



## COLLEGE ARCHIVES

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Gustavus Adolphus College  
800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082-1498

### **Gustavus Adolphus College Archives St. Peter, Minnesota**

**Linnaeus Arboretum. Collection of the Linnaeus Arboretum, 1972-  
Ongoing.**

**GACA Collection 135**

**Linnaeus Arboretum. Collection of the Linnaeus Arboretum, 1972-Ongoing. GACA Collection 135. 1 Records Center Carton, 1 ½ Hollinger boxes, 1 small box, 1 oversize folder, and digital media.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Linnaeus Arboretum Collection consists of documents, correspondence, publications, photographs, and other miscellaneous material related to the development and ongoing maintenance of the arboretum. Initial planning for the Linnaeus Arboretum began in 1972 by Dr. Charles Mason, and the official dedication of land was given by President Frank Barth in 1973. Several important events in the history of the Linnaeus Arboretum include the completion of the Melva Lind Interpretive Center in 1987, the official naming of the Linnaeus Arboretum in 1988, the formation of the Friends of the Linnaeus Arboretum in 1989, and the first Linnaeus Symposium in 2003.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:**

Planning for the Gustavus Adolphus College Arboretum began in 1972. In January 1973, President Frank Barth announced the dedication of land lying west of campus to the purpose of developing an arboretum and wildlife area. Dr. Charles Mason, Associate Professor of Biology, oversaw the project. Project plans consisted of an initial fifty-five acres to be planted with grass and trees as well as an anticipated expansion to 130 acres if the project proved successful. In 1975, a master plan for the arboretum was developed which included three natural ecosystems and a formal garden, and Mason was appointed arboretum Director. The arboretum was home to more than 1,600 trees by 1978, and plans for the creation of two ponds were underway.

In 1986, Borgeson cabin was moved to the arboretum from Norseland, MN, and the Melva Lind Interpretive Center was completed during 1987. The center includes office space for arboretum staff, interpretive educational exhibits, and a meeting space. In 1988, the arboretum was officially named the Linnaeus Arboretum after renowned Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. The Friends of the Linnaeus Arboretum formed during 1989; members of the group participate in volunteer and educational activities. Jim Gilbert became director of the Arboretum in 1998, and upon his retirement in 2005, the Jim Gilbert Teaching Pond was created. In 2003, the first Linnaeus Symposium was held in conjunction with the celebration of the Arboretum's thirty year anniversary. The Symposium hosted renowned ethnobotanist Wade Davis.

Dr. Cindy Johnson-Groh became Executive Director of the Linnaeus Arboretum in 2006, and in 2007 the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation was added to the Interpretive Center. The Linnaeus Arboretum is currently home to 114 different species of trees and shrubs as well as 68 different prairie species. Grounds consist of prairie, wetland, and forest environments. In addition, there are twelve formal gardens and over two miles of marked trails.

\*Information gathered from Arboretum collection and Linnaeus Arboretum website:  
<http://gustavus.edu/arboretum/>

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

This collection is divided into five series: Development, Committees, Publications, Administration, and Events. The finding aid is organized alphabetically and chronologically.

**Development:** This series contains documents and correspondence pertaining to the arboretum's planning and development. Materials include information on tree plantings, Borgeson Cabin, Melva Lind Interpretive Center, and prairie development.

**Committees:** Papers in this section include minutes and correspondence from the Arboretum Committee, the Arboretum Ad Hoc Committee, and the Arboretum Advisory Committee.

**Publications:** Items in this series include editions of the Arboretum newsletter *Twinflower*, newspaper clippings, maps, research projects and essays by Gustavus faculty and students about the Arboretum, and information about a music composition by Steve Heitzeg inspired by the Arboretum.

**Administration:** Content in this area consists of documents and correspondence concerning finances, grants, Arboretum staff, the Highway 99 bypass, and Arboretum membership with the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.

**Events:** Event information in this series includes the Arboretum Naming Ceremony, Arbor Day celebrations, the Arboretum's twenty-fifth anniversary, and the dedication of the Evelyn Gardens.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There are no restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the College Archives, the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

Linnaeus Arboretum. Collection of the Linnaeus Arboretum, 1972-Ongoing. GACA Collection 135. Gustavus Adolphus College Archives, St. Peter, Minnesota.

**ACQUISITION:**

Harriet Mason transferred this collection during May 2008.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Jeff A. Jenson and Erin Anderson, archives intern, processed this collection and developed the finding aid during April, May, and September 2009.

**DIGITAL CONTENT:**

Portions of this collection have been digitized and are available online through our [digital collections](#).

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Gustavus Adolphus College. Linnaeus Arboretum.

Arboretums--Minnesota--St. Peter.

Universities and Colleges--Environmental aspects.

Campus planning--Minnesota.

<b>GACA Collection 135</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Development, 1972-Ongoing</b>		
Arboretum Helpers and Volunteers, Lists of Names and Jobs, 1977-1979	1	3
Arboretum Survey, mid 1990s	Map Case	--
Borgeson Cabin, undated	3	5
Correspondence, Landscape Architect Herb Baldwin and Miscellaneous, 1986	1	20
Correspondence, Borgeson Log Cabin, 1986	1	19
Correspondence, 1987	1	22
Correspondence and Planning Materials, 1994	1	31
Correspondence, 1995 (especially about Framework Plan for Linnaeus Arboretum and Arboretum Survey)	1	32
Correspondence, To and From Charles and Harriet Mason, 2002 (mostly regarding the West 80 Acres)	1	35
Correspondence and Publications, Concern Charles and Harriet Mason, 2003	1	36
Evelyn Gardens in Linnaeus Arboretum, 1992-1993 (Concerning Evelyn Young)	2	7
The Giving Tree, Linnaeus Arboretum Endowment Fund button, undated	4	--
Gustavus Sustainable Lifestyles Project, c. 1994-1997	2	13
Interpretive Center and Arboretum, Planning and Use, 1987-1994	1	41
Land Development and Planting, 1986-2003	1	54
Landscaping Plans, 1985, 1986, and 1988	Map Case	--
Long Range Plan Task Force Draft Report, April 2005	1	52
Map, "A Field Map of the Gustavus Adolphus College Arboretum Formal Section," undated	Map Case	--
Master Plan: Gustavus Adolphus Arboretum, January 1975	1	8
Photographs, Construction of Interpretive Center, Fall 1987	1	23
Planning Materials, Correspondence, 1972-1973	1	10
Planning Materials, Correspondence and Documents, 1974	1	11
Planning Materials, Correspondence and Plans from Minnesota Environmental Sciences Foundation, Inc., 1975	1	12
Planning Materials, Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1976	1	13
Prairie Development, 1985-1996	2	8
Prairie Overlook & Boulder Circle, 1993	1	62
Prescribed Burning, c. 2014	1	14
Tree Plantings and Work Projects, 1981-1985	1	17
Tree Plantings and Work Projects, 1986-1988	1	21
"Tree and Shrub Consultant Report II," September 1977	1	1
<b>Committees, 1977-Ongoing</b>		
Arboretum Ad Hoc Committee, Minutes and Correspondence, 1991-92 and 2001	1	29

Arboretum Advisory Committee, Minutes and Correspondence, 1996-1997	1	33
Arboretum Meetings, Minutes and Correspondence, 1977-1988	1	15
Correspondence and Papers about the Arboretum by Gustavus Faculty, 1991	1	27
Land Use Committee Report, 1991	1	55
Linnaeus Arboretum Ad Hoc Committee, Report titled “The Role of the Linnaeus Arboretum in the Life of Gustavus Adolphus College,” 1992	2	6
Task Force, 2004-07	1	56
<b>Publications, 1973-Ongoing</b>		
Calendar, 2009	1	51
Class Projects in the Arboretum, Department of Education Courses by Suzy Wiebold, J-Term 1995 and 1996	1	39
Clippings, 1973-2004.	1	9
Correspondence and Papers about the Arboretum by Gustavus Faculty, 1991	1	27
Correspondence and Publications, Concern Charles and Harriet Mason, 2003	1	36
<i>Faculty Notes</i> , Articles on Arboretum, April 1981	1	49
Information Brochures, 2008, 2016, and undated	2	16
Maps, 1977-1995 and undated	1	42
Newsletters, <i>Twinflower</i> , 1989-1999	1	6
Newsletters, <i>Twinflower</i> , 2000-2009	1	7
Newsletters, <i>Twinflower</i> , 2010-2019	3	1
Patty Lindell Award, Documents and Paper, “Arboreta, Gustavus Adolphus College Campus Development and Linnaeus Arboretum History” by Janeen R. Laatsch, 1993	2	9
Research Project Concerning the Arboretum, “The Pinkham Plan for the Gustavus Arboretum Pond” by Jeff Pinkham, c. 1973	1	43
Research Projects and Essays Concerning the Arboretum, 1980-1981 (Includes “Arboretum Independent Study” by Danna Riedel and “A Guide to Interesting Trees on the Gustavus Adolphus College Campus” by Douglas Anderson)	1	38
Research Projects and Essays Concerning the Arboretum, 1993 (Includes “A Comparison of the Terrestrial Insect Families Collected in the Three Different Habitats found in the Linnaeus Arboretum” by Cody B. Schimelpfenig and Melissa M. Strand)	1	37
Research Project and Essay, “The History of the Linnaeus Arboretum” by Neil Petrash, Heather Boelz, and Laura Edland, January 2006	1	57
Steve Heitzeg, Composition for the Arboretum and Performance Materials, 1992-1997	1	47
<b>Administration, 1975-Ongoing</b>		

American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA), Correspondence and Membership Material, 1990-1997	2	2
Arboretum T-Shirts, 1991-1996 (Documents)	2	12
Bernadotte Plates, Correspondence, 1984	2	11
Budget Printouts, 1990-1993	1	44
Budget, 1991-1998	2	10
Correspondence, 1980-1985	1	16
Correspondence and Papers, Concerning Örjan Nilsson, 1985-1993 (Nilsson was Director of the Botanical Gardens at Uppsala, Sweden)	2	1
Correspondence, Concerning Jobs and Positions, 1987-1997	2	5
Correspondence, Planning Materials, Budget, and Publications, 1988 (Includes Highway 99 Bypass; “A Garden of Sweden” and a published version in <i>Minnesota Horticulturist</i> )	1	24
Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1989 (Includes Highway 99 Bypass and Memorials)	1	25
Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1990 (Includes Highway 99 Bypass)	1	26
Correspondence and Papers about the Arboretum by Gustavus Faculty, 1991	1	27
Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1992 (Includes “A Proposal to Establish an Arboretum Budget and Accounts” and Presentations by Frank Barth and Marge Barth)	1	28
Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1993	1	30
Correspondence, Budget, and Summary of Linnaeus Arboretum Academic Use Survey, 1996	1	45
Financial, Greater Gustavus Fund, 1975-1995	1	48
Financial, Budgets and Expenses, 1977-1979	1	2
Financial, Donations, 1979	1	5
Financial Spreadsheets of Gifts to the Linnaeus Arboretum, printed April 1996 (pages 27-58)	1	46
Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum, 1990-2009 and undated	1	53
From the Director, 2007-11	1	58
Golden Oldies, Friends Group, 1991-94	3	4
Grants, IMS and Old Turtle, 1992-1994	2	3
Interpretive Center and Arboretum, Alcohol Use, 1994-1997	1	40
Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, 2020	3	7
“Linnaeus Arboretum Dedicated Tree Field Guide,” 1996	2	15
Memorial Donation Records and Tree Dedication Policy, 1979-97 and 2007-12	2	14
Proposal to Partner with Marshall Field’s Flower Show, c. 2006	1	59
Safety and Security Reports, 1990-1996	2	4
<b>Events, 1978-Ongoing</b>		
Arbor Day and Arboretum Dedication, April 1979	1	4
Arbor Day, 1990-99	1	60

Arbor Day, 2000-06	1	61
Arboretum Naming Ceremony, 1988	1	50
Correspondence and Papers, Concerning Örjan Nilsson, 1985-1993 (Nilsson was Director of the Botanical Gardens at Uppsala, Sweden)	2	1
Correspondence and Publications, 1998 (25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	1	34
Daffodil Planting, "I Dig Gustavus" complimentary garden trowel, October 2001	4	--
Dedications, 1991-2012	3	6
Evelyn Gardens in Linnaeus Arboretum, 1992-1993 (Concerning Evelyn Young)	2	7
Garden Tours, 1978, 1997-2008, and undated	2	17
Linnaeus Symposium, 2007, 2009, and 2018-19	3	2
Naming of Arboretum, 1984-1985	1	18
Prairie Overlook & Boulder Circle Dedication, Recording of Program, 13 October 1993 (audio cassette)	4	1
Prairie Overlook & Boulder Circle Dedication, Remarks of Marian and Chester Johnson, 13 October 1993 (audio cassette)	4	2
Various Events, 1991-2019	3	3
Winter Run in the Arb, 2019 (digital video .mp4)	Google	Drive