

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 28—Issue 11—November 2024



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 21

Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

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

**St Andrew Lutheran Church
Corner of Prince Crossing & Geneva Rd**

Potluck & Raffles

Janet Frogner

Potluck & Raffle for Members Only – Must be present to win

Potluck - Please bring your appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Please label your dish along with any allergy ingredients such as nuts, seeds, etc. on a tent card. Don't forget your serving utensils and extension/power cord (if needed). Water and coffee will be provided.

Raffle Donations - Each member should bring with them one gently-used, new, or handcrafted garden or plant-related item for the general raffle such as gardening tools or books, birdhouses, and houseplants. If a description of your item is needed, please fill out a notecard to display with your item. *Note: If your item is not claimed by the end of the evening, we ask that you take it back home with you.*

Raffle Tickets - Tickets can only be purchased with your garden bucks. There will be two separate raffles available to participate in:

1. \$25 garden center gift certificates - only one gift card may be won per member
2. General raffle of your donations - multiple items may be won

If you have your garden bucks, please bring them with you. Ticket volunteers will be available to exchange your bucks for raffle tickets.

If you have your [garden bucks tally sheet](#), please fill it out and bring it with you to exchange for raffle tickets.

GARDEN

TALLY YOUR GARDEN BUCKS AND REDEEM THEM FOR RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE NOVEMBER POTLUCK & MEMBER APPRECIATION RAFFLE!

Donate plants for Plant Sale					
• Less than 50 plants	\$ 75	X			
• 50 - 149 plants	\$ 200	X			
• More than 150 plants	\$ 500	X			
Volunteer for workshops at planting parties, plant sale, Kruse Gardens, and other events					
• 1 to 4 hours	\$ 75	X			
• More than 4 hours	\$ 250	X			
Donate pots for plant sale	\$ 50	X			
Write newsletter article	\$ 100	X			
Donate snacks for meeting	\$ 75	X			
Bring a guest to a meeting	\$ 50	X			
Set up or clean up at meeting	\$ 25	X			
Attend a monthly meeting	\$ 25	X			
Attend field trip	\$ 25	X			
Attend Twilight Tuesday	\$ 50	X			
Donate plants to Kruse Garden	\$ 50	X			
Pay 2024 Dues by Feb 28th	\$ 50	X			
Pay 2025 Dues by Nov 21st	\$ 75	X			
TOTAL:					

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Thank you for volunteering and for your participation. Our excellent programs and field trips are possible when everyone pitches in.

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org



Facebook:

facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub



Instagram:

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

You must take all items won with you that evening. Remember if your item is not claimed by the end of the night, we ask that you take it back home with you.

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

Note from the President

Dan Beebe

As another growing season comes to a close, I am extremely thankful for the relatively mild weather we have been having. I still have some trees and shrubs to get in the ground (along with another 500 bulbs I purchased at 50% off... please don't tell Pamela). I hope that you are all taking time to enjoy a little extra time outside before the holidays and colder temperatures drive us inside until Spring.

With the year winding down, I want to thank all of you who have participated in any way this year. Whether you attended monthly meetings and field trips; helped set up & take down the tables and chairs at our monthly meetings; volunteered to bring snacks, or drinks to meetings; donated plants, helped pot & care for plants, or volunteered during the Plant Sale; donated pots or helped sort them at the Barn; worked on the Kruse Garden; worked on or attended this year's 'High Tea' event; or helped the Club in any way in the past year, your work and effort are seen and appreciated. It is through your active participation and hard work that the Club can offer all of the activities and learning opportunities we all enjoy.

I also want to give a special shout-out to the members of the 2024 WCGC Board. The board members have worked hard this year to bring you all the Club's great programming. Communications with members and or social media presence have been awesome again this year. The Club's financial position remains strong. Your board members make good things happen. Please join me in a heartfelt 'Thank You!' to every member of the board.

I would like to close out my comments by acknowledging Marilyn McNabb, who is stepping down from her Member-at-Large position on the board to pursue new opportunities to teach and chef (is that a verb?). During her time on the board, Marilyn has done an excellent job organizing our day-long field trips and the High Tea event. In addition, Marilyn has provided us with wonderful food. Her Charcuterie Board at the Chicago Botanic Garden was legendary as are her delectable baked goods. Next time you see Marilyn, please join me in congratulating her on a job well done and wishing her well in her future projects. Thank you, Marilyn, for all you have contributed to the Club!

Hope to see you all (including Marilyn) at the next meeting on November 21st!

Dan



Club Information

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org
P. O. Box 313, West Chicago, IL 60186
E-mail: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Membership Information

Dues for 2024: 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

2024 WCGC Board & Committees:

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
Plant Sale Chair:	Mary Schramer & Dan Beebe
Kruse Garden Chair:	Open

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

Holiday Cookie Caravan



The Cookie Caravan was a huge success!



Last week, several large boxes of homemade cookies were delivered to the crew at the West Chicago Park District, the staff and volunteers at the Cantigny greenhouse and to the staff at St Andrew Church.

We truly appreciate these organizations for their incredible support.

Special thanks to fifteen club members for baking such fabulous treats.



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2025 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 2025.

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:
???

You're invited to come explore, get inspired, learn and add some beauty to your garden at

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2 blocks north of Ogden Ave/Rte 34
& Rush-Copley Medical Center

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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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For the Love of Gardening...



APRIL MURPHY

Resident of: West Chicago since 1950

WCGC Member: Approximately 20 years worked as clerk on Thursday nights and unable to be in two places at once

How did you become a member: Seeking knowledge

What is your current/past profession: Business manager and township clerk

What are you most proud of in your garden: Solving the problems of a northside hill in the shade

A garden mistake you made: Planting too much for an old lady

What do you love most about gardening: Finish weeding

What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share: Use course mulch if you have dogs; they stay cleaner. Use Annabelle hydrangeas along the fence to keep the neighbor's weeds out.

Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants: Platt Hill and happy purchased Smith & Hawkins tools

Favorite spot in your garden: Patio looking out over garden

What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden: Lilies and blooming hostas

What are you looking forward to this season: Maple and oak colors



News from Kruse

Dee Soustek

I went over to the Kruse Garden on Sunday, November 3rd to check out the fall colors and I was not disappointed. The berries and the foliage on the Viburnum was beautiful!! Then I noticed the brilliant yellow on the Ginkgo tree with the many leaves gathered at its base. The recently planted Coralberry shrubs were delightful with their little purple berries and pinkish leaves. The Amsonia with its bright yellow foliage lit up the garden. I was surprised the Begonias were still going strong their bright red flowers were a constant all season. Lastly, I loved the Oak Leaf Hydrangea with its leaves of multiple shades of red and burgundy and the dried flowers that reminded me of pinecones. It was a great fall stroll through the Kruse Garden.



November seems to be the perfect time to put the garden to bed and take stock, and plan for next year. I do that at home, and that's what we did on our last gardening Wednesday. We walked the gardens and discussed, what worked, what needs to be divided, moved, removed, or added. It was fun to have varied ideas and thoughts and opinions. Gardens are a work in progress, looking forward to gardening next year to see the gardens evolve. If you have some free Wednesdays next year, you are always welcome to join the group. You don't need to commit to every Wednesday. We always welcome an extra pair of hands, bring your gloves and dig in.



Growing Native—Gifts for (Natural) Gardeners!

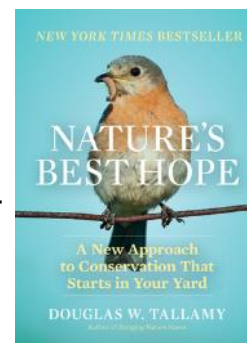
Ruth Gauss

Hi, gardening friends! As I was looking at my list of topics to cover in these articles I realized that this was the perfect time to talk about some resources that you can add to your wishlist or, to-do list, to enjoy over the less active winter months.

Books

[Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard](#) by: Douglas Tallamy

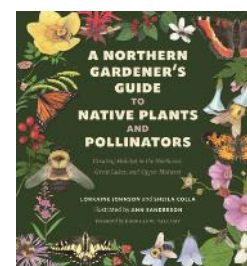
This is the modern blueprint for the conservation movement in our yards. Everywhere I go this is a well-known author and book. I've heard him speak and I'm pretty sure I've heard about most of the ideas in the book, but, I haven't read it.



[A Northern Gardener's Guide to Native Plants and Pollinators](#)

By: [Lorraine Johnson](#), [Sheila Colla](#), [Anne Sanderson \(Illustrator\)](#)

The previous author wrote the foreword for this book and I've seen it on a number of lists for books about native plants. It looks to be a great resource that focuses on our area of the US, which is awesome. Just paging through the sneak peek, I am probably going to be adding this to my library because the illustrations are beautiful and that's something that makes me happy, along with the topic, obviously!



Membership

[Wild Ones](#)

I wholeheartedly recommend a Wild Ones membership. I have not gone to any meetings/gatherings (I feel pretty fulfilled socially when it comes to gardening, thanks in big part to you) but I read the quarterly Wild Ones Journal from start to finish. It is like a magazine for people who want to be better stewards for our piece of the ecosystem and while it is a national organization the articles are always interesting even if I can't use the plants or techniques that are useful in other parts of the country. Base membership is \$40 a year.



Classes

[Prairie Up](#)

Benjamin Vogt offers a wide variety of classes about ways to make your yard into a habitat. I took his Natural Design Masterclass webinar and I learned so much. He is not a warm, fuzzy kind of guy, but I felt like he is a good teacher and I recommend his classes if you're okay with an online format. (No relation to our Member Services Director, by the way.)



I hope this was helpful! Happy (native) gardening and I hope you have a lovely holiday season!

From our gardens

From Barb Melville (October 16):

When Proseks opened its doors to the public in July, I along with Garden Club Member, Barb Bizzarri and many other club members that I saw there, were delighted to fill our wagons with beautiful plants that we couldn't wait to get into our gardens. Barb and I noticed this gorgeous plant that we had no idea what it was, but it was definitely going home with us! After checking out the tag that was in the pot, we discovered this plant's name is Ruellia....something I had never heard of before! This lovely plant that is about 3 feet tall, has done very well in my South facing garden and has bloomed continuously and is still going strong.



From Barb Bizzarri:

My rhododendron never bloomed in the Spring. She waited until this November to put on her show!



Thanks to the club members who have already paid their 2025 Membership Dues.

If you haven't sent in your payment, a [Membership Application](#) can be found on the on our website.. Please bring the form and your renewal to the November meeting or mail it to the PO Box shown on the form.

We can also accept credit cards this using our online "store" where you can pay your dues. If you choose this option please write

a note that this is a renewal in the spot for a comment. <https://west-chicago-garden-club.square.site/>.

Remember, you get another \$75 Garden Bucks if you renew by November 21st!

Garden Bucks

West Chicago Garden Club distributes Garden Bucks (real fake money) to members who participate in club activities. At the November 2024 meeting you will be able to use your Bucks to enter raffles for donated items and gift cards.

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 raffle.

Come out and volunteer. Your participation keeps our club going strong.

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 a monthly meeting	\$ 25
Attend Twilight Tuesday	\$ 50
Pay 2024 Dues by Feb 24th	\$ 50
Pay 2025 Dues by Nov 17th	\$ 75

Refer a new member and participate in a raffle for a gift card at the Nov 2024 meeting.

Bring your tally sheet to the November Meeting!

