

Sowers of St. Luke's

St Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

May 2009

Spring has sprung!

Let's Get Gardening!

The first thank you goes to Carolyn, who opened the season with a gardening day on April 4th, and another April 24th to get the garden ready for the season. It sure looked great during our plant sale, and I know of at least two couples who took the "tour" this past weekend and were suitably impressed!

Next, I want to again extend our sympathies to Cherrie on the loss of her husband Lester. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. And thanks to Marcia who took the lead in getting a basket of herbs from the Sowers for the memorial service. We also have Cherrie to thank for her contribution of many delicious treats that she donated for our enjoyment prior to the presentation on April 22nd.

Thanks to our own Lady Di who gave an informative and entertaining presentation on her garden tour trip to Italy last year. We learned (and saw) that their gardens tend to be more formal, with less flowers than English gardens, and that the number of lemon trees one has is a sign of how wealthy you are! I also noticed that several church members (non-Sowers) were in attendance and seemed to enjoy the presentation as much as the rest of us did!

And thank you to all the team leaders who met April 29th, to discuss/approve moving some cash from our checking account into our Endowment Fund. Hopefully everyone got the e-mail that \$1,000.00 was approved to be moved into the "future" of the garden. This still leaves enough in checking should we have any kind of major/emergency maintenance expenditure.

A very big thank you goes to a very tired Sue Meyer, for her hard work coordinating the Plant Sale, and to all the gardeners who helped her. We

had lots of plants to start with and fewer than usual at the end, so I'm hoping that Judy's report will show lots of profit!

I believe our relationship with Green Ministries is growing (pun intended!). Betty Brandt let Anna have the day lilies that were cleaned out of the labyrinth - Anna did a great job of potting up for our sale. They went well considering we were not able to provide color information. After our sale today, Betty made it a point to let me know that her family (in-laws) was planning to use the garden for a memorial service...so if you think no one but the occasional bride notices the efforts, you would be wrong.

So now the fun begins, as soon as it dries up! Please note Carolyn's gardening dates, or contact her if you have some time to contribute, and I am sure she can find a task to fill your slot. Have a great spring!



Gail

P.S. I want to let everyone know that Sowers received a very nice letter from the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful group, for our \$100.00 donation to the NeighborWoods project. They indicated this was for one large tree, to help them improve our city and neighborhoods.

Member News

We will all miss Cherrie's "St. Lester" – a great guy. He made his earthly exit on April 14 after a long battle with cancer.

From the Editor

This issue will be posted on our website at the top of the newsletter list. So, you can always go there to see back issues (from this day forward!) People who do not want to receive the paper version anymore should let me know.

09 dues are still missing from six of you. Check your mailing label to see what year you are paid up to. The '08's are in red. Diane R

Plant Sale Results

The plant sale was a huge success. (Not sure how much money we made, but the plants sold like wild fire!) Many thanks go out to all who participated in order to make this happen. We're getting a reputation! Sue Meyer

From the Treasurer: Sowers profit = \$1,054.50 at the Plant Sale yesterday. So far, the only expense we've paid is \$61.63 for herbs. This puts our current profit at \$992.87 close to what we made in 2007, and about \$200 less than last year (perhaps due to having more clivias to sell in 2008). There were a couple of customers who had not yet picked up plants on hold at the end of the sale, and if there were any more expenses, these numbers can change slightly. I don't think we had more than 3 herbs left at the end of the day, so we didn't do too badly there. Judy Tulst



Lemon Herb Muffins

Carolyn provided this yummy recipe from the Herb Symposium held recently. She has used dried thyme or dried marjoram in 1 teaspoon amounts.

Grease bottoms of 12 large (2 7/8 inch across top) or 15 medium muffin tins. Preheat oven to 375

Ingredients:

2 cup flour
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/8 tsp. soda
 scant 2/3 cup sugar
 1 tsp. thyme (if fresh use 1 tablespoon)
 1/4 cup butter, melted, set aside
 2 beaten eggs
 1 cup ricotta cheese
 1 cup buttermilk
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1 tablespoon vanilla
 2 tablespoon fresh lemon zest

Directions:

Stir together the six dry ingredients. To beaten eggs add ricotta, buttermilk, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Blend.

Make well in center of dry ingredients and pour in egg mixture, pour melted butter on top. Stir lightly and while mixture is still lumpy and part of flour not moistened spoon batter into tins. Bake 25-28 minutes.

Let muffins cool in pan for 10 minutes for easier removal. If desired, drizzle tops with glaze of powdered sugar and lemon juice.

Recipe makes 12 large or 15 medium muffins.



Greenspace Plant Sale

The Greenspace perennial plant sale is on May 8 and 9 at Carmel's Civic Square Gazebo. The plants are purchased from a wholesale perennial plant farm. They are of excellent quality and the prices are good. **100% of the profits will be reinvested into the Carmel community through greenspace and educational projects.** Some projects have included: 5,000 trees planted for Arbor Day at seven (7) parks and along Carmel's streets, the Prairie Maze at West Park, the Woodland Garden in Central Park, annual Arbor Day seedling distribution to Carmel's 3rd graders, and many others.



Editor's note: I thought those who missed this article in the Star might enjoy it. More places to visit!! DR

Formal gardens bloom throughout state

By James Glass, Culture Watch
Indianapolis Star, May 2, 2009

For those who treasure formal gardens, there are special examples around the state. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, wealthy American families created such gardens in private estates, and many cities included gardens in public parks.

In the 19th century, the new profession of landscape architects in the United States adopted the principles of European garden design and quickly found clients who wished to enjoy natural features shaped into patterns of artistic beauty.

At the beginning of the 20th century, successful Indiana businessmen and their families commissioned formal gardens for their country estates or city houses. Only a few such gardens remain, but they are notable. The Indianapolis Museum of Art has restored the Richard D. Wood Formal Garden created in the early 1920s by landscape architect Percival Gallagher. Located near the house of the Landon and Lilly families, the garden is on axis with the south entry to the house and contains parterres of seasonal flowers with a pool at the center.

One of the most impressive historic gardens is in Columbus, where four generations of the Irwin and Miller families have maintained the Irwin Garden downtown. Commissioned in 1910 by banker and Cummins Engine Co. founder William G. Irwin, the garden was designed by Boston architect Henry A. Phillips. There is a main axis running from the central window of the Irwin House east through a terrace, central sunken garden and reflecting pool. It proceeds up a series of cascading fountains to a Pompeian garden house. A secondary axis crosses the center of the garden and runs from the 5th Street gate through a carved stone Italian well's head down across the reflecting pool and up through a large bronze elephant to a semi-circular brick wall, or hemicycle, consisting of Classical pilasters and arches. The garden house, which

offers a commanding view of the entire garden and the Irwin house, contains murals and torch holders suggesting those found in Pompeii.

Several municipalities have maintained or restored impressive formal gardens. The Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Department has restored the Sunken Gardens at Garfield Park, designed in 1916 by noted landscape artist George Kessler. Formal parterres of seasonal flowers are linked by brick walkways and lighted at night by ornamental concrete light standards. Three large fountains at the east end provide colorful displays of water and light in the evenings.

Fort Wayne recently restored its famed Lakeside Rose Garden on the near northside. Multiple varieties of roses in formal beds bloom from June through the fall. The beds are arranged along walks and reflecting pools in a lower terrace and below a pergola with Classical columns at the upper level. The garden has been a city showplace for nearly 90 years.

Huntington boasts a sunken garden on the site of a former stone quarry. Created by E.M. Wasmuth in the early 1920s, the garden includes roses, evergreens, tulips and Sweet William. Arched stone bridges cross spring-fed lagoons.



Events Calendar

- Sat 5/9 Garden with Carolyn, 9:30am
- Sat 5/9 Blind School plant sale ends
- Fri 5/22 Garden with Carolyn, 6:30pm
- Sat 6/6 Garden with Carolyn, 9:30am
- Sun 6/14 Deadline for items in next newsletter
- Fri 6/19 Garden with Carolyn, 6:30pm

Team Leaders

Coordinators:	Gail Corn	843-1244
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