

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 28—Issue 1—January 2024



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 25

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**

Seed Starting: Giving Your Garden a Head Start

Ruth Kyme



Our first meeting of 2024 is coming up! We are looking forward to seeing everyone and getting started in planning and preparing for another year of gardening.

Are you interested in growing a new variety of pepper or tomato that you saw in a seed catalog you got in the mail? Or maybe you just want to give your garden a head start for the growing season. Learn about the equipment and methods used for starting seeds indoors. Our speaker is a University of

Illinois Extension Master Gardener,
Jan Gricus.



Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

FEBRUARY 22ND MEETING

“Backyard Birds and Bird Feeding” - David Brooks

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Welcome to 2024! Based on our club board meeting, it looks like we will have another fun-filled, activity-packed year. Some of our upcoming events are featured in this month's newsletter, and many more will be included in future newsletters.

As I mentioned last year, the board will be looking for volunteers to take on small jobs that will help keep the club running smoothly. Small jobs will come in all shapes and sizes, and most will not require any special skills. Small job opportunities are making their first appearance in this newsletter, so please take a look and consider volunteering.

In order to give newer members an idea of what the club's board members do, the board decided that this year, each of us will create a brief write-up on our board position. As President, I "volunteered" to go first.

The club's by-laws state that "the President shall preside at all regular monthly member meetings and board meetings." In other, less formal, words, I get the privilege of standing up in front of all of you at our monthly meetings and act as a human newsletter, greet new members and visitors, and introduce other members who have announcements. I also get to guide our wonderful and sometimes chatty board members through the agenda of our monthly board meetings. The support and enthusiasm from all of you make this the easiest part of the job.

In addition, the President also gets to appoint members of the Nominating and Audit committees and can create special committees to coordinate special events or assist with specific issues facing the club, especially when member input would be beneficial to the board.

The President also gets to write an informative, light-hearted article in the monthly newsletter that will, hopefully, keep the reader engaged until the end of the piece.

See you at this month's meeting!

Dan

Please say "Thanks" to the advertisers who support us.

When you shop or use their services, please let them know that you saw their ad in our newsletter.

Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

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

E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2024: 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:	Christina Covarrubias
Publicity Director:	Ruth Gauss
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Program Director:	Ruth Kyme
Member Services Director:	Lisa Marie Vogt
Director at Large:	Marilyn McNabb
Plant Sale Chair:	Mary Schramer & Dan Beebe
Kruse Garden Chair:	Open

To Contact any Board Member, please send email to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com



Judy & Candy

Candy Theobald

Resident of: West Chicago for over 50 years

WCGC Member: 2023

How did you become a member: Invited by Mary Passini

What is your current profession: Retired flight attendant for American Airlines

What are you most proud of in your garden: My spring bulbs

A garden mistake you made: Planting arborvitae trees too close to one another

What do you love most about gardening: Being outside with nature

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: Try to do a little weeding every day. Something that I don't always do, but need to.

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: I like to save marigold and zinnia seeds each year and trade with my friends.

Favorite spot in your garden: My backyard

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: My deceased aunt's peonies that I transplanted two years ago.

What are you looking forward to this season: Getting ideas from my garden club friends and learning new things about plants.



Refreshment Volunteers for Club Meetings

Marilyn McNabb

Happy New Year to everyone! We start the year with dreams of new plants, colorful flowers, productive vegetable plots! At this time, we are also planning fun filled club meetings and are requesting for refreshment volunteers for the entire year! The club has grown and we will need 4 volunteers each month to provide low carb options, fruit, or sweets or other healthy, maybe not so healthy options! As usual, the club will provide water or other beverages!



A sign up sheet will be available at the next meeting! Also, a gentle reminder that if you did not sign up, you are more than welcome to share a dessert or snack anytime! If you sign up, there will be a reminder from the refreshment committee on when your schedule is up! Thank you and let's have a great gardening year!

Scan to learn more:



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www.BarnOwlGardenCenter.com



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Thanks to the club members who have already paid their 2024 Membership Dues.

If you haven't sent in your payment, a Membership Application can be found on the last page of this newsletter or on our website.. Please bring the form and your renewal to the January meeting or mail it to the PO Box shown on the form.

We also started experimenting with accepting credit cards this last year and now

have an online "store" where you can pay your dues. If you choose this option please write a note that this is a renewal in the spot for a comment.

<https://west-chicago-garden-club.square.site/>.



As we kick off a new year, our Garden Club board has been talking about various “Small Jobs” that would help our club and take some of the pressure off our very busy board members. You will find in this newsletter and throughout the year, articles detailing a need for a volunteer or two to help with clearly defined tasks. Look for this “Volunteer” graphic if you are interested in helping out!

Care to Share?

Janet Frogner

This is a new segment in our monthly newsletter featuring any items that YOU, members, would like to share with other members.

Some examples of items you could share are – seeds, plants, bulbs, garden tools, a great gardening book, a webinar, a joke, a documentary, a garden tip, something you found helpful, etc.

To participate just email your item(s) along with your name and contact information (if you need to be contacted) to westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Do you enjoy writing about Gardening?

Pamela Darrah

The Garden Club has been contacted by the new online “hometown newspaper”, the [West Chicago Voice](http://www.westchicagovoice.com), about a monthly gardening article. We haven’t committed to this yet as we would like to get a feel if there are members who would be interested in helping with this idea.

If we do this, we would organize a group of members that would be interested in writing for this and assign them each a month or months. We use a similar setup for one of the columns in our newsletter which is about our club's volunteer efforts in the Kruse Museum Garden. The members who volunteer there rotate who writes the monthly article. To move forward with this, we need to find enough members who would be willing to write an article about gardening once or twice during the year. Each article would be sent to the West Chicago Voice and would also be published in our newsletter.

If you are interested, you might want to take a look at the [West Chicago Voice website](http://www.westchicagovoice.com) to get an idea of how this publication looks. If you decide you would like to help with writing an article or two, please contact us at westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com. We need a minimum of 4-6 volunteers to make this work.

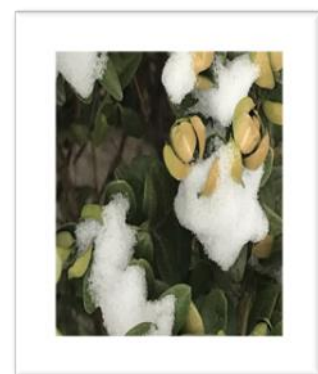


News from Kruse

Kerry Perry

Winter has arrived! Ice and snow blanketed the garden.

Photos from Kerry Perry.



Join us for our Spring Opening March 25 & 26!
Free Seminars * Artisan Market * Terrarium Workshop
Visit Countrysideflowershop.com for details.
Call 815-459-8130 and register today!



42W075 Route 38, Elburn, IL 60119

Inspired to GROW
Open April 1 - December 23
10am - 5pm, 7 days a week

Naperville | 630.355.4000 | 25w471 Plank Rd
1 block south of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
& 2 blocks west of Naper Blvd

Aurora | 630.820.8088 | 2000 Montgomery Rd
2 blocks north of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
& Rush-Copley Medical Center

thegrowingplace.com     



The Growing Place
Garden Center | Gift Shop | Gardens

Kruse Kitties

Kerry Perry



There once was a small colony of feral cats in the garden shed at the Kruse House. In 2010 they were all captured, neutered and returned. Today, only Snowdrop (solid gray) and Stripy (a tabby) remain.

Every morning at 8:30 our Kruse kitties are fed both wet and dry food. If we arrive late, say 9:00 am, the loud meows tell us so. If you're a cat lover and will commit to one morning each week to feed these sweet things, contact Kerry. I'll even supply the food.



You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn and add some beauty to your garden at

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Greenhouse Garden Center

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630.377.6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com
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We have the right plant for the right place!
We enjoy sharing our love of plants and knowledge with our customers year round. Stop in and browse.

For the Love of Gardening...

Suggestions ~

You will now have the opportunity to share your suggestions with the garden club board members.

Suggestion forms and drop-off location will now be available at the registration table during our monthly meetings.

Janet Frogner



Christmas Time Tree Planting

Evelyn Wiley

Editor's Note: *Since we don't publish a Garden Club Newsletter in December, this article is a little late; but we still wanted to share it with our members.*

When my granddaughter, Solace (3 years old) visited last summer, she'd become so charming and verbal! As we chatted moving from place to place indoors, she'd stop moving to say "I did not know that!"

That's how I felt when Amazon left a 5 foot cylindrical box on the porch on December 17th from Willard Orchards. It was an "I did not know that" moment. It was a dormant 5ft Rising Sun Redbud with a 10in root ball all nicely wrapped. Guess I had ordered it on August 16th, forgotten about it and here it came. After all the bulbs are planted; the door had closed in my mind for outside planting this year.

When I called the nursery to ask whether I should pot plant it to overwinter in the greenhouse (32-65° nights) or in the heated garage, the answer was "Hold on a minute...", "oh you should have 50° weather on Christmas day in Illinois and your ground is not frozen, so plant it in the yard."

So here's what I had not thought about. In Georgia the nursery waited until the tree was dormant there and still time to replant in zone 5b or 6a to keep the dormancy until spring comes. No point confusing the tree with a temperature increase inside anywhere (greenhouse with lights or dark garage). So after a sumptuous Christmas meal prepared (hopefully), it will be Redbud tree planting time. "I did not think about that" as Solace would say. Happy Holidays to all!



SAVE THESE DATES

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

Perennial Potting Parties:

Sunday, April 14, 1-4 PM
Saturday, April 20, 9am to 12 PM
Sunday, April 28, 1 to 4 PM
Saturday, May 4, 9am to 12 PM

Plant Sitters needed from April 14th through May 16th

Plant Labeling and Pricing: Saturday May 11, time to be determined

Put out yard signs: Sunday May 12th

Member Only Plant Sale: Thursday, May 16th 5:30 to 8:30???

Plant Sale Set Up: Friday, May 17th, time to be determined

Plant Sale: Saturday, May 18th, 7 AM to 3 PM
(Sale open from 9AM-2PM)

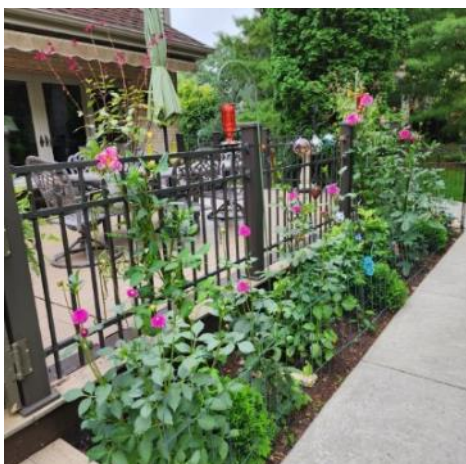


Dahlias

Barb Melville



By now I think everyone knows I am a big fan of Dahlias. This started several years ago when we had a presentation at our club on these spectacular flowers. In the spring of last year, Costco had many colors and varieties of these flowers for sale. They are rather strange looking to plant, they're not exactly a round bulb but something that looks like a shriveled turnip. I picked the bag that would have all pink plants but in four different sizes. I was thrilled with the outcome! I had beautiful plants all along the sidewalk that runs almost 20 feet long. An extra bonus was how the bees love Dahlias.



Local Event

Christina Covarrubias



Herb Garden Workshop: January 27 10-11am

Countryside Flowershop —42W075 IL-38, Elburn

Do you love to cook? Do you love plants? Join us for this super fun herb garden workshop. With proper care and love you can have fresh herbs year-round to add to your culinary delights. 3 herbs of your choice, instruction, and all materials are included. Fee \$29.99

Register here:

<https://www.countrysideflowershop.com/elburn/events/herb-garden-workshop/>

Grow on, Have Some Fun This Winter!

The Growing Place has some fun classes and events this winter!

First up are The Farmhouse Pop-Ups which are small crafts with a garden theme. These are free and include a tea bar! They are being held on every weekend in February, Fridays from 12-4pm and Saturdays from 10-2pm and are while supplies last.

The projects are: Decorate your own mini garden door on February 2 & 3, Make and send a Valentine on February 9 & 10, Create washi tape garden markers on February 16 & 17, and Make moss eggs on February 23 & 24.

There are also two free webinars. Landscaping For Patio Privacy on February 3 from 11-12pm and Vegetable Gardens: Plan for Success February 3 from 2-3pm. These require online registration.

Next up are classes that have fees.

Tabletop Terrarium—February 10 from 11-2— \$50 for ages 14+

Landscape Design Workshop: The Back Yard—February 17 from 10:30-3pm—\$50 with an optional \$15 catered lunch ages 16+

Landscape Design Workshop: Curb Appeal—February 24 from 10:30-3pm—\$50 with an optional \$15 catered lunch ages 16+

Exploring Monet's Giverny: From Garden to Canvas—March 2 from 11-3:30pm—\$70 includes painting experience and a lunch catered by a local French restaurant ages 16+

Dino Delight: Mini Terrariums For Kids—March 9 from 11-2—\$10 ages 6-10 accompanies by an adult
In-person events are at their Aurora location (2000 Montgomery Rd, Aurora, IL 60504, IL)

To see more details about these events and to register for the webinars and paid classes please go to: <https://www.thegrowingplace.com/events-calendar/>

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has classes and events that help us maximize our “winter break” from gardening.

Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike—Fullersburg Woods, February 9 & 10, at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. Ages 18 and up. \$12 per person.

Wednesday Winter Walk—Greene Valley Forest Preserve, February 14, 8 – 10AM, Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person.

Go to: <https://www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/calendar-of-events> (click on the date of the event you are interested in and then the title of the event to be taken to the information page and click the word “online” if you would like to do online registration)

The Morton Arboretum always knows how to make winter more bearable.

Seed Swap—Saturday, January 27, noon-3pm (this event is a free with entry—use this link for more details

<https://mortonarb.org/explore/activities/adult-programs/seed-swap/>)

Hellstrip Gardening—Saturday, February 17, 10-noon—ages 16+, \$32 member, \$39 guest —use this link for more details and to register

<https://mortonarb.org/explore/activities/adult-programs/hellstrip-gardening/#overview> (I highly recommend this instructor—you will learn a lot and probably laugh a lot as well.)



Garden Bucks

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2024 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 2024 Dues by Feb 24th	\$ 50
		Pay 2025 Dues by Nov 17th	\$ 75

Refer a new member and participate in a raffle for a gift card at the Nov 2024 meeting.

Upcoming Programs & Events for 2024

These are the currently scheduled programs. If there are any changes we will update this in future newsletters. The last column will show who has signed up to bring treats.

Feb 22	David Brooks	Backyard Birds and Bird Feeding
Mar 28	Kim Hartman	Best new Plants for 2024
Apr 25	Nina Koziel	The Elegant Edible Garden
May 18		PLANT SALE
May 23	Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh	Edible Flowers
June 27	TBA	At the Kruse Garden
July 25	President's Picnic	
Aug 22	TBA	
Sept 26	TBA	
Oct 24		Bulb Bingo
Nov 16	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

A poster of our 2024 schedule can be downloaded at <https://westchicagogardenclub.org/wp-content/files/2024PosterWithSchedule.pdf>



West Chicago Garden Club Membership Application 2024

Our 2024 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).

Your membership benefits are detailed on our website at:
westchicagogardenclub.org

Individual Membership:
\$20 per year

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

Our club year runs Jan 1st to Dec 31st
Membership dues are to be paid by
Feb 22nd (the Feb general 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

We take your privacy seriously. A membership roster is available to Club Members upon request.

Your data will not be shared outside the club and will be used solely for club correspondence.

Check below the items you do not wish to appear on the club roster.

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

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 **add** my phone number to the *Calling Post* to receive phone reminders of club events
- Opt out of the *Calling Post* phone reminders.

Signature: _____