



The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park



CLIPPINGS

The Flora Conservancy of Forest Park

Issue 6

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MASTER GARDENER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER

And the winner is Flora Conservancy of Forest Park! That's right,

Flora Conservancy and the St. Louis Parks Department won the St. Louis area Master Gardeners Community Service Award for their ongoing work in Forest Park. Volunteers of Flora Conservancy are invited to the Missouri Botanical Garden on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 to receive this award. Many have witnessed the hard work of the volunteers so please save the date and help accept this wonderful award.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch is actually next year, Saturday, January 14, 2006 to be exact, so please mark your calendar.



WINE FESTIVAL News / Successful Weekend !

Well we all made it through another Flora Conservancy event; the first annual St. Louis Wine Festival could not have been successful without all your help. 200 volunteers were recruited from City of St. Louis, St. Louis University, FUEL, Art Commandos, CVC, Scott Air Force Base and of course Flora Conservancy. The volunteers staffed the check-in booth and the beverage booth; they poured wine and acted as gophers more than 5,000 well-behaved festival goers. Weather was another factor in the success of the Wine Festival, blue skies and sunny days, brought visitors to the Park. I hope that the hard working volunteers and the weather will be back next year!



I just want to add that I worked at the Gallo booth on Saturday night and must say the crowd was fun and totally cool about the wait for samples. I had a lot of fun interacting with everyone there.

Also, if you stopped by the volunteer booth you saw the great pumpkins that Karen created. Very creative.



CHICAGO TRIP



I emailed Mary Ann and she thinks it would be best to go to Chicago last part of June or early July. Those weekends would be the 17-18 and 24-25 of June. If anyone who is interested in going has a preference on either of those dates, please let Karen, Anabeth or myself know. Mary Ann is working on getting some special visits planned for us.



"TWAIN"

The Flora Conservancy and the Parks Department are maintaining the grounds around the Serra Sculpture, sometimes controversial and always a conversation maker. The piece of art is named "Twain" and if viewed from just the right angle you will notice that the bow of this ship faces eastward toward the mighty Mississippi. The large part of the triangular shaped steel walls opens to the west celebrating westward expansion. Richard Serra built this boat in 1981 of eight steel slabs, seven are 40 feet long and one is 50 feet long making the triangle a little off kilter. Two-foot wide openings in the art welcome visitors inside for an enclosed experience. The best view is likely from one of the many high-rise buildings overlooking the city block that houses "Twain".



We have softened the edges with new landscaping. The first week of May, Flora Conservancy and the Parks Department planted 5000 white Impatiens, 1000 Hellebores and 100 Hostas. In early November, 4,000 tulip bulbs were planted for everyone's enjoyment next spring. Next time you are downtown to visit the Arch, take the time to walk down Market Street to see "Twain", you might have a completely new perspective about this controversial piece of art. ENJOY!



NURSERY SPOTLIGHT



This month's nursery is not a nursery at all, but boy do they have a lot of plants. I'm talking about the Gateway Greening organization. I must say that I didn't know a lot about them until I had a lot of plants that I needed to give away and thought about them as a source.

I looked at their website and was astounded at all the gardens they sponsor. They even have some in my neighborhood of Bayless and Affton.

I called them about taking my surplus of bearded iris and was told to bring them to their Bell Avenue garden. I went there Saturday to drop off my plants and found dozens of college students working on planting, tilling and all manner of things. It was a very busy place.

I spoke with Lauren Maul, who has been with the organization since July. Their formal gardening season will end on the 5th of November, but the 6 staff members still have important work to do.

They have to process the applications they receive from all kinds of groups and organizations for garden grants. While they want to see gardens of all kinds springing up in St. Louis, they have standards that a group must meet. This may seem tedious, but in the end it assures that your group has a greater chance at successful gardening.



If your group or neighborhood wants a grant, they suggest that you have at least 10 active members, as they feel that it takes this many people to maintain a garden plot and it shows a definite commitment on the organization's part. You should also have a plan for the kind (vegetable or flowers) and scope of garden you are planning. They will offer guidance and help set up goals.

It also helps if you have tools and equipment, but Gateway will help with that too if necessary.

Last, but no less important, are the plant materials that are donated to them and that they give out to start new gardens. This means that if you donate your excess plants to them, you are part of the process. Your donation can inspire someone's love of plants and set them on a path of gardening for a lifetime. Donating vegetable plants can help neighborhoods band together to grow healthy foods to be shared by everyone.

In my quest to thin out my bearded iris, I not only found someone who really needed them, but got to learn more about Gateway Greening and the wonderful service they provide for our area.

TULIP PLANTING UPDATE

Forty two thousand tulip bulbs have been carefully planted in several areas around the Park and downtown. Varieties including Peony, Parrot, Lily, Fringed and Triumph have been mixed in attractive combinations and planted with coordinating pansies. The display next spring should prove to be magnificent. This year Flora volunteers had a little help from Focus on Leadership, a group of high school students, who helped plant the spokes around the fountain.



After finishing the grounds of the Jewel Box, the Parks Department and volunteers traveled downtown and planted 4,000 around the Serra Sculpture. The Probststein Golf Course was the last stop to put tulip bulbs to rest for the winter, next spring the terrace bed on the west side of the club house will be ablaze with color. Thanks for all your hard work in getting these bulbs into the ground and do not forget the Tulip Festival scheduled for April 15, 2006.



NancyLuechtefeld, Editor
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