



The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park

CLIPPINGS

Board of Directors

Joseph Bergfeld

May Brown Reay

Maribeth McMahon

Anabeth Weil

John D. Weil



Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the Flora Conservancy newsletter. It was nice seeing such a good turnout for the Volunteer Breakfast. What a wonderful place to have a brunch and what a great job by the restaurant staff. I am sure we are all extremely grateful for the \$1,000 check given to us by Jeff Raffelson, on behalf of the golf course for our continuing work on their landscape projects.

Even more wonderful is the fact that they are donating a golf cart to us next spring. If you happen to be at the restaurant and see Jeff, it wouldn't hurt to tell him how much we love being appreciated.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This year all members of the Flora Conservancy are encouraged to call Eric to volunteer for various projects in the greenhouse, and as always, call the regular Flora hotline at 53-Flora to hear what's going on for Tuesdays, Thursdays and later Saturdays. Jack Brier, who will be in charge of Saturday volunteers let us know that we will be back in harness after the holidays on Saturdays. There are still lots of cutting to be potted up and, as always lots of plants to water.

Flora Conservancy volunteers just finished a project of planting bulbs at the Serra Sculpture downtown. They had lots of help from the greenhouse staff; it's great that we can work so well together to get so much accomplished. Eric promises there will be other special projects over the winter months to keep any and all volunteers busy. You can contact him at 289-5362 to see what new and special ideas he has.

You can also contact Karen Koeneman at (636)532-6630 or send her an email at: mkoehneman@earthlink.net or Anabeth Weil at weila@stlouiscity.com

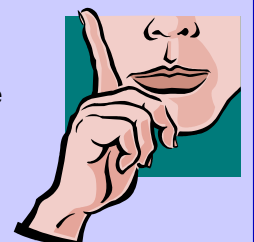
In addition to raising your spirits by working with plants, it is time to start thinking planning for next year's Tulip Festival. Several people had a weak moment at the brunch and signed up, but we need to get as many people involved as possible, not only to work at the event, but to brainstorm for ideas to bring people in for the Festival. So far some of our ideas are photo contest, a children's coloring contest, a jazz band from a local high school, helping children plant small gardens, and I'm sure there are other ideas to help make this a successful event. Not only do we need help in coming up with ideas, we need the manpower to coordinate and implement them. In other words, we need everyone we can get. As soon as we get the names of people who want to roll up their sleeves and get involved, we can get a meeting schedule together. So, when you email us to let us know you want to be a part of this, let us know what days, times are good for you and we will work to make our sessions as convenient as possible.

Another project that needs volunteers is the tour of Forest Park for the Master Gardens. The Parks Department has developed a script which will make this informative. We will need people to serve lunch, work on the table decorations and the take-home gifts. If you have artistic flair and have some ideas, let Karen know and she will be glad to put you to work.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We have been tossing around the idea of having a plant swap sometime early next spring and would like some inputs as to what you think of this idea. Any gardeners out there with some spare plants that would to get something different? Just let us know folks and we will work on setting something up.

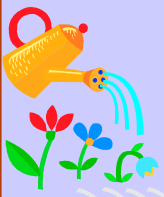




NEW PLANTS FOR 2005

Since our office has moved 2 doors north of Garden Heights Nursery, I have become a stronger person. I actually don't go there every day on my lunch hour, however on a recent afternoon scouting operation I saw a beautiful rose on their counter and Lou told me that it is the next generation of the Knock Out Rose. This new one is called *Double Knock Out* and is cherry red in color. It will be in nurseries in 2005 and I have already caved in and pre-ordered 3 of them.

Another new plant which I'm sure we will want to get our hands on is a new hydrangea called *Big Daddy*. It blooms much the same as (drawing a blank and I even have this one). *Big Daddy* will have the typical pink/blue blooms depending on the soil and will be up to 6' high. It will also take full sun in our area.



As I hear about new plants, I will pass them on and if anyone else sees or hears about exciting new plants, gardening accessories, let us know and we will pass it on.

Gardening Education & Opportunities

Interested in advancing your horticulture knowledge? Meramec Community College has three exciting horticulture programs one of which will fit your need for more green facts. The first and most comprehensive is the Associates in Applies Science, Horticulture (66 credit hours). The associate degree combines General Education, Business and Horticulture classes for an all-inclusive college experience. If you are interested in horticulture classes only, a Certificate of Proficiency, (39 credit hours) might be appealing. The third option, Certificate of Specialization, is offered in conjunction with Missouri Botanical Garden. This program is a series of nine classes, (one credit hour each). For more information about the upcoming spring session, call Paul Roberts at (314)984-7714.



Meramec Community College and Horticulture Co-op of Metro St. Louis are hosting *Spring 2005 Garden Symposium*. Five nationally recognized professionals in the fields of gardening and horticulture will speak at Meramec on Saturday, March 5 starting at 8AM.



For more information or to register, log on to www.hortco-op.org. Hope to see you there.

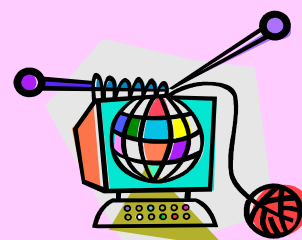
GARDENING WEBSITES

www.amleo.com - for all your gardening tool needs.

www.cottgardens.com - Cottage Gardens in Piasa, IL , a great resource for tropical plants.

www.mobot.org - Missouri Botanical Garden, wealth of gardening and plant information

If you have a favorite website that you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Nancy Luectefeld at gnluectefeld@hotmail.com or Karen Koehneman at mkoehneman@earthlink.net.



WHAT'S HAPEPENING IN FOREST PARK



The Parks Department is developing a Master Plan for the grounds surrounding the Jewel Box bounded by Union, McKinley, Wells, and Macklind. The existing roundabout at Wells/Union will be rebuilt, landscape enhancement and improvement, path system, lighting, fountains, site furnishings, parking and maintenance will be addressed. Interested Flora Conservancy volunteers may contact Anabeth at (314) 289-5323 with ideas, suggestions, or participation.

Recent Photos of Forest Park



Final Thoughts

I want everyone to have a great, safe holiday and do things that make you and your family happy. Try not to stress out and remember that your family is the most important thing about the holidays. Lastly, if you have someone overseas either in the military or as a



civilian, put together a package to send to them just to let them know that we are thinking about them. If you don't have someone yourself,

I'm sure you know someone who does and who would be grateful for your thinking about them.

