



The Grapevine

March 2019 • The Journal of the Midwest Fruit Explorers • Vol. 43 No. 1

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DEBORAH GRAHAM

We've been trying to figure out when to celebrate anniversaries – our club started with a few members in 1976, was incorporated as MidFEX 25 years ago. That makes us 43 years and growing every year. Welcome new members. We look forward to sharing all things fruit growing and hope you have a few things to teach us too. Personally, I can't decide what to focus on this year. I'm checking on the Paw Paws from last year and I'm adding more Figs and Kiwi this year.

Our year began with the annual meeting and soup luncheon in January. We re-elected officers, including myself as your President; Patrick Driscoll, VP and Jeff Postlewaite, Treasurer—thank you very much! Ben Balskus was elected club Secretary. Vanessa Smith, our outgoing Secretary took notes for her last meeting in office. Please join us as we welcome Ben into office and thank Vanessa for her contributions. Our club is based upon the generous support of members who volunteer their time and selflessly share their knowledge—thank you one and all!

On February 24th, our own Gene Yale gave the Kurle Memorial Lecture for **Big Orchards on Small Lots** at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Gene has over 178 dwarf apples that are about 3 feet tall. He says if you have room for a rose bush, you have room for a dwarf apple tree. Gene has built a beautiful home orchard that rivals that of Bob Kurle, whom we honor with the annual lecture. We had close to 50 attendees. Gene was great and we thank him for sharing his secrets with us. If you missed it, the session was recorded and will be posted to the members section of the website soon.

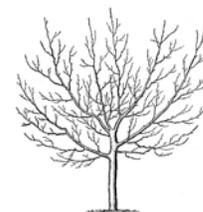
Our annual grafting sessions are coming up this month. I don't know about all of you, but I have nowhere near 178 apple trees. I have a lot of work to do to catch up with Gene!

In May we'll have a booth at the Cantigny open house. Check the calendar and our website for dates and more details.

This summer we are planning a few pruning sessions around town so you can get hands on experience led by the experts in live settings. **We are still looking for volunteers for events, to show their gardens and host the picnic—please let us know if you would be interested.** Also, remember, we are on Facebook—do share your orchard pictures!

Happy Gardening and Orchardng!

Deborah Graham
President, MidFEX
Gardenerd@Comcast.net



INSIDE

President's Message	1	Winter Meeting Summary	6
Scion Collection Call and Guidelines	2	Cosnow Media Awards	7
Paul's Cooking Column	2	Manual Cider Press Upgrades	8
Grafting Workshop Details	3	Summary of Financial Status	8
Scion Wood Donors Needed	4	Early Season Strawberry Weed Control	9-11
Call for Volunteers	4-5	Membership Renewal Form	11
Pruning Workshop	5	Calendar	12

Attention Scion Donors and Seekers!!!

Attention All Members:

Are you coming to the spring grafting workshops [preferably the 1st one]? Are you looking for some special variety of scion wood? Can you bring in scion wood if needed? If you answered yes to these questions I need your help to try to organize our collection in an efficient manner and reduce set-up work.

Last year's scion wood varieties included about 125 apple, 15 pear, 12 asian pear and assorted other fruits. We sorted, labeled and displayed hundreds of pieces of scion wood. I am again trying to be a clearing house to match demand with supply. I am asking the members planning to attend to carefully and realistically consider what types of scion wood they would like and what they could bring. Do not forget the more uncommon fruit.

ASAP, please send me a short list of what you want by fruit type and variety (I don't always recognize variety names), and what you could bring along with your phone number.

Every year we throw out quite a bit of wood that even our best grafters agree is not suitable to graft!!!

Consider the quality of wood you would like to get. ***When collecting scion wood DO NOT just give all your pruning pieces*** Carefully select out healthy wood that is 1/2-1 1/2yr old new growth, 3/16-3/8" thick and cut it into 4-6" pieces that have at least 3 good buds. Immediately (not hours or days later) place the wood in labeled ***ziplock-preferably freezer*** bags which are easier to handle, store and do a better job of preventing drying out. A small piece of damp paper towel in a corner of each bag is optional. Store in the refrigerator until brought to the grafting session. Collect the wood, as late as possible, while still dormant. Please see the scion wood guidelines on **Page 4** of this newsletter for more information.

Remember to bring extra bags to take home your scion wood and rootstock.

Contact me ASAP at: kikuchel@yahoo.com, 847-398-6487 (days/weekend are best)
Or via USPS: Kevin Kuchel, 2100 George St., Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008

Throwback from 19 years ago (Grapevine, March, 2000)

Paul's Cooking Column. By Paul Thorn

A quick way to top off a meal is to prepare an upside down cake. This versatile cake can use fresh fruit such as apples, peaches, plums, cherries, apricots and others. If you have such fruit in cans, they can also be used. A 9 inch cast iron skillet or a metal 9 inch cake tin can be used for baking.

Melt 3 tablespoons butter in the skillet or pan and swirl butter evenly around the entire bottom of the pan. Then sprinkle 3/4 cup brown sugar evenly around the pan. Place the sliced fruit in a single layer in a design beginning on outside edge of pan and working to the center of the pan. Place some large pieces of walnuts or pecans between the fruit slices intermixed with pieces of colored maraschino cherries to add color.

In a bowl whisk 2 large eggs, 2 tablespoons milk and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. In the bowl of your electric mixer stir to blend 1 cup all-purpose flour, 3/4 cup sugar, 3/4 teaspoon baking powder, 1/4 teaspoon baking soda and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Then add 6 tablespoons softened butter and 6 tablespoons buttermilk. Beat at low speed to mix all ingredients. As ingredients begin to blend together, increase the speed to high and continue beating 2 minutes. Add the egg mixture 1/3rd at a time, and blend each 1/3rd into the flour mixture. Spread the batter over the fruit in the pan evenly.

Bake at 350 degrees in oven for 40 minutes. Test for doneness with a toothpick. When baking is completed, rest the cake for a few minutes and then invert pan with cake over a serving platter. Assist the cake to come out of the baking pan onto the platter. Rearrange any fruit that may have stuck in the baking pan. Can be served with whipped cream.

MidFEx Grafting Workshops

Sunday, March 24, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cantigny Gardens, 1S151 Winfield Rd Wheaton, IL 60189

Members and their guests only at this first workshop, please! Find out what grafting fruit trees is all about. Learn the why's and how's with experienced grafters. We will also have an impressive amount of scion wood available for grafting. If you'd like more information about grafting see the Grafting Page.

Setup: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Instruction: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lecture begins promptly at 1:00. You MUST attend the lecture from the beginning if you are new to grafting. The lecture will be followed by a practice session. Individual help with grafting will also be offered.

Directions: Greenhouse entrance is on Shaffner Road. Reach the greenhouse by going west from Wheaton on Roosevelt Road (Illinois 38). Turn south on Shaffner about 300 yards (the only road south between the stop lights on County Farm Road and Winfield Road). Look for sign on west side.

Alternative Cantigny directions: To reach Roosevelt Road from Route 88 (East West Tollway) take the Winfield Rd exit. Turn north on Winfield Rd. After a while and a number of lights you will pass the main entrance to Cantigny on your right. The next light is Roosevelt Rd (Illinois 38). Turn right or east on Roosevelt Rd. The next road on your right is Shaffner Rd. Turn south on Shaffner Rd. Continue as above.



Sunday, March 31, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd Glencoe, IL 60022

*Morning session for Members only, afternoon session for members and general public.

Setup: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Advanced Grafting: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members only discussion of advanced grafting techniques for members with grafting experience.

Instruction: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lecture begins promptly at 1:00. You MUST attend the lecture from the beginning if you are new to grafting. The lecture will be followed by a practice session. Individual help with grafting will also be offered. **Please note: The purpose of the grafting workshop is to learn how to graft. Non-member beginners will learn how to graft selected apple varieties on apple rootstock.

Directions: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Exit either Edens Expressway (94) or Tri-State Tollway (294) onto Lake Cook Road and head east. The CBG entrance is on the south side of Lake Cook Road, just east of the Edens (41). Morning session for members only.



Additional Information: Workshop attendees are reminded to bring a sharp thin-bladed knife with a maximum 2-3 inch blade for grafting. Very sharp pocket knives and utility knives with replaceable blades have successfully been used for grafting. We will have grafting knives for sale to those that don't have a knife or find that theirs is not up to the task.

Volunteers are also still needed to help at the sessions, especially at Cantigny in the morning!

Remember: Due to limited space, only individuals actually grafting fruit trees will be allowed in the grafting area. Friends, spouses and children are welcome, but should bring a good book or explore the grounds during the sessions.

Scion Wood Donors Needed

MidFEx is dependent on its members to provide the wide variety of scion wood available at our grafting workshops. Success of the graft is largely the result of the care given to the harvesting and storage of the scion wood. Please observe the following guidelines when contributing scion wood:

- 1 Cut scion wood only from trees that are free from disease and that have fruited.
- 2 Cut the wood while it is still fully dormant before the buds start to swell, preferably not more than 2 - 3 weeks before the workshops.
- 3 Cut only last year's new growth that is about the thickness of a pencil or slightly less. Water sprouts make excellent scion wood.
- 4 Scion wood should be cut into 4 - 8 inch lengths with at least 3 buds per stick.
- 5 *****Label the bundle** (or ideally each stick) with the CORRECT variety name.***
- 6 Put the bundle in a zip-lock or similar plastic bag, expel as much air as possible, and seal.
- 7 Refrigerate. Ideally, apples and bananas should not be refrigerated with the scion wood. They give off ethylene gas that may induce the buds to open.

NOTE: When donating scion wood for the workshops, donors should provide a list on a single piece of paper with the donor's name and the names of all the scion varieties they are donating. This will speed up the scion intake process and assist us in building a catalog of scion at the workshops.

Examples of scion that should (on left)
and shouldn't (on right) be used for grafting



Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for several club members to be representatives of MidFEx in information booths for the following events:

March 2019	DuPage Organic Gardening Club Fair in Carol Stream
May 2019	Cantigny Open Greenhouse Fair

2019 Picnic Coordinator

We are also looking for a picnic coordinator to lead site selection and coordinate vendors and volunteers for our annual picnic in mid-July 2019. **Members who are interested in hosting the picnic or who have suggestions for the picnic location should contact Deb.**

Members who would like to host **Orchard Walks** in 2019 are asked to contact Deb.

Please contact Deb Graham (gardenerd@comcast.net) if interested.

Volunteers Needed at the Grafting Workshops!

Member assistance is needed at the grafting workshops for the following primary tasks:

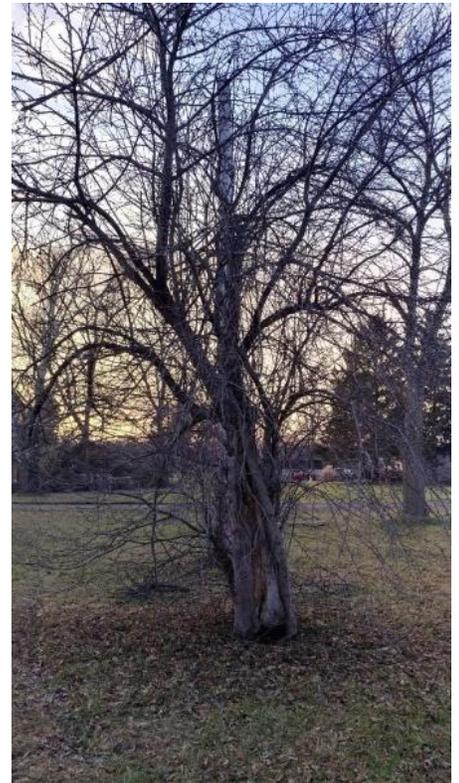
Scionwood Sorting & Labeling: The scionwood donated by members needs to be sorted and labeled. No experience required. (Cantigny & CBG morning)

Rootstock Sorting & Tagging: The rootstock is shipped from vendors in bulk. We individually tag the rootstocks, set them in bins to soak, and setup wrapping/bagging stations. No experience required. (Cantigny morning)

Workshop Staffing: We need members at the workshops to distribute rootstock, scion wood, and grafting supplies. We also need members with grafting experience to review grafts of novice grafters. (Cantigny & CBG)

If you can assist with any of the above tasks email or call Jeff Postlewaite (jeff@frugalfarm.com, 708-596-7139) or Bob Walter (robjwalter@gmail.com, 630-662-6819) to let them know when and where you can help.

Pruning Workshop—Sunday April 14th, 11am



You may inevitably be faced with what to do with an old apple or pear tree which has not been pruned for a long time—ten years, or even more. What do you do? How do you approach the task? What do you tell the owner as their fruit tree consultant?

At this workshop, members are invited to the home of a friend of Patrick Driscoll's, Anabela. She has several old apple trees and an old pear tree in need of care. The aim is to come together and determine together how to best prune these trees.

Anabela's address is **1980 Haven Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048**

From the south, take I-294 to I-94, then exit at Highway 137 going a half mile west to O'Plane road. Go south on O'Plane Rd to Haven Lane. Her home is opposite the pond on the corner.

Winter Meeting Summary

The 2019 winter business meeting for MidFEx was held on January 19th at the Prospect Heights Park District building. Fourteen people braved the snowy weather and brought many delicious dishes which everyone enjoyed.

Call to Order

The business meeting was called to order by President Deborah Graham at 2:20pm with 14 people in attendance. Deb opened with a brief rundown of the coming season's club schedule: the speaker will be Gene Yale, grafting workshops are fast approaching, additional volunteers can join Deb and Usha at the Cantigny open house, a volunteer host is still needed for the picnic, pruning sessions are being scheduled.

Election of Officers

Vanessa is stepping down as secretary, so Ben Balskus was nominated and approved.

The rest of officers volunteered to stay in their roles:

Jeff Postlewaite was reelected as Treasurer.
Patrick Driscoll was reelected as Vice President.
Deborah Graham was reelected as President.

Deb motioned, it was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was given by Jeff Postlewaite. There is an overall increase of reserves. The financial report will appear in the March Grapevine.

Other Business

Discussion of a new logo and website redesign to optimize for mobile devices. The club welcomes any ideas and suggestions.

Consider offering a college scholarship to someone which will encourage younger people to get involved in the club.

Products and buying at club events—the club welcomes donations to sell to benefit the club. Make sure whatever you are selling is for the club. Please think ahead to the auction at the picnic to set items aside to donate.

Event Storage—Chuck Heisinger is keeping the inventory, Al's attic is still the storage place. We still need volunteer help before and after events to move materials.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm, and was immediately followed by the first annual **Cosnow Media Awards**, hosted by Chuck Heisinger. Send him links to interesting fruit-related videos for next year!

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Smith, MidFex Secretary 2018

2019 Cosnow Media Awards

For Excellence in Fruit Growing Education

Submitted by Chuck Heisinger

Our esteemed jury met in early January, enjoyed a soup lunch, transacted the club's business at the annual meeting, and viewed the five finalists from a field of 14 videos nominated to receive the Cosnow Media award. The finalists passed minimum standards for relevance, usefulness, validity, and technical quality. Three of the five are international entries; one is a TED Talk.

Finalists

Here are the five finalists in rank order from the first Cosnow Media Award competition.

1. Air layering trees - Clone your fruit trees the easy way. (9:47, music and subtitles, no voice)
<https://youtu.be/1OvVjHC2JV0> Nominator: Patrick Driscoll

J. Sacadura is a biologist who lives in Portugal. In this video, he demonstrates how to propagate a fig tree through air layering. The video, despite a lack of verbal explanation, has excellent subtitles, and is well-directed. Use of fast-forward moves video through slower tasks rapidly. Camera close-ups are all in-focus and steady. Sacadura has a number of related videos on the Sacadura Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfsPdSUzTdV62xoLWDSH6Hg>

2. Florablog Innesto ad anello o a flauto (Florablog Ring or flute coupling)
<https://youtu.be/o1eR5OvISol?list=PL7A07E02AFA737A37> Nominator: Patrick Driscoll

3. Bark Grafting Apple Trees
<https://youtu.be/MQFuJGngs3M> Nominator: Jeff Postlewaite

4. Walnut flute budding method - Altoire nuc metoda fluier - 2016 august - Grecia –
<https://youtu.be/-oXrl4tiYYk> Nominator: Patrick Driscoll

5. Everything You Know About Composting is Wrong: Mike McGrath at TEDx Phoenixville
<https://youtu.be/n9OhxKlrWwc> Nominator: Patrick Driscoll

Thanks pulling this together, Chuck!

We are actively seeking nominations for the 2020 Cosnow Media Awards. Please contact cosnowmediaawards@heisinger.org with your suggestions.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Membership dues are \$20, \$30, or \$35 for 1, 2, or 3 years respectively.

Grapevine delivery via email is free. Delivery of a paper copy by mail will add \$10 per year to dues in order to offset the cost of printing and postage.

Check your address label or the email message that delivered your *Grapevine* for your membership expiration date. If it says 3/31/2019 or earlier, then it is time to renew. At the time of your renewal, if you would like to switch from a paper copy to email or vice versa, send a note to membership@midfex.org.

Upgrades Made to the Manual Fruit Press



- 1) Added second set screw and Loctite to cast iron handle to prevent handle from falling off as it often does.
- 2) Added shaft support bearing. Handle is so heavy that it was bending the shaft—not now!
- 3) New lower juice tray; the old one was deteriorating.

-Patrick Driscoll

Summary of Financial Status 01/01/2018-12/31/2018 Submitted by: Jeff Postlewaite, Treasurer

Summary of Income:

Harvest Festival	7,564.40
Grafting Workshops	2,930.20
Memberships	1,970.00
Misc Sales (picnic auction, sales to members)	237.25
Interest	3.91
Total Income:	\$13,005.76

Summary of Expenses:

Harvest Festival	6,117.46
Grafting Workshops	2,637.52
Grapevine	907.61
Picnic	842.00
Insurance	716.00
Meeting Expenses (speakers, refreshments, etc.)	613.82
Other Correspondence	18.14
Illinois NFP filing fees	10.00
Web Site / Internet	60.22
Cider Press Repairs	79.97
Total Expenses:	\$12,002.74

Net Income (Loss): **1,003.02**

Treasury Balance as of 12/31/18: **\$10,895.98**

Notes:

1. Harvest Festival expenses includes fruit butters and apple bags still in inventory as well as new display signage to be used in future events.
2. Grafting Workshops expenses include knives and root bags still in inventory.

Early Season Strawberry Weed Control

by Kathy Demchak

<https://extension.psu.edu/strawberry-weed-control-early-season>

Weeds can surprise you with the amount of competition they create in the springtime. Here we'll discuss control of some of our common winter annual weed problems, and also two perennials.

Troublesome Early Season Weeds

Common chickweed

Common chickweed, (not to be confused with mouse ear chickweed, a perennial) germinates mainly in the fall, though it will germinate anytime weather is cool and moisture is sufficient.

It can even germinate and grow under the snow, which explains those "Where'd that come from?" moments in the spring. It also tolerates shade better than most weeds. As the plant grows, it roots at its nodes, thus potentially forming a large mat of a plant that can produce over 10,000 seeds. Seeds can survive in the soil for over 10 years. It flowers and sets seed in the spring and early summer, and the seed is capable of germinating immediately. The plant only needs 5 weeks of growing conditions to progress from emergence to seed set. Typically, there is only one generation per year, but two are possible. Chickweed does not tolerate drought, so it is rarely a problem in non-irrigated row middles in the summer.

Henbit

Henbit, (not to be confused with purple dead nettle) is in the mint family, and also roots at its nodes.

It has a similar germination and flowering pattern as common chickweed. One plant can produce 2000 seeds, and its seeds remain viable for 25 to 40 years. Its seedlings are easily controlled by tillage, but timing is critical.

Shepherd's purse

Shepherd's purse germinates in early fall, later summer, or early spring in the Northeast, and produces seed in late spring and early summer.

Plants flower and produce seeds in late spring and early summer. Seeds are produced in heart-shaped pods, shaped like purses shepherd's used long ago. One plant can produce as many as 38,500 seeds, which remain viable in the soil for up to 35 years.

Field pansy

Field pansy looks a lot like Johnny jump-ups, though the flowers are less showy.

Seeds germinate in late summer and early fall, and the plant flowers in spring. A really healthy plant can produce 46,000 seeds.

Dandelion

Dandelion is a pervasive problem because of its windblown seeds and its large taproot that allows the plant to re-sprout several times if broken off.

The flowers can continue to mature seeds even once the plants are pulled. If dandelion plants are recently established, shallow tillage can be effective, but if the weeds are established, hand-pulling and tillage have little effect. Plants can be mowed or weed-whacked close to the ground before the dandelions bloom if in-between rows of plastic. 2,4-D at spring dormancy, or Roundup with a wick applicator as long as the 14-day PHI is observed, and the applicator doesn't touch any of the plants, are the best options. Chateau is an effective pre-emergence material.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 9)

Canada thistle

Canada thistle has both vertical roots for food storage, and horizontal roots that allow it to spread.

Shoots that emerge in the spring flower and produce wind-blown seed, while shoots that are produced in the fall make food for the winter. Mowing it or using a burndown herbicide is more effective in the spring than at other times of the year, as food reserves are already low then. Frequent tillage, repeated as soon as the plants re-sprout, is also effective, but tillage used infrequently only multiplies it.

In matted-row plantings, weeds are most likely to be a problem where there is bare soil, so you'll have problems with them where the plants are weak or along the edge of a row. In plasticulture plantings, they may be popping out of the planting holes, or appear between the rows of mulch and be especially problematic along the edges of the rows.



From left to right: 1. Canada thistle 2. chickweed 3. henbit 4. shepherd's purse

Source: <https://plantscience.psu.edu/research/centers/turf/extension/plant-id>

Management Strategies

So, what can you do about these weeds in the spring? In matted-row plantings, much of the control of winter annuals can be accomplished simply from the use of straw mulch, as winter annuals are usually not especially good competitors. It's important when removing the mulch to only pull it back the minimum distance necessary to expose the strawberry plants, and possibly come back and tuck some back under the plants later, which will also keep the berries clean. If the mulch has been blown off during this windy weather, it's usually worth it to bring some straw out to fill in the gaps.

In plasticulture, the sole control method of weed control in planting holes is hand-pulling. If cultivating, cultivate shallowly to avoid bringing up more weed seeds. Do not apply any herbicides over plastic-mulched beds.

Here are some notes on herbicides, with their greatest utility being in matted-row plantings. **Be sure to watch days-to-harvest limitations.**

Chateau (flumioxazin)

Chateau is a pre-emergent herbicide that has both pre-emergent activity and some burndown activity. This means that it can only be used when the plants are dormant in late fall or very early spring before the strawberry plants begin to grow again, or with a hooded sprayer between the rows if the plants have begun to grow. It can be tank-mixed with 2,4-D or Gramoxone to give better emerged weed control. It has good pre-emergent activity against all of the weeds mentioned here except for Canada thistle. The sprayer must be cleaned out according to label instructions in order to avoid damage to subsequent crops on which the sprayer is used.

Dacthal (DCPA)

Dacthal is an older pre-emergent material and has short-lived efficacy against chickweed and henbit, but not any of the other weeds mentioned. It can be applied in spring prior to bloom, but won't have any activity against weeds that are already emerged.

(continued on next page)

MidFEx Membership Application

New Member Renewing Member

Name (please print)

Address City State Zip

Telephone E-Mail

I learned of MidFEx from:

Choose membership option below. Select one only.

Make check payable to **MidFEx**.

Membership Length	Grapevine Delivery	
	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

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.

**** Note that the cost of membership **always** includes the *Grapevine*, but that printing and postage adds about \$10 per year per member to the cost. This cost has been added into the membership fee for those who choose to have the *Grapevine* mailed rather than delivered electronically (online). The membership fees shown above reflect these costs.

(continued from page 10)

Devrinol (napropamide)

Devrinol is useful in preventing grass seeds from germinating from straw mulch, and is best applied in fall before straw mulch is added. It can be applied in the spring prior to bloom also, but it is a pre-emergent material, so it will only have effect on germinating weed seeds, not established seeds. Of the weeds mentioned, it is effective against germinating chickweed and dandelion, but only fair for the rest. It breaks down quickly in sunlight.

Prowl H2O (pendimethalin)

Prowl H2O is a pre-emergent material that can be used with a shielded sprayer between the rows of strawberries in both matted-row and plasticulture plantings. It has a 35-day PHI. Its efficacy can be reduced with heavy amounts of rain fall. It is weak against all of the species mentioned here.

Sinbar

Sinbar has a 110-day pre-harvest interval on strawberries, so it cannot be used in the spring.

Stinger (clopyralid)

Stinger is a post-emergent material that is good against thistles, but not the other weeds mentioned here. It can be used as a spot-treatment for thistle patches and is best applied in two applications of 1/3 pint, the first at least 30 days before harvest in the spring and the second after harvest.

Formula 40 or Amine 4 (2,4-D)

2, 4-D is a post-emergent material that is good against dandelion, but has little effect on the other weeds listed. It can be applied in early spring to dandelions that are poking through straw mulch.

Roundup or Touchdown (glyphosate)

Glyphosate is best applied with a wick or sponge applicator to emerged weeds, and is effective against all of the weeds listed. Be sure not to get any of the material on the strawberry plants. If you do get any on the plants, they will yellow and grow small leaves that could be mistaken for a micronutrient deficiency or cyclamen mites. The damage often doesn't show up until a week or two after the application, so sometimes the connection to the Roundup application isn't made. It has a 14-day PHI.

MidFEx Calendar	
March 24, 2019	Grafting Workshop: Cantigny Gardens, Greenhouse, Wheaton, IL – 8am – 4 pm
March 31, 2019	Grafting Workshop: Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL - 9:00am – 4:30 pm
April 14 th , 2019	Pruning Workshop: 1980 Haven Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048- 11:00am
May 5, 2019	Cantigny Open Greenhouse and Plant Sale
July, 2019	Summer Picnic, Location TBD
October, 2019	Harvest Festival Set-up
October, 2019	Fall Harvest Festival, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe
MidFEx Officers and Contacts	
President: Deborah Graham Secretary: Ben Balskus Vice-President: Patrick Driscoll Treasurer: Jeff Postlewaite	
<p>MidFEx Online Forum: Members are invited to join the MidFEx forum. Get advice and share your fruit growing experiences with other members. Subscribe to the forum at: http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/midfex</p> <p>Forum Administrator: Sherwin Dubren (sherwindu@att.net)</p> <p>Membership: Use enclosed application, see website, email membership@midfex.org Or write: MidFEx Membership, P.O. Box 93, Markham, IL 60428-0093</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Member Area first time login: username is your last name (case sensitive 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"</p>
<p>Grapevine articles wanted! Deadline for articles to Robin Guy for next issue: May 12, 2019. Please email articles to Robin and type "GRAPEVINE" in the header. Grapevine Gathering editor: Robin Guy (editor@midfex.org) Layout editor for this Issue: Ben Balskus</p>	