



For Immediate Release

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It's Summer in the City at The Lurie Garden

Experience Nature at Free Family and Adult Programs All Season Long

CHICAGO (Feb. 18, 2009) – The Lurie Garden is abuzz with free hands-on workshops, lectures, stories and songs, evening garden strolls, nature walks and more all summer long. From birds, bees and bulbs, to plants and photography, there's so much to learn about nature and the great outdoors at The Lurie Garden.

Summer's programming schedule follows:

Free Family Programs

Family Workshops

Family workshops are from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required. Call 312-742-TIXS (8497) to register. Children must be at least six years old and accompanied by an adult.

- “Thinking Inside the Box: Terrariums”
Saturday, May 16, Gallery 37 Building, 66 E. Randolph St., 5th Floor
“Terra” is Latin for “earth” (soil) and “arium” means “enclosure for safe-keeping.” Each family goes home with a terrarium made of glass “boxes,” with soil, plants and water.
- “Flower Power Landscapes” (co-taught by the Art Institute of Chicago)
Sunday, June 14, 4th floor conference room
Explore colors and textures in the garden. Then, experiment with oil pastels to create a landscape drawing inspired by master paintings in the Art Institute's collection.
- “The Buzz on Bees”
Sunday, July 12, 4th floor conference room
Learn about the importance of bees and pollination. Then, make bee-u-tiful crafts and taste different honeys.

- more -

The Lurie Garden Summer Programs//Add One

- “Wild Adaptations & Native Plants”
Saturday, Aug. 22, 1st floor Garland Room
Discover how the compass plant got its name and whether Little Bluestem is really blue.
Explore interesting plant adaptations, learn about native plants and make a few plant-based crafts.

Stories and Songs in the Garden

Tuesdays, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11 and Sept. 8, 6 p.m.

Bring little ones to The Lurie Garden to enjoy a nature-based story, music and movement led by garden staff and Shana Harvey, teacher of the popular Wiggleworms program at Chicago’s Old Town School of Music. Snacks, blankets and music makers are welcome. Meet on the grass at the garden’s south end. Pre-registration is not required.

Free Adult Programs

Lectures

All lectures are held at 6 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street. Pre-registration is not required (except for “Natural Lawn Care Basics” on May 9).

- “Sustainable Strategies for Greener Gardening”
Thursday, March 26, Millennium Park Room, 5th floor
Julie Siegel, J. Siegel Designs, Inc., discusses steps you can take to integrate greener gardening practices in your landscape.
- “Welcoming Bees in Your Garden or Yard: What You Can Do to Provide Habitat”
Thursday, April 16, Millennium Park Room, 5th floor
Alan Molumby, Ph.D., professor of biology, University of Illinois Chicago, discusses the natural history of bees, bee diversity and Chicago bees, especially solitary bees, as well as the effects of bee habitat destruction. He provides practical tips on how Chicagoans can create viable bee habitats in their gardens.
- “The Magic of ‘Minor’ Small Bulbs” (includes a walk to the garden)
Thursday, May 7, Garland Room, 1st floor
Jill Selinger, Chicago Botanic Garden, shows how this overlooked and underutilized group of bulbs can be used in naturalistic gardens and groundcover plantings and as a blanket of color amidst emerging perennials in early spring.
- “Natural Lawn Care Basics”
Saturday, May 9, Garland Room, 1st floor
Steve Pincuspy, Safer Pest Control Project, will discuss how to create a natural and safe lawn that is truly sustainable. The synthetic approach to lawn care can impact water quality, harm wildlife, contribute to air pollution and even affect public health, making it an unsustainable choice. To register, call the Center for Green Technology at 312-746-9642.

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The Lurie Garden Summer Programs//Add Two

- “Drought Tolerant Plants for Perennial Combinations” (includes a walk to the garden)
Thursday, June 11, Millennium Park Room, 5th floor
Grace Koehler, Midwest Groundcovers, shares information on hearty plants that can handle the heat with little or no water. She shows how to group them in a garden setting.

Morning Bird and Nature Walks

Wednesdays, April 22, May 13 and 27 and June 10, 7:30 a.m.

Join Nature Conservancy members and The Lurie Garden staff on informal bird and plant appreciation walks in the garden. Meet at Cloud Gate in Millennium Park. Pre-registration required. Call 312-580-2357 to register.

Adult Hands-On Workshops

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Call 312-742-5519 to register. Workshops meet at the boardwalk's south end, overlooking Monroe St.

- “Keeping a Nature/Garden Journal”
Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Spring is the perfect time for urban dwellers to start a journal to stay connected to nature. Bonnie Tawse, environmental programs coordinator for The Lurie Garden, provides creative yet practical prompts to get you started. The group will spend time in the garden observing and journaling. All levels are welcome.
- “Getting to Know The Lurie Garden's Top 10 Plants”
Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Colleen Lockovitch, director and horticulturist for The Lurie Garden, highlights her favorite plants in the garden. She discusses the plants' attributes linked to seasonal interest, design, sustainability and identifying characteristics.
- “Summer Photography: A Closer Look at The Lurie Garden”
Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Join talented instructors from the Chicago Photography Center for a hands-on workshop and photo shoot in the garden. All levels of experience are welcome. A \$20 materials fee applies.

Evening Garden Strolls

Tuesdays, May 19 and June 16, 6 p.m.

Join The Lurie Garden staff for a casual yet informative walk to discover the garden's beauty in spring, summer and the evening light. Meet at the boardwalk's south end overlooking Monroe St. No pre-registration required.

Lurie Garden Guided Walks

Sundays from May 10 through Sept. 20, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Learn more about The Lurie Garden during free 20-minute guided walks with University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners. Discover native plants, Chicago symbolism in the garden's design and perennials that can be easily grown in the home garden. Meet in the garden. Tours leave every 10 to 15 minutes, rain or shine. Pre-registration is not required.

- more -

The Lurie Garden Summer Programs//Add Three

The Lurie Garden in Millennium Park is located at the southeast corner of Millennium Park, near the corner of Columbus Drive and Monroe Street. Millennium Park is easily reached by CTA and adjacent public parking is available. Millennium Park is universally accessible to patrons with disabilities. For more information, visit www.millenniumpark.org.

Visit www.millenniumpark.org/artandarchitecture/lurie_garden.html for more information about The Lurie Garden, including programming, seasonal highlights, plant features and design elements.

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About The Lurie Garden

Designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd., Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel, the 2.5-acre Lurie Garden pays homage to the city's motto, "Urbs in Horto" (City in a Garden), which refers to Chicago's transformation from its flat and marshy origins to a bold and powerful city. Highlights of the garden include the dramatically-lit, 15-foot-high Shoulder Hedge. This physical representation of author Carl Sandburg's famous description of the "City of Big Shoulders" encloses the garden on two sides. A graceful hardwood footbridge over shallow water divides the garden diagonally between "light" and "dark" plates. In 2008, The Lurie Garden earned the top design award from the American Society of Landscape Architects – besting hundreds of entries from around the world. The Lurie Garden endowment is managed by Millennium Park Incorporated.

About Millennium Park

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the 24.5-acre Millennium Park is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. In addition to The Lurie Garden, the Park's prominent features include the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular cloud Gate sculpture.

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