

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 7—July 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: July 27

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

6:00PM

**Reed Keppler Park
Central Pavilion**

President's Picnic at the Park

Dan Beebe



The Presidents Picnic will be held at the Central Pavilion in Reed Keppler Park starting at 6:00pm on Thursday, July 27th. Parking is available in two small lots on the west side of Arbor Avenue north of National Street. Additional on street parking is available on National west of Arbor. ([Link to Map](#) or see page 2)

Please remember that this meeting is primarily for members. Caregivers, spouses and dependent children may attend, but please do not bring your aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other members of your extended family. Basically, use your best judgement.

- The food for the picnic will be catered. Please RSVP to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com by Saturday, July 22nd so that we can order enough food for everyone. Also, for those of you with dietary restrictions, we will have a limited number of Vegetarian and Gluten-free food options available. If you have other dietary restrictions, feel free to bring your own food/beverages to the meeting.
- There are picnic tables with seating, but you may want to bring your own outdoor chair.
- It is suggested that you bring bug spray.
- Rain or shine! If the weather is too terrible, we will move the "picnic" inside at St. Andrew Lutheran Church (our usual indoor meeting location). We will send a last minute email out to members if this happens.



AUGUST 24TH MEETING

**Jerome Johnson:
"Heirloom Plants & Loss
of Diversity"**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

I am so happy to see the club expanding and being able to provide additional educational and social opportunities to our members and guests. I have really enjoyed seeing some of your gardens during our new Twilight Tuesday events and feedback on these evenings has been overwhelmingly positive. Our field trip to Northwind Perennial Farm, attended by 27 people, was great fun. Marilyn kept us entertained on our way to the farm with plant-based trivia with some interesting culinary commentary. The gardens were very interesting and the cool shade garden was a great retreat from the afternoon heat. Many of us took advantage of the garden center and came home with healthy, unique plants and gardening tools.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, this month's meeting is our, traditional annual President's Picnic. The first picnic was hosted by one of our early club presidents, Carole Bates, in her absolutely stunning yard. She provided some basics and everyone was asked to bring a dish to share and your own food to grill. We all had a such a wonderful time and we continue to hold our President's Picnic every July. Our venue has changed over the years and members only have to bring themselves for a fun evening of food and lively discussions with fellow gardeners. I look forward to seeing and talking with all of you at the picnic and hope to see a few faces that I haven't seen in a while. Don't forget to RSVP by Saturday, July 22nd.

I am looking to reach out to other garden clubs in the region to share information with and discuss the possibility of joint meetings, speakers, field trips, etc. in the future. If you are also a member of another garden club or know active members of other nearby clubs and are willing to discuss the possibility of future collaboration, please let me know.

Dan

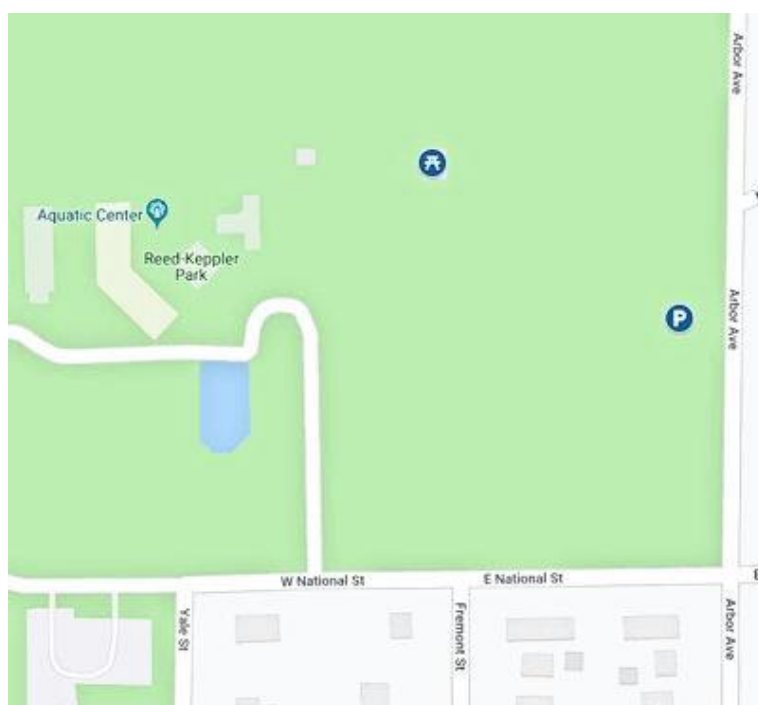
President's Picnic Map

 Central Pavilion
Reed Keppler Park

 Parking Lot

Web Link: [Google Map](#)

Please R.S.V.P. by Saturday, July 22nd



Photos from our June Meeting in the Kruse Garden



It was a lovely evening in the garden. We had awesome snacks, a chance to view the garden and a flower arranging session led by our Program Chair Ruth Kyme.

See more photos on [Google Photos](#)



Local Field Trip: The Gardens at Ball Horticulture

Ruth Kyme

Ball Seed opens up its gardens to organized garden groups such as WCGC weekdays in August during normal business hours. Our visit is scheduled for **10.00AM on Wednesday, August 2**. It is a self-guided tour which averages about 1.5 - 2 hours. Ball Gardens are located at 622 Town Road. I will sign our group in and collect maps, and meet our group at the entrance to the gardens at **10.00AM**. Please park in the area indicated in the map below. Public visitors aren't permitted in the building (aside from the group leader signing in the group), however there are restrooms in the garden that are open during business hours.



Note about elderly/handicapped visitors: Paths can be navigated with a wheelchair if the guest has their own equipment and attendant, but as a non-public garden, we don't have golf cart assistance or other handicap assistance available. There is a lot of walking required (mostly on gravel paths), from the parking lot to the garden and throughout 10 acres of landscaped gardens. Guests should be sure on their feet and able to walk at least a mile comfortably.

Hydration and Restrooms: It's important to bring your own beverages to stay hydrated during your visit. August days can be quite warm, and as a private garden, we don't have refreshments available. We recommend dressing appropriately for the weather including a hat for sun protection and insect repellent. There are public restrooms in the garden and there is a water bottle refill station in the restroom area as well.

Please park in the area indicated below.



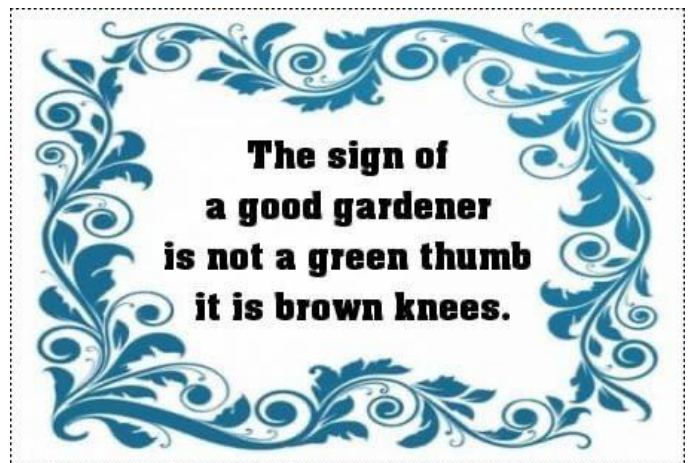
The bee and butterfly displays are back!

These are a delightful addition to the Kruse garden. The garden is looking fabulous! The real life pollinators are really enjoying the fruits of our labor. So many of the perennials are in full bloom, it's amazing how much more is blooming since our June meeting. It's hard to name a favorite, however, one that stand outs for me is the Bear Breeches/Acanthus Spinousus. It is so dramatic, with the towering spires of purple and white trumpet shaped flowers and the shiny thistle like leaves. I wish I had the space in my garden for a clump of it. It does get big; grows 30" to 36" High by 2' to 3' Wide. The other little gem that I wanted to highlight is the water lily. You have to catch it when the sun is out, such a pretty pink lily.

There is so much to see, and enjoy, you need to swing by and let us know some of your favorites. The Kruse garden is hosting Twilight Tuesday, August 8th, hope to see you there!



We have a new sign!
Hopefully, this will help
more visitors find the
garden.





Lisa Chatt

WCGC Member: May 2023

How did you become a member: My grandparents, Wilbur and Irene Shelton were members and I've always wanted to join.

What is your current profession: I help with compliance at a manufacturer

What are you most proud of in your garden: I just love my whole yard! I'm so happy I planted pine and maple trees when I first moved to this house. And now I've got a few fruit trees too.

A garden mistake you made: My plan for the fruit trees was to create an espalier. I never got it started and now the trees are big and untrained. They still produce fruit and are pretty, though!

What do you love most about gardening: Being outside!!!

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: I am so happy I got an electric lawn mower because it's so easy to start, it's lightweight and quiet, and you get a break just when you need it to recharge the battery (yours and the mower's!)

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: West Chicago Blooming Fest, of course! But I love Baker Creek for unusual seeds. Home Depot is my go to.

Favorite spot in your garden: I really like when the possum grapes grow through the trees and create a natural archway. It's great to look at and walk under, and the birds can't get enough of it. That's a picture of me under the trees.

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: I always love seeing the hostas. My mom planted a lot of varieties throughout the whole yard. And my sister gave me an Illinois native butterfly bush that I prep like a baby for winter and it always takes a little longer than the other plants to green up. Then whoop - green leaves and another year hoping for butterflies!

What are you looking forward to this season: Talking about gardening with WCGC members

If you would like to be included in a future "Getting to Know", please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com.

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

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!

Countryside
Flower Shop, Nursery & Garden Center

42W075 Route 38, Elburn, IL 60119

Twilight Tuesdays

Pamela Darrah

Twilight Tuesdays are a new idea this year from our Program Chair Ruth Kyme. These are intended to be casual, laid-back events on Tuesday evenings at a member's garden. Members are welcome to visit the designated garden after 6:30pm and spend as much or as little time as they like viewing the garden, socializing with other members and discussing the garden with the host(s). This is not a "Garden Walk" and there is no pressure on our hosts to have their garden "perfect" for the event. It is a chance to see other members' gardens in a relaxed setting.

We have had 3 more Twilight Tuesday events since our last newsletter. All of the gardens are fantastic and our members have been really enjoying these events. Watch your email for details on future Twilight Tuesdays. They are every Tuesday through the rest of the summer except for weeks where we have a meeting.

Sadly, only a few photos have been sent in for the newsletter—I guess everyone is too busy enjoying the gardens to bother taking photos! Come on out at the next Tuesday event and see for yourself.



Northwind Field Trip

Pamela Darrah

Our big field trip to Northwind Perennial Farm was a huge success. It was a lovely day and many photographs were taken. Here are a few from Pamela, Christina, Marilyn, Kerry & Pauline. There were more posted on [Facebook](#). The same photos were posted on [Google Photos](#) for those who do not use Facebook.





While walking around my yard, I found a few of these dry, 1 - 2 inch orbs. They are oak galls caused by chemicals injected by the larva of certain kinds of gall wasp. They are commonly found on many species of oak. Interesting!

Recently I noticed some odd markings on the driveway. Were they made with my lawn mower or my wheelbarrow? No way. We hadn't had any rain to cause muddy tracks. Then I recalled seeing a snapping turtle by the rose bush. Sure enough, she was burying her eggs.

According to a current Forest Preserve article, it's springtime, which means DuPage County is in the midst of turtle mating and nesting season.

The female excavates a nest about 5 to 7 inches deep and deposits up to 30 white, golf ball-sized eggs. Incubation time depends on the incubation temperature and sometimes the young overwinter in the nest and emerge the following spring. The eggs are often preyed upon by skunks, raccoons, crows, and foxes.

Keep an eye out for turtles crossing roadways. Despite their hard shells, turtles cannot protect themselves from being hit by vehicles.





We are still looking for a volunteer!

Board Member: Secretary—This involves taking notes at our board meetings and a short summary of our general meeting. If you would be interested in joining the board, let an existing board member know at the July meeting or send an email to the club.



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: OPEN
- 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



222 W. Lake St. • Bloomingdale
2400 Randall Rd. • Carpentersville

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...

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.



Since 1925

WASCO
NURSERY
& GARDEN CENTER

630-584-4424

6 miles west of Randall Road on
Route 64, St. Charles
1 mile west of Wasco
www.wasconursery.com

Find everything you need for your beautiful garden

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

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



2010 East Main St. (Rt. 64), St. Charles
630.377.6288 www.HeinzBrothers.com

Your Gardening Source...



Garden Bucks

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2023 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 2023 Dues by Feb 23rd	\$ 50
		Pay 2024 Dues by Nov 16th	\$ 75

Refer a new member and participate in a raffle for a gift card at the Nov 2023 meeting.



Upcoming Programs & Events for 2023

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

July 27	President's Picnic	PLEASE R.S.V.P	
Aug 24	Jerome Johnson	Heirloom Plants & Loss of Diversity	Billie C, Kerry D, Lisa Marie V.
Sept 28	Ken Bensen	Sharpening Garden Tools	Marion M, Cindy B, Dee S.
Oct 26		Bulb Bingo	Tom F, Dorothy O., Christina C.
Nov 16	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner	

A poster of our 2023 schedule can be downloaded at <https://westchicagogardenclub.org/wp-content/files/2023PosterWithSchedule.pdf>