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Gardening pros share their know-how at 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show *Learn about economizing tactics, new garden gadgets and eco-friendly strategies*

The **2009 Belgard Chicago Flower & Garden Show**—which returns to Navy Pier from **Saturday, March 7, through Sunday, March 15, 2009**—offers proven and novice gardeners the opportunity to learn from leading garden experts in a series of seminars that are included in the price of show admission. The roster of more than 50 speakers underscores the show's mission to educate home gardeners, helping them enhance their skills and better understand every aspect of the garden environment.

To confirm seminar times, dates and subjects, visit chicagoflower.com. Here are a few of those planned.

Author, syndicated columnist and host of PBS television's "GardenSMART" Joe Lamp'l brings show visitors up-to-date on the latest gardening gizmos in his talk, "The Coolest Garden Gear and Gadgets for the New Year." Lamp'l is founder of The joe gardener® Company and joegardener.com, an organization and wWeb site that features smart, eco-friendly resources for gardening and outdoor living. A frequent guest on "The Today Show," "Good Morning America" and "The Victory Garden," he and his team travel the country sourcing a wide range of products and testing them before naming 10 "The Best of the 'Must Haves.'"

Wisconsin-based **author, educator and PBS television host Melinda Myers** presents "Affordable Eco-Friendly Landscape Makeovers." Her talk covers everything from screening, garden art, containers and new plantings, as well as new and old plant favorites that can provide year-round interest, attract wildlife or create the needed focal point in a landscape. Myers hosts "Great Lakes Gardener" on PBS and "Melinda's Garden Moments," which airs on network television stations across the country.

Lee Schneller, owner of Lee Schneller Fine Gardens in South Thomaston, Maine, specializes in Japanese-inspired, natural and continuously blooming gardens. The author of "The Ever-Blooming Flower Garden: A Blueprint for Continuous Color," she outlines her strategies in a presentation entitled,

Gardening experts share their know-how/add one

“The Ever Blooming Flower Garden: A Revolutionary Design Technique.” Schneller has formulated a simple system for taming the jungle of plant data, from height worries to color palettes, from zone questions to bloom times, from shade lovers to sun worshippers.

Among others slated to appear are:

Master gardener Greg Bartoshuk is back by popular demand and reprises his 2008 talk on perennials, “Perfect Perennials for Perpetual Color for Real Lazy Gardeners.”

Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm near Lake Geneva speaks on his approach to perennial plantings and combining textures and colors.

Writer Nina Koziol holds forth on vegetable and fruit gardening, two of the hottest topics in gardening and one that will be featured several times throughout the Show.

Perennials also will be covered during the show by **noted researcher Richard Hawke of the Chicago Botanic Garden**, and **Mary Samios-Russell, owner of Contrary Mary’s Plants & Designs of Minooka**.

Doris Taylor, plant information specialist at The Morton Arboretum, will speak on plants that attract birds and butterflies; and **Nancy Clifton, program specialist at the Chicago Botanic Garden**, will host a seminar on container gardening.

The 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show is sponsored by Belgard Hardscapes, a nationwide network of paving stone and garden wall products manufacturers. Show hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and until 6 p.m. on Sundays. Adult admission is \$14 weekends, \$12 weekdays. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$5 every day. You can order tickets online now by visiting chicagoflower.com, where no service fee is charged, or buy them at the door.

Discounted all-day Navy Pier parking is \$15. For details about CTA bus service, call 836-7000 (use any local area code) or visit the CTA Web site at transitchicago.com. For Metra travel information, go to metrarail.com for train schedules and phone numbers of the various rail lines serving downtown Chicago.

Tickets for groups of 15 or more are \$2 less and include a free ticket for every 15 purchased. They can be ordered by calling 773-435-1250, or by downloading a Group Reservation Form at chicagoflower.com, which also has information on special hotel packages.

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FYI These experts are available for interviews before and during the March 7-15, 2009, show. To book, please contact Sheila King Public Relations at 773-239-2220 or chicagoflower@skpr.net.

Color photos of garden displays, interactive programs, individual plants and flowers are available in JPG format from Sheila King Public Relations at chicagoflower@skpr.net or by visiting chicagoflower.com and clicking on Press Room.