

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 2—February 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: February 23

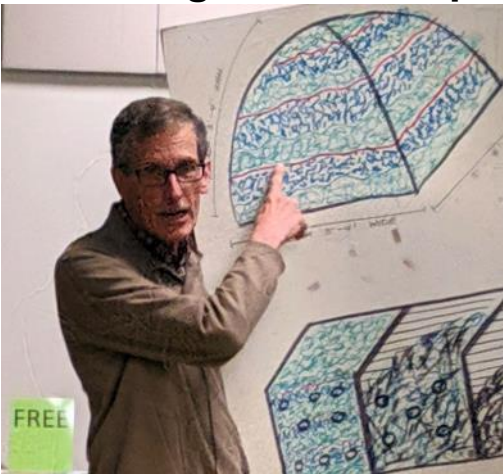
Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

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

**6:45PM Arrive & Mingle
7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program**

A to Z vegetables - Asparagus to Zucchini and Everything in Between



Our February speaker will be Bill Karges. Bill will cover all the basics as well as the details of growing successful vegetables such as: soil preparation, sunlight requirements, garden layouts, fertilization, planting dates, insect and disease control, much more and everything in between.

Bill worked for Pioneer Garden and Feed for close to fifty years until it closed in August 2022. He was manager, chief botanist, and all around dispenser of relevant gardening advice. We enjoyed his presentation on “Composting and Putting your Garden to Bed” in October 2019 so much and are pleased to have him return.



Thanks to the club members who have already paid their 2023 Membership Dues.

If you haven't sent in your payment, please pay your dues by February 26th.

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

MARCH 23RD MEETING

**“Tree Pests and Diseases of
the Urban Forest”
by Paul Hack**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

As Mary mentions in her article on the Club's annual Plant Sale, the current West Chicago Garden Club was started by two Kruse House Museum docents, Christine Baxter and Nancy Assian. While looking through pictures of the Kruse House property, they had noticed that the Kruse family had, at one time, extensive gardens on most of the property and started looking for signs that some of the garden features might still exist. Chris enlisted the help of her husband, Dennis, and together with Nancy started to find some of the hardscape we see today. While clearing brush and weeds towards the back of the property, it quickly became apparent that the job they had started was much bigger than the three of them could tackle on their own. Being interested in local history, they knew that at one time West Chicago had two active garden clubs and it didn't take long for them to decide to form a new West Chicago Garden Club to bring like-minded people together to share their love of gardening and join them on their journey to rediscover the Kruse House Garden. For the past 25 years, the club has been active in the garden and what an awesome journey we, especially those who have helped in the garden over the years, have been on.

The Kruse House Gardeners, led by Billie Childress, spend hundreds of hours in the garden every year and have created a fabulous, relaxing oasis in the middle of downtown West Chicago and we would like to increase the visibility and use of the space by the community. In order to do this, the board is looking for one or more people to volunteer to act as Garden Event Coordinator. This position has very limited physical demands and does not necessarily involve any hands-on gardening. We need someone to assist in planning weekend work days in the garden, act as a liaison to the West Chicago Historical Society who owns the property, work with the Historical Society on developing new, innovative ways to showcase all the work that has been and continues to be put into the garden and most importantly share the garden with the community.

If you are interested in taking on this exciting opportunity or would like more information, please let me know at our meeting or by email sent

to westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com.

See you at this month's meeting, — Dan



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:	Patti Zaputil
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

Field Trip Planning

Last year's member survey found that there is a lot of interest in Garden Club Field Trips. It has been a number of years since the club has had a full-scale field trip. (I think the last was in 2016) In recent years we have had a number of fun local trips to nearby locations where members drove themselves and met there. This year we are hoping to have a field trip to

Pamela Darrah



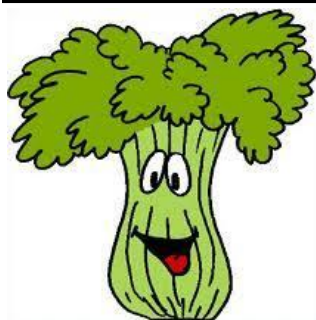
2005

somewhere a little further afield. The plan would be to include transportation and it would be a full day event on a weekend day.

Our first large field trip was back in 2005 and we visited the Anderson Japanese Gardens and the Klem Arboretum in Rockford. Over the years, we have visited a number of other locations/events such as the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Janesville Rotary Garden, the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, and the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park among others.

We have a list of potential places to visit and are looking for a couple of people to help plan and organize a trip. Our Board Member at Large, Marylin, has agreed to help but we would like to have a group of 2 or 3 people so that the work won't overwhelm anyone. If you have been thinking of getting more involved, this could be a good starting place. The Field Trip committee would be in charge of planning one field trip for this summer: Picking the location, arranging transportation, deciding how to handle lunch, deciding if we need a tour/guide and arranging it if needed.

If you would be interested in helping the club plan this year's field trip, please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com or talk to a board member at our February meeting.



I was offered a job as a gardener,....
but I didn't take it because the celery
was too low.

Why is The Hulk such a good gardener?
.....Because he's got green fingers.



Life begins the day you start a garden ~ ~ Chinese Proverb



Christina Covarrubias, Member Services Director

Resident of: St. Charles for 14 years, but grew up in West Chicago

Member: Since May 2018 and joined at our annual plant sale when a member said, “You don’t have to live in West Chicago to enjoy our garden club.”

Board Member: 2023 ~ first year as board member as Member Services Director

Current/Past Profession: Registered nurse working in critical care my entire career

What Are You Most Proud of in Your Garden: I’m always pleased when any of my annuals started from seed flourish. Last year I had success growing Prairie Sun rudbeckia from seed.

A Garden Mistake You Made: Buying Virgin’s Bower at a nursery because it was described as being very similar to a clematis I wanted, but they didn’t stock. Wow, is it invasive!

What Do You Love Most About Gardening: I love that gardening is both a hobby and therapy. I like to take frustrations out on weeding and enjoy relaxing in the bounty of the garden.

A Tip, Trick, or Words of Wisdom To Share: Give winter sowing a try (there are great videos on YouTube). It gives you an early start on gardening and is a great option when you don’t have an ideal indoor seed starting location or a greenhouse—it’s the maintenance free seed starting option.

Favorite Place To Purchase Seeds and Plants: Proseks ~ annuals; Wasco ~ perennials; Select Seeds ~ online for seeds; Lowe’s clearance rack mid-season ~ to start replacing the flowers that the rabbits ate.

Favorite Spot In Your Garden: The zinnias and dahlias along my patio which I also enjoy from my kitchen sink window.

What Plant Can’t You Wait To See This Season Emerge From Your Garden: I love seeing Virginia bluebells flowering because it signals garden season is here to stay—even if they get a blanket of snow after they bloom!

Looking Forward To In 2023: I’m excited to plan and plant a new full sun flower bed now that my new neighbors removed their buckthorn tree that shaded part of my garden. I was so excited to see that tree go!!!



January Meeting Recap

Pamela Darrah



Our January speaker, Eileen Davis, gave us some great ideas for adding native plants to our garden landscape. Here are some links that Eileen sent to help us get started and a further response to a question that was asked at the meeting.

LCFPD (Lake County Forest Preserve District)

<https://www.lcfpd.org/what-we-do/conservation/native-plants/>



Prairie Moon Nursery: <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

"We provide the largest native plant collection available for retail sales in the United States. With a network of growers across the Midwest, we supply over 700 North American species"

Illinois Native Plant Society: <https://illinoisplants.org/>

Dedicated to the study, appreciation, & conservation of native flora & natural communities of Illinois.

National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/>

This website will help you find the best native plants specifically for your area that attract butterflies and moths and the birds that feed on their caterpillars, based on the scientific research of Dr. Douglas Tallamy.

I also wanted to follow-up on the question about explaining how native plants are not "invasive". After giving it some thought on the drive home, this is what I would tell a friend who thinks all native plants are "invasive".

Native plants that live in the same habitat have evolved together over thousands and thousands of years. They all have natural "checks" that keep them from taking over and dominating the rest of the plants. Some of those checks might be insects or other animals that eat leaves or seeds or a fungus that limits growth so not one species can take over. Other checks are simply environmental. Each plant occupies a certain space and takes up water and absorbs the sunlight so there are natural limits to an individual species being able to dominate the others.

Invasive species (could be native or non-native) become invasive because the natural checks that would keep them in balance with the other plants are missing. Most often, this is the result of some type of disturbance in the habitat. Unfortunately, often caused by people.

I hope this helps!

Eileen

Plant Sale 2023

Mary Schramer



The date for our annual plant sale fundraiser at Blooming Fest has been confirmed as May 20, 2023. We need the participation of all members for continued success. Aside from our annual dues, this is the only revenue stream for our club. It allows us to bring in amazing speakers for our monthly meetings, schedule workshops for garden related crafts at nominal cost to club members, cover costs for bulb bingo and garden center gift cards for the annual garden bucks member only auction, cover the

costs of the annual president's picnic and the November buffet. And these are just the direct to member benefits. Our club supports our community by tending to the Kruse Gardens, donating money for trees to the Park District, cover subscriptions for garden related newsletters at the public library, make donations for various garden related causes in the West Chicago area and beyond.

After being unable to hold the sale for 2 years due to pandemic restrictions, we were pleasantly surprised to find we had a plant hungry community at large that came out and supported the sale despite the stormy weather and we had a record number of new members sign up last year. Clearly, our plant sale has become more than just a fundraiser. It is a service to our community as well and it's a lot of fun for everyone.

New members may wonder when the plant sale began. After reading through old newsletters and chatting with Billie Childress, I learned the very first garden club plant sale was held in 1998 at Railroad Days



(that would be in July) as part of a drive to gauge interest in reviving the dormant West Chicago Garden Club. A few of the founding members potted plants from their gardens and offered them for sale along with a sign up sheet for those interested in joining the club. One hundred per cent of the plants were sold and the idea of an annual sale as a fundraiser was born. Over the years, the plant sale popularity lead to the creation of Blooming Fest and has evolved into what it is today.



Plant Sale 2004 in front of the Fox Community Center

Plants from member gardens have always been the cornerstone of our sale. In the early days, members divided and potted up plants on their own and tended to them until the sale. For a number of years, there was a digging squad that went to members yards (at their request, of course) and dug and divided plants for them. Potting parties were held at member households to pot up plugs donated from Cantigny and evolved into opportunities for members to bring in their own to pot (and then take home to nurture until the sale) or help pot up plants acquired by the digging squad.

Plant Sale 2023 (Continued)

Mary Schramer

As the sale has grown, the system began to change to accommodate the larger need for plants. We now ask members to dig plants they want to share and bring them to one of four potting parties at the Park District property at 830 Hawthorne Lane in West Chicago. There, members who understand propagation and dividing plants prepare them for a team who pot up and label the plants. They are then placed in the field and watered in where they will remain until the sale. We supply the soil (donated by West Chicago Park District) and pots (though we need member donations of gently used pots, too) and we keep the plants on site where members of our plant sitter team check in on them daily and tend to their needs. Of course, members are still welcome to divide and pot up plants at home if they wish. We do ask that they be brought to the park district site on one of the potting party dates so we can log them in and create a nice label to help educate our customers about the plants' needs.



In addition to the perennial potting parties, there are pop up potting parties to pot up plugs of tender perennials and annuals which typically begin in March and April. The location for these parties will be shared only with members who have signed up to attend as they are typically held at member homes.

Plant Sale at Blooming Fest 2023

Last year we used Sign Up Genius to help members sign up for ways they can best help make our sale a success and we will be using this approach again. Sign up sheets will also be available at meetings. We need everyone's help. See below for upcoming dates and check out Sign Up Genius to see where we still need volunteers.

One more thing. Every time you help out at any of the sale activities or donate plants you will earn garden bucks which can be used at the November members only auction. You also get to have fun, learn new things, share your expertise, meet members you haven't met, hang out with old friends, get your steps in, and more! See dates below so you can mark your calendar. Don't miss out!!!

SAVE THESE DATES

Pop up potting parties: Saturday or Sundays in March to be determined

Perennial Potting Parties:

Sunday,	April 16, 1-4 PM
Saturday,	April 22, 9 to 12 PM
Sunday,	April 30, 1 to 4 PM
Saturday,	May 6, 9 to 12 PM

Plant Sitters needed from April 16th through May 18th

Plant Labeling and Pricing: Saturday May 13, time to be determined

Member Only Plant Sale: Thursday, May 18th 5:30 to 8:30???

Plant Sale Set Up: Friday, May 19th, time to be determined

Plant Sale: Saturday, May 20th, 7 AM to 3 PM
(Sale open from 9AM-2PM)

Anticipation

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream." - Barbara Winkler

It's February and things are awakening in the Kruse garden. Buds are appearing on the Cornelia Cherry Dogwood, Lilac, Dawn Redwood and Viburnum.

Get your gardening gloves and tools ready for spring cleanup. Please join us for fun, learning and comradery.



9 Trending Houseplants for 2023

Janet Frogner



1. Peace Lily
2. Spider plant
3. Aloe Vera
4. Tall Houseplants ~ i.e., Monstera (swiss cheese plant)
5. Bottle Garden ~ a number of plants grouped together into a glass vase
6. Snake plant ~ Sansevieria
7. Grow your own ~ veggies, herbs, micro herbs indoors
8. Pothos ~ Devil's Ivy
9. Cacti or Succulents



Floral Symphony 2023 - Ticket and Garden Club Discount Information

We cordially invite your Garden Club Members to the [30th Annual Floral Symphony](#), where they can enjoy the beauty of dazzling floral arrangements while experiencing inspiring musical arrangements played by talented local students. Just what the doctor ordered to chase away the winter blues! Floral Symphony is an annual flower and music show that attracts around 300 people. A fundraiser for the Glenbard South music programs, this year's event will take place beginning at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at Glenbard South High School, 23W200 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn. Doors open at 6:30 pm with student performances.

On stage, four Master Florists will create lavish arrangements while our Master of Ceremonies educates us on the latest in floral design. Over 30 floral arrangements will be awarded as Door Prizes – every entrance ticket purchased serves as a door prize entry (must be present to win). Most arrangements are valued at \$100 or more! Other raffle prizes will also be available with additional raffle ticket purchase. Glenbard South student musicians will delight us with their musical talents before the show and during intermission.

Garden Club Member tickets are exclusively priced at \$15! To take advantage of this offer you may purchase at <https://www.gsboosters.org/floralsymphony23/p/general-admission> and use the Discount Code: GARDENCLUB at checkout (expires 3/5/2023).

Local Garden Events & Webinars

Upcoming events at Cantigny

Saturday, February 18

10am – 4pm Bonsai Silhouette Show

If you appreciate the form of trees in winter, you might enjoy the scaled down versions that the Prairie State Bonsai Society will have on display in the Visitors Center at Cantigny. There will also be bonsai related items for sale, including trees, pots, and tools. Entry included in the \$5 parking fee for the park. You can visit www.prairiestatebonsai.com for more information.

1-2:30 pm Seedy Saturday Seed Swap

If you have heirloom seeds (or would like some) this might be the event you've been looking for. Find more information and the registration at this link: <https://cantigny.org/event/seedy-saturday-seed-swap/>

Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26

9-5 Sat, 9-3 Sun Chicago Suburban Orchid Show & Sale

Bright colors and pretty ruffles and splotches can be found in the Visitor's Center at Cantigny during this show, hosted by the Batavia Orchid Society. Parking is the only fee and more information can be found at: www.bataviaorchidsociety.org

Ruth Gauss



Online Events

Billie Childress

A couple of programs from the West Cook Wildones.

February 19, 2023 2:30 PM -4 PM: Ecology of Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers

Presenter: Chris Benda—Online (Zoomtown). [Register at Eventbrite](#)

The Illinois Botanizer Chris Benda unriddles the escape artists of native plants: spring ephemerals. They succeed by avoiding shade, springing to life before the blitz of woodland leaf out, and flowering before the cowl of the tree canopy.

They are strange, complex, vital, and can form stunning colonies that knock the eyeballs right out of your orbits.

March 19, 2023 2:30pm: Wanted! Dead or Dead: Invasive Species on Your Property

Presenter: Wyatt Widmer— Online (Zoomtown) [Register at Eventbrite](#)

Your guide to understanding the concept of invasive species, what "invasive" means in context, how that changes over time and space, what invasive species you should look out for, and how you can help mitigate the spread of invasive species and their extinction-causing destruction.

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 2023

Our 2023 meetings 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. 2023 Membership dues are to be paid by February 23rd, our Feb meeting.

**Make checks 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

Type: Renewal New

Who referred you? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Class: Individual Family

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City / ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: (include area code)

Home: _____

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E-mail Addresses: _____

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. Check below the items you do not wish to appear.

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