

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26—Issue 6—June 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: June 23

Meeting Time: After 5:30PM

Meeting Location:

**Billie Childress' Garden
29W385 Glen Road**

[Google Map](#)

Billie's Garden Tour

Ruth Kyme/Billie Childress

I am so pleased that y'all are coming to visit my garden on Thursday, June 23. The garden will be open starting at 5:30. Come anytime that works for you. I will take small groups of ten or less on half-hour tours beginning at 6:00. However, you are totally welcome to explore on your own. Wear your comfortable garden shoes so you can check it all out.

There are garden beds and wooded areas. The north woods are the most developed with multiple native trees, a grove of witch hazels, and paths added. And the honeybee hives are up there too. The central woods are basically a walk through path with most of the invasive stuff removed and the south woods are much the same. However, there is an unusual tree you should see in the south woods. And by the way.....bring a friend or neighbor if you'd like.

There will be a variety of appetizers, sweets, and drinks and ample seating on the back patio. Please sit back and enjoy a lovely summer evening socializing and relaxing with members and friends.

Hopefully, we won't need it, but in case of rain, we will reschedule to Thursday, June 30.

Billie's garden is at 29W385 Glen Road. There is a link to a Google Map above. It is the **Green** pin on the map printed here.



JULY 28TH MEETING

**President's Picnic
at Reed-Kepler Park**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Congratulations on another, highly successful Plant Sale! Although Mother Nature did not cooperate and we were all a bit soggy by the end of the sale, we sent a lot of plants to their new homes with happy gardeners. We also received over 20 new memberships at the sale! Please join me in welcoming these new members into our gardening community. I hope to see them at meetings and field trips over the next couple of months.

The picture on this page is of Mary and me, soaked to the bone, a little chilled, trying not to fall over as we waited for the tent rental company to pick up the tent after the sale and attempting to smile for the camera. I know that many of you felt the same after a long, busy day. I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all of our great plant sale volunteers and especially to Mary for her work as co-chair. She did a great job of rolling with the constant changes, unforeseen incidents and a few things I forgot to tell her about (sorry...) that make planning an event like our sale such a challenge. Please read through her article in this newsletter... I wholeheartedly agree with everything she wrote.



Plant Sale Co-Chairs Mary Schramer and Dan Beebe

In last month's newsletter, I announced the creation of two committees by the Board. The first is an Allocations/Budget/Endowment Committee. We decided that the name wasn't terribly important, but their mission is vital to making sure that the money raised at the Plant Sale is spent on things that matter to you, the club's members. Barb Bizzarri, Dick Darrah, Jan Grismore, Hayley Hawkinson and Ruth Kyme have volunteered to be on this committee. I'm sure you will be hearing from them in the next couple of months as they dig into their important task. The second committee is a Bylaws Committee that is charged with bringing the Club's Bylaws in line with the Club's current structure and needs. Barbara Darrah, Kerry Perry and Patti Zaputil have volunteered to take on updating the Bylaws. A special thanks to our committee volunteers!

The Board has also decide to join West Chicago's Adopt a Highway program. We will be discussing which roadway we would like to adopt at our next board meeting. If you have any suggestions, please let a board member know.

As always, stay safe and enjoy time in the great outdoors. Hope to see you all soon.

Dan

Thank you!

Mary Schramer

A huge thank you to the many volunteers who helped make our Blooming Fest sale a huge success! Thank you to our plant sale committee, Dan Beebe, Mary Schramer, Billie Childress and Kerry Perry who helped plan and coordinate the event.

Acquiring plants, potting them up, tending and watering, labeling, pricing, moving plants from greenhouses and the park district, holding the member sale, setting up the sale, holding the sale took many volunteers and volunteer hours. Our first year of using Sign up Genius went well and helped to remind club members what they signed up for, when to show up and what to bring.



Billie's attention to detail and knowledge of plants and connections with donations were essential in running potting potties which allowed us to offer an impressive variety of plants. Thank you to Jeff Handel for his willingness to house the annuals and perennials from a local benefactor and keep them well watered after the plugs were potted up.

Many volunteer hours are needed, behind the scenes, to produce the custom plant tags and signage that help customers identify the plants they want to purchase. Pamela Darrah creates these labels each year and recruits a small team to help place them on the markers that go in each pot. This feature is one aspect that makes our plant sale unique.

Our club treasurer, Kerry Perry, planned and coordinated the check-out procedures and introduced the ability to take credit cards for the first time ever. Her attention to detail and focus on collecting data provides useful information as we plan next year's fundraising efforts. Feedback overall was that the option to pay by credit was appreciated by our customers and ended up costing the club only \$1 to offer.

Thank you to our volunteers who dug up plants from their yard (or their friends and neighbors' yards—with permission, of course) which helped make up the over 4000 plants we had on offer. Thank you to all club members who showed up to pot up plugs or member plants on one or more Saturday or Sunday in April or early May.

A big thank you to our plant care team who showed up to check on plants and water them if needed—especially those that watered during the unseasonable hot week in May when it didn't rain.

Moving those plants to the sale site was no easy feat and we could not have accomplished this without the volunteer help of our West Chicago Park District under the direction of Mike Gasparini, who showed up with trailers and trucks full of plants and helped unload them along with our garden club volunteers and Ball Horticulture volunteers. Setting up and sorting plants in the tent is a big job and despite the threat of rain we were able to manage this with our crew of 12 garden club volunteers (thank you to everyone who brought a partner/spouse).

The day of the sale, we had over 30 volunteers who completed set-up of the sale, ran the sale and helped with clean up. Despite the rain and having to halt the sale for about 45 minutes, we all had a fun and pleasant experience helping customers find the right plants and get through the check out quickly. Many of our volunteers encouraged customers to join the garden club which increased our numbers significantly.

Special thanks to Barb Bizzarri who assisted with corporate fundraising and partnering with Ball Horticulture who provided volunteers to help with moving plants for the sale and answering questions about plants for customers the day of the sale. Thank you to everyone who helped--we could not have done it without you!

We Go Gardening

Club T-Shirts

Garden club T-shirts arrived in time for distribution at our member plant sale, Blooming Fest and May meeting.

There are still a few members who have not picked up their t-shirts. They will be available at the June club meeting.

There are a limited number of extra t-shirts in sizes medium, large and extra large available to new members or existing members who did not pre-order a t-shirt. Shirts are \$5 each payable when you pick up your shirt.

Mary Schramer



The early morning Plant Sale Volunteers right before opening at 9:00 AM

Contact Mary Schramer (630-790-9943, text or voice) to reserve a shirt, available on a first come basis until they are gone.

Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
E-mail: 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:	Open
Program Director:	Ruth Kyme
Plant Sale Chair:	Mary Schramer & Dan Beebe
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Kruse Garden Chair:	Billie Childress
Hospitality Chair:	Jan Grismore
Director at Large	Patti Zaputil

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



Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

westchicagogardenclub

Here's some of what's blooming today in the Kruse Garden. Come and enjoy.



The Kruse Garden is located at 527 Main Street, West Chicago, IL 60185

Barb Peto



Resident of: West Chicago since 2005

WCGC Member: 2022

How Did You Become a Member: I wanted to do something I loved

Current Occupation: Caregiver and FedEx

Hobbies: Gardening and learning new things all the time ~
Been doing this forever

Favorite Garden Tool: My hands; sometimes baby plants need gentle care

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: Hibiscus (tropical & hardy), roses, vegetables my family needs and, moving into for the 3rd year, milkweed for my butterfly garden

Who Taught You To Garden or Were You Self-Taught: Self-taught by research & professionals

What Is Your Summer Garden Success: Depends on what I choose to plant

A Garden Mistake I Have Made: I have an organic vegetable garden. I don't want pesticides on anything, pretty much not like today. No one should use pesticides in my opinion. Nature will prevail.

Recent Garden Projects: Enlargement of my butterfly garden

Hardest Plant You Ever Tried to Grow: Nothing, everything I try has grown

A Garden Tip To Share: Harden off your seedlings if you start them in the house ~ Too many people kill their seedlings

Favorite Garden/Nature-Related Location to Visit: Arboretum & Cantigny

Favorite Place to Purchase Plants: Platt Hill, but I order from all over or I just grow my own

Welcome Barb!



Recap of May Meeting/Fieldtrip

Ruth Kyme

We couldn't have asked for a lovelier evening to stroll along the Batavia Riverwalk and tour the Batavia Wildflower Sanctuary along with our guides Teri Hoehne and Sara Kimber of Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners.

BPDG volunteers began the Wildflower Sanctuary Project in 1991 and have continued to maintain and expand it ever since. We were able to see a variety of spring ephemerals and native plants and shrubs; including the somewhat rare and unusual green dragon (*Arisaema draconium*). I am looking forward to visiting the sanctuary during the summer months to see summer blooming natives.



BPDG Garden Walk

"Take a Walk in Our Gardens" is the theme of this year's garden walk presented by the Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners on July 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Six beautiful and diverse gardens and a wildflower sanctuary will be open for discovery with a focus on native and heritage plants, ecosystem gardening techniques, year-round gardening interest, and unique hardscapes.

Children under 12 are free; no strollers allowed in gardens. Some gardens are not handicapped accessible. Tickets purchased through Eventbrite will be available at "Will Call" table the day of the event at 700 W. Fabyan Parkway in Batavia, IL from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

[Facebook Event Link](#)

For more information contact us via bataviaplainedirtgardeners@gmail.com.

Upcoming Field Trips

Tuesday, July 12, 10:30
Cantigny garden and Alebrijes horticulturist guided tour

Thursday, August 4, 10:30
Self guided Ball garden tour



Out & About

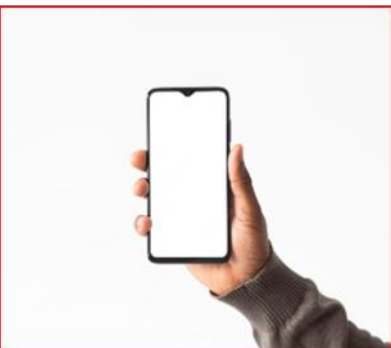
Kerry Perry

Pretty cloud formations the evening of the Batavia Wildflower garden tour.



Calling Post

Kerry Perry



Did you receive a phone call from Oklahoma City, area code (405)?

It's probably from The Calling Post announcing a Garden Club event.

The Calling Post has a bank of 100 different caller IDs that helps their system lower the risk of Spam popping in on peoples caller ID. Just so you know.

Garden Bucks

Kerry Perry

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2022 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 2022 Dues by Feb 24th	\$ 50
		Pay 2023 Dues by Nov 17th	\$ 75

Refer a new member and participate in a raffle for a gift card at the Nov 2022 meeting.

Local Garden Events

Pamela Darrah

June 18 and July 16: [2022 Kane County Master Gardener Idea Garden Open House](#)

Come see inspirational garden ideas in person at the popular Kane County Master Gardener Idea Garden in St. Charles. Join us for one or all of the summer open houses. The 2022 Kane County Idea Garden will host three open house events: Saturdays, June 18 and July 16, and Tuesday, Aug. 9 – all from 9 to 11 a.m. Master Gardeners will be available for questions and discussion.

June 19: Platt Hill Nursery [DIY Summer Planter Workshop](#). 2:00-3:00 PM at both the Carpentersville and Bloomingdale locations. Refresh your outdoor living space pop this summer with a splash of long-lasting color in your customized planter. Bring a friend, this one is fun!! Bring your gardening gloves! Workshop starting cost \$29.99/per attendee and up depending on pot selection and plant materials used. Please register, space is limited.

June 21: Cantigny—[Evening Garden Tour](#)—6:30pm – 7:30pm, Adults: \$10; Members: \$5
Enjoy a garden tour, given by horticulture staff members, during the longest day of the year: Summer Solstice. This is one of the best times of the day to stroll through the gardens...quiet, cooler, better for photographs...serene. Our staff members will take you on a circuitous route offering tidbits of information about some of their favorite locations within the garden and some of their favorite plant varieties!

July 16: "Take a Walk in Our Gardens" 2022 Garden Walk with the Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners
See [Page 7](#) in this newsletter for more information

“Month-By-Month Gardening Illinois, Indiana, Ohio: What To Do Each Month To Have A Beautiful Garden All Year” by Beth Botts

“In June, the garden is entering its full glory...It’s time to take a walk.”

PLAN:

- As cool-season spring annuals fade replace with heat-tolerant annuals like petunias and lantanas that bloom all summer
- Admire the blooming lilies and plan what you will plant in fall
- Keep notes on your favorite veggies, annuals, & perennials for next year planting

PLANT:

- Plant annual flower seedlings where spring bulbs have faded
- Annual seeds can still be sowed in beds - marigolds, cosmos, four o’clocks, etc
- Plant last batch of dahlias and gladiolus before mid-June
- Continue planting trees, shrubs and perennials through June

CARE:

- Bring summer flowers into your home; cut early in morning or late evening
- Keep weeding
- Pinch back petunias for side stems and fuller look
- Deadhead marigolds, geraniums, nemesias, etc for reblooming
- Use herbs to produce growth; the more you pinch back the more it produces
- For more leaves, pinch off flower buds of basil, cilantro, parsley and chives
- Pinch back mums when 6” high in early June to delay flowering and to branch out
- Cut off first bloom for reblooming: perennial salvia, catmint, lavender, coreopsis, yarrow, and bellflower
- Water when needed in the morning; night watering encourages fungus diseases



A Growing Legacy

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10am-5pm, 7 days a week

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& 2 blocks west of Naper Blvd

Aurora | 630.820.8088 | 2000 Montgomery Rd
2 blocks north of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
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