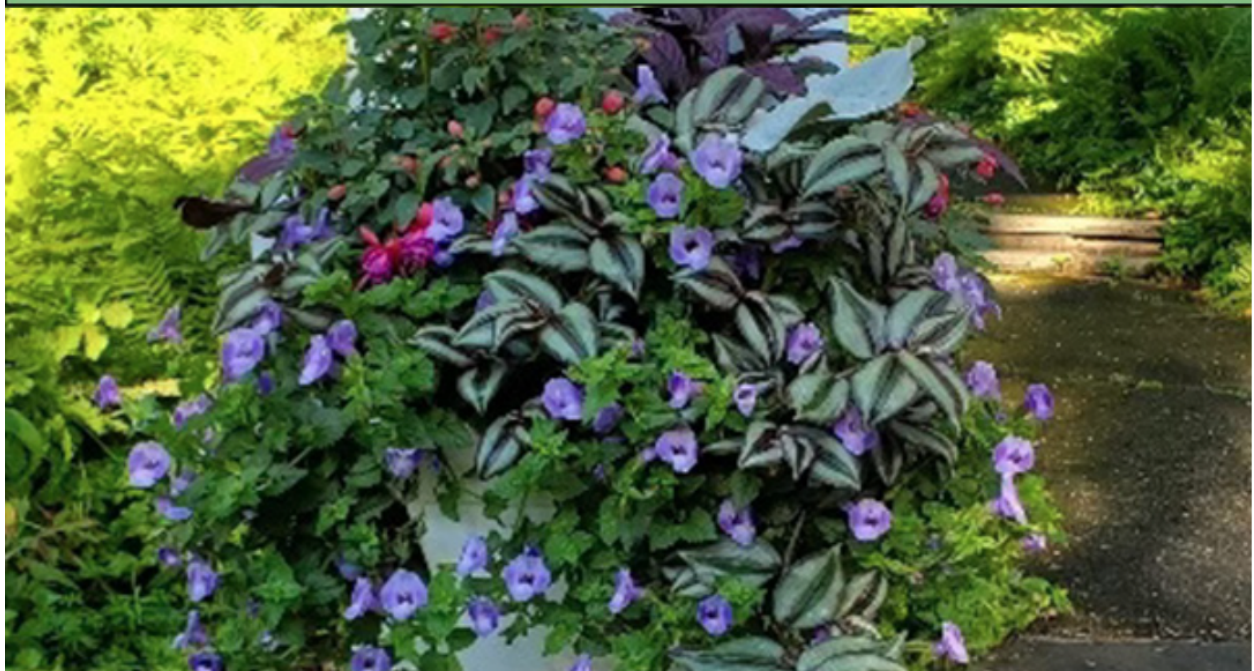


C H A U T A U Q U A



BIRD
TREE
&
GARDEN
CLUB



What's in Bloom?

Betsy Burgeson, Chautauqua's Supervisor of Gardens and Landscapes reports that this week's FAQ is:

What's in these planters?

And within those planters, the plant attracting attention is one vaguely familiar to many as a houseplant. In the photo above from the Hall of Philosophy, the **Wandering Dude** is the green leaf with a purple stripe wandering throughout and out of the planter.

Most commonly a houseplant, Betsy has brilliantly used as an annual. The Wandering Dude was formerly known as Wandering Jew, but was rechristened by TikTok creators (who are both clever and houseplant-obsessed). It's also called Inch Plant, Spiderwort, or by its real name: ***Tradescantia Zebrina***. Try it at home in your outdoor planters. After all, what we learn at Chautauqua shouldn't be restricted to what we pick up in the amp.

Other annuals appearing in planters near you include: Blue Wave Torenia, Poor Man's Curry, Silver Falls Dichondra, Royal Velvet Petunias, Wicked Purple Verbena, Angel Wings Senecio and Meteor Shower Verbena.

Many of you may be using apps such as Picture This, Plant Snap, or Seek to help you identify plants. Please take a minute to let us know your favorite app. We will be exploring them in an upcoming newsletter on this topic.

The Backstory

Betsy and her staff planted and maintain (including DAILY watering) over 300 pots and planters. But the pots and planters in Chautauqua didn't just pop up in Week Zero without some planning.

This process started back in the fall when Betsy placed the order for the spring annuals. Planning out color schemes (purple and white this year) and quantities, deciding whether to try new things or go with old-stand-bys - it's an art and a science.

When the annuals arrived in April, they were little plugs. Betsy and her handful of pre-employees repotted, watered, and cared for them (in hoop house incubators warmed by propane heaters) until they were strong enough to plant outdoors in June. It's a lot of work, but ordering one dollar plugs rather than expensive, 4-inch pots saves thousands of dollars each year.

The Crew

This year Betsy has 24 seasonal workers and 4 full-time employees for the gardens and landscapes. Six of those workers are full-time mowers and four are full-time waterers. In 2020, there were only three employees, and in 2021, the crew was only eight. We are excited to have the Gardens Crew back to (nearly) full strength this year and grateful for the handful that maintained the grounds through the worst of the pandemic.

Annual Plantings

While Betsy has been moving toward more and more perennials in the gardens, many of the plants you see in the planters and hanging baskets are annuals.

Photo captions:

1. The first photo below is a pot on the front steps of the President's Cottage on North Lake Drive. The purple and white plant on the front right is the Wicked Purple Verbena, dark purple on the lower left is Royal Velvet Petunia, the spiky things in the middle are Meteor Shower Verbena and the silvery bit is Parfum d'Ethiopia Artemisia.

2. Hayden Burgeson hand watering in the Bride's Garden

3. The water truck. You may see this truck around grounds. Some gardens have hoses and spigots, but many require an old-fashioned watering can filled from the tank on the back of the pick-up truck.

- Leslie Renjilian

- photos by Leslie, Betsy, and Angela James





Day by Day by the BTG



Above: Sandra Youssef Clinton will present our Tuesday Brown Bag Lecture this week. Details are below with lots more information on our website.

Monday, July 25



4:15 PM [Lake Talk: Trevor Burlingame, Chautauqua Institution Golf Course Superintendent](#)

Location: Heinz Beach

Tuesday, July 26



12:15 PM [BTG Brown Bag Lecture: "Gardens Transformed: Designing for People and Place" with Sandra Youssef Clinton](#)

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall

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

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - lakeside

Wednesday, July 27



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

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - lakeside patio

Thursday, July 28



7:30 AM [Bird Walk with Ornithologist Twan Leenders](#)

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall entrance

* Binoculars encouraged, dogs discouraged!

Friday, July 29



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

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall - lakeside

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

Location: Main entrance to the Amp

****Most BTG walks involve some uneven ground. We suggest sturdy shoes.****

Sunday, July 31



8:30 PM SPECIAL BTG EVENT: Explore Evening Sounds & Behaviors of Insects and Other Wildlife at CHQ with Twan Leenders

Location: Smith Wilkes Hall



**What's
for lunch?**

Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship with other Life Members **next Friday, August 5 at noon** at the Athenaeum.

The **deadline to purchase your ticket is this *this* Friday, July 27 at noon.**

BTG's own **Jeanne Wiebenga** will present a slide show and a talk entitled ***Return of the Ospreys to Chautauqua Lake.*** [Click to learn more about Jeanne and her photography.](#)

The lunch will also as our annual membership meeting.

Our meal will be a mixed green salad with a number of add-ons, including shredded chicken, two choices of dressings, plus assorted breads and a dessert pavlova.

You can purchase your \$40 ticket by clicking below to pay online or mail a check to the BTG (PO Box 721 Chq 14722). Tickets will also be for sale in person this Tuesday, July 26 at noon at the membership table at Smith Wilkes Hall. Cash, check, or charge.

August 5 - Life Member Lunch - Click for details and to purchase tickets

What's a - Buzz?

Unfortunately, the answer is:

Mosquitoes.

There are about 3500 species of mosquitoes worldwide and 200 in the United States. Approximately 6% bite humans and roughly half of that 6% are capable of spreading human disease.

Those last species are called “vectors” and mosquitoes are the most important vectors of human disease, carrying malaria, yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya, West Nile fever, encephalitis, and other scourges. We think of most of these

diseases as being found in poor tropical nations, but they were, until fairly recently, found in large swaths of the US. Malaria, for example, was a problem in most of the Mississippi watershed, and window screens were major tools in malaria's eradication from the U.S.

One of the major threats to humans of climate change is the northward spread of mosquito vectors and re-emergence of mosquito-borne human diseases. Thus far, I've been focusing on humans. Mosquitoes also feed on other mammals, birds, reptiles and even amphibians – basically any animal with blood – and can spread diseases among them too.

Three genera (*Aedes*, *Culex* and *Anopheles*) of mosquitoes contain most of the species that are attracted to humans to feed. All mosquitoes need water for their larvae to develop in. *Aedes* mosquitoes, known as floodplain mosquitoes, need little water and develop very quickly from egg to adult. *Culex* mosquitoes are night-feeders and will also feed on birds, so they can transmit some maladies, such as West Nile virus, from birds to people. They often develop in tree-holes and temporary pools. *Anopheles* mosquitoes are carriers of malaria, and those disease-causing parasites must develop for several days in adult female mosquitoes to complete their complicated lifecycle.

At Chautauqua, the major complaint about mosquitoes involves their bites, not the diseases they carry. **Only females actually take blood meals**, thereby ingesting the protein they need to form eggs. (The males of most species feed on flower nectar if they feed at all as adults.) When females feed, they inject saliva containing an anticoagulant into the wound to prevent the clogging their feeding apparatus. Anticoagulants and other substances in the saliva cause a response by our immune systems that produces a type of antibody (IgE) that stimulates local reactions if we've been bitten before – and who hasn't? Those responses cause increase in local blood flow and leaking from capillaries, resulting in increased heat, swelling, redness and pain or itching at that site. Different people react differently to mosquito bites and different species cause more severe reactions than others, but itchy, swollen, red bumps occur in almost everybody. They may last for a few minutes or a few days.

Lots of well-known remedies, with more or less effectiveness, are known, but

the bites are universally annoying.

More people died from malaria in 2020 (627,000, mostly children) than any other disease except tuberculosis. The relapsing fevers of the more common types of malaria cause pain, anguish, and loss of billions of dollars' worth of labor each year. In 2020, the last year for which reliable records are available, 241 million people showed clinical signs and symptoms of malaria. The *Anopheles* mosquitoes that spread malaria feed primarily at night on sleeping victims. That means the simplest techniques of prevention – insecticide impregnated bed nets – are among the least expensive and most effective.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has funded research for years on development of a vaccine against malaria with only partial success. Unlike viruses and bacteria, the organisms that cause malaria are protozoans and are quite complex genetically. That makes it hard to develop vaccines or effective drugs against them. Each time a “silver bullet” drug comes into widespread use, the disease organisms evolve drug resistant strains that quickly become dominant, thus evading our treatments.

Female mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, warmth, and dark objects. That makes mammals (warm, furry animals that breathe out CO₂) prime targets. We can exploit our knowledge of mosquito behavior by being less active and trying to stay cool while dressing in light-colored clothing during mosquito season. Unfortunately, we can't stop breathing.

Most mosquito repellents (e.g., citronella candles, high pitched sound producing devices, etc.) aren't very effective. A directional or ceiling fan can prevent them from flying against the air currents and locating you, so it's really the most useful way to keep them away. Avoiding areas where mosquitoes are common and times (dawn and dusk) when they're plentiful can also help. Birds, lizards, and frogs will have to fend for themselves.

- Dennis McNair, BTG Entomologist (he has other titles as well, but we feel this is his most important one! ;)

- no photos for this article. I figure if you've never seen a mosquito, you've been living a pretty charmed life and I didn't want to jinx it.