

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26—Issue 5—May 2022

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: May 26

Meeting Time: 6:30PM

Meeting Location:

**Batavia Wildflower Sanctuary
Peg Bond Center (bandshell)
151 N. Island Avenue, Batavia**

[Google Map](#)

Batavia Wildflower Sanctuary

Ruth Kyme



For our May meeting we will be visiting the Wildflower Sanctuary in downtown Batavia. The Wildflower Sanctuary was created and continues to be maintained by The Plain Dirt Gardeners in Batavia. Sarah Kimber and Terri Hoehne of the Plain Dirt Gardeners will be our guides. We will meet them at the Peg Bond Center (bandshell) 151 N. Island Avenue, which is located along the Fox River and across from City

Hall. There is parking next to the Peg Bond Center and also to the north of City Hall.

The total distance from the Peg Bond Center through the Wildflower Sanctuary and back is about 1/2 mile. We will see a variety of spring ephemerals and native trees and shrubs in the garden.

We will not have a snack table. You may want to try one of the pubs or restaurants in downtown Batavia before or after the program.

A friend that I volunteer with really likes El Taco Grande on River Street.

Please note the starting time will be at 6:30pm (a little earlier than our normal 7pm start).



JUNE 23RD MEETING

**Tour of Billie Childress'
Garden**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

BloomingFest and our World Famous Plant Sale are upon us. If you haven't already signed up to help out at the sale on Saturday, May 21st please consider just dropping in, even if for a few hours, to help out. Many of our customers need help with basic gardening questions that, knowing how much all of you have taught me over the years, any one of our members can answer. If mixing with the public isn't your idea of a good time, we can always use people to help keep the sale tables stocked and in good order.

I would also like to encourage all members to take a walk around the festival and visit the vendors. There are over 70 vendors at this year's festival and, if past years are any indication, there will be many interesting gardening related items for sale. Personally, I look forward to finding something I didn't even know that I needed in my garden at the festival booths.

The Plant Sale is our biggest and only fundraiser. Due to all of your hard work and dedication to the sale, it has been very successful and has generated more money than the club spends in a 'typical' year. Aside from the last two COVID years, the club treasury has steadily increased and the Board would like to make sure that the money is spent on things that matter to you, the clubs members.

At last month's board meeting the board established a Budget/Endowment Committee to review and discuss the amount of money the West Chicago Garden Club has in the bank and suggest to the Board how much money should be set aside as Designated Endowment funds (sometimes referred to as 'rainy day' or 'nest egg' funds). In addition, the Committee will make suggestions to the Board on how the funds in excess of the Designated Endowment funds should be spent by the Club and a prioritized list of acceptable uses will be created.

In addition, the board also created a Bylaws Committee to review and discuss the current West Chicago Garden Club Bylaws and suggest changes and updates to the bylaws, last updated in 2015, to bring them in line with the current structure of the Club and Club's current needs. There are two opening on this committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

It has been a busy year so far. Hope to see all of you at the Plant Sale and at this month's meeting.

Dan



It is Plant Sale Week!

Dan Beebe

We are looking for a few additional volunteers to staff the sale especially from 11am until the end of the sale sometime between 2pm and 3pm. If you didn't sign up and are able to work at the plant sale on Saturday, May 21st or if you have already signed up for 1st Shift and plan to work the entire day, please let us know.

And... please remember to collect box flats for our customers to use while selecting and purchasing their plants. Bring these boxes to the sale site on Galena Street between 5pm and 7pm on Friday, May 20th.

Details on the member plant sale (Thursday, May 19th) was sent out via email on Tuesday. If you did not receive it, contact us at WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com to have it re-sent to you.

Thursday, May 19th: 5:00pm-8:00pm - Member Plant Sale

Shop early for best selection. The more you buy, the fewer plants we have to move on Friday (please buy a lot...)

Friday, May 20th: 5:00pm – Plant Sale Setup @ Tent Location Downtown West Chicago

If you have signed up to volunteer, more details will be provided in a separate e-mail. If you haven't signed up, feel free to stop by and lend a hand.

Bring your cardboard boxes to the tent (preferably after 6:00pm as these are put in the tent after the plants are loaded in)

Saturday, May 21st: 7:00am-3:00pm – Plant Sale!!!

Come out and have some fun meeting the people who buy our plants.

7:00am – Final setup for Plant Sale – If you have signed up to volunteer, more details will be provided in a separate e-mail. If you haven't signed up, feel free to stop by and lend a hand – we are always super busy in the first few hours!!!

9:00am – Plant Sale Opens for Business!!!

3:00pm – Blooming Fest Ends – Final Cleanup



Club T-Shirts

The t shirts are in and they look fantastic! They will be available for pick up on Thursday at the member sale location at 830 W Hawthorne.

Shirts will also be available at the tent at Galena and Main on Friday and from 7 am until sale ends on Saturday. Any shirts still unclaimed will be available at garden club meetings or by special arrangement.

Your \$5 cash or check is due at pickup. Limited change will be available. Email mhschramer@gmail.com if you have questions.

Note that that image here is just a mock-up using the graphic we supplied to the printer. The color blue is probably different.

Mary Schramer



Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186

E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2022: 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

2022 WCGC Board & Committees:

President:	Dan Beebe
Vice President:	Janet Frogner
Treasurer:	Kerry Perry
Secretary:	Open
Program Director:	Ruth Kyme
Plant Sale Chair:	Mary Schramer & Dan Beebe
Information Director:	Pamela Darrah
Kruse Garden Chair:	Billie Childress
Hospitality Chair:	Jan Grismore
Director at Large	Patti Zaputil


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



Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

 Facebook:
facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub

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

Plant Sale Prep 2022

Pamela Darrah

Thank you to the many volunteers who dug up plants from their yards, came to potting parties, and helped to label and price all the plants. We certainly couldn't get it all done without all of your help!





News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

One of my favorite poets, Robert Frost, described the erratic nature of spring in the following words:

The sun was warm but the wind was chill,
You know how it is with an April day,
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.

He certainly had it right about the weather when we started gardening at Kruse this spring. When it wasn't raining so hard that we had to cancel, it was freezing cold and windy. Then, all of a sudden, it was a humid 80 degrees. Nevertheless, our valiant crew soldiered on.



We started out cleaning up and cutting back. Then we all spent one morning attacking the creeping Charlie and sticky-weed (i.e. bedstraw) only to discover the next week that we didn't get it all. We moved on to planting and I think the garden is looking great. Sometimes, we start out with a walk-around, not just to see what needs to be done, but also to stop and enjoy the beauty of the garden itself, something I need to remind myself to do in my own garden as well.

More than twenty years ago, two local women decided to restart the West Chicago Garden Club with the intention to make restoring the Kruse Garden as its main community project. I think they would be astonished to see what we have accomplished. I think they would also be surprised that our first little plant sale at the Fox Center would result in BloomingFest and the spreading of plants from our gardens throughout all the local communities. We can be proud that we have fulfilled the goals set out for us at that time.

Dick and I will miss seeing you all at the May meeting. Right after the plant sale, we are leaving for England to visit the Chelsea Flower Show and tour other English gardens. Look for his pictures on the garden club website or Facebook. I'll be the small woman he insists on including in his photographs.

The Kruse Garden is located at 527 Main Street, West Chicago, IL 60185



Getting to Know ...

Janet Frogner



Katie Schroeder

Resident of: West Chicago since 2021

WCGC Member: March 2022

How Did You Become a Member: I am in the garden club from my old city and I wanted to join West Chicago since I live here now!

Current Occupation: I have an Architectural degree and I am a Project Manager at a company who maintains floor plans for hospitals across the country. I use Autocad. I've been there for 14 years. We are based out of Lombard but I now permanently work from home.

Hobbies: Dogs, TV, podcasts, puzzles, crafts, walking and picking up litter, adding to my indoor plant room, and traveling. I'm going to Italy in August with my husband.

Favorite Garden Tool: Weed wacker and the weed puller

Favorite Flower/Plant/Bush/Vegetable: Rex begonias, lilac bushes, and coleus

Earliest Memory of a Favorite Garden: My parents live on the farm I grew up on in Marengo and we always had a huge garden. I used to have my dad dig holes in the garden, and I'd fill it with water and play in it.

Who Taught You To Garden or Were You Self-Taught: I can barely garden, haha. Mostly on my own and what I have learned from the garden clubs.

What Is Your Summer Garden Success: Remembering to water the plants

A Garden Mistake I Have Made: Buying whatever is pretty and planting it where I please and not paying attention to their sun needs.

Recent Garden Projects: We are working on building a raised garden bed for veggies to keep them out of the way of our dogs. So far it's not going well. Also, I transplanted lambs ear and hen-'n-chicks from my mom's garden to mine.

Hardest Plant You Ever Tried to Grow: My indoor palms. I am really struggling to keep them green.

A Garden Tip To Share: I am obsessed with my folding wagon from Costco. I put all of my supplies in it and use it for everything. Also, for indoor plants, I use the Planta app to keep track of my plants.

Favorite Garden/Nature-Related Location to Visit: I went to the Biltmore in Asheville, NC last year, and we loved the conservatory.



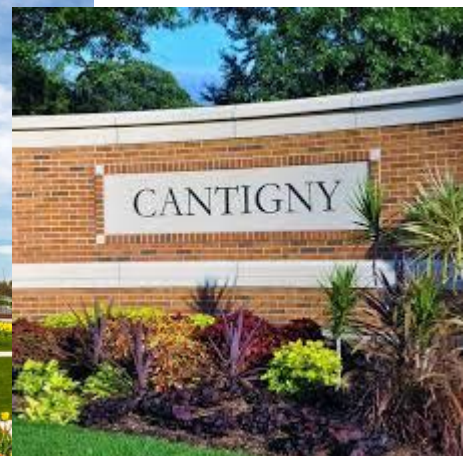
Recap of April Meeting

Ruth Kyme

Landon Gibbs, horticulturist for Cantigny Gardens, gave us some great ideas for creating a well rounded home garden. One that remains colorful and interesting throughout the year. He shared photos from both the Cantigny Gardens and his home garden. It was interesting to see the steps Landon took to create his home garden and some of the plants and shrubs that he used.



Some of the areas Landon featured were the Visitor Center gardens and the main entrance.



Nature Notes

Kerry Perry

A Dirty Word?

One of the plants we potted for the plant sale was labeled horehound. Yikes, was someone trying to be funny? Is it a dirty word? Then I recalled my grandpa liked horehound candy. Time to do some research.

Horehound, also spelled hoarhound, is a bitter perennial herb of the mint family. The leaves and flowering tops are used as favoring for beverages and candies, and are sometimes used in herbal remedies for coughs and other medicinal purposes.

Surprise, surprise old fashioned horehound candy is still sold, even at the local hardware store. The candy drops are bittersweet like cough drops. They are dark-colored, dissolve in the mouth and have a flavor that has been compared to menthol and root beer.

Horehound is a good companion plant. Put it in with your tomatoes to stimulate and aid fruiting. Let me know if you get a better yield. By the way, I love tomatoes!



Promoting our Club

If you read all the way through to the end of this newsletter, you will find on the very last page a “Poster” to help promote our club to new members. Please feel free to print it out and put it up at your work, church, gym, coffee shop or anywhere else that has a place for these types of announcements. We will also have a printed out copies available at the March meeting if you would prefer to pick one (or more) up then.

Pamela Darrah



Garden Bucks

Kerry Perry

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2022 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 2022 meeting.

Local Garden Events Hayley Hawkinson & Cantigny Press Release

Gardens & Art - a match made in heaven!

Mark your calendar for Alebrijes: Creatures of Dream World - Art installation featuring captivating alebrijes in a celebration of Mexican artisanship and cultural diversity!

Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World

A five-month outdoor art exhibit featuring dozens of mythical animals inspired by Mexican folklore. "Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World" will be on display from June through October.

The word alebrije—pronounced ah-leh-bree-heh—refers to imaginary creatures that possess elements from different animals. They originated from the vivid dreams of Mexican artist Pedro Linares. The artistic tradition of alebrijes gained popular exposure in the United States with Coco, the 2017 Disney/Pixar film.

Six artists from Mexico City, recruited by the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, have signed on to create the alebrijes destined for Cantigny's gardens and grounds. The artisans belong to a collective that participates in the internationally known La Noche de los Alebrijes, a parade and festival in Mexico City held this time each year in celebration of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Nearly 50 creatures, ranging from just a few feet to up to fourteen feet tall are being crafted in Mexico for shipment to DuPage.



Month-By-Month Gardening Tips: MAY

Janet Frogner

“Month-By-Month Gardening Illinois, Indiana, Ohio: What To Do Each Month To Have A Beautiful Garden All Year” by Beth Botts

“May is here and spring is leaping toward summer.”

PLAN:

- Purchase annual quantities by how dense you'd like your beds/containers
- Group perennials with similar watering needs to save on labor
- For a less chaotic look plant a smaller variety of plants but more of each kind; plant in groups of 3, 5, or more and repeat in masses in different spots in the garden
- Consider perennials that have different blooms/foliage for different seasons



PLANT:

- Late season color/blooms: New England aster, goldenrod, fall anemones, toad lilies, prairie dropseed, Autumn Joy sedum
- Feed butterflies with liatris, zinnia, coneflower, tithonia, ageratum, gaillardia and asters
- Feed caterpillars with milkweed, butterfly weed, parsley, fennel
- Native shrubs offer habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife; berries are a bonus
- Direct-sow in garden: cosmos, marigolds, nasturtiums, four o'clocks, sunflowers
- Plant bulbs in soil above 60 degrees
- To extend harvest season of edibles plant crops in batches at 1-week intervals
- Always choose a high-quality potting mix and have drainage holes in pots

CARE:

- Best source of nutrients for plants is compost; scatter around plants ½" deep
- Organic fertilizers are slow release and the best for most plants
- Hand-pulling weeds is best and pull when soil is moist
- Pinch back most annuals a bit to encourage fuller growth
- Leave bulb foliage (daffodils) to produce food for next year's flowers; remove when yellow. Don't tie or braid leaves; this reduces sun exposure.
- Plant other perennials in between daffodils to offset the dying foliage
- Mulch strawberries with straw or pesticide-free grass clippings to keep fruit off ground
- Grass grows the fastest in May; set lawnmower blade at highest setting
- Taller grass shades out most weeds and helps develop longer, stronger roots
- Rule of thumb for lawn mower blade - sharpen after every 8 hours of use
- Cut back some perennials (like phlox) when 4-6" tall to keep more compact

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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West Chicago Garden Club

The West Chicago Garden Club is a place for all gardeners: new gardeners with their first flowerbeds, master gardeners with years of experience, vegetable gardeners, flower gardeners, etc. Our members are both male & female, young & old—all are welcome.

We meet on the **4th Thursday** of each month at St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Corner of Prince Crossing & Geneva Rd) at **7:00PM**.

If you are interested, please come to one of our meetings. We are glad to welcome you!

Membership Information

We have two types of memberships:

Individual Membership costs \$20 per year.

Family Membership costs \$30 per year for 2 members living at the same address.

If you would like more information, please visit our website at

www.WestChicagoGardenClub.org

or send us an email to

WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

Please follow us on **Facebook**

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub) and

Instagram **[@WestChicagoGardenClub](https://www.instagram.com/WestChicagoGardenClub)**.

Schedule for 2022

Date	Event
March 24	Meeting: “Foraging for Wild Edibles “ presented by naturalist David Brooks from the Schaumburg Nature Center
April 28	Meeting: “A Well Rounded Garden “ presented by Landon Gibbs from Cantigny
May 21	Plant Sale at BloomingFest
May 26	Tour of Batavia Wildflower Sanctuary
June 23	Meeting: Garden Tour
July 28	Meeting: President’s Cookout—Members only
August 25	Meeting: “Be an Herbal Gourmet” presented by Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh
September 22	Meeting: “Biomimicry” presented by Kim White
October 27	Meeting: Bulb Bingo—Members Only
November 17	Meeting: Annual Elections, GardenDollars Silent Auction, Raffle, Potluck Dinner (Note this is the 3rd Thursday) - Members Only