

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 6—June 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: June 22

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

**Kruse Museum Garden
527 Main Street
West Chicago**

**6:45PM Arrive & Mingle
7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program**

Garden Visit & Flower Arranging Workshop

Ruth Kyme

Our June meeting will be held in the Kruse Garden (weather permitting,) otherwise we will meet at St. Andrew Church. I will guide you in creating a lovely Mason jar floral arrangement using flowers and foliage from your garden. The workshop is for members-only, but all visitors are welcome at the meeting and visiting the Kruse House Museum & Garden.

The “ingredients“ from your garden can be divided into 3 basic groups that we work with to create a unique arrangement:

- FOCAL - the main flowers that capture the most attention - hydrangeas, lilies, coneflowers, daisies, etc.
- FILLER - other flowers compliment the focal flowers - cosmos, snapdragons, yarrow, salvia, goats beard, etc.
- FOLIAGE - the greenery that creates the foundation for the focal and filler flowers- shrub cuttings, various herbs, grasses, dusty miller, scented geranium, poppy pods, etc.

Although not totally necessary, try to have fairly equal amounts from each group. If you are able to bring extras of any group to share with others, that would be greatly appreciated.

The WCGC will provide each arranger with a pint (16oz.) wide-mouth Mason jar with a grid (frog) insert. The insert will aid in keeping plant material in place during the arranging process and afterwards. You will need to bring a cutting tool appropriate for cutting flowers and greenery.

Be creative and have fun selecting your “ingredients!” I am looking forward to seeing everyone’s creations.

NOTE: If you are not interested in the mini-workshop, please come by the meeting to see the fantastic Kruse House Museum & Garden. Our volunteers do an amazing job and it is well worth the visit. We will have the usual snacks/social time before the business meeting and there is plenty of space to wander around and visit without disturbing the workshop. The Kruse House will be open for inside tours along with a display of Celia Kruse’s garden tools.

PARKING: There are only a few parking spots actually at the Kruse Museum; however, we have obtained permission to park in the City Hall Parking Lot (475 Main Street) which is a very short walk to the garden.



JULY 27TH MEETING

**President’s Picnic at
Reed-Keppler Park**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Wow, another great plant sale behind us and so many great social and educational programs planned for the summer months ahead! We had perfect weather for the sale and signed up a large number of new members. Please join me in extending a big Welcome to all of the new members and remember to say hello when you see a new face at our upcoming events and meetings.

Having a large, active membership means that we can offer a number of diverse programs that appeal to specific gardening interests. Twilight Tuesdays help us learn from other gardeners in our area; what works for them in their yards and what doesn't work for them, as well as, providing an opportunity to socialize with others who share a love of gardening. Our June meeting will feature a flower arranging workshop, but those of you who aren't interested in flower arranging should also attend. The Kruse House Garden Crew has been working hard in the garden and this is your chance to see the wonderful gardens and catch up with other club members you may not have seen recently. Elsewhere in this newsletter is information on our upcoming club field trip that will offer a chance to meet other members, hear speakers on gardening topics, view stunning gardens and a chance to purchase plants from a nursery few of our members have been to.

The board is looking for other program ideas and activity suggestions that might interest our members. If you have a specific interest that you would like to see covered in our monthly meetings, an idea for a future field trip, or have any gardening related talents that you would like to share with the group, please let any member of the board know.

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:	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

Garden Sale Recap & Barn Cleanup Date

Mary Schramer



The "Setup Crew" around 8:30am

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in small and big ways to make our Bloomingfest Plant Sale a phenomenal success. Despite a cold, wet April we potted up 2146 perennials, shrubs and trees that you brought from your gardens! We potted 2235 annuals and tender perennials plugs donated by Cantigny. Dan Beebe grew 662 vegetables from seed providing tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, artichokes and herbs in his greenhouses and Dick Darrah offered 26 additional home grown vegetable plants. In total, we had around 5000 plants available for

our sale. Dorothy O'Connor had the idea to sell freshly harvested rhubarb and customers snapped up bundles to take home with them. We had a beautiful day for our sale and it seemed the customers never stopped coming. While we appreciated the help of every volunteer who stopped by for the sale, we are particularly grateful for the volunteers who were able to be with us from setup through to the clean up. A special thanks to Kerry Perry who organized the tally sheets and check out process and brought back the use of credit cards as a method of payment. Big thanks to Barb Bizarri who worked with Ball Seed and the tent company to secure a donation that covered the cost of the big tent. Thank you to each volunteer who took a turn watering and tending to the potted plants at the Park District during our exceptionally dry May and a big shout out to the Park District crew who provided us with potting soil, the source for water and transported over 4500 plants to the sale site. Through all of your efforts we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$10,000, netting \$13,727 which will more than cover our club's annual budget for next year.

I hope you have all had time to get your plants in the ground and have been able to water them deeply at least once a week to give them a chance to get through this dry spell. Thank you for stacking your pots to the side. I know you want to get them out of your garage/shed/back porch but please do not bring them to the monthly meetings. **We are opening up the barn at Kress Creek Farm ([30W150 Wilson Rd, West Chicago, IL](https://www.google.com/maps/place/30W150+Wilson+Rd,+West+Chicago,+IL)) from 9 AM to Noon on June 24th to organize our supplies and clean-up after our sale and we can accept your pots at that time.** This is also a good time to bring **plant sale signs** for storage for next year. If you ended up with any pricing sticks from pots when we were clearing out the tent at the end of the sale you can bring those too.

We are in need of **1 gallon pots** that are free of trademarked labels. We could also use the trays to hold them. We can use **4 inch pots** and **6 inch pots**, preferably with trays. We don't need the 4-pack/6-pack/8-pack type pots as they are too small for perennials, difficult to reuse during our potting parties and we already have a large supply. We also have a fairly large supply of 2 and 3 gallon or more pots for shrubs. If you donate pots you will earn garden bucks to be used at our garden club auction at our November meeting. If you stay and help us organize the pots, you will also earn garden bucks. Thank you in advance and see you at the barn!



The "Clean up crew" around 3pm

Local Field Trip: Warrenville Garden

Our next scheduled Local Field Trip is to **John Richter's Garden in Warrenville** on July 8th. The garden is located at [29W430 Forestview Drive North](#). John sent us the following information:



John Richter began his garden 40 plus years ago. His acre lot was an empty field – he had his home built and then started his garden – planting and planting! He has planted every blade of grass, every tree, shrub, perennial – hostas, daylilies, ground covers, wild geraniums, shiny ginger and more. He has over 700 varieties of hostas and thousands of daylilies from 10 different hybridizers (Spider daylilies, double daylilies, many different colors of daylilies, some with ruffled edges). John has daylilies from Mr. William Bell's collection and also from Nathan Rudolph of Aurora -- both of whom were hybridizers for over 50 years.

John enjoys his collection of variegated and grafted trees -- everything from a weeping cypress to an alley cat redbud. An Aralia Variegata, grafted ginkgo and tri-color beech also appear in his garden. He also loves his camper down elm with all its beauty.

John has had over 70 garden clubs come and visit his garden over the years! He and his garden have been featured in a couple of local newspapers, as well as his community calendar.

John would like to invite the West Chicago Garden Club to visit and enjoy his garden on Saturday - July 8, 2023 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and he would like to offer his plants for sale – he will dig and cut any plant that he can and sell it to you -- and at the end of the day, he will issue a check to the West Chicago Garden Club for 10% of the plant sales.

Save the Date: August 2 Ball Garden Visit



We have arranged for a "local field trip" to visit the gardens at Ball. It is scheduled for 10AM and more details will be available later.

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     





KRUSE CREW: Jan Grismore, Keith Letsche, Dee Soustek, Billie Childress, Kerry Perry, Barbara Darrah, Chris Gicela, Christina Covarrubias, Marilyn Santos

These folks are fun and great gardeners! I look forward to Wednesday mornings in the Kruse House Museum Gardens. Please consider joining us. The participation is totally flexible. Sometimes only 4-5 of us are there but every person makes a difference. You will fit right in and a couple hours of your time will be greatly appreciated. We work every Wednesday morning at 9am. Just show up with minimal tools (we have extras in shed as needed). Contact Billie 630-862-1213 with any questions.

WE ARE READY: Garden Club is meeting in the Kruse Gardens in June. You are gonna love the gardens! And we hope you'll return often with friends, family and neighbors to share this garden with others. Sharing this garden is really what we're all about. It's a locus of beauty, inspiration, education, contemplation and so much more.

NEW STUFF: We have added a trellis, mailbox, and some rock borders. And of course we are always tucking in new plants. It's tough to get a new plant established because we're not there all the time to keep an eye on them and it's a big garden.

Looking forward to seeing you in the garden!



We Go Gardening

Local Field Trips

We have had 2 local field trips since the last meeting: An Iris Garden in Roselle and Wasco Nursery. A few photos from these are here. Thank you to all those who sent them in for the newsletter! (Dick Darrah, Ruth Kyme, Ruth Gauss, Kerry Perry)





Amy Collins

Resident of: West Chicago: Moved here in 2019 from Wheaton

WCGC Member: May 2023

How did you become a member: At the Blooming Fest plant sale

What is your current profession: I am a realtor and a coach to new brokers

What are you most proud of in your garden: That I started! And have planted perennials that have come back! LOL

A garden mistake you made: Not planting deep enough – terrible soil

What do you love most about gardening: Growing something pretty or yummy; watering and creating pretty containers of flowers.

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: Water the soil, not the leaves

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: Various local nurseries

Favorite spot in your garden: My patio where I can look at my containers and the bed I have started

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: Tall grasses and hosta – first time planting hosta

What are you looking forward to this season: Outdoor social gatherings, concerts, cookouts with family and friends; road trips with family to WI, MI, IA, and OH; time outdoors in the sun reading, walking or tending my plants; growing my business.

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



May Meeting Recap

We recorded attendance of 56 at this meeting! After greeting new members and guests, the short business meeting was followed by our program on Envisioning Garden Designs presented by Liz Omura



Pamela Darrah



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 our first 2 Twilight Tuesday events with lovely weather for the first and a little drizzle for the second. Both gardens were lovely. Watch your email for details on future Twilight Tuesdays—the next will be on June 27th.

We have a [Facebook photo album with around 30 photos](#) from the first 2 evenings. A few can be seen below. Photos from Pamela Darrah, Ruth Kyme, Ruth Gauss and Billie Childress



Northwind Perennial Farm Field Trip

Marilyn Santos McNabb
& Dan Beebe

Saturday, July 15—8:00am to 4:30pm

Based on responses from our member survey conducted last year, we have scheduled our first field trip in a very long time to Northwind Perennial Farm in Burlington, Wisconsin! The trip will be on Saturday, July 15th.

We have hired a bus from Infinity Transportation to transport us to Northwind. Please plan on arriving at St. Andrew Lutheran Church at 8:00am for a **prompt departure at 8:30am**. We plan on arriving at Northwind at about 10:00am just in time to join Nancy Clifton, a Chicago Botanic Garden horticulturalist, for her lecture and a short welcome by one of the Northwind staff who will give a brief talk on their favorite garden tool! Information on Northwind 'perennial focus of the week' will also be presented!



You will have plenty of time to browse the different gardens, both sun and shade. Come prepared for any weather and wear comfortable, safe shoes as there will be uneven or wet surfaces in the gardens! There is also a small barn of gardening decor and art, and of course, a great selection of perennials, some annuals in the nursery. The bus has overhead and underbelly storage for your plant purchases. If you plan on buying plants, you may want to bring a box or two to help your plants make it home safe.

The club will provide water and snacks but please pack a sack lunch! You can eat at one of the tables by the retail operation, lay a blanket for a small picnic on the lawn, or simply eat on the bus on our way back.

We expect to leave Northwind at 3:00pm and be back at St. Andrew around 4:30pm.

A fee of \$10 per member must be paid by Saturday, July 8th. The bus can accommodate 44 people and spaces will be filled on a first paid, first served basis, so be sure to sign up early. Any seats available on July 9th may be made available to non-members for \$35/person.

In addition, we will be passing an envelope on the return trip for the bus driver's tip. If you can contribute to the tip, please bring some cash to put in the envelope.

3 ways to register for this field trip:

- 1) Sign up at the June 22nd Meeting. Pay the \$10 fee with cash or check.
- 2) Send a check to the West Chicago Garden Club at PO Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
- 3) Use our Square "store" to pay the \$10 fee. [Purchase on line](https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLAYS8SD8SBW7/checkout/6OZM5BKBF2M5M2OZHQT3F24N) at <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLAYS8SD8SBW7/checkout/6OZM5BKBF2M5M2OZHQT3F24N>

If you are paying through the mail or using our online option, please make certain to let us know which member(s) you are registering for the field trip. The online store should have a "comment" section where you can include that information.

WCGC Earth Day Donation

Kerry Perry



In April the WCGC donated a \$50 gift certificate to the Conservation Foundation's Earth Day fundraiser/ auction.

The lucky winners redeemed their card at our plant sale Saturday. It's a win- win!

Nice smiles!

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 May meeting or send an email to the club.




PLATT HILL NURSERY | 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

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



HEINZ BROTHERS
Greenhouse & Garden Center

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

Your Gardening Source...

History Hikes At Cantigny

Thursdays June 22-July 31 at 2pm and Saturdays June 24, July 15, August 5, August 25 at 11am

From their website: Have you ever wondered why Cantigny Park exists? What is the First Division Museum? Who was Robert McCormick? Why are there tanks here? Why do we have beautiful gardens? Join us for a 45-minute guided walking tour of the park to learn more! Our staff will share some of their favorite stories about Cantigny Park and the McCormick family as we visit some of the most interesting and beautiful locations around the park.

Tour begins in front of the Cantigny Park Visitors Center.

This program will not run in inclement weather. This is a free tour included with park admission.



Garden Tours at Cantigny

Tuesdays June 20-September 5 (not including 4th of July) at 11am and Saturdays July 1, July 22, August 12, and September 2, 11am

From their website: Join us on a 45-minute storytelling tour of the Cantigny gardens. This walking tour will visit multiple garden locations on the grounds and provide guests with an overview of their history, importance, and purpose. Please note, this is not a plant identification tour.

Tour begins in front of the Cantigny Park Visitors Center.

This program will not run in inclement weather. Free with park admission.



North American Lily Society Show at Chicago Botanic Gardens

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

July 7: 2 – 4:30 p.m.

July 8 & 9: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Burnstein Hall

Presented by the North American Lily Society, this show is a nationally judged display of more than 200 lily blooms in different varieties and arrangements



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.

June 22	Ruth Kyme	Flower Arranging at Kruse Garden	Barb M, Barb B., Jean Ann S.
July 15	Field Trip	Northwind Perennial Farm	
July 27	President's Picnic	Arboretum Tree Walk?	
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>