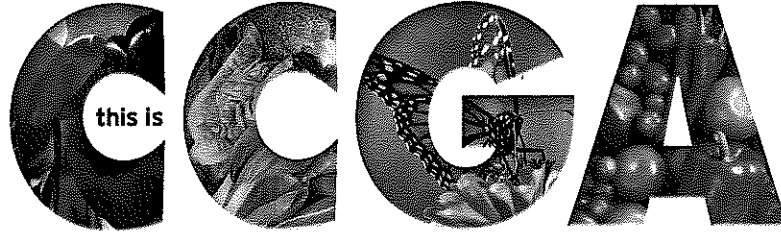


» Chicago Community Gardeners Association



4th Annual Conference

Saturday, March 5, 2016
9am-2pm
South Shore Cultural Center
71st Street and South Shore Drive

Garden as though you will live forever
- William Kent

Welcome

Welcome to the 4th Annual Conference of the Chicago Community Gardeners Association

The Chicago Park District has graciously agreed to CCGA's use of this beautiful facility for our 4th Annual Conference. The South Shore Cultural Center is on the United States National Register of Historic Places, and is a Chicago Landmark. It encompasses the grounds of the former "South Shore Country Club" which was founded in 1905 as a (then) suburban counterpart to Chicago clubs.

The present building was built in 1916 in the Mediterranean Revival Style.

In 1973 the assets of the Country Club were liquidated and the property was sold to the Chicago Park District. A coalition of neighborhood activists and historic preservationists persuaded the Park District not to demolish the main building. It was renamed South Shore Cultural Center, and gradually renovated and repurposed.

The Robeson Room, where our lunch, raffle, slide show and Exhibitors are located today, is named in honor of Paul Robeson, an African American singer and actor who played an important part in the civil rights movement.

We are very fortunate to meet in this historic venue; thank you again to the Chicago Park District. To all our guests, enjoy!

Today's Schedule:

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| 9-10am: Registration and Continental Breakfast | Foyer & Robeson Room |
| 10-11am: 1 st Workshop | See page 3 |
| 11:15am- 12:15pm: 2 nd Workshop | See page 4 |
| 12:15-1:15pm: Lunch & Exhibitor Display | Robeson Room |
| 1:15pm: Keynote Speaker | Robeson Room |
| 1:45pm: Raffle Prize Selection | Robeson Room |

Keynote Speaker: Eliza Fournier

For over 10 years Eliza Fournier, has served with the Windy City Harvest department of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Over that time, she has helped more than 200 communities and schools plan and implement gardens in their neighborhoods. Ms. Fournier is now overseeing the operations of all four Chicago Botanic Garden Youth Farms sites. She has a B.S. in environmental studies from Lake Forest College and a Masters degree in public affairs from Indiana University. She frequently appears on WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* to present garden topics.

Workshops Session One - 10:00am-11:00am

1. Overview of the New Chicago Compost Ordinance: What It Means for Community Gardens

Location: Mezzanine-Oak Room

Speakers: Jan Walling and Billy Burdett

The speakers will walk us through Chicago's brand new Composting Ordinance, explain how it integrates into Chicago's pre-existing composting ordinance, and share information about the new registration and inspection process that will roll out this spring.

2. Building a Compost Bin System that Complies with the New Ordinance:

A Hands-on Workshop

Location: Solarium

Speakers: Robert Hart and Erik Hernandez

Two Chicago community gardeners who are members of the CCGA Resource Committee will demonstrate how to build a compost bin that uses readily available materials, needs little construction know-how, complies with the new ordinance, and makes great compost.

3. Organic Tips to Kick Start Your Community Garden This Spring

Location: Solarium

Speaker: Rosario Maldonado

Getting fidgety? Want to start working in your garden but don't know where to start? Our speaker will answer these and many other questions related to gearing up this spring: when to put in cool weather seeds; what should be cut back now; what you can do this spring to make your garden easier to maintain for the rest of the growing season.

4. Building Healthy Soil & Compost

Location: Robeson Room

Speaker: Breanne Heath

In this session we will look at how soil is formed, how texture and structure are created, and what impact they can have on plant health. We'll go over caring for your soil throughout the year and what you should do to prep for spring, care in mid-summer, and put down for winter. We will also talk about a time line for creating compost and using it to add nutrients and beneficial organisms. We'll interpret soil analyses and arm you with questions to ask of your supplier to make sure you are getting a high quality soil.

Speaker Biographies

Workshops Session Two - 11:15am – 12:15pm

1. Chicago's New Composting Ordinance: Challenges & Opportunities for Community Gardens

Location: Mezzanine Oak Room

Speakers: Robin Cline, Carolyn Johnson and Jacob Belcher

Chicago's new composting ordinance adds another possibility to the pre-existing compost ordinance. For the first time, it is now legal for gardeners to compost food scraps brought in from offsite. This means if gardeners want to, they can accept their neighbors' food scraps in the garden compost bin. Already been doing this? We will discuss both the new and pre-existing ordinance and what this means for community managed composting sites.

2. Building a Compost Bin System That Complies With the New Ordinance: A Hands-on Workshop!

Location: Solarium

Speakers: Robert Hart and Erik Hernandez

Two Chicago community gardeners who are members of the CCGA Resource Committee will demonstrate how to build a compost bin that uses readily available materials, needs little construction know-how, complies with the new ordinance, and makes great compost.

3. Vegetable Gardening: Let's Get Going!

Location: Solarium

Speaker: Ron Wolford

Mr. Wolford will present detailed information on growing vegetables, soil preparation, season extension and garden maintenance. He will explain above-ground growing systems, succession planting and construction practices.

4. What Now? Ten Great Ideas for Refreshing Your Community Garden

Location: Robeson Room

Speaker: Beth Botts

After several years, a community gardener can get "stuck" doing the same chores in the garden, and not thinking creatively. Our speaker will encourage you to look at your community garden with fresh eyes and ideas and try some new strategies. She wants you to take your garden to a new level!

Jacob Belcher of Social Ecologies helps manage the Chicago community composting and bioremediation project The Ground Rules. Social Ecologies engages local residents in building healthy habitats and spreading holistic, systematic thinking by creating and maintaining collaborative long-term interactive neighborhood projects. *The Ground Rules: A Manual to Connect Soil and Soul* is both a document of The Ground Rules process and a guide to community composting and DIY soil remediation.

Beth Botts is a highly experienced Chicago garden writer and speaker whose work appears regularly in *The Chicago Tribune*. She has been an editor and reporter for the *Tribune* and a freelance writer for periodicals such as *Organic Gardening*, *Chicago Gardening*, and *The American Gardener*. Ms. Botts has received a number of awards from the Garden Writers Association. Raised on the South Side of Chicago by an organic gardener/environmentalist, she is an evangelist for common sense gardening that is sustainable for the planet and for people, and for making friends with nature.

Billy Burdett is the Coordinator for Advocates for Urban Agriculture. He is a 2011 graduate of Windy City Harvest's "Sustainable Urban Agriculture" certification program and a certified Permaculture Designer. He has worked at a variety of organic farms and has mentored young urban farmers at Green Youth Farm's Dyett School location. He is also the great-grandson of James H. Burdett, founding Director of the National Garden Bureau and author of the *Victory Garden Manual*.

Robin Cline is the Assistant Director of NeighborSpace, Chicago's community gardening land trust. Before assuming this position, she worked at the Garfield Park Conservatory, managing public and educational programs and designing educational exhibits. Ms. Cline is also an active member of the public art group *Opera-Matic*.

Robert Hart is the son of a sharecropper from Elaine, Arkansas and has been gardening since the age of 10. He is a retired Sergeant of the United States Army, member of Greening Environment Through Gardening, and co-manager of Paradise Garden (Austin), Sherwood Peace Garden (Englewood), and the brand new Veterans Garden in Englewood. Mr. Hart is a founding member of the CCGA Resources Committee and spends his (scant) free time helping seniors on the West Side of Chicago.

Breanne Heath is a certified horticulturalist and experienced edible garden educator who loves growing and teaching others about growing food. She currently manages community gardens and education programs with the Peterson Garden Project, and she has opened a pick-your-own farm called 'The Pie Patch' in the Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood that has been featured in *The Chicago Tribune*. Ms. Heath also serves on the Education Committee of CCGA.

Speaker Biographies

Erik Hernandez was born and raised on the West Side of Chicago and teaches school students computer skills. He raises chickens and is in the process of beginning a new community garden in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood, after having assisted other community gardeners in a myriad of gardening projects. Mr. Hernandez is a key member of the CCGA Resources Committee and the CCGA Communications Committee.

Carolyn Johnson is a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener and Composter Volunteer. She is an active member of Brickyard Community Garden in the Woodlawn neighborhood and a volunteer composter at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Brickyard has a terrific sign in its garden that reinforces best composting practices; you can find a photo of the sign on the CCGA website.

Jen Walling is the Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council. She lobbies on behalf of IEC's nearly 70 member organization on a wide range of issues. During her tenure, she has guided passage of legislation such as Illinois' ban on microbeads in personal care products, funding legislation for IDNR, recreation liability protection for landowners, numerous bills on recycling and composting, and numerous statewide policies.

Ron Wolford is an Educator for the University of Illinois Extension, Cook County Unit. For 31 years, Ron has been working with underserved Chicago neighborhoods through the Chicago Urban Horticulture program, which helps communities develop open spaces into productive community gardens, school gardens and green environments. He also oversees the Chicago Master Gardener Program, writes for the U of I Extension *Gardener's Corner*, supervises Extension's 1200 sq ft vegetable garden at the Museum of Science and Industry Smart Home, and supervises Extension's outreach at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Green Festival, Garfield Park Conservatory, Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, Rooftop Garden, and the Growing Solutions Farm. Ron earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in agricultural education/horticulture from the U of I at Urbana-Champaign.

Rosario Maldonado graduated from the Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest nine-month apprenticeship program in the class of 2013. Her title is Sales Coordinator, Windy City Harvest Apprenticeship. She also serves at the various Windy City sites and at the Pilsen Community Farmers' Market on Sundays.

Exhibitors

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| Beth Botts | Will display her new Garden Book! |
| Feed Earth Now | Micro-organisms & soil |
| Rebuild Exchange | Reclaimed items & info on services at RE |
| Visibility Arts, Search, Inc. | Handmade Artworks |
| UIC Heritage Garden | Info on Seed Library and Seed Swap |
| Openlands | General info on programs |
| Teagan Compost Service | Info on Services & handmade bins |
| ReStore | Habitat for Humanity |
| U of I Master Gardeners | Demo of Seed Starting Techniques |
| CCGA Resource Committee | Free seeds for Distribution |
| Chicago Cares | Info on Volunteerism |
| Girl Scout Troop 20125 | Handmade Crafts |
| NeighborSpace | Community Garden Land Trust Information |
| Jacobo Bravo | Carpenters & Builders |
| Chicago Community Tool Bank | How gardeners can rent tools at low cost |
| Garfield Park Conservatory | Info on classes and educational programs |
| Social Ecologies | Jacob Belcher, selling his new book |

CCGA Resource and Education Committees Upcoming Events:

April 9, 2016: Distribution of Spring Annuals. There will be a short talk on spring gardening; raffle; and plant distribution. \$5.00 registration fee.

May 14, 2016: Distribution of Vegetable Seedlings. There will be a short talk on growing vegetables; raffle; and seedling distribution. \$5.00 registration fee

June 2016: Pruning Class for CCGA: hands-on pruning class in a community garden for CCGA participants. \$5.00 registration fee

July 2016: Elite Growers Perennial Distribution: mid-summer perennial plant distribution. \$5.00 registration fee

August 2016: Elite Growers 2nd Summer Perennial Distribution: \$5.00 registration fee

September 2016: CCGA Fall Perennial Distribution: \$5.00 registration

October 2016: CCGA 3rd Annual Bulb Distribution & Panel Discussion: A panel of Chicago community gardeners will discuss common garden challenges and will share their experiences and suggestions. \$5.00 registration fee

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!

The Chicago Community Gardeners Association would like to thank the following individuals and entities for their generous help and donations, without which this Annual Conference would not be possible.

The Chicago Park District: for allowing us to host this event at the beautiful South Shore Cultural Center. Kristen Brock for coordinating the attendant details. The staff of SSCC for their professionalism and help.

NeighborSpace: for securing this venue, helping to coordinate the registration and CCGA website with the CCGA Communications Committee, photocopying, and general willingness to assist.

Wishbone Catering: for working within our budget to put on a lovely Continental breakfast and Luncheon.

Our Speakers: who all cheerfully agreed to stand up before a large audience and teach!

Our Exhibitors: for being willing to come out and face over 200 eager community gardeners, all of whom (we hope) will come and chat with the exhibitors about their goods and services.

Erik Hernandez: for putting together a wonderful "slide show" of photos of community gardens.

Our Raffle Contributors: So many folks donated raffle prizes that we hope we have listed all of them here: Pat Irby and Robert Hart, Mary Hill, Lucia Jastrzybski, Cordia Pugh, Home Depot, The ReBuilding Exchange, ReStore (Habitat for Humanity), Westover Farms, Christy Webber, NeighborSpace, Openlands, Angela & Sam Taylor, Ellen Newcomer, Chicago Cares, Beth Botts and Mark Teegan.

Amy Olson: for such a lovely logo and program design.

And thank you, Julie!

Without the determination, vision and drive of Julie Samuels, there would be no Chicago Community Gardeners Association as we know it today. Julie has consistently been the driving force: organizing and facilitating meetings, asking questions, recruiting gardeners, and critiquing our efforts. We are sure she is already drafting the agenda for the "after Conference" assessment meeting, and will be asking all of us "What's next?" Thank you, Julie--for your patience, persistence, and belief in CCGA.