



Hilltop

GARDEN - NATURE CENTER

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Hilltop Begins Its 41st Year

1987 marked the 40th year of the existence of Hilltop Garden. A good idea had an able founder and proponent, who spent most of her professional life developing and promoting her good idea, and it has grown, flourished, changed, and endured. In 1948, on an alfalfa field northeast of the Indiana University campus, Dr. Barbara Shalucha broke ground for a garden for children of Bloomington.

Hilltop was modeled after the youth garden at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, with which Dr. Shalucha was familiar.

The initial venture was modest enough, with only a few plots at first, and more enthusiasm and hard work than facilities. Members of the community, especially parents of children who were enrolled and members of the Bloomington Garden Club, participated in the development of the site, contributing their physical labor, their ideas and their donations. As the garden grew and additional plots for the young gardeners were developed, so too did the facilities, first with pit toilets and not much relief from the summer sun; later with the present garden house, indoor toilets, and running cold water. Eventually, a gas furnace was installed, permitting indoor activity during wintertime. Trees were planted; the garden pool was created; shady spots were planned. Many, many people were involved over the years: the gardeners themselves, the staff and participants in the university courses associated with Hilltop, members of the Bloomington Garden Club. Each made individual contributions of ideas, plant materials, labor, or items to enhance the Hilltop environment. The Bloomington Garden Club began a tradition of *in memoriam* contributions to Hilltop, honoring its deceased friends and members.

In front of the garden house, in the sunlight, was an herb garden, edged by a boxwood hedge and surrounding a birdbath of native Indiana limestone. Roses proved to be perennial favorites but difficult to maintain without a full time gardener; perennial herbaceous flowers flourished; grapes were planted and grew, bore fruit and provided shade. The shade of the young beech tree became a mixed blessing, providing cool respite and compromising the well-being of the herb garden. The herb garden was moved to a sunnier location. Pines and spruces, hackberries and black cherries: the trees



1987. Garden pool is now integrated into well-developed vegetation, under a willow at the foot of the herbaceous border. Garden plots are on left behind wall of arborvitae.

(I.U. News Bureau Photo)

found on the site at Hilltop today (including the willow by the pool) were planned and planted by Dr. Shalucha, along with her colleagues. A tradition of test gardening also was established. That tradition continues today in the daffodil beds, daylilies and dwarf irises which are a part of the present day Hilltop test gardens.

The Youth Gardening Program has always been Hilltop's primary focus, but there have also always been workshops, plant sales, special activities to encourage and educate adult gardeners. Early fund raising efforts in behalf of the summer program established the tradition of a spring plant sale offering plants grown by students enrolled in Horticulture. Early plant sales were modest efforts compared to the festival atmosphere, complete with educational events, foods, and demonstrations which have typified more recent events.

During the 40 years of its existence, Hilltop has been a factor in the growing up of some 5,000 young people and the education of more than 2,000 Indiana University students. Some of these have gone on to assume positions of responsibility in their communities, taking with them values about the natural world which they learned at Hilltop. We are happy that this tradition continues.



1952 view of garden plot area with Hilltop's garden pool in foreground. Botany experimental greenhouses are in the rear.

(Photo used by permission from Barbara Shalucha)

A Message From Hilltop's Founder Looking Back . . . Looking Ahead

It was people on farms, in gardens, teachers and parents, together we shared ideas, snippets of favorite plants, an occasional load of stone. Together we dreamed. Then, it came to pass, a community garden for youth with its traditions and values built deeply into the roots of the land. Its successful partnership, its thousands of alumni is now history. The partnership produced a major work, a powerful intellectual symbol for social good. Be proud of its accomplishments!

A Civic Garden-Nature Center has been a long-term vision of mine and others to provide students a broad base of experiences with youth and adults. Together realize this dream bringing beauty and dignity to the community.

Meet the urgency of science education reform measures. Meet the challenges of a new industrial revolution with computer technology uses and the ingenuity of the horticulturist hardly yet envisioned to restore and preserve nature and manage more wisely the nation's natural resources. Shape your horticultural contributions with wisdom answering the needs of youth, the wounded in spirit, the urban dwellers, and the senior citizens.

Now, a gentle farewell to yesterday and the birth of new hopes for the years ahead.

Barbara Shalucha
January 20, 1988

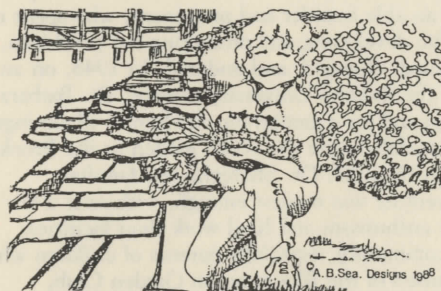
Hilltop Educational Foundation Works Toward Goal of Civic Garden-Nature Center Building

Progress toward the construction of a Civic Garden-Nature Center at Hilltop continues to be made. During the fall, Hilltop's Facilities Task Force, chaired by Charles Hagen, held numerous meetings to define exactly what the building needs to house and arrive at an estimate of square feet required. The building will house academic classes, adult education courses and workshops, Youth Garden activities, flower shows and sales, as well as being available for meetings and other activities. It will be a true blend of campus and community populations and interests. The building will be substantial, inviting, integrated into the landscape, and appropriate for the activities to take place there. This planning phase was accomplished with the assistance of the Indiana University Architect's Office. Using this information, architectural plans for the building can now be made. And then the next step is fund raising. Because this building is a joint venture between the university and the community, the university has agreed to assume responsibility for architectural services, in addition to making the land available. Construction funds will be raised by Hilltop Educational Foundation. We hope for broad and deep support from our community and a sense of ownership among those who have been involved with Hilltop in the past or who join us in its future.

For more information about Hilltop Educational Foundation and its plans for this building, contact Foundation president Ted Cluett at 403 E. Sixth Street, Bloomington, IN 47401, (812) 825-2580.

National Gardening Features Hilltop

The National Gardening Association, which in 1986 awarded Hilltop a grant worth approximately \$600 in tools, seeds, plants and garden supplies, publishes a monthly magazine, *National Gardening*. Its January issue includes a photo story about Hilltop. Photos included are from activities of the 1987 program and were taken by Gwen Berghorn, a free-lance photojournalist who has been documenting Hilltop activities for the past year. Because *National Gardening* is available by subscription only, it is not possible to purchase copies at newstands. Those who wish to receive copies may contact Hilltop or write directly to the National Gardening Association at 180 Flynn Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 for copies at a nominal cost.



Hilltop Founder Receives Teaching Award

The American Horticultural Association has named Dr. Barbara Shalucha, Hilltop founder, as recipient of its 1988 Teaching Award. Citing Dr. Shalucha's "unique ability to share her horticultural knowledge with others," the founding of Hilltop's Youth Garden Program, the development of innovative courses for students in Recreation and Park Administration, and publications in her field, the American Horticultural Association will honor Dr. Shalucha at their annual meeting in Atlanta, April 14-16.

Hilltop Receives Green Medal Award


Hilltop's Youth Garden Program has received the National Gardening Association's Green Medal Award, recognizing it as one of the top ten youth gardens in America.

According to the announcement from the National Gardening Association, "our panel of evaluators felt your youth garden program best exemplified the qualities of permanence and self-sustainability along with strong leadership, creative programming and solid community support—all necessities for a successful, long-term youth garden project."

The Green Medal Award consists of equipment and supplies valued at \$1200 which will be used at Hilltop. Included are educational materials, a garden cart, watering equipment, drip irrigation equipment, a compost tumbler, a tiller/cultivator, a chipper/shredder, and fruit trees.

Hilltop Gift Certificates for Special Gardeners

Gift certificates for plants at Hilltop's plant sales or for registration in the summer Youth Gardening Program can be purchased by contacting Hilltop at 335-7642. Give a gardener some encouragement!

	
GIFT CERTIFICATE	
Name	<u>Gardening friend (or Hilltopper)</u>
may redeem this Gift Certificate at Hilltop Garden-Nature Center for plants, seedlings, bulbs, or other items offered at Hilltop	
In the amount of:	<u>\$XX.XX</u>
Gift of	<u>me</u>
Authorized by	<u>XXX</u> <u>XXX</u>
	date

At Hilltop, Spring is Already Underway

Seedlings are already growing in the greenhouse for the Spring Garden Festival and for Hilltoppers to plant in their garden plots! Here is a list of upcoming events at Hilltop for this spring:

- March 26- June 1 **Registration for Hilltop Youth Garden Program**
All activities at Hilltop during the spring also will be opportunities for registering for Hilltop's summer gardening program for children ages 7-12. Registration fee is \$15. Dates for the summer program are May 27 to August 6.
- March 26 10-12 a.m. **Easter Egg Coloring/Hunt**
Students in I.U.'s Undergraduate Recreation Society invite children ages 7-12 to come color eggs and participate in an Easter egg hunt. Register by calling 335-4711 by March 22. \$1.00 registration fee.
- April 16 10-12 a.m. **Spring Garden Workshop for Hilltoppers**
Returning Hilltoppers who will be blue ribboners or gold ribboners come to Hilltop for spring planting of their cold-season crops. Register by phoning 335-4711 by April 11. Those who do not attend may plant cold-season crops at the beginning of the summer program.
- April 17 1-5 p.m. **Daffodil Show**
Come see the profusion of daffodils from Hilltop's test garden and learn about their classification, types, cultivation. Each child takes home a bouquet of daffodils.
- April 30-May 1 noon-5 p.m. **Hilltop Spring Garden Festival**
Hilltop's major fundraiser for the year. Come enjoy the return of the gardening season and purchase annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables grown by students in the horticulture class; learn about landscaping, container gardening, garden planning, pruning, cultivation and use of herbs; visit with other gardeners; and take home some home-baked goods donated by Hilltop supporters. This year's plant sale will be bigger than last year, offering some special plants (a

lovely tender perennial "Blue Daze" which many inquired about at our bulb sale, Martha Washington geraniums, chocolate mint (!), many hardy bedding plants, patio tomatoes, geraniums, plus some special hardy perennials). Again, some private growers in our area will also offer their plants for sale; part of their proceeds are also donated to Hilltop. This is a fun, social, relaxing event, and we invite you to come for the socializing as much as for the fundraising!

May 14
10-12 a.m.

A taste of Hilltop for potential Hilltoppers
This is for children ages 7-12 who are considering participating in Hilltop's Youth Garden Program and would like an ice-breaker. Activities for the morning include an exploration of Hilltop's environment, gardening activities, games and songs. To register, phone 335-4711 by May 10. \$1.00 registration fee.

UPCOMING CLASSES AT HILLTOP

This spring Hilltop and the School of Continuing Studies will again offer noncredit adult education courses in gardening. Three courses are scheduled. They are:

Alternative Gardening Techniques

A course designed to teach labor saving gardening techniques to be taught by Jerry Freese, who has been a "lazy" gardener for the past 12 years. Jerry is Hilltop's graduate assistant this year. His course will meet on March 26, and April 2 and 9.

Gardening with Wildflowers

To be taught by Fred Wampler, whose experience with wildflower gardening includes transplanting many Indiana natives to enable his wife Mary Rose to paint them for their upcoming book, *Wildflowers of Indiana*. Mr. Wampler's course will meet on April 26 and May 3. A second session will be offered April 28 and May 5.

Small Plot Gardening

To be taught by Doloris Falkenthal. Mrs. Falkenthal has been summer coordinator of Hilltop's Junior Gardening Program for the past 3 years and is particularly interested in landscaping and gardening in small spaces. Her course will meet on March 31.

For more information about these courses, phone the School of Continuing Studies at 335-5108.

FINALLY, HERE IS THE FINAL WORD ON DIRT:

(Or, Hilltoppers know where their food comes from . . .)

Dirt Made My Lunch by Steve van Zandt

Dirt made my lunch, dirt made my lunch
Thank you dirt, thanks a bunch
For my salad, my sandwich, my milk, my munch;
Dirt made my lunch.

Dirt is a word we often use
When we talk about the earth beneath our shoes.
It's a place where plants can sink their toes,
And in a little while, a garden grows . . .
(Dirt made my lunch . . .)

A farmer's plow will tickle the ground
You know the earth has laughed when wheat is found.
The grain is taken and flour is ground,
For makin' a sandwich to munch on down!
(Dirt made my lunch . . .)

A stubby green beard grows upon the land.
Out of the soil the grass will stand
Under hoof, it must bow
For makin' milk by way of a cow!
(Dirt made my lunch . . .)



Young beech tree begins to provide needed shade on Hilltop's front lawn and garden house in 1961. The original herb garden, surrounded by a boxwood hedge, enjoyed full sun in front of the garden house.
(Photo used by permission from Barbara Shalucha)



1987 photo showing the front lawn with the spreading shade of the beech tree, limestone walkways and beds of tuberos begonias and impatiens. Herb garden was moved to present location because of shade from the beech tree.
(I.U. News Bureau Photo)

Hilltop's Newsletter is published by Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, Jane Clay, Director. Phone: 335-4711 or 335-7642.



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