



The Conference Reporter



Vol. 15, No. 2

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

April 2009



The Conference in Action:

Hyde Park Garden Fair Beautifies HP-K for 50 Years

by Cheryl Miller, Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee

For some, gardening is a hobby, for others it is a passion, for the novice perhaps believing a green thumb is mandatory, it is only a tentative dream. The Hyde Park Garden Fair this year celebrates 50 years of helping gardeners of all skill levels learn and benefit from the expertise of others while they shop.

No longer confined to outdoors during the “growing season,” everyday plant lovers can take their gardens indoors as houseplants through the winter or start spring anytime with sun-simulating grow lights. Exotic has become ordinary as big box gardening departments bring us plants from afar. Hoping to recapture a landscape almost lost, native plantings now are promoted. Many Hyde Parkers relish a yard to satisfy the gardening itch, a few even have sun with their shade. Some make do with pots on a windowsill, as others outdo themselves with large container gardens on the porch. Many devote their time and energy to public gardens in the area.

As gardening has evolved locally, the Fair has accommodated by shopping all over the region for the best specimens and variety, then bringing the plants and service right to the neighborhood. In all types of weather and economic climates, the Fair has reliably delivered its best every spring and fall. For both the armchair gardener and the dirt gardener, the Garden Fair winter lectures have delighted and encouraged us to think about gardening in new and original ways.

If a person has a desire to contribute to the gardening health of the neighborhood, opportunities to participate abound. Besides a few hours once a year at the Fair, or pulling weeds during the

(Continued on page 2)

“Wanna” Volunteer?

It Can't Be Done Without You!

by Lesley Bloch, Chair

Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee

The one hundred-plus volunteers who give their time every year to help out at the Garden Fair keep the Fair going from year to year. What would have happened to the idea of selling plants to our neighbors if there had been no volunteers, and no support from the community for the past fifty years? We all know the answer: the neighborhood would have lost one of its liveliest events. We would move into spring and summer with less enthusiasm and less gardening. If you have never volunteered and are curious about the departments, read on. There is a place for everyone!

So what do volunteers do at the Fair? Starting on the Thursday before we open for business on the third Friday in May, our volunteers line up on 55th St. between 6:30 and 7 a.m. to unload plants from the first deliveries. Thanks to our Alderman's office, “no parking” signs have been attached to the light poles. In this way, the whole curb by the Shopping Center is available for the trucks and our human chain. Regardless of temperature or rain, the mood is upbeat. Thanks to

(Continued on page 2)

A CLOSER LOOK

The Profits
see page 3

A History
see page 4

I Remember the Year...
see page 6

Garden Fair Growers
see page 8

HPKCC MISSION

The purpose of the Conference is to attend to the civic needs of the community; work toward an attractive, secure, diverse, and caring community; and to promote participation of residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations in programs and activities that advance the interests and concerns of the community. It serves the community as a watchdog, independent voice, and clearing house in the community's ongoing conversation and decisions about those matters which affect and define community life.

From the President's Desk...

It's with a great deal of excitement that I write in this special edition of the *Conference Reporter*. Our Garden Fair turns 50.

Many years ago, I started volunteering at the Garden Fair on set-up day. I had heard it was a terrific way to learn all about plants, and quickly found that was true. As we unload each truck, the volunteers and GF members love to critique each plant. "This did well in my yard." "Never plant that—it's a pest." "Not winter-hardy in my backyard."

So, at some point, I inquired how one "joins" the Garden Fair Committee. That was when I learned that anyone can volunteer for the Committee, but that the organizing group is selected based on how hard you work and a history of volunteering. Someone also mentioned to me that it helps if you join the Conference.

I had been thinking about joining the Conference anyway, as I was interested in the work being done by the Parks Committee. So I sent in my membership.

Not too long afterwards, I was attending the Service League Homecoming Luncheon as the guest of Marianne Smigelskis, and was seated next to Judy Dupont. Turns out, Judy was the chair of the nominating committee of the Conference. She and I had an animated conversation over lunch, discussing the ins and outs of Hyde Park (and a lot of gardening).

Next thing I knew, I was back at the Quad Club for lunch again, this time with Judy and Homer Ashby, then president of the Conference. When they invited me to join the board, I wasn't sure I had anything useful to contribute. But I did know the Conference was lagging in its technology, so I agreed, thinking I could help set up a website, upgrade the office equipment and skills, and maybe help make the Conference more visible.

I had no idea that I would be spending all my free time for the next eight years being the president and trying to re-invigorate this grand old institution. But I did get my small measure of revenge—Judy is now on the Garden Fair Committee! Hope to see y'all soon at the Garden Fair...

George W. Rumsey
April 17, 2009

Wanna Volunteer?

(Continued from page 1)

the magnificence of our plants, carrying them to the department locations in the courtyard is thrilling. The smiles are broad and the comments are positive. As trucks arrive into the early afternoon, the shout goes out for workers. And once again the line forms for schlepping. When there are no trucks to unload the volunteers keep busy doing numerous jobs. The early volunteers start taking their leave mid-morning. Hopefully they have had some coffee and donuts, supplied by the HPKCC at the Cashier's booth.

The **Annuals** Department presents the bulk of the pricing task. Each tray (6 to 12) in a flat needs a color price stabber to designate its price. In 2008, there were 7,495 individual units. The volunteers who calmly perform this task can not be thanked enough. After pricing, some flats are moved into position on the floor, and others are put into the outdoor storage area as backup for the Saturday shoppers.

Then of course there are the **Vegetables**, some organic, and the all-organic **Herbs**. The task of pricing and laying out departments with fragile plants goes on all afternoon. Identifying tomato varieties and the numerous types of basil in these departments is delicate work. Who is going to buy a bent-over tomato plant or a wee pot of basil that has seen better days?

As soon as all the **Perennials** have arrived and been priced, volunteers help committee members line them up in alphabetical order. We always hope that those nice buds on the plants we saw at one of the nurseries have opened. It's a tough sell if plants lack color.

Containers! All 4,183 plants in 2008 were lined up by color and groomed by members and volunteers. A smashing impression of color across the south fence is the aim.

Being a volunteer in the **Hanging Baskets** requires a lot of shoulder work. Lifting up and moving baskets can be a trial. But, ah, the joys of looking at the most beautiful single variety and combination baskets. Here too is a nice opportunity for grooming, picking off those dead flower heads.

Houseplants is always a favorite spot for volunteers who tend plants in apartments. The committee looks for the strange, the rare, and *orchids*. Sending these exotic plants to good homes is always rewarding.

Volunteering in **Shrubs, Roses, Trees, and Vines** can be an education in what to grow in our area and under what conditions. Here you get to push potted shrubs around while asking questions. Ah, yes, the roses. The Garden Fair offers the finest around.

2009 Spring Garden Fair
Friday, May 15, 9:00 am to 6 pm
Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am to 4 pm
Hyde Park Shopping Center

If you have always wondered about plants to grow in the shade that will spread, volunteering in **Groundcovers** is for you. This department has everything that grows low and wide. Being able to bend to the ground helps.

Wildflowers is a delightful department. It is chaired by one of the creators of the Wildflower Meadow in Nichols Park. She will put you to work, but you'll be learning all the time.

During the two days of the Fair, many volunteers return to help add up the shopper's purchases. Some come year after year just to help add up. The job can be stressful during the Friday morning shift. Trying to find all those little stabbers in the individual pots is challenging, so often volunteers work in pairs: one is a searcher, and the other is an adder-upper.

By the end of the Fair, you can be sure that every kind of weather will have passed over the courtyard. Volunteers have renewed old friendships, met new people, and done some shopping. Being a volunteer can also be preparation for becoming a member of the Committee. Keep in touch with the Fair at www.hydeparkgardenfair.org.



Garden Fair Beautifies HP-K for 50 Years

(Continued from page 1)

summer, all manner of volunteer abilities are welcome. Just as need is never in short supply, neither is the fellowship that goes with fulfilling it, plus the satisfaction of a spot beautified.

Beyond the tangible promise of plants, the Hyde Park Garden Fair also serves us by providing annual opportunities for gathering, where we catch up with friends and neighbors and renew acquaintances. As we go forward I am curious as to how gardening will change in Hyde Park, but I hope our coming together in this tradition continues.

What Do We Do with the Profits?

by *Bam Postell, Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee*

As early as 1971 the Committee began talking about reserving 20% of the Fair's profits to use to promote gardening in the neighborhood, whether by doing, educating, or sponsoring. One of the earliest projects was to supply and plant whisky half-barrels along the business portions of 53rd, 55th, and 57th Streets. This was kept up for many years until the barrels deteriorated.

The Committee promoted education by offering small classroom grants to grade school teachers who wanted to do a growing project with their pupils. Over the years, we have offered several classes on various gardening topics, at the Cop, the old YMCA, the Neighborhood Club, and Montgomery Place. Some were taught by members, some by horticulturalists we brought in from around the city. An ongoing midwinter series is now being offered free to the public at Augustana Lutheran Church. To stimulate growing gardens that showed to the public, we started the "Visible Gardens" contest, offering gift certificates to the Fair for front yard gardens, porch gardens, and parking strip plantings. The *Herald* would report on the winners so everyone could go look. Then we offered small grants in plants to people who wanted to do something new with their parking strips. We helped the Conference to organize several garden walks to show off what could be done. In 1973 we sponsored a 3-day workshop for teachers that was directed by a local ecology teacher, David Garlovsky.

With the advent of the Fall Mum and Bulb Sale, we often had leftover bulbs. For a few years we planted them on

The funniest thing I remember about the "Adder-Uppers" is the year that it was cold, rainy, miserable, and we had a full complement of volunteers, who all had their rain gear. They banded together and formed a "tent" to cover themselves and mostly to make sure the tally sheets did not get wet and stayed on their jobs. That is the one I would have liked to have pictures of—I called them the caterpillars! —*Sue P.*

Wooded Island, often with kids attending the former Wooded Island Festival. Then we tried planting daffodils in the median strip of Lake Park Avenue, on the railroad embankment, and most notably along the 55th Street berm from University to Ingleside. All provided spring beauty for a while, but succumbed to too early mowing, which robbed the bulbs of their vitality.

We began to establish gardens when Norah Ericksen proposed that we plant the northwest corner of 53rd and Lake Park instead of allowing the city to concrete the area in front of the parking lot. A bright corner of bulbs, shrubs, perennials, and annuals was planted there and continued around the corner going north along the parking lot fence line. Next we established a mixed garden, Harold's Garden, in the park at 52nd and South Shore Drive, under the leadership of Marianne Smigelskis. This beauty succumbed eventually due to watering problems. Another project was a row of raised bed gardens in Spruce Park, along 54th Street at Cornell. When Nichols Park was extended north to 53rd Street and a large formal garden was planned at the north end, several members were privileged to work with the Park District designer in planning beds. We followed up by actually planting, and in ensuing years have become responsible for planting and maintenance of this garden. A few years later we received a University of Chicago grant to replant a meadow in Nichols Park, which had failed in earlier plantings. Both the formal garden and the meadow have since won awards. Other projects have included giving labor and money to Richard Pardo's LILAC group for planting on the railroad embankment along Lake Park, and participating in the development of the Jackson Park Prairie.

The portion of profits we keep has grown over the years, and as we all age we now hire garden labor for the ongoing maintenance of established gardens.

ANTON'S, *A Reliable Favorite*

Anton's Greenhouses in Evanston is a grower we have been using for maybe forty years. Present owner Gary Anton says his grandfather was one of several Luxembourgers who went into the greenhouse business thereabouts.

Anton's was built in what became a residential neighborhood, and it was built to last, with concrete growing benches under glass and a yard full of wooden and glass cold frames. We dealt at first with "Moose" Anton, the second generation; he was a huge man who had been a football player. When he retired, a very young Gary took over management of the greenhouse in Evanston, and his brother Richie established a greenhouse in Kenosha. Today they cooperate, growing things for each other.

From father to son, Anton's has always been adventurous in trying new varieties and rare species that we can find nowhere else. Going there has always been one of our most popular trips because of the great variety of plants available in a condensed space. Though they are rather expensive, we like to "salt" the Fair with Anton's unusuals.



Hyde Park's local firemen get leftover veggies and flowers for the station garden.



The Garden Fair began in 1959 or 1960. If the founders had known what a long life it was to have, they would have kept better records. It was the period of urban renewal in Hyde Park. Dilapidated housing was coming down, new townhouses were going up, and rehabbing was going on everywhere. The Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference was a dynamic 10 year old organization and the Hyde Park Shopping Center had just been built.

A few community gardeners, all women, including Sophie Rudin, Lee Botts, Helga Sinaiko, and Mollie Salmon, thought that gardening belonged in that mix. It would add to the beautification of the whole neighborhood. But there was no garden center nearby. As a service to the commu-

nity, they started a neighborhood plant exchange, supplemented by a few purchases from city greenhouses. From the start the Fair was held at the new Hyde Park Shopping Center and the small profit that it made was turned over to the Conference. For the first several years the fledgling event was supported by the Shopping center, the Hyde Park Bank, and the Hyde Park Federal Savings & Loan, who paid for publicity and other start-up expenses. The small organizing committee was backed up on the sale days by dozens of volunteers working in shifts.

Gardening as a hobby was growing by leaps and bounds in the 60s and 70s, and so was the volume of stock the Fair could turn over. Within a few years we could not stock enough material on the floor for

two days of selling. We kept searching for new suppliers, and were lucky to have for some years four or more sources (Anton's, Fasel's, Mini-Earth, Turk's) who would make a second delivery on Friday evening, or who would allow someone (usually Mary Milner in her big, shelved van) to go out and pick up extra stock. This meant that the departments heads and the chairman had to make some fast decisions by, say, 2:00 o'clock on Friday about what was needed, phone the orders in, and find out whether they could be delivered or would have to be fetched. Around 1989, and for a few years, there was one vacant storefront or another in the shopping center which we were allowed to use for overnight storage of tender flats. This enabled us to get everything delivered on Thursday, get it all priced, avoid late Friday nights, and have the Saturday stock out of the way.

By 1977 it became necessary to divide the work of ordering, pricing, setting up, and inventorying among several people. This being Hyde Park, we had no shortage of capable people to captain each horticultural section. In most cases the captain had a good knowledge of that particular area, through gardening and studying. Others were good administrators. By 1980 this system was very well in place, with each department becoming very self-directed, but sharing an over-all philosophy. Careful record keeping was important for each department, and this paid off when in 1990 Miyo Schug suffered a heart attack in early spring and Stephanie Franklin, then a volunteer, stepped in and took over Annuals, using Miyo's records.

In the early years our practice was to go out to greenhouses, survey them, then leave an order for what we wanted to be delivered. But we found that, as a once-a-year customer, we did not actually receive the choicest material. Naturally whatever is in bloom goes to the most frequent customers. For our Fair, green plants, no matter how lush and well labeled, did not sell! So gradually we began to "pull"—literally stoop and pick up—what we wanted and have the greenhouse set it aside for us until delivery. The slight losses from pilfering of our set-asides was more than made up for by getting the majority of the same beautiful blooming plants we had selected.

A pricing meeting was held before the





The Garden Fair "Gang"

deliveries came, and originally one sheet held all the names of the plants we had ordered, with their prices. This became more and more awkward as we sought out more varieties of plants, and was replaced by a system of using color-coded plastic markers in every tray or pot to indicate the price. Setting up involved ordering barricades from the 5th Ward office, calling for police protection, hiring a night guard, collecting boxes and calling volunteers. Then we worked very hard on Thursday, getting deliveries, unloading and inventorying, pricing and placing every item where it belonged. To take care of the increased volume, we bought our own long tables, which were stored in a member's garage, made banners for each department, had our own cashier's booth made (shared with the Conference). As we grew we enlarged the committee by drafting good volunteers. Sometimes we got two for one—a smart, eager worker

and a husband willing to work at set-up, and with handyman skills. They became an important part of the family. In the last decade, more men have joined the committee and become captains; they now number 6 out of 42 members.

A number of additions to the plants themselves were tried. For several years the Chicago Association for Retarded Children supplied us with bagged potting soil and sphagnum moss. At one or two early sales, we had a table of gardening books brought by the Blackstone branch of the Chicago Public Library. For some years we planted hanging baskets or boxes for customers. When we found that customers stopped buying at about 1:30 on Saturday to wait for sale prices at 3:00, we decided to have no sell-out sale but rather to give away leftovers to schools and churches in the neighborhood where the plants would be enjoyed by many.

The remodeling of the Hyde Park Shopping Center Mall in 1993 gave us our greatest physical challenge, since some floor space was lost that had been jam-

packed with stock in previous years. No other site was feasible. We now had to yield to the urge to build up, which had always been discouraged before because of storage problems for permanent equipment. George Franklin designed and built handsome, light weight, knock-down white plastic stands for hanging baskets and a new cashier's booth to match. Other space was created by using plywood to deck over permanent planters, and shelving was set up in the service storage space off the courtyard, which served as a substitute for an empty store. The new equipment necessitated the rental of a basement storeroom in a local apartment building, and the need to truck equipment out and return it twice a year.

There had been several fall mum sales in the 60s. In 1974 we added the Fall Mum and Bulb Sale, ordering bulbs from a Dutch exporter and finding mum plants at some of our growers. This was a one-day event, and easier to put on than the spring fair. The fall sale has been co-chaired by Joy Rosner and Nancy Stanek



I recall the time our "shelves" (boards and milk crates) collapsed in the stash and everything had to be rebuilt and re-shelved. It was a *very* late night for those members who stayed to clean up the night before the Fair opened. Next day, the customers never had a clue about what had happened!
— Diana S.



I Remember the Year...

*By Bam Postell,
Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee*

In the 1970s we had two or three suppliers who would make second deliveries after hours on Friday nights. “After hours” could be anything from 6 to 10, or 11, or even midnight. The loyal crew would hang around picnicking, gossiping, and possibly enjoying the thermos of martinis that John Postell would bring over. Little 7-year-old Diana Van Valen would not go home, preferring to curl up in a Co-op basket and sleep. One year, on a rather stormy night, we waited hours for Fasel’s truck from Big Rock. Finally we went home. Early the next morning we got through to the greenhouse and were told the storm had been fierce out there, and that “the truck is loaded and we’ll send it out as soon as the creek goes down.” The access road to the greenhouse passed over a small creek which we had scarcely noticed before. The truck came about 3 hours later, we unloaded, and the Fair went on.

We found a farmer-owned greenhouse way up north whose owner was interested in growing herbs for us. But we never got them, because the night before the delivery a deer crashed into the greenhouse, and in its panic to get out trampled all over our flats of herbs.

One spring all our cars going to Gardner’s in Lake Village, Indiana, saw an ominous yellowish pre-storm color in the whole sky; it got so threatening that we even paused under a highway overpass. Once at Gardner’s, we stood outside the polyhouses and saw a high twister to the north where we had come from and were frozen in place for a few seconds until it dissipated. In the polyhouses where the sides had been raised for circulation, all the flowers—pansies and petunias—were dusted with a fine brown silt, the precious topsoil of the farmland. When the flats arrived for the sale we hosed the dirty faces gently to wash them, but they never got really clean. That year we sold dirty flowers.

When I first joined the Garden Fair, Mollie Salmon, one of the founders, was still with us. She was a little frail brown wren of a woman, older than the rest of us, with a great love for flowers and all natu-

since 1995. Again the captain system was used for the management of each section. In the last few years we have added a few hardy perennials and some house plants to the mix. This sale has never made much money, but it has paid off in the beauty of the spring bulbs, which we see all over the neighborhood, and in the lovely chrysanthemums on people’s porches in the fall.

No account of the Garden Fair would be complete without mention of the extraordinary loyalty of its members, both to the event itself and to each other. Over the years they have worked their fingers to the bone and have taken days off work and have returned from distant cities to do it. Those who have been involved for many, many years still stand back on Thursday

Special Exhibit on the Hyde Park Garden Fair Coming This Summer to the Hyde Park Historical Society

evening to admire the bountiful, colorful display before any greedy hands have disturbed it. And our reward is to hear over and over on Friday morning from our loyal customers, “Oh, it’s more beautiful than ever before!”

The next steps will be how to deal with our complexity, and how to attract working women and men and to make use of their more limited hours as we launch on to our second 50 years.

For me Fasel’s was a sort of Mecca: sprawling and disorganized with an incredibly diverse stock, strung out over many acres. We would tramp up and down through the rows of poly houses, making notes of what was where and what looked especially good. I remember learning through experience to wear layers and raingear and waterproof boots so I was prepared for any weather Mother Nature threw at us. Also, I always wore a hat to keep the sun out of my eyes and to keep my ears warm when a sharp west wind was blowing. I carried a bottle of water because I always got parched. One of my fondest memories is picnicking on the grassy area in front of the office when the weather was warm and dry enough. I remember digging the mud off the cleats in my boots so they would not be so heavy to drag around as we walked miles through the poly houses. I remember how graciously everyone shared treats they brought for lunch. I remember my totally wet rear end when I stood up from the rain-soaked grass. I remember the struggle to get everyone back into our cars, and packing in the final plant treasures we brought home. The three members in my back seat all held flats of plants on their laps all the way back to Chicago with the twigs of a couple of bushes behind the back seat tickling their ears.

— Beth L.

Hyde Park Garden Fair's
Fall Mum & Bulb Sale
 Saturday, September 12, 2009
 10:00 until 4:00
 Hyde Park Shopping Center Courtyard

ral things. On an early, cold spring outing up north, she directed us to Mary Black's Tulips. Ms. Black grew a huge demonstration garden of Dutch bulbs and imported them directly for her customers. This was so early in the season that only tiny Iris reticulata and a few snowdrops were up and in bloom. Molly asked the group "Do you know that the iris smells like violets?" and suddenly she was down on her hands and knees on the cold, wet ground, smelling the 4-inch tall flowers. Then we all were. I decided I loved this group.

We found for three years running that the same exuberant front yard on Dorchester just had to win first prize in our Visible Gardens Contest. So we finally asked the owner, Carolyn Ulrich, to join the committee so that someone else could win for a change. She agreed, and became a valued member. Later she became editor of the excellent magazine, *Chicagoland Gardening*.

In 1973, 1974, and 1975, we were really challenged when we were asked to participate in an exhibit at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show at McCormick Place. It was called "Cityscape" and it consisted of a row of five mock housefronts—painted props—with a strip of front yard and a small back yard, possibly 8 by 10 feet. Each was designed and planted by a different city neighborhood group. There was a Spanish yard, all patio and big potted tropicals, and a Bohemian yard, with mushrooms painted on everything. Our housefront was designed by Karl Dornbusch (Harper Court architect), and the yard featured a flowering crab tree, early bulbs and wildflowers, and even a tiny compost pit. We just had to have a crab since the Conference had already run a successful campaign to get home owners to plant crabs all over Hyde Park. Fasel Brothers actually "forced" the crab into bloom for us. It was fun and different and we won awards for two of the years.



The Garden Fair's 1973 Chicago Flower and Garden Show Exhibit

Why Not Join or Renew Your Membership TODAY?

Membership Form

Level:

- Family \$30
- Individual \$20
- Senior..... \$15
- Friend \$100
- Supporter \$200
- Sponsor \$500
- Other _____

I am interested in the following programs:

- CAGL (Academic Games)
- Condos/Coops
- Development/Preservation
- Disabilities Task Force
- Environmental Sustainability
- Friends of Blackstone Library
- Hyde Park Garden Fair
- Hyde Park Used Book Sale
- Nichols Park Advisory Council
- Parks Committee
- Schools Committee
- Transit Task Force
- Website and Reporter
- WhistleStop/Safety

A community issue that concerns me is:

Member Information:

Your Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

HPKCC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Please send this form along with your check, made out to Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference to:

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

1525 E. 53rd Street, Suite 907
 Chicago, IL 60615

Telephone: (773) 288-8343

E-mail: hpkcc@aol.com

<http://www.hydepark.org>

Garden Fair Growers

By Joy Rosner, Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee

An essential part of the equation that makes up the Spring and Fall Garden Fairs is our wonderful suppliers, whom we consider part of our Garden Fair family. In fact, many are family businesses that we have dealt with for many, many years.

For the month before the Spring sale, the Garden Fairers visit these growers and pick the plants for the Spring fair. We order the bulbs for Fall months in advance and receive them just days before the fair from Holland.

The growers include Anton's, which provides us with annuals, vegetables, herbs, baskets, perennials, container plants, vines, and many surprises.

Shady Hill Gardens, owned by the Heidgen family, is a state-of-the-art greenhouse that provides us with beautiful geraniums, herbs, and marvelous container plants.

Ted's, owned and run by Ted Bernacky and his family, is a wonderland of unusual finds of houseplants, vegetables, succulents, cacti, and herbs.

Gardner's (spelled correctly) is owned by Larry and Karen Gardner and sells annuals, baskets, perennials, container plants, veggies and herbs from their farm-turned-greenhouse.

Sunrise (Woldhuis Farms) is owned and run by the Woldhuis family. We discovered them when there was a Saturday Market on King Drive. Dan, who now runs the farm, was 15 at the time. This greenhouse sells absolutely everything. At this huge layout, we use efficient overhead trolleys to gather our order.

Joanne Zandstra, veggie and flower lady at the Thursday Farmer's Market, has a charming greenhouse called Fields of Flowers. She grows unique perennials, herbs, annuals and gorgeous cottage garden-looking containers and baskets.

Butch Zandstra used to be at the Thursday market too. He now sells and grows wonderful baskets and containers at his farm. He always has unexpected plants, too, which last year included a plethora of succulents and varied annual grasses.

Oak Hill has been for a long time our source for orchids. Family-owned, they have long raised a huge variety of orchids.

Sophia Reiter of Gourmet Herbs grows a multitude of organic herbs for us on her farm, especially for our 50th anniversary.

Another family business is Netherlands Bulbs from whom we order bulbs for our Fall fair. Right after the Spring Fair, Sjors the salesman visits me and discusses the new bulbs for the year over brownies, strawberries, and tea!

We have long bought spectacular perennials, wild flowers, and ground cover from Planters Palette. We get roses from a fine specialty grower—Roses, Roses, Roses. Other rare shrubs are purchased from Leo's. A new find, Smits Farm, provides herbs and annuals.

We remember fondly two generations of the Fasel family, Barney and Claudia Turk, the folks at the Natural Garden, Goldiggers, and Mini-Earth. Over the years, we have lost suppliers in the north and northwest suburbs, replacing them with those south and west of the city, because of increasing traffic problems. And we have lost some because of business failures and even business successes. Small greenhouses grown big sometimes didn't need us any more.

We appreciate our family, the growers, and thank them for their friendly, helpful, and thoughtful service to us through the years!



HPKCC

Officers

President: George W. Rumsey
Vice President: Jay Ammerman
Vice President: Gary Ossewaarde
Secretary: Patricia Morse
Treasurers: Mark Granfors

Directors

Lenora Austin, Nancy Baum, Amy Becker, Gwen Bonds, Richard Buchner, Peter Cassel, Jane Ciacci, Jane Comiskey, George Davis, Michael Doss, Amy Girst, Wallace Goode, Anita Hollings, Tracy Lampkin, Julie Monberg, David Nekimken, Brenda Sawyer, Vicki Suchovsky, James Withrow, George Cooley (emeritus)

PROGRAMS

Chicago Academic Games League
Condos/Co-ops+
Development, Preservation, and Zoning
Disabilities Task Force
Friends of Blackstone Library
Hyde Park Garden Fair
Hyde Park Used Book Sale
Nichols Park Advisory Council
Parks Committee
Schools Committee
Southside Preservation Action Fund
Transit Task Force
WhistleStop/Safety

CONFERENCE OFFICE

1525 E. 53rd St., Suite 907
Chicago, IL 60615
(773) 288-8343
e-mail: HPKCC@aol.com
<http://www.hydepark.org>

HPKCC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization



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

Special thanks to those who provided photos, including Barbara O'Connor, Joy Rosner, Carol Schneider, and Eugenia Fawcett (vegetable photos).