

CCGA September Newsletter: Planning Retreat, Perennial Distribution & Upcoming Events

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» Chicago Community Gardeners Association



News for Community Gardeners

Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to the community. When people plant corn they are saying 'let's stay here. And by their connection to the land, they are connected to one another.'

~Anne Raver

Hello Community Gardeners!

Hope you are enjoying time in your gardens during these last weeks of summer even though it's felt a bit like fall. We're looking forward to the **Chicago Excellence in Gardening (CEGA)** awards ceremony, which we've just found out will be on **Sunday September 24th** at the Chicago Cultural Center. Thanks to **U of I Cooperative Extension** for all their work in sponsoring the CEGA this year. We are all anticipating the moment we'll learn which gardens were nominated and what makes them special. Check the CCGA website and our Facebook page for the latest details!

The **CCGA Resources** committee held two mega plant distributions in July and August.

On **Friday, July 21** the **CCGA Resources** group distributed 3,200 plants varying from mature perennials to smaller potted annuals and cultivars, with a number of native perennials. The boundless energy of a group of teen volunteers from **EPIC** service volunteers coupled with CCGA's organization made light work of lifting plant material off the trucks and pulling together groups of plants for over **84 community gardens**. CCGA greatly appreciates their adult volunteers and special thanks goes to **Elite Growers**, **Nick Michaud** of **Westover Farms**, and an anonymous donor.

Friday, August 11, the weather was perfect and **Elite Growers** again provided another round of potted perennial flowers and grasses - some of the very best cultivars - and some very durable ground covers were a few of the 1,000 plants that were distributed. The **EPIC** service volunteers came out again, and this time were joined by more teens from Angela Taylor's **Garfield Park Community Council**. Kudos to line leaders Angela, Juline, May, Barb, Anna, Mamie, Cynthia, Blanca and to all around helpers Robert, James, and Greg. Finally, to **CCGA Resources**, Pat Hart (Chair) and her team: Community gardeners surely say as one voice, **GREAT JOB!**

And finally we are having a **planning retreat** on **Saturday September 30th** and have dedicated a day to consider how the CCGA supports community gardens. Read about it below and consider joining us on the 30th.



Known as the EPIC program, organized to serve and make an impact, these teens were a perfect match with Resources leaders and adult volunteers for the July 21 event.



CCGA volunteers and Angela Taylor's Garfield Park Community Council were joined by EPIC volunteers at the August 11 distribution.

CCGA community gardens continued to have teen volunteer groups in July and into the first few days and weeks of August before they returned to schools, hopefully describing their summer work with the same broad smiles they showed in these photographs, and even better, with a love of gardening.



Teens lent a helping hand at Sherwood Peace Garden, [257 W 61st St.](#)

Save the date for these upcoming events!

Ravinia Night in the Garden on Saturday, Sept. 16

Join us for the 4th Annual Ravinia Night in the **Kuumba Tre-Ahm Community Garden** fundraiser! Enjoy a beautiful evening in the garden including live music, a silent auction, and refreshments. This year's annual fundraiser will showcase Kuumba Tre-Ahm's newest plants, flowers, fruit trees, and an introduction of "Girls of the World." We look forward to your support and attendance! Our site post about the event is [HERE](#).

When: Saturday, Sept. 16 from 5:00-9:00pm

Where: [2908 West Warren Blvd. Chicago, IL 60612](#)

Donation: \$25.

Please bring your own chair, as we have limited chairs available. BYOB. *Hosted by To Touch a Life, Inc. 501(c)(3)*

CCGA Fall Perennial Distribution on Friday, Sept. 29!

The prestigious landscape company **Scott Byron & Co.** will once again coordinate the collection and delivery of donated perennials and shrubs for the **CCGA Resources Fall Perennial Distribution**.

Who: For all Chicago Community Gardens. One group of plants per garden, please.

Where: New Horizons Garden, [401 South Central Park](#) (Corner of Van Buren & Central Park)

When: Friday, Sept. 29, 2017. Check-in will begin at 11:30am. Distribution will begin at noon and continue until the plants are gone.

Why: Fall is the best time to plant perennials and shrubs. The cooler weather and adequate moisture help the plants acclimate before the arrival of winter.

Registration fee: \$5 per garden, payable on-site.

Please register in advance by emailing the name and address of your community garden to Mamie Gray at mamie@uic.edu. **Please note that registration will close on Thursday, September 28 at 3:00pm.** Questions? Contact Mamie Gray at the email address above and see our full site post with all the latest details [HERE](#).

Join CCGA for our 2017 Planning Retreat on Saturday, Sept. 30

Are you a garden leader or volunteer interested in the future of CCGA? Your input is needed! Now that summer is winding down, we've dedicated a day to think and talk about how CCGA supports community gardens at our **2017 Planning Retreat**:

Saturday, September 30, from 9am-3pm

Christy Webber Farm & Garden

[2834 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60612](#)

We welcome anyone who is ready to roll up their sleeves to help fine-tune our existing efforts and to co-create a vision for the future. The retreat is designed in two parts: a self-assessment exercise and discussion followed by a brainstorm of possible governance and membership models.

Please RSVP by Friday September 22nd to communications@chicagocommunitygardens.org. We are planning a catered lunch. We'll also provide background documents in advance via email.

The full site post with the agenda and links to documents is [HERE](#).

Windy City Harvest Short Courses in Sustainable Urban Agriculture

The **Chicago Botanic Garden's** urban agriculture education and jobs-training initiative **Windy City Harvest** is offering short courses in sustainable urban agriculture. Classes range from 4-12 weeks, on Saturdays from 9am-noon or 1pm-3pm.

Tuition cost is income-based between \$150-\$600.

Edible Landscaping

September 9 – October 14, 2017, Saturdays, 9 a.m. – noon

Arturo Velasquez Institute, [2800 S. Western Avenue](#)

[More info and to register for Edible Landscaping](#)

Rooftop Farming

September 9 – October 14, 2017, Saturdays, 1 – 3 p.m.

Arturo Velasquez Institute, [2800 S. Western Avenue, Chicago](#)

[More info and to register for Rooftop Farming](#)

Value-Added Product

Session I: August 5 – 19, 2017

Session II: September 9 – 30, 2017

Session III: October 21 – November 11, 2017

Saturdays, 9 a.m. – noon

The University of Chicago International House, Tiffin Café, [1414 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637](#)

[More info and to register for Value-Added Product](#)

Season Extension I

September 9 – October 14, 2017, Saturdays, 9 a.m. – noon

Arturo Velasquez Institute, [2800 S. Western Avenue](#)

[More info and to register for Season Extension I](#)

Business and Entrepreneurship for Local Foods

September 11 – December 6, 2017, Monday and Wednesday, 6 – 8 p.m.

Arturo Velasquez Institute, [2800 S. Western Avenue](#)

[More info and to register for Business and Entrepreneurship for Local Foods](#)

For additional information on Windy City Harvest Apprenticeship programs, please contact Kris De la Torre at kdelatorre@chicagobotanic.org.

Garfield Park Conservatory 2017 Calendar Photo Contest: Deadline Oct. 5

If you're a budding photographer or just a little snap-happy, we urge you to share why you love Garfield Park Conservatory with us! Enter our 2017 Calendar Photo Contest and your photo could be featured in our inaugural 2018 print wall calendar! Calendars will be for sale in our Gift Shop starting mid-November. Proceeds directly support Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance programming.

For more information and to enter, [click here](#)

Farm & Value-Added Food Business Training Oct. 26-27

Urban Farming is a Business! Join the **Midwest Urban Farming Institute** for an 2-day intensive training for start-up or continuing urban farmers and value-added food producers looking to create a sustainable business.

Seeking direction, a business model, a good plan, good record keeping, or plans to scale up your business? If you answered YES to any of these questions, this training is for YOU! Learn financial skill for new, emerging, or established enterprises needing to scale up using best practices. Also, learn how to engage support from resources of the broader agri-industry ecosystem.

Topics include:

- Economically-sustainable business models
- Realistic planning for funding your company's growth
- Financial systems and statements
- Structuring capital requirements...and more!

Presenters:

- Tera Johnson, Director/Founder of the Food Finance Institute and teraswhey
- Orrin Williams, Food Systems Coordinator, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Paul Dietmann, Loan Officer and Emerging Market Specialist, Badgerland Financial

Thursday & Friday, Oct. 26-27

10am - 5pm both days

[700 E. 79th Street, Chicago, IL.](#)

To register:

Email mwurbanfarminginstitute@gmail.com

This event is sponsored by Badgerland Financial, University of Illinois Extension, Alderman Roderick Sawyer 6th Ward, Alderman Howard Brookins 21st Ward, and the USDA.

News You Can Use

PEST OF THE MONTH

Not Wanted: Grape Phylloxera (*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae*)



This photo from a community garden shows the unsightly wart-like leaf galls caused by grape phylloxera, an insect pest which attacks many grape species. At the time grape leaves form in spring, eggs of the pest hatch from woody vines and migrate to foliage. These first-generation nymphs, referred to as crawlers, are mobile, moving between leaves to establish feeding sites.

While phylloxera damages, roots, leaves, and tendrils it does not cause actual fruit injury; however, severe leaf galling causes leaf distortion and shortened shoots that reduce photo-synthesis, premature defoliation, delayed ripening, and predispose vines to winter injury.

Read more about Grape Phylloxera control on our website [HERE](#)

Garden Profile:
Edison Regional Gifted School & Albany Park Multi Cultural Center



Edison Regional Gifted Center opened to students this year with a new look, landscaped greenery and flowering plants around the school and playground thanks to Marcy Kollath, parent and garden steward of the school. The school picked up 30 Elija blue festuca plants at the July CCGA distribution and made good use of them on school grounds. Parents at the school attending meetings in July posted their delight and thank you's to Marcy on the school [Facebook Friends page](#).

Edison Regional Gifted Center is located at [4929 North Sawyer Avenue, Chicago](#).

And finally...

Next CCGA Coordinating Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 5:30pm

The next CCGA Coordinating Meeting will be **Tuesday, September 19th 2017 at 5:30pm** at the [Hermitage Street Garden 5643 S. Hermitage, Chicago IL 60636](#). Our host in this beautiful community garden will be **Cordia Pugh**. The focus will be choosing a venue for the 2018 Conference and final preparation for our 9/30 planning/membership retreat.

There is plenty of street parking and reach out to your fellow CCGA peers for a ride. Please bring a snack or drink to share if you can!

NOTE: 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 here 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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Our mailing address is:

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