We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26—Issue 10—October 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: October 27

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

6:45PM Refreshments
7:00PM Business Meeting
7:15PM Program

Bulb Bingo

Ruth Kyme

Autumn is a special time of year. So many fun things to look forward to; stunning fall foliage, the crisp fall air, taffy apples, jack-o-lanterns, and of course pumpkin spice everything. But my absolute fall favorite is WCGC'S BULB BINGO!

Join us at our October meeting for this fun fall event. Everyone is a winner in Bulb Bingo. Each time you get a BINGO, you win a small bag of bulbs to plant in your garden for lovely flowers in the spring. We have selected a beautiful variety of bulbs for bingo prizes.

Reminder – Please wear your name tag to the next meeting

NOVEMBER 17TH MEETING

Pot Luck & Silent Auction

Notes from the President — Dan Beebe

Our first Adopt A Highway (AAH) pickup event is scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd starting at 9:00 AM. We will be meeting in the parking lot of the Park District facility located at 830 W. Hawthorne Lane. For those of you who participated in potting parties for the Plant Sale this year, this is the same building we met at for those parties. The building is located just west of Atlantic Drive and east of the Canadian National railroad tracks on the south side of the road.

All participants are required to watch the State of Illinois' Adopt a Highway video that can be viewed by clinking on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jChNN6xb4ig . All participants will also be required to sign a Liability Waiver prior to participating in their first pickup event. Copies of the waiver will be available at Saturday's event.

Orange safety vests, grabbers and garbage bags will be provided. Some roadside trash can be 'gooey' so please bring your own gloves to protect your hands. As the weather in October can be a bit unpredictable, please check the weather forecast and dress accordingly.

For those of you who want to know more about what is involved in a roadside pickup, Ball Horticulture also participates in West Chicago's AAH program. They made a video about their AAH crew which can be viewed using this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eQST-fCoJI (sorry for the hard to type link… that's what YouTube gave them)

As always, if you have any questions regarding the club's board or the club's activities, please feel free to reach out to any board member or send an email to westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Dan

Consider Joining the WCGC board! — Janice Frogner

We would love to have you be a part of our TEAM!

ONE Board position is still available for 2023:

Director-At-Large: This is a board position that usually is someone who is new to the board. There are no specific assigned duties and they generally just help out as needed.

If you have any questions or need further information about this position, please email the club: westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop — Ruth Kyme

Kathy Rose, from Kaleidoscope Floral Arrangements, will guide us in constructing a beautiful holiday arrangement at a special workshop at 6:30, on Thursday, December 8, Kathy will provide all materials needed and guide us through the arrangement process. All you need to bring are garden shears or clippers (not scissors) and gloves. It is also a good idea to bring a low tray like box so that you can more easily and safely transport your creation home. Kathy will also advise participants on how to keep their arrangements fresh and lovely throughout the holiday season.

The member cost for this workshop is $10.00. Your WCGC will cover the balance.

Please RSVP Ruth Kyme by text at 630-730-9588 or email at rrkyme@hotmail.com no later than November 8 if you would like to participate.

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

Photos are from last year's workshop.

Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

Facebook: facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub

Instagram: westchicagogardenclub

Dahlias - Nature's Beautiful Gift

Barb Melville

A few years ago, my interest in Dahlias was sparked when we had a wonderful speaker at our Garden Club Meeting, Carol Cichorski, Carol was accompanied by her husband, who had been the President of the Dahlia Association. He and Carol save and plant hundreds of Dahlias in their yard each year. Since that meeting I have purchased a bag or two of Dahlias each year from Costco, and even saved and planted several tubers from last year that bloomed this summer (even though the tubers didn't look like they had any life in them). My flowers ranged from small about 2 to 3" across, and some that were as large as a plate!

Dahlias tubers are similar to a bulb, but thin-skinned like a potato. Plant tubers in the springtime in a full sun location (giving them 6-8 hours of direct sunlight) and enjoy blooms all summer long. They will bloom and provide you with color and an abundance of flowers for cutting and enjoying throughout the summer. The more you cut a dahlia plant the more it will bloom. Dahlias can be saved from year to year by digging up the tubers and placing them in a cool location over winter.

Mosaic Class.....Reminder

Who: Members who signed up will receive an email with details just prior to the class

When: **Saturday November 5 at 9 am**

Where: Gallery 200, 103 W Washington St., West Chicago

If you have any questions, Contact Billie Childress at 630-862-1213 (call/text)

News from Kruse

Barbara Darrah

Autumn has definitely arrived. Dick and I were in Wisconsin at the beginning of the month. The colors were riotous, a mix of red, orange, and yellow amid the green of the pines, all gloriously reflected in the blue of the lake.

What a disappointment to come back to our Illinois oaks. But then, thanks to us gardeners, all of our colorful plantings started to turn their leaves. The sugar maples, Virginia creeper, hawthorns, serviceberries and others, along with our native walnuts and hickories are all adding their highlights to the brown oaks.

Kruse Garden is also changing. As it starts to shut down for the season, we are busy cutting back while being careful to leave enough for any wildlife to over-winter in. Some of the hardier flowers - the marigolds, begonias and sedums are still blooming, but they probably won't last much longer. So, like the poet Robert Frost "I am done with apple picking now" and welcome the "essence of winter sleep". It's time to plant those last few bulbs, turn the compost heap, and wait longingly for the far-distant spring.

The Kruse House Museum and Garden is located at 527 Main Street, West Chicago

Getting to Know ... Janet Frogner

Roxanne Westrom

Resident of: West Chicago since 2012 (I grew up here and returned when my mother passed away)

WCGC Member: 2019 - late Fall; Carole Karr recommended the club

Current profession: Marketing & fundraising consultant for non-profit organizations

Hobbies: Gardening, knitting, reading and cooking

Favorite garden tool: Hand weeding tool

Favorite Flower: Tomatoes and many varieties of herbs

Earliest gardening memory: Picking tomatoes and canning with my mother

Who taught you to garden: A lot of advice from friends and reading gardening books

Summer garden success: Adding raised beds – this is the first year and they have made a big difference!

Garden mistake that I've made: Buying more plants than I have room for

Hardest plant ever tried growing: Most indoor plants. I do much better outside!

Garden tip: Make sure to select plants that are right for your space – amount of shade/sun needed.

Favorite garden to visit: Morton Arboretum. When I travel I try to visit other botanical gardens.

Favorite place to purchase your plants: Proseks for vegetables

November Auction & Potluck

We will once again be holding our Annual Potluck dinner and Member appreciation Silent Auction on Thursday, November 17. For those who are new, the Silent Auction bids are only in "Garden Dollars" which are earned by members by participating in the club. See page 13 for a chart and remember to pick up your "Dollars" before November's meeting!

Be on the lookout for garden items that you can donate for the Auction. To participate in the Auction you will need to bring at least 1 item (2 maximum) to donate to the Auction. We are requesting that only new and "gently used" garden-related items be donated.

Please RSVP by November 3rd westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com

2023 WCGC NEW Board Member Nominees — Janet Frogner

The following nominees have volunteered to be a WCGC Board Member for 2023. The election will be held at our November annual meeting.

Christina Covarrubias – Member Services Director

Lisa Marie Vogt – Publicity Director (shared)

Ruth Gauss – Publicity Director (shared)

Looking for a Volunteer – Director-At-Large
This could be YOU!!

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!!

September Meeting Recap

Ruth Kyme

Our September speaker, Kim White, introduced us to the many ways animals and other aspects of nature have been an inspiration to find solutions to complex problems in science and technology.

Cookie Caravan

Billie Childress

We **need 3-4 more cookie/bar bakers** to fill our boxes for the West Chicago Park District and Cantigny. These organizations contributed a lot of help with our Plant Sale and we want to thank them with homemade cookies.

Each Baker is asked to **bring 2-3 dozen cookies or bars** to St Andrews Lutheran Church anytime Tuesday, **November 1, between 4 -7pm**. They will be packed up that evening and delivered on Wednesday morning.

Feel free to contact Billie Childress with questions. 630-862-1213

Month-By-Month Gardening Tips: October Janet Frogner

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

"Autumn leaves are the gold at the end of the rainbow. As a season of color and flavor draws to an end, a treasure falls into our hands. "

PLAN:

- Think about getting a soil test if planning a new garden next year
- Have a plan for bulb planting for best effect and longest bloom
- Bulbs – for small bulbs plant in large groups for visual impact
- Plant bulbs in groups of at least 5 to 7
- For scattered bulbs in lawns choose: crocus in sunny spots & scilla for shade
- Try to plant bulbs where their foliage is masked by other plants after they've bloomed

PLANT:

- Plant spring-blooming bulbs after first frost but before ground freezes
- Save some bulbs for forcing in containers
- Plant trees and shrubs; keep watered until ground freezes

CARE:

- Collect leaves to use as mulch or in compost; shredded leaves are best
- Compost frost-killed annuals
- Once frost has killed top growth dig up and over winter tender bulbs, corms, and tubers such as cannas, dahlias, tuberous begonias, caladiums & elephant ears
- Water spring bulbs well when you plant and continue for 1 week until ground freezes
- Keep watering newly planted trees, shrubs & evergreens until ground freezes

Nature Notes – Porcelain Berry Vine

Kerry Perry

A large trellis at the Kruse Garden partially hides the huge, 6-foot cubic electrical box for the neighboring condos. There has been a clematis and what I thought was a wild grape vine growing there. This year, the “grape vine” had entirely engulfed the trellis and the utility box. Recently the vine produced incredibly beautiful berries in shades of purple and bright blue.

It was identified as Porcelain berry vine which is vigorous and may grow up to 25 feet long. It has few pests because it did not evolve here with the checks and balances of competition from the plants and animals that live here. Instead, it takes the place of the plants that supply the resources our native wildlife needs. Porcelain berry is an extremely inferior food source for our migrating birds, lacking the nutrient content and lipid fats they need.

Morton Arboretum notes this plant is under observation and may be listed on official invasive species lists in the near future. The Virginia Forestry Department claims porcelain berry is making a bold attempt at taking over the world. Yikes! We cut the vine down at Kruse.

Vine engulfing trellis and utility box

Garden Bucks

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		
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 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

Pamela Darrah

Thru October: Morton Arboretum's Scarecrow Tour evert. Stroll the path along Meadow Lake to see the friendly faces of nearly 50 Scarecrows—each handmade by a local scout troop. Scarecrow viewing is included with admission to the Arboretum.

Now thru November 2: Cantigny Park Ofrenda Displays. Visitors Center, First Division Museum, and Allée . https://cantigny.org/event/cantigny-ofrenda-displays/all/

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