



Twinflower

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Newsletter of the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum

Help Support the Coneflower Prairie Project

by Cindy Johnson-Groh, executive director, Linnaeus Arboretum

What has a brown head, pussy toes, and waves constantly? A windy prairie—with coneflower heads, a low-growing fuzzy flower called pussy toes, and waves of grass shimmering in the wind. Botanical humor aside, a 70-acre windy prairie with abundant coneflowers in the Linnaeus Arboretum is more than a dream, thanks to a recent grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation of St. Peter to develop a new prairie on the west side of the Linnaeus Arboretum.

Prairie is a landscape of vast proportions that once spanned horizons, encompassing 18 million acres in Minnesota prior to European settlement. Less than 1 percent of Minnesota's native prairie remains. Restoring a larger prairie tract in the Linnaeus Arboretum serves as an educational, recreational and historical linkage for on- and off-campus persons of all ages and is conscientious environmental stewardship. Planting prairie grasses and flowers will attract a diverse community of birds, insects, and animals. A contoured landscape will provide a sense of seclusion and allow visitors to imagine a prairie that stretched for miles.

Tentatively named the Coneflower Prairie, the new addition will expand on the existing Uhler Prairie, a six-acre site in the arboretum established in 1988 that has served as an important venue for educating students of all ages on the value of prairie. Strategically, the Uhler Prairie already has demonstrated the impact a larger prairie could have on outreach activities, educational opportunities for Gustavus faculty and students, and ecological diversity and conservation.

The restoration plan includes contouring the land to create habitats for different species. The timeline for restoration is approximately five years from initial site preparation to established prairie, after which time we would maintain the prairie with rotational burns and mowing.

How can you help? The Schmidt grant is a matching grant, and we need to match their generous gift of \$200,000 with your gift! Please consider a gift to the Coneflower Prairie so we can plant in the spring of 2009. This is a very exciting project and we need your help to achieve this ambitious

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The Prairie Coneflower

Illustration from:
A Garden of Wildflowers by Henry W. Art

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This newsletter is published two times during the academic year by the Office of College Relations, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events, and Don Gustafson, newsletter editor. For further information about Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum memberships and activities, contact, Shirley Mellema, administrative secretary, at 507-933-6181 or by e-mail at shirley@gustavus.edu.

Linnaeus@300

Linnaeus Symposium Is Resounding Success

by Cindy Johnson-Groh, executive director, Linnaeus Arboretum

The Swedish botanist Carl von Linné—or Linnaeus (1707–1778)—was born 300 years ago, and so it was fitting that the Linnaeus Arboretum should celebrate this event. The second Linnaeus Symposium (the first in 2003 included speaker Wade Davis) was a resounding success, with more than 400 people in attendance, four speakers, and a photographic exhibit that premiered at Gustavus.

Linnaeus himself wandered the Gustavus campus and seemed quite pleased with the events commemorating his 300th birthday. “Linnaeus”—actually Hans Odö, a Swedish Linnaean scholar and impersonator—visited Gustavus as part of the celebration and was joined by ethnobotanist Paul Alan Cox for a historical perspective and look into Linnaeus’s life. While Cox described Linnaeus’s life, Linnaeus (Odö) interrupted from the back of the auditorium to correct Professor Cox. The banter between the two of them was both comical and instructive of Linnaeus’s life.

Paul Alan Cox’s work has centered on documenting the traditional healing methods of indigenous peoples throughout the world. His research has helped to discover the leading anti-AIDS drug candidate, Prostratin. Dr. Cox gave an impromptu presentation on this work in a biology classroom that made a lasting impression on students. One student said, “Paul Alan Cox was a very polished presenter, whose balance of humor and seriousness made his lecture completely captivating.”

Ethnobotanist and author Mark Plotkin joined the celebration with a presentation on his work. Dr. Plotkin described his work with the ancient shamans in the rainforests of Central and South America, who have enabled him to learn about healing plants and shaman traditions. Dr. Plotkin currently serves as president of the Amazon Conservation Team, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting biological and cultural diversity of the tropical rain forest. His plea to the audience was to support the preservation of tropical plants and cultures.

Freelance medical editor and writer Paula Robbins, author of a recently published book on Pehr Kalm, rounded out the speakers with a historical perspective. Kalm, one of Linnaeus’s “apostles” to America, traveled throughout the Eastern United States collecting plants to send back to Linnaeus.


The day also included a special photography exhibition by Anders Björling and Roland Thorstensson that premiered the evening of April 24 with a delightful presentation of their travels tracing Linnaeus’s trip to Lapland. This photo exhibit was jointly shared with the Arts Center of Saint Peter, and symposium attendees took a complimentary bus to visit the exhibit in town. The day offered student-led campus tree tours, arboretum tours, and plenty of good conversation. A highlight for many was the dance in the Arboretum, “Änglamark – Garden of Angels,” choreographed by dance professor Michele Rusinko.

It was a special day, and Linnaeus himself would have been pleased. Linnaeus, known as a special teacher with a passion for the natural world, said, “If a tree dies, plant another in its place.” Metaphorically, Linnaeus planted many trees that have born fruit again and again the world over, including his legacy here at Gustavus in the Linnaeus Arboretum and Symposium. 🌿



Top: Hans Odö as Linnaeus with Paul Granlund’s Linnaeus. Bottom: Roland Thorstensson and Anders Björling.

Photo credit: Goldie Johnson, Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum Board




Coneflower Prairie continued from page 1

goal. We are in the process of developing a Web page to chart our progress toward this goal and hope you will visit the Arboretum website to watch the progress.

The Coneflower Prairie will serve as a resource for area schools and community members seeking to learn more about the ecology of prairies and the heritage of settlers who came before us. There are many other examples of ways we envision this prairie serving the College and the St. Peter community, a few of which are noted below: Imagine. . . .

- A tenth-grade nephew studying prairie pollinators as a class project.
- Yourself learning prairie flowers on a lazy summer evening on a tour led by a Linnaeus Arboretum naturalist.
- A friend's daughter using the prairie to get the sense of a vast landscape so she might write an assignment about early settlers.
- Sixth-grade students identifying different plants in the prairie to compare with a similar list for their school's lawn.
- Yourself and your friends enjoying a conversation as you hike the trails in the Coneflower Prairie, promising to return to ski next winter.
- A place of solitude to sort out life's difficulties.
- A showcase prairie within the city limits of St. Peter.

Please consider a gift to support the Coneflower Prairie. 

Arboretum Staffing

We are pleased to announce that the College has endorsed the naturalist and administrative secretary positions in the Arboretum. Both of these positions are now full time. Following a search, 2006 Gustavus graduate Emily Hoefs (formally Beatty) was hired this summer to continue as the Arboretum naturalist. (This is now a permanent position.) Emily has been and will continue to work with school groups, community groups, and College folks to develop interpretive walks, curricula, and other activities. She has developed new interpretive displays in the Melva Lind Center and has plans for more. We welcome Emily back to the Arboretum and look forward to working with her. (If you have ideas or suggestions for Emily you can contact her via e-mail at ehoefs@gustavus.edu.)

Shirley Mellema has been administrative secretary for Linnaeus Arboretum, the Environmental Studies Program, and the Melva Lind Interpretive Center for nine years. Effective this fall Shirley's position has been increased to full time to accommodate new arboretum activities and especially the activities of the Friends. Shirley organizes and keeps track of countless details regarding Arboretum activities and Melva Lind Interpretive Center rental. She is the initial contact for any Friends-related questions and can be reached at Shirley@gustavus.edu or 507-933-6181.

You can check out Emily's and Shirley's profiles at the bottom of the Arboretum homepage (gustavus.edu/arboretum/). 



Photo credit: Cindy Johnson-Groh

Emily Hoefs



Photo credit: Jonathan Kraatz

Shirley Mellema



Associate Professor of Biology Cindy Johnson-Groh explained the corpse flower's inflorescence to some of the more than 7,000 visitors and community members who passed through the Nobel Hall of Science's greenhouse as word got out about the rare event. In addition, "Perry's" website was viewed by more than 150,000 unique visitors.

A Corpse Flower Grows in St. Peter

by Emily Hoefs, arboretum naturalist and greenhouse manager

The excitement blossomed on the evening of Saturday, May 12, when the outer spathe of a corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) slowly unfurled exposing a spadix that was hotter than normal human body temperature and was emitting a rancid odor. Thousands flocked to see and smell this amazingly rare occurrence. Visitors waited in line to have just a few moments in the cloud of odor that most described as a smell of decomposing meat or fish.

During the days of anticipation before the bloom opened and the three days the chamber was open to the public, more than 7,000 people had the opportunity to see this spectacle in person. Many more were able to be a part of the experience through the Internet. An impressive website was constructed that allowed site visitors to see the bloom from three different camera angles, view live streaming video with audio, get their questions answered on the frequently asked questions page, view hundreds of snapshot images, and make comments on the blog that had recorded the growth and anticipation to the bloom opening. This site has had over 157,000 unique computer visitors since its creation in March 2007.

The bloom also offered a great opportunity to interact with the St. Peter area schools. More than 300 students came with their science classes to hear a brief presentation about the corpse flower and traipse through the chamber to get a whiff of the odor. Every class came with excitement and lots of questions about this rare wonder of the world.

All photographs on these pages are by Joel Jackson '71. Joel is the microcomputer specialist and Novell Network Manager at Gustavus.

This was the first bloom of a corpse flower in Minnesota and was covered in the media extensively to celebrate this momentous occasion. There was television coverage on KEYC-12, KARE-11, KSTP-5, WCCO-4, and KAAL-6 (Austin), radio coverage on KFAN, MPR, WCCO, and KQRS, as well as newspaper coverage in the Mankato *Free Press*, St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, and Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. The bloom also received national news coverage and was featured on the NBC National News website. It was incredible to let a single plant shine in the spotlight, if only for a few days.

Our Titan Arum (another name for the plant) was donated by Associate Professor of Chemistry Brian O'Brien back in 1993. We were fortunate that Dr. O'Brien was able to obtain 20 seeds and donated them to the Gustavus Biology Department greenhouse. Nearly all the seeds germinated and at current we have 6 plants of this species. Others were lost in the tornado, or donated to other facilities in Minnesota that have the space to grow such a huge plant. One of these donation sites was the Como Conservatory. They are looking forward to a bloom of their own in the not too distant future.

Following the practice established for other blooming Titan Arums, we had to come up with a name for our plant. A few weeks before its unfurling, some Gustavus students decided to name it after one of the original Titans and settled on Hyperion ("Perry" for short), the Titan god most associated with learning and observing. Soon the Perry supporters started flocking to make daily checks of its progress either in person, pressing their faces against the greenhouse glass, or via the website, checking each camera angle carefully and making comments on the blog. Dr. O'Brien said that in all his years at Gustavus, he has never seen the campus become so quickly infatuated with a single concept, and it was so exciting that it was a plant.

Although the pot now appears empty, the real miracle is that the corm, or bulb, is resting and gearing up for the next phase of its life cycle. Once the bulb has adequately rested, it will send up a single leaf that will be near 15 feet tall. We anticipate the plant will stay in this form for over a year, photosynthesizing and storing plenty of energy in its corm. This leaf will then senesce (die back slowly to soil level) and will go into a resting phase once again. If adequate energy has been stored, we hope that when the plant becomes active again it will present a second blooming. We anticipate this will occur within three years but understand that the corpse flower is on its own timetable and will bloom again when it is good and ready. We will continue to keep the website updated as our Titan Arum, Perry, takes on new forms in preparation for its next bloom.

Didn't get enough of a whiff? Check out the Titan Arum website (gustavus.edu/academics/bio/titanarum) for more information. 🌿



The many textures of Perry.

October and November Happenings

Phenology of fall and early winter

by Jim Gilbert, naturalist

A Linnaeus Grace

Note: The Rev. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom's grace at the Linnaeus Symposium luncheon was spare and eloquent at once, and bears repeating here.

*Lord of all that ever was,
that is, that ever will be:*

*Lord of lichen and lemon
Of lily and lilac
Of larch and lavender
Of leek and lettuce
Of ling and lobelia
Of leaf and landscape
Lord of Linnaeus
Lord of love:*

*Lord of all that is, that ever was,
that ever will be.*

*Fill us with gratitude and wonder
as we eat these gifts of Mother Earth.*

In the Name of Him who gives life.

Amen

Arboretum Webpage

The Linnaeus Arboretum website has a new look! We invite you to check it out. Visit: gustavus.edu/arboretum/. We've started a blog and will try to use it to post updates on flowerings and other arboretum events. Feel free to post something that you saw (bird, flower, butterfly, or other sightings). Send us your feedback!

October is usually a month of clear skies. We expect frost several times and Indian Summer days after the frosts. An Indian Summer day is one with above normal temperature and little or no wind.

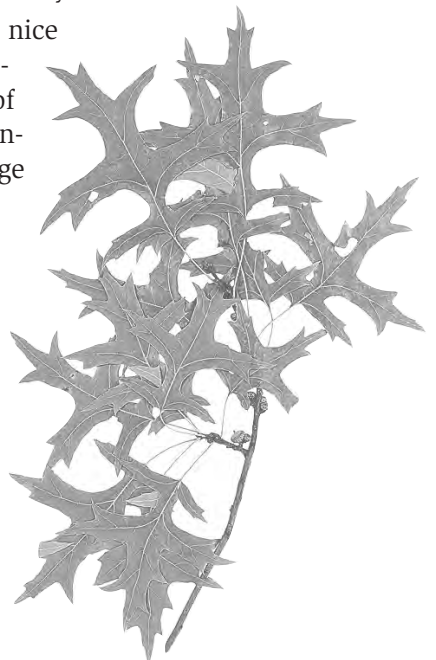
November is the month of transition from the warm season to the cold season. The month usually starts out like autumn, but ends up wintery. There is plenty of natural food for the wild animals; trees are silhouetted against blue skies and cloud formations; dried grasses and herbs stand tall; winter birds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

Listed below are a few observations from a year ago in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, and St. Peter and beyond when indicated. These events can be used to anticipate upcoming October and November happenings, and they will help to compare 2007 with last year.

October 2006

- 1 High temperature of 84 degrees F. Sumac shrubs continue to show brilliant reds. Boston ivy vines have foliage mostly in red tones—nice! It's the Twin Cities Marathon. Sugar maples along Summit Ave. in St. Paul are showing much red fall color and some leaves are falling. Beautiful scenes—runners and fall colors. Temperature hit 90 degrees in Jackson, Benson, and Glencoe.
- 2 High of 84 degrees again. Last monarch butterfly seen; it was heading south. Kentucky coffee trees showing mostly golden-yellow.
- 3 The time of the illuminated woods continues. Today is the overall peak of fall color from the Twin Cities to St. Peter, considering the many trees, shrubs, and vines that provide this annual show.
- 4 Fantastic reds, burnt-oranges, and golden-yellows on sugar maples; and sunny-yellow foliage on hackberry trees and wild grape vines.
- 5 On the Gustavus campus, American robins and cedar waxwings feed on crabapple fruit, honey locust trees have brilliant golden-yellow foliage, and ginkgo trees are showing much yellow.
- 9 First American tree sparrows arrive. Still nice fall color on Amur maple, Virginia creeper, and sumacs. Along the North Shore of Lake Superior the fall color season continues with spectacular golden-yellow foliage on paper birches and quaking aspens.
- 10 In Linnaeus Arboretum, pin oaks, red oaks, and white oaks are all displaying some nice red foliage. Both bur oaks and swamp white oaks show brown, yellow and green. Begonias, impatiens, petunias, marigolds, and blue salvia all blooming nicely by the Environmental Studies Center and Melva Lind Interpretive Center.

Happenings continued on page 7



Happenings continued from page 6




- 11 First snow flurries and show showers.
- 12 Hard freeze. Low of 23 degrees F. End of the growing season. Plants killed include: tomato, impatiens, begonias, and morning glories. Forest areas looking quite bare. Late sighting of a ruby-throated hummingbird at sugarwater feeder in Red Wing.
- 20 Apple growers are picking Regent, Haralson, Fireside, and Honeygold.
- 21 Tamarack trees at fall color peak with beautiful smoky-gold needles. We see pockets of all colors such as red oaks showing golden-yellows, dark reds, and rich browns.
- 23 Field corn combining is in full-swing. Soybean harvest nearly complete. Large numbers of common milkweeds shedding their seeds on silver-white parachutes.
- 26 Dark-eyed juncos are most numerous of birdfeeder birds.
- 31 Flocks of migrating tundra swans seen and heard overhead, flying southeast.

November 2006

Annual Meeting and Winter Warmer

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum is planned for February 2008. Vice President Mary Rehwaldt will become president at the beginning of the new calendar year and will preside at the Annual Meeting and Winter Warmer. Watch for an invitation in January.

- 1 Thick ice on birdbath and thin ice on some ponds. Low of 18 degrees and high of only 33 degrees F. Flocks of tundra swans continue to fly over.
- 4 Warm again. High of 63 degrees. Ice gone from ponds.
- 6 Nearly all corn has been combined. Still rafts of American coots and flocks of Franklin's gulls seen at Lake Waconia.
- 7 High temperature in low 70s. Last of the Regent apples picked.
- 11 Last great blue heron and Franklin's gulls seen.
- 13 First measurable snowfall—.2 inch fell in Waconia.
- 19 Only 15 degrees this morning. Thin ice covering lakes.
- 23 High of 53 degrees. Ponds and lakes that had ice are wide open again.
- 25 Sod is still being cut for new lawns.
- 30 Ice forming on lakes again. 

Linnaeus Arboretum Fall Calendar of Events

All events are hosted at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center by Arboretum staff or Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum. To register for continuing education programs, contact Saint Peter Community and Family Education at 507-934-3048 for costs and updated information. For Arboretum information and activities, contact Shirley Mellema at 507-933-6181.

September 25, 7 p.m.

September 28, 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

October 6, 9 a.m.-noon

October 6, 2-5 p.m.

October 10, 7:30 p.m.

October 11, 7 p.m.

October 12, 9 a.m.

November 3, 9 a.m.-noon

November 8, 7 p.m.

November 16, 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

January 11, 2008, 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Continuing Education – ***Nobel Preview***, Jeff Jeremiason

September Fireside Chat – Meditation Gardens Committee

Continuing Education – ***Trees: Wood & Uses***, Cindy Johnson-Groh

Chinese Elm Removal Service Project – Linnaeus Arboretum

Continuing Education – ***Birding in Linnaeus Arboretum***, Bob Dunlap

Continuing Education – ***Journey to Peru***, Jim Gilbert

Fall Fest – **Scarecrow Contest Judging**

Continuing Education – ***Trees: Poems, Prayers, & Stories***, Cindy Johnson-Groh

Continuing Education – ***Invasive Species***, Pamela Kittelson

November Fireside Chat – ***Meditative Eating***, Barb Larson-Taylor & Kari Lipke

January Fireside Chat – Jim Dontje, director, Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, Introduction to Gustavus

My Annual Membership Gift to **Linnaeus Arboretum**

2007–08 Membership Categories:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sapling (student)	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Cherry (donor)	\$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> Linden (gift membership)*	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Aspen (organization)	\$125
	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Birch (individual)	\$40	<input type="checkbox"/> White Pine (patron)	\$500
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar maple (family)	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Bur Oak (benefactor)	\$1,000

* You must be a current member to give a gift membership at the reduced rate.

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

Name _____ ☐ Alumnus/Alumna ☐ Parent ☐ Friend

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

☐ Check enclosed (payable to **Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum**)

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Card number _____ Expiration Date _____

☐ I am enclosing an additional gift for \$_____ to the **Arboretum Endowment Fund**. (Please submit a separate check. Thank you.)

☐ I would like information about including Linnaeus Arboretum in my **will**.

☐ I am interested in being an Arboretum **volunteer**. Please contact me.

☐ I am a member and am giving this **membership gift** to a new member. (List gift recipient’s name and address on application above.)

Current Member’s Name _____

Message to include in welcome letter to new member _____