

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 24 Issue 5 May 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 Photo Contest—Vote Now!

Since we are unable to meet as a club right now, we thought it would be fun to do a casual Photo Contest for our members. We received 10 entries for the contest and you can see them on pages 5 to 7.

Once you have selected the ONE photograph that you want to vote for you have 2 options.

You can email your vote to WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

or you can click on this link, [Photo Contest Vote](#), for an online form.

Please vote only one time.



City Photo Campaign



As a tribute to Blooming Fest's long history as a signal of turning the corner on winter, the City of West Chicago is sponsoring [Spring has Sprung](#), a photo campaign to gather the best photos of flowering blooms the community can gather from

JUNE 25TH MEETING

**Smaller Trees for Smaller Yards
By Sharon Yiesla**

their own gardens or those found while safe-distancing around the neighborhood.

The City hopes to engage residents' participation to help fill the void many feel due to the cancellation. It will put together a video of all the beautiful blooms from around town for all to enjoy on its website and social media platforms. Random drawings for gift cards to local businesses are planned for those who participate. Thanks to Ball Horticultural Company, each participant will receive a free seed packet, while supplies last, as a thank you for sharing a glimpse of the beauty in West Chicago.

Residents should send in photos via an online form no later than Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

It was great fun on May 16th trying to recognize all of the members who stopped by to pick out a few plants at our small Plant Sale. The masks and longer hair (for most) made it a little harder to tell who was who, but it was great to get a chance to speak with all of you (from a safe distance, of course).

At the Plant Sale, a few of you asked when we might start having meetings again and to be honest, I don't have a clue. I do know that we need to get to Stage 4 of Illinois' Reopening Plan before we can even consider holding a club meeting and we will need to understand any new sanitation restrictions placed on us by our wonderful meeting venue, St. Andrew Church. Keep an eye on your newsletter, our website and our Facebook page for new developments when the State moves to Stage 4.

In the meantime, stay safe, keep up the positive thinking and get out and enjoy the improving weather.

-Dan



Getting to Know ...

Barb Bizzarri



Karen King

Resident of St. Charles: 20 years

West Chicago Garden Club Member: 2 years, Member Christina Covarrubias, encouraged her to join

Hobbies: Karen is a 'Master Gardener', a runner, enjoys home decor and a writer; member of the Geneva Writers Group

Favorite Plant: King Tut Papyrus, Baby Tut Papyrus and Cleopatra Papyrus. She advises only growing these in containers. They grow to 5'

Biggest Gardening Mistake: "Wrong plant, wrong place" and using too much mushroom compost

Current or Past Career: Delnor ICU RN for 42 years, retired 6 years ago.

What Gardening chore do you hate: Weeding

If you could have one flower in your garden what would it be:

Talinum Unusual plant, Opens with an orange ball and at night changes to what looks like a pink daisy.

Gomphrena: This plant starts out with a hot pink flower that looks like a strawflower.

What Spring Flowers Came To Your Garden This Year? An unusual tulip, rose pink with white center and Giant Alliums And notice 'Sammy', Karen's favorite Brittany photobombing behind the tulip!

What Were Your 2020 Gardening Resolutions: "The contractor of my home planted lilies on the entire side driveway and they are lined up like soldiers I'm going to redo this "



Gardening Tip

Once your spring-flowering shrubs are finished blooming, you may prune and shape them.

So don't wait too long; they will soon start developing buds for next year's show and you don't want to trim those off. Now is the time. While you're at it, do some thinning — the plants will look better and be healthier as a result.

Barb Bizzarri



Getting Around

Barb Bizzarri

So when you want to take a walk.....



Cornerstone Lakes Park

Cornerstone Lakes Park features 41 acres. There is a 1.5 mile walk/jog trail circling the catch and release pond. It's a beautiful wide open walking path, wetlands and a riparian environment, all regulated by the Illinois Dept of Natural Resources and the Army Corp of Engineers and DuPage County. Located 1/2 mile north of North Avenue, on Smith Road (turn right at the Walmart on North Ave and Smith Rd.)

Immediately 1/2 mile north of Cornerstone Lakes is Pratt Wayne Woods. This 3,433 acres Forest Preserve is the largest forest preserve in the county. It's home to the Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve. The preserve is located on the outwash plain of the West Chicago Moraine. It's home to over 1,000 species of native plants and animals.



Pratt Wayne Woods

Member Notes

Recommendations and offers sent in by our members

Barb Bizzarri

Wanted A new home

If you are interested in a fountain for your garden, please call Barbara Bizzarri, 630-780-7334,

It's free to the first caller. You just need to pick up at my home.



Dick Darrah



Free Water Hyacinths for your pond. Call Dick during the day at 630-584-1900 to arrange for pick up.

Christina Covarrubias

I just wanted to share a great source for mulch delivery. If you're not in the anti-mulch club this for you. Ed Kramer delivers nice double ground hardwood mulch- excellent quality to Kane and DuPage county. Free delivery for over 5 yards (he split that amount between me and a friend at no cost). \$32/cu yd for under 5 yards and \$28/cu yd for 5 or more. Ed Kramer 630-518-2798



Photo Contest—Please Vote for ONE Photo (A-J)



A



B



C



D

Photo Contest Continued



E



F

G



See Page 1 for details on how to vote.

Photo Contest Continued



H

I



See Page 1 for details on how to vote.

J



Wonderful things are blooming in the Kruse House Garden.

The back hill is a breathtaking blue carpet of grape hyacinths (Muscari). They are fading now but flocks, bee balm, camassia, bears breeches and penstemon are beginning to peak out. Celadine poppies are blooming bright yellow, as are dwarf iris and the peonies already have buds.



The Red Bud in the back corner of the garden is beautiful – a pretty pink.



The 200 tulip bulbs planted last fall are absolutely spectacular. The tulips are tall, multiple colors, and sturdy; they even survived the hard freeze.



The butterflies are back! We're happy to have seven works of art grace the garden. Thanks to People Made Visible and Gallery 200, we've included four butterflies that were installed around town last year.

Included are two that were created by West Chicago elementary students.

Take a break and walk the garden, immerse yourself in the magic of May.

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. Contact Billie Childress or Kerry Perry or email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com and the message will be forwarded to both of them.



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.

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

Garden Centers Are Now Open! Masks & Social Distancing are required.

Nature Notes

Toads & Frogs

While spreading mulch in my yard I came upon several toads. Their coloring makes them blend in nicely with the leaf matter. When checking my gold fish pond, I noticed a little frog. So, of course I wondered what the difference is between toads and frogs and found the following:



Frogs and toads are both amphibians. Frogs usually have moist slimy skin, while toads have dry bumpy skin. Frogs use their long powerful legs to jump and hop around. Toads actually prefer to walk rather than hop. If they do jump/hop, they only move short distances.



Touching a frog or toad will not give you warts. But the wart like bumps behind a toad's ears can be dangerous.

These glands contain a nasty poison that irritates the mouths of some predators and often the skin of humans. So toads may not cause warts, but they can cause other nasties.

If you kiss a frog, a prince will not appear, but you might get an icky taste on your lips. In fact, it's more likely that by kissing a frog, you could make the frog sick by exposing it to bacteria or chemicals from your mouth and/or hands.

Kerry Perry

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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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