

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 5—May 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: May 25**

**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**

## Envisioning Garden Design

**Ruth Kyme**



Our May speaker will be Liz Omura, horticulturist at Cantigny in Winfield. She is in charge of designing, planting and maintaining the beds in the Idea Garden at Cantigny. In her presentation, Envisioning Garden Design, Liz will share with us her approach on how she designs a garden space, both at Cantigny and in her home garden.

Does your garden include functional areas for entertaining, wildlife refuge or a source for fresh veggies? Does it incorporate a core mood of what you want your dream garden to feel like? Does it include your favorite sensory experiences? We'll cover many of these elements in this talk and spark ideas on how to add these elements to your own landscape.

Liz asked us to share a [Brainstorming activity document](#) with our members and ask you to take a general “stab” at filling in some of the blanks. Please bring this with to the May meeting and she will add to the list as well as fine tune it to how you each can individually enhance your garden to what you really want it to be.

## Where to find us online

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



Facebook:

[facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub](https://facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub)



Instagram:

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

**JUNE 22ND MEETING**

**Flower Arranging in the  
Kruse Garden**

## Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

Well, it has been a busy year so far and we have a lot of club activities planned for the rest of the year. The start of Twilight Tuesdays, local field trips, workshops, speakers and the return of our day trip field trips to interesting places further afield are among the great learning opportunities available to you as a club member. The board and I feel that the club provides excellent value to all of our members, however, we are always looking for additional opportunities to provide our members with gardening related experiences that are of interest to the broad range of gardeners that make up the club. If you have any ideas on how the club can better serve the membership, please feel free to talk to me or any member of the board.

As the weather warms and you begin to spend more time outside in your yard, neighborhood, local garden centers and public gardens, keep an eye out for others that are interested in gardening of any type. If you happen to strike up a conversation with someone on their yard or other garden related topics, please remember to invite them as your guest to an upcoming meeting. Many of our members have joined after attending meetings as guests and we always welcome all guests and new members regardless of their level of gardening experience.

Finally, as we head to the home stretch on our annual Plant Sale, I want to thank all of you that have volunteered for all of the activities related to the sale. As a club, we spend many, many hours of volunteer time to make this event happen, but I hope that you agree that the opportunities to socialize with each other, to share your love of gardening, to teach non-members more about the joys of gardening and to spread the word about the club's involvement in the community make all of your hard work worth it!

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Plant Sale and at our next monthly meeting.

Dan



### **Club Information**

Website: [www.westchicagogardenclub.org](http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org)  
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186  
E-mail: [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto: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:	OPEN
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](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

## It is Plant Sale Week!

Dan Beebe & Mary Schramer

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 20th or if you have already signed up for 1st Shift and plan to work the entire day, please let us know. If you would like to use SignUp Genius: [SignUp here](#) If you find yourself with unexpected extra time on Saturday, please just come on by!



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 19th. (After 6pm is better, but bring them when you can.)

Details on the member plant sale (Thursday, May 18th) was sent out via email on Tuesday. If you did not receive it, contact us at [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com) to have it re-sent to you.

### Thursday, May 20th: 5:30pm-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 19th: 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 20th: 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!!!

2:00pm—Cleanup begins. The tent is usually removed soon after 3pm, so we need to get a start on getting everything cleared out and cleaned up.

3:00pm – Blooming Fest Ends – Final Cleanup



## Odds & Ends

We have a number of small “articles” this month, so they are all grouped together here...

### Wear your WCGC T-Shirt for Plant Sale

This promotes our club and helps our customers know who we are. If you have a T-shirt, please wear it for the sale on Saturday.



### Free Water Hyacinth



Dick Darrah has extra water hyacinths. If you have a pond and are interested, contact him at [info@bwdarrah.com](mailto:info@bwdarrah.com)

### Save the Date: August 2 Ball Garden Visit



We have arranged for a “local field trip” to visit the gardens at Ball. It is scheduled for 10AM and more details will be available later.

### Twilight Tuesdays will begin in June



WCGC members will informally open their gardens for fellow members for a relaxing evening visit between 6:30 and 8:00. If you are interested in hosting a Twilight Tuesday visit, there are still some dates available.

June 6, July 18, August 15, August 29, and September 12.

### Save the Date: July 15 Field Trip to Northwind Farm



As was voted on at our April meeting, we are planning a bus trip (up to 30 people) to the [Northwind Perennial Farm](#) in Burlington, WI. This will be a Saturday day trip.

### We are still looking for a volunteer!

Board Member: Secretary—This involves taking notes at our board meetings and a short summary of our general meeting. If you would be interested in joining the board, let an existing board member know at the May meeting or send an email to the club.



### Library Magazine Subscriptions



WCGC gifted the West Chicago Public Library magazine subscriptions to “American Gardener” and “Fine Gardening”. The library has graciously acknowledged our donation by displaying a card with the current copies.

After delays by April's cold and rainy weather, the Kruse House garden crew has been working diligently in May to get the garden in shape. The past two Wednesdays were spent trimming and removing dead branches and plant stalks and giving the garden a thorough weeding. Also last Wednesday, the front beds were planted for the summer with marigolds and alyssum. Next week the pansies and johnny-jump-ups in the front and side urns will be traded for clusters of summer flowers. Joining the Kruse House crew since last report is Christina Covarrubias. Not only will she be digging in the garden with the rest of the crew, but will be acting as the liaison between the Garden Club and the Historical Society and planning garden tours and other events to draw more people to the garden.

Although April's lush rows of grape hyacinths are now gone, clumps of irises and other later spring plants are blooming in the front bed on the east side. In the backyard the branches of the redbud are coated with rosy blooms, one of the real treats of spring. And a new lattice screen, built by Kerry Perry and a friend of hers, has been erected in front of the condominium transformer at the end of the driveway. We are fast moving toward June when the garden will be at its height.

If you are interested in volunteering, our Kruse Gardeners are out in the garden (527 Main Street) every Wednesday morning (weather permitting). All are welcome!



Iris in bloom in the front East bed.



Two Natives: Celandine Poppy & Golden Ragwort



Redbud tree



Bleeding Heart



## Getting to Know ...

Janet Frogner

Getting to Know is skipping this month due to the difficulty in finding a member to feature. The members that Janet tried to contact either didn't want to be featured or didn't respond to her calls or email. If you would like to be included in a future "Getting to Know", please email [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com).

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## April Meeting Recap

Ruth Kyme

Our April speaker, Glenn Grosch's presentation included some very practical tips on caring for flowering shrubs; including planting, fertilizing, and pruning. Members attending were so happy to hear that Glenn recommended leaving fall leaves as mulch around shrubbery instead of raking them. His all time favorite shrub is the Doublefile viburnum for its changing beauty throughout the seasons.



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## May22 - Iris Garden local field trip

Ruth Kyme

You should have received an email with details about this event. It was sent to all members on Thursday, May 11th. If you did not receive this email, please contact [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com) and it will be resent to you.

We have been invited to visit Pat Olsen's iris garden at 5:30 in the evening on May 22. Pat joined the Northern Illinois Iris Society in 2017 when she had 3-4 varieties of iris planted in her garden. Today, her list contains over 400 varieties of all classifications of irises- including MTBs (miniature tall bearded) and TB(tall bearded.). Pat learned so much about irises over the years and is currently taking judges training and hopes to become a judge this summer. She has performed a few unsuccessful crosses and will continue to hybridize this summer. Pat also has several beds in addition to the iris garden including an approximately 75 year old Blaze Rose inherited from her grandmother and a Christmas Rose hellebore that blooms between November and December.



## Nature Notes: May is Invasive Species Awareness Month Kerry Perry

The Morton Arboretum has a great article in this month's "Arb" that defines invasive species and why they mess up our ecosystem. The "Arb" lists the most common invasive trees in northern Illinois, which are Common Buckthorn, Callery Pear and Tree of Heaven. Yikes! I've got all of these in my yard.

**Common Buckthorn** – It's plain nasty. It crowds out everything and the thorns really can do damage to you and critters.



Common Buckthorn



Callery Pear

**Callery Pear** - The tree shows tons of white blossoms in spring, but they have an odd scent. I believe my tree smells like a gas station bathroom deodorizer. There are baby pear trees growing everywhere and the tree branches are incredibly weak.

**Tree of Heaven** – For heaven's sake, don't plant this. It's pretty, looks a bit like a sumac to me. But, it's super aggressive and has lots of suckers.

Check out the Morton Arboretum website: <https://mortonarb.org/> Join the fight against invasive species.



Tree of Heaven



The West Chicago Garden Club recently made a \$250 donation to The Conservation Foundation. We also donated a \$50 gift card for the Foundation's Earth Day Benefit/Auction held in April. The card gives a lucky winner the opportunity to purchase plants at our Plant Sale May 20th.

**Join us for our Spring Opening March 25 & 26!**

Free Seminars \* Artisan Market \* Terrarium Workshop

Visit [CountrySideFlowershop.com](http://CountrySideFlowershop.com) for details.

**Call 815-459-8130 and register today!**



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& Rush-Copley Medical Center

[thegrowingplace.com](http://thegrowingplace.com)



## Pansies or Violas?

Janet Frogner

All Pansies are Violas, but not all Violas are Pansies! Pansies are the result of breeding the traditional Viola with other wild Viola varieties. You can look at the flowers to tell the difference – Pansies have four petals pointing upward and only one pointing downward; Violas have two petals pointing upward and three petals pointing downward.

- Violas ~
  - ⇒ have smaller, nickel-sized flowers and are more abundant
  - ⇒ can tolerate colder temps; recover better from hard freeze
  - ⇒ tolerate more shade, are more heat tolerant, and flower more in part sun
  - ⇒ sometimes called Johnny Jump-Ups because they self-seed readily
  - ⇒ lie lower on the ground and can trail off a hanging basket
  - ⇒ have a more pungent sweet scent
- Pansies ~
  - ⇒ have bigger, fewer flowers with a wider variety of colors
  - ⇒ give fuller coverage of color due to flower size
  - ⇒ flowers get bigger in spring
  - ⇒ need deadheading to push out new flowers



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## WCGC Celebrates Arbor Day

Last month we announced that our Garden Club has donated three Swamp White Oaks (*Quercus bicolor*) to the City of West Chicago in honor of Arbor Day. They have now been planted at the Water Treatment Plant on Hawthorne Rd. We received a lovely thank you letter from the Director of Public Works.


“Thank you to the West Chicago Garden Club for its generous donation “

With gratitude,  
MIST  
Mehul T. Patel, P.E., CFM  
Director of Public Works



One of three Swamp White Oaks donated by the Garden Club to the City of West Chicago.


**HI!**  
**I'M YOUR LOCAL OPOSSUM!**



**I'M NATURE'S  
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CLEAN-UP CREW**

- I'm naturally immune to rabies
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Your Gardening Source....



## Local Events for Gardeners

Ruth Gauss & Mary Schramer

**Cantigny** is featuring a new series online and in person called Suburban Homesteading. The program centers around the idea that growing our own food is a healthier and more cost-effective way to feed our families (and community!) The focus will be on sustainability and reducing our impact on the environment.

If you choose to register in advance for the in-person sessions, you will not be asked to pay the usual parking fee.

The next class is focusing on starting seeds and all of the steps to get your plants started out right.

**May 23:** Planting and Maintaining Your Suburban Garden

**September 19:** Fall Gardening and Preparation for the Winter

**October 24:** Canning, Pickling, and Preserving

**November 14:** TBD

For more information and to register go to Cantigny's website: <https://cantigny.org/event/suburban-homesteading-planting-and-maintaining/>



**The Chicago Botanic Garden** will be hosting the Northern Illinois Hosta Society Display & Sale

Saturday & Sunday June 3 – 4  
Burnstein Hall 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hundred's of cut hosta leaves will be on display. Plus, unusual and hard to find hosta varieties will be for sale.



**2023 Garden Gait** on Sunday, June 11 in Lisle, Illinois is a fundraiser of the Lisle Women's Club which includes a tour of 5 showcased gardens, complimentary refreshments in the tea room at Lisle Station Park, a Craft fair, and gift basket raffle for a presale ticket price of \$20.

See their website for details about how to get tickets: <https://www.lislewomensclub.org/garden-gait>.



**Cantigny Jazz and Wine Fest** Sunday, June 18, 12-6 pm

Jazz and Wine ticket – \$60, Jazz-only ticket (wine samples not included) – \$40, Youth ticket (under 21) – \$20 — Save 20% on tickets through May 26. Use code JAZZE at checkout.

Onsite parking – \$15, Offsite parking – \$5

For more info: <https://cantigny.org/event/jazz-and-wine-fest/>

## 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 2023 Dues by Feb 23rd	\$ 50
		Pay 2024 Dues by Nov 16th	\$ 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.

May 20		PLANT SALE	
May 25	Liz Omura	Envisioning Garden Designs	Jean W, Debbie G, Vicki F.
June 22	TBA	Flower Arranging 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>