

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 25 Issue 1 January 2021



*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: Canceled**

## Zooming into February

The Garden Club Board met in February and decided that since in person meetings will not be possible until Spring, that we will try to have a few Zoom monthly meetings this winter. Barb Melville has found us a speaker for the February meeting and Dan Beebe is setting up a few “practice” Zoom meetings to help everyone get comfortable with the technology.

If you haven't used Zoom yet, it is possible to join a Zoom meeting from many different types of devices. You can use most types of computers (Apple, Windows, Linux, Chromebook) and most phones and tablet devices. See page 9 for a little more information on getting started with Zoom.

The “practice” Zoom meetings will allow you to join a meeting and make certain that you are setup and ready to go before the February meeting. If all goes well, members who are at a practice meeting should be able to chat a little with each other as well.



You will receive 3 emails from the Garden Club with invitations to the practice meetings. You only need to attend one to make sure you are setup for the February meeting.

### Practice Zoom Meeting Dates

From 7:00 to 8:00pm on the following days

February 10

February 16

February 18

**FEBRUARY 25TH MEETING**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Speaker: Sharon Yiesla**



## **Notes from the President**

**Dan Beebe**

Happy New Year! I want to thank everyone in the club for sticking with us through 2020. I also want to extend special thanks to everyone on the garden club board for all of their efforts last year as they worked to keep club activities available to members as much as possible given the unique and unprecedented challenges thrown at us. All of the work put into the Kruse House Gardens by the entire Kruse House work crew and Barb Melville's outdoor programs in the Summer certainly brought much needed rays of sunshine into our lives.

Last week, the Garden Club board had a Zoom meeting to discuss thoughts about club activities and events for 2021. It was great to see most everyone's faces after a long winter break. Based on our meeting I have some not so good news and lots of good news to report.

The not so good, but probably expected, news. The board had to make a difficult decision regarding the club's participation in Bloomingfest 2021, should it occur, and our annual Plant Sale fundraiser. Based on the current vaccine rollout schedule and the amount of time that it will take to get a majority of the population vaccinated, it was decided (although not unanimously) that it would not be prudent to attempt to hold a public sale this year. The club is still in a strong financial position and, in my opinion, the board's decision was the correct one given the current risks and unknowns. While it was decided to not hold this event in 2021, we all look forward to a safe and 'normal' Bloomingfest 2022 Plant Sale.

Some good news. As you will notice while reading this newsletter, the board has decided to try conducting online Zoom club meetings. Barb Melville and Ruth Kyme have been busy looking for speakers to present to us in an online format. As of the time I write this, it looks like we will have located speakers to give presentations to us in February and March. I am guessing that we will have online meetings until the weather warms up and then switch to an outdoor format much like last year's meetings. More details throughout the newsletter including the dates/times of special "practice" Zoom meetings.

Some more good news. Billie & Kerry have been busy as bees working on the details of a public art project to build on the 2019 Butterfly Effect project. This year's project, "Bees Take Flight", will help focus attention on the importance of all pollinators while making the Kruse House Garden a 'must see' on everyone's Summer to do list. Please read Billie's articles in this newsletter to learn what all the buzz is about.

And one final piece of news. The board also discussed the possibility of having special interest groups in the club. Seed starting, vegetable gardening, water gardening and creating garden decorations were all mentioned as possible groups. If you might be interested in one of these topics or have another idea for a special interest group, please let me know. I would be happy to setup a Zoom meeting for any gardening related topic to be discussed in a free-form, open format.

I hope to be speaking, and possibly seeing, you at one of our Zoom practice meetings or 'regular' club meetings.

As always - Stay well, stay safe. - Dan

## Bees Take Flight

Billie Childress

Have we got a project for you.....

An opportunity to create GARDEN ART

### “Bees Take Flight” In the Kruse Garden

Attention Members. Here is a chance to have fun, use your creative talents, and enhance beauty and interest in the Kruse Garden.

To Participate. Reserve a plywood bee form by contacting Billie by February 14. Cell (630) 862-1213 call or text, or email [billiedc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billiedc@sbcglobal.net) The bee forms will be available for pickup the week of February 21.

The Process. Choose artistic media that will stand up to outdoor elements and design a bee for display in the Kruse Garden. Your theme can take on any number of approaches.....education, beauty, unique representation....you are the artist. More detailed information is spelled out in the “guidelines for artists” on the next page of this newsletter.

I really REALLY REALLY hope you participate! **We need you!**



The Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin hosted a group of bees last year. If you follow this link, there is video with some of their creative ideas.

<https://youtu.be/0Ytk4RWsUDE>



## Artist Guidelines and Information Sheet

Billie Childress

The **West Chicago Garden Club (WCGC)** wants to create an assortment of artfully designed wooden bees to install in the Kruse House Garden from May – October 2021. The title of the display is **“Bees Take Flight”**

**We are delighted that you have volunteered to assist the WCGC with this project!**

**Template Measurements:** approximately 48 x 48 inches, ½ inch thick.

**Template Construction and Prep:** plywood, primed with a water-based primer, ready for the artist to apply their medium



**Work begins:** The week of February 21 when you pick up your bee.

**Return/Complete:** No later than March 25, 2021 to Kerry’s house, where they will be sealed with a protective clear coat and prepared for staking into the ground. Request for extensions/waivers of deadlines cannot be granted due to the final steps required to treat and mount the bees. If the project cannot be completed on time you must contact Billie Childress ASAP (cell 630-862-1213) to arrange the return of the project and all supplies so that another artist may finish it.

**Exhibit:** May-October 2021. The bees remain the property of the WCGC and their final disposition after the exhibit is exclusively within the discretion of the WCGC. After the display the volunteer creator of each bee will be offered the option of purchasing his or her bee at the Garden Club’s cost for plywood model.

**Design Guidelines:** Use any medium suitable for outdoor exposure; any artistic representation suitable for the general public is acceptable excluding those with corporate logos/names/trademarks, copyrighted materials, and obscene or hateful images or words. The backside of the template may be designed but it’s optional. All bees will include a uniform signifier to include artist name and title of the piece.

**Artist’s Stipend:** WCGC will reimburse volunteers up to \$25 per bee for supplies at the time completed bee is turned in, if receipts for purchase are submitted.



**Placement:** completed bees will be placed in the Kruse House Garden for the Exhibit May-October 2021.

**Project Disclaimer:** By volunteering you agree that all bees complete or incomplete and the artwork are the property of the WCGC and as such, the WCGC has the right to use any or all of the images of the applied artwork for any of its purposes, including sale of the original artwork. The WCGC reserves the right to refuse display of any bee that does not comply with these Guidelines or would expose the WCGC to any legal claim or action as the WCGC shall determine in its sole discretion.

**Kathy Reynolds**



**Resident of West Chicago:** 1997

**West Chicago Garden Club Member:** For past 8-9 years

**Hobbies:** Bowling and Golf

**Favorite Flower/bush/plant:** Dogwood Pagoda

**Favorite flower from a florist:** Roses

**Biggest Gardening Mistake:** I pulled out an established clematis when I was novice gardener. My new neighbors were astonished

**What gardening chore do you dislike the most?** Weeding

**What do you plan on planting in your Spring garden:** Organization and lots more color

**Current Career:** Office Manager, John B Reynolds & Sons Memorials, S/E corner of Route 59/Geneva Rd, in West Chicago

**If you could travel now, where would you like to go:** Tarpon Springs, FL, to visit friends

**How Have You Kept Busy This Past Months:** I'm still working but visits with close relatives and Bible study

**When the restaurants reopen where do you plan to go:** Humming Bird Restaurant (S/W Corner of Geneva Rd and County Farm Rd, Winfield), St. Charles Place, Egg Yolk, Rt 59

**As we head toward February**

**Barb Bizzarri**

**DON'T** prune Birch, Elm, Maples and Walnut trees. These trees should be pruned in late Fall.

**DO**, create a sense of Spring by forcing branches of early spring flowering plants;

Does a favorite house plant look top-heavy and crowded? It could be time to divide it. Ready a few new pots and fresh potting soil. Run a knife around the inside of the pot to help dislodge the plant. Shake loose soil from the roots. Then pry the plant apart, with fingers or a sharp knife, and repot each piece. Here's a photo of my Rex Begonia's which I just divided and the leaves in the new pot are thriving.



## News from Kruse

## Billie Childress

There are six of us that presently work in the garden on a regular Wednesday morning schedule. We garden together and produce a lovely garden that we're all proud of. Below are personal comments on how long we have been "regulars" in the garden, why we started/continue to do it.

**Kerry Perry:** Eight years ago I joined the crew for camaraderie and education. The garden is special, ever evolving and beautiful.



**Keith Letsche:** 2021 will be my 5th year. I retired from work in 2016 giving me the opportunity to do it. I also retired from the Garden Club Board that year, and working at Kruse offered a way to continue to be significantly involved in the Club. I like almost nothing better than the tranquility, beauty, and ever-changing aspect of a garden, and I can never resist the urge to be in the midst of one. There's also a lot to learn from a crew of gardeners, mostly more knowledgeable than me, to take home for my own garden.

**Jan Grismore:** Five years ago I started working in the garden because I knew you needed help. I like to work among others and make something beautiful. It (the garden) has come a long way in the past five years.



**Christine Gicela:** I started at the Kruse House in 2019, and joined due to the personal invitation from you. We have a great group of volunteers! There is no pressure to get a certain amount of work done each week and you can decide where in the garden you want work. I enjoy gardening and helping at the Kruse House gives me satisfaction that I'm making a difference in our community.

**Barbara Darrah:** I think that I have been helping for three or four years. Both Tom and Angie were still working when I started. I decided that I could take the time away from the office and thought that the help was needed. I have especially enjoyed getting to know the other workers better. It is very rewarding to work together with a group on a project beyond your normal routine. Also, I've been pushed to do something active in the middle of the work week.



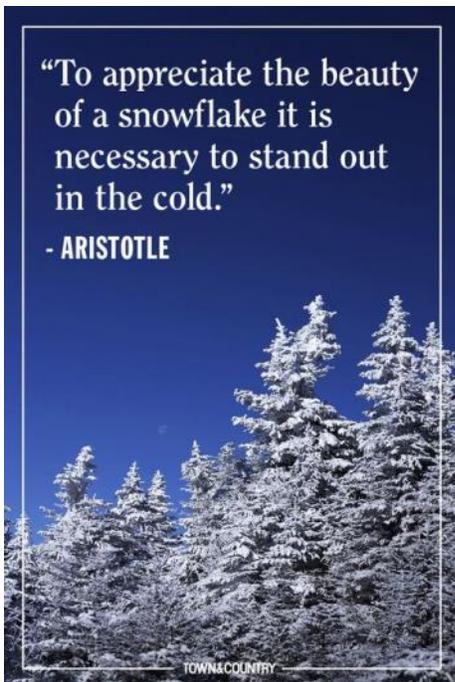
**Billie Childress:** This will be my 16th year of working in the garden. I love it because it's a joint effort with a pleasing result. I learn from the other Gardeners and I enjoy their company.

**Bottom Line:** I hope this inspires more club members to join us. We need your help and would love to work with you. The commitment is casual with an endlessly flexible work schedule.

## Out and About

Kerry Perry

A beautiful day for a walk at the Fabyan Estate on the Fox River.  
The bear cage, the Japanese garden, a grove of oaks and a pretty hillside.



## Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

Looking out my kitchen window is always a treat. The newly fallen snow made it evident there was a lot of activity - tracks and trails of lots of critters. The red fox crossed the pond leaving a trail that showed both his paw prints and brush marks from his tail. At the pond edge, fox and rabbit tracks converged. Yikes! Farther back coyote, squirrel and bird tracks were etched in the snow. A network of tiny trails beneath the snow and small twigs was most unusual. A little research revealed that moles don't hibernate, they're out there tunneling under the snow. Every critter is searching for food. Happy hunting.



The red fox left a trail that shows his tail brushing the snow.



Mole tunnels, under the snow and beneath the twigs



Fox tracks alongside rabbit tracks



Raccoon



Rabbit tracks.



Coyote

## **Getting Started with Zoom**

**Pamela Darrah**

After nearly a year of living with this pandemic, you have probably heard of Zoom. Many of you have probably already used it for work or church or other clubs and organizations or to visit with your family. However, we expect that there are some members who haven't needed to use it and need some support to get started.

You can use Zoom on many different devices. You can use a computer, a smart phone or a tablet. It is even possible to call in on a voice line and just listen, but that might be less useful for a presentation from a speaker like we are planning for our February meeting.

If you have a computer with a camera & microphone, you will probably have the most complete experience. For something like watching a Garden Club speaker, the camera is completely optional. It just means that the other members at the meeting won't be able to see you, but you can still see the speaker. A microphone makes things easier so that you can speak to others in the meeting, but it is also possible to call into the meeting from a telephone at the same time as you watch the meeting on the computer if that is needed.

A smart phone or tablet also works well with Zoom. Most have both cameras and microphones built into them, so it is possible to be seen and heard at the meeting. Due to the smaller screen, you might not see the other participants other than the speaker.

The first step is to install the Zoom program/app.

- If you are using a computer, it is called the Zoom Desktop Client. The link to download the program is <https://zoom.us/support/download>—it will automatically download the Apple or Windows version for you. You will need to run the file that is downloaded to install the Zoom client program. If you haven't set it up before you try to join your first meeting, it will automatically prompt you to install the program at that time.
- If you are using a phone or tablet, look at the App Store for your device. For Apple, look for Zoom Cloud Meetings app in the AppStore. For Android, look for Zoom Cloud Meetings app in Google Play Store.
- There are also version for Linux, ChromeOS (used with Chromebooks) and the Amazon App Store (for Kindle Tablets).

Whichever version you are using, you will then be prompted to sign into Zoom. Although it is possible to join a Zoom meeting without signing in, I have never tried it and I don't know if all features will work the same. An account is free and it is an easy process to create a new account.

You are now ready to Join a Meeting. This page on Zoom's website has detailed information: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

The summary version is that every meeting has a Meeting ID which is a 9 to 11 digit number. When you select "Join" from your program or app, just enter the meeting number and it will take you to the meeting "Waiting Room". Try this out at one of our "Practice Meetings" (See page 1). Dan Beebe will be running the meetings and will see you in the Waiting Room and let you into the meeting.

If you are confused, it might help to google something like "Getting started with Zoom" and look for some intro videos. If you still have trouble getting started, send an email to [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com) and we will try to help you.

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## Club Information

Website: [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)  
West Chicago Garden Club  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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

### 2021 WCGC BOARD:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Barb Bizzarri
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Cherie Kraft
Program Director:	Barb Melville
Plant Sale Chair:	Dan Beebe
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Kruse House Chair:	Billie Childress
Hospitality Chair:	Jan Grismore
Director at Large	Mary Schramer

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to  
[WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

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