

C H A U T A U Q U A



BIRD
TREE
&
GARDEN
CLUB



What's in Bloom in Chq?

(Hint: It's likely to be yellow)

This just in from our embedded reporter and long-time board member Rosemary Rappole, who returned to Chautauqua from St. Pete two weeks ago:

There has been snow, sleet, cold winds and a few sunny days since I got back two weeks ago.

There are bright yellows everywhere you look around the county with tons of daffodils and forsythia in full bloom.

Flowering fruit trees and tulips are out in Westfield.

The coolest thing that is happening are the birds. The yard is full of color with 6 Baltimore orioles at the jelly feeder, cardinals, blue jays, gold finch and 3 gorgeous red-breasted grossbeaks on the seed feeders.

The orioles and goldfinch look like bright jewels.

Photos by:

- Betsy Burgeson (above): Wake Robin / Red Trillium at the Hall of Philosophy (okay, okay, so it's not yellow, but the photo was too good not to use)
- Rosemary Rappole (below): Baltimore oriole in foreground with the lemon-green new leaves of a white lilac in the background.



Mother's Day



By Betsy Burgeson
Supervisor of Gardens & Landscapes

Each year, the first week of May brings annual flowers back into many people's lives as hanging baskets are often the gift of choice for Mother's Day. I have always loved picking out the most beautiful baskets my brothers, sisters and I could find each year for our Mom and Grandma. Just walking in to the greenhouses seeing all the incredible colors and breathing in the wonderful humid earthy air put a smile on my face. I knew I was a true gardener early on in life when I would ALMOST get more excited the night before Mother's Day, than Christmas Eve in anticipation of seeing my Mom and Grandma's reactions when we revealed the chosen baskets.

When it comes to hanging baskets, I don't know of more iconic hanging baskets in Chautauqua County than the 11 that adorn the Welcome Center at Chautauqua Institution. Growing up I loved driving by Chautauqua, seeing the incredible cascade of blooms spilling over in colorful waves. I never dreamed that one day I would be responsible for designing, planting and maintaining these icons!

This past week, our first round of annual flowers were delivered and we have started planting the 300+ planters, urns, baskets and boxes that are on display throughout the grounds. As I have been planting the 2022 Welcome Center baskets I have been inspired to share a secret with you in honor of Mother's Day. Every year when it is time to design the annual planters, I always include a planter or two designed with blues, yellows and white as a tribute to the most amazing women I know; my mom, Peg Hite and my grandma, Doris Guertin. They have encouraged and inspired me throughout my life, instilling a love of learning, an appreciation for the natural world and empowering me to become the person I am today. Even though I lost my grandma in 2007 not a day goes by that I don't think about her and all that she taught me.

The planters, filled with Swedish colors, not only are an homage to them but they act as my own personal sanctuaries- reminding me of these two extraordinary women every time I drive past.

This year, my mom celebrates her 80th birthday on June 25th – Opening Weekend! In honor of my mom and all she has accomplished in her life, I am revealing the location of the "secret" Swedish planters for the 2022 season. This year the large white urns at the top of Vincent Ave. will be planted in shades of blue, yellow and white with love for my Mom. I wouldn't be where I am today without the strength and encouragement she has given me and all my siblings. I love her more than flowers and chocolate. As you walk by the Vincent Brick Walk urns this year, I hope you stop and think of the people that have meant so much to your own life. I know I can't wait to think of my Mom every time I enter the grounds. Happy Mother's Day, Mom.

Photo above by Betsy Burgeson of the planter at the top of the Vincent Brick Walk in full glory in 2018.

I'm sorry the top had to be cropped because it was a thriller of a grass called Sky Rocket.

Successful planters usually follow the adage of "A thriller, a filler and a spiller."

A (Newsletter) Nature Walk with Jack



Walk in the forest in May and you may find the ground carpeted with the small green leaves of the **Canada mayflower**. Find them in the Ravine, Bride's Garden and a few other spots on the grounds where the original plants survive. If you look at the leaves closely, you will find that the veins are not branched, like maple leaves, but instead are roughly parallel.

This is typical of monocots like mayflowers, which were in the lily family but now are in the asparagus family. A few of the mayflowers have stored enough energy in their roots to produce a stem with two leaves and a cluster of small white flowers at the top. These are known by some as wild lily-of-the-valley or two-leaved Solomon's seal.

Other members of the family have flower parts in 3s and 6s but the mayflowers have four petals, making them an exception. You will probably need a hand lens to see this. Later in the summer they produce small speckled berries.

- Jack Gulvin

- photos of Canada Mayflower by Becky Nystrom (above) and Carol Markham (below) of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

Check out this Virtual [Mother's Day Wildflower Walk](#) with Jack and Becky Nystrom of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, filmed in 2020 at the Bentley Preserve.

And if you're looking for some Jack IRL, you can find him leading tours during the season on Wednesdays (Tree Tour at 4:15pm) and Fridays (Nature Tour at 9am). And of course, Jack will be leading the Purple Martin Chat on Thursdays at 4:15pm, weeks 1-4. For more info, [click here](#).



BTG Brown Bag Speaker Series

~ Tuesdays at 12:15pm in Smith-Wilkes Hall ~

Week 1: June 28

[Ken Blankenship](#)

Ornithologist and Guide

Lecture Title:
Birding by Ear



Ken will explain the many benefits of birding by ear, introduce some common birds by their songs and call, and share resources and apps. The talk will be followed by a short group walk to practice birding by ear.

Ahead of his Tuesday Brown Bag Lecture, Ken will lead our weekly Lake Walk the evening of Monday, June 27 at 6:30pm. His topic will be water fowl.

[Details](#)

Week Two : July 5

[John Wenzel, PhD](#)

Entomologist

Lecture Title:
**Beyond the
Waterfall:
Seeking Meaning
From Nature in the
Tropics**



John will trace the role of the Naturalist from their modest start as scouts to unknown realms to the fundamental role they ultimately played in shaping today's Western culture.

Ahead of his Tuesday Brown Bag Lecture, John will lead our weekly Lake Walk the evening of Monday, July at 6:30pm. His topic will be lake insects.

Details

Week Three : July 12

[Bob Jeffrey](#)

Architectural Preservationist

**Lecture Title:
2020 Chautauqua
House & Garden Tour
Preview**



Bob's always-popular lecture and slide show will explore the unique development of Chautauqua's architecture as it relates to the House & Garden Tour, which will take place on Thursday, July 14.

[Click here to purchase tickets for the House & Garden Tour](#)

Details

Week Four : July 19

[Heather Wolf](#)

Birder, Author,
Photographer, and Educator



**Lecture Title:
The Birds That
Surround Us and
How to Find Them**

Heather will discuss the migratory birds of the Chautauqua area and share tips for finding more birds, including colorful and curious neotropical migrants. She will also introduce eBird—one of the largest biodiversity citizen science projects in the world and one of Heather's projects as a web developer at The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Heather's books will be available for purchase and signing following the lecture.

[Details](#)

Week Five: July 26

[Sandra Youssef](#)

[Clinton](#), FASLA
Landscape Architect



**Lecture Title:
Gardens
Transformed:
Designing for People
and Place**

Sandy will share in slides and words how she uses her extensive knowledge of plants and a painterly design approach to create exuberant gardens that highlight the seasonal rhythms of landscape and nature.

Details

Week Seven :

August 9

[Marta McDowell](#)

Author and teacher

Lecture Title:

**Unearthing The
Secret Garden: The
Gardening Story of
Frances Hodgson
Burnett**



Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic *The Secret Garden* has inspired generations of readers to cultivate their own bits of earth. Marta's lecture will explore Burnett's life, work, and the passion for flowers and gardening that inspired her book.

Marta's books will be available for purchase and signing following the lecture.

Please note that the Chautauqua Opera Conservancy will perform the *The Secret Garden* on August 10. (Not a coincidence!) [Click here for tickets and details.](#)

Details

**Week Eight : August
16**

[Doug Tallamy](#)

**Lecture Title:
The Nature of Oaks**



Doug will discuss his recent book, *The Nature of Oaks*, in which he reveals what is going on in oak trees month by month, highlighting the seasonal cycles of life, death, and renewal.

Doug's books will be available for purchase and signing following the lecture.

[Details](#)

**Week Nine: August
23**

**Sustainable
Landscapes
Presentation by**

[Paul Tukey](#), Chief
Sustainability Officer,
[Glenstone Museum](#)



and Panel Discussion with

[Paul Tukey](#), Chief Sustainability Officer, [Glenstone Museum](#)

[Mark Wenzler](#), Director of the Climate Change Initiative, CI

[Betsy Burgeson](#), Supervisor of Landscapes and Gardens, CI

[Jennifer Franco](#), Vice President, BTG

Paul Tukey is a nationally-renowned expert on organic landscaping, former journalist, and host of HGTV's show People, Places, and Plants. Paul will present a program on sustainable landscapes followed by a panel discussion with Betsy Burgeson, Jennifer Franco and Mark Wenzler.

[Details](#)



Mary Lou Parlato introducing a speaker on a Brown Bag Tuesday (pre-pandemic). Mary Lou is our **Program Chair** and the Wonder Woman who arranges to bring all these speakers and guides to Chautauque each season... and then arranges for their gate passes, parking passes, transportation, and care & feeding while they are with us on grounds. A HUGE thank you to Mary Lou!

The BTG is so happy to offer over 80 programs this summer. For the last two summers we had to slim our program down to our daily [Nature Walks](#), but we will be up and running at full speed this summer.

Note: Because of The Community Band Concert on Tuesday, August 2, we will not host a Brown Bag Lecture that day. However, the BTG will host two additional walking tours that week in celebration of the CI theme: *After Dark: The World of Nighttime*. Details below.

- Photo by Angela James



The Native Plant Sale Returns!

June 28th 8am - 12pm

The Farmer's Market at Bestor Plaza

The BTG is glad to announce that our **annual native plant sale** is set for the **first Tuesday of the 2022 season**.

We've missed having this event and wanted to make sure that those of you who depended on us for your native plants can come and browse our selection.

This year the plants come from **Amanda's Native Gardens**, located in Dansville, NY. They will be in one-quart containers and ready to plant in your gardens and in your porch planters. There will also be a large selection of herbs for cooking.

We hope you bring your questions with you, as several well-versed board members will be there to help you make your choices. Come early, as we historically sell out during the first two hours.

Native Plant Listing:

Swamp Milkweed

Spotted Joe Pye Weed

Red Cardinal Flower

Anise Hyssop

Purple Cone Flower

Green Cone Flower

One-eye Sunflower

Black Cohosh

Wild Columbine

Goldenrod Showy

False Solomon's Seal

White Turtlehead

Blazing Star

Monarda, Red, Beebalm

Amsonia, Willow Blue

Dutchman's Breeches

- Chris Flanders

- photo by Angela James of the 2019 sale



Week Six "After Dark" BTG Companion Program Preview

CI's theme for **Week Six** this season is **After Dark: The World of Nighttime** and the BTG is pleased to offer three special programs that week in celebration of the theme:

Sunday July 31st 8:30pm

Twan Leenders will lead a night walk and talk exploring the **evening sounds and behaviors** of insects and other wildlife. You will learn about their habitats and the activities that occur under the dark canopy and near the lake during the summer season.

Meet-up location TBD, but will announced at a later date in this newsletter, on our website and social media platforms, in the Daily and on CI digital boards.

Tuesday, August 2 at 4:15pm

Betsy Burgeson will lead a tour of the newly-refurbished **Rappole Night Garden at Smith-Wilkes Hall**. Built to honor **Francesca Goodell Rappole**, who served as president of the BTG for almost 20 years and championed bat education and preservation, the garden was originally planted in 1998, but is being completely overhauled this spring by Betsy and her crew.

Located across from the entrance to Smith-Wilkes Hall, the **Night Garden** features foliage plants that almost **glow in the moonlight** nestled among intoxicating evening **fragrant blooms that attract nocturnal pollinators** (as well as human passersby). The large **bat sculpture by Larry Griffis II** will oversee the installation of the new plantings in the next couple of weeks. Francesca's daughter **Rosemary Rappole** has been the Chair of the House & Garden Tour since 2014 and granddaughter **Cesca Koron** has been the Tour Treasurer since 2015. Both serve on the BTG Board.

Meet at the Rappole Night Garden at Smith-Wilkes Hall.

Tuesday August 2nd 8:30pm

Bat biologist **Jonathan Townsend** will lead us on an adventure tracking the bat population on the grounds. He will use a device to monitor the **bat echolocation**. Using a special microphone with sophisticated circuitry and software, he can transform **ultrasonic bats calls** into audio that you can hear.

Jonathan will be introduced by BTG's own **Bat Lady, Caroline Bissell**, who led weekly and very popular Bat Chats in Smith-Wilkes Hall for almost 20 years. She continues to

lead a Bat Chat for Road Scholars post-season.

Meet-up location TBD, but will announced at a later date in this newsletter, on our website and social media platforms, in the Daily and on CI digital boards.



Chautauqua County Day at Chautauqua Institution

CI is offering free admission and parking to Chautauqua County residents on **Thursday, July 21**. The BTG will offer two additional guided tours at **1:30pm** that day for county residents to introduce them to the natural beauty of the grounds. One will be led by Betsy Burgeson, Supervisor of Landscape and Gardens, and the other by Jack Gulvin, BTG Naturalist. *Meet-up locations TBD.*

- Leslie Renjilian

- photo by Angela James of Jack Gulvin leading a nature tour on a rainy day



Art of the Osprey

Jeanne Weibanga's Art of the Osprey Photography Exhibit will be on display at the **Athenaeum Hotel** from **June 22 - July 9**. [More info here.](#)

Jeanne will be the speaker at the **BTG Annual Life Member Lunch** on **August 5**. Tickets for that event will go on sale in June.

Jeanne shares photos from the **Loomis Bay Osprey Nest Cam** on her Facebook page and the BTG instagram. Follow us by clicking [here!](#)

Now Hiring!



Well, not for money, but all the glory...

Two Opportunities:

1. We need **volunteer docents** for the House & Garden Tour on July 14th. Would you be willing to work a 2.5 hour shift? In addition to the fame and glory, you will get a free ticket for the tour, which you can use to tour other homes in the remaining 2.5 hours. Please email Liz Keogh if you can help.

2. Do you have special knowledge about the Bs, Ts, or Gs? (or any other Chautauqua-related flora or fauna?). Please consider **contributing an article** for our newsletter. Email me and let's discuss!

- Leslie Renjilian

- photo by Angela James of the heron we hired for a photo shoot



Historical Tidbit

The first order of business of the newly-formed **Bird and Tree Club** on **August 7, 1913** was to elect a president. **Louise Igoe Miller**, wife of Robert A. Miller, the third son of Lewis Miller, was given this distinction. She served as president for 14 years. (Current presidents are limited to 4 years).

The Club's Mission Statement was also adopted that night. A few of their admirable goals included:

- Protect the birds from all their enemies, including cats
- Conserve the 60 species of trees at Chautauqua and illustrate an application of the conservation movement (these women were wise, their goals continue to be relevant)
- Build bird houses of artist design

- Janine Obee, BTG Historian

- Photos from Chq Archives:

- Louise Igoe Miller in 1922
- The Louise Igoe Miller Garden c. 1939. The garden is now called the Discovery Garden.

