



The Grapevine

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Presidents Message

President's Letter, May 2017 by **Deborah Graham**

We've had a very busy spring this year! And rather mild too – hopefully that means bountiful crops for our home orchards.

Our spring schedule was full, we hosted the Kurle lecture, two grafting workshops, a pruning workshop and the Cantigny open house since our last Grapevine. Over 30 volunteers and attendees joined us at Catigny and over 50 were in attendance for the Chicago Botanic Garden grafting session. Thanks to all the volunteers who made these sessions possible and a special thanks for Craig Evankoe for instructing at both workshops as well as Oriana for her advanced grafting session.

The 2017 Kurle Memorial Lecture, “What is Bugging Your Fruit Crops” by Richard Weinzierl was taped by the tech team at the Botanic Garden – copies will be available later this year. As a bonus, we heard about Richard Weinzierl’s new orchard using a high density orchard system. We’re forming a logo committee to give MidFEx a new look – we want to see our logo on hats, T-shirts, etc – all getting ready for our upcoming 50th anniversary in a few short years. Let’s get the word out – grow more fruit – it’s fun and rewarding!

The picnic is coming up in July. I’m hosting in my garden - the orchard is a newer addition to my garden. Some of the original trees had to be replaced after a visit from the local Beaver! I kid you not. No gardener/orchardist is immune to Mother Nature and her creatures. This is an opportunity for members to see what can be done in a home garden with dwarf trees incorporated into the garden landscape. I hope you enjoy the garden as much as I do.

We’re also organizing orchard walks this summer – please join us on the tours or let us know if we can come tour your orchard. If you can’t join us in person, please check us out on Facebook. We encourage you to post photos and enjoy the successes of your fellow orchardists.

Happy Growing!

Deb

Seeking Orchard Walking Hosts :

We are looking for volunteers to host several orchard tours for members to see what others are doing. This could be a Saturday, or preferably a Sunday, for an hour or two generally sometime after noon. Please email either Deborah Graham, Jeff Postlewaite or Patrick Driscoll, or Vanessa Smith if you are willing to host an event between now and the Fall.

Orchard Tours are MidFEx’s version of a garden walk. A member opens up their garden/orchard for the rest of the club to come and see what they are growing, ask questions, and learn about how someone else grows what they grow in the space that they have. The host gets to show off their labor of love to a captivated audience that appreciates and admires the effort that goes into this “hobby”. Orchard tour start time and duration are up to the host.

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Members enjoying a pruning session with staff of Hatch Elementary School Orchard, in Oak Park,



Ron Macom's orchard for sale, Bless His Soul



Where Ron's Home Used To Be



Ron Malcom was a long time member and vital participant in MidFEx activities. Ron's extensive orchard and arboretum in Barrington was the site for many club gatherings. Ron Malcom passed away in 2012



Leon and the bees

North American Fruit Explorers and the Northern Nut Growers Association announce their joint conference which will be held at the University of Georgia, Tifton Conference Center, from Sunday, August 13 through Wednesday, August 16, 2017. Details at : www.nafex.org/meeting.php

2017 Summer Picnic

Date: Sunday July 16, 2017

Time: Setup @ 10am, Lunch @ noon, Business meeting @ 1pm

Location: 615 South Street, Barrington, IL 60010

Menu: Main entrée, beverages and dinnerware provided.

Side dishes and desserts are pot luck!

Contact: Deb (847)490-0065

The Summer Picnic is a time for MidFEx to come together for a fun afternoon. It also serves as our 3rd Quarter Business Meeting. Our host this year is Deb Graham, MidFEx president and her husband, Richard. She's a long-time gardener and in recent years added dwarf and espalier apples, pears and Asian pears to her one-acre lake front garden in Barrington. We look forward to seeing you there!

Directions: Google Maps is very accurate – located on the south-east side of Barrington between Route 59 and Northwest Highway Rt 14. The street is narrow so please do not park on both sides of the street or directly across from any driveway – extra parking on Highland. The driveway is large and will be reserved for handicapped parking.

From the North/West – take Route 59 to Hillside Ave on the South side of Barrington. Turn east on Hillside, take Hillside to Highland. Take a Right and go south on Highland. Highland ends at South Street. Go 1 house to the west - brown house with 615 on the green boat paddle!

From the South/East - From Route 53 and Lake Cook Road, go east to the light at East Avenue. Turn left and continue across train tracks at Route 14 when East Avenue becomes Hillside. Take Hillside to the first left, Highland. Take a left on Highland and go south. Highland ends at South Street. Go 1 house to the west - brown house with 615 on the green boat paddle! **There will be a silent auction at the picnic. Please bring donations.... proceeds benefit the club;** Please bring garden related donations - plants, tools, books, etc

MidFEx Orchard Walk I Sunday July 30th at 1 pm.

Kevin Kuchel kjkuchel@yahoo.com

2100 George Street, on the corner of Dove and George

Rolling Meadows, 60008 . 847-398-6487.

I am less than a mile south of Arlington Park and a block west of New Wilke Road. I have a 80x120 ft lot with total of 40 trees of which 32 are fruit.

I also have some berries, a grape, passion fruit and many perennial flowers.

Many trees are still young but I have tried to get "semi-dwarf/dwarf" grafted varieties.

I have: Apple- Cameo, Centennial Crab(x2), Esopus Spitzenburg ;Apricot- Sweetheart
Cherry, Sour- Evans, Sweet- Stark Gold; Fig- Chicago Hardy, Kadota

Medlar- Royal; Pawpaw- Potomac, Susquehanna, Wilson; Peach- Blushing Star

Pear, Asian- Knox, Olympic Giant; Pear, European- Butirra Precoce Morettini, Colette, 4 in

One, Multiple Grafted, Summer Blood Birne ; Persimmon, American- Garretson, Meader, Prok

Plum, European- Bavay's Gage, Damson/Mt.Royal??(x2), Mirabelle de Metz, Victoria

Plum, Japanese- Emerald Beaut, Hollywood, Shiro; Butternut- Bountiful

Chestnut, Chinese- Qing, Qing/Auburn Cross; Heartnut- Unknown; Maple- Norway

Oak- Burr(x2), Swamp White Oak

MidFEx Picnic Bud Grafting

The budding demonstration at the MidFEx picnic has fostered an informal budwood exchange between members. Most tree fruit can be successfully budded in summer but budding is particularly useful for propagating stone fruit (plums, apricots, peaches, cherries) that need warmer temperatures to callous and hence are difficult to graft when dormant. Also, if your spring graft failed to take and the rootstock is growing vigorously, summer budding can be a second chance to make a tree this year.

To assure the most viable budwood:

- Collect the most mature wood from this year's growth – at least 3/16th or ¼ inch thick.
- Remove the soft top growth and leaves but leave the petioles (leaf stems).
- Either label each piece or label a zip loc type bag with the variety name.
- Wrap the budwood in a dampened paper towel, seal in the plastic bag, and refrigerate.
- The budwood is fragile and has a short shelf life so collect it as close to the time of distribution as possible and keep it as cool as possible during transport. A small insulated beverage cooler bag with an ice pack works well for an extended period – like the picnic.

Nitrogen Notes: Choosing the Best N Source

Nathan Johanning [permission obtained by Robin Guy] IL Fruit and Veg. News

As the season gets off to a start, it is time to think about how we are going to supply Nitrogen (N) for our crops. Remember that all plants take up nitrogen in the form of NH_4^+ (ammonium) or NO_3^- (nitrate). Generally, our crop plants like a balance of nitrate and ammonium, however, some have preferences for one versus another. There are many fertilizer options and below I have outlined a few considerations for some of the common N sources.

Urea (46-0-0): Urea is probably one of the most commonly available dry N sources. It is the highest in analysis of the dry products and thus also generally the most cost effective per lb of N. However, it does need to be incorporated with tillage or rainfall fairly soon after application (within a week or ideally less). After incorporation, soil microbes quickly break it down into ammonium N and then nitrate N forms. It is very subject to volatilization (N loss directly to the atmosphere) on the surface without tillage or rainfall. After a week of without incorporation research has shown you can lose over half of your N or more. If you want to surface apply urea, look in to getting a product such as Agrotain (a urease inhibitor) applied to the urea. This will stabilize the urea and significantly reduce volatilization. The down side is typically you would have purchase fertilizer in bulk rather than bagged to get this inhibitor applied, but it is an option to consider depending on what is available in your area.

Ammonium Nitrate (34-0-0): Ammonium nitrate is an excellent N source which is well balanced with about half ammonium N and half nitrate N form both of which are readily plant available. This makes it great for use at planting, but even better for sidedress applications as the plants can very readily access these forms of N. Ammonium nitrate is not subject to volatilization like urea, however, especially the nitrate portion is subject to leaching and runoff with rainfall. Unfortunately, ammonium nitrate is fairly hard to find despite being one of the most ideal N sources for plants, but if you do have access to it is a great option.

Calcium Nitrate (15.5-0-0-19Ca): Calcium nitrate is another very common option. It has the added benefit of being supplying some additional calcium which is often very beneficial for fruit development on our fruit and vegetable crops. The N is all in the nitrate form and subject to leaching from rain, but not subject to volatilization. This makes it ideal for surface applications including sidedress applications. The nitrate form of N is preferred by solanaceous crops (tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, etc). The down side is it is only 15.5% N which is on the lower side and generally makes it more expensive per lb of N compared to some other sources. Also, over multiple seasons and repeated use it does tend to increase soil pH. So you might consider this where you are looking for added calcium or for surface applications.

Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0-24S): Ammonium sulfate is another good N source that supplies the ammonium form of nitrogen and very commonly available, although we typically think of it as an adjuvant to use with glyphosate rather than just a fertilizer. The N is stable and will not volatilize like urea. It is a lower analysis so it does take a little more to get the same amount of N as in urea, but not as low as calcium nitrate. It also is 24% sulfur so it will supply sulfur if your soils are deficient and will tend to decrease your soil pH. This is an ideal form of N for blueberries as they have a strong preference for the ammonium form of nitrogen and the sulfur can help maintain that low pH they need. Also, if in general your pH is high this is a good way to supply some N and subtly reduce your pH to more ideal levels.

Urea-Ammonium Nitrate (32-0-0 or 28-0-0): Urea-Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) is a liquid form of nitrogen that is roughly half urea N and half ammonium nitrate N. The urea portion is still subject to the same volatility issues and needs to be incorporated or used with a urease inhibitor to protect that portion of the N. It is typically readily available in bulk from many agronomic fertilizer dealers. It can be found as either 32% or 28% N (by weight) and which form you can find tends to be dependent on the region and what is traditionally used. The only difference is strictly the percent N; all of the other properties are the same. 32% contains 3.52 lbs N/gallon and 28% is 3 lbs N/gallon. It can be applied with a sprayer and broadcast (surface or incorporated). There are some streamer type nozzles that are made specifically for UAN delivery. Also, it can be knifed in with an injector or band applied on the surface. Note that it is corrosive to any metal parts (as most N fertilizers) make sure to flush and clean out sprayers (outside and inside). Using those streamer nozzles is ideal to prevent drift of small fine particles on to your sprayer or other steel surfaces you would get from traditional flat fan nozzles. Additionally, UAN can be used in fertigation through drip irrigation as well.

These are just some of the most common **synthetic N fertilizers**. Also, we have many different organic sources of N such as **blood meal, compost and many others**. Hopefully, this gives you some added insight in to the pros and cons of these different nutrient sources to help keep your crops healthy!

Nathan Johanning (618-687-1727; njohann@illinois.edu) University of Illinois Extension

Summer Pruning of Mature Apple Trees on M27

Sunday August 27th at 1 pm, (Rain date: Sunday Sept 3rd)

Presented by Gene Yale and Al Cosnow

On the last Sunday in August, members will meet at Gene's orchard for a demonstration from the two club masters the art of summer pruning. Both Al and Gene largely do late summer pruning with most of it done already when the trees are dormant. As we all know, they have magnificent success with production of a robust variety of apples. In the late 1800s Frenchman Louis Lorrette described summer pruning. It has been debated ever since.

Gene's Orchard: 9121 n. Keeler, Skokie, 60076



Verticillium Wilt Robin Guy

Verticillium wilt is a fungal disease. It is caused by the soil-borne pathogens *Verticillium dahliae* and *V. albo-atrum*, and are prevalent throughout the tropical and temperate regions of the world. They exist in the soil primarily as mycelia that infect plant tissue below ground. High summer temperatures tend to halt development of the disease. Target fruit trees and bushes includes *Prunus* spp (Almond, apricot, cherry, peach, plum, prune), *Rubus* spp. (blackberry, black raspberry, brambles, dewberry, red raspberry, and thimbleberry). *Ribes* spp. (currant, gooseberry), and *Sambucus* spp. (Elderberry). Apple, crabapple, pear and mulberry appear to be resistant or immune to *Verticillium* wilt,

The *Verticillium* overwinters as mycelia or microsclerotia a dark, condensed mass of mycelium that collectively act as a propagule, which germinates under favorable conditions. Infection begins in the root area where the resting hyphae of *Verticillium* germinate and penetrate feeder roots. The fungus also can enter wounds in the root area. The mycelium of the fungus may grow slowly. It may be harbored in the soil for years. The disease spreads within the plant by mycelium or spores called microconidia that travel in xylem vessels to other parts of the plant. Where the spores lodge, new hyphae grow and increase the infection. The infected plant tissue becomes necrotic (dead) because the vascular tissue is clogged with mycelium, conidia and by products of fungal metabolism. As a result, water flow is restricted and the plant wilts. The necrotic tissue is what causes the dark streaks that are symptomatic of this wilt disease. The entire plant may die quickly or may die section by section over many years.

Symptoms:

- Sudden flagging and wilt, Adhering leaves
- Yellowing of foliage, Sheppard's hook
- Stunting of growth and premature defoliation
- Cut into wood; darkening xylem wood

Management: The fungus can be spread in contaminated soil, so if the disease is suspected, be careful not to spread soil from around the affected plants on tools or muddy boots. Weed control is important, because some weeds are hosts and some may not show any visible signs of infection. Don't prune it out. As the infection slows in the heat of summer the tree will start to re-grow. In extreme case the whole tree is affected: replant. Prune dead wood out in next season.



MidFEx LOGO DISCUSSION



Brad Platt created the MidFEx logo some 20 years ago. At a time when few members were thinking of such things, Brad recognized that a unique and memorable icon could help MidFEx develop an identity in the gardening and fruit growing community. Our logo has served us well both on the web site and on signage displayed at events. Some members have voiced an interest in modifying or updating the MidFEx logo so we're inviting members to participate in the discussion. If anyone has any suggestions or drawings that you would like to be considered, please forward them to Deb Graham via email at gardenerd@comcast.net or via USPS at 615 South St Barrington, IL 60010-4550. If there is sufficient interest, the logo candidates as well as the current logo will be published in the Grapevine. Members will be invited to vote for their favorite.



Verticillium Wilt



MidFEx Orchard Walk II

Date: Sunday, **August 6, 2017** Time: 1pm - ?

Location: **Jeff and Bernie Postlewaite**

16335 Central Park Ave, Markham, IL 60428

From I-57: Take 159th Street east exit. Turn south on Central Park (1st traffic light). Proceed to 16335.

From I-294: Take 159th Street west exit. Turn south on Central Park (3rd traffic light). Proceed to 16335.

Jeff has a small 1/3 acre yard that exhibits his interest in fruit growing as well as a lifelong interest in gardening with ornamental plants and shrubs. His yard is equally divided between shade and sun gardening with grass paths that lead one through it. There are 30 espaliered apple trees (all self grafted, some 25+ years old), espaliered pears, grape arbor, blueberries, mulberries, raspberries, blackberries, and gooseberries

Pollarding A Peach Tree



Before



After

In addition to our many knowledgeable MidFEx members, there is a wonderful site where you get immediate answers from orchardist all over the nation. So I put out a question as to whether I should pollard an old peach tree whose blooms were in the sky. Read the responses (including Al's - Allen- screen name) here: Patrick go to www.growingfruit.org in the search on the right, Q type in: *radical pruning* (it's the first one that comes up)

Your membership may be expiring! Check your address label or the email message that delivered your Grapevine for your membership expiration date. If it says **6/30/2017** or earlier then it is time to renew

MidFEx Membership Application		
New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name (please print)		
Address	City	State
Zip		
Telephone	E-Mail	
I learned of MidFEx from:		
Choose membership option below. Select one only.		
	Grapevine Delivery	
Membership Length	Email	US Mail
1 Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
2 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
3 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65
Make check payable to MidFEx .		
Mail to: MidFEx Membership P.O. Box 93 Markham, IL 60428-0093		
The above information (name, address and phone only) will appear in our Members' Only Directory (June Grapevine issue) and is never sold or rented to outside interests.		

Illinois State Beekeepers Newsletter: Honey Lightening

- 2 cups scotch whiskey
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- zest of one orange
- rosemary

Crush the rosemary in hot water and let it steep for a day;
mix in other ingredients and allow it to season for 2-3 days;
strain and drink

Map Your Orchard !!!

Method of making an orchard map!

Just Edit the picture!!!



MidFEx Calendar

Su July 16, 2017 12 pm	Summer Picnic: Hosted by <i>Deborah Graham</i> , (10 am setup, 12 noon lunch) Barrington
Su July 30 2017 1 pm	Orchard Walk I Kevin Kuchel's Home 2100 George Street, Rolling Meadows, 60008
August 12, 2017	Deadline for articles to Robin Guy for next issue of Grapevine.
Su August 6 2017 1 pm	Orchard Walk II Jeff Postlewaite's Orchard, 16335 Central Park ave, Markham 60428
Th-Su August 13-16 2017	NAFEX Annual Meeting 2017 University of Georgia
Su August 27 2017 1 pm	Al & Gene's Summer Pruning Workshop 9121 n. Keeler, Skokie, 60076
Sa-Su October TBD 2017	Fall Harvest Festival at Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe (Fri 14 th set up)
Su October TBD 10 am	Apple Cider Social , Al's home (Using manual plus motorized fruit press, bring lots of apples !)

MidFEx Officers and Contacts

President: **Deborah Graham** • Secretary: **Vanessa Smith**
 Vice-President: **Patrick Driscoll** • Treasurer: **Jeff Postlewaite**

Membership: Use enclosed application, see website, email membership@midfex.org Or write: MidFEx Membership, P.O. Box 93, Markham, IL 60428-0093

Grapevine articles wanted! Deadline for articles to Robin Guy for next issue: August 12, 2017. Please e-mail articles to Robin and type "GRAPEVINE" in the header.

Gathering editor: Robin Guy (editor@midfex.org)
Layout editor: Patrick Driscoll

Sign Up:
MidFEx is on Facebook and the MidFEx Forum:
Facebook Page: Midwest fruit explorers (midfex)
MidFEx Online Forum: Members are invited to join the MidFEx forum.
<http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/midfex>



MidFEx Web Site: <http://www.midfex.org>
 Send anything of interest (links, photographs, fruit info, etc.) to webadmin@midfex.org for consideration for web site posting.

Member Area first time login: **username** is your last name (exactly as on your address label) plus a '-' plus your 5 character zip code. Example "Doe-60010". **password** is your **username** as described above plus a '-' plus your membership expiration date expressed as 6 numeric characters. Example "Doe-60010-063012"