

Clover Lawn Quarterly

David Davis Mansion Foundation Newsletter
Summer 2009

The Garden Walk, June 19-20

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL – Things will be blooming again in Bloomington-Normal during “*The American Garden Tour*,” the thirteenth annual Glorious Garden Festival Garden Walk, featuring a tour of at least 11 private gardens, to be held Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, at several locations throughout the twin cities. Hosted each year on the third weekend in June, the Festival is a fundraising event benefiting the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site and the David Davis Mansion Foundation.

The Community Garden Walk will be held Friday, June 19 from 1 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The walk begins on the grounds of the David Davis Mansion State Historic Site, 1000 E. Monroe Drive, Bloomington, and walkers must pick up maps and programs at the mansion. The event will be held rain or shine.

The garden walk offers self-guided tours through at least twelve private gardens in the community. This year’s gardens include sunny, shade, perennial and water gardens that range from small, backyard gardens to expansive gardens filled with unique hardscapes and cascading waterfalls.

Landscape nurseries that are corporate sponsors of the event—Bellas Landscaping, Casey’s Garden Shop, Chizmar Landscaping, Green View Companies, Grieder Sod & Landscaping, and Wendell Niepagen Greenhouses and Garden Center—may have experts on hand to provide information about the more unusual plants. Other corporate sponsors include BGI, Chasin’ Rainbows Gifts and Home Accents, Original Smith Printing, Osborn & DeLong, Westminster Village, and Zimmerman & Armstrong Investment Advisors.

Tickets for the garden walk are \$12 in advance, \$15 the weekend of event, and \$7 for children ages 1 to 17. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a variety of vendors throughout Bloomington-Normal and at the David Davis Mansion the weekend of the event. Easy ticket and map pick-up is available with drive-through service and free parking on the Mansion grounds. For more information about this year’s ticket sale locations, contact the Davis Mansion at (309) 828-1084. Garden patrons will also have a chance to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$500 gift certificate donated by Prochnow Landscaping/Kickapoo Creek Nursery. Raffle tickets are one for \$10; 3 for \$25.



Mission Statement

The David Davis Mansion Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated in June of 1986. Its mission is to help the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency engage, enlighten and entertain visitors with the stories of the site, of the David Davis household, and of their special relationship with Abraham Lincoln and others.

New Executive Director for Foundation

The David Davis Mansion Foundation has a new Executive Director, Barb Ely. Barb has most recently been working with the University of Illinois Extension office.

Volunteers Needed

There are many opportunities for volunteers to help with the numerous activities associated with the 2009 edition of the Glorious Garden Walk in the various gardens on the tour. For more information about volunteering at the Glorious Garden Festival call (309) 828-1084

Please forward any announcements or information which might be appropriate for inclusion in the *Quarterly* to Mark Taylor at tmjtbat@aol.com.

What's New in Sarah's Garden

Mary Jane Bohall continues to recruit the interest of local horticulture specialists in the plants in Sarah's garden, adding to our knowledge and solving more mysteries.

Last summer, Tony Liberta, an American Rose Society consulting rosarian, identified the pink trellis rose in Bed C as *Cécile Brunner*. Ken Robertson, a botanist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, identified the vine which was growing on the back fence near the foaling barn as *euonymus*, which is not one of Sarah's documented plants. Ken also identified the hedge as *Ligustrum vulgare* and the large honeysuckle in Bed G as *Lonicera maackii*. Ken also identified the trellis honeysuckle in Bed C as *Lonicera japonica halliana*.

Mary Jane Bohall continued her research on Sarah Davis's letters. This winter she reported the following: Sarah writes in a letter dated May 2, 1879, of going to the woods and getting some "Dyaetra". Steve McDaniel suggested that perhaps she was referring to the *Dicentra* which is the bleeding heart. The 1868 F. K. Phoenix catalog indicates the *Dicentra* was also known as *Dielytra*. Sarah also talks of smelling the sweet syringa, which is the family name for lilac. However, the Phoenix catalog listed the lilac as lilac and the Mock Orange as *Syringa*. This piece of evidence answers a question that has troubled the restoration gardeners for years, that is whether or not the Mock Orange should stay in Sarah's Garden.

Gesine Lohr from the Historical Iris Preservation Society identified the pale blue iris as *Iris Florentina*.

Harvey Buchite of the American Peony Society has identified the pale pink peony in Bed C as *Duchess de Nemours* (Calot 1856), the pink peony in Bed A as *Sarah Bernhardt* (Lemoine, 1906), and the deep pink peony in Bed F as *Edulis Superba*.

Also, the spirea in Bed F is *Spirea prunifolia*.

Research continues to find an acceptable material to cover the garden paths.



Newly identified *Iris Florentina*.

Scott Kunst objected to haydite, which is a shale product kilned to a high temperature, saying it would diminish the eutenics of the original garden. Dave Halpin, state archeologist, objected to the cinders obtained from Springfield Power & Light Co. on the basis they differed in content and texture from the original cinders. The research continues as the volunteer gardeners, along with historians and plant professionals, seek solutions to practical problems while staying true to the historic nature of the garden.

During the 2009 Glorious Garden Festival, June 19-20, there will be tours of "Sarah's Garden" on the Davis Mansion lawn conducted by members of the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners in McLean County. These experts will help visitors appreciate these heirlooms, and learn how to create a Victorian garden in their own back yards, using heirloom plants from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and other famous American gardens. The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners in McLean County and its members have provided much of the work needed to get Sarah's Garden ready for this event.

Governor's Press Release

SPRINGFIELD - April 23, 2009. Governor Pat Quinn today announced that 11 of the state historic sites closed late last year are reopened to the public. At the Dana-Thomas House in Springfield, Governor Quinn welcomed the first visitors to the site in more than four months.

"As our children prepare for the future, it is important to teach them about the past." said Governor Quinn. "By visiting our historic sites, families can learn about the Land of Lincoln's rich history and support our local economies."

Earlier this month, the General Assembly passed a \$1.6 million supplemental appropriations bill to support the re-hiring of all 33 Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) employees who were laid off when the historic sites closed. The bill also merged IHPA and the Department of Natural Resources, effective July 1.

Governor Quinn praised the organizations and communities that supported reopening of the historic sites after the decision had been made to close them. They include: the City of Bloomington, the David Davis Mansion Foundation, the City of Vandalia, the Vandalia Old Capitol Foundation, and the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Annual Community Meeting

The 2009 Annual Community Meeting is scheduled for May 26th this year, rather than later in the Fall. The event was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Hansen Student Center at Illinois Wesleyan University, and the David Davis Mansion Foundation co-sponsored Professor Michael Burlingame's speech — "Writing Lincoln's Life."

Michael Burlingame to discuss "Writing Lincoln's Life"

May 26, 7:00 p.m., Wesleyan Campus

Michael Burlingame's 2008 two-volume set, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, has received critical acclaim and has placed the noted scholar and author on a very busy speaking schedule during this Lincoln Bicentennial year. The David Davis Mansion Foundation, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County, and Illinois Wesleyan University are pleased to bring Dr. Burlingame to Bloomington to describe his experiences researching and writing about Abraham Lincoln. A free public presentation will be hosted at Wesleyan's Hansen Student Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26.

Burlingame is the Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus at Connecticut College in New London, Conn., where he taught from 1968 until his retirement in 2001. He published *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln* in 1994, and has edited numerous volumes of primary source material and essays about Lincoln. He has received the Abraham Lincoln Association Book Prize (1996), the Lincoln Diploma of Honor from Lincoln Memorial University (1998), Honorable Mention for the Lincoln Prize, Gettysburg College (2001), and was inducted into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois in 2009.

A large and enthusiastic crowd attended the event at the Hansen Student Center on the IWU campus, and Dr. Burlingame answered many questions from the audience at the conclusion of his formal remarks.

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Calendar of Events -- 2009

May

- 20 DDMF Board of Director's Mtg, 7:00 pm**
- 26 Annual Community Event:**
Michael Burlingame "Writing Lincoln's Life", 7:00 pm, Hansen Student Center at Illinois Wesleyan

June

- 19 & 20 Glorious Garden Walk, check in at the David Davis Mansion for maps and brochure**

July

- 15 DDMF Board of Director's Mtg, 7:00 pm**
- 19 "In the Good Old Summer-Time" Tea, 2:00 pm, David Davis Mansion**

August

- 1 Antique Auto Expo at the David Davis Mansion**
- 8&9 "1893 Chicago World's Fair" Tea, 2:00 pm, David Davis Mansion**
- 19 DDMF Board of Director's Mtg, 7:00 pm**

September

- 16 DDMF Board of Director's Mtg, 7:00 pm**
- 26 Lincoln Douglas Debate — Reunion Tour at the David Davis Mansion**

David Davis Mansion
Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday - Sunday
(Closed Monday and Tuesday and some State Holidays)