

The third time around,

Plant and Seed Swap is Charmed Event

For the third year in a row, Portage Lakes Kiwanis hosted a free Plant and Seed Swap that was a resounding spring success! The day boasted near perfect weather conditions and the community service project to recycle, reuse and renew made lots of local gardeners very happy. It was a great belated Earth Day celebration.

Fifty-two participants gave names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses to Tom Burge as they registered their plants. There were well over 700 individual plants neatly set out into organized categories on the back lawn, before selecting began. There were also great door prizes for twelve lucky winners.

Community non-profit organizations who happily joined Portage Lakes Kiwanis at tables inside the Civic Center were: Friends of the Portage Lakes Branch Library, "Warm Up Portage Lakes!", The Portage Lakes Purple Martin Society, Camp Y-Noah, Portage Lakes Community Council and Friends of the Portage Lakes State Park. First time visitors to the Civic Center were delighted to peek in the back room and see Santa Delivery equipment, but were most mesmerized by the new sleigh in memory of Terry Egert.

Tim Peterson arrived early to open the building, set up the room and to start the Portage Lakes Kiwanis Public Relations audio/video show. Vicki & Charlie Kepnes came in soon after with fresh bakery temptations and to start the coffee pots. Al Grzeschik had the lawn looking great and partnered with Dr Phil Pinnow to form the pick-up and delivery team. Al's truck bed was totally filled but only held three enormous potted donations that came from a green-thumbed gardener on Peach Dr. Dr. Phil delivered a 7' cactus by pulling it in a wagon across the street to a Barbara Court Door Prize winner. Larry Hunter and Larry Yothers comprised the "Larry Team" a small but mighty contingent of superb helpers with donated plants. Nathan Brant did double duty representing both Kiwanis and Y-Noah with great public relations campaigns. Scott Shookman stopped in, briefly, after the fun-run in Barberton and before campaigning for the Manchester school levy.

Even though Tom Burge lugged the big sign out to the street early in the week (and some good Samaritan turned the electricity on so it was lighted at night), several participants missed the advertised time information and arrived just as everyone else was leaving. Things worked out, however, as leftover plants looked better than nothing and all the selections found new homes. Sue Harding was the last Kiwanian to arrive and so she was in a perfect position to assist with the last minute trading.

Thanks to all who attended and especially to those who helped to make this not only a successful project but also a positive memory.