

We Go Gardening

Newsletter of the West Chicago Garden Club

Volume 26—Issue 9—September 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: September 22

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**

Biomimicry: Looking to Nature to Solve Today's Problems

Ruth Kyme



What does a Bur have in common with NASA? A Kingfisher with a high-speed train? In this fascinating talk, Kim will show you many examples of when science and technology looked to nature to solve complex problems. Animal ambassadors: Axolotl, Dart Frog, Crested Gecko and hedgehog will accompany. This talk has received rave reviews every time it has been presented.

Kim has had a lifelong interest in the natural world. She spent 19 years associated with Brookfield Zoo's Education Department as both a volunteer and employee teaching school groups. She is a master naturalist, a co-steward for the DuPage County Forest Preserve, education coordinator for the DuPage Monarch Project and avid gardener for both food production and habitat creation. Her summers are spent growing milkweed for the Monarch butterflies she raises from eggs and releases.



Visit the St. Andrew Monarch Pollinator Garden before our September meeting.

Bruce Blake will be available at the St. Andrews Monarch Garden in front of the church along Geneva Road before our September meeting 6:30-7:00 to answer questions while you view the Garden.

See [page 11](#) for more information about the Monarch Pollinator Garden Project.

OCTOBER 27TH MEETING

Bulb Bingo

Notes from the President

Dan Beebe

It has been a busy month for members of the Allocations Committee, the Bylaws Committee and the club's board. At this month's board meeting, we discussed results of the Member Survey conducted by the Allocations Committee and their recommendations on how the club should spend money throughout the year. We also discussed changes to the club's bylaws, last updated in 2015, proposed by the Bylaws Committee.

In summary, based on your survey feedback, the Allocations Committee recommended: Increasing the annual budget for speakers, workshops, Bulb Bingo; Investing in improved video and audio equipment for speakers at our meetings; Recruiting members to assist in planning bus field trip(s) to Botanic Gardens; Maintaining and/or increase budget as needed for Plant Sale; Maintaining budget for West Chicago Park District; Maintaining or increasing, as needed, the budget for Kruse House Garden; and that the Board consider a \$1,000 donation to the College of DuPage Horticulture Department to be awarded to a deserving student.

The Allocations Committee recommended that the club "maintain a minimum of \$20,000 or the balance of the last two years expenses, whichever is greater, in reserve. The WCGC should keep sufficient funds to be able to maintain club activities as much as possible for a two year period without substantial income. This is important in order to improve the likelihood that the WCGC can and will survive possible disruptions due to outside forces" (e.g., global pandemic, plant sale cancellation due to bad weather).

The Bylaws Committee's recommended changes and feedback from the board were also discussed at length. The board is hopeful that we will be able to approve the Bylaws changes at our meeting next month and that the proposed changes will be available to the membership by next month's general meeting. Our goal is to have a membership vote on the revised Bylaws at our annual club meeting in November.

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

—Dan

Volunteers Needed... The WCGC needs your help! Janice Frogner

The WCGC Board of Directors is looking to fill a few open positions for 2023. We would love to have you be a part of our TEAM!

Director-at-Large

- This position is perfect for someone who hasn't been previously on the board, but would like to get involved with the club.
- Facilitate special events as requested

We Want You...Come Join Us!

Publicity Director

- Share WCGC events through Social Media platforms (i.e. our website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts)

If you have any questions or need further information about these positions, please [email the club](mailto:westchicagogardenclub@gmail.com):



Pot Drop-off and Barn Clean-up

Pamela Darrah

THIS Saturday, September 17th, 9:00AM—Noon



We will be out at the barn on Saturday, September 17th starting at 9:00am. The plan is to be available for members to drop off pots they want to donate. We will use the time while we are there to organize/sort the pots that we have there and the ones that are dropped off so everything is ready for next year.

Our biggest need is for 4" pots that we use for small plants and vegetables and for the standard gallon pots. Trays for both are also great. Ideally, we prefer pots that don't have names/advertising printed on them, but we will take those. It would help, if you have the chance, to use a large

sharpie to cross out whatever is printed on the pot and remove/cross out any labels on the pot.

Volunteers who would be able to work with us that morning and organize the pots at the barn would be deeply appreciated.

"The Barn" belongs to the West Chicago Park District and they kindly allow us to store our plant sale items there. It is located at 30W150 Wilson Rd, West Chicago, IL 60185 at the Kress Creek Park. The park entrance is at Joliet St and Wilson Rd.

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



Where to find us online

Website: www.westchicagogardenclub.org

 Facebook: facebook.com/westchicagogardenclub

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

Survey Results (Page 1 of 3)

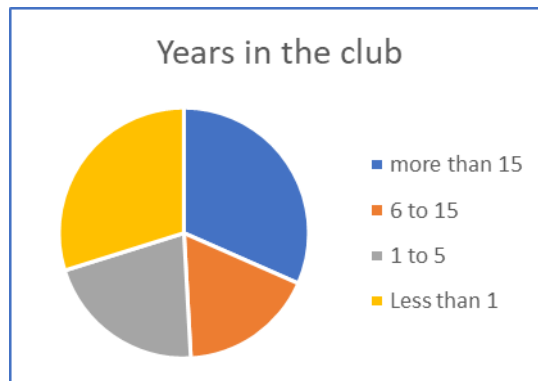
Pamela Darrah

The Survey conducted by our Allocations Committee was a success—We received a total of 57 surveys from our members. The pie chart below shows the responses to how many years each person has been a member of the club.

To make the data a little easier to read, we calculated a weighted average for each question that was rated on a scale from 1 to 5.

An example of this is shown here using the data from the first major section of the survey that asked your level of interest in various broad categories. This is the data for “Learning—Become a better gardener” which you could rate from “Very important” to “Not interested”.

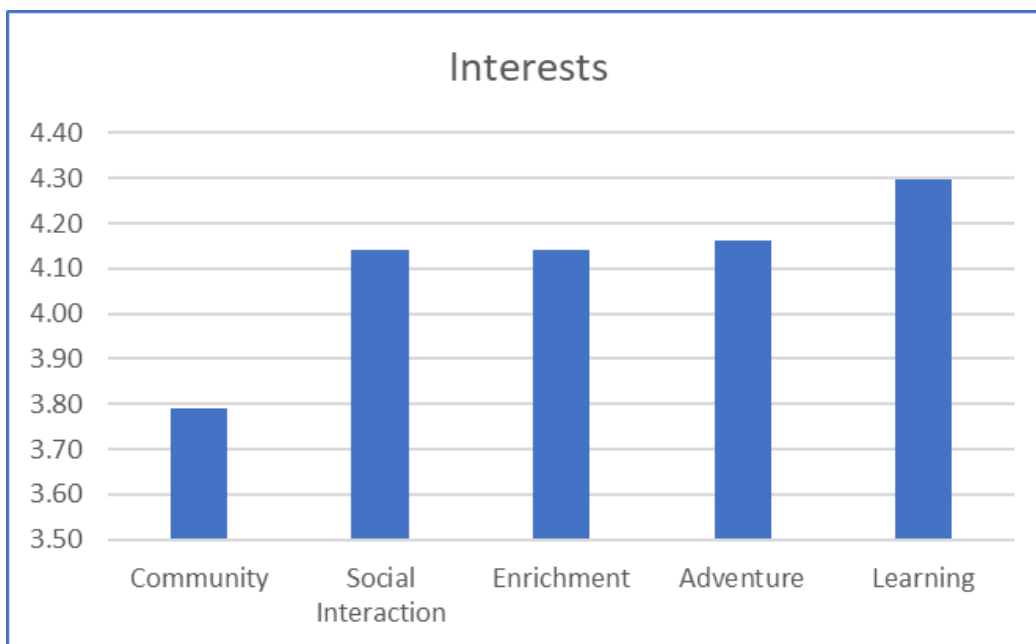
There were 5 levels, so we assigned points to each answer with 5 for “Very important” to 1 for “Not interested”. The raw results look like this:



	Very Important (5)	Important (4)	Not a priority (3)	Indifferent (2)	Not interested (1)
Learning—Become a Better Gardener	26	23	7	1	0

The weighted average is calculated by adding up all the points and dividing by the number of people who responded to that question. These points add up as $26 \times 5 + 23 \times 4 + 7 \times 3 + 1 \times 2 + 0 \times 1 = 245$. All 57 responses answered this question, so we divide 245 by 57 which gives us an average response of 4.3 for this question.

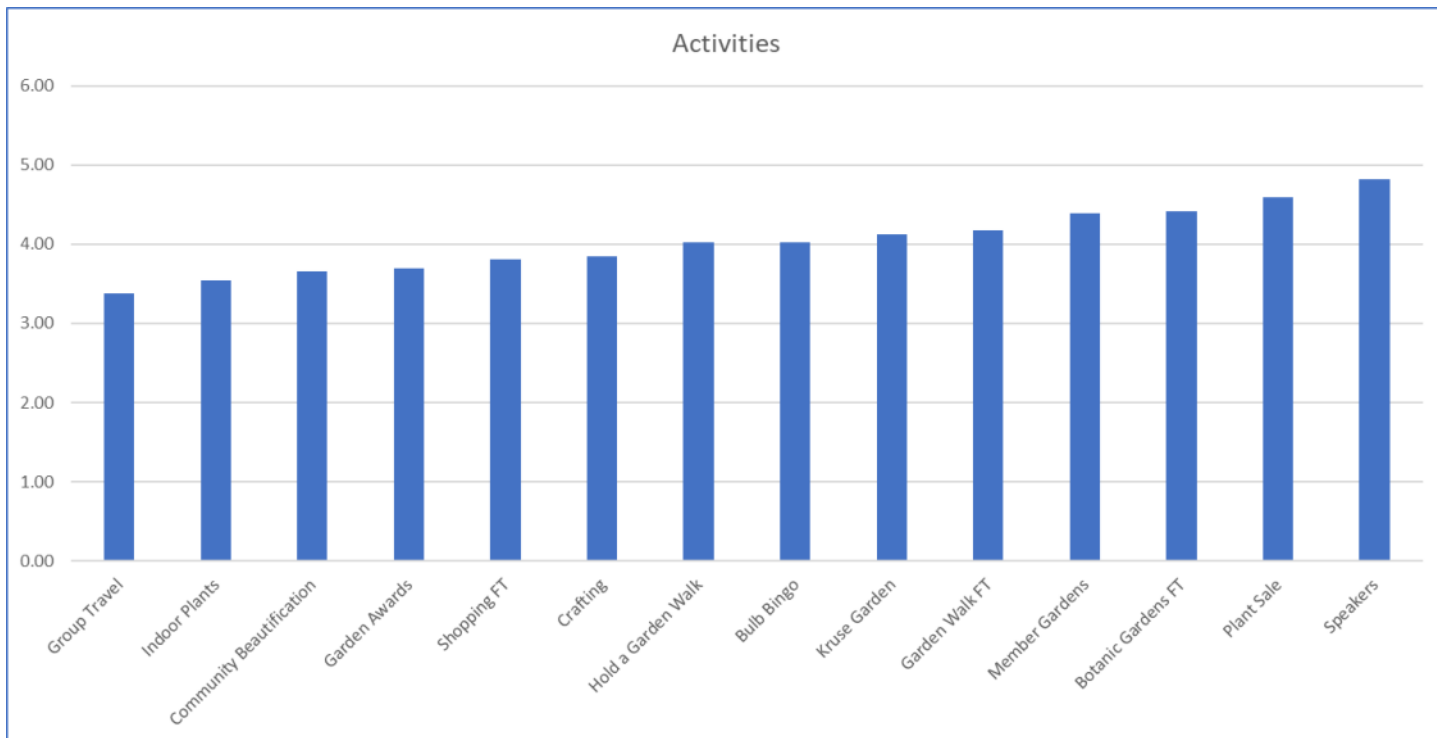
The first chart below, shows the weighted average for all 6 categories, sorted from lowest interest to highest interest. The categories shown on the survey were “Learning— Becoming a better gardening”, “Social Interaction-Feel a sense of community”, “Community-giving back to our town/community”, Adventure-Field trips to see beautiful places”, Enrichment-sharing and collecting plants”



Survey Results (Page 2 of 3)

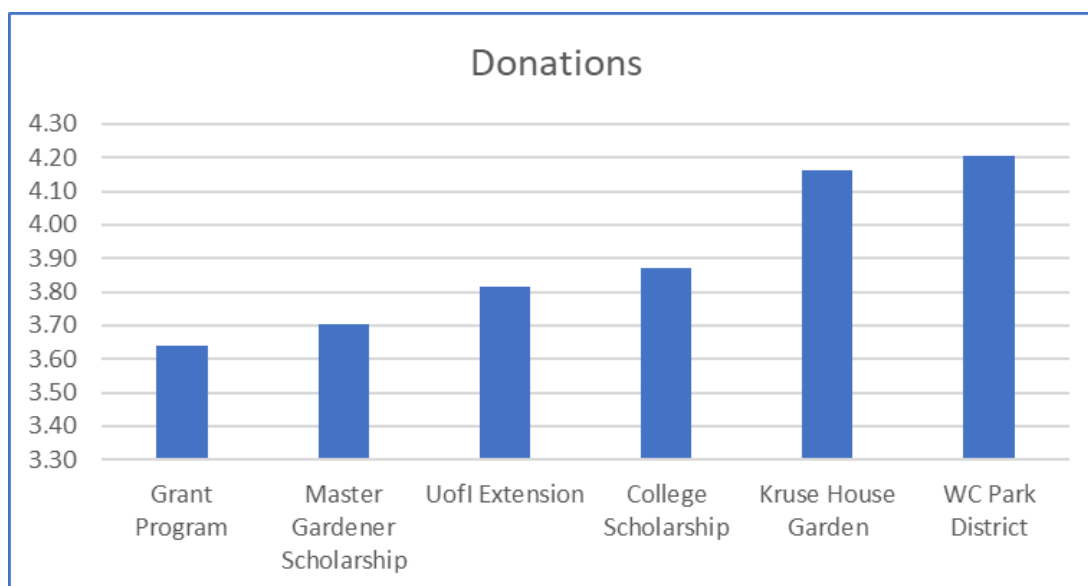
Pamela Darrah

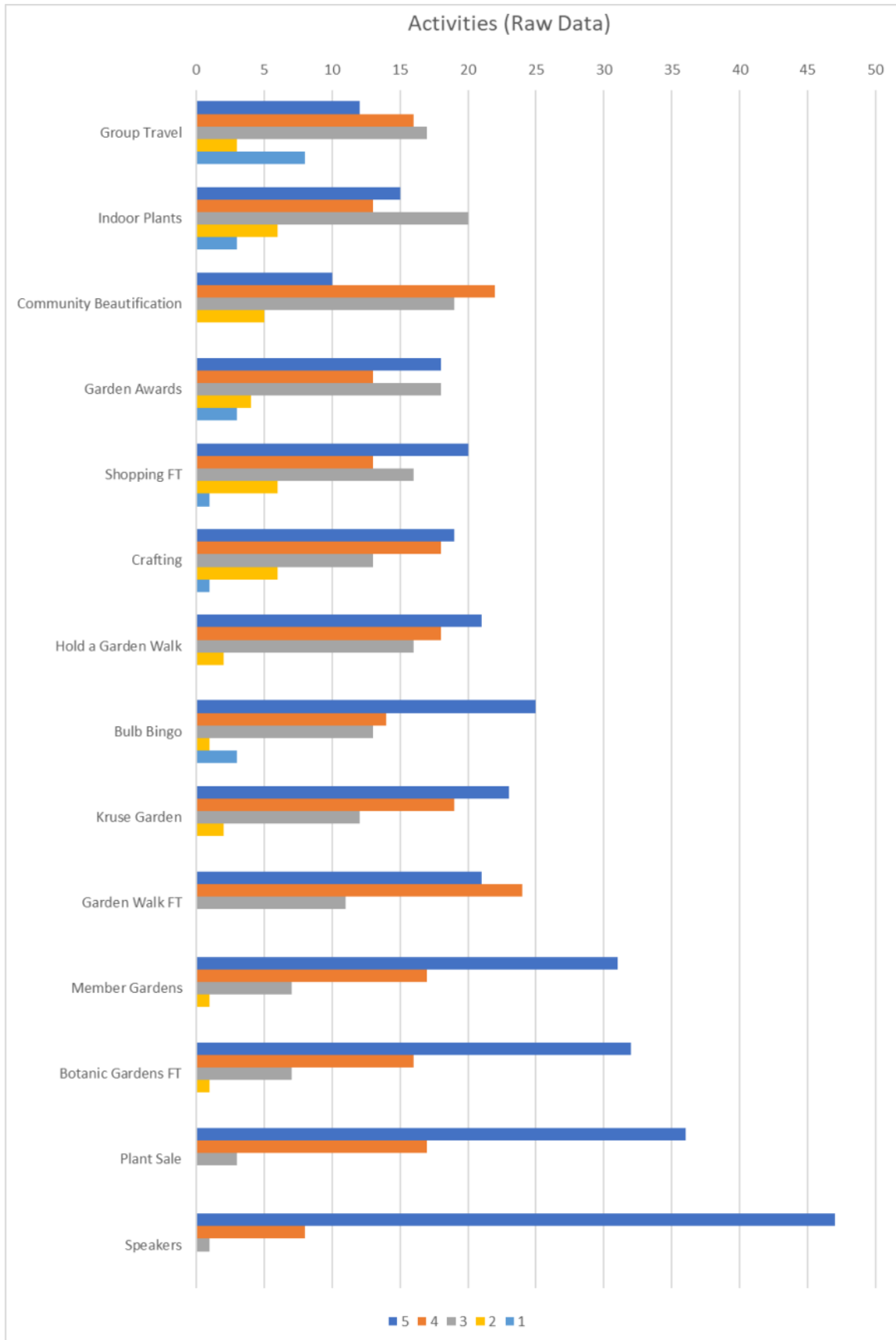
The next section of the survey was about rating interest in club activities. Again, each could be rated from 5 (Amazing-Let's do it!) to 1 (Please Never). The descriptions for each was a little long to include in a chart, so they are somewhat abbreviated. If you would like the full descriptions, just let me know and I'll send you a copy of the original survey. Note that FT on the chart stands for "Field Trip"



The full raw data for this category is included on the next page for those who are interested in seeing the breakdown for each.

The last section of the survey asked questions about where you feel the club should give any direct donations.





News from Kruse

Kerry Perry

Summer is waning and fall flowers are making their spectacular debut in the Kruse House Garden. Several new perennials, including Chelone and Lobelia, were planted in the front bed.

Turtlehead (*Chelone obliqua*) is a clump-forming perennial wildflower native to eastern North America. Its hooded flowers look similar to snapdragon blooms. The flower gets its common name from its resemblance to a turtle's head, but the genus name *Chelone* dates back to ancient Greece mythology.



Blue lobelia, purple cone flowers and black eyed susans

Turtlehead is best planted in the spring or summer to give the plant time to establish itself. The plant can remain in bloom for three to six weeks, making it well worth the wait for late-season color.

Great Blue Lobelia forms a flower spike covered in deep blue flowers from late summer to early fall. It can form colonies when happily sited in medium to wet soils in light shade, but is not overly aggressive. Combine Blue Lobelia with Red



Blue Lobelia

Cardinal Flower for a stunning color combo that will bring in the hummingbirds. Excellent for damp clay soil. (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Blooming behind the shed is Lespedeza, also called bush clover. It has delicate foliage and is laden with thousands of rosy-purple pea like flowers. Across the path are bright yellow False Sunflowers that were planted last fall.

The Kruse Crew meets Wednesday mornings from about 8:30 until 11:30 to weed, plant and discuss gardening ideas. Break time is always educational and fun. Hope you will join us.



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

Getting to Know ...

Janet Frogner



Julie Blazek

Resident of: Moved to Batavia a year ago. I love it!

WCGC Member: Plant sale 2022 ~ been attending for years and very happy with the plants. They all survived!!

Current profession: Pediatric nurse for over 30 years with 10 years at our West Chicago office. They won't let me retire! Just kidding, we are very short nurses since Covid.

Hobbies: Gardening, of course, and sewing quilts and garments

Favorite garden tool: My trusty trowel and now a long handle weeder

Favorite Flower: Foxglove and Peace tea rose

Earliest memory of a favorite garden: I was 3-4 years old helping my dad. The watering can was as big as me...I remember my dad telling me to "give the flowers a wee drink". He was born and raised in Yorkshire, England.

Who taught you to garden: My dad's life passion was gardening. He delved into everything. He had a very large vegetable garden, he propagated, pruned, and planted fruit trees and shrubs. I learned a lot.

Hardest plant you ever tried to grow: Lady's mantle ~ everytime I try it dies

Recent garden projects: My gardens are a work in progress. Trying to incorporate Japanese features in front.

Favorite garden: Vancouver's famous garden. Also, my daughter lives in Tacoma, WA and everything grows there! Love the variety of conifers, shrubs and flowers! Lupines and foxgloves grow like weeds.

Favorite place to purchase your plants: Hands down Woldhouse/Sunrise in Grant Park. I go every spring for perennials. Quality, price and service are outstanding!

November Auction

We will once again be holding our Annual Potluck dinner and Member appreciation Silent Auction in November. 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 pick up your dollars before the Auction starts. 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.

Mosaic Art Class

Billie Childress

Mosaic Art Class For West Chicago Garden Club Members

- **Saturday November 5**, 10 am - noon: Create design and glue
- **Sunday November 6**, 2: 30 - 4 pm (optional): Grout. DIY at home if you prefer.

Materials provided:

Rock (4-7 inches), glue, Mosaic supplies, grout

Class location:

Gallery 200
103 W Washington St, West Chicago

Cost:

\$10 per participant

Limited to **16 participants**.

First come basis.

Contact Billie Childress 630-862-1213. Call or text to reserve your spot by October 15.



We've Adopted a Highway

Pamela Darrah



Our application was approved and we have officially adopted a 1 mile stretch on Hawthorne Avenue. The City had our sign up the day after it was approved.

All volunteers will need to sign a liability waiver stating that you won't blame the city if you get hurt during the roadside pickup. Dan will have more information for us at our regular meeting.

Our first roadside pickup will be the morning of October 22nd starting at 9:00AM. It isn't expected to take more than 2 hours as long as we have a reasonable number of volunteers.

More details will be available at this month's meeting and in next month's newsletter.

August Meeting Recap

Ruth Kyme



Our August speaker, Marcie Lautenen-Raleigh, demonstrated a multitude of recipes using backyard herbs and gave valuable advise for growing and preserving herbs at home. We sampled



herbal tea and herbal butters and a lovely salad enhanced with fresh mint. It was fun using our sense of smell to identify herbs as sweet, savory, or pungent. Attendees left with a variety of recipes for herb butters, vinegars, and salts that WCGC herbal gourmets can try at home.



Kruse Ice Cream Social Recap

Pamela Darrah



It was a truly lovely day for this year's Ice Cream Social. A bunch of Garden Club members attended and it looked like the day was a real success. The garden was beautiful and many sweet treats were consumed!



If You Build It, They Will Come

Bruce Blake

This is an excerpt from Bruce's article on the Sierra Club, River Prairie Group blog. The full article can be found at <https://sierraclubrpg.blogspot.com/2022/08/if-you-build-it-they-will-come.html>

Working together, we have planted several Monarch pollinator gardens. One of these is at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in West Chicago. Cristobal Cavazos, of Immigrant Solidarity, talked to Pastor Josh Ebener about doing a Monarch garden on a grass area south of the church. We developed a landscaping plan and presented it to the church. With their approval, we started. The area was roughly 40 feet by 120 feet. We needed to get rid of the sod. We tried covering the grass with tarps over the winter, but that didn't kill the grass as hoped. We really didn't want to herbicide. After a long time looking for someone who could remove the top 2 inches of sod so we could plant, we found a local landscaper, Daniel Fuentes, who volunteered to remove the sod and help us with the stonework for the pathway.

This was early 2021. After removing the sod, we had 40,000 lbs. of crushed stone ordered for the path foundation. Unfortunately, we couldn't dump it where we were working, so we had to dump it on the parking lot and use a small trailer to spread it by hand.

Once we had the path outlined, we hand sowed a native seed mix. It was a combination of many different native flowering plants to provide nectar, several types of milkweed, and a variety of tall grasses. All the plants are native to our area. They will provide nectar and a place for butterflies to lay eggs. A large portion of the seeds were collected and donated by members of Wild Ones-Dupage. We put in over 1,200 plants by hand. This was fall 2021.



Removing the sod.



We have the best volunteers to help us! Many people helped plant, work on the pathway, and weed. Our thanks to Miguel Romero, Mateo Suarez, Robert Cook, Andrew Van Gorp, Gabriela Hernandez Chico, Rafael Vieyra, Cristobal Cavazos, Rocio Hernandez, Patricia and Marti Landry, and Bob Sherman. Without their support and hard work, we couldn't have accomplished this. The brick pathway is an amazing design and is yet to be finished. The center will have a butterfly done in tile, by a local artist.

We couldn't wait for spring 2022 to come! At first, a few plants were coming up, but they were very sparse. It looked promising, but not as many as we hoped for. During the spring and summer of 2022, we worked on the pathway, pulled weeds, and added more native plants. Slowly, the plants took root and flourished. It was amazing how the area filled in.



It will take several years for some of the plants to flower. We need to find volunteers who can help us maintain this beautiful native Pollinator Garden. If you would like to be part of bringing nature back to us, you can reach me at Rllnsts1@aol.com to help.

Month-By-Month Gardening Tips: August

Janet Frogner

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

“The early days of September can be among the sweetest of the year...Sweet corn, tomatoes, and blueberries are still plentiful. But fall is here. ”

PLAN:

- Take stock of what worked and what didn't
- Best solution for garden problems is to be ruthless; if the plant/shrub doesn't work start over with something new
- Still time to order bulbs; refer to your spring notes and pictures for ideas
- Stock up on floating row covers or old sheets to protect plants from early frost

PLANT:

- Fall-blooming mums, asters and pansies
- Early fall flowers (PS): Japanese anemone, turtlehead, gentian
- Fall flowers (Sun): asters, sedum, purple coneflower, Russian sage, black-eyed Susan
- Excellent time to plant trees
- Plant bulblets of garlic and shallots for next year's harvest
- Plant or divide perennials and groundcovers

CARE:

- Keep weeding to prevent sprouting next spring
- Pull up dead annuals and compost
- Mulch areas to prevent weed seeds to sprout
- Tender plants like coleus, begonias, Persian shield, & asparagus fern can be potted in potting mix and grown as houseplants during the winter
- Bring houseplants back in doors when temps begin being below 50 degrees



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		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 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

Sunday, September 18: Morton Arboretum’s Grand Garden Opening event. 1:00-4:00pm Included with timed-entry Arboretum admission. See the arboretum website for more information <https://mortonarb.org/centennial/grand-garden/>

Saturday, October 8: Garlic Fest at The Growing Place—Aurora. Classes, Live music, and Talks. See their website for more information <https://www.thegrowingplace.com/events/garlic-fest/>

Saturday, October 8: Cantigny Park Fall Festival. 10:00am—4:00pm. Colorful autumn fun for all ages - Music, Craft vendors, Food trucks, Petting Zoo. This event takes place at the Parade Field. For more information <https://cantigny.org/event/fall-festival/>

Wednesdays through October 26: Cantigny de Noche - weekly “after hours” series featuring illuminated Art in the Park, activities, entertainment and refreshments. Alebrijes Art Walk 6 pm (daylight) & 8 pm (illuminated) For more information, follow the links at the Cantigny calendar of events <https://cantigny.org/events/2022-09/>



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