Hilltop’s 60th Youth Garden Program offered a fun-filled summer of planting, weeding, watering and mulching. This summer’s participants reaped the benefits of all that sweaty work as they munched on garden-fresh green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers and grilled zucchini and lugged home bags full of this year’s harvest to share with their families and friends.

Program Coordinator Carrie Norton reports that a lot of science lessons were slipped into the program as well. The children learned about plant growth and development, soil, water, and composting. They were introduced to the insects and birds that frequent Hilltop’s garden spaces, and they enjoyed visitors who have shared their expert knowledge of bees, birds and raw foods, among many other garden-related topics.

The program culminated in a Potluck and Awards Ceremony on August 8. Honored campers for this year are Fields Chung, Gardener of the Year; Ira Stryapunina and Henry Andrews, Dan Bushey Above and Beyond Award; Lola Kennedy, New Gardener; Gabby Hetrick and Kate Myers, Outstanding Attitude; and Gabby Wulf, Up and Coming Gardener. Congratulations!
Hilltop has launched a partnership with FarmBloomington, one of the hottest new restaurants in town. Chef Daniel Orr and his staff provided memorable food for Hilltop’s 60th birthday gala in June. Several varieties of Hilltop basil are featured in Farm’s summer menu, and since the daylilies have been in bloom, they’re finding their way into floral arrangements at Farm. Did you know that daylily buds are edible? Look for them in Farm sautés.

Can Do!
Can Do!, Hilltop’s aluminum recycling program, is gaining momentum. Introduced last fall, the project removes aluminum beverage cans from the waste stream, saves energy and generates cash for Hilltop’s programs. Are those worthy goals, or what?

At first, the effort relied entirely on people of good will who brought their bags of crushed cans to Hilltop — and more and more helpful friends are doing so. At the end of the spring semester, Hilltop began collecting cans from selected locations throughout the IU campus. Starting this fall, the campaign will move to a new level, as collection barrels will be placed in I.U. dorms and residence halls.

Can Do! is generating support for Hilltop’s programs, all from “useless” trash. We’re happy to accept your aluminum (aluminum only, please!) cans. Just drop them off at Hilltop any time it’s convenient for you.

Many Thanks
To Jeff Leisz for arranging a donation of limestone slabs and pieces from Bybee Stone Co., Inc. – and to Bybee Stone for an enormously impressive gift

To Boy Scout Troop 175 for laying a stone border the full 380-foot length of Libby’s Perennial Garden

To Ed McEndarfer for hooking up a very welcome air conditioner in the Garden House

To Libby Frey for donating daffodils to the Fall Bulb Sale

To all of our wonderful volunteers, who gave countless hours and a lot of effort in preparing for and participating in a very successful Spring Plant Sale; revising the Youth Garden Program curriculum; planting and maintaining Tropical Valley; and generally keeping the place neat, clean and spiffy.

To our generous donors:
Charlotte and Jim Griffin
E. Wainwright Martin
Alice and Ted Deppe
Jim and Janice Peterson
Julie Lohrman
Beth Hollingsworth

In memory of Margaret Boyd
Sandra Hertling
In memory of Gladys Hawkins
Tim J. Henke
In memory of Anne Wilson
Michael and Trudy Loop
Carmen and Linda Felicetti
Rebecca P. Amthor
Martha J. Smiley
Paul and Myrtle Pietsch
Roberta Mueller
Richard and Rosemary Dever
John and Juliana Laumakis
T. C. and B. K. Johnston
Leo Semes
Newell and Myra Bossart
Asta T. Almenas
Alan and Margaret Tanner
Carrie and Walter Harris
Mary Dana Korman
Dorothy Grimes
Donna Smith
Claire Gregory
David A. Goss
Christopher and Sonja Baum
Elinor Sheehan
Katharine Wolpe
John and Rebecca Laurent
Maria McNab
Elizabeth and Douglas Rogers
Marjorie and Donald Hattin
J. Arthur Gray

farm fresh from Hilltop
George Archer, a Bloomington man who died last year at age 100, never married or had children, lived simply and supported himself by caring for other people’s lawns and gardens, has left his entire estate to Hilltop. The gift of more than $600,000 is the largest donation in Hilltop’s 60-year history.

The bequest has been received by the Hilltop Educational Foundation (HEF), a volunteer group that serves as an advisory, advocacy and fund-raising organization for Hilltop. With the proceeds of the estate, HEF has established the George E. Archer Fund.

Archer worked for many years for Bloomington resident Edwin Cohen, the personal representative of the estate and a board member of HEF. Cohen said that he and his wife “marveled at his vigorous longevity. At age 93, the last year he worked for us, he revealed his secret. ‘I never married,’ he said. ‘I never had a woman boss me around.’”

Cohen’s involvement in the estate began in 2004 after Archer broke his hip and moved into a care facility. “George needed a new will with an acceptable beneficiary,” Cohen said. “Try as he might, he could not name one. He had no real friends. He cared little for organizations and causes, and he was estranged from his family.”

Cohen thought his beneficiary ought to have something to do with gardening. As he was pondering the question, he caught sight of a 1968 photograph of his 10-year-old daughter, clapping a giant zucchini she had grown at Hilltop, and, he said, “It struck me that Hilltop was an ideal beneficiary.”

Archer readily agreed, Cohen said. At a court hearing, he proudly said, “My money is going to help boys and girls.” The first program to be supported by the Archer Fund is a collaboration with the Bloomington Boys and Girls Club. The Archer Fund is providing full scholarships, enabling five boys and five girls from the Club to participate in Hilltop’s Youth Garden Program this summer. Thanks to Archer’s legacy, Hilltop will be able to help children develop a love of gardening for many years to come.

SAVE THE DATES

Double D Sale, Saturday, October 4
Stop at Hilltop and pick up choice daffodils and daylilies for fall planting. This year’s sale will feature photographs of each variety to help you choose your favorites. Preview what’s for sale online at www.indiana.edu/~hilltop/ddsale so you can have your list ready for this super one-day only sale.

The Great Pumpkin Party, Saturday, October 18
Gape at the masterpieces in the Gallery of Pumpkin Art. Learn how to make a fall wreath, grill fall vegetables or carve a spectacular jack-o’-lantern. Dine on FarmBloomington soups as well as brats and salads featuring Hilltop greens. Watch your kids enjoy decorating “tasteful” Halloween cookies. Cheer for your favorite entry in the Pumpkin Pie Bakeoff – and bid on a prize-winning pie. Buy a pumpkin or some orchard-fresh apples. Check www.indiana.edu/~hilltop for details.

Gala Celebration
Hilltop celebrated its 60th birthday in grand style on the evening of June 18. The event – a heartfelt “thank you” for donors and volunteers – marked the official unveiling of “Tribute to Tropical Foods,” the 2008 theme garden for this year’s Summer Garden Walk. PanUSA set the scene with steel band music. Farm Bloomington furnished the brilliant foods of Asia, Latin America and Africa, and Oliver Winery generously donated a fine selection of compatible wines, including the new Mango. Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruezan read an official proclamation honoring Hilltop, and the Barbara Shalucha Award, Hilltop’s highest honor, was presented to Ed Cohen in absentia. The evening concluded with a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday.”

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upcoming classes at Hilltop

Fall Vegetables  10 a.m., September 6  $20
Extend your harvest with a fall planting of savory vegetables. Hilltop Director Greg Speichert will tell you all about which varieties will welcome cooler growing temperatures and provide tips on protection from the cold.

Concrete Birdbaths  10 a.m., Saturday, September 13  $25
Add a charming grace note to your garden and welcome the birds with a birdbath you made yourself. Greg will help you mold a concrete birdbath around a giant taro leaf for the latest in birdbaths. All materials will be provided.

Put Your Tropicals to Bed  10 a.m., Saturday, September 20  $20
Join Greg for a morning in the tropics. Learn how to winter over dahlias, bananas, taros, cannas and other tender plants. Save money by getting many years of display out of the special varieties that give your garden the lush tropical look that is so popular today.

Seed Saving  10 a.m., October 4  $20
Start from seed for an economical way to expand your garden and try plants that are new to you. Learn how to collect, clean and store seed from flowers and vegetables, and take home a packet or two. Greg will share his best tips on the art of seed saving.

Hypertufa  10 a.m., Saturday, November 15  $25
If you missed last year’s sold-out Hypertufa classes, here’s your chance to make a “stone” trough for your own garden. Greg will help you produce a masterpiece, and he’ll introduce you to the plants that are best suited for trough culture. Wear old clothes. All materials will be provided.

Holiday Wreaths  10 a.m. or 2 p.m., Saturday, November 29  $25
Lorrie Falkenthal will again offer her very popular workshop on holiday wreaths. This workshop is scheduled for three separate times to suit your convenience. Claim bragging rights to a beautiful wreath of mixed evergreens that you made yourself. All materials will be provided.

Help Hilltop Grow!
Become a Friend of Hilltop. Friends receive special benefits plus the satisfaction of providing support for Hilltop’s programs. “Gardeners” ($35 individual; $60 household) receive a 10 percent discount on all classes and workshops, plus quarterly newsletter and email updates. “Donors” ($100 or more) also receive exclusive previews of all plant sales. “Sponsors” ($250) also receive an invitation to the gala opening of the annual theme garden. “Partners” ($500 or more) also receive free plant materials. The Hilltop Society includes donors of $1000 or more. Membership in and contributions to Friends of Hilltop are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.
HILLTOP WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

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Method of payment: □ Cash □ Check (payable to HEF) □ Credit Card □ Visa □ Master Card □ Discover
Card Number ___________________________ Exp Date ___________/ ___________
Signature ________________________________________________________________

How did you hear about the workshop? __________________________________________

Send your completed registration form with payment to:
Hilltop Educational Foundation (HEF)
2367 East 10th St.
Bloomington, IN  47408

Reasonable accommodations related to a disability are needed to permit participation. (Circle one) Yes  No
Registration for workshops or other classes at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center (hereinafter Hilltop) constitutes consent to the following terms and conditions: I understand the activities related to this class, and I am physically and mentally able to participate. In the event that I sustain an injury in the course of the program and Hilltop is unable to contact the appropriate person(s) to obtain consent for treatment, I authorize Hilltop and/or its employees or volunteers to take reasonable steps to obtain appropriate medical treatment. I shall be responsible for the cost of such treatment. I release Hilltop, Hilltop Educational Foundation, and Indiana University and their employees, agents and assigns from any claims including but not limited to personal injury or damage to property caused by or having any relation to this activity. I understand that this release applies to any present or future injuries and that it binds me, my spouse, heirs, executors or administrators. I may be photographed or videotaped while participating in Hilltop activities, and I consent to the reproduction of photographs or videotapes for advertising and publicity.
Annual Daffodil and Daylily Sale
One Day Only!
Saturday, October 4
Doors open at 9 a.m.
preview on-line at www.indiana.edu/~hilltop/ddsale

The Great Pumpkin Party
Saturday, October 18
Join us from 3 to 7 p.m. for this first-ever event.
All Ages Welcome!
go to www.indiana.edu/~hilltop/greatpumpkin for details

Moving?
Are you moving to a smaller home, condo, or retirement center? Hilltop will be happy to accept your donation of tools and plants. For information: 855-2799 or hilltop@indiana.edu.