



ASHLAND GARDENS

TEA IN THE GARDEN

Tea in the Garden

Olive-Nut Sandwiches

Kentucky Country Ham Spread

Crab Salad in Cucumber Boats

Watercress Sandwiches

Benedictine Finger Sandwiches

Zucchini Soup

Apricot Jam Bars

The Best Iced Sugar Cookies

The formal garden at Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, dates from 1950 when the Garden Club of Lexington Inc. asked the Henry Clay Foundation to undertake its creation. The club chose landscape architect Henry Fletcher Kenney of Cincinnati to draw up a ten-year plan and design for the garden. Work began in 1951, with different sections of the formal eighteenth-century-style garden reaching completion in the ensuing years. A dipping pool, birdbath, benches, and a hundred-year-old bronze figure of a child by Raingo were added later. Today the garden is composed of six parterres, including a rose garden and an herb garden, all surrounded by perennial borders.

In 1986, a Saunders hybrid peony garden was planted just east of the formal walled garden, the flowers given by Mrs. Richard Prewitt in memory of her daughter. The many varieties of peonies create a breathtaking display in early summer.

Garden Club members did most of the work in executing the original plan, and members still meet each Wednesday of the growing season to plan, plant, and tend the beds. Throughout the year, many Ashland visitors discover the gardens, finding a quiet place where they can walk, rest, meet friends — or just enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

“Party in the Garden” was the menu of a garden party hosted by the ladies of the Garden Club of Lexington.

