

## May 14, 2019 Go Green IL Meeting

Rachel Rosenberg - Director of Corporate Relations at CBG

- Bees & Beyond - thematic program that will inspire an appreciation for the vital role pollinators play in our everyday lives and in a healthy, diverse planet
- A Pollinator's Perspective - butterflies, birds, bees, and beyond - program this summer to teach all about pollinators beyond just bees

Ryan Anderson – Community IPM Specialist, IPM Institute of North America

- Midwest Grows Green
  - Accomplish lawn and land care behavior change by sharing information at three spaces:
    - Pesticide-Free Parks
    - Point of Purchase
    - Community Engagement
  - Take the MGG pledge at [bit.ly/MGGpldg](http://bit.ly/MGGpldg)
- Lawns are largest irrigated crop - which use lots of pesticides and water
  - EPA data says that the garden sector applies 90 million pounds of pesticides per year
  - Average homeowner will apply over 3x the amount of pesticides at home than farmers do on their crops
- Natural Lawn Care
  - Diet: understand and feed soil
    - Soil test (nutrients, pH, organic matter content, get every three years)
    - 16 nutrients essential for soil - lots of fertilizers focus only on 3
    - Synthetics release more quickly and don't stay long-term, unlike natural fertilizers like worms
  - Exercise: culturally maintain healthy grass - over-seeding, watering, aerating
    - If you have soil and grass that are healthy, you'll crowd out weeds
    - Mowing high helps grass outcompete weeds and pests - grass focuses on roots instead of shoots
    - Aeration and compost application help soil health
- Lawn and Land Forum
  - Webinar on June 3 about Park Ridge/Niles school systems that broke contract with Tru Green to manage land in-house
- June 1 - working in Riverdale, who manage all parks pesticide free
- Chicago Grows Green celebration - June 1 - June 8
- Resources: [Midwestgrowsgreen.org](http://Midwestgrowsgreen.org) or contact Ryan at [randerson@ipminstitute.org](mailto:randerson@ipminstitute.org)
- Questions
  - Dense and deeply rooted grass system is best against pests, rather than chemicals/products
  - Eco-lawns use micro-clover as it's base - clover recycles nitrogen, so you don't need fertilizer
  - Lawn care companies listen to their clients - tell your lawn care companies that you want natural lawn care

Stuart Wagenius, Conservation scientist at CBG

- How to promote native plants over non-native plants
- Chicago Bungalow Association and online at Natural Communities have good native plant sale info
- Why plant natives? They are “green” in three ways:
  - Green - because of much chlorophyll and provides good habitat
    - 547 species of moths in CBG McDonald Woods

- Milkweed + caterpillar exercise
- Chickadees - ginkgo trees (non-native) versus native trees
  - In a study, in habitat that had less than 70% native plants and trees - chickadees could not form a family
- Green - because sustainable
  - Roots of native plants grow very
  - Habitat for wildlife both above and below ground
  - Captures rain, prevents erosion, sequesters carbon
- Green - because they save money
  - Resilience with biodiversity
  - Less maintenance needed
  - We spend millions of dollars getting rid of invasive species that have gone crazy

Bob Dean, Executive Director, Center for Neighborhood Technology

- CNT promotes environmental sustainability and social equity
- Urban flooding - occurs when there's too much rainfall that overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems (in contrast to river/creek flooding)
  - Happens repeatedly and frequently
  - Has nothing to do with rivers and flood plains
  - Lots of flooding occurs in Cook County – as vulnerable as hurricane areas
- Solution - landscaping
  - Green infrastructure - manage storm water and maintain it where it falls
  - Lots of co-benefits - good for water and air quality, aesthetic benefits, public health
- Rain Ready program
  - Help homeowners choose solutions
  - Cost-share between homeowners and governments
  - CNT cannot work with individual homeowners unless the community partners with them on a Rain Ready program as Wilmette has done
- CNT will do presentations to village boards on building code updates, retrofitting, adding updates

Mary Munday, LWV, and Beth Drucker, GGW

- Reasons to restrict the use of leaf blowers include: 1. health impact to those who use the machinery, 2. use of fossil fuel, 3. noise pollution, 4. air pollution, 5. disperses pet feces, pesticides and fertilizers into the air for many days or until the next rain, 6. climate change, 7. removes nutrients (decaying matter) from gardens and yards.
- Database for leaf blower ordinances being created. Members are asked to fill in information on their community's ordinance, or lack thereof. All are invited to use the information to help create or improve leaf blower ordinances in their communities.
- Dudley Onderdonk - Glencoe
  - Inside Glencoe - community newsletter
  - In Park District - trying to create sustainability culture by encouraging people to do "the right thing"
    - Top-down: strategic priority in community in terms of policy and actions
    - Bottom-up: don't let the perfect get in the way of doing some good
    - Make things personal - show them how you lead sustainably
    - Do something now to get it on the policy agenda
    - Go for incremental change and plan for the future