

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26 Issue 2 February 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: February 24

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

**7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program**

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

Gardening with Native Plants Through the Seasons



Our February program is presented by landscape designer Denise Sandoval. With over 17 years of designing and 20 years gardening with native plants, Denise shares which native plants grow well and look good in most small-medium landscapes. She also shares design tips, and wildlife-plant dependencies to foster in your garden.

Denise founded [Good Nutured Landscapes, LLC](#) in 2005 which offers design services for small-medium size residential landscapes. She describes herself "For the past 20 years, I've been a student of both local ecology and design. I garden with native plants in my own yard, performing prescribed burns, installing the first of many rain gardens in 2004, and collecting seed. I worked in the native plant department at The (original) Natural Garden, and as a Conservation@ Home assistant at The Conservation Foundation. I served on the boards of Wild Ones Greater DuPage chapter for 15 years and DuPage Monarch Project. The natural world is my greatest inspiration and teacher!"

We are planning to hold the February meeting in person as usual this month. If there are changes due to the ongoing pandemic, we will notify everyone via email and calling-post. As the Illinois mandate is still in effect through the end of the month, masks will be required for this meeting and we will not be serving refreshments before the meeting in order to encourage everyone to keep their masks on.

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

MARCH 24TH MEETING

"Foraging for Wild Edibles"

**Speaker: David Brooks,
Schaumburg Nature Center**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Yesterday's 50°F weather gave us a reminder that Spring is right around the corner and that it is time to start about 60% of the vegetable and herb seeds that will grow into pepper, tomato, basil and other plants that will be available at our Plant Sale in May. I find the same varieties of vegetables in every 'big box' store year after year and really enjoy starting different varieties not often seen commercially. If a certain variety does well in my garden, I continue to grow it in following years. About 75% of the vegetables I start are garden tested and the rest are new and interesting heirloom and hybrid varieties. If you know of a particularly interesting, tasty or hard to find tomato or pepper variety, let me know... maybe we can offer them at a plant sale in the future.

I know that a number of our members also start seeds for your own gardens as I do. If you do start annual, vegetable or even hard to find perennials, please consider starting a few extra plants that can be donated to the club for the sale. One of the top reasons I have heard for people returning to our sale every year is the variety of plants that we have available. We are able to offer that variety because of member plant donations and your dedication to your gardens and the club.

As you can tell by the articles in this newsletter, there are many opportunities to volunteer to help make the Plant Sale a success. While we don't start our potting parties until April, we do need to start getting people signed up for a number of volunteer opportunities well ahead of time. There is plenty to read about this year's sale in this issue of the newsletter and more details will be available at this month's meeting. Please consider having your spouses, partners, older teenage children, parents and friends help us prepare for this year's Plant Sale. It's a great opportunity to introduce them to the club.

See you at the meeting.—Dan



Please pay your Membership

Dues by February 24th

Thank you to the club members who have already paid their 2022 Membership Dues.

If you haven't sent in your payment, a Membership Application can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

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

E-mail: 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:	Hayley Hawkinson
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

Plant Sale Update

Mary Schramer

Our annual plant sale is fast approaching after a 2 year hiatus. The plant sale committee has been busy making preliminary plans and exploring how we can best use our resources and volunteers to make this event a success. To minimize the number of volunteers we need to move plants around during potting parties, we are trying out potting at the location where we hold the hardy perennials up to the sale. The West Chicago Park District has again generously offered the field behind their building at 830 W. Hawthorne as a holding area and this year we will be trying out potting up the plants in a tent at that property. Aside from the advantage of not having to move the plants around as much, the tents should provide brighter light to work in and we should be able to keep it at a comfortable temperature, though I still recommend you dress for the weather as April can be quite unpredictable.



Another innovation this year is the use of the Sign Up Genius app/website to help facilitate coordinating the volunteers needed to carry this off with the success of past years.

Members who are technology averse can still sign up the old fashioned way by adding their name to a list at our monthly meetings. Those who like to use technology can sign up right from their cell phone, tablet/ipad or computer. It's not necessary to create an account to sign up for garden club events. You can click on the following link to reach the sign-up page for potting parties:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444a8ae29a75-potting>.

The sign-up genius app will allow you to access all of your sign ups easily from your cell phone and make changes to your schedule if needed and can be downloaded from android and iphone app stores. You will get an email reminder of your garden club activities/sign ups. If you have questions about Sign Up Genius or volunteering for plant sale activities, reach out to Mary Schramer, Plant Sale Co-Chair at 630-790-9943 or mhschramer@gmail.com.



West Chicago Garden Club

Potting Party

Orchid Care

I was about to toss my orchid since it hadn't bloomed again after the first flower when I purchased it. Then one day, I spotted the start of a tiny flower bud... here's a photo of the end result!

Check out this info from the American Orchid Society. AOS.org

Orchid Care—Now That I Have This Plant, What Do I Do With It?

This is for the Orchid Beginner. Get answers to the most popular orchid questions.

If you are anxious to get going with orchids, check our quick start guide to orchid culture, [ORCHIDS 101](#). This article will give you an understanding of what is required for growing these marvelous plants!

Barb Bizzarri



Plant Saleback after a two year pause!!!

Billie Childress

West Chicago's annual Spring Festival **BloomingFest** is scheduled for **Saturday May 21, 2022** Our Plant Sale is part of this event.

Participation in the Plant Sale is by far the most fun you will have as a Garden Club member!

Not only is it fun, but it's also essential, because there would not be a plant sale without our members. It is our only fund raiser. Full Stop. This is where we get our money for speakers and field trips and for everything it takes to run our Garden Club.

The Plant Sale offers many opportunities for members. We get to know each other better as we work together; we learn more about plants, and we can shop at the members only pre-Sale for the best plants you'll ever buy! It's also a chance for us to share our knowledge and passion for plants with the public, fulfilling our mission to "Grow Gardeners". And it's often at our plant sale that we recruit new members to the Club. Yippee for us!!!

Ok. So here are the first things we need from you. Time to think and plan!

We need your plants. Plants from our gardens are the backbone of our sale. Most perennials can be, and like to be, divided. Think of some plant in your garden that you can share. Sometimes a friend, neighbor or family member has something to share. We welcome any and all plant donations with a few minor limitations. It doesn't have to be a lot of anything. Sometimes one plant can be a coveted one. If you have any questions ask Billie. She is Plant Acquisition Coordinator !!! At the February Meeting there will be a **plant donation list** for you to **sign up what Plants you plan to donate**. We just need to have some idea what's coming in for planning purposes.

We need your help to pot plants. There will be 4 Potting Parties: Saturday's, April 9 and 16, 9 am-noon, and Sunday's, April 24 and May 1, 1 - 3 pm. If everyone signs up for 2 potting parties we will be in good shape! Of course if you assist with 3 or 4 potting parties you will be nominated for Sainthood! **Signup sheets for these potting party dates** will be at the February meeting.

Sign up for plant donations and potting parties will be available on line as well (see page 3).

This is just what we need to get started with the Plant Sale preparation! There will be more to come. Stay Tuned!!!



Getting to Know ...

Janet Frogner

Karen Sherman



Resident of: Lombard

WCGC Member: Since 2019 ~ Invited by her sister

Current Position/Occupation: Accounting/Finance

Hobbies: Gardening, reading, hiking, traveling, pickleball (still learning), biking, crafts

Favorite Garden Tool: "Mountain Mover" – my trowel

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: Love them all. Especially cheerful ones that are yellow or orange!

Earliest Favorite Memory of a Garden: Ants crawling on peonies

Are You a Self-Taught Gardener or Who Taught You: Mostly self-taught. Learning new tips and tricks all the time.

What Is Your Summer Garden Success: Planting cactus in the garden. Didn't know they could survive the winters. They are a unique addition with a pretty yellow flower.

A Garden Mistake I Have Made: Planting ground cover in my flower bed that spread more than I intended. Great at first – now irritating.

The Most Difficult Plant I Ever Tried Growing: Dahlias. More than half of the bulbs rot over the winter even though I let them dry before storing. Recent Garden Projects: Dug out new flower bed by front lamp post. Trying my luck at a Hydrangea.

A Garden Tip To Share: Remember to divide plants – it's good for them and it's nice to share your extras with other garden lovers.

Favorite Garden/Nature-Location to Visit: I live close to Morton Arboretum so I visit there regularly.



Recap of January's Meeting

Ruth Kyme

Now is the time to start planning for additions and changes in your garden. Our January speaker, Heather Prince, shared some of her favorite varieties for perking up a variety of shady areas in our gardens.

Photos from Pamela Darrah



The Orchid Show: Untamed

Janet Frogner

Pictures from The Orchid Show: Untamed at the Chicago Botanic Garden on 2/12/2022.

It is well worth the trip to view all of the beautiful orchids and plants on display.

The orchid show runs from 2/12/22-3/27/22. For more information visit the [Chicago Botanic Garden](https://www.chicagobotanic.org) website.



Our **fabulous, famous, Garden Club Plant Sale** is right around the corner!

And... what makes our Plant Sale fabulous and famous is the **plants that we dig out of our gardens**. Plants from our gardens don't need to sleep the first year, creep the second, and leap the third like a perennial plant from a nursery. No...sir....eeee! Our plants slow down a bit because it is traumatic to be transplanted but a fully developed root system, even one damaged by division, helps the plant reestablish quickly in its new place.

My garden is filled with Plant Sale plants and that's the best testimonial there is, that indeed, our plant sale is famous and fabulous. I have purple coneflower, astilbe, epimedium, sensitive fern, monarda, and rudbeckia , just to name a few thriving in my garden, that came from our plant sale. And I hope many of you have a pagoda dogwood, a Mary Todd day lily, a Parkys Gold Hosta, or some other Plant from my garden thriving in your garden.



So what does that have to do with the Kruse Garden???

Well, let me explain.

I'm pondering what plants the Kruse Garden could contribute to the sale!

I'm willing to bet that all our gardens have something. It's just a matter of giving it some thought and of course digging it up in April to be potted at one of our potting parties.

In general, the Kruse Garden still needs plants, so why/what would we

give away?! Some plants like nepeta are generous self seeders and we could spare some of those and our Cyprus spurge needs to be thinned out. And there you have it! Some plants for the sale! It's likely there's another plant or two that we'll think of to donate.

It is interesting and exciting as the donation bags are opened at the potting parties! It's amazing what a variety of great plants members generously donate from their gardens!

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 & Webinars

March 19, 2022—Hosta College, 9:00am to 3:30pm ET

Hosta College will be Virtual this year. It is FREE to all who register. Register on-line at hostacollege.org



All gardeners welcome. You do not need to be a member of a local Hosta Society to attend this FREE event. More information available on website.

March 22, 2022—Cantigny Greenhouse Guided Tour 6pm-7pm, Adults: \$10. Members: \$5



Join our greenhouse manager, Bob Carr, as he leads you on a tour of the Cantigny greenhouse bursting at the seams with spring bedding plants. Our greenhouse is only open to the public three times during the year so don't let this date pass you by! The tour starts at 6pm with parking available at the greenhouse from our Shaffner Road gate entrance. [See website to Register](#)

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

“Another freeze is inevitable, but every cycle of freeze and thaw brings spring a little closer.”

PLAN:

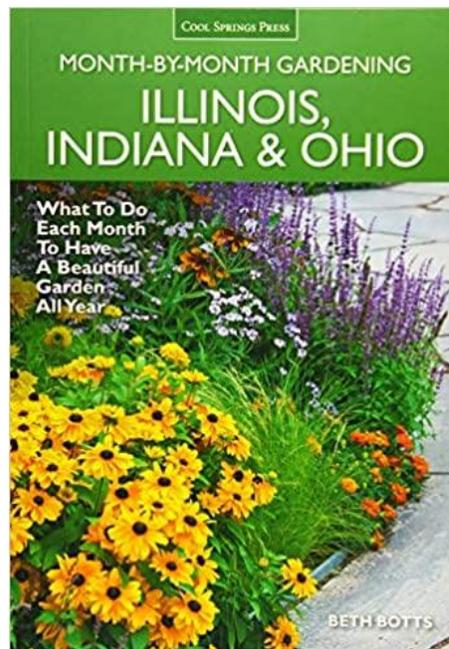
- Good soil makes a successful garden
- Amend soil with compost, shredded leaves, mushroom compost, or well-rotted mulch
- Make a rough sketch of your planned garden; use Pinterest, magazines, etc. for ideas
- Don't forget to rotate your vegetable crops
- Schedule lawn care (if needed); try using an organic service that treats with compost or compost tea and mows high to promote healthier grass
- Look for upcoming native plant sales

PLANT:

- Start annuals that need a lot of time under lights, i.e. pansies, calendula, petunias, snapdragons, lobelia

CARE:

- Sharpen any tools that have been missed including lawnmower blades
- Do lawn mower maintenance
- Inflate wheelbarrow and garden cart tires
- Inspect compost bins, trellises, cold frames and sheds for repairs/replacements
- Clean out birdhouses and rehang
- Watch for early bloomers such as snowdrops
- Gently press back any popping plants in garden due to freezing/thawing occurrences
- Avoid walking on thawed soggy soil
- Winter trimming and pruning of trees and shrubs
- Consider replacing salt-damaged evergreen groundcovers along sidewalks or driveway with salt-tolerant plants such as creeping junipers, ornamental grasses, daylilies, or sedum



A Growing Legacy

A lot has changed over the years but our commitment to our customers and to our community has not. Our goal remains providing high-quality, locally-grown plant and landscape material, expert advice and professional installation and design services.



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West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application - 2022

Our meetings in 2022 will be held on the 4th Thursday evening of each month from January through October and the 3rd Thursday of November (no meeting in December).

With your paid membership you receive a copy of our monthly e-newsletter. You will also receive periodic phone call reminders of meetings and events via "The Calling Post".

Individual Membership:
\$20 per year

Family Membership:
\$30 per year
(for two members at the same address)

Our club year runs from January 1st through December 31st. 2022 Membership dues are to be paid by February 24th, our Feb meeting.

Please make your check payable to:
West Chicago Garden Club

Please bring this form and your check to a club meeting or mail both to:

West Chicago Garden Club
P.O. Box 313
West Chicago, IL 60186-0313

Application:

Type: Renewal
 New, referred by:

Class: Individual or Family

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City / ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

Cell: _____

E-mail Address (es):

Please do not add my phone number to the Calling Post. If you check this box, you will not get phone reminders of any garden club events.

Please Note: A membership list with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address will be distributed to Club Members, unless you check below the information you do not wish to appear:

____ name; ____ address; ____ phone number; ____ e-mail address