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THE GARDENS OF THE REDDICK MANSION RECEIVE NATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND LOCAL HONORS.

REDDICK MANSION ASSOCIATION OTTAWA, IL

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The Reddick Mansion Association (RMA) is pleased to announce several recently received certifications for its Gardens. The Gardens at the Reddick Mansion have been recognized as a "Certified Wildlife Habitat" by The National Wildlife Federation (NWF); as well as being named a "Certified Butterfly Garden" by the North American Butterfly Association and a "Certified Monarch Watch Stop" by Monarch Watch, an educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas. The Reddick Mansion Gardens also include the only Certified Herb Garden in LaSalle County. In addition, the Gardens were recently awarded a Golden Trowel by the Ottawa in Bloom Committee.

The NWF certification recognizes the efforts of the Reddick Mansion Association to create a garden space that improves habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife by providing essential elements—natural food sources, clean water, cover and places to raise young. According to Dave Mizejewski, naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation, "Providing a home for wildlife in our communities is the demonstration of a healthy and active eco-system. There is no more rewarding way to stay connected to nature right outside your door."

Becoming a Certified Butterfly Garden and a Monarch Watch Stop required Nancy Barta, RMA board member and Chair of the Gardens committee, and her crew of volunteers to provide more than 20 varieties of plants specifically for butterflies including milkweed, purple cone flowers, catmint, honeysuckle, and bee balm. "We must be doing it right", said Barta, "because last week I saw Monarch butterflies in the Gardens as well as a Monarch chrysalis."

According to Diane Sanders, President of the Reddick Mansion Association, "Nancy and the gardening volunteers have been working extremely hard this year. We were all very happy with how our grounds looked during the recent visit by the judges from "America in Bloom". The judges were especially interested in our herb garden and our quilt garden."

The idea of the quilt garden was suggested by RMA board member Hedy Bernholdt, who had seen several in the Amish countryside of Indiana. The pattern of the "quilt" was designed and laid out with string and stakes with the help of Mike Barta, Nancy's husband, in the raised flowerbed on the east side of the Mansion. It was planted by volunteers Marge Renwick, Sue Coughlin, Jani Eickelkraut, Diane Sanders, and Nancy Barta.

The RMA invites people to stroll through the gardens and enjoy the lush plants, beautiful flowers, and active wildlife. The Gardens and the Mansion itself are available for rent for private events such as weddings, meetings, and parties. For more information, please contact the Reddick Mansion at 815-433-6100 or contact@reddickmansion.org. If you would like to help in the Gardens, please contact Nancy Barta at 815-433-4963 or atrab@mchsi.com.