

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 3—March 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: March 23

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

**St Andrew Lutheran Church NE
Corner of Prince Crossing &
Geneva Road.**

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

Tree Pests and Diseases of the Urban Forest

Ruth Kyme



Our speaker this month is David Kusnierz, an arborist from 'SavATree'.

David will give a comprehensive presentation of the insects and diseases that are currently impacting trees and shrubs throughout the Chicago Metropolitan area, especially the far western suburbs. He'll detail each pest and its impact on trees and shrubs found in all our gardens and landscapes. Attendees will learn what constitutes an invasive pest as opposed to a native pest, why the right tree in the right place is so important, and how to maintain healthy trees and shrubs so they can withstand the onslaught of pests and diseases as well as climate change.

On Page 11 you will find a list of the upcoming programs. It also includes who has signed up to bring treats so that you can look ahead in case you don't remember which month you signed up.

Check out the **NEW** [Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about the WCGC Plant Sale document](#).

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

[westchicagogardenclub](https://www.instagram.com/westchicagogardenclub)

APRIL 27TH MEETING

**“Success with Woodies”
by Glenn Grosch**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

A few somewhat random notes:

Volunteers Needed: A club like ours runs on 'volunteer power'. Without many people volunteering their time to help organize all of our club's activities, we just couldn't exist. This newsletter has many articles that describe a number of volunteer opportunities, most of which do not require a large time commitment. If you have any questions about any of the volunteer opportunities available, please reach out to any board member or email westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com to get your questions answered. We need your help, please consider signing up as a volunteer.

Guests & New Members: Most of our monthly meetings are open to guests. Please think about people you may know who might be interested in our monthly programs and invite them to attend with you. Many of our guests turn into new members and new members bring new ideas and perspectives on gardening that can help all of us become better gardeners and stewards of the land.

Community Outreach: As an organization, we give a lot back to the communities in which we live. If you have an idea for a community project or partnership related to the club's mission, please discuss your ideas with a board member. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to serve the community.

See you at our next meeting! — Dan

SAVE THESE DATES

Pop up potting parties: Saturday or Sundays in March to be determined

Perennial Potting Parties:

Sunday, April 16, 1 to 4 PM
Saturday, April 22, 9 AM to 12 PM
Sunday, April 30, 1 to 4 PM
Saturday, May 6, 9 AM to 12 PM

Plant Sitters needed from April 16th through May 18th

Plant Labeling and Pricing: Saturday May 13, time to be determined

Member Only Plant Sale: Thursday, May 18th 5:30 to 8:30???

Plant Sale Set Up: Friday, May 19th, time to be determined

Plant Sale: Saturday, May 20th, 7 AM to 3 PM
(Sale open from 9AM-2PM)

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:	Patti Zaputil
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

Adopt A Highway

Dan Beebe



It is time for our Spring Adopt A Highway roadside pickup. We will be meeting on Saturday, April 15th at 8:45am in the parking lot of the Park District garage at 830 W Hawthorne Lane (Click here for Google Map). We will start our cleanup at 9:00am Expect to spend about 2 hours walking on relatively flat sidewalk & grass.

Once a year, all volunteers will need to sign a liability waiver stating that you won't blame the city if you get hurt during the roadside pickup. Copies of the waiver will be available at Saturday's event. In addition, all participants should watch the State of Illinois' Adopt a Highway video that can be viewed by clicking on this link: [AAH Video](#).

Orange safety vests, grabbers and garbage bags will be provided. Some roadside trash can be soggy, especially in the Spring, so please bring your own gloves to protect your hands. As the weather in April can be a bit unpredictable, please check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. Dan



Illinois Prairie Path Cleanup

Dan Beebe

On Saturday, April 29th, the volunteer groups associated with the Great Western Trail and the Illinois Prairie Path are hosting a Path Cleanup Event. Members of the club are invited to join members of the West Chicago Environmental Commission to pick up trash on the Illinois Prairie Path between Route 59 on north and the Great Western Trail on the south.



We will be meeting at 8:45am near the Easternmost entrance on Route 64 to the shopping mall on the corner of Route 59 and Route 64. Look for people wearing orange safety vests. We will start our cleanup at 9:00am. Expect to spend about 2 hours walking on relatively flat gravel pathway & grass.

Orange safety vests, grabbers and garbage bags will be provided. Some roadside trash can be soggy, especially in the Spring, so please bring your own gloves to protect your hands. As the weather in April can be a bit unpredictable, please check the weather forecast and dress accordingly.

Volunteers Needed

Pamela Darrah

Keeping a great organization like the West Chicago Garden Club going takes time, talent and effort from a lot of people. We have been fortunate to have great members step forward and help with everything from being on the board to potting up plants. The club is in need of a few more helpers right now.



- Board Member: Secretary—Our Secretary, Patti Zaputil will soon be moving out of state. We have appreciated the time she has given to the club and will miss her. We hope she will have a wonderful garden at her new home. Unfortunately, this will leave our board with an unfilled position. If you would be interested in joining the board, let an existing board member know at the March meeting or send an email to the club address (below).
- Field Trip Planning Group—As detailed in last month's newsletter, we are putting together a small group to plan a field trip this year. We have 2 volunteers, but would love to have 1 or 2 more in order to make the job easier for everyone. If you would be interested in helping the club plan this year's field trip, please email or talk to a board member at our March meeting.
- Kruse Garden Event Coordinator—(For more detail, see the "Notes from the President" article in the February Newsletter.) This position has very limited physical demands and does not necessarily involve any hands-on gardening. We need someone to assist in planning weekend work days in the garden, act as a liaison to the West Chicago Historical Society who owns the property, work with the Historical Society on developing new, innovative ways to showcase all the work that has been and continues to be put into the garden and most importantly share the garden with the community.

For any of the positions, please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer.

Pop-up Potting Party #1

Pamela Darrah

Our first "Pop-up" Potting Party for 2023 was on Sunday, March 5th. A small group of members potted up the annuals that were donated in just an hour. Keep an eye out for email about any future Pop-Up Potting Parties!



Plant Sale Volunteer Opportunities

Mary Schramer

I'm starting to see some old friends poking up through the ground and that means its time to start signing up for potting parties and making plans for our sale on May 20, 2023.

We are using Sign Up Genius again to make it easy to organize the many volunteers it will take to get and acquire our plants, grow them on, get them to the sale and get them sold. Sign up genius can be accessed from a smartphone or computer. Its easy to use but be mindful to avoid clicking any ads. You do not have to create an account to sign up. If you are on the member roster with an email address available, when you choose a time slot to sign up, you will enter your email and it will prompt you for your name if its not already in the system. Once you sign up, you will get reminders about what you signed up for with further instructions. If there is a last minute change to the plan, I can message everyone signed up with the update. That was helpful last year during the sale when we had to wait out a passing thunderstorm which started just before next shift was due.



We need your plants. If you have plants to offer, use this sign up link to let us know when you expect to be bringing them and what you think you may have. Bring plants to any or all of the potting parties. You can sign up by clicking this link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A8AE29A75-donate2>.

To let us know you will attend a **potting party**, sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A8AE29A75-perennials>.

After potting, we need a garden club member to **check on the plants** every day to make sure they have enough water, but not too much, haven't been knocked over by high winds or curious animals, have the right amount of light to thrive, and so on. You can sign up for as many days as you like. The more people who sign up the fewer days any of us have to cover. It is about 5 weeks from the first perennial potting party to the sale date and each time you water, you earn garden bucks. Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0444A8AE29A75-tending1>.

Other sign ups are available for the week of the sale. You can find these by going to www.signupgenius.com and using the search tool by entering my email, mhschramer@gmail.com. You will see a list of all the active garden club sign ups. I'll also send periodic reminders from the program to sign up for the tasks we need to cover or remind you what you signed up for.

NOTE: If you do not like doing this online, we will continue to have sign-up sheets at our meetings or you can email Mary and let her know what you want to do.

Search for a Sign Up

by sign up creator's email



I'm not a robot



Search

Don't forget to check the box!



Ruth Gauss, Publicity Director

Resident of: Winfield ~ Since 1991

WCGC Member: August 2022 ~ Good friend, Mary Schramer, recommended the club

Current/Past Profession: Unemployed, but enjoyed working at Planter's Palette their last 2 years in business as a woody plant specialist

What are you most proud of in your garden: Maintaining trees and shrubs to support wildlife and keep our energy bills lower

A garden mistake you made: Planting Bishop's weed—It was early on in my gardening and I have lots of shade, but I've been paying the price ever since

What do you love most about gardening: The challenge of finding the right plant for the right spot. It's glorious when something that I love thrives.

A tip, trick, or words of wisdom to share: If you have to use a weed killer (even a weed and feed for the lawn), do so very cautiously. It is a broadleaf herbicide which can damage your trees and other woody plants anywhere it is used.

Favorite place to purchase seeds/plants: Native plant sales & Morton Arboretum sale

Favorite spot in your garden: I love the sea of blue in April/May from my Virginia Bluebells around my Norway Maple

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: The variegated Pagoda Dogwood I planted last Spring

Looking forward to in 2023: Continuing to plant more and more natives in my yard



February Meeting Recap

Pamela Darrah

We really enjoyed our February speaker, Bill Karges, who was extremely knowledgeable and gave us a fun presentation. Once again, we had a great turnout and truly appreciate all the help putting the chairs away afterwards! Before the meeting, Barb Bizzarri announced that proud parents Katie Schroeder and Kamran Emami's baby, Kian was born 2/21/23 at 4:33pm, 11lb1/2oz, 22.25" long. She promised photos, so we have included a few along with some from our February meeting.





The West Chicago Garden Club has pledged \$5,000 to the College of DuPage (COD) Annual Scholarship Fund. Beginning this fall, an annual \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a worthy student pursuing studies in the field of environmental studies or horticulture

COD handles the vetting process based on specific criteria. The scholarship is given in the spirit of our club's mission statement: "The purpose of WCGC is 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."

WCGC looks forward to meeting the first recipient!

Nature Notes

Kerry Perry



Looking out my kitchen window this morning, I was thrilled to see a Carolina Wren. You'd think these sweet little things would migrate to the warmer climates and avoid our chilly winters. But, no. This guy and its partner are in my yard year round. Their favorite foods are bugs, spiders, berries, suet and sunflower hearts.

According to my Peterson Field Guide their voice is a chant: chirpity, chirpity, chirpity, chirp. Watch and listen. You might just spot them. Enjoy.



Kokedama



If you have visited any of our local garden centers lately, you might have seen one of these interesting moss balls hanging or lying around.

Kokedama is a centuries-old Japanese form of garden art that is closely

tied to the practice of bonsai. It was inspired by an old tradition that involved the exhibition of the exposed root ball of the bonsai specimen on a plate to highlight the complexity and beauty of its root system. Over time, moss would accumulate on the roots which further enhanced the display.

In Japanese, “Koke” means moss and “dama” means ball. In English, Kokedamas are also called string gardens or the Poor Man’s Bonsai.



Kokedama involves using a moss ball as the supporting and focal point for a plant, succulent, orchid, etc. It consists of wrapping the plant’s roots in a ball of soil which you then cover with moss. The moss ball is either fixed to a dish/bowl or suspended in the air with a string. The ball can survive up to 2-3 years, however, the period can be shorter or longer depending on the plant.



Janet Frogner

Spring Workshops at Heinz Brothers

Janet Frogner

Heinz Brothers Garden Center in St Charles is offering Spring Workshops
Reservations are required for all classes ~ Call 630-377-6288

Create a Terrarium Workshop ~ Saturday, March 18 ~ Fee \$20

Class fee includes instruction, rock, charcoal, soil and moss / other items are additional cost

Kokedama Moss Ball Garden Workshop ~ Sunday, March 19 ~ 10-11:00 a.m.

Class fee includes materials, plant and instruction Fee \$20-\$30 (2 sizes)

Carnivorous Plants for Kids ~ Sunday, March 19 ~ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ~ Fee \$14

Learn about Venus Fly Trap and how to grow and feed these spooky plants. Each participant will receive a carnivorous plant and make a 'bog' to take it home in.

News from Kruse

Dee Soustek

Went to the Kruse Garden to take a short walk, to see what was happening. I was greeted by a small patch of beautiful, vibrant, sunshine yellow flowers of the winter aconite (*Eranthus hyemalis*). I was surprised to learn that aconite is actually a tuber and not a bulb. These tubers should be planted in the fall the same time you plant your other spring bulbs. Aconite for me, is the harbinger of Spring. It has such a pop of color and it is so cheerful. I hope the Kruse patch of aconite spreads or we add another clump or two.

Then there were the Hellebores that were starting to bloom. One of the earliest flowers to bloom. It's always fun to see this early bloomer. Tried to take a picture but the downward facing flowers were not cooperating. The new varieties are showing more outward facing blooms, it may be worth a try for this old favorite.



There were many bulbs pushing their way up; tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, and alliums to name a few. But there was a clump of beautiful orange/gold crocus that grabbed my attention, so nice with the sun spotlighting their presence. It sure is a cute little clump, love the color.

Hope you enjoyed the short visit to Kruse and I encourage you to stop by and see what else is ready to bloom.

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....



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 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 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.

Mar 23	David Kusnierz	Tree Pests & Diseases	Barb P, Jan G, Melody L-E
Apr 27	Glenn Grosch	Success with Woodies	June L, Marilyn S, Lisa Marie V
May 20		PLANT SALE	
May 25	Liz Omura	Envisioning Garden Designs	Jean W, Debbie G, Vicki F.
June 22	TBA	Meeting at Kruse Garden	Barb M, Barb B., Jean Ann S.
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>

Local Garden Events & Webinars

Ruth Gauss

Saturday, March 18

11-12pm Landscaping for Patio Privacy

The Growing Place

This is a class being held via Zoom. It is free. You can find registration at this link:

<https://www.thegrowingplace.com/events/landscaping-for-patio-privacy/>



Ongoing through March 26

10-4pm daily The Orchid Show

Chicago Botanic Garden

I really thought we'd be enjoying more colors, but March is proving to be pretty dreary. Maybe a taste of the tropics will help! Adults: \$7/\$19, Children age 3-12: \$5/\$14, Free for children age 2 and under



Wednesday, April 5

9-10:30am 2023 Gardens Preview

Visitors Center Theater at Cantigny

From Cantigny's website: "Come see what's "behind the curtain" for the 2023 planting season! The Cantigny Horticulture team will share plans for the spring, summer and fall gardens in the park, and field questions from the audience about their plant choices. Parking is free, this being



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10am-5pm, 7 days a week

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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

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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...

Local Garden Events & Webinars

Christina Covarrubias

March 25-26

Opening Weekend & Artisan Market at Countryside in ELBURN (Formerly Shady Hill)

We are looking forward to our first Spring season at our Elburn location and are kicking it off with Free Seminars, Artisan Market, Hands-on Workshops, and Early Container Planting!

Artisan Market: Saturday, March 25 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, March 26 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shop from local artisans unique creations! Glass Garden Art, Ceramics, Photography, Jewelry, Woodcarvings, Watercolors, Honey, Aromatherapy, and more!!!
Come on in, meet local artists and enjoy a little extra fine-arts shopping while learning how to Prune, how to Start Your Garden From Seed, Make a Terrarium and bring your containers in for planting!

See <https://www.countrysideflowershop.com/events/> for details.

Order Now for April 29 Pick-up

Kane County Forest Preserve Foundation Native Plant Sale (Online Only) with Pickup at Leroy Oaks Forest Preserve from 8am to 11am on April 29th.

Our 2023 project is mounted viewing scopes at waterfront forest preserves. The more plants sold, the more viewers we'll be able to purchase and install!

Go to <https://form.jotform.com/230435268913053> for details and to order.



Join us for our Spring Opening March 25 & 26!
 Free Seminars * Artisan Market * Terrarium Workshop
 Visit [Countrysideflowershop.com](https://www.countrysideflowershop.com) for details.
Call 815-459-8130 and register today!



42W075 Route 38, Elburn, IL 60119

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.

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