

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26 Issue 1 January 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: January 27**

**Meeting Time:**

**Meeting Location:**

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

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

## Shady Characters

**Ruth Kyme**



Heather Prince has been a part of the green industry for more than 20 years, including experience at The Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, The Growing Place, The Pizzo Group, Wannemaker's Home & Garden, and the American Horticultural Society. She is a professional garden writer and trained horticulturist specializing in trees, shrubs and natives with a passion for connecting people with plants.

In her program, "Shady Characters: Nifty Plants for Shady Sites," Heather Prince will explore the colors and textures of shade loving plants as we look at varieties and species for dry shade, moist shade, part shade, and dense shade.

## Meeting Information

We are planning to hold the January 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.

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](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)



Facebook:

[facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub](https://facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub)



Instagram:

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

**FEBRUARY 24TH MEETING**

**"Favorite Native Plants  
through the Seasons"**

**Speaker: Denise Sandoval**

## Fabyan Winterlights

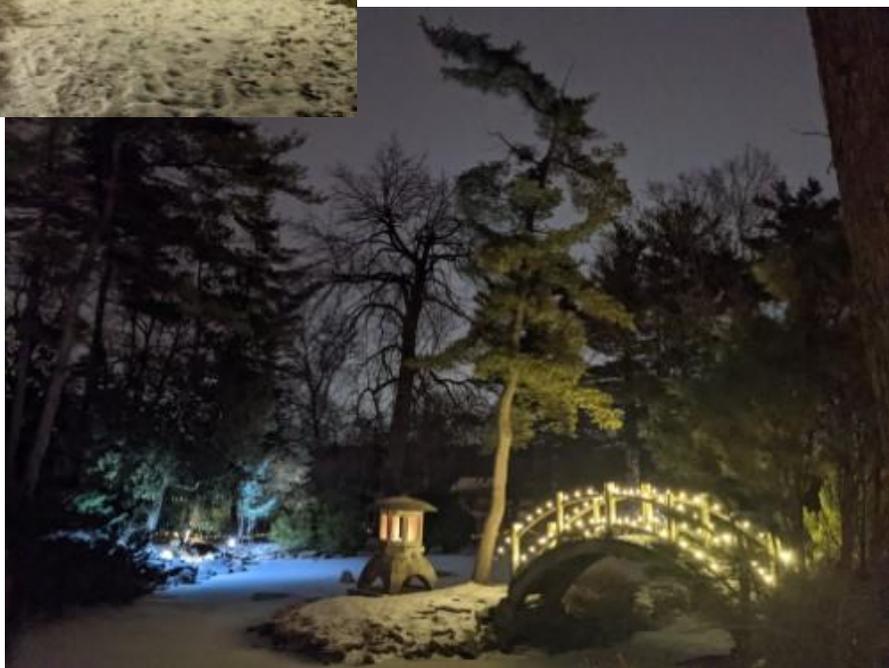
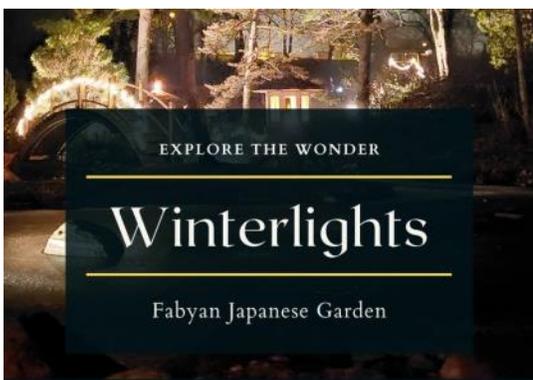
Hayley Hawkinson

### Winterlights at the Fabyan Japanese Garden

Japanese Gardens are meant to be enjoyed throughout the Four Seasons - with Winter's bloom being fresh snowfall. On a cold Friday evening, the Fabyan Japanese Garden in Batavia, IL was fully in bloom with the snow we have held since January 1st, 2022. As my husband Ryan and I crept through the Garden, the sound of a traditional Japanese woodwind flute was filling the air. Lights strung along the path led us down the Dewy Path, also known as the Path to Enlightenment, towards the Waiting Bench Chamber. We took a moment to sit, contemplate the Weeping Spruce trees and dormant Gingko Trees. Onward past the Tea House, the Moon Bridge, and overlooking the Pond, the Japanese Black Pines and soaring White Pines create the perfect backdrop for the Winterlights reflected across the ice covering the water. For a moment, we were alone at the base of Mt. Fuji - reveling in the bloom of the 4th Season. Winter!



There are 2 more nights to visit:  
January 21st and January 28th  
Entry to this event is timed at 15-minute intervals beginning at 5pm. Tickets are \$5/person (5 and under, free) at [PPFV.org/winterlights](https://ppfv.org/winterlights).



## Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Welcome to 2022! Your Garden Club Board has been hard at work making plans for this year's meetings and events. We have a busy year scheduled and more ideas for warm weather field trips and workshops that we are not quite ready to share with you at this point, but we will have them ready soon.

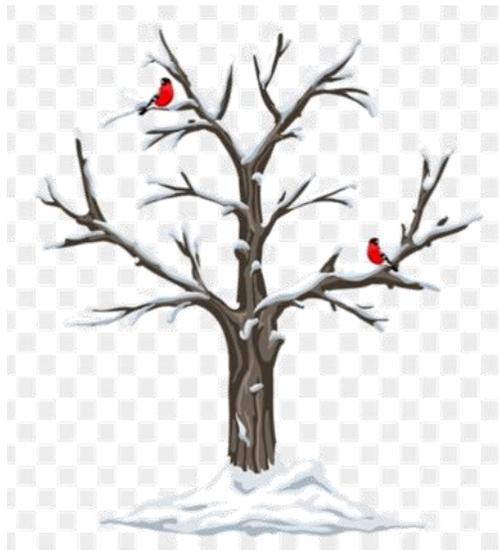
We will be starting the year with regular, in-person meetings and continue to monitor the ongoing COVID situation throughout the year. Please remember that masks are required at our meetings and that each table will have fewer chairs than they did in the past to help maintain distancing. We will not be serving refreshments in January, but hope to have them back at future meetings (after the current COVID wave subsides).

I have been in contact with the City's Special Events Coordinator and, as of now, Bloomingfest 2022 and our Plant Sale are scheduled for Saturday, May 21st. At next month's meeting we will have dates scheduled for potting parties, member sale and plant sale setup. As always, we will need a lot of volunteers and will start having sign-up sheets next month. We will also be working on contingency plans for holding our Plant Sale, even if Bloomingfest is cancelled (which I, personally, don't think will happen... fingers crossed)

In November's newsletter, when thanking outgoing board members, I failed to list Cherie Kraft, who served the club as Secretary. My apologies to Cherie for her omission and my heartfelt Thank You for your time and dedication to the club and for the timely, accurate meeting minutes! If you see Cheri at a club event, please join me in thanking her for her service to the club

I hope to see all of you at this month's meeting. Stay warm. Stay Safe.

Dan



### **Club Information**

Website: [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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 House Chair:    | Billie Childress          |
| Hospitality Chair:    | Jan Grismore              |
| Director at Large:    | Patti Zaputil             |

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



Did you know, you don't have to live in West Chicago to join? In fact almost two thirds of our members live in neighboring towns or outside West Chicago city limits.

Bring a friend to the next meeting. Everyone is welcome.

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## **CANTIGNY POINSETTIAS**

**Janet Frogner**



The Shades of Crimson poinsettia display from Cantigny greenhouse on November 19 was spectacular. Beautiful plants! About 3,000 poinsettias in all. If you haven't been, you must try to attend in 2022. No purchase necessary. You won't be sorry!



**Kurt Schramer**



Resident of: West Chicago Since 2017

WCGC Member: Since 2019 - Invited by his Grandmother

Current Position/Occupation: Cashier at Augustino's

Hobbies: Video games, gardening & writing

Favorite Gardening Tool: Machete

Favorite Flower: Iris of any variety

Earliest Favorite Memory of Gardening: Planting a vegetable garden with Mom and Dad

Are You A Self-Taught Gardener Or Who Taught You? Largely self-taught, but have also taken a few classes

What Is Your Summer Garden Success? Serviceberry Bush

A Garden Mistake I Have Made: Forgetting to weed

The Most Difficult Plant That I Ever Tried Growing: Canna

Recent Garden Projects: New hedge row / Iris collection

A Garden Tip to Share: Perennials do not do well in containers

My Favorite Garden / Nature-Related Location to Visit: Morton Arboretum



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.

Please respond by Feb 25th

# Recap of November's Meeting

Pamela Darrah

## Holiday Centerpiece Workshop & Raffle

November's meeting was very busy with both a workshop and a raffle. The raffle took the place of our usual silent auction using Garden Dollars. We had a fantastic turnout and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and socializing.

Photos from Barb Melville, Dan Beebe & Pamela Darrah



## Shhh . . . Plants Sleeping!



The Kruse Garden in January: anything going on here?

Ever wondered what the plants in your garden are doing in the dead of winter?

We know that of some of them—the annuals like petunias, lobelia, alyssum, marigolds and others bought at nurseries and greenhouses each spring or summer—are dead and gone and in the process of total decay. Others, like larkspur, which “come back” the following year, have in fact also died, but have

reseeded themselves so that they look like they return in the spring.

But what about the true perennials—the daffodils, lilies, cone flower, and phlox? What do they do in the winter? Well, not much above ground, as is apparent from the withered and decaying stems and leaves. But the underground portions do not die but continue to live, and even to grow in some cases. This period in the perennial cycle is called “dormancy.” Its purpose is to protect the plant and conserve energy for regrowth in the spring.

Dormancy is triggered by the shorter amounts of daylight and cooling temperatures in the course of the fall. Cooling temperatures reduce the rate of a plant’s metabolism thus stymieing growth. Fluids are withdrawn from leaves, stems, and other above ground parts at the end of the growing season, so that the nutrients in the fluids are not lost but diverted to the roots, bulbs, tubers, or rhizomes to sustain them during winter. Come spring, the cycle is reversed by longer days and warming temperatures. And as everyone knows who has gotten behind in their springtime gardening, plants really do jump up out of bed!

So, if you happen to go out in your garden this winter, remember, tip toe softly. Plants are sleeping!

**Nature Notes:**

**Kerry Perry**

It was the first week of January, just before sunrise and bitterly cold. Looking out my window at the wetland in back, I noticed all the dried cattails at the bank edge had been flattened by the wind. A large expanse of frozen water was visible. Then a red fox ran across the pond. Gorgeous! Her coat is rusty-red above with white underparts and her lower legs and feet are black. She was headed toward the den that's tucked away somewhere along the prairie path. Perhaps she had just come from the neighbor's chicken coup. If she didn't nab a chicken, maybe she caught a vole. Do voles taste just like chicken? Hmmm.



Photo by Charles Larry - Illinois Conservation Society



There is an interesting gardening book by Beth Botts called “Month-By-Month Gardening Illinois, Indiana, Ohio: What To Do Each Month To Have A Beautiful Garden All Year”. Here are just a few of her tips from the book. Hope you find them helpful!

*“The garden is still perfect because it’s still a dream.”*

PLAN:

- Dream
- Browse flower, bulb, and seed catalogs
- Dream some more
- Purchase at least one new gorgeous plant, bulb or seed to plant in your garden
- Think of where you have space or go outside to view your garden
- Start or review your on-going record-keeping system for your garden; take pictures, make notes, use a journal or notebook to record
- Make a plan

PLANT: Paperwhite narcissus or Amaryllis bulbs to bring your garden inside

CARE:

- Prepare your gardening tools by cleaning and sharpening (if not already done)
- Wash, dry and oil pruners and loppers
- Purchase new gardening tools – usually “new” shovels & hoes are sold dull and must be sharpened before using
- With pruners & loppers, buy bypass, not anvil style; anvil crush the branches instead of making a clean cut
- Maybe add a helpful tool to your collection: i.e. small pruning saw (push/pull style)
- Avoid using salt or ice melters near plants, shrubs, and grass because this will cause their roots to dry out
- Snow, without salt, is a great plant insulator and source of moisture for plants; add snow to exposed garden areas
- Brushing snow off of evergreen shrubs may damage their brittle branches
- Mulching and covering beds with evergreen branches help insulate bulbs



## Local Garden Events & Webinars

Hayley Hawkinson

Mark your Calendar! — FEB 12 AT 10 AM – FEB 13 AT 4 PM

**Spring Orchid Show and Sale "Living Gems"** at Chicago Botanic Garden



Join the [Illinois Orchid Society for our Spring Orchid Show and Sale "Living Gems"](#), held at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

See the best orchids from private collections across four states compete for hundreds of ribbons and trophies.

This is held in tandem with the opening weekend of the show held by the Botanic Garden, outside the ticketed area.

Our show is free, but garden parking fees apply. See the [Chicago Botanic Garden website](#) for information about timed entry: An event [Facebook page](#) is also available.

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U of I Extension Four Seasons Gardening Live Zoom Webinars—To register for any of these 3 events, visit – <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-series>

**Spring Ephemerals** on January 25, 2022 at 1:30 PM CST

These plants get their name because of their quick appearance in the environment in the early spring, flowering even before leaves have fully grown on deciduous trees. Horticulture Educator Gemini Bhalsod will guide you through the interesting diversity of spring ephemerals and how to grow them in your yard.

**Organic Gardening** - February 15, 2022 at 1:30 PM CST

Learn about what organic gardening is and how you can implement organic practices in your own vegetable garden. Join Horticulture Educator Ken Johnson as he covers the natural ways of growing vegetables.

**Shade Gardening** - March 8, 2022 at 1:30 PM CST

Join Andrew Holsinger, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator, on how to increase color and interest in your shade garden with perennials. Andrew Holsinger will discuss soil preparation, light levels, design, planting, and maintenance

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**Gardening in the air! - Virtual Gardening Saturday,**

February 5, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 CST

University of Illinois Extension and Iowa State University Extension have teamed up to offer virtual gardening. Combining expertise from both institutions we are offering an assortment of current topics for you to pick and choose from. All will be offered via ZOOM so participants must have internet access. Three tracks for Wildlife, Houseplants, or Spring Planting. Visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/gardening-air> to register (free) and list of classes

Wildlife: 9-10 a.m. Native Shrubs and Wildlife Benefits, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Move Beyond the Lawn! Small Scale Prairie Restorations, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Taking Action for Native Bees

Houseplants: 9-10 a.m. Plant Propagation, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Diagnosing Indoor Plant Problems, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kokedama String Gardening

Spring Trends: 9-10 a.m. Trees that Pop in the Spring!, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tree Pruning Tips, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 2022 Cool Kid in the Garden

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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