### **Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club**

Volume 28-Issue 6-June 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: June 27** 

**Meeting Location:** 

St Andrew Lutheran Church NE Corner of Prince Crossing & Geneva Rd

**Meeting Time:** 

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

7. 15PW Program

Permaculture Ruth Kyme

Our June speaker Thom Skibble, will introduce us to the concept of permaculture.

Thom tells us:



I used to work as an event planner and that industry, along with many others, shut down during the pandemic. I took advantage of that time off of work to return to college. I started with a Sustainable Urban Agriculture class at the College of DuPage. That opened my eyes to many things and I was hooked.

The Permaculture Research Institute defines permaculture as a system that integrates land, resources, people and the environment through mutually beneficial synergies - imitating the no waste, closed loop systems seen in diverse natural systems. Basically it is a way to grow food by creating healthy ecosystems that solve problems like pest control, fertilizing, and more. It combines my passion for growing healthy foods, integrating native plants, and helps to sequester carbon to fight global climate change. I love sharing what I know and helping people grow healthy foods for themselves. I have also been a member of the Northern Illinois Iris Society for over a decade and have several award winning Irises in my yard. I am continuing my education and looking forward to continuing to develop a wholistic design style that provides food and looks beautiful.

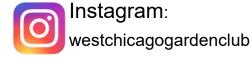
# Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Next Month: July 25

Our annual President's Picnic See page 2 for more info

President's Picnic Dan Beebe

The Club has a tradition where, instead of holding a regular meeting in July, we all get together to socialize at the President's Picnic. The tradition started a (relatively) long time ago when club members were invited to bring sides, salads and your own items to cook on the grill at Carole and Wayne Bate's deck overlooking her beautiful gardens and his really, really cool model train setup. For the past couple of years, we have held the picnic at the large pavilion in Reed Keppler Park, however, the club membership has grown beyond the capacity of the pavilion. After some thought, I have decided that this year the picnic will be held in my yard.

The picnic, on **Thursday, July 25th**, will include catered and homemade food and drink. You do not need to do anything, EXCEPT... I do need you to let me know if you are planning on attending the picnic so that I can make sure that we have enough seating, food and drink for everyone. So, at this point, I am sure that you are asking yourself, 'How do I sign up to be a part of this fun event and spend an evening hanging out with other cool gardeners?' Well, here's your answer. **We will be sending out additional information on how to RSVP in a separate email. We will also have more details and signup sheets at the June meeting.** 

A few things to remember:

- 1. The picnic 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. When you RSVP you will need to sign up anyone else who is coming with you.
- 2. We will have a limited number of Vegetarian and Gluten-free food options available for those of you with dietary restrictions. If you have other dietary restrictions, feel free to bring your own food/beverages to the meeting. When you RSVP, there will be a place to note any dietary restrictions you have to help us plan.
- 3. Start thinking about who you might be able to carpool with. There is a lot of parking near our house, but...

That's all for now. Hope to see you at the next 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 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

#### 2024 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

# **Volunteer Appreciation**

# **Mary Schramer**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of any successful community group and West Chicago Garden Club has a lot of heart and soul. This year we had over 65 club members who committed their time and effort toward our only club fundraiser. They helped with soliciting funds to offset the cost of



the big tent, getting the tent contract, selecting plugs for annuals and tender perennials, potting those plugs, digging plants from their gardens or friends gardens, potting plants, caring for plants in the greenhouse and park district, setting up the potting tents and moving supplies, putting up posters, advertising the sale, creating labels, pricing plants, helping with member sales, setting up for the sale, running the sale, cleaning up after, cleaning up at Hawthorne and organizing supplies back at the barn. Many of you participated in several activities. Even though we all worked hard we had fun and got to know each other a little better. And it was a success! We made enough money to cover next year's budget. If you weren't able to help this year, think about getting involved next year.









# Afternoon Tea at the Kruse Garden

The West Chicago Garden Club continuously finds ways to engage our club members with fun activities and experiences that aim to build our relationships— not just gardening but also with the community.

In partnership with the West Chicago Historical Society and the Kruse House museum, we invite our members to an Afternoon of Tea. pastries, music, and a walk in the gardens!

We will serve Assorted Teas, Finger Sandwiches, Scones, Pastries, Strawberry Jam, Lemon Curd, Clotted Cream

When: July 13 Saturday 2 -4 pm Where: Kruse Museum Gardens

527 Main Street

Cost: \$30 per person

Dress Code: Smart casual—Pastels, Florals, Hats (no jeans/shorts)



Marilyn McNabb



Tickets are available for members only at \$30 per person. Each member can bring **one guest** at \$30 per guest. They can be purchased at our online Square store or at the June Meeting.

We are requesting that you come in your summer pastels or florals, or smart casual for men and women. Just no jeans or shorts, if possible! If you feel like going all out, wear a hat or fascinator! Extra parking is available that afternoon at City Hall (475 Main Street).

Do you want to volunteer to help? We need helping hands for floral arrangements, napkin folds, physically setting up tables and chairs and tents, table setting, serving, breakdown, and don't forget cooking and baking! if you are not coming to Tea, maybe you can help us that day setting up the food or do finishing touches!

for questions: Christina: cmcgal.220@gmail.com or Marilyn: mcnabb.marilyn@yahoo.com



# **Honoring Billie at May's Meeting**

# Pamela Darrah & Ruth Gauss

At our May meeting, we took a moment to honor Billie Childress. Billie Childress was given a Lifetime Membership to the club in recognition for all of her hours of service and dedication. Marilyn baked a fantastic cake to celebrate the occasion. Note that her decorations also tied into our speaker that evening who discussed Edible Flowers!

We hope you were in attendance, but if not, here is some information that our club president, Dan Beebe, shared about Billie's time as a club member.

In the last 22 years, Billie has been:

- Club President
- Vice President
- Program Director
- Plant Sale Plant Acquisition & Digging Squad
- Workshop Presenter
- Public Art Coordinator
- Kruse House Garden Coordinator w/ Angie Sadauskus (starting 2007)
- Kruse House Garden Chair on the board once it became a position until her "retirement" at the end of 2023

For the Kruse House Garden, she has been Landscape Architect, Gardener, & an overall advocate. Billie, along with her dedicated crew of Kruse House Gardeners, was instrumental in making the garden into what you see today.

In addition, the club has purchased a bench to be installed later in a West Chicago Park District Park. This bench will bear the following inscription:

Honoring Billie Childress for her passionate service to the Kruse House Garden and West Chicago Garden Club

The bench has just been installed and is located in Reed Keppler Park. It is near the "Circle Statue" bed at the end of Freemont and National St.



A note from Billie—Thank you to the Garden Club Board and all the wonderful supportive members who celebrated with me at our last meeting. I was stunned and humbled by the lifetime membership recognition. The accomplishments mentioned were only made possible with supportive garden club members by my side. Thank you to each and everyone of you for being part of our dynamic club.



### It's time for Fall Bulb Orders

It's 90° at 9 pm. Can you believe it's time to start thinking about flower bulb orders?

It's been the tradition of West Chicago Garden Club to pay shipping on members' orders placed through the club. Shipping is 15%, and the club will cover up to \$15 in shipping costs per member order. So if you order over \$100 of bulbs, then you may need to pay some of the shipping! You will still be responsible for taxes.

We are going to try something a little different this year. We would like to collect all orders by email. After checking the websites below, email Pauline Briggs at <a href="mailto:briggspm@gmail.com">briggspm@gmail.com</a> with:

The site you saw the item on

The name of the bulb

The item number

The quantity

The price

Your name and contact information

BEAUTY FROM BULBS
The Art & Soul of Spring<sup>151</sup>

Frequent District Experime & Healers (Freezen Lipse) in:

John Scheepers Fall 2024
2,3 Yalip Drive - P.D. Dox 608
Bentaman, Commerciant 60°-90-608
Bentaman, Commerciant 60°-90-608

Never underestimate the power of planting

**Pauline Briggs** 

We will be ordering through John Scheepers (retail), johnscheepers.com, and Van Engelen (wholesale), vanengelen.com. Although minimum quantities may be larger on the wholesale site, that is not always the case. However, wholesale prices will always be less, even if the minimum quantity is the same as the retail minimum quantity. So, before letting me know what you want, check both sites. **DO NOT PLACE YOUR ORDER THROUGH THE WEBSITES**. If you do, the club will not pay your shipping.

# All orders should be sent to Pauline by July 31st.

# **Board Position: Program Director**

# Ruth Kyme



In 2021, Barb Melville asked me if I'd be interested in taking over her position as Program Director. Barb showed me the ropes and eased me into this role which I officially took on in 2022. My main responsibility is to arrange informative programs for our monthly meetings. I also organize local field trips, workshops, and Twilight Tuesdays. Thank you to Mary Smedegard for helping with the planning of local field trips this year and Julie Blazek for organizing the Twilight Tuesday garden visits. I am so happy that we began the Twilight Tuesdays last year. I hope you love these informal garden visits as much as I do.

# **Nature Notes: Serviceberry**

# **Kerry Perry**



While looking out my kitchen window the past couple of weeks, I noticed a feeding frenzy. The fruit ripened on my several serviceberry trees. Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Baltimore Orioles and even the chipmunks have been devouring the berries.

The serviceberry is one of spring's earliest bloomers with masses of white flowers. It is thought that the name serviceberry came from the first settlers in New England who held funeral services at the same time the tree began to bloom.



Baltimore Oriole - photo from Cornell Lab

The fruits taste similar to blueberry – they are eaten fresh or cooked in pastries or puddings.

Nutritionally superior to blueberries, serviceberries pack a punch with vitamin C, fiber, iron and protein. They're not just a snack; they're a superfood. Yum.



Cedar Waxwing – photo from Audubon Connecticut

# **Board Position: Membership Services Director**

# **Lisa Marie Vogt**



In 2024 I accepted the position of Member Services Director. This position focuses on hospitality, refreshments and new members, and responsibilities include:

- Creating name-tags
- Assisting Jean Ann Sarnio at the welcome table for monthly meetings
- Arranging for the introduction of new members at monthly meetings
- Sending a welcome note to new members
- Soliciting club members to provide refreshments for monthly meetings
- Sending a monthly reminder to those who signed up to provide refreshments

I've greatly enjoyed this position, however I am stepping down at the end of the year due to personal commitments. If hospitality is your thing, then this position is for you! Please reach out to me or see me at a meeting. I am happy to answer any questions. Nomination time is right around the corner.

# Getting to Know ...

# **Janet Frogner**

#### Vicki Burris



Resident of: West Chicago: I've lived here all my life

WCGC Member: November 2023

**How did you become a member**: My friend, Lisa Chatt, was already a member and I thought it would be great to meet more people who enjoy gardening like I do

What is your current profession: I own my own business called Butterflies Everywhere and work part-time at WeGrowDreams greenhouse in West Chicago

What are you most proud of in your garden: My purple Angel garden and that I changed my husband's mind about flowers. 8 years ago he didn't want any in his yard.

A garden mistake you made: Just planting the plants anywhere

What do you love most about gardening: The beautiful colors and the beautiful butterflies that are attracted to the gardens

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: Ask an expert for advice, they have already been through the trials and errors

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: WeGrowDreams greenhouse (they have a great mission) and local sales on FB Marketplace

**Favorite spot in your garden**: Sitting in my purple chair looking at my purple Angel garden

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: Purple Larkspur

What are you looking forward to this season:

Learning more and sharing what I have learned







PLATT HILL 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...

# **Growing Native—Introduction + Pollinators**

#### **Ruth Gauss**

Hi, gardening friends! I know there are a few club members who have an interest in gardening with native plants so I thought I would share what I have learned about the subject and hopefully help and encourage more people to dive in as well. I'm hoping to have a new article for each newsletter, so please stay tuned!

well. I'm hoping to have a new article for each newsletter, so please stay tuned!

Because it's Pollinator Week (June 17-23), I thought I would share some facts about them. Animal pollinators include honey bees, native bees, flies, beetles, ants, butterflies, moths and other insects, as well as birds and some types of bats (not in Illinois –

our bats are insect feeders).

Studies have found that native insects pollinate 97% of wildflowers (honey bees pollinate the other 3% and are not native.) Bumble bees also pollinate a wide number of food crops very efficiently, notably tomatoes, peppers, and blueberries (the full list is surprisingly long.) This is one reason why we should support our native bees as much as we can. All of our bumble bees are native.



Native plants contain all of the clues, from color, markings, and scent, that pollinators need in order to find them! Plants that are cultivated from a native variety might delight us with a different color or more petals in a double bloom, but they might also end up producing less of the pollen or nectar that our pollinators rely on for food or make it harder for those resources to be reached. Planting native means you are providing a meal that the pollinators have evolved with and are likely to provide what they need most easily.

Which color of bloom attracts which type of pollinator? When you have purple, violet, and blue flowers, you are likely to see a fair number of bees visiting your flowers. Red and pink tend to be the favorites of hummingbirds so they flock to those colors the most. Butterflies are attracted to bright colors like orange, red, yellow, pink, and purple. Obviously, these are the beautiful, flighty pollinators that most people want to encourage, but native plants work in harmony with all kinds of pollinators as well. Keep your eyes open and see what happens.

I could go on and on. Instead I am sharing some helpful links for native gardens that try to support our native pollinators:

Making a Bee-Friendly Garden from University of Illinois BeeSpotter program

<u>Plants Pollinators Use</u> from University of Illinois Extension (this includes helpful search criteria for soil moisture, sun exposure, color, height, etc.)

Pollinator Habitat Design from University of Illinois Extension

<u>Planting Palette</u> for planning a season of bloom as well as fruiting for wildlife from Cornell Lab

Pollinator Partnership link for multiple national resources about gardens that support pollinators





### **News from Kruse**

The vast assortment of perennials and beautiful shrubs and trees are coming to life at Kruse Gardens after a fairly good spring rain! The purple larkspurs are so stunning next to the bright orange poppies! Both are reseeds from last year! The blooms of the Persicaria next to the pond is like smoke coming out of the greenery! the rose campion is beautiful in its rich magenta flowers next to the double petaled feverfew!

On to the front of the house, the Shasta daisies are starting to open,

the and sna of be the nex

the planters are gorgeous with the deep purple and green kale accompanied by white angelonia and purple stock! The very tall pink snapdragons are almost done with its first batch of blooms, time to pinch back, gather and save the seeds, and in a few weeks will shoot their next beautiful buds!

On the side west side of the house, are beautiful stands of sweet peas and a great contrast of shades of green from the grasses, boxwoods and juniper! Oftentimes, we forget that the different

textures of leaves, and shades of green, sizes of the leaves, add so much interest and impact to a simple driveway



We welcome you to visit Kruse House Gardens and if you are interested in working in the gardens we are there Wednesdays, 9:00 to 11:30am.

Lastly, stop by and view the art work reminiscent of ancient Olmec statues carved between 1200BCE to 400BCE. The Olmecs, an aztec term meaning rubber people, given to the inhabitants of the gulf coast, now known as VeraCruz and Tabasco, created heads, quarried and carved to commemorate their rulers. There are 4 total pieces scattered all over West Chicago.



# **Marilyn McNabb**







# **Twilight Tuesdays**

The last month has been very busy with 4 Twilight Tuesday events and our Field Trip to the Chicago Botanic Garden. It has been fantastic to see so many members coming out and enjoying these events. Thank you to our Twilight Tuesday hosts: Marcie, Jeff, June & Vicki!









# **Field Trip Photos**

We couldn't have asked for a more fantastic and lucky day for our fieldtrip at the Chicago Botanic Garden! We had a couple bonus attractions, the rare opening of the Corpse plant, Amorphophallus sp, cooking demo and seed giveaway

at the Regenstein Center, seeing all those canoes on the pond, and a rainfree day!

Based on the survey submitted, everybody enjoyed the gardens and 100% said they would join another field trip! 100% also said the cost was fair!

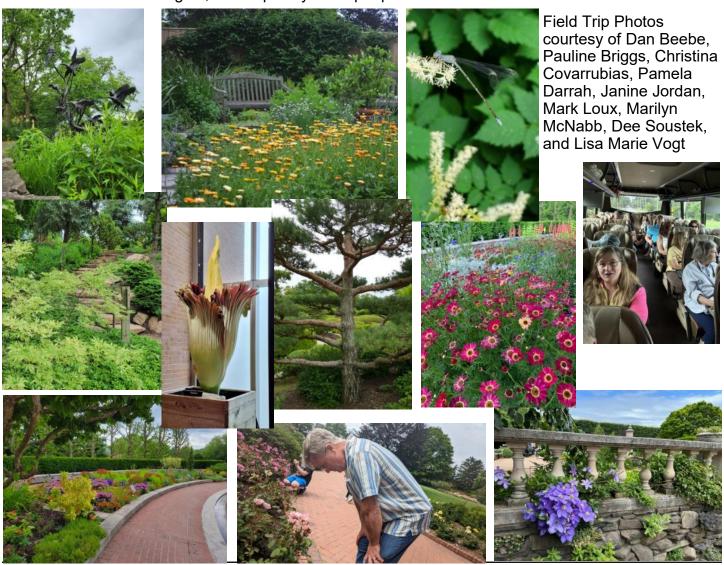
Everybody also loved the charcuterie board and the other food, but most especially our members enjoyed the camaraderie, friendliness and the opportunity to interact with other members!

Marilyn McNabb



A few mentioned a desire to return to the gardens or the field trip to be a little longer!

A big thank you to those who shared food, to those who helped set up and clean, and to everybody who came! We'll do it again, and hopefully more people can share the fun!



#### Care to Share?

We are looking for anything that our members would like to share. To participate just email your item(s) along with your name and contact information (if you need to be contacted) to westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com



Sunday, June 23, 12-6 pm

Adults (Music Only): \$50 Adults (Ticket + Wine): \$75 Youth (Under 21): \$30

This entertainment-filled afternoon will feature multiple acts on two stages, and wine sampling stations with over a dozen varieties. The bands will perform on two stages in different areas of

Cantigny Park, but not simultaneously, so you can enjoy all of them. No matter where you are in the park, we promise you will hear the music!

For details, visit Cantigny's page at https://cantigny.org/event/jazz-and-wine-fest/



#### PROSEK'S GREENHOUSE

#### \*WE WILL BE OPENING TO THE PUBLIC\*

Monday June 17th - Wednesday July 3rd Hours are 9:00 - 3:00. Open while supplies last.

#### Super Sale

Annual Flats and 10"-12" Baskets are \$6.00 ea. 4-1/2" pots are \$1.00 ea./Flat price \$15.00 ea. 10"-12" Mixed Planters \$10.00 Cannas & Rex Begonias \$3.50 ea. Colocasias - 14"-\$12.00, 16"-\$15.00.

We are accepting Cash or Credit Card/Debit Card 3.5% processing fee will be applied, if paid with card. Fall Mums and Purple Fountain Grass are not on sale.



Join us on Saturday, June 29, 10-2 when and his wife, Anna Maria Leon, join us at the greenhouse for mini

presentations and meet and greets.

Roy is best known for his expertise in natural plant families and design. He has written books on garden design and was an integral part of planning Lurie Gardens at Millenial Park, Shedd Aquarium, Art Institute, Grand Geneva Resort and many homes around the Chicagoland and Lake Geneva area. He is part owner of Northwind Perennial Farms in Burlington Wisconsin. Learn more about Roy at https://www.northwindperennialfarm.com/.

Annamaria is co-owner of Homan Grown, a social enterprise focused on propagating urban durable perennials, and creating regenerative edible and ornamental landscapes. She is a certificate permaculture designer and teacher.



Amanda Skinner sent in this Great hand tool organization idea she found on-line.



In Memoriam: Rita Kitching

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of Rita Kitching. She was a member of the West Chicago Garden Club from 2006 until last year.

# **Upcoming local events for gardeners**

#### **Ruth Gauss**

# Garden tours this Saturday, June 22, to celebrate Pollinator Week:

10 a.m. - 1 p.m

Pollinator Garden Open House: The Wheaton Garden Club invites the public to their Pollinator Garden at Seven Gables Park, 1750 S. Naperville Road. It is free. Members will be available to answer questions, provide ideas, and talk about the importance of pollinator friendly plants.

1 - 3 p.m.

Wild Ones Greater DuPage Garden Tours: Three different locations in Lombard will be open for touring (including the Sheldon Peck Homestead)

3 - 5 p.m.

Wild Ones Greater DuPage Garden Tours: One more location will open in Lombard at 3pm, with a raffle for native plants plugs at 4pm

Please visit this link for more details about each of the Wild Ones sites





# Pollinator Party Drop-In Sunday, June 30

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Keshav's Garden at Indian Prairie Public Library, 401 Plainfield Rd, Darien, IL 60561

A number of presenters will share about ways to incorporate pollinator-friendly elements into your garden. In the event of inclement weather, this program is held indoors. Website + there are a number of gardens at the library follow this link for that info.

# July 27 and August 3: The Garden Conservancy Open Days

"The mission of The Garden Conservancy is to preserve, share, and celebrate America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public." They have five locations in the Chicagoland area open for touring this summer.

These are ticketed events, with a \$10 charge per person, per site for non-members of The Garden Conservancy. One location has sold out (The Cottage in Lake Forest), but the others still have availability (and walk-ins are allowed if not already sold out.) If you were at our March meeting and were interested in the Kurtis garden that Nina Koziol shared, tickets were still available at the time this article was researched—that is the Mettawa location.

Garden Conservancy Program Open Days <u>general information</u> such as what to expect

The Chicago Area Open Day (July 27—4 sites) information can be found <a href="here">here</a> including links for per-purchasing tickets

On Saturday, August 3rd, Ball Seed will be open, please click <u>here</u> for more information and to pre-purchase tickets

\*\*\*Please note that our club will be having a field trip to Ball Seed on Monday, August 5th, if you are available to join us then.





### **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	
l to 4 hours	\$ 75
More than 4 hours	\$ 150
Donate pots for plant sale	\$ 50
Donate snacks for meeting	\$ 75
Set up or clean up at meeting	\$ 25
Attend Field Trip	\$ 25
Donate plants to Kruse Garden	\$ 50

Donate plants for Plant Sale					
Less than 50	\$	75			
50 - 149	\$	200			
More than 150	\$	300			
Write newsletter article		100			
Bring a guest to a meeting	\$	50			
Attend Meeting	\$	25			
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.

May 18		PLANT SALE	
June 27	Thom Skibble	Permaculture	Lisa H, Christina C, Carol G
July 25	Please RSVP	President's Picnic	
Aug 22	Cindy Crosby	Dragonflies and Damselflies	Cindy T, June L, Jen K
Sept 26	Dianne Blazek	Plant Breeding	Marion M, Mary S, Cindy B
Oct 24		Bulb Bingo	Barb M, Barb B, Mary A, Tom F
Nov 14	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner	

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