

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REDDICK MANSION HAS GARDEN PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

REDDICK MANSION ASSOCIATION

100 W. LAFAYETTE STREET, OTTAWA, IL

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Although the gardening season may be over, the benefits of gardens are still being enjoyed, at least at the Reddick Mansion. This year, several items from the gardens of the Mansion, and the gardens of the Mansion's many dedicated volunteers, are available for sale at the Mansion.

Bouquets of dried hydrangea from the bushes in the mansion's grounds are \$3.00 each. Nancy Barta, RMA board member and chair of the Mansion's Grounds committee, suggests using dried hydrangea, pink glass bulbs and white lights to decorate a Christmas tree. "The finished result is soft, organic, and very pretty," said Barta.

Barta has also made necklaces from the buckeyes collected on the Mansion grounds. She has combined the buckeyes with various beads for truly unique pieces of jewelry. Barta originally made the first necklace for her mother's 92nd birthday. And, then according to Barta, several of her mother's friends wanted their own necklaces. The necklaces are sold at the Mansion for \$10.00.

Mary Lou McLachlan, board member of the Reddick Mansion Association, has bundled together bouquets of tansy, a plant in the Mansion's certified herb garden. According to McLachlan, "With its pungent-smelling leaves, tansy was long been used as an insecticide. And the bright yellow flowers are a welcome reminder throughout the winter that spring is coming."

Marge Renwick and Mary Carroll spent many hours developing a wonderfully fragrant potpourri made from rose buds and herbs from the mansion grounds. The flowers and herbs were harvested and then hung to dry in the shed on the back of the Mansion property. Small bags of the potpourri are \$1.00 and large bags are \$3.00.

Renwick also contributed a basket of Chinese lanterns. According to Barta, some people like to display the bright orange Chinese lanterns in bowls or bouquets to add a splash of seasonal color to a room. Other people will open the pods and collect the seeds, to be planted in the spring. Money plant seeds are also available at the Mansion. A perennial, like the Chinese lanterns, the money plant blooms with lavender flowers in the spring and the seed pods develop later in the summer.

"We are so fortunate to have our volunteers", said Diane Sanders, President of the Reddick Mansion Association. "Since April, we have had 27 different volunteers working in the gardens, and together, they have donated more than 625 hours of labor to the Mansion. Without them, we would have neither our lovely gardens, nor our beautiful grounds, which both visitors and residents enjoy."

The Reddick Mansion, built in 1858, is listed in the National Register of Historic Sites. The Mansion, at 100 W. Lafayette Street, Ottawa, IL is open to the public for tours and also has meeting/reception rooms available for rent for special events.