



The FLASH Conference Reporter

Special

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

May 2011

Spring is Here! Come to the Garden Fair

by Jack Snapper

The HP Garden Fair is coming—Friday May 13 (9am to 6pm) & Saturday May 14 (9am to 4pm) in the plaza at 55th and Lake Park. All levels of gardener, from veteran to newbie, will find plants and information to help their gardens thrive. In addition to our traditional offerings (carefully selected from the best growers in the Chicago area), we have many new, hard-to-find treats. Here is a small sample of the special, beautiful and unusual plant varieties you will find at this year's Fair:

Roses: We are pleased to be able to introduce the winners of the 2011 Awards of the American Rose Society. The award-winning Dick Clark is distinguished by very large cherry/burgundy blooms of truly startling color. Also award-winning, Walking on Sunshine has spreading branches filled with incredibly bright yellow blooms. And we are pleased to reintroduce, after a long absence, the old-time favorite Lovely Fairy. Among our heirloom roses, we include this year the hardy Frau Dagmar Hartopp, blooming continuously with silvery-pink blossoms through the summer and adorned by large red hips in the winter.

Hostas: We are offering a collection of winners of the Hosta of the Year awards from the American Hosta Growers Association: Blue Mouse Ears (2008 winner), Sum and Substance (2004), Earth Angel (2009), First Frost (2010), June (2001), Paradigm (2007), Sagae (2000), and So Sweet (1996). At the Fair, look for the colored signs pointing to these winners in our "Hosta of the Year" collection. These



A happy customer among the hanging baskets



Babbie Wichura finds the perfect rose

hostas have won their honors by exhibiting both exceptional beauty and exceptional hardiness.

Wildflowers: We will have some distinctive specimens of native plants that, while lovely additions to our gardens, are sadly hard to find in local markets. Violet wood sorrel grows in dappled shade with violet bell-shaped flowers in April and May. And goldenseal is both decorative and a native herb. This year, we will also be able to offer the often-unavailable Turk's cap lily, blue flag iris, queen of the prairie, and purple meadow rue. And do ask our experts at the wild flower corner for advice on which plants are the very best for attracting our native butterflies.

Vegetables: For the first time, we will offer asparagus, sweet peppers, and strawberries in gallon pots. Tomato lovers will be pleased to hear that in addition to our traditional commitment to a range of heritage tomato plants, we have made a special effort this year to bring in disease and pest resistant varieties that are known for their reduced production time. And we are offering new options for cherry and plum tomatoes in gallon pots.

**Catch our June Reporter for Special Reports
on Preservation & Development**

News from the Board

February 2011

The Board noted that the “Gold Line” proposal to run CTA trains on Metra Electric Line track will be reviewed by the RTA in March. Since Immediate Past President Ammerman wrote a letter of support for this proposal on behalf of the Conference in 2009, we may expect to be called to testify. In the absence of James Withrow, chair of the Transit Committee, who is on leave and living in Beijing, George Davis was tasked with convening the committee so that we may again focus our attention on transit issues. As of press time, we learned that a hearing is scheduled for April 13, and will plan for the Conference to be represented.

President Ciacci briefed the Board on garbage issues in the 5th Ward, which were first discussed on the Good Neighbors e-mail list. Briefly, the problem of apartment residents using public garbage receptacles for their household trash, instead of using the containers provided in their buildings. This led the Chicago Park District and the city to remove numerous receptacles along 57th St. Board members commented that this misuse of public garbage receptacles is a problem all over the neighborhood, and we will monitor the situation as summer comes.

Jack Spicer alerted the Board to the need to monitor developments in the Woodlawn Corridor, 57th to 58th Sts., which he will outline in an article in the

next issue of the Reporter.

The Jackson Park Advisory Committee requested and received a letter of support for a grant proposal to the SECC to fund an interactive nature trail in the natural areas of the park. Unhappily, despite the merits of the proposal, JPAC didn't receive the grant.

Board member Ismail Turay reported on the Friends of Shoemith School, which is working on forming a 501(c)3 organization.

March 2011

The Board learned of the upcoming renewal of the University's contract with the CTA, which Conference member Roger Huff had reported to President Ciacci. The Conference's strong support for a community meeting with the University to discuss the CTA service, and our willingness to help publicize such a meeting, was expressed by Ciacci and conveyed by Huff to Rodney Morris, Executive Director of Transportation and Parking for the University.

The issue of transit is the most visible of a number of community issues which are of common interest to various formal and informal groups in the neighborhood. Ciacci proposed to the Board that the Conference consider bringing together board members from such groups to get to know each other, understand our common issues, and hopefully plan for

concerted action in the future. This was enthusiastically referred to the Executive Committee, which has since met and has begun to plan such a meeting. Our next step is to identify both formal and informal neighborhood groups which will be invited to send representatives. A second stage of this project is contemplated; that of reaching out to groups on the South Side beyond Hyde Park-Kenwood, but the Executive Committee decided that the local outreach is needed first.

The Board discussed the possible use of Constant Contact, a web service for producing newsletters and publicity and communicating easily with large numbers of people via e-mail. This was approved, and Jane Ciacci and Secretary Gail Isenberg will begin work on it in April, with the goal of building an e-mail database and using it to communicate more frequently with our membership and others in the community.

Watch for your membership renewal, coming soon in your mailbox. Be sure to give us your e-mail address in order to help us build an e-mail database.

If you have already renewed your membership you can e-mail us at hpkkc@aol.com to be added to our e-mail list



Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference
1525 East 53rd Street, Suite 907
Chicago, Illinois 60615