the West Chicago Garden Club at plant events in the future!

Megan



News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

I'm sitting in front of a cheerful fire, a glass of wine in my hand, a dozing cat on my lap and my best friend at my side. I look out the window, past the bird feeders, at the winter remnants of our garden. I am not saddened by this barren view because I am taking this time, like the garden itself, to pull my roots back down into myself and let my imagination kindle thoughts of the coming spring and summer. Should we plant something new? Should we cut back an overgrown bush? We all dream of getting out there in the warm sun and getting our hands dirty once again.

I think it would be hard to be a gardener if you couldn't have this chance to settle into the warmth of this winter hibernation. We need this time to contemplate the bare bones of our surroundings and picture the changes that we can make to enhance this small part of the world that we call our own.

Of course, those of us who volunteer at Kruse House are imagining our "second" garden as well. We are always thinking of ways to improve it without forgetting our ultimate goal of keeping its maintenance low. It's actually fun to get together for a few hours on a Wednesday morning. We would love to have any of you who occasionally can spare an hour or so to come and join us. Or if you want to stop by any time and pull a weed or two – Welcome.

In the meantime, we can all revel in good food, warm fires and the pleasure of the crisp winter air and dream about the coming spring.



February at Kruse - photographs by Kerry Perry



**“The color of springtime
is in the flowers;
the color of winter is
in the imagination”
- Terri Guilemets)**

Upcoming Programs for 2020

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

March 26th	Bob & Kathy Andrini	Amazing Birds
April 23rd	Jim Nau	What's New from Ball Seed
May 28th	Diane Blazek	All American Selections
June 25th	Sharon Yiesla	Smaller Trees for Smaller Yards
July 23rd	Dan Beebe	President's Picnic
August 27th		Native Plants
September 24th		Butterflies & Other Interesting Creatures
October 22nd		TBD
November 19th	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

Ball plants on the Red Carpet



New plants were featured at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards®. The New Beacon Impatiens from Pan American Seed, part of Ball Horticultural Company were seen on the red carpet. Grown locally in California by the expert team at Kawahara Nurseries, the 22 Beacon White and Beacon Bright Red topiaries graced the limousine entrance where the stars arrived.

Photo from Ball Horticultural Company

Perennial Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association recently announced Aralia 'Sun King' as the 2020 Perennial Plant of the Year.

Aralia 'Sun King' brings a bright pop of glowing color and texture, the perfect anchor for the shade to partshade border. With no patents or other restrictions, the perennial has bold, golden yellow to chartreuse, compound foliage that is deer-resistant.

Bigger than your average perennial, the perennial is typically 4 feet tall and as wide, once established, but 6 feet tall is not unusual for older plants.



Local Events for Gardeners

- February 29: **The Growing Place, Aurora: Leap into Rain Gardens** 11:00-2:00 In the first half of the class, we'll talk about how to design the space and the advantages of keeping rain-water local. In the second half, we'll delve into plant choices for both beauty and function. Class fee includes a \$10 coupon for you to use this spring! Cost: \$15. Call 630.355.4000 to register. www.thegrowingplace.com
- March 7: **The Growing Place, Aurora: Landscape Design Basics** 11:00-2:00 Take a crash course in basic design with Mary, our Landscape Design Manager. She will teach principles such as viewpoints, focal points, traffic flow and tips on adding season-long color and texture to shape your garden beds for beauty and function. Class fee includes a \$10 coupon for you to use this spring! Cost: \$15. Call 630.355.4000 to register. www.thegrowingplace.com
- March 7: **Cantigny Workshop: Soil 101**. Visitors Center Theater, 9 am. Landon Gibbs from Cantigny Horticulture explains the basics of soil science. Home gardeners can use what they learn to choose the proper soil amendments, plants and fertilizers, and maybe reduce their use of pesticides. Free program; parking \$5. Register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. [March Calendar](#)
- March 12: **Cantigny: Growing Plants from Seed** . Greenhouse, 6pm. Greenhouse Manager Bob Carr explains and demonstrates how to grow plants from seed. Learn the procedures for seed starting followed by Cantigny Horticulture, too. Attendees will receive seed packets to try out their new skills at home. Cost: \$5. Register at Cantigny.org or call 630.260.8162. . [March Calendar](#)
- March 14: **The Growing Place, Aurora: Veggie Gardening & Seed Starting** 11:00-2:00 Planning Your Veggie Garden, Greenhouse Tour: and Seed Starting Workshop: Cost includes seed tray, soil, lid and a selection of the seeds we grow. (Other varieties available for purchase.) Class fee includes a \$10 coupon for you to use this spring! Cost: \$30. Call 630.355.4000 to register. www.thegrowingplace.com
- March 18-22: **Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier**. Wednesday-Saturday 10AM-7PM Sunday 10AM-6PM. For more information, visit <https://chicagoflower.com/>
- March 19: **Conservation Foundation Movie Night: The Biggest Little Farm** 7pm to 9pm at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn—Health & Science Center Building, Room 1234 . "The Biggest Little Farm" movie is a must-see for anyone interested in restoring our land to a beautiful, thriving habitat. The lessons learned about the need for enriching the soil, providing habitat for the good pests, and allowing the elements of nature to work together are INSPIRING! Plus the cinematography is beautiful... and it's a good story! For more information, visit [This WebPage](#)
- March 21: **Celebrating Spring with DuPage Friends of Extension** . U of I Extension, DuPage County Office, 1100 E Warrenville Rd, Naperville. Information Session and Silent Auction to benefit UofI Extension Programs in DuPage County. For more information: See the website at <https://dupagefriendsofextension.webs.com/silent-auction>
- April 4: **The Naturally Beautiful Conference** Sponsored by Wild Ones West Cook and Unity Temple 's Eco-Justice Team. Unity Temple (875 Lake Street, Oak Park). 12:45 – 4:30 PM Keynote Speaker: Doug Tallamy—Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard. For more information, Visit [Eventbrite Page](#)

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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
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