

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 11—November 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: November 16

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

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

**6:30PM Arrive & Mingle
6:45PM Annual Dinner
& Garden Bucks Auction**

Potluck & Silent Auction for Members

Janet Frogner



Please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to share. It would be helpful if you could label the name of your dish with a tent card. Don't forget your serving utensils and extension/power cord (if needed). Water and coffee will be provided.

We are requesting that each member attending donate 1 gently-used, new, or hand-crafted gardening item for the auction. All items should be garden or plant-related in some way, such as pots, gardening tools, gardening books, bird houses, new houseplants, etc.

Drop off instructions: Bring your auction item with you to the meeting. You will need to fill out an "Auction Item" sheet that includes a brief description of the item you are donating. Auction sheets will be available at the meeting. It would also be helpful if you could bring a pencil/pen to the meeting. If you want to fill it out in advance, print out the form on page 9.

Reminder: Silent Auction bids are only in "Garden Bucks" which are earned by members by participating in the club.

When you arrive you will pick up your "Bid Number" at our Welcome Table with Jean Ann. When you find an item you want to bid on, you will enter your bid number and your Garden Bucks \$ amount on the "Auction Item" sheet. Do NOT erase your bids when you want to rebid on an item. Simply write your bid # and a new higher bucks \$ amount on a NEW line on the auction sheet. Please note: Garden Dollar Change will not be given for auction items. Please plan accordingly.

Once again there are a few gift cards from local garden centers available for the auction. You are only able to win 1 gift card that evening. You are, however, able to win multiple non-gift card auction items. Highest bid wins the item!

Bidding may be done at any time during the meeting until the announcement that the auction is closed for that particular section/table. There is no reserve.

You must take all items won with you that night, as there is no storage at the church.

Remember to bring your Garden Bucks!

**We do not have a December meeting.
See you in January!**

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

As I write this, the weather and forecast continue to be relatively mild. This is a good thing for me and my plants, as I am still planting some of this year's purchases... of course, it doesn't help that I keep buying more at the season-end sales. Most of my bulbs are in, but I still need to find a space for the bulb bingo bulbs. In any event, I am truly enjoying spending a little extra time in my gardens. I hope that all of you had a great year in your gardens and that you are taking advantage of the weather to spend a little more time outside before Old Man Winter makes his appearance.



We only have one more Club meeting this year. At our November meeting, we elect Club Board members for 2024, eat some great homemade foods, and, possibly most importantly, use your Garden Bucks during our annual Silent Auction. As I am sure all of you know, Garden Bucks are 'earned' by participating in Club activities throughout the year. I want to thank all of you who have participated in any way this year. It is through your active participation and hard work that we can offer all of the activities and learning opportunities you all enjoy. Keep up the good work, and enjoy using your Garden Bucks at the auction!

I would like to close out my comments, by acknowledging Billie Childress who is stepping down from her long-term role as Kruse House Garden Committee Chair. Billie has poured her heart and soul into the garden for over 20 years. Her leadership, guidance, dedication, and careful planning can be seen every time you take a stroll through the gardens. Next time you see Billie, please join me in congratulating her on a job well done and wishing her well in her future projects. Thank you, Billie, for all you have contributed to the Kruse Gardens!

Hope to see you all at the next meeting on November 16th!

Dan

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:	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

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

2024 WCGC Board Members

Pamela Darrah

Our November meeting includes our annual business meeting. At this meeting we elect our board members for next year. The following nominees have volunteered to be a WCGC Board Member for 2024.

President: Dan Beebe	Vice-President: Janet Frogner	Treasurer: Kerry Perry	Secretary: Christina Covarrubias
Publicity Director: Ruth Gauss	Information Director: Pamela Darrah	Program Director: Ruth Kyme	Member Services Director: Lisa Marie Vogt
Director-at-large: Marilyn McNabb			

Holiday Cookie Caravan

Thank you to all the bakers who donated to the cookie caravan and also the packers who boxed the delicious sweet creations! All the cookies were different and tasted great!

Thank you to Kerry who delivered the boxes to all the different organizations that helped us achieve our goals this year! It was a great time!

We sampled some extras and had tea that made for a wonderful afternoon!

Marilyn Santos McNabb



Blub Bingo Recap

Pamela Darrah

We had a very successful Bulb Bingo evening this year. The new microphone and projector really helped with this event! Many thanks to Pauline and to Ruth for organizing this event for everyone!

We had several volunteers bring us fantastic treats to enjoy as we played a couple rounds of Bingo, won blubs to plant in our gardens and learned about interesting bulbs.



Nature Notes—Jabs

Kerry Perry

Recently I got my flu and covid vaccinations. The needle was so thin, I hardly felt a thing. The vaccines are protecting me from some bad stuff.

I recall hearing that the U.S Dept. of Agriculture approved a vaccine for honeybees. It protects the pollinators against a disease capable of wiping out entire bee colonies.

Do beekeepers use teeny, tiny syringes to administer the vaccine? Time to do some research!



According to the Nature Journal, Jan 2023, beekeepers mix the vaccine, which contains dead bacteria cells, into the food that worker bees eat. When the worker bees secrete their royal jelly, the queen ingests it and the vaccine. Then, the vaccine goes to her ovaries, where it immunizes developing larvae.

Have you gotten your “jab”?



PLATT HILL NURSERY

222 W. Lake St. • Bloomingdale
2400 Randall Rd. • Carpentersville

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...

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.



Since 1925

WASCO NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

630-584-4424

6 miles west of Randall Road on
Route 64, St. Charles
1 mile west of Wasco
www.wasconursery.com

Find everything you need for your beautiful garden

Brandon & Amanda Skinner



Resident of: West Chicago

Year: 2019

WCGC Member: May 2023

How did you become a member: Amanda from plant sale; Brandon from Amanda

What is your current profession: Amanda - Administrative Assistant
Brandon - Legal Accounting

What are you most proud of in your garden: Our front yard transformation from its simple origins to its current journey since 2019. There are some photos to show part of it. It's a constant work in progress. We removed giant bushes left from the prior owners, and converted part of the front yard to a garden.

A garden mistake you made: Amanda - Under-watering flowers and vegetables;

Brandon - As a child, I uprooted half of a garden of vegetables thinking they were weeds my grandmother asked me to pull. A mistake never to be made again!

What do you love most about gardening: Amanda - Seeing the seeds developing from plants to flowers, and that they're enjoyed by humans, birds, and pollinators!

Brandon - Seeing the beauty in flowers and plants the way that we are meant to enjoy them. It's truly a beautiful creation.

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: Amanda - Always remember to identify your seedlings or small plants. You may not remember which they are or the names from what you bought! Brandon - Generously water your seeds and plants!

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: Heinz Brothers for plants and seeds from Trellis Farm and Garden

Favorite spot in your garden: Our front yard

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: Amanada - Lilacs and irises; Brandon - Lilies!

What are you looking forward to this season: Upgrading our lawn with the addition of clover for the pollinators



To be included in a future "Getting to Know", please email WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com

News from Kruse

Kerry Perry

The Kruse House Garden is ever changing. Today the fading plants still provide a diversity of color and texture.

The Kruse Crew will be changing too. Billie Childress is retiring from working in the Kruse Garden and she will be greatly missed! For many years now Billie has headed up the crew, providing expert leadership, knowledge, generosity, and fun. Billie has led us down the right paths, resulting in a garden with “bones” and artistic structure.

Billie has donated numerous trees and perennials from her own gorgeous garden. The viburnum she donated twenty years ago has grown to fifty feet – it’s magnificent. The variety of perennials are like a kaleidoscope –vivid, beautiful and always changing.

Billie has devoted an incredible amount of time and love to the garden.

Thank you Billie!



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....



Inspired to GROW

Open April 1 - December 23
10am-5pm, 7 days a week

Naperville | 630.355.4000 | 25w471 Plank Rd
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

thegrowingplace.com

The Growing Place
Garden Center | Gift Shop | Gardens

Join us for our Spring Opening March 25 & 26!

Free Seminars * Artisan Market * Terrarium Workshop

Visit Countrysideflowershop.com for details.

Call 815-459-8130 and register today!

Countryside
Flower Shop, Nursery & Garden Center

42W075 Route 38, Elburn, IL 60119

Reading your mind?

Ruth Gauss

I am sure that most everyone has interests other than gardening, but I started to think about ways to continue gardening through learning or engagement even when we aren't actively working in our gardens.

One discovery is a book club dedicated to the natural world. Leafing Through the Pages is a book discussion for members of the Morton Arboretum. All of the reading for the coming year is listed ahead of time. I would think that even if you aren't interested in participating in a discussion, their list of books could spark ideas about readings you might find interesting. I'm definitely going to be checking out, so to speak, some of those titles! I hope this sparks some ideas for you as well!

Here's a link to the page about the group:

<https://mortonarb.org/explore/activities/sterling-morton-library/leafing-through-the-pages/>



Local Garden Events

Pamela Darrah

Holiday Open House & Artisan Christmas Market is November 25 & 26

Countryside Flower Shop, Nursery & Garden Center – (Formerly Shady Hill Gardens), 42W075 IL Route 38, Elburn, IL 60119

Countryside Nursery will be continuing the tradition of Shady Hill by having local artisans sell their wares in their greenhouses. [Click link for more details](#)

They are one of this year's gift card providers for our silent auction. If you are one of the lucky gift card winners to Countryside Nursery be sure to mention that you are a WCGC member.

Cantigny's inaugural "Christmas at Cantigny" - December 1 –23

Hours are 4 pm to 10 pm Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays), with extended hours on weekends. This is a ticketed event—see the [Cantigny website](#) for details

The newly renovated McCormick House is the festival's glittering centerpiece. Guests can stroll through historic spaces, including Freedom Hall, the home's showplace library, where a spectacular 20-foot Christmas tree awaits. Hundreds of fresh poinsettias will be displayed throughout the home.

Outside, a 100-by-40-foot ice rink will add some wintery magic to the scene. Skaters can rent blades or bring their own. Spectators and skaters taking a break can enjoy a warm holiday treat in the heated hospitality tent overlooking the rink.

Cantigny's gardens and grounds will provide the festival's razzle dazzle, with wide accessible pathways leading visitors through creative lighting displays accompanied by holiday music—a festive stroll offering surprise and delight for all ages. The evening spectacle includes McCormick House's exterior, the north side of which may slow traffic along neighboring Roosevelt Road!

Pop-up activities and attractions will include musical performances, a cookie and hot chocolate station, gift shopping, and more.



Holiday Greenery

We Grow Dreams offers fun and festive reindeer and gnomes that they have crafted from evergreen boughs. There are different sizes available. Please check out the order form on this page of their website:

<https://form.jotform.com/202946199044057>



Poinsettias

Cantigny will offer many different types of poinsettias for sale.

They will be accepting orders on their website beginning November 15th with pick-up on November 27-30.

We will be sharing the link for ordering on the garden club Facebook page when it becomes available.



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.

Volunteer for Workdays at Kruse, Plant Sale or other events	
1 to 4 hours	\$ 75
More than 4 hours	\$ 150
Donate pots for plant sale	\$ 50
Donate snacks for meeting	\$ 75
Set up or clean up at meeting	\$ 25
Attend Field Trip	\$ 25
Donate plants to Kruse Garden	\$ 50

Donate plants for Plant Sale	
Less than 50	\$ 75
50 - 149	\$ 200
More than 150	\$ 300
Write newsletter article	\$ 100
Bring a guest to a meeting	\$ 50
Attend Meeting	\$ 25
Pay 2023 Dues by Feb 23rd	\$ 50
Pay 2024 Dues by Nov 16th	\$ 75

Print and cut-out the Auction Item form to bring with your donation. Write the name/description of your item on the line under the words "Auction Item". This sheet will be placed with your item to collect the bids.

Auction Item	Bid																		
	Number																		
	Bid																		
	Number																		
	Bid																		
	Number																		
	Bid																		
	Number																		