

Twinflower

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Newsletter of the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum



Summer Urban Garden Tour Features Great Gardens

The Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum garden tour committee has announced its four featured gardens for this summer's garden tour in Minneapolis, set for Saturday, July 15, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The "driving" tour begins at Normandale Community College's Japanese Garden in Bloomington. This two-acre, Japanese strolling garden features a gated entrance, hand-crafted zigzag bridges (designed so that evil spirits, who follow a straight line, cannot cross), imported hand-carved stone lanterns, a waterfall, and carefully manicured trees and shrubs maintained in the authentic Japanese tradition. The garden, designed by landscape architect Takao Watanabe some thirty years ago, welcomes thousands of visitors each summer. Our tour will be personally guided by volunteers of the Japanese Garden Committee.

Elizabeth Hamilton welcomes us to her home in Bloomington to view her large full-sun and shaded gardens that outline her tri-terraced backyard that features a cascading waterfall and unusual perennial plantings. Her beautiful gardens and water landscapes highlight this urban garden tour.

We will head into south Minneapolis to the stately Tudor residence of Ted Bair and Harvey Filister. Bair, who is forever covered in dirt, has transformed their odd-shaped yard into a wel-



coming masterpiece of a garden that gently curves around the house. The garden includes a lush, formal, English garden that moves seamlessly on to a Japanese-inspired koi pond. It is made up mostly of colorful foliage, rather than flowers, and the multiple, beautifully-trimmed hedges are truly "living" sculpture.

Our final stop will be just a couple of blocks from Minnehaha Creek. Byron Hanson, who again is serving as co-chair of the Friends of

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Commemorating Linnaeus

by Roland Thorstensson



Carl Linnaeus

“Brown-eyed, nimble, speedy, hard working and prompt.” Those are some of the words Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) uses to describe himself in his autobiography. Born in “a curate’s humble cottage” in Råshult in the southern Swedish province of Småland on May 23, 1707, “between the month of growing and the month of flowering, when the cuckoo was announcing the imminence of summer” (still Linnaeus’ words), he eventually became one of the most internationally recognized Swedes. He is most famous for his work in botany but also well known for his writing in the fields of medicine and ethnography and for the work of his students, his “apostles,” whom he sent around the globe to map and document God’s creation and bring back a little bit of the outside world to transplant in Sweden. He was a man of his time, the Enlightenment, but also a man ahead of his time; he was a meticulous scientist, but also a man prone to take poetic license when describing his own achievements; he was a most prolific though sometimes controversial contributor to knowledge, loved by his students, envied and feared by his colleagues, ignored by few.

In 2007 the tercentenary of Linnaeus’ birth will be commemorated in several countries and in multifarious ways. The University of Uppsala, Sweden, Linnaeus’ academic home for over four decades, will have an entire Linnaeus year of celebrations; London, where the major Linnaeus collections are located, will recognize his significance as a botanist and explorer; Pennsylvania will highlight the work of Pehr Kalm, “the apostle” whom Linnaeus sent to North America for an extended visit of gathering specimens and documenting folk life (1748–51); and Gustavus, whose arboretum carries his name and whose *Twinflower* reflects his spirit, will have several events to honor the man who today might be best known for his naming of plants and animals. He named humans, too. He classified us as *Homo sapiens*. With his characteristic flair for self-assertion he called himself “Prince of Botany.”



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). Unless credited otherwise, all photos in this issue were taken by Friends’ photographer Goldie Johnson.

The first Linnaeus event at Gustavus will take place already in December 2006, when Linnaeus will be the focus of the annual Scandinavian Yuletide Breakfast. In the spring of 2007 Roland Thorstensson will be teaching a full-semester course on Linnaeus and his world; Roland and Cindy Johnson-Groh are also preparing Continuing Education presentations. Roland will talk about Linnaeus “the one and the many” and Cindy will focus on Linnaeus’ scientific contributions. The major Linnaeus event, a symposium, will take place April 24–25. There will be four speakers and presenters: the ethnobotanists Paul Alan Cox and Gary Nabhan; Paula Robbins, who will talk about Pehr Kalm; and Hans Odö, a Swedish journalist-naturalist who is also a Linnaeus impersonator.

Gustavus also expects to have an exhibition on the life of Linnaeus, and an Anders Björling photo exhibition. Anders and his camera travelled to Småland, Skåne, and Uppsala in May, “between the month of growing and the month of flowering.” In August, Roland and Anders will then follow the trail Linnaeus took in 1732 when he traveled from Uppsala to Lapland and across the mountains into Norway, documenting what he saw in his magnificent little journal, *Iter Lapponicum*. Anders’ camera will be busy, as will Roland’s writing gear. 🍃

January-Term Class 2006

by Jim Gilbert

For the seventh time it was my privilege to teach an Environmental Studies class titled Interpreting the Winter Natural Landscapem open to any Gustie wanting to learn more about nature in Minnesota. The course description read:

photo credit: Brock Tidstrom



A "Quinzhee Slumber Party": Brock Tidstrom (left above with Ben Tomasek and David Koppel) wrote of his January-Term quinzhee experience: "Inside the snow cave we were all able to sit comfortably with our shirts off, which was remarkable because it was 0° Fahrenheit. In the middle of the night I woke up to water dripping on my head and running down the walls from all the heat generated by the eight of us.

You will experience January in Minnesota from a naturalist's perspective. We will gather information about what nature is by learning names of plants and birds, mammals and other living things that make up the winter natural landscape. Internships and jobs in the field of nature interpretation and environmental education will be explored. Be prepared to be outside each day. Remember the old Swedish saying: "There is not such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing."

Twenty-two students signed up for this class, which once again was full

of adventures and learning. The Linnaeus Arboretum was our headquarters where we first studied winter birds, animal tracking, and identifying dormant woody plants. Travel days took us to the Wind Power Learning Center at Lake Benton, Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center near Hastings, Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul, and other spots. The one-week trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, located near Finland, Minn., with fantastic views of Lake Superior, was a highlight because of nice deep snow for x-c skiing, snowshoeing and the chance to sleep out in a quinzhee (snow shelter), and days packed with learning in a boreal forest setting. 🍃



New President in Place


David and Delores Johnson welcomed the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum board of directors to their home for the winter board meeting in February. Past president Ann Basset ceremoniously passed the presidential "gavel" to David that evening. Officers for 2006 also include: Mary Rehwaladt, vice president; Bob Isenberg, secretary; and Harriet Mason, treasurer. The Johnsons have been board members for nine years. At press time Dave and Delores were just finishing the planting of their multiple flower gardens and stunningly colorful hanging baskets. 🍃

June Happenings by Jim Gilbert

June can be the month of rains. Temperatures above 95 degrees F. may occur on any June day over most of Minnesota, and yet frost is always possible in low areas in the north.

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 June happenings and will help to compare this year with last.

June 2005

- 1 Much cotton from eastern cottonwood trees in the air. 9:30 p.m. – American robins still singing and gray catbirds meowing.
- 3 Several of the Rugosa roses have begun blooming in the Melva Lind Rose Garden. Stella de Oro daylily first blooming in Evelyn Young Perennial Garden. Evelyn was always pleased to hear that people were enjoying the flowers in the garden dedicated to her. Blooming tall bearded irises and black locust trees very showy.
- 5 Lawns nice and green. House wrens vocal.
- 6 Mosquitoes first become bothersome. First flowers open on Japanese tree lilac and bush cinquefoil.
- 7 Kentucky coffee trees begin blooming. High temperature of 91 degrees F. Surface temperature of Lake Waconia has warmed to 72 degrees.
- 10 Both painted and snapping turtles are up on dry land, laying eggs. Gray catbird nest has four eggs. Tree swallows feeding young nestlings. In Duluth, many tulips, common purple lilacs, and crabapple trees are blooming. Young bald eagles quite large in nests at Voyageurs National Park.
- 14 William Baffin climbing rose at bloom peak in the Melva Lind Rose Garden; hundreds of 3–4 inch, double rose pink, fragrant flowers are appreciated by visitors. First lightning bugs. Soybeans in Carver County up 4–6 inches.
- 15 Both ox-eye and prairie phlox have begun blooming on the Uhler Prairie. Northern catalpa trees have very showy flowers.
- 20 Baltimore oriole young leaving their nest. At the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, garden roses are at overall bloom peak.
- 22 Gardeners are picking buckets of ripe strawberries.
- 24 First deer fly. House wrens feeding five nestlings. Red mulberry trees loaded with ripe and ripening fruit; American robins, cedar waxwings, and other birds—plus we humans—relish the fruit.
- 27 Some sweet corn is tasseling. North Star cherry fruit is ripe. Carver County farmers begin cutting second crop of alfalfa.
- 29 First annual cicadas buzzing.
- 30 First ripe wild blackcap raspberries can be found. Lightning bugs are numerous. 



This poem was recited by Cindy Johnson-Groh at the tree-planting ceremony on Arbor Day, May 28, 2006.

Advice from a Tree

by Ilan Shamir

Dear Friend,

Stand Tall and Proud

Sink your roots deeply into the Earth

Reflect the light of a greater source

Think long term

Go out on a limb

Remember your place among all living beings

Embrace with joy the changing seasons

For each yields its own abundance

The Energy and Birth of Spring

The Growth and Contentment of Summer

The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall

The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter

Feel the wind and the sun

And delight in their presence

Look up at the moon that shines down upon you

And the mystery of the stars at night.

Seek nourishment from the good things in life

Simple pleasures

Earth, fresh air, light

Be content with your natural beauty

Drink plenty of water

Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes

Be flexible

Remember your roots

Enjoy the view!

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Arbor Week ~ April 24–28, 2006

"Trees for Heart, Trees for Mind, Trees for Spirit" was a weeklong celebration of trees and the Linnaeus Arboretum during Arbor Week. Each day between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. four 30-minute sessions were presented by members of the campus community. Participants were able to elevate their cardiovascular rate by jogging with The Movers of Gustavus Health Promotion, explore the arboretum landscape with Jim Gilbert, learn about "life on the prairie" around 1862 with geographer Bob Douglas, and perfect their Tai chi movements with Gretchen Koehler at the Meditation Area. In all, 16 "teaching" friends shared their skills and expertise with some 100 visitors to the Arboretum that April week. Britt Forsberg, campus naturalist, is to be complimented for coordinating this special five-day event. 🌿



With maps in hand, Brian Koeneman, director of internships, shares several "best" bike routes near Gustavus at a table of bicycling enthusiasts.

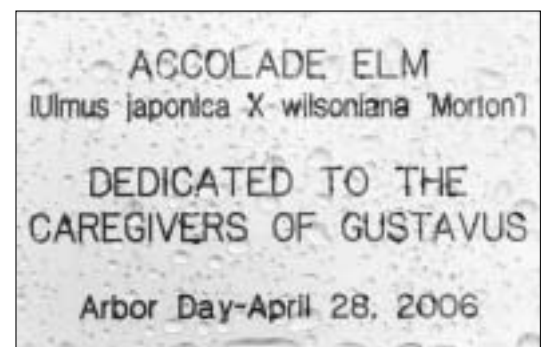


Chris Johnson, director of the Center for Vocational Reflection, presented a thoughtful seminar on "Roots and Branches: Growing the Seeds of Vocation."



Top: Naturalist Jim Gilbert (center) thanked Chaplain Brian Johnson (left) and English professor Joyce Sutphen for sharing two sessions of their favorite poetry by such writers as William Blake, Robert Frost, and Emily Dickinson, and a couple of original works by Joyce herself.

The Arbor Day homilist at morning chapel was geography professor Mark Bjelland. At the end of the service, the chapel procession led the congregation outside for a tree planting ceremony honoring the "caregivers" of Gustavus. A hybrid, "accolade" elm was planted alongside a grove of basswood (linden) trees just east of the chapel.

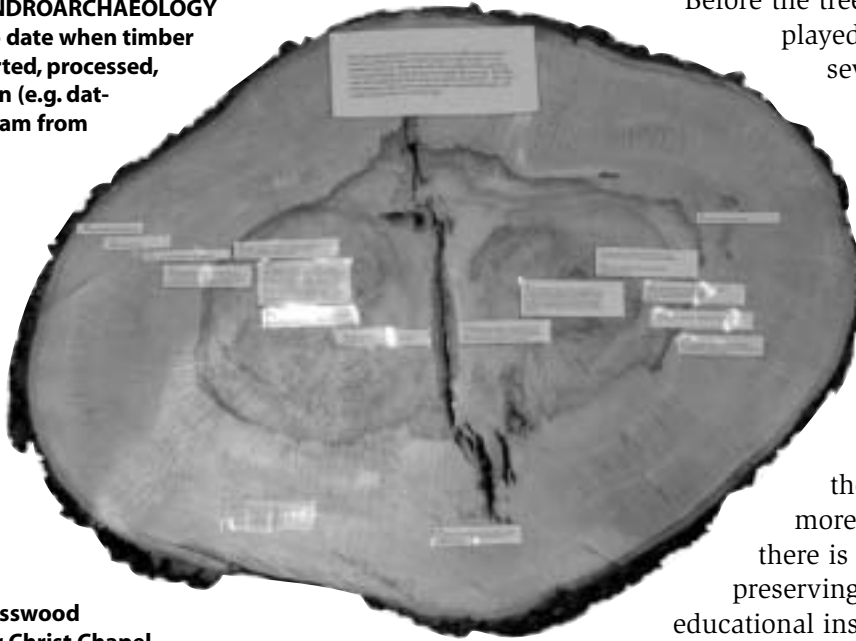


Tree cookie

by Britt Forsberg

Naturalist, Linnaeus Arboretum

DENDROCHRONOLOGY (dendron = tree, chronos = time) is the science that uses tree rings dated to their exact year of formation to analyze temporal and spatial patterns of processes in the physical and cultural sciences. **DENDROCLIMATOLOGY** is the use of tree rings to study and reconstruct the past and present climate. **DENDROARCHAEOLOGY** is the use of tree rings to date when timber has been felled, transported, processed, and used for construction (e.g. dating the tree rings of a beam from a ruin in the American Southwest to determine when it was built). **DENDROECOLOGY** is the use of tree rings to study factors that affect the earth's ecosystems.



A slice from the large basswood that formerly stood near Christ Chapel now chronicles the history of Gustavus by its rings.

Some of you may have noticed the absence of the large basswood tree on the northeast side Christ Chapel. The tree was cut down in April of 2005 after briefly catching fire. A large slice, or “tree cookie,” has been preserved and is now on display in the Interpretive Center highlighting important dates in Gustavus and Arboretum history.

Before the tree cookie could be displayed, it had to be dried for several months to prevent mold, then sanded and varnished to make the tree rings stand out. The carpentry shop has done a beautiful job finishing it, which has been no small challenge. First, transporting a slab of wood four feet in diameter is no easy task. As the cookie dried, it became more manageable. Second, there is very little information on preserving a piece this large. Many educational institutions keep smaller preserved tree cookies on hand, and they are

often dried in ovens or dipped in a preservative solution, neither of which is practical for a piece of this size. The Gustavus tree cookie was air-dried for six months and only one side is treated so that no remaining moisture is sealed in.

The Gustavus tree cookie is approximately 95 years old, judging by the number of rings. The exhibit highlights the happenings here on campus between World War I and the present. Next time you are on campus, come by the Interpretive Center and check it out! 🌿

Arboretum Board Misses Dedicated Member

Joe Volk, longtime friend of Linnaeus Arboretum, died on May 7, 2006 in St. Peter, Minn. Joe was an active member of the Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum board of directors for 11 years. He loved “everything” arboretum and he and his wife Helen spent many, many hours planting daffodils in 2002 as part of a team of College staff, students, alumni, parents, and friends who helped plant 10,000 daffodil bulbs in a protective clearing of the arboretum. What a great friend and servant!

Summer Garden Tour *continued from page 1*

Linnaeus Arboretum Twin Cities garden tour, is anxious to show off his urban landscape, which features two water structures and stream, nearly 100 varieties of hosta, and an impressively large perennial garden. A light buffet will be served at his residence.

A formal invitation to this July 15th event will be mailed in early June, but you are welcome to register at any time by calling Byron at 612/823-8716 or Gustavus Special Events at 800/726-6198. The cost for the day is \$25, which includes guest commentaries, refreshments, a light lunch, and a special gift compliments of Tangletown Gardens. 🌿



Gustavus examines its environmental stewardship

Since 1990, wind energy has been the fastest growing energy source in the world. It is abundant, renewable, environmentally friendly, and cost-efficient, which is why Gustavus has been considering investing in wind turbines. Currently the school has plans to purchase two 2.1-megawatt Suzlon turbines, and hopes to have them operational by the time it hosts the 2007 Nobel Conference, which will focus on energy. Each would be 80 meters in height, produce 5.8 million kilowatt hours per year, and be situated in the west 80 acres of Linnaeus Arboretum. It is anticipated that two turbines of this size would save the college \$600,000 every year. Research has already shown that it is a feasible option for the institution. With improved technology and increasing efficiency, wind energy is a very attractive long-term opportunity for Gustavus. Campus turbines will allow the College to replace nonrenewable resources with renewable wind energy, lowering costs and decreasing pollutant emissions. "It's symbolic of what Gustavus values—community and environment—and we want students to see that," says Jeff Jeremiason, chair of the Environmental Studies program. 🍃

Studies of size relationships of proposed wind turbines. Below, note the man inside the generator hub.



Some of the other environmental stewardship projects currently being studied or implemented on the Gustavus campus:

- low energy flat-panel computer monitors
- double-glazed window installation
- "low-flow" showers and toilets to lessen water consumption
- upgrading all lighting on campus to electronic ballasts, T8 lamps, and compact fluorescent bulbs
- converting or upgrading College vehicles to E-85 or bio-fuels, and the purchase of a gasoline-electric hybrid for the Safety and Security fleet
- support of the Community Garden
- increasing awareness of recycling opportunities
- continuing to offer Environmental Studies as a major program