

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 3 March 2020



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: Canceled

Garden Club plans and Covid-19

As I sit in my office and write this article, I can't help but think about all the things that have changed since my last message one month ago. As I am sure every one of you knows, the COVID-19 pandemic has led the Garden Club board to make some hard, disappointing decisions. Our general meeting and speaker for March has been cancelled. The 2020 plant sale has also been cancelled, although we still plan on having an informational booth at Bloomingfest assuming that it is not cancelled by the City. Our general meeting for April is still planned, but may need to be cancelled. However, as a club, our finances are in great shape and as an organization we can wait this out. We are not giving up and expect to be back to our, perhaps slightly modified, normal routine (involving a lot more hand sanitizer) at some point in the near future.

Personally, the advent of Spring has helped provide some encouragement. Many studies have noted that gardening generally improves mood, enhances emotional well-being, reduces anxiety and stress, and helps reduce the symptoms of depression. In a world filled with bad news, I can still make big plans for my yard and dream about all of the quality garden time I will soon be able to enjoy. If the weather continues to cooperate (please, please, please), I plan on spending a lot of my time socializing with the squirrels, birds and insects in my own yard and catching up on projects that I have been putting off for way too long. I also plan on

listening to a few books, taking a few naps and just sitting quietly out in my yard.

The future is much more pleasant and manageable when focused on the bright possibilities that Spring and Summer bring to our yards and gardens. I plan on taking advantage of this fact over the next few months. I encourage you to do the same.

Stay well. Stay safe.

Dan



APRIL 23RD MEETING

**What's New from Ball Seed
presented by Jim Nau**

Ruth Kyme



Resident of Bartlett: 33 years

West Chicago Garden Club Member: 3 years

Why the West Chicago Garden Club? I joined after I attended a Bloomingfest sale. Knowledgeable and nice people!

Hobbies: Gardening, art classes; water color, acrylic and mix media

Favorite Flower: Black Eye Susan; I like how they plant themselves wherever they want!

Biggest Gardening Mistake: Not taking into account that plants will grow and ending up planting too close together. It's easy to 'over do it'

Past Career: 2nd Grade Teacher

What Gardening chore do you hate: Fall clean up

If you could have one flower in your garden what would it be: "Why Black Eye Susans of course!"

What do you look most forward to in your Spring Garden: astilbe, salvia , trillium and bulbs

What flower will pop up first in your garden this Spring: Squill

2020 Gardening Resolution: "I don't make resolutions!"

Gardening Tips Barb Bizzarri

Did you know?..... These five salad ingredients can be planted directly in the ground during spring;

- Lettuce family
- Arugula
- Carrots
- Beets
- Radishes
- Kale
- Broccoli

The seeds of the hardiest of flowers can be planted by direct sowing as well once the soil in your garden can be worked (even if it's several weeks before the last frost). These include:

- Bachelor Buttons
- Calendula
- Cosmos
- Marigolds
- Morning Glory
- Nasturtium

Garden Tip:

Insert stakes now for flop-prone favorites; peony, heliopsis or aster. When planting dahlias, add stakes at planting time to avoid spearing tubers later.



We Go Gardening

Do you Facebook?

Are you on Facebook? The Garden Club is! You can find our page at

<https://www.facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub/>

We try to post items that will interest our members once or twice per week. Come check it out! Once there, take a moment to Like and Follow our page.

If you see a post on our page that you enjoy, we appreciate all Likes and Shares. Doing this helps to spread information about the club to your friends and followers.

Are there any club members that might be interested in helping to post to the Garden Club page? If you do, please email to WestChicagoGardenClub.com.



Online Seminar from Platt Hill

One of our sponsors, Platt Hill Nursery, is going to present a free on-line Spring Pruning Seminar using Facebook Live. It will be shown on Saturday, March 21st from 10:00-11:00 AM.

Pruning – Let's get our trees ready for spring. As spring quickly approaches, it is a perfect time to learn how to prune to get better looking, healthier trees and shrubs. We want everyone to have a successful spring experience starting with trees and shrubs!

Were your tree's damaged during the recent winter? Join us to learn how to effectively prune the tree back to maximize the chance of survival.

Visit <https://www.platthillnursery.com/events/spring-pruning-seminar-bloomington/> to find out more. Their Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/Platthillnursery/>

2020 Dues?

Have you paid your 2020 Garden Club Dues yet? About 25% of our members still need to renew for this year. If you still would like to receive this newsletter and be a part of our club, please renew now.

Dues remain at the low price of \$15 for a single membership and \$25 for a family membership (2 people).

The membership form can be found on our website at:

www.WestChicagoGardenClub.org

Please mail your renewal to the club at:

West Chicago Garden Club
P.O. Box 313
West Chicago, IL 60185-0313

February Meeting Recap

Barb Melville

Not just last month's meeting but all the previous meetings from 2019 were well attended by at least 40 of our members. Our presenter, for the month of February, Glenn Grosch whose topic was Organic Gardening and Integrated Pest Management did a great job; he was not only very informative but also witty and extremely funny! Glenn who has numerous degrees and many years of experience in this field gave a 75 minute presentation on what does it really mean to say something is "organic"? He talked about organic products: fertilizers, compost, humus, and mulch. He also spoke on plant management, plant selection and site selection. Glenn went into specific pest control topics which included irrigation, physical barriers and selective predators. Glenn did a wonderful job and received many positive comments.



It's only March 1st, and the official start of spring still three weeks away, but Spring has already sprung in the Kruse House garden. With the mild winter, some warm days, and plenty of precipitation, Mother Nature is not bothering to wait for the equinox, but is already pushing tender shoots above the soil.



Daffodil spears in front flower bed

In the front flower bed immediately to the east of the house, clusters of daffodil spears are debuting, as are the solitary heads of hyacinths in the beds around the sides. Brushing away the cover of leaves in many places reveals profusions of tiny green and silvery-white leaves of lamium. The vinca vine, which never loses its leaves in the winter, already has its summery dark green. Even the first bloom of 2020 has appeared--a small blossom on a Johnny Jump-up that survived winter in one of the front urns!



Hyacinth in side bed

Nature's early start has meant that the Kruse House gardeners have already begun their work. On March 3rd Billie, Kerry, and Linas spent a good part of the day cutting away the dead lilac branches. Projects for the year include repairing and painting the back fence, planting a new tree in the front, and adding several structural plantings to the beds. If you want to join the Kruse House crew this year, regular work days are Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, though adjustable to fit your schedule. Work days at the house will start April 1, 2020. Contact Billie Childress or Kerry Perry or email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com and the message will be forwarded to both of them.



Johnny Jump-up, first bloom of Spring



Billie and Linas trimming lilac bushes



Kerry and Billie with trimmed lilac branches

Upcoming Programs for 2020

These are the tentatively scheduled programs for the year. If there are any changes we will update this information in future newsletters.

April 23rd	Jim Nau	What's New from Ball Seed
May 28th	Diane Blazek	All American Selections
June 25th	Sharon Yiesla	Smaller Trees for Smaller Yards
July 23rd	Dan Beebe	President's Picnic
August 27th		Native Plants
September 24th		Butterflies & Other Interesting Creatures
October 22nd		TBD
November 19th	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

Nature Notes



From Barb Bizzarri

I have a new neighbor!

A Black-capped Chickadee moved into my beautiful painted gourd birdhouse that I purchased with 'Garden Bucks' at our November auction. Thanks go to Dick Darrah for his expertise and creative talent in making it and donating to the auction. This bird must think he's in the 'high rent district'

From Kerry Perry

Barb just sent me a photo of a chickadee peeking out of her gourd house. So, I hung mine this AM. I'm hopeful it will be occupied soon. Also, the hellebores are emerging.



The best time for **pruning** a **hellebore** plant is late winter or early spring, just as soon as the new growth begins to appear. This new growth should come straight up out of the ground as little stalks. These stalks should still be surrounded by a ring of last year's big leaves.

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Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org
West Chicago Garden Club
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2020: Individual: \$15 Family: \$25 (2 people)

Board Meetings

2nd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Regular Meeting Location

St Andrew Lutheran Church—155 N Prince Crossing Rd

2020 WCGC BOARD:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Barb Bizzarri
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Cherie Kraft
Program Director:	Barb Melville
Plant Sale Chair:	Dan Beebe
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Kruse House Chair:	Billie Childress
Hospitality Chair:	Jan Grismore
Director at Large	Mary Schramer

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

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and add some beauty to your garden at

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