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Don't Forget July 10

Saturday

Daylily Tour & Show

Meet at the Benton House
or Holliday Park

President's letter

Hello all! Just over two weeks ago we held the first of this year's five farmer's markets.

Hopefully you were there to kick off our eleventh year. But if not, join me in saluting our co-chairs Marsha Dotty and Melany Bellucci for a "job well done."

As with many of our undertakings, the planning and preparation for each market is time consuming. Thus, I also want to thank the small army of club members who assisted on market day by staffing the club's booth, directing vendors to their sites, finding a lost child or pet and handling last minute emergencies.

While peddling plants from the club's nursery at the event, I was delighted to hear one attendee tell me, somewhat excitedly, that she had just seen an old, dear friend for the first time this year. A community gathering place ... you bet!

In closing, our next market will be held from noon to 3 PM on Sunday, July 11.

Come shop or if you want bring a chair, sit down and just watch.

Ed Myers

WANTED: the club needs used 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 inch clay flower pots. To donate call 503-6139.

IRVINGTON BRANCH LIBRARY DISPLAY
The club has a exhibit highlighting it's money making projects --- the farmer's markets and our 10th annual garden tour --- in one of the library's lobby cases. Also included in the display are photographs of Benton House Historic and Kile Oak Habitat Gardens and the Webster Avenue Pocket Park. Club member, Laura Hildreth, created the exhibit's signage.

Sunday, June 27, will mark the 10th anniversary of our annual GARDEN TOUR. This year's beautiful poster highlights the watercolor artistry of one of our members Laura Hildreth.

I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border. I think it is a flower garden: she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error-
Sara Stein

FARMERS MARKET RAFFLE WINNER

Teresa Daugherty

Enduring Classic Flowers

Ed Myers

I have always loved history and the lessons it can teach us. Likewise, I have had a lifelong fascination with the mysteries of the plant world. Thus, I have always found the stories behind some of our antique flowers interesting.

Many read like spy novels whereas others resemble games such as hide-and-seek or pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey. Below are stories behind six of our most ancient flowering plants.

Red Hot Poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*) some times called Torch Lily, this species arrived in England in 1707 after having been discovered on the Cape of Good Hope, Africa.

Never considering it hardy, collectors coddled it as a curiosity under glass for nearly one hundred and fifty years. In 1848, a few plants were planted outside at England's Kew Gardens where they surprised everyone by surviving the winter.

The species became very popular in the west of Scotland where in a Sir Walter Scott novel, *Rob Roy*, the name "poker" was applied. The species fascinated those living in the Victoria age and over fifty hybrids were introduced all of which grow best in full sun and well drained soil.

Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) was introduced to the plant world in 1874 after its discovery in Turkey. Its grayish-green, pleated leaves were thought to resemble an old fashioned cloak thus its common name lady's mantle. Its cup-shaped leaves are covered with silky hairs and hold glittering drop of rain.

This plant displays tiny chartreuse sprays of flowers and is not difficult to grow provided it receives a bit of sun and is grown in somewhat moist soil.

Blackberry Lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*) this two to three foot plant has fan shaped, iris like, leaves and five-petalled orange flowers. After blooming its seed pods open to expose shiny black seeds which make great additions to a winter flower arrangement.

Introduced to Europe in 1823 from China, blackberry lilies should be planted one inch deep in partial to full sun and well drained soil.

Balloon Flower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*) a must have plant due to it being totally free of pests and diseases, this plant was introduced to England from China in 1782 then lost to cultivation and reintroduced in 1842.

Aptly named, its buds puff up like a hot-air balloon which when open reveal long-blooming, lavender flowers with darker purple veins running the length of each petal. When mature the seed capsules of balloon flowers open from valves at the top of each seed head.

The stalks of this flower emerge late in the spring which often causes the gardener to believe it has died. Requiring little care it should be planted in full sun.

Lamb's Ears (*Stachys byzantina*) there are numerous common names for this species including Jesus flannel and donkey's ear. Introduced in 1872, the plants native habitat ranges from the Caucasus to Persia.

It is oftentimes planted in a children's gardens due to its fuzzy, pale silver-gray


leaves. Easy to grow lamb's ears are a slow spreader with insignificant but fragrant flowers borne on stalks about twelve inches about it's leaves.

The plant was endeared to many in ancient times in that they believed it provided protection from witchcraft.

Old Gooseneck (*Lysimachia clethroides*) found growing in China in 1869, this plant is sometimes referred to as shepherd's hook. An attractive, although invasive species, it grows from underground rhizomes.

Blooming in mid to late summer, it's white-arching flowers are carried on spikes which all face the same direction and last for about three weeks. This twelve to fourteen inch species grows best in partial to full sun.

Ed Myers is an advanced master gardener and President of the Irvington Garden Club. He is also the supervisor of both the Benton House Historic and Kile Oak Habitat Gardens.



Members and friends of the Irvington Garden Club,

This year we will host our 10th Annual Garden Tour from 1 - 5 PM on Sunday, June 27. A significant percent of the proceeds from the tour are directed towards our beautification projects including the **Kile Oak Habitat** and **Benton House Historic Gardens**, our projects at **Webster Avenue Pocket Park**, **Bona Thompson Center**, **Shrub Rose Garden**, and our beautifully landscaped **Audubon and Washington Gateway**.

Thus, your purchase of a ticket will contribute to our being able to continue planting and maintaining these locations. Additionally, if you are like me you enjoy peeking in other gardener's backyards in search of new gardening ideals.

Hence, I hope you will attend and invite your families and friends to this event.

Eight dollar advance tickets made be purchased from the Antique Mall of Irvington, 5502 East Washington, or Habig's Garden Shop, 1105 North Arlington Avenue. Tickets on the day of the tour may be purchased from the Irvington United Methodist Church, 30 North Audubon Road or the Benton House, 312 South Downey Avenue.

As in the past, eight of Irvington's most pampered gardens will be on display, artists will be at work in several gardens, and exhibits at the Bona Thompson Center will highlight floral paintings and potted begonias.

Again this year, the club's planted and maintained **Benton House Historic Garden** is included on the tour. Although the 1873 house - as well it should - dominates the almost acre lot, it's grounds are planted with numerous plants grown in American gardens prior to 1900. Consequently, those touring the garden will find species hosta and daylily. Irises dating to 1700, peonies hybridized in the 1800's, and others including old gooseneck (1869), lady's mantel (1874), blackberry lily (1823), Russian sage (1840), and red hot poker (1707).

Thank you and I hope to see you at our tour.

Ed Myers, President
Irvington Garden Club
359-3231

Daylily (Hemerocallis)

Although I've many favorite flowers, the daylily (Hemerocallis) ranks high on my list.

Native to Asia, the plant's genus name is derived from two Greek words meaning "beautiful" and "day".

Almost all daylilies are diurnal in that they open at sunrise and close at sunset. Some, although very small in number, are nocturnal or night blooming and an ever increasing number are re-bloomers.



One Irvington daylily enthusiast, Lucy Park Newton, a member of the Hoosier Daylily Society (HooDS), Indiana Daylily-Iris Society (IDIS), American Hemerocallis Society (AHS), and the Irvington Garden Club, believes "The beauty of daylilies will brighten any garden, no matter if they are simple ditch/railroad lilies or the latest hybridized unusual form daylily from a nationally known breeder."

Considered a universal flower in that they can be grown in all eleven of our plant zones, Lucy continued, "They are very close to being a fool-proof perennial flower, nearly impossible to kill, yet daylilies provide beauty from April through July if given water, sun, and a bit of mulch."

When asked to comment on the photograph included in this article she said, "it's beautiful and I love the many colors and forms they now come in: pink, red, lavender, yellow, white, deep purple, round, star-like, twisted and cascading, double, and spider-like."

Lucy, I agree. And as she knows, they have few pests and diseases, require good soil with adequate drainage, and do best in full sun although they will also do well with at least six hours of sun. In order to avoid fading cultivars having red and purple flowers benefit from partial shade in the hottest part of each day.

The petals are edible and used in Chinese cuisine. Sold dry, "golden needles" are often used in "hot and sour soup" and "moo sho pork" dishes.

In closing, I agree with Lucy when she said "If gardeners want to go see a multitude of beautiful daylilies, there are many local public gardens that are affiliated with the AHS. They should go online to the AHS website and find the Region 2 page (that's us), which will take them to a list of local and display gardens, all of which sell their daylilies at very affordable prices."

Now through the 4th of July weekend is peak bloom season and a great time to go looking for that special addition to your garden.

Thanks to our contributors to the newsletter. Lucy, Melany and Ed

May Meeting

