

C H A U T A U Q U A



BIRD
TREE
&
GARDEN
CLUB



**What's in
Bloom**

The catmint and butterfly weed around the Amp are looking great just in time for 3 Taps today. Welcome CHQ 2022!

In this photo, the **catmint** is the purple flower in the foreground.

Wondering what the difference is between **catnip and catmint**? Well, they are both in the mint family and both genus *Nepeta*, so definitely related, but with many differences. Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii*) is what you'll find planted in CHQ. Catmint is more compact and has a silvery green leaf and usually has a purple or blue flower.

Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) is rangier looking with a white flower and contains more of the compound nepetalactone that cats find so attractive (and which may be behind the medicinal benefits of catnip). But having the Amp surrounded by lolling, buzzed cats is not a landscaping goal, so Betsy went with catmint. Plus, catmint is prettier.

Despite the fact that catmint is not particularly attractive to cats, the marketers know that gardeners have a smart sense of humor so this catmint has the very clever name: **Purrsian Blue Catmint**. There's another one called Cat's Pajamas (funny!) and another one called Early Bird (kinda sick-funny), but they aren't planted at the amp. The other varieties of catmint planted around the Amp are Walker's Low and Junior Walker (ho-hum names).

The orange flower behind the purple catmint is **butterfly weed**, *Asclepias tuberosa*. [Click to learn more about butterflies in CHQ.](#)

If you squint your eyes or zoom in, you can see another purple showstopper on the other side of the butterfly weed - that's **cranesbill geranium 'Rozanne.'** There's a lot of cranesbill around grounds and it's stunning.

To learn more about the **plantings around the Amp**, [click here](#).



Above: Ken Blankenship will lead FOUR events this week for the BTG. Thank you, Ken! See below for details.

Day by Day by the BTG

Monday, June 27

6:30 PM Lake Talk: "Water Fowl" with Ken Blankenship, noted North American ornithologist.

Location: Heinz Beach

Tuesday, June 28

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM (or whenever we sell out!) BTG Special Event: NATIVE PLANT SALE

Location: Bestor Plaza (in conjunction with the CHQ Farmer's Market)

12:15 PM Brown Bag Lecture: "Birding by Ear" with Ken Blankenship,

Location: in Smith Wilkes Hall

Feel free to **bring your lunch** and listen as Ken explains the many benefits of birding by ear,

introduces some common birds by their songs and call, and shares resources and apps. The talk will be followed by a short group walk to practice birding by ear.

Hot tip: pick up your lunch at the Farmer's Market when you're at the Native Plant Sale in the morning.

4:15 PM [Garden Walk with Horticulturist Joe McMaster.](#)

Location: meet at Smith Wilkes Hall - lakeside

Wednesday, June 29




7:00 AM - 12:00 PM Special Event for Active Life Members Only (tickets required): Birding Field Trip off grounds with Ken Blankenship. [Click for details and to buy your ticket.](#)

4:15 PM [Tree Walk with Forester Jack Gulvin.](#)

Location: meet at Smith Wilkes Hall - lakeside

Thursday, June 30



7:30 AM [Bird Walk with Ken Blankenship.](#)


Location: meet at entrance to Smith Wilkes Hall.

* Binoculars encouraged, dogs discouraged!

4:15 PM [Purple Martin Chat with expert Jack Gulvin.](#)

Location: meet at Purple Martin Houses by the Sports Club.

Friday, July 1



9:00 AM [Nature Walk with Naturalist Jack Gulvin.](#)

Location: meet at Smith Wilkes Hall - lakeside

12:30 PM Garden Walk with Betsy Burgeson, Supervisor of Gardens and Landscapes, CHQ.

Location: meet at Fletcher Hall Rain Garden

****Some BTG presentations involve walking over uneven grass/ground. Weather appropriate clothing and footgear are suggested as are sunscreen and hats.****
