

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 25 Issue 3 March 2021



*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: March 25**

**Meeting Location:**

**ZOOM Online Meeting**

**Meeting Time:**

**7:00PM Program**

## Founding Fathers, Sustainability, and Recycling



The energetic presentation by Kay McKeen will address the many aspects of sustainability and conservation, including the history and importance of composting, water, and

our direct, timeless connection to nature and the environment. It will also provide tips on how to protect our resources and where to dispose of unwanted materials properly, as well as further explain multiple SCARCE programs, initiatives, and relationships. Attendees will definitely leave with valuable information pertaining to healthy living, prosperous gardens, and pollution reduction. Other related issues can be addressed based on comments and conversations that stem from this interesting, environmentally-based program.

Kay McKeen is the Founder and very active Executive Director of SCARCE. SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling & Composting Education) is a not-for-profit, 501(C) 3, environmental education organization in Addison,



IL. Over the past 30 years, McKeen and the SCARCE Team have educated and inspired hundreds of thousands of people in schools, businesses and community groups to conserve natural resources and reduce their environmental impact on their immediate community and the world. This includes extensive information on topics such as composting, waste reduction and household hazardous waste. She is the originator of organized special recycling collections/extravanzas, and is constantly informing communities about updates regarding policies for proper disposal of all items.

**Look for the Garden Club email on the morning of March 25th which will have the link to the Zoom meeting.**



**APRIL 22ND MEETING**

**Zoom Meeting:**

**We will have a speaker from the University of Illinois Extension**

## Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

One year ago, I wrote an article informing you that our regular club meetings were being cancelled until further notice. Although we cannot yet resume in person meetings, I am holding out hope that we will soon be able to meet in person again. As we did last month, we will have an online speaker this month and probably in April, too. Starting in May we hope to be switching back to in person meetings held outdoors (weather permitting) over the Summer months. With any luck, we will be meeting in our 'normal' format in the Fall.

Until we can meet again, enjoy the milder weather and enjoy the promise that the Spring brings. Keep watching your email, our Facebook page and the Newsletter for more club news as we head towards warmer weather and sunnier days.

As always - Stay well, stay safe.

Dan

DuPage Monarch Project: Communities Protecting Pollinators, has created a video that includes some footage of West Chicago Mayor Pineda in front of the TigerFly butterfly in the Kruse Garden last summer. The video is available on YouTube at the following link.

<https://youtu.be/d4PePa9Acvc>



## Zoom Meeting Information

We had a great turnout for our first Zoom meeting last month—over 30 members were there! Although we do not have any more Zoom practice sessions scheduled, if you need help getting started, please email [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com). We will do our best to get you going with Zoom.



The [January Newsletter](#) had extra information to help you get started with Zoom on the last page. If you haven't used Zoom before, that information will hopefully get you started. We are planning to use Zoom for the next few months while we wait for vaccinations and/or warmer weather for outdoor meetings.

Dee Soustek



**Resident of :** Warrenville for the past 25 years

**West Chicago Garden Club Member:** Since 2003

**Hobbies:** Photography and reading

**Favorite Flower from a Florist:** Mixed bouquet with at least one Stargazer Lily

**Biggest Gardening Mistake:** Taking on the task of replacing my garden with native pollinators

**What gardening chore do you dislike the most?** Waiting to see what comes up every Spring... will it be alive or dead?

**Are you planting anything new in your Spring garden?:** Will once again try to grow a variety of native plants especially Royal Catchfly

**Current Career:** Director of Geriatric Services for Villa St. Benedict Retirement Community, Lisle

**If you could travel now, where would you like to go:** Visit family in Seattle

**How Have You Kept Busy This Past Months:** Working, Netflix, reading and puzzles

**Favorite Restaurant?** Fiora's in Geneva

**Garden Tech—Apps for Gardeners**

Barb Bizzarri

Have better gardening results with these free digital tools

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SmartPlant Home

Point and click to identify plants, flowers, trees and more. NOTE: when you search your App for SmartPlant Home, you may see several plant ID Apps, scroll down until you find this specific app

All 4 of these apps are available on both the Apple AppStore (iPhones) and the Google Play Store (Androids).

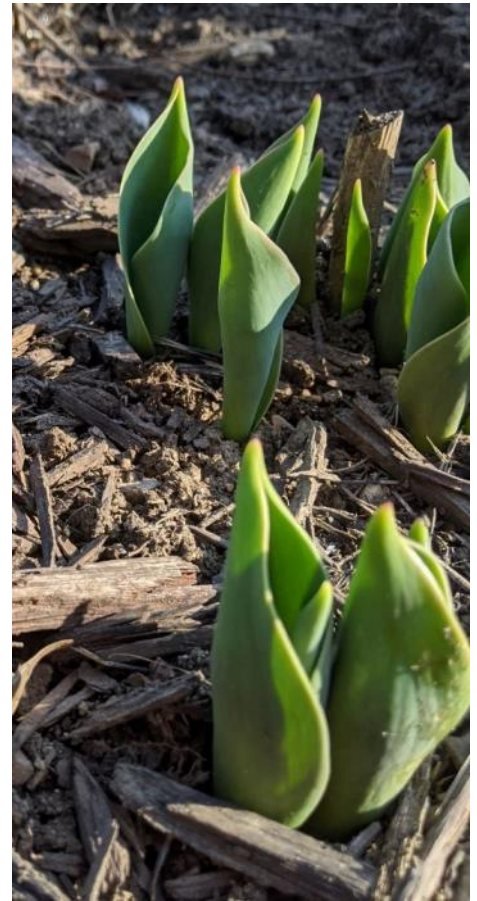
## News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

It is almost the middle of March and the snow has finally melted, so Dick and I drove over to the Kruse Garden to see what is happening. The answer is not much yet, but we did get some pictures of crocus, tulips and daffodils pushing their noses up out of the soil along with some blooming Winter Aconite. Of course there are weeds poking up as well. I'm hoping to get an early start on them this year. There is always hope isn't there?

Without a plant sale again this year, I've been dreaming up big plans for our own garden. Dick and I have been watching British gardening shows on Amazon all winter and are getting excited about the coming spring. Dick is starting seeds and I'm researching plants. I hope that you are also feeling the anticipation as the weather changes and once again we can get out of our houses and into our gardens .

Nature never stays exactly the same so don't forget to check out Kruse this spring. The tulips should be blooming and the "Bees" should be buzzing.



## Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

Ferson Creek Fen is one of our areas little natural treasures.

It's a calcareous sedge meadow with portions of wet floodplain forest along the west bank of the Fox River in St. Charles. Several rare plant species are supported by this wetland ecosystem. The preserve provides nesting habitat for several bird species and offers excellent bird watching opportunities during spring migration.

Fens are peat-forming, groundwater fed wetlands. Fens differ from bogs in that they are less acidic, have higher nutrient levels and can support a more diverse plant and animal community. It's reported that only 354 acres of high-quality fens survive in the entire State of Illinois. Nearly all are in northeastern Illinois.



Even on a blustery day in March it was pleasant to stroll down the paths and boardwalks at Ferson Creek Fen. Imagine how wonderful this fen will be this spring. Get out there and enjoy.



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## Club Information

Website: [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)

West Chicago Garden Club  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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

### 2021 WCGC BOARD:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Barb Bizzarri
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Cherie Kraft
Program Director:	Barb Melville
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To Contact any Board Member, please send email to  
[WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

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