My Annual Membership Gift to Linnaeus Arboretum

Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum provide significant financial support for the care and programming needs of the arboretum. The 135-acre arboretum serves as a center for educational, historical, scientific, recreational, and leisure activities. Members receive announcements and invitations to all planned events of the Friends, the membership directory, and the Friends newsletter. Annual memberships are for the calendar year (January 1–December 31).

2005 Membership Categories:  □ Benefactor ($1,000 and above)  □ Sponsor ($50)
□ Patron ($500–$999)  □ Individual ($35)
□ Donor ($100–$499)  □ Student ($5)

Please return this form with your contribution to:  
Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum
Gustavus Adolphus College
800 West College Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082

Name ______________________________________________________________
□ Alumnus/Alumna  □ Parent  □ Friend
Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________________________________________ State __________ ZIP_________________
Telephone (_______ ) __________________________________ Date ______________________________________________
□ I am enclosing my company’s matching gift form.
□ Please CHARGE my membership to: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express
Name on card_____________________________________ Signature ____________________________________________
Card number _____________________________________ Expiration Date_______________________________________

Cheers for a job well done

A round of applause and a warm appreciative nod to the head of the Linnaeus Friends. With pleasant and agreeable dignity she has presided at board meetings and kept members on track. Even more importantly she has ably represented the Friends at a number of dreaming and scheming sessions as College officials considered the current and future state of the Arb. Ann has been a board member for many years and she and her husband, Gene, have gifted the Arb with a number of the fruit trees adjoining the Borgeson cabin. The Bassets now live in the Pine Pointe community, almost in the shadow of the Arb.

Thanks Ann for many things, but especially for your leadership during the past two years.
Linnaeus Arboretum: Some 2005 Summer and Fall Highlights
by Jim Gilbert

The Rev. Herb Chilstrom installed two buckets of waterlilies in the pool of the Dave and Delores Johnson Waterfalls Garden, and as I write this on October 14 they are still blooming. A couple of years ago Herb saw to it that martin houses were put up in the Arboretum. His persistence paid off and we had purple martins singing here this summer for the first time. One pair nested and three young fledged on August 22. We hope many more purple martin pairs come to nest next summer.

Once again volunteer gardeners, Bob and Onie Isenberg and Bob and Ranae Peterson, helped make sure that Autumn Joy sedum (first blooming August 19), Russian sage (bloom peak August 4), Stella de Oro daylily (first flower opened June 3), and other plants did well in the Evelyn Young Perennial Garden. Evelyn was always pleased to hear that people were enjoying the flowers.

We have a new paved path in the Arboretum that runs from the Melva Lind Interpretive Center to the west and southwest toward Arbor View Apartments (student housing). The students like it and this walkway makes for safer foot travel. This summer gardener Bill Larson and groundsperson Dennis Witte began converting the garden rose area into a Scandinavian garden. Yes, we saved the hardy roses, but now and into the future the garden will have more diversity.

July was a dry month, but by mid-August adequate rains returned and continued well into October so the landscape has been green and plants should be in good shape going into dormancy. Our first frost was October 7. It was a light scattered one that touched the coleus, plus zinnias, cannas, and other very tender plants.

Interim Dean of Faculty Cindy Johnson-Groh was to begin serving as Linnaeus Arboretum Director on September 1, but her new duties as one of a “Tri-Dean” system, plus teaching part-time in the biology department, delayed this time. She has been active in Arboretum planning but I have been doing the day-to-day things this fall. Cindy will take over November 1. She will be great. Students and others know her as a talented botanist and educator. So I am serving as interim Linnaeus Arboretum director until Interim continued on page 3
Seeds of Thought

Mormor Clara’s kitchen garden

by Margie Nelsen

Carl and Clara Borgeson lived in a small log cabin out by Norseland in the 1860s. This cabin is now located in the Gustavus Arboretum where it stands proudly amongst the natural flora of Minnesota.

In 2003, Herb Chilstrom, a Master Gardener who lives in St. Peter, envisioned and began planting a heritage garden behind the Borgeson cabin. He felt that this homestead would certainly have had a kitchen garden in its original location. Mormor is the Swedish name for grandmother and Herb believes that this is the perfect name for this garden. Herb buys all of the seeds that he plants in the garden from heritage supply houses. The origin of these seeds can be traced back to the 1800s and the plants produced from these heritage seeds create a garden that reflects the produce that the Borgeson’s would have planted.

Dry beans are a mainstay of the garden and were favorites of the Sioux or Dakota Indians who lived in this area. The dry beans include Swedish brown beans and Hutterite soup beans. Other plants that are growing in the garden include: pole beans, Pontiac and Norland potatoes, squash, eggplant, cucumbers, broccoli, and carrots. Herb has tried to grow lettuce but the gophers eat it before the leaves can be harvested. He often tries new things and has started a bed of asparagus that should be ready for harvesting next year, and he has also planted Concord grapes.

Because there is no running water at the site of the Borgeson cabin Herb has to rely on a large barrel that the Gustavus staff keeps filled with water. This summer has been difficult because the weather has been so dry. Herb and his wife enjoy the produce from the garden but he gives away a lot of vegetables to anyone who happens to be passing by when he is in the garden. He also finds many opportunities to teach visitors about the garden. He feels that the garden is a wonderful place to educate children and he often shows them the petit gite in the corner of the garden and encourages them to start one at home.

Herb also plants and tends two flower gardens that are by the entrance doors of the Interpretive Center. He changes the colors in these gardens from year to year and tries to make the beds as bright as possible to lure people over to take a look. He has also planted water lilies in the pond near the Center and the lilies are now in bloom and are beautiful. He encourages visitors to stop and admire the flowers.

Herb estimates that he spends three to four hours a week tending the vegetable and flower gardens and greatly enjoys this activity. He took the Master Gardening class in 1995 and he highly recommends becoming involved in gardening. Herb reports, with enthusiasm, that gardening is always interesting and is a wonderful activity for any age, but it often calls for Allan’s help. Allan grows many of the vegetable plants including pole beans, tomatoes, cucumbers and many other vegetables. He also grows many of the flowers in the gardens.

Carl and Clara were married in 1904. They brought their family with them when they moved to Norseland in 1864. Carl was a farmer who cleared the land for the garden and grew a lot of vegetables to anyone who happens to be passing by when he is in the garden. He also finds many opportunities to teach visitors about the garden. He feels that the garden is a wonderful place to educate children and he often shows them the petit gite in the corner of the garden and encourages them to start one at home.

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Margie Nelsen, Master Gardener intern, U of M Extension Service.

November & December Happenings

November is the month of transition from the warm season to the cold season. The month usually starts out like autumn, but ends up being wintry. There is plenty of natural food for wild animals, bare deciduous trees are silhouetted against the blue skies, dried grasses and herbs stand tall, winter birds are colorful, beautiful sunsets enchant us, and new ice appears.

December is known as the month of gentle snows. Sunshine is at a minimum for the year, and the coldest part of the month is usually the last week.

Listed below are a few observations from a year ago in the Linnaeus Arboretum area, and beyond when indicated. These events can be used to anticipate upcoming November and December happenings and will help to compare this year with last.

November 2004

1 Winged euonymus shrubs still showing rose-red foliage. Regent apple trees have lost their foliage but still are holding great-tasting fruit.

2 Juncos are the most numerous of the birdfeeder birds. Some mums, alyssum, snapdragons, and flowering kale still showy in gardens. Corn combining continues in southern Minnesota.

10 Some gardeners still picking ripe raspberries.

12 European larch trees at fall color peak, showing mostly smoky gold needles. Heavy frost. Low of 20 degrees F. marks the end of the growing season.

21 Ice-covered small ponds this morning. Flocks of cedar warblers feed on crappies and other fruit.

First snow flurries.

December 2004

1 Freeze-up date for Lake Martha in Wright County and Lower Spunk Lake near Avon in Stearns County.

3 Lake Jennie near Dassel and Jessie Lake in Itasca County near Taconite are frozen over. Remember, it takes four inches of new solid ice in contact with stationary freshwater for safe skating and ice fishing.

4 With a high temperature of 45 degrees F., some dandelion flowers about 8 to 12 inches of snow covers the ground.

Highlights continued from page 2
Currently at the Interpretive Center

by Britt Forsberg

You may not get academic credit, but you’re likely to learn something by stepping into the small alcove at the Center. Here you will find cones from almost all of the 36 pine trees native to the United States.

Come by and see if you can identify the cones which come from the three pine trees native to Minnesota (red pine, jack pine, and eastern white pine).

Cindy Johnson-Groh has been collecting pine cones on her travels and is graciously lending them to the Interpretive Center for this display. Some of the more uncommon cones, like sand pine (Pinus clausa), that Cindy does not have, are being requested from other institutions across the United States. Eventually all 36 American pines will be represented in this collection.

So why pine cones? Pines are conifers, which are unique among trees because of their reduced leaves (which we call needles), lack of seed coat, and ability to survive in dry or cold habitats. They are often called “evergreens” along with firs, spruces, and cypresses, but this is sometimes a misnomer, as some such as tamarack (Larix laricina) shed their needles in the fall. Cones are the fruit of a conifer; they hold the seeds. Some cones open from the top of the tree and allow the seeds to be carried by the wind to a new habitat and some rely on animals or birds to move the seeds by eating them.

Cones are helpful in identifying conifers. Each species has its specific size, color, and shape. The cones on display range from a few inches to over a foot in length and have interesting features such as spines and asymmetrical shapes that set them apart from other cones. They make a most intriguing display.

Bird Feeder of Recycled Materials

With winter approaching it’s time to think about your winter bird feeding stations. Be sure to supply your traveling and over-wintering birds with a healthy, energizing snack.

First tie a sturdy string or twine to a large pine cone. Spread peanut butter inside the openings all around the outside. Measure your string to hang down from a branch of a tree or bush so that it is far enough from the branch to keep any squirrels from eating your feeder. Now, tie it to the tree branch. Watch and record who comes to visit your pine cone feeder.

Birds enjoy the pine cones; and a sunflower seed mixture is also a tasty treat.

Happenings continued from page 3


16 Common redpolls, pine grosbeaks, and great gray owls numerous in Finland, Minn., area where snow is knee-deep and perfect for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Still no snow at Gustavus.

19 Both Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet in Minneapolis frozen over, as is Lake Minnetonka.

Temperature lows included a minus 9 degrees at the Airport in the Twin Cities, minus 29 degrees at Ely, and minus 38 degrees at Embarrass.

25 Only a dusting of snow on the Twin Cities landscape. Red-tailed hawks commonly seen.

30 Record high of 50 degrees in the Twin Cities. Not a trace of snow left. Coatings of water seen on top of lake ice. Black-capped chickadees heard singing “fee-bee” spring songs over and over. Worthington and Redwood Falls both had a high of 57 degrees.

Evelyn Young: A Tremendous Legacy

by Dean Wahlund

We lost a tremendous friend last month. Evelyn Young, 93, a charter member of the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum Board of Directors, passed away peacefully at her home on September 29, 2005.

Friends board meetings just won’t be the same. Evelyn was the consummate cheerleader who radiated and inspired enthusiasm “for all things arboretum.” In each of her full active years we would hear her say, “I’ll bake a few batches of sugar cookies for the July garden tour reception!” “You’ll see me down on campus Sunday for the Parents Day plant sale!” “The Golden Oldies just met and we are sending all the proceeds from the salad luncheon next week to benefit the Borgensohn Cabin pioneer garden!”

Evelyn rarely missed a board meeting, in fact, she usually hosted the winter meeting at her home and did we all eat well...it was like celebrating Thanksgiving Day in January! She worked on membership, board development, fund-raising, and always said “yes” to being invited to serve on an arboretum task force or oversee the hospitality of an event.

It’s been a dozen years since the “Evelyn Gardens” were dedicated at the Linnaeus Arboretum. It was July 25, 1993, her 81st birthday, when friends and family who had contributed to this beautiful garden gathered to honor this beautiful lady. Now we honor her memory and thank God for her life and the time we all had to share it with her. What a tremendous legacy.

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First tie a sturdy string or twine to a large pine cone. Spread peanut butter inside the openings all around the center and bottom of the pine cone and fill up the spaces. Spread bird seed of your choice on a piece of wax paper. Take the pine cone and roll it in the bird seed so that the seeds stick to the peanut butter all around the outside. You may also want to sprinkle seeds inside any openings.

Measure your string to hang down from a branch of a tree or bush so that it is far enough from the branch to keep any squirrels from eating your feeder. Now, tie it to the tree branch. Watch and record who comes to visit your pine cone feeder.