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CCGA February Newsletter - Conference Registration Now Open

CCGA <info@chicagocommunitygardens.org> Thu, Feb 16, 2017 at 10:27 AM
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» Chicago Community Gardeners Association

News for Community Gardeners

Hello Community Gardeners!

With our mild weather of late, winter is slipping away quietly and spring is right around the corner, which means it's time for the **5th Annual CCGA Spring Conference** for community gardeners. It will be nice for

us all to get together again! The date is coming up fast, **Saturday March 25th**, about 6 weeks from now. This year promises plenty of great workshops to choose from, carefully curated by the **CCGA Education** team. Keep in mind that we do have an overall registration limit, so please register soon!

This year we will present several great hands-on, **how-to workshops** on pure growing, like gardening without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, and season extension techniques. In keeping with our theme '**Gardeners Grow Communities**' some workshops will focus on how our community gardens influence children and the ways each garden is its own community that reaches far beyond the sun and the soil. The focus of our **discussion panel,** comprised of both community and professional gardeners, will be about how our gardens bring us all together into a community that sometimes seems like a family.

The **CCGA Resources** committee has crafted special table centerpieces and is providing door prizes especially for gardeners. All attendees will have access to seeds and unique exhibitors that support gardens. Perhaps the best part is sitting down to lunch with our old garden friends, enjoying the conversation, and networking and meeting new folks.

Registration is Now Open for the CCGA Conference

The doors open at 9am for a **continental breakfast** then we will present **twelve workshops** in two morning sessions and each has a limit of 35 attendees. You will be able to select your workshops when you register. The fee this year is $20 which includes the workshops, exhibitor presentations, **lunch** and panel discussion and a **door prize ticket**! Lockers are available at the venue for placing personal belongings but please bring your own lock.

All details including online registration, workshop descriptions, location, and volunteer and exhibitor information are HERE.

Call for Volunteers for the CCGA Conference

Can you help on Saturday, March 25th? We **need approximately 25-30 volunteers** to help us make this year's conference the best one yet! We need assistance with the CCGA membership table, presenter workshops, and overall logistical support.

Please email our volunteer coordinator **Gina Jamison** at vol4conf@chicagocommunitygardens.org with any questions about volunteering.

To volunteer click on the link HERE.

News from out in the Gardens...

2017 Spring Garden Events

Wild Things 2017 Conference
Saturday, February 18 2017 9am - 6pm

Little Village Seed Swap Event

Friday, February 24 2017 6pm to 8pm

Peterson Garden Project - 8th Annual Seed Swap
Sunday, March 5th 2017 1pm to 4pm

McKinley Park Play Garden Fundraiser
Saturday, March 25 2017 7pm to 10pm

To see the list of community garden events happening this spring click HERE.

New Community Garden Work Day List

CCGA is maintaining a list of gardens that offer regular opportunities for individuals to participate in work days or events and welcome volunteers. If you know of a garden to add to the list, please contact communications@chicagocommunitygardens.org.

To check the list, click HERE.

News you can use...

CCGA Seed Starting Workshop Saturday March 4th, 2017

Begin the Garden Season with a **Seed Starting Workshop**

The **CCGA Resources Committee** is putting together “starter kits” of twenty different kinds of 2017 vegetable seeds carefully chosen and purchased by us from reputable companies like Johnny’s Seeds. The Starter Kit also includes a booklet of directions, seed starting tray, and seed starting mix. **Nick Michaud** of Westover Farms, an experienced horticulturalist, will talk about seed starting and give recommendations on growing each of the different vegetables included in the kit followed by a Q & A session. Additionally, participants will receive an array of donated seeds suitably qualified for Chicago Community Gardens.

This workshop is is FREE and open to Chicago Community Gardeners.

When: Saturday, March 4, 2017- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Chicago Center for Green Technology CCGT at 445 N. Sacramento Blvd., Chicago IL, 60612

Please email **Mamie Gray** at mamie@uic.edu (your name, name and address of your garden) ASAP as space is limited and for full details click HERE.

2017 Grants Available to Gardens

This is the time of year to be on the lookout for funds for your community garden! CCGA is maintaining a list of grant resources for community gardens. Funding is available for garden tools and supplies as well as for conservation and art projects. See our list HERE.

And finally...

Reminder: Next CCGA Coordinating Meeting – Saturday February 18th

The next CCGA Coordinating Meeting is this **Saturday February 18th** at 10am at the **Chicago Center for Green Technology CCGT** at 445 N. Sacramento Blvd. and will be focused on continued planning for the 2017 Annual Conference.

We will meet on the 2nd floor and there is parking behind the building. Bring a snack or drink to share if you can.

NOTE: For the **1/21/2017 meeting minutes**, all CCGA coordinating meeting minutes are available for you to review on the website. Look under the menu tree at 'Who We Are' and then 'CCGA Organization' and you will see links for the coordinating committee documents.

Hope to see you there!

Have ideas, suggestions or news you would like to share with fellow community gardeners in the next CCGA email? Please send those items to communications@chicagocommunitygardens.org.

For questions about CCGA and how to get involved, email membership@chicagocommunitygardens.org or visit chicagocommunitygardens.org/ccga-organization

Need resources for your community garden? Have resources to offer? Email resources@chicagocommunitygardens.org.

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