



Twinflower

Newsletter of the
Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum

Gustavus Adolphus College

Saint Peter, Minnesota 56082

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Linnaeus Symposium 2003

by Cindy Johnson-Groh

As a member of the environmental studies faculty (and biology as well), it is my job to expose students to the ideas and thinking of great environmentalists. As I prepare for class, I often muse, "Wouldn't it be cool if the students could meet this person..." So I jumped at the opportunity extended to me by the Arboretum committee planning its 30th-year anniversary to create a symposium that would feature a world-renowned environmentalist. The Linnaeus Symposium, as it is now known, culminated this yearlong celebration of the 30th anniversary of Linnaeus Arboretum.

The Arboretum was named after the famous Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus, who among other things was an ethnobotanist working among the Sami people of Lapland. It was thus fitting that we should have an ethnobotanist, Dr. Wade Davis, as our first symposium speaker. Wade Davis is an explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society. He holds degrees in anthropology and biology and received his Ph.D. in ethnobotany, all from Harvard University. He has spent years traveling as a plant explorer, living among tribal groups in countries around the world. Davis has written several books, including *Passage of Darkness* and *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, from his Haitian experiences, and *One River*, from his South American experiences. *One River* was nominated for the 1997 Governor General's Literary Award for Nonfiction (Canada's most prestigious literary prize). His other books include *Penan: Voice for the Borneo Rain Forest*, *Nomads of the Dawn*, *The Clouded Leopard*, *Shadows in the Sun*, *Rainforest*, and his most recent book, *Light at the Edge*

of the World, published in 2002. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Lowell Thomas Medal (from the Explorer's Club) and the Lannan Foundation Prize in 2002 for literary non-fiction.

Davis's presentation was an articulate mosaic of poetic, scientific, and scholarly reflections focusing on the appreciation and preservation of species diversity. In particular he spoke passionately about the diversity of indigenous people and the importance of recognizing their traditional ways:

One of the intense pleasures of travel is the opportunity to live among peoples who have not forgotten the old ways, who still feel the past in the wind, touch it in stones polished by

rain, recognize its taste in the bitter leaves of plants. Just to know that nomadic hunters exist, that jaguar shaman yet journey beyond the Milky Way, that the myths of Athabaskan elders still resonate with meaning, is to remember that our world does not exist in some absolute sense but rather is just one model of reality. The Penan in the forests of Borneo, the Vodoun acolytes in Haiti, the wandering holy men of the Sahara teach us that there are other options, other possibilities, other ways of thinking and interacting with the Earth.

Cultural and biological diversity are far more than the foundation of stability; they are an article of faith, a fundamental truth that indicates the way things are supposed to be. If diversity



Wade Davis visits with a student following his presentation at the first Linnaeus Symposium.

Davis continued on page 2

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* honorary board member

This newsletter is published two times during the academic year by the Office of Public Relations, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of special events and executive secretary of the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum, and Don Gustafson, newsletter editor. For further information about Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum membership and activities, contact Dean Wahlund (phone: 507/933-7520; e-mail: publicrelations@gustavus.edu).

From Boards to Boards

As we all know, lawns and gardens and arboretums don't just happen. The matter of upkeep is a never-ending task. There are a number of volunteers who made significant contributions to arboretum upkeep during the past summer.

The Petersons (Bob and Renae) and the Isenbergs (Bob and Leona) did some amazing weeding in the perennial beds (and in the process learned about intended and unintended plantings in those areas!). And Herb Chilstrom, who as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church sat on innumerable boards, shifted his attention to a different kind of board and constructed a fence around the vegetable garden that adjoins the Borgeson cabin. The fence was essential as the rabbits of the prairie assumed the vegetable plantings had been done for their benefit. The resulting fence thus provided protection—but it also created a splendid decorative addition to the setting.

Thanks, people, for your volunteer work!



Davis continued from page 1

is a source of wonder; its opposite—the ubiquitous condensation to some blandly amorphous and singularly generic modern culture witnessed in all parts of the world—is a source of dismay. There is a fire burning over the Earth, taking with it plants and animals, cultures, languages, ancient skills, and visionary wisdom. Quelling this flame and reinventing the poetry of diversity is the most important challenge of our times.

Diversity is a good descriptor of Davis. His presentations included a wealth of stories arising from his experiences and observations of the plight of indigenous people. In addition to the Linnaeus Symposium, Dr. Davis visited several classes and with faculty and students over meals. These interactions were filled with stories and wisdom taken from his travels and studies of indigenous cultures in South America, East Africa, Peru, Borneo, Tibet, the high Arctic, and Venezuela to name a few. Positive comments were heard from all, but I especially enjoyed the comments of my students:

There were many great topics that Davis spoke on in his lecture, and many made me think about my values on life.

Davis was by far one of the most engaging speakers I have ever listened to. He made me realize just how ignorant I am of other cultures.

The overwhelming strength of Davis's talk was his ability with words. He made analogies to the environment that made one feel as though you had seen the wonders he had seen in his travels, such as the forests of a thousand shades of green.

The first Linnaeus Symposium was a resounding success. Thanks and appreciation are due to the sponsors of Dr. Davis's visit, including the Environmental Studies program, the Center for Vocational Reflection, Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum, and the Department of Biology. It is our vision to create a tradition of annual Linnaeus Symposia that feature environmental speakers who will share their earthly wisdom and inspire us to become better stewards of the living world surrounding us.

Seed Money Granted

Gustavus Adolphus College is a recent recipient of a Minnesota ReLeaf Grant in the amount of \$4,000. The grant program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources awarded 57 projects statewide of the nearly 80 proposals submitted. Warren Wunderlich, director of the physical plant at Gustavus, and Jim Gilbert, executive director of Linnaeus Arboretum, co-wrote the successful grant.

The grant monies will be used to help with the "seeding" of deciduous trees in the newly opened "West-80" acreage of Linnaeus Arboretum. The western expansion is part of the original master plan drawn up in 1975. Following the design of the present 55 acres to the east, the plan will closely replicate the three principal biomes of Minnesota: the conifer forests of the north; the central woodlands; and the prairie of the south and far western borders.

Seeds will be collected from within the local region with the planting process to follow early next fall.



Photo credits: Goldie Johnson

Another President's Tree: (above) Nearly 50 visitors and friends joined Carol Johnson in celebrating the interim Gustavus presidency of Dennis Johnson with the dedication of a pin oak on June 23, 2003.

Right: Elder Jackson displayed the Francis Morey Uhler Prairie plaque on the occasion of the dedication of this restored tall-grass prairie held October 11, 2003.

Prairie Daze... The Uhler Dedication

Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum were invited to Linnaeus Arboretum on October 11, 2003, for "Prairie Daze," a gala celebration and dedication of the Uhler Prairie. The event, part of the Linnaeus Arboretum's 30th-anniversary celebration series, honored the memory of Francis Uhler, 1924 Gustavus graduate and noted biologist and environmentalist.

Gusty winds and a steady drizzle forced those attending the afternoon event to seek shelter in the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. There, naturalist Jim Gilbert led off the program, filling in members about the wonders of the prairie, the signs of autumn, and what is currently happening in the arboretum. The dedication ceremony that followed included a bit of prairie poetry as well as the formal rite of dedication. After the ceremony, Chester Johnson, professor emeritus of geology, spoke about the significance of the Prairie Overlook, and the nearby Borgeson Family Cabin was open for tours hosted by Bob Douglas, professor of geography, who talked about prairie life and pioneer home construction.

To round out the afternoon, a festive social gathering was held in the Interpretive Center, during which time the annual meeting of the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum was held.





A New Hydrangea by *Don Gordon*

Come next spring I believe the most sought-after new landscape plant will be *Hydrangea macrophylla* “Endless Summer”™. Those of you who are up on scientific names may wonder about this prediction because this species is recommended for USDA hardiness zones 6 and 9. “Endless Summer” is the exception to this recommendation. This cultivar of bigleaf *Hydrangea* is fully hardy here and it will bloom all summer.

In the past, attempts to grow this species in Minnesota have been a big disappointment for most gardeners. It wasn’t that difficult to get the plants to survive a winter, but unless they were grown next to a heat pipe or a warm foundation, it was next to impossible to get them to flower. Flower buds are formed on old wood in the fall, but they were just not hardy enough in the winter. In contrast, flowers on “Endless Summer” form on new growth; thus, winter dieback of above-ground parts will not affect blooming.

Like many new plant introductions, “Endless Summer” is not the result of genetic engineering or even selective breeding. It is a natural mutation that just happened to appear in a St. Paul garden. This mutation caught the attention of Bailey Nursery, the largest wholesale nursery in the Upper Midwest, and they have been testing it for hardiness and bloom reliability since 1983.

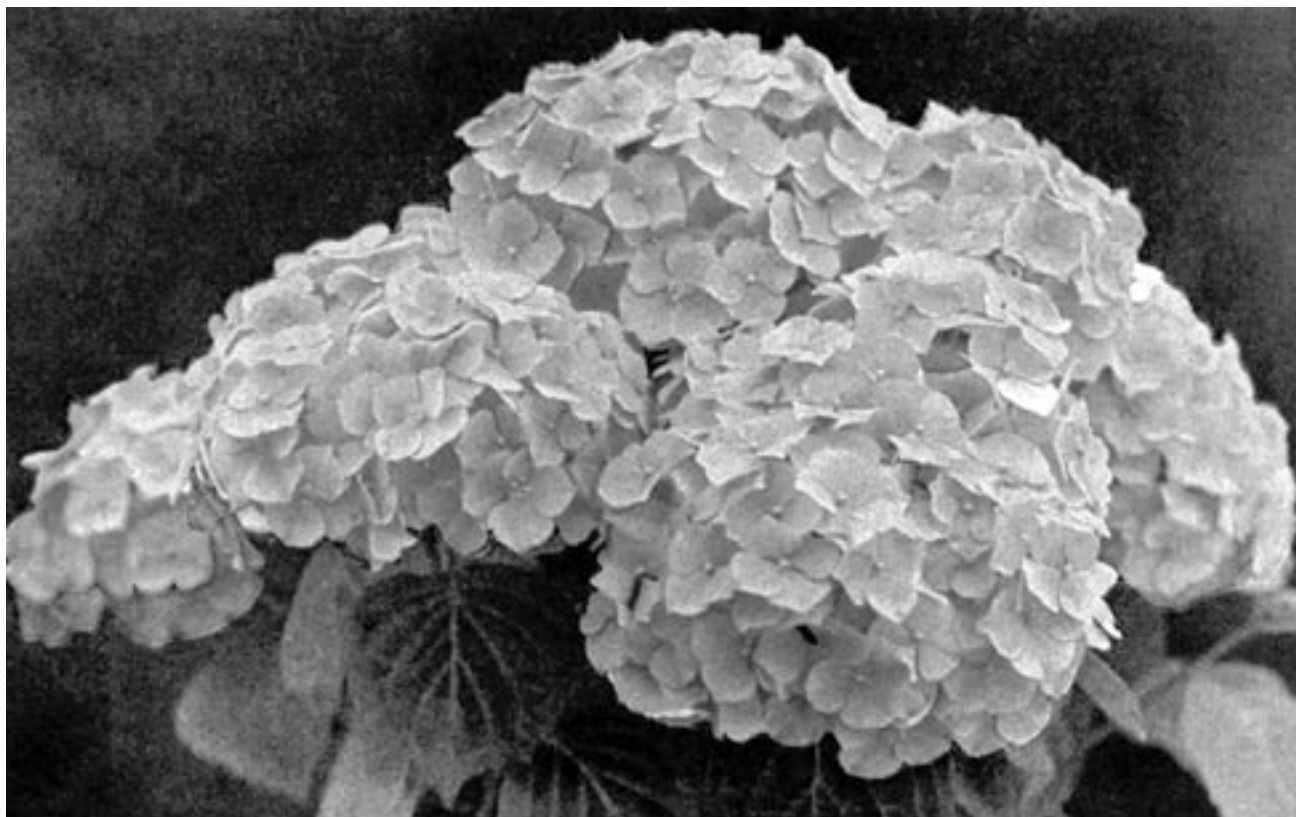
Michael Dirr, author of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, saw this mutation growing in the Bailey test plots, and he encouraged the nursery to propagate the plant; he even suggested the name. In 2004, “Endless Summer” will be released nationwide.

The flowers on “Endless Summer” are pink in basic or alkaline soils and blue in acidic soils with sufficient aluminum. Adding aluminum sulfate to make soils acidic may help develop a better blue color in some cases. According to Dirr, a pH range of 5.0 to 5.5 is listed as satisfactory for producing blue flowers, and a pH of 6.0 to 6.5 or higher is okay for pink blooms.

In the summer, bigleaf *Hydrangea* is the eye-popping show-stopper on Cape Cod and in other Eastern maritime gardens. I have also seen some of these spectacular hydrangeas in botanical gardens in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver.

Here in Minnesota, “Endless Summer” will probably perform best in partial shade and well-drained but moist soils enriched with organic matter. Without sufficient moisture, these plants will wilt quickly. Mulching to a depth of 2–3 inches is highly recommended. I also suspect these plants should be winter-mulched, at least for the first year.

Don Gordon is professor emeritus of botany at Minnesota State University and is a horticultural and environmental columnist for the Mankato Free Press.



A 30th-Anniversary Gallery

Arbor Day 2003:

Right: Chaplain Brian Johnson and South Elementary students assist with the planting and dedicating of this year's Arbor Day white oak.



Left: Elder Jackson, Charles Mason, Harriet Mason, and Jane Thompson, four of the Arb's most dedicated friends, listen to naturalist Jim Gilbert at Linnaeus Arboretum.

Photo credits: Goldie Johnson



The Summer Garden Tour:

Above: The hosta path at the Roger and Kak Koopmans home in Faribault was perfectly manicured.

Above right: Naturalist Jim Gilbert guides a group of enthusiastic tree and garden lovers through the Linnaeus Arboretum just before the serving of a summer buffet supper.

Right: Joe and Helen Volk, arboretum friends, enjoy the exquisite colors of the multiple gardens in the Koopmans' yard.





Magnus Lidén, director of the Botanical Garden and Linnaeus Garden at Uppsala University in Sweden, and Jim Gilbert, executive director of Linnaeus Arboretum, prepare for the program at the 30th-anniversary party.

"Modern-day Linnaeus" in Residence by Jim Gilbert

From May 5 through 12, 2003, Gustavus Adolphus College was host to a modern-day Linnaeus from the city of inspiration and knowledge and one of Europe's most outstanding educational centers, Uppsala, Sweden. Magnus Lidén is his name, and he traveled through seven time zones and over 4,000 miles from his family to be our Swedish botanist-in-residence and speaker for the Linnaeus Arboretum's 30th-anniversary celebration.

Lidén serves as director of the Botanical Garden (founded 1660) and Linnaeus' Garden (established 349 years ago in 1654) at Uppsala University (founded 1477), a position he has held since 1998. He earned his Ph.D. in 1986 at Göteborg University where he was based in the Department of Systematic Botany from 1975 to 1998. His fieldwork has taken him to China, Mongolia, Iran, the Mediterranean and Himalayan areas, and Nordic countries. He did post-doc studies at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh and has lectured in Berlin, Madrid, and other European locations. University courses taught by Magnus concern such disciplines as biogeography, floristics, and molecular systematics. To his credit are many scientific publications, but he has also written guides for children on trees, insects, and other nature topics. Magnus and his wife are parents of three boys ranging in age from 8 to 21.

He is a warm, friendly person who communicates effectively in Swedish or English, with people of all ages and interests.

The residency week for Magnus was a very busy one. He was a guest lecturer in many Gustavus classes in the departments of biology, geology, and Scandinavian studies, plus he helped with field trips for environmental studies. On the field trips the Gusties could hardly believe that this man from Sweden, who had never been to Minnesota until now, could identify all of the trees and shrubs, plus spring wildflowers we encountered. He does this by looking carefully at the structures of flowers, and other plant parts, and noting relationships to plants he knows well. Magnus had the opportunity to see several bird species that were new to him—such as the Baltimore oriole and rose-breasted grosbeak—which had been described and named by Carl Linnaeus, the famous Swedish botanist from Uppsala, who never left Europe in his lifetime (1707–1778).

The 2003 Earth Day lecture for environmental studies was given by Magnus. His talk was titled "Environmental Sustainability in Sweden." For the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum he did an evening lecture titled "Discover Linnaeus and Linnaeus

Liden continued on page 8

Rose Hips for the Picking

Wild roses thrive throughout Minnesota, especially near streams and lakes, in grassy roadsides, near fences, on the edges of woods, in rocky areas, and along railroad lines. They often form brier patches. Shrubs range in height from about 18 inches to 5 feet. The hips are easy to pick because they are usually plentiful; late-fall and winter forage trips should be worthwhile.

Remaining on the shrubs throughout winter and into spring, rose hips make an excellent survival food. They are rich in vitamin C and a source of iron, calcium and phosphorus. Three rose hips, according to some food experts, have as much vitamin C as an orange.

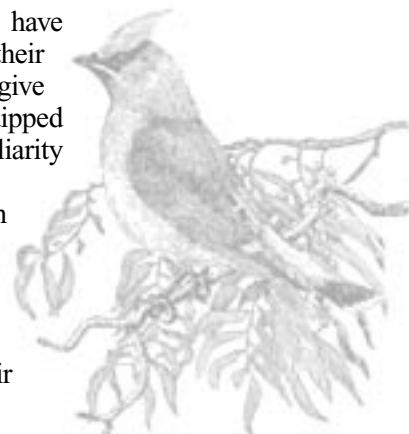
Rose hips are cousins of the apple, and are nutritious whether eaten off the shrubs, cut up in salads, baked in breads or cake, or boiled into jam or jelly. Dried rose hips are well worth carrying in a pocket during an outdoor hike, for munching like raisins. To prepare them, just cut each in half, remove the central core of seeds and dry the remaining shell-like skins and pulp quickly in a low temperature oven.

Flocks of Cedar Waxwings

Cedar waxwings have been in Linnaeus Arboretum since September, feasting on crabapple and red cedar fruit. If your neighborhood has a crabapple tree with fruit on it, or some other tree or shrub that retains its fruit throughout the winter, you have probably seen cedar waxwings as they stopped by to feed during their wanderings. Flocks of 20 to 70 crested, brownish birds are common. We usually hear “zeee, zeee, zeee” before we seen them.

Halfway between a sparrow and a robin in size, cedar waxwings have sleek silky plumage, black masks, and yellow at the tips of their tails. Some individual cedar waxwings have extended scarlet shafts on their secondary wing feathers that give the appearance of having been dipped in red wax. It is from this peculiarity that the bird gets its name.

It's hard to predict when to look for cedar waxwings. In winter there can be many cedar waxwings anywhere in the state. Though they are common in southern Minnesota, their presence in any area is irregular.



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).

2004 Membership Categories:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor (\$1,000 and above) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$50) |
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Please return this form with your contribution to:

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Arboretum,” and was the featured speaker for the 30th-anniversary Rededication Celebration Luncheon in Alumni Hall, Friday, May 9. About 80 people attended and heard Magnus’ talk, titled “Legacy of Linnaeus.”

Off campus, Magnus presented lectures at the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and the American Swedish Institute. He also visited the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum as a guest of Peter Olin, professor and director.

The residency of Magnus Lidén made us more aware of the huge contribution of Carl Linnaeus to the understanding of creation, and to what we now call biodiversity. Linnaeus developed a system for naming, ranking, and classifying organisms that is still in use today, albeit with many changes. Magnus reminded us of something that Swedes consider typically Swedish—the feeling for nature and the sense of discovery inspired by the Swedish countryside. Magnus told us that our 30-year-old Linnaeus Arboretum is vitally

important for education, research, and protection of biodiversity. He told his audiences that our biggest environmental problem worldwide is human overpopulation, and that an important thing they could do to save our planet is to ride a bicycle.



Chaplain Johnson dedicates the “West 80,” the newest addition to Linnaeus Arboretum. Two ponds and the beginnings of a restored prairie are currently in place.