

Sowers of St. Luke's

St Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

April 2009

Springtime is here!

From Our Leader

Just when you think it is safe to put those pansies out...! Our group has been busy these past non-gardening months with creative and learning opportunities aplenty. Hopefully most of you received the e-mail following services on Feb 8th when the Neighborwoods project was presented. I had a chance to talk to Sue Mc, Linda, Carolyn and Pat and all agreed that this would be a good collaboration for Sowers. So we bought a tree (sycamore or sweet gum?! (Ed. Note: someone should have talked to me about sycamores!) Please note that if you are interested in helping to physically plant the tree, the planting date is April 25th, to be planted on the west side of White River between New York and 10th street.

Thanks to Chris for arranging for Jeff Von Burg, horticulturist at the IMA, for presenting a most informative program on invasive plants on Feb 10th. Through slides and hand-outs the 14 attendees learned which natives to select instead of non-natives and/or non-invasive plants to choose for our gardens. Who knew that maiden grass is now considered to be invasive? And a special thank-you to Chris for sharing a wonderful desert!

A huge thank you goes to Chris for providing facilities and Diane for providing expertise in computer related topics on Feb. 19th. Hopefully the knowledge/confidence us lower-tech types gained will help us find, and share (!) information as well as assist Diane in her newsletter efforts. And who knows, maybe someone will gain the confidence to take over our electronic newsletter and let Diane have a break!

The Lenten cross creation group that met Feb. 26th used pictures from the garden to great effect. Please take the time to visit the gallery upstairs to view that group's effort, as well as the other

interesting and beautiful ways people focused on the lessons of Lent.

A very big thank-you goes to Joyce and her team for the creation/execution of a new event that earned Sowers \$318.00! She asked Ron and Linda Williams to present March 7th on Color in the Garden, with a breakfast buffet included. Not only did she recruit some great treats from our group, but she publicized the event to several of the other gardening groups of which she is a member. Subsequently there were a lot of new faces at the event, as master gardeners were able to get credits for attending. We were also most fortunate as in addition to the presentation on Color (and a useful color wheel handout), there was enough time for Ron to present many slides and wonderful tales of the Top Ten European gardens from their many travels. Joyce is already talking about repeating this event next year...

And speaking of travels, our very own Lady Di will be presenting on her tour of Tuscan gardens that she took last year with the Williams. Mark your calendar for April 22nd at 7:00pm to see the pictures and hear the tales of sunny gardens (when it will probably be raining here!)

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information from Sue M. regarding Plant Sale to be held on May 3rd this year. By then we should all have lots of goodies to share from our gardens. Please let Sue know what you can do to help, as this is probably our biggest money maker of the year.

Our other big money maker of course is the Bazaar in November. We are trying a different approach by breaking out the various days/tasks and so far have a great response for set-up, Bazaar day and clean up day, as well as new ideas/mixes.



The only person we are lacking is someone to coordinate the Christmas tree workshop, if we choose to do this year. I know it is early, but please consider if you would be willing to coordinate that effort!

Looking forward to seeing everyone April 22nd for a "trip" to sunny Tuscany, and hopefully soon IN THE GARDEN!

Hope everyone's Easter is truly blessed, Gail

Sowers Plant Sale

Spring! It's that time of year when we start to think of our spring fund raiser, the annual Sowers Spring Plant Sale! This year the sale will be held on Sunday, May 3 from 8:30-12:30. We will be working at the Garden from 1 - 5 on Saturday to accept and arrange your plants, (which you are generously donating!).

There should be coffee filters, pots, and markers in the closet if needed when you're potting up. If you have any extra pots, they can be left near the closet for others to use. You can help by digging your perennial starts from your garden at least one week in advance of the sale so they can adjust – or by April 26. Be sure to keep them watered.

We will need volunteers for Saturday afternoon to mark and set up the plants, and also to work at the sale on Sunday. Please let Sue Meyer know the time you can work. Her e-mail address is s-meyer@att.net or phone is 816-0185. Let's have another successful sale!

Cross Stitch Reminder

Iwanted to remind those who have been working on the "Garden" counted cross stitch to have them finished in time for the plant sale. I have purchased a small brass easel or stand for mine and will purchase five others if I know they are finished. The stands are \$1 at Wal-Mart. I can't remember who took the five other stitchery kits when we were in Bean Blossom last fall. If anyone has questions, call me at 218-3423.

Pat Reed

April Garden Notes

On the day of the Color in the Garden presentation Sue McKee graciously hosted a group of our guests on a tour of the garden. I felt like my mother when an unexpected guest caught her with a cluttered house. Sue assured me everyone would understand about the winter look. Nevertheless I could hardly wait to get back with the clippers. To expedite this that same Saturday afternoon Jim Curry, ever ready to get outside, came along. We went through that garden and in an hour clipped off anything ugly. After hearing several lectures this winter about not being too tidy as there could be good bugs or butterflies overwintering I did have some tinges of regret. Now in my later life I spend a lot of time thinking about the many sides to everything.

The hellebores have been showy again this spring. When we were at the Sarah Duke Gardens in North Carolina this spring I purchased two more as a remembrance. I think they were seedlings from their display, and the colors will be different from the mother plant. We sold seedlings from our plants two years ago.

A pansy cross will be on display March 29 in the garden. I hope many of you were able to see it. This is an idea Marti Hunsucker brought, and it goes along with the church wide invitation to make a cross that uses a material meaningful to you. Six flats of pansies will be placed in a rough wooden frame about eight-foot in length. The following week the pansies will be planted in the urns out front.

About eight of us attended Lori Lee's heartwarming presentation on making crosses. We were happy to hear how much she is enjoying art school. She brought pictures she had taken in the in the Sowers' garden last September and we worked together to paste a collage of these pictures on a cross shaped foam board. It will be on display in the balcony.

Another project is to go to Benita Harshman's garden and pick up anything we can use for the plant sale. I have talked to her daughter Debbie several times, and the family is very willing for us to take what we can use. Remember those August Sunday afternoons years ago when we visited her garden? She always had an attractive table of refreshments and stories to tell as we sat around

her sunny family room. Please look at your April calendar and **let me know if you would like to go with me to dig and pot. We could end up with one digging session and another session to pot.**

Dates for gardening in April, I would love to hear that you can come:

Sat, April 4th 10am Garden clean-up

Need 2 – 3 people

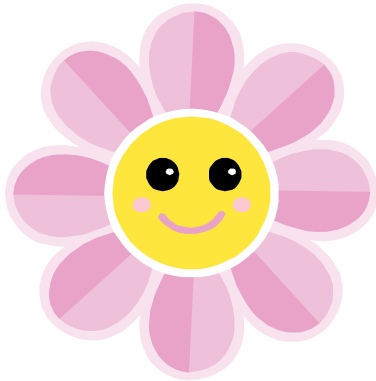
Fri, April 24th 5:30 or 6pm till dusk; planting, maintenance, taking starts for plant sale

Need 3 – 4 people

There are quite a few pots available but if anyone has extras we would like to have them available in the closet through the season. We use mostly 6 and 8 inch pots plus a few large pots.

Linda Young brought a quantity of pastel colored pots, maybe 12 ounce in size; they were used for house plants. If you have an inspiration for using them for the plant sale they are in the closet. She also donated items for the miniature Christmas trees which we will probably want to make next fall.

Carolyn



Under the Tuscan Sun ☺

Come along with our member, Diane Rice as she visits the gardens of Italy. She traveled last spring with Ron and Linda Williams to see sights not open to just everyone. She has many pictures and much knowledge to pass along. Be in the parlor at 7pm Wednesday, April 22 to visit and the show starts at 7:30pm.

2008 Financial Statement

Beginning Balance (1/1/08) \$ 5,292.51

Income:

Membership Dues	145.00
Memoriam	25.00
Donations	0.00
Total Club Income:	\$ 170.00
Plant Sale	1,276.50
Plant Sale #2	386.00
Bazaar	1,245.05
Total Fundraising Income:	\$2,907.55
Endowment Interest Withdrawn	0.00
Total Endowment Income:	\$ 0.00
Total Income:	\$ 3,077.55

Expenses:

Garden Supplies (plants, mulch, labor)	235.49
Garden Improvement (lighting)	1,946.00
Sprinkler Maintenance	394.72
Plants for Pots & Urns at Entrances	266.59
Speaker Honorariums & Supplies	200.00
Memorial/Flowers	0.00
Stamps, Postage, Paper, Checks	85.99
Garden Sculpture Repair (bench stone)	102.72
Total Garden, Club Expenses:	\$3,231.51
Plant Sale (herbs & supplies)	120.39
Plant Sale #2	0.00
Bazaar Supplies (cookie mixes, etc.)	183.83
Bazaar Booth 2009	176.00
Total Fundraising Expenses:	\$ 480.22
Total Expenses:	\$ 3,711.73

Ending Balance (12/31/08) \$ 4,658.33

Plant Sale Profits (1,156.11+386.00) \$ 1,542.11

Bazaar Profits \$ 885.22

Endowment Value (12/31/2008) \$10,404.00



Garden Book Reviews

Reading a book? Now? It is spring and I want to be outside working in the garden. Are you crazy? Where were you this winter when I was itching for a good read? Okay. Okay. I know. My timing is bad but I get enthused even more about getting outside when I am reading a fun book. Especially one about gardening.

Bean Blossom Dreams is by Sallyann Murphey. She is a Brit married to an American who eschews big city life for a small farm in Brown County. The subtitle is A City Family's Search for a Simple Country Life. If raising herbs and living off the land is a simple life then this book tells all about it. She even includes many delicious recipes. (Murphey's Meatloaf is fabulous!) There are sections on flowers, herbs and great tidbits of history and lore. A good read about a family close to our geographic home and our hearts.

Herbal Beginnings by Carolee Snyder is fiction. Well, the story may be fiction but the recipes and gardening information is pure reality. And, a joy to read. Never having been to Carolee's Herb Farm but getting her newsletter and yearning to visit, this book is a treat on an herb growing and herb business level, a nice romance and filled with gardening tips. Did I mention the wonderful herb recipes? Savor a bit of this book at the end of each gardening day when muscles are tired but the spirit is still willing and yearning for the results of your efforts.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver, with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver. Chances are you have read a review of this book recently as they are popping up all over. It is part of the library system's Hamilton County Reads program for March and April. To quote the brochure which says it better than I can, "Hang on for the ride: With characteristic poetry and pluck, Barbara Kingsolver and her family sweep readers along on their way from the industrial-food pipeline to a rural neighborhood, grow it themselves, or learn to live without it. Their good-humored search yields surprising discoveries about turkey sex life and overly zealous zucchini plants, en route to a food culture that's better for the neighborhood and also better on the table. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, this book makes a passionate case for putting the kitchen

back at the center of family life and diversified farms at the center of the American diet." I have always enjoyed reading Kingsolver fiction (an alumna of my alma mater) and so enjoyed her style and stories in this book so much I found myself laughing out loud at home by myself! Even if you don't agree with the premise, politics, or have no intentions of ever growing the food you eat you will enjoy the family's food adventures and learn some food history on the way.

If you have a good read to share, please let me know as I am also eager for a new gardening mystery or story about anything that grows. Happy garden reading! Linda Young

Color in the Garden

Thanks to all for making our workshop "Color in the Garden" a big success. Everyone volunteered and helped to make this a good event to publicize the Sowers and to provide an educational workshop. Thanks go to speakers Ron and Linda Williams for their contribution of time and knowledge to our group. We had 29 paid guests for a profit of \$318. Our only cost was the purchase of the color wheels.

Shall we try this next year??? I have reserved the second Saturday in March 2010. All we need is a speaker and volunteer help. Joyce Wozniak

Bugs!

When I was at the Flower and Patio Show last week, I got a page from Organic Gardening's Field Guide concerning the best beneficial bugs to attract to your garden. I will mail it to you and maybe you can scan it into the newsletter. Anna
Ed Note: It is 2 sided at end of this issue.



GardenFest 2009

Yard and Garden Show in Lebanon. Free admission and this show will be held on Sat April 4 from 9-3pm at the Boone County Farm Bureau Community Building (right off I-65 at the first Lebanon exit 138. Guest speakers at: 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, & 2:00. (See flyer in Sowers box) There will be garden decor, many garden booths, plant sales and information booths. Door prizes, delicious snacks and lunch will be available for purchase. A tree seedling will be given to the first 500 participants. The event is sponsored by Boone County Master Gardeners & Purdue Cooperative Service, Boone County.

Ed Note – Joyce says this is a great event that her husband Al has enjoyed. I would also add that one of the people I traveled to Italy with is very active in the Boone Co Master Gardeners.

Daffodil Show

The Indiana Daffodil Society Annual Show will be Thu April 16, 2:00pm and Fri April 17, 9:00am-Noon at Holliday Park Nature Center. Come view the daffodils and select your favorites, then return later to purchase at the daffodil sales on Sun July 26 from 11:00am till 3pm and Sun Aug 23 from 11:00am till 3pm. at Holliday Park. More info can be had from Joyce Wozniak.

Blind School Plant Sale

All these plants and more will be available at the annual ISBVI Greenhouse Spring Plant Sale to be held Monday, April 27 through Saturday, May 9. Hours are 9-5 except May 4th to 8th when they will be open from Noon-5. Come early for the best selections. All proceeds go to the ISBVI Horticulture Program. The Indiana School for the Blind also recycles plastic pots and flats and clay pots. Please save these items and donate them to the greenhouse.

Annuals: Ageratum, cockscomb, coleus, dahlias, impatiens, marigolds, petunias, salvia, zinnias, sunflowers, vines and climbers

Filler Plants: asparagus fern, sweet potato vine, licorice vine, English ivy, plectranthus, spider plants
Specialty pots: begonias, Mexican sunflower, dahlia, coleus, ornamental millet and peppers
Geraniums: scented, seed and cutting
Herbs: basil, borage, catnip, cilantro, chives, dill, feverfew, oregano, parsley, sage, sweet marjoram, pennyroyal, thyme
Tomatoes: big boy, early girl, celebrity, sweet 100, jet star, Brandywine, roma, Juliet, and 20+ other heirloom and hybrids select varieties
Peppers: Ace, garden salsa, Carmen cayenne, Serrano and other varieties including heirlooms
Hanging baskets: impatiens, vining geraniums, coleus, cat whiskers, begonias, mixed annuals, asparagus ferns and spider plants

Hummers

Get ready to welcome back our hummingbirds. Our little friends get the energy they need to maintain their astonishing metabolism primarily from flower nectar and the sugar water they find at feeders. The recipe for artificial nectar is one part ordinary white cane sugar to four parts very hot tap water. It's not necessary to boil or color the water. Change and clean feeders often. I found small plastic cylinder feeders at Wal-Mart for under \$1.50. Enjoy these busy little birds. Joyce



Events Calendar

- Thu 4/2 Sowers supper at Zest at 5:30
 Sat 4/4 Sowers Garden clean up, 10am
 Sat 4/4 Boone Co GardenFest, 9-3pm
- Thu 4/16 Daffodil Show at Holliday Park thru 4/17
 Sat 4/18 Herb Society Symposium, Ritz Charles
- Wed 4/22 Gardens of Tuscany in parlor at 7pm
 Fri 4/24 Sowers Garden – dig plants for sale
 Sat 4/25 Planting a tree on White River bank
 Sun 4/26 Last day to dig up for plant sale!
 Deadline for items in next newsletter
 Mon 4/27 Blind School plant sale begins
- Sat 5/2 Plant Sale set up, 1-5pm
 Sun 5/3 Plant Sale 8:30-12:30pm
 Sat 5/9 Blind School plant sale ends

Team Leaders

Coordinators:	Gail Corn	843-1244
	gkcorn@sbcglobal.net	
	Sue McKee	253-9757
Treasurer	Judy Tults	873-5068
	jnjtults@comcast.net	
Programs	Chris Hammock	257-1421
	chammock@parktudor.org	
Gardener	Carolyn Curry	253-2033
	carolyn.curry@gmail.com	
Spring Plant Sale	Sue Meyer	816-0185
	Suezqjm@cs.com	
Fall Plant Sale	Carolyn Curry	253-2033
Bazaar	Committee	
News	Diane Rice	252-2612
	ladydi7560@yahoo.com	
Hospitality	Gloria Barron	844-2989

From the Editor

A great big THANK YOU to all the stuff submitted for this issue – WOW! You came through in a huge way. What was it – the week's notice? Don't stop with this issue!! 😊

Everyone with email addresses (all but two) will likely receive before you get the hard copy. If you want only the email version – just say so! I am going to try to get this issue on the website. I will send you an email if I am successful!

Dues are due!! 09 dues are still missing from ten of you. Check your mailing label to see what year you are paid up to. The '08's are in red. The \$5 annual dues offset the postage for mailing the newsletter to you. If you are inactive and wanted to receive ONLY the email version, you need to let me know so I can take you off the "missing dues" list. The 2009 Sowers Directory will not be available until the membership is firm. I hope this is before the next issue so I can finalize by end of April!! Diane R

Member News

Welcome to one new member, Stephanie Bower! We hope she enjoys our group as much as many of us have for a lot of years.

Back in February, I saw a photo in the North Indy Star section of our founding member, Marcia Brandt Carter Pearson, as she and one of her dogs, Wrigley, were involved in a library reading program called Paws to Kids. I'll bet Wrigley loved it!

Sowers sympathy goes out to Diane Stone who writes as follows: *Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers! My Mom, Mary Thiel, passed away on Monday, March 23. The visitation and funeral are scheduled for Thursday, March 26 at Velda Rose United Methodist Church. Cards for the family can be sent care of my brother at: Pat Thiel, 455 E. Windsor Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85296*

Sowers Supper

Jan Seward enjoys eating out and visiting with fellow Sowers members. Watch your email for another opportunity in the future! Hope I see you on April 2 at Zest Restaurant! DR