

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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MILLENNIUM PARK LURIE GARDEN LECTURE SERIES

Gardening Experts—Rinda West, Roy Diblik and Barbara Geiger— Hold Talks at the Chicago Cultural Center This Spring

Spring comes early to Millennium Park this year, with the new Lurie Garden lecture series lead by gardening experts, Rinda West on March 20, 2008; Roy Diblik on April 10, 2008; and Barbara Geiger on May 1, 2008. All lectures are free and will take place at 6 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street.

Here is an overview of the lecture series schedule. For more information, call 312.742.5519.

March 20, 2008, 6 p.m.

Rinda West, “Landscape and Eco/Psychology”

Chicago Cultural Center, 5th floor Millennium Park Room

Rinda West is the author of Out of the Shadow: Ecopsychology, Story, and Encounters with the Land (University of Virginia Press). West will explore the psychological and social consequences of the human relationship with nature. Now a local landscape designer, she earned a Ph.D in English at the University of Leeds, England, and has taught at the University of Chicago, Oakton Community College, and Christ Church University, Canterbury. West blogs about gardening for Eons.com.

April 10, 2008, 6 p.m.

Roy Diblik, “Know” Maintenance: Developing Perennial Plant Communities Based on Time and Cost

Chicago Cultural Center, 5th floor Millennium Park Room

Roy Diblik is co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm in Burlington, Wisconsin which specializes in growing perennials, native plants and ornamental grasses as well as landscape design and installation. Northwind is also home to a unique garden shop and retail nursery located on a turn-of-the-century farm. Roy grows 400,000 plants of 360 different species each year and has been growing plants for over 25 years. He was the plant purchasing coordinator for the Lurie Garden; growing over 11,000 of the plants at Northwind. He continues to work with the staff in the Lurie Garden today.

May 1, 2008, 6 p.m.

Barbara Geiger, “Midwestern Designers: Landscaping with Nature”

Chicago Cultural Center, 1st floor Garland Room

Explore the roots of today’s current interest in naturalistic and sustainable design through the story of F.L. Olmsted, O.C. Simonds, and Jens Jensen. Barbara Geiger is the principal of B. Geiger Group, which provides design consulting for heritage landscapes and historic gardens. She teaches for Northwestern University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago Botanic Garden and leads educational landscape tours across the Midwest.

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Weekly tours of the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park will resume on Sunday, May 11, 2008. The free 20-minute guided tours take will take place from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Sunday through September 28, 2008. Hosted by volunteer Master Gardeners, the tours will offer guests the opportunity to learn more about the Garden's plants, its Chicago symbolism, and which perennials can easily be grown in home gardens.

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 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.

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.

For more information about Millennium Park or the Lurie Garden, please visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312.742.1168.

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Note to Press: Electronic Images Available Upon Request