

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 1—January 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: January 26

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**

Landscaping with Native Plants

Ruth Kyme



Our January speaker will be Eileen Davis, Environmental Educator, Lake County Forest Preserves. Her program will be “Landscaping with Native Plants”. No matter what style of garden is your favorite you can create it or enhance it using native plants.

Discover the benefits of designing native habitats such as butterfly gardens and rain gardens. Native plant selection and

identification, habitat requirements, and maintenance will be discussed.



Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

FEBRUARY 23RD MEETING

“Vegetable Gardening”

Speaker: Bill Kargas

Notes from the President

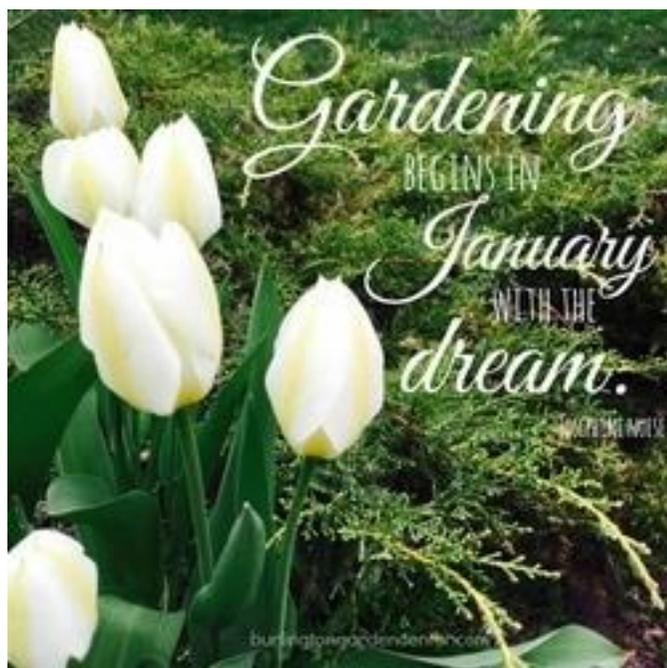
Dan Beebe

Welcome to 2023! Based on your survey feedback last year, your club board, especially Ruth Kyme, has been busy making program, field trip, workshop and special event plans for 2023. This is going to be an exciting year as we continue to get back to 'business as usual'. Our membership grew dramatically in 2022 and we want to be sure to offer a lot of options for all members. Although our schedule for 2023 is already pretty full, please let a board member know if you have ideas for programs and field trip locations.

Bloomingfest 2023 and our Plant Sale are scheduled for Saturday, May 20th. As always, we need a lot of volunteers to help make this event a success. Keep an eye out at our monthly meetings for volunteer signup sheets for potting parties, plant care team (watering and cleanup of potted plants), plant sale setup and the plant sale itself. We will also be using Sign Up Genius again this year for online volunteer signups and to send email reminders to volunteers. More details will be available at our meetings and in future newsletters.

I look forward to seeing all of 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



Marilyn McNabb, Director At Large

Resident of: West Chicago – 30 years

WCGC Member: Since May 20, 2022 Joined: Plant Sale

Current/Past Profession: Pastry Chef and Pastry Chef Instructor at Le Cordon Bleu Chicago

What are you most proud of in your garden: We do all the work ourselves! My husband cuts grass and sweeps the lawn in spring and fall. I do all the digging and planting.

A garden mistake you made: Pachysandra

What do you love most about gardening: Peaceful, quiet time creating beauty

A tip, trick, or words of wisdom to share: Compost! I compost all the leaves in the fall and put them back on my beds by mid summer

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: Baker Creek Seeds, Blumen Gardens, Northwind Farms, Proseks

Favorite spot in your garden: The patio; you can see most of the backyard

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: The bulbs I won at Bulb Bingo and some peonies I ordered



November Meeting Recap

Pamela Darrah

The November meeting was very busy and very well attended! We enjoyed our annual Potluck dinner and our Garden Bucks Silent Auction. We also held our annual meeting and approved our new Bylaws and the new board for 2023. A huge thank-you to all those who helped setup before the meeting and helped put everything away and clean up after the meeting!



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

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

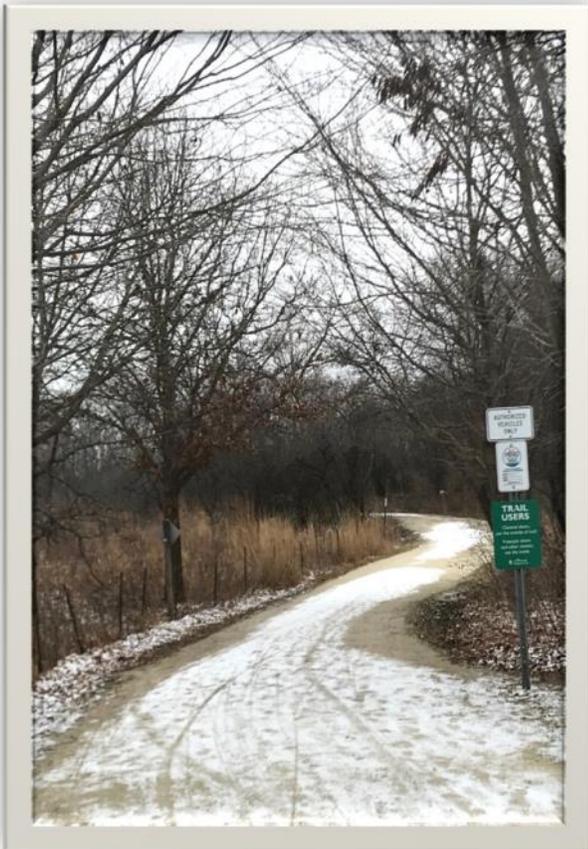
Please act now.



Quiz: what do you know.....
About the Kruse Garden

1. In 1917, Bertha Kruse, mistress of the newly built house and avid gardener, set about creating gardens on the one acre property. She was assisted by her mother and two sisters who lived next door and were also avid gardeners. True or False?
2. The Garden Club has planted more than 50 trees and shrubs in the garden. True or False ?
3. The number of members that regularly work Wednesday mornings in the garden is:
a. 5 b. 6 c.10 d.9
4. The Garden Club has taken responsibility for maintaining the Kruse House Garden for
a. 24 years b. 15 years c. 9 years d. 20 years
5. Current plants known to be original to the garden include
a. Tulips and grape hyacinths b. Maidenhair ferns c. Delphiniums
d. Lilac bushes
6. "News From Kruse" has been a regular feature of the Garden Club newsletter for
a. 8 years b.6 years c. 12 years d. 10 years
7. In some garden spots large slabs of cardboard anchored in place with wood chips is the preferred weed control approach. True or False?
8. Snowdrop and Stripy, the garden's two resident cats, get meals on wheels delivered every day. True or False?
9. The Kruse House was gifted to the West Chicago Historical Society in the 1960s. They manage and maintain the house as a Museum open Saturdays May through September. True or False?
10. The Historical Society engineered the rebirth of the the West Chicago Garden Club and initially all members were expected to work in the garden. True or False.?

It was a gray day in January, but still nice enough to roam one of our wonderful forest preserves. Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville is a scenic area of 1,366 acres with nine miles of hiking trails. Unlike most of Illinois, the preserve is quite hilly. As I started down one path, I came upon an educational marker. YIKES! Did the sign guy really misspell the word came?



Enjoy our great outdoors! To learn more, go to <https://www.dupageforest.org>

Well, the sign said I was standing on a kame – a gravel hill formed 70,000 years ago by a melting glacier – in this case, a glacier thicker than the Willis (Sears) Tower is tall.



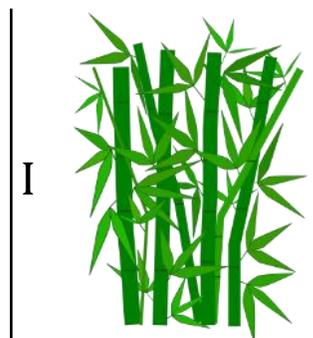
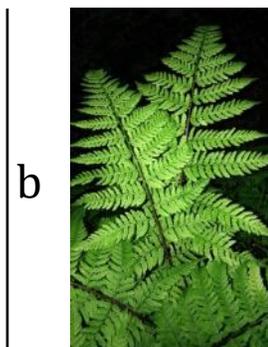
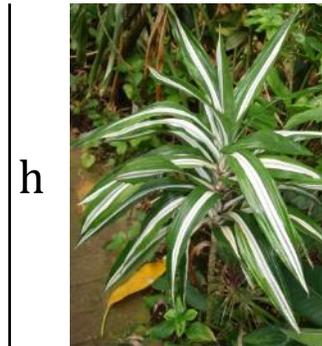
A Houseplant Quiz

Janet Frogner

TOP 10 GOOGLE SEARCHED HOUSEPLANTS FOR 2022

Are you able to match the plant to the picture?

1. Philodendron
2. Pothos
3. Bamboo (Bambusoideae)
4. Echeveria
5. Dracaena
6. Fern
7. Jade Plant
8. Dumb Cakes
9. Hoya
10. Alocasia



Key: 1-f, 2-a, 3-i, 4-c, 5-h, 6-b, 7-e, 8-j, 9-d, 10-g

Local Garden Events & Webinars

Ruth Gauss

Thinking green in January

I have an idea for how to get more green into these grey January days! Platt Hill Nursery is having their Houseplant Festival this weekend (January 21&22.) They have 2 locations (Bloomingdale and Carpentersville) and are offering a discount on houseplants and a number of different seminars and services at both locations. Check out their website for all of the details:

<https://plathillnursery.com/houseplants/houseplant-festival/>

They also share quite a few helpful tips about which houseplants to get for specific needs (such as pet-safe or office) you'll find them at the bottom of the webpage I've shared here.



Looking for more opportunities for learning?

A valuable and free resource that I hope to use more in the coming year is the University of Illinois Extension Service.

They have a number of webinars which you can participate in virtually or in-person and many of them are also recorded and can be watched whenever you have the time.

I'm signed up for Tornado Trends and Tricky Pollinator Questions webinars, but they have a wide variety available on their website:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/natural-resources/events>

Or for strictly online webinars:

<https://extension.illinois.edu/environment/everyday-environment>

Recordings are found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlq7XITOe3aktogEpAPxp-s64ZoSei3nj>

A Growing Legacy

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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: _____

Cell: _____

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