

# We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 27—Issue 10—October 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: October 26**

**Meeting Time:**

**Meeting Location:**

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

**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, pumpkin spice everything, and best of all.....BULB BINGO!

Join us at the 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 will play several rounds until all the bulbs are gone. Please note that this is a **MEMBERS ONLY EVENT**. No guests tonight please.

If you ordered bulbs through the WCGC member's order, they will be available for pick up at the October meeting.



## 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)

**NOVEMBER 16TH MEETING**

**Potluck & Garden  
Bucks Auction**

## Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Board is working through the budgeting process for 2023. If you have any ideas on programs, workshops, field trips, or projects that the Club should consider for 2023, please email them to [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com) or talk to a Board member at this month's meeting. Some of the best ideas come from our members... we need your help keeping this the most active, fun, and educational Garden Club in the area!

As our club has grown in the past couple of years, we have increased our ability to offer new and engaging programming. The introduction of Twilight Tuesdays, events in the Kruse House Garden, and the re-introduction of day-long field trips are three examples of opportunities that we would not be able to offer if the club had fewer members. In 2024, the Board would like to continue to hold these events and possibly expand upon some of them. In order to do this, we need additional assistance from club members. We are not looking for a large time commitment, we have people who have committed to leading the events, we just need more hands to reduce the workload on the people leading the charge forward. As we move into 2024, keep your eyes open as we start to introduce focused, small volunteer jobs that will make a huge impact on the club and the community at large.

Speaking of the community at large, one of my personal club goals for 2024, is to focus on Community Engagement. While this concept is still a work in process, Community Engagement is about working with other organizations in the area to build long-term relationships that further the missions of all of the organizations involved with the effort. There are many non-profits, clubs, and companies in our area that have similar or overlapping missions to our club's mission. If we can partner with these groups, we should be able to greatly increase the positive impact that our club has on our community. As I said, this idea is just beginning to grow and I would be happy to discuss the concept with any member or similar organization you may be engaged with. I'll update you as this idea starts to become a reality

Hope to see you at Bulb Bingo!

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)

## Twilight Tuesday Thank You

Ruth Kyme



Thank you to all of our members that volunteered their gardens for Twilight Tuesday visits: Dick and Barbara Darrah, Marilyn Santos, Marcy Kozlowski, Mary Schramer, Christina Covarrubias, Karen King, Kruse Garden Crew, Barb Bizzarri, Julie Blazek, and Vicki Franco. You made Twilight Tuesday happen by opening your gardens up to all of us. It was a treat to visit member gardens and socialize with fellow gardeners on a lovely summer evening. Your gardens were all beautiful - large or small, sunny or shady-a reflection of your hard work and love of gardening.

## Member Tip

Member Julie Blazek sent in a link to an article from Platt Hill Nursery on "The How and Why of Fall Perennial Care".

Platt Hill is also one of our Newsletter sponsors.

<https://plathillnursery.com/fall-perennial-plant-care-guide-chicago>



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*For the Love of Gardening...*

## Holiday Cookie Caravan

## Marilyn Santos McNabb



The Holidays are here and in the tradition of sharing and giving thanks to the people who have helped the garden club in so many projects and activities or collaborated with us to achieve our mission, we are asking members to donate a batch of your favorite homemade cookies to include in our holiday cookie caravan! Please drop off your cookies at the St Andrews Church on November 7th between 2:00 and 5:00pm. It does not have to be on a nice platter. Our garden club volunteers will arrange them on nice trays to be distributed to the West Chicago Park District, Cantigny, Ball Seed, etc.

If you have some extra time, we would also love to have you help us with the packaging of these cookies, perhaps enjoy some tea while sharing the sweetness with others! If you have any questions or need more info, please email Marilyn at [mcnabb.marilyn@yahoo.com](mailto:mcnabb.marilyn@yahoo.com) or call (630)414-6588.

## November Potluck & Auction

Janet Frogner

The Annual Potluck dinner and Member Appreciation Silent Auction will be held on Thursday, November 16th. Remember that Silent Auction bids are only in “Garden Bucks” which are earned by members from participating in the club. Remember to pick up your “Bucks” before November’s meeting!

To participate in the Auction you will need to bring 1 item to donate to the Auction. We are requesting that only new and “gently-used” garden-related items be donated. (e.g., a houseplant, fresh flowers, bulbs, flower pot, birdhouse, garden books, etc.).



**Please RSVP by November 3rd** [westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com)



For those who are new, the Silent Auction bids are only in “Garden Bucks” which are earned by members by participating in the club. See page 9 for a chart and pick up your bucks before the Auction starts. We use the honor system, so if you haven’t been picking up your Garden Bucks as we go through the year, tally them up and pick them up at the next couple of meetings.

Be on the lookout for garden items that you can donate for the Auction. Remember, we are looking for new or very “gently used” items. We are particularly hoping for items related to gardening or that we can use in our yards. Janet Frogner, Vice President, is in charge of this event if you have any questions.

For the potluck, the club will provide plates, napkins, utensils, water & fried chicken. Members each bring a dish—such as sides, soup, salad, desert, etc.

## Adopt A Highway Thank You

Dan Beebe

Thank you to everyone who came out to clean up our adopted section of Hawthorne. It was great to see a few new faces! We had great weather and finished in record time.

With seven volunteers, we were able to pick up everything along both sides of the road in about 1 hour!

Our next clean up will be next April. Come on out and join us then—it is actually a lot of fun.



## September Recap

Pamela Darrah



Well, the September meeting ended up being very different! For the first time in 25 years, we had a speaker fail to show up to give their program. Our Program Director had confirmed with him by both phone calls and texts, so we aren't too sure how he managed to forget.

Since we didn't have a speaker, we did an off-the-cuff conversation with the 45 members who attended that evening. We talked a bit about upcoming events for October and November and explained how Garden Bucks work for our new members (see page 9 for more on

that). We discussed a couple of volunteer positions that we need to fill and that we are hoping to have 2 club field trips in 2024.

Then we opened it up to the members who had any questions or ideas that they wanted to share. Unfortunately, since this was completely unplanned, we didn't have anyone taking notes!

We also talked about coming up with a method for member's to share ideas and questions on a regular basis. One suggestion was to have a regular column in the newsletter for this. Another was to setup a forum on our website where members could post questions, ideas and reply to other. If you have any ideas of a good way to make this available to the club, please let us know.

A few of the things mentioned that we remember are below: Unfortunately, since we didn't have any notes, we can't give credit to the members who mentioned each item. .

### Documentary

**David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet—**

This documentary is currently available on Netflix. A DVD is available from Amazon.

### Tip: Are gnats buzzing around?

Try dabbing a few drops of peppermint oil around your face and they will leave you alone!

### Podcast

The Simple Garden Life Podcast from The Old World Garden Website. Episodes are available on their website at <https://oldworldgardenfarms.com/garden-podcast/> or you can also find and follow Simple Garden Life podcast on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon, Boxcast and most major music and podcast platforms.



### Spotted Lantern Fly

This invasive insect has made it's way to Illinois and has been spotted in the Chicago area. For more information, here is an article from the Morton Arboretum: <https://mortonarb.org/blog/dont-panic-about-spotted-lanternfly/>



### Documentary

**Kiss the Ground—**This documentary is currently available on Netflix or can be rented for \$1 on Vimeo or \$3.99 on Amazon Prime. It looks like a DVD is available at the library.

# Getting to Know ...

Janet Frogner



## Deborah Grandrud

Resident of: Winfield Year: 2020

WCGC Member: May 2022

How did you become a member: Plant sale

What is your current profession: CPA

What are you most proud of in your garden: I downsized from a large garden and have been able to enjoy and design a much smaller garden relying more on pots since I don't have the ability to plant everything I love in the ground. I have had to think differently like using perennials in pots and overwintering them. A challenge that is still being perfected.

**A garden mistake you made:** I had a koi pond at my last house that I inherited at time of purchase. I came home to one koi dead because I didn't realize the hot weather caused the water to get too hot. I needed to drain the hot water and add cold. Never made that mistake again. I felt so bad.

**What do you love most about gardening:** Relaxation, exercise, and the challenges each year brings

**What tip, trick, or words of wisdom can you share:** Read, take classes and seminars, join FB group or club, and learn from others about gardening

**Favorite place to purchase seeds and plants:** Heinz Brothers

**Favorite spot in your garden:** Back patio

**What plant can't you wait to see this season emerge from your garden:** Siloam Peony Display Daylily (a peach double that is fragrant)

**What are you looking forward to this season:** See which of my potted shade perennials makes it through winter



To be included in a future "Getting to Know", please email [WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:WestChicagoGardenClub@gmail.com)

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## Nature Notes—Acorns

Kerry Perry



Looking out my kitchen window, I saw tons of acorns blanketing the ground. A bumper crop! I collected a bunch to feed critters in the winter or perhaps do a craft project. I carefully arranged the nuts on trays to dry and after a few days I noticed a few little grub-like worms. Yikes! What might they grow into?

My research found that the female acorn weevil, a 3/8 inch long beetle with a very long thin snout, makes a tiny hole in a developing acorn. She lays several eggs inside the hole. Her eggs hatch and grow into larvae that are off-white in color with brown heads. Acorns containing larvae fall to the ground in the fall. The fully grown weevil larvae chew a perfectly round 1/8 inch hole in the side of the nut and emerge. Then they tunnel into the soil to complete development. After one or two years they emerge as a new adult weevil.

Squirrels are able to select just the good acorns leaving the wormy nuts under the trees for me to collect. What!? Do squirrels have a keen sense of smell and x-ray vision? Smart little critters.

If you do bring acorns into your house and find larvae they're harmless. But, you can simply bake acorns in a 200 degree oven for 2 – 3 hours. Viola, no worms.



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## Come and Experience the West Chicago Prairie!

Lisa Marie Vogt



For years I've heard stories of the West Chicago Prairie (<https://www.dupageforest.org/places-to-go/forest-preserves/west-chicago-prairie>), but had no idea where it was located.

I saw a volunteer opportunity through the DuPage Forest Preserve to collect seeds there. It's been a wonderful opportunity to experience this gem in West Chicago first-hand! We collect a variety of seeds including gray headed coneflower, lead plant, nodding onion, rattlesnake master, monarda, and tall coreopsis. The seeds are added to mixes for reseeding areas where invasive understory shrubs are removed.

2023 final volunteer opportunities: (Click on the date to Register)

[October 28 from 9 am - 12 pm](#): seed collection

[November 11 from 9 am - 12 pm](#): brush removal

From the DuPage Forest Preserve website: "In presettlement times, the preserve was prairie, scattering timber and marsh and is one of the region's premier natural areas. It contains over 600 species of native plants and animals. In addition to wetlands and upland oak savannas, the preserve is home to one of the most biologically diverse sites in northeastern Illinois, the 126-acre Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve. The Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve has historically contained native vegetation from the Northeastern Morainal Division, a section of moraines and related features from the Wisconsin Glacier. In fact, this remnant ecosystem has provided rare and specialized habitats to some 622 plant and animal species, several rare or endangered.."

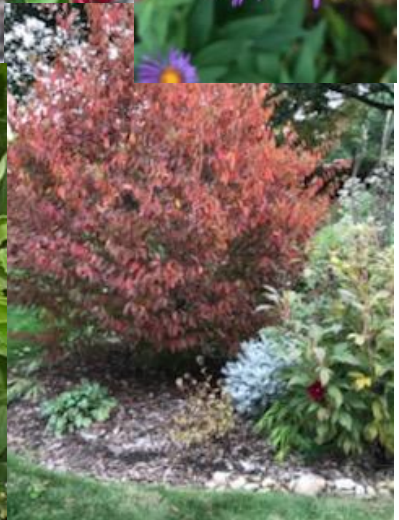
# News from Kruse

Keith Letsche

The Kruse House Gardeners have completed the last work day, officially closing out the 2023 gardening season at Kruse. It was a year of significant accomplishments with the refining of the bed front east side, the reworking of the bed at the end of the driveway, and the addition of many new plantings.

We leave you with these parting images of the garden in rapid transition: the fall asters and sedum in full bloom, the begonias and other spring potting plants reinvigorated by the cool fall days before the coming of a hard frost, and the cone flowers' and other summer perennials' withered blooms pointing ominously to the end of the season--all against a backdrop of colorful falling leaves. Enjoy!

Photos by Kerry Perry





## 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.

Oct 26	Bulb Bingo	Tom F, Dorothy O., Christina C.
Nov 16	Silent Auction	Pot Luck Dinner

**Please note that the October & November meetings are for Members Only.**

### 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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