



ParkNotes

a semiannual newsletter published by the Lafayette Park Conservancy

Issue 12

Spring 2013

Grotto Gardening is a Groovy Gig



Volunteers working in the Grotto area of the Park, near the bridge.



Our plants arriving from the Flora Conservancy greenhouses.

Cold, rainy and downright yucky weather delayed our gardening efforts, but true to form, a steadfast group of volunteers made a big difference in the Park this spring. As soon as it wasn't too wet to plant we were out in force working in the Grotto as well as other areas of the Park. The Washington stature section was weeded and a few plants were planted. We are toying around with the idea of a red, white and blue garden in that area, but want to use perennials if we can. In the Grotto area itself we were able to also weed and plant a few areas, but still have a lot of planting to do on the hillside behind the music gazebo. Spring is a very busy time for gardening and we can always use more volunteers (besides the bug-eating swans and ducks). If you have an urge to do some groovy gardening, contact one of these people for information on getting started with us: Susan Pinker-Dodd (doddsp@swbell.net), Grotto; Rebecca Wright (wright_rm@sbcglobal.net), Rock Garden or Marilyn Lane (camaros@swbell.net), Washington Statue.

Why is planting like renovating a house?

While spring is a common time to get going on gardening, it is a good idea to consider planting perennials in autumn. This method allows the new plants to put energy toward root growth instead of flowers and foliage. The roots of course are under ground and hidden from view, but like renovation of plumbing and electrical systems, the important (and expensive) stuff is out of sight.

Spies, Soldiers and Passions: The Civil War and Lafayette Park

As part of the ongoing commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the Lafayette Park Conservancy will host a public Civil War re-enactment in Lafayette Park on Sunday, October 6, 2013 beginning at 1:00 P.M. Civil War Re-enactors and the 16th Colored Infantry will stage a bivouac as it might have appeared in the war years when Union troops were stationed in Lafayette Park as part of the goal to protect the city of St. Louis from attack. In addition, the "Etc. Senior Theatre" will portray prominent Lafayette Park residents in re-enactments and remembrances of the 1860s and 1870s, when Union and Confederate sympathies divided the neighborhood. Visitors will encounter a series of continuing venues as they proceed through various areas of the Park. Entertainment will be provided by the Folk School performing songs of the Civil War period. A vintage baseball game will be in play, as well as story telling and a display of quilts portraying the Underground Railroad.

From the President. . .

This year began with several annual events. President's Day was celebrated during unseasonably mild weather, a welcome change from the usually frigid conditions for the day. We held a reception for the Daughters of the American Revolution dignitaries prior to a wreath-laying ceremony.

Late April brought snowstorms followed by long days of cool, wet weather. Because the ground was so wet, our volunteer gardeners were unable to do much gardening work in the park until mid-May. Please join me in thanking Lafayette Park's garden volunteers and the volunteers and staff from the Flora Conservancy of Forest Park for their help in beautifying Lafayette Park.

The pathways in the southeast quadrant of Lafayette Park will be refurbished thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Darden Restaurant Foundation/LongHorn Steakhouse. The grant was awarded to the St. Louis Parks Department through the efforts of the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Boathouse renovations are still in the planning stages. A set of drawings were completed recently that include ADA accessible restrooms on the playground side of the building. These restrooms can be accessed from the park or from the boathouse, depending on which doors are unlocked. The plans include drawings for electrical, lighting, plumbing, HVAC and a catering kitchen. Funding is still being secured for the renovations.

We would like your input about what Park projects are important to you at: lpc@lafayettesqr.com.

Prime Time Trivia Night

This sold out event, held in early March, was a great celebration of our efforts and a fundraiser for the Lafayette Park Conservancy's many projects.



Though no prime rib was served at any of the tables, the evening provided a bounty of trivia and camaraderie as well as snacks, sweets and libations.

The trivia event raised over \$6,000 that will be used to purchase a new drinking fountain for the playground/Boathouse area. "MAARRVelouss" as Billy Crystal used to say on SNL, home to the Not Yet Ready for Prime Time Players. The Paris inspired table won for Best Table Theme but we know that the best piece of Prime Real Estate is our own Lafayette Park. Our generous sponsors, silent auction donors, volunteers and smart-as-a-whip players made it a winning evening for the continuing beautification and restoration of the Park.

More Gun Restoration News

The Conservancy has ordered lumber to build a second gun carriage for the Revolutionary War Gun Monument in the park. The first new gun carriage was placed in the park in 2009. Once again we are using Ipe wood from Mexico. Ipe is a dense, weather resistant hardwood that lasts much longer than oak outside and it does not need to be treated or coated.

Cannon are like sheep.
The singular and plural forms are spelled the same.
Aboard ships cannon are called guns. Sheep aboard ships is just weird.

When the shipment arrives from Mexico, Hibdon Hardwood will deliver it to Zymo Sculpture Studio - Wally, Marty and Jacob Hauck's studio on North Broadway. The gun will be removed from the Park and transported there so it can be fitted to its new carriage.



The third gun, a carronade, was made from an inferior grade of iron and will have to be treated in a conservation studio in Maryland. Tests have shown that the iron is still deteriorating as a result of being submerged in seawater for 111 years. The guns are from a British warship, The Acteon, sunk during an attack on Charleston, S. C. in 1776. We are fortunate to have the only Revolutionary War monument west of the Mississippi River.

President's Day Celebration

The Lafayette Park Conservancy held its annual reception in the Park House prior to the wreath-laying ceremony.

Sara Sanders, the past Regent of the Cornelia Greene Chapter, cut the patriotically decorated cake.

Because of the warm weather and school holiday, many neighborhood children joined the state and regional Daughters of the American

Revolution members and dignitaries. The colorful uniforms of the Sons of the American Revolution color guard created a festive atmosphere.



Sara Sanders, past Regent and Elizabeth Crabtree, current Regent

The Cornelia Greene Chapter of the DAR held their annual George Washington's Birthday Commemoration at the Washington statue. The weather was unusually mild, but very blustery. Regent Elizabeth Crabtree welcomed everybody to the patriotic ceremony which included the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner", posting of the colors, invocation, and pledges of allegiance to our country and state. Patricia West, Missouri State DAR Regent, placed the wreath in front of the statue.



Major R. W. Jones speaking in front of the Washington statue.

This year's speaker was Major Ronald W. Jones, Advisor for the Missouri National Guard. Major Jones is a veteran of the Vietnam and Korean wars and is a historian. The ceremony concluded with a benediction and retiring of the colors.

Darden Foundation Grant for Paths

The Darden Foundation, in collaboration with LongHorn Steakhouse restaurant, has given the St. Louis Parks Department \$15,000 to construct, refurbish or improve pathways in Lafayette Park. The grant opportunity came through the efforts of the National Recreation and Park Association that connected the Darden Foundation with the St. Louis Parks Department. Park Commissioner Dan Skillman recommended that the pathways of Lafayette Park were a good fit for the grant.

The Darden Foundation grant will allow the St. Louis Streets Department to improve the crumbling pathways in the southeast quadrant of the park. City Paving did an excellent job installing the ADA accessible paths connecting the grotto bridge to the existing pathways last year. Before the paving can begin, the floral beds in the area around the Washington Statue will be enclosed with cement curbs. The curbing was recommended in the Lafayette Park Pathway Plan, and will be funded by the LPC.

LongHorn Steakhouse will host a volunteer event in the park providing restaurant employees the opportunity to be involved in the project. Once the curbing is installed around the floral beds, LongHorn employees will help improve the soil, plant perennials, and mulch the five circles. Roger Maddox of Long Horn Steakhouse has expressed that his team of volunteers are excited about the upcoming volunteer event in Lafayette Park this spring. Aaron Duckworth will head this volunteer event for Long Horn Steakhouse.

The Lafayette Park Conservancy wishes to express our appreciation for this generous grant and volunteer effort from the Darden Foundation and LongHorn Steakhouse. We also wish to thank the National Recreation and Park Association and the St. Louis Parks and Streets Departments.

Take the Mystery out of History

Your group can request two different PowerPoint slide-shows from the LPC. They are "The Fascinating History of Lafayette Park" and "The Man Who Made St. Louis Beautiful". The fee is \$50 for not-for-profit groups. Contact Carolyn Willmore (314-664-0106) to arrange a presentation. Also take advantage of our park tours by calling Kathy Marks-Petetit (314-588-9004).

KEEP THIS DATE

October 6, 2013: Civil War Re-enactment in Lafayette Park
Check www.lafayettepark.org for details

Friends are saying,
"Join the Conservancy!"

I/we want to join/renew at the following membership level.

- \$35 - Friend
- \$50 - Family
- \$75 - Botanist
- \$150 - Historian
- \$300 - Preservationist
- \$500 - Benton Society
- \$1000 - Lafayette Society

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Memberships are valid for one year. The Lafayette Park Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. If your contribution is eligible for a matching gift, please include your company's matching form. Return with your check or money order to:

Lafayette Park Conservancy

2023 Lafayette Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63104

Or make your contribution on our website:

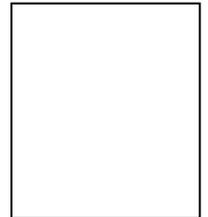
www.lafayettepark.org

I want to donate \$ _____ to the Boathouse Project.

I want to donate \$ _____ to the Guns Project.



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