

The Garden News

University of Nebraska Lincoln Botanical Garden and Arboretum

December 2010

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Visit our website

<http://www.unl.edu/bga/friends>

From The President

Kay Logan-Peters

Season's Greetings to all of our Garden Friends! It is hard to believe that another year has flown by. The Board of Directors has been hard at work keeping UNL Garden Friends growing. Occasionally we are asked "What projects has UNL GF funded recently? What are you doing with my membership dues?" To answer these questions, please read Emily Casper's article *Garden Friends: Past and Present Projects* on p. 2 for a summary of campus garden improvements. Many of these projects were supported by your membership dues and additional donations, which are the primary source of income for UNL GF.

We value your long term commitment to the improvement and beautification of UNL campuses and want to THANK YOU for your continuing support. It has been said before, but we could not fund these projects without you!!

Soon you will receive your membership renewal letter—please renew, and recruit a friend to become a new member too. Even better, become a member of our Board of Directors! We are always in need of smart and hard working garden enthusiasts who are interested in serving on our Board. This past year we added four new Board members whose profiles follow on p. 2. These folks represent our future leadership. If you are interested in contributing your time, talents, and leadership skills to our Board, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our existing Board members.

Many of you will remember that we received a generous gift of \$150,000 from the Ken Good estate. At that time we agreed to raise \$50,000 in matching funds. I am pleased to report that we are within \$18,000 of our goal. Please consider making a gift to the Ken Good fund when you renew your membership—we are so close to meeting our goal. To remind you, the Ken Good gift was used to create an endowed fund for the on-going maintenance and improvement of Love and

Cather Gardens, highly visible and significant gardens on our city campus.

Soon it will be spring, and with spring comes our annual meeting and speaker. Marcia Leeper, of August Home Publishing, and Garden Gate magazine, will be our speaker for 2011 and we are very excited about her visit. Please see the article on Marcia for further details. We are also hard at work planning the next Spring Affair Preview Party which will take place on April 22 at the Lancaster Event Center. 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of Spring Affair—don't miss it! Finally, I want to mention that our last issue of *The Garden News* was not delivered to many of our members, including myself. Unfortunately this meant that many of you were not aware of our Autumn Secret Garden Tour which was hosted by Rhonda Seacrest. UNL GF has used bulk mail for many years without problems, but we were very disappointed to learn that when we needed it most, the bulk mail system failed us. You may read the last issue of *The Garden News* at: http://www.unl.edu/bga/newsletter/Garden_News_summer_2010.pdf

2011 Annual Garden Friends Meeting & Botanical Lecture

The UNL Garden Friends annual meeting and botanical lecture is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2011, 2:30-4:00 pm, City Campus Student Union, 14th & R Street. Our guest speaker will be Marcia Leeper, Corporate Gardener for August Home Publishing and Garden Gate Magazine, where her column, "From the Test Garden" is published in every issue. She also designs and maintains the corporate and test gardens for August Home Publishing (Des Moines, IA) and helps provide photo opportunities for other Garden Gate articles.

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Marcia Leeper

The lecture, "Gardening in Containers and Other Small Spaces" will feature new and also tried and true Midwest-area planting selections and methods that have been featured in Garden Gate magazine. Copies of Garden Gate Magazine will be given free to the first 100 guests and other August home garden publications will be available at reduced prices to lecture attendees. Invite your friends to attend this "don't miss" free 2011 spring garden event.

Perfect Day for a "Secret Garden Tour"

September 12 was a perfect autumn day for the 40 Garden Friends members who enjoyed refreshments and a tour of one of Lincoln's premier gardens at the home of Rhonda and Jim Seacrest. The weather was beautiful, the garden impeccably groomed and the refreshments outstanding. Billed as a "Secret Garden" tour, the late afternoon event was a perk for loyal Garden Friends members. A free will donation helped benefit the Ken Good garden project at Love and Cather gardens.

To manage the number of party guests at our host's request, members were given the location of the tour after making reservations. Special thanks to Garden Friend members who donated refreshments and to Rhonda who graciously hosted tour groups through her beautiful garden. Next autumn, watch for another "members only" tour.



Rhonda Seacrest leads the garden tour

Welcome to New Garden Friends Board Members

UNL Master Gardeners and long-time supporters of Spring Affair and the Preview Party, Kit and John Keller's plant and garden expertise provides a practical perspective to UNL landscape projects supported by Garden Friends. John's considerable photography and teaching skills and Kit's administrative experience have prepared them to jump right in. Kit is the new Preview Party Ticket Chairperson. You'll be seeing some of John's photography in this issue and in the future.



Having been born into the family landscape business, Jeanne Johnson says plants and landscaping are in her genes and those genes have been passed on to her daughter and grandson. While on walks around campus, Jeanne likes to stop at a popular Garden Friends funded project, the Love Gates & Gardens, featuring impressive iron metalwork. Did we mention Jeanne's grandfather was a skilled blacksmith? Jeanne's genes are all welcomed to the board.



Mark Canney, Park Planner for Lincoln Parks and Recreation for 9 years, has been a long time supporter of Garden Friends, having been on the board from 2004-2007 as Secretary. He holds an MA in Landscape Architecture and is working on requirements to be a Professional Landscape Architect. Mark's involvement in local garden renovations, such as the Sunken Gardens, Hamann Rose Garden and Hazel Abel Park, plus his landscape architectural background make his presence on the board a real asset.



Membership Message

We appreciate the long-standing member support you've shown for the UNL Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. Beyond direct funds for garden projects, your membership also helps fund the annual meeting and botanical speaker and provides literature and education about The Garden to the public. Every membership is important. Special thanks goes to Sue Wurm, who renewed her GF membership since the last newsletter was printed. All 2010 members were listed in the August issue of Garden News. Current 2010 member names and membership forms are listed on the UNLBGA website <http://www.unl.edu/bga/friends/currentfriends.shtml>

Garden Friends: Past & Present Projects

Emily Casper
UNL Landscape Architect

Campus Projects

The UNLBGA Garden Friends have in the last 5 years sponsored 7 projects totaling over \$230,000 in improvements to the UNL Botanical Garden and Arboretum. Without the support of Garden Friends, Landscape Services wouldn't have been able to accomplish these projects.

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Maxwell Arboretum Vine Arbor, Phase I, was reconstructed with Garden Friends contributing \$21,000. The project was completed in 2006.

Love Library Gates were refurbished in Summer of 2007 with a project cost of \$6,000.

Perin Porch Perennial Renovation project added many new plantings to the space including Tree Peonies, Japanese Maples and shade perennials. The project cost was \$4,400 and was completed in Spring of 2007.



Westbrook Courtyard and West Side of Kimball Hall were void of plants because of drainage problems and multiple maintenance projects. This project helped fix problems and created a space for specialty plantings and a sculpture from Sheldon Museum of Art. The total cost for this courtyard and landscape renovation was \$15,500 and was completed in the Fall of 2008.

Botanical Plantings are funded yearly by Garden Friends.

Sheldon Sculpture Ponds yearly maintenance is funded by Garden Friends. Maintenance of the ponds includes preparing the ponds for turning them on and off of debris and the ongoing maintenance to maintain the pumps and plants in the ponds. The annual expense for this project is approximately \$3,500.



The Ken Good estate gift received by the Garden Friends established an endowment and is funding improvements to Love and Cather Gardens. As part of the Ken Good Gift, the Garden Friends are raising an additional \$50,000 match. The funds have been raised through donations, grants and proceeds from the annual Spring Affair Preview Party.

Some of Love and Cather improvements have already started including new plantings south of Love Library and the purchase of new site furniture for Cather Garden. Future projects with this gift include a seating area in Cather, interpretive signage and renovations to the planting beds in both gardens.

UNL Landscape Services is thankful for the Garden Friends support and dedication to improving the campus garden spaces.

Education Projects

Donna Ewoldt

One goal of the UNL Garden Friends is to promote the use of "The Garden" by students and the public through literature, educational experiences and other informational sources. In the past 3 years, the Friends have provided \$5,000 for teaching plants and \$15,000 for support of the Department of Horticulture's special research projects, such as documentation of the plant collection and the creation of the "UNL Gardens", a detailed web site specifically about East Campus garden resources, including the beautiful Maxwell Arboretum. <http://unlgardens.unl.edu/> for more details.

From the Director

Eileen Bergt

Recycling in the Stadium: A Game Day Challenge

On October 30, 2010, I waited with 46 other volunteers under the stands inside Gate 15 at the football stadium waiting for the fans to clear the stadium. The task ahead of us was to pick up all the plastic bottles in the stands so the plastic could be recycled. We were given a ½ hour lead time before the ROTC group would start their cleanup so we would have to move quickly to stay ahead of them.

We were part of colleges nationwide challenging each other on who could recycle the most after a home football game. The Game Day Challenge, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is intended to decrease the amount of waste generated at college football games by educating fans and encouraging an increase in their recycling. Nebraska was one of 87 universities participating in the Game Day Challenge. Student groups and Landscape Services Recycling Coordinator, Prabhakar (Prabs) Shrestha coordinated the volunteers.

I was amazed at what the stands looked like after the fans left. What a mess! The stands contained a significant number of plastic bottles and some trash. We picked up bottles and left the pizza and popcorn boxes, ice cream containers (not recyclable because they are contaminated with food) and candy wrappers. In the end, we filled 2 packer trucks with plastic, a quantity of approximately 6,000 pounds of plastic. With the other game day recycling, that occurs every football Saturday this year, we recycled 7,380 pounds of plastic, aluminum, glass and cardboard. The trash taken to the landfill was 21,680 pounds. Our recycling effort resulted in 25 percent of the waste generated for the Missouri football game being diverted from the landfill.

The results that were submitted to the Game Day Challenge are:
Total attendance 85,907, Diversion Rate: 25.4 %
Per Capita Waste Generation: 0.338 lbs/person

In the four categories we competed, we finished the highest in the Waste Generation Category (21 out of 75). Our goal is to recycle the plastic from the stadium every game. If we accomplished this, we would divert the equivalent of 21 semi-trailers of plastic each year from the landfill.



UNL Recycling Coordinator, Prabhakar Shrestha directs volunteers



UNL GARDEN FRIENDS

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Silver Celebration Awaits Preview Party Guests

The Spring Affair Preview Party, April 22, 2011, at the Lancaster Event Center, celebrates the “Silver” Anniversary of Spring Affair, the dazzling plant sale that has helped form gardens and gardeners across the state since 1987. Preview Party ticket holders will experience glowing tables, fresh flowers, memorable décor, unique auction items, party atmosphere, and of course, our delicious two entrée dinner buffet or optional vegetarian selection.

The Spring Affair Preview Party, held the night before the Spring Affair Plant Sale since 1996, is our annual fund raising event that benefits the UNL Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. All proceeds help purchase shrubs, trees and flowers to beautify both city and east campus locations.

This historic anniversary event, sponsored by the UNL Garden Friends, is also supported through the charitable donations of this year’s table sponsors to date: St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, Lincoln Benefit Life and Countryside Bank. Sponsor guests will receive reserved seating, complimentary dinner, beverage and plant coupons. Sponsor support for the gardens is essential and greatly appreciated.

UNL Prof. Dave Lambe’s advanced floral design and floral shop management students will again be helping with the floral décor assisted by Interior Designer, Deb Arends.

Beverages and silent auction bidding starts at 5 pm. Dinner and the grand opening of the plant sale will be held at 6 pm. Plants are provided by Bluebird Nursery, Clarkson NE. Reserve your tickets early for this reservation-only spring garden event. Visa and MasterCard accepted

Preview Party Reservation

All tickets are by reservation only.
Ticket deadline is Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Your ticket (s) will be mailed to you.

Garden Friends Members Only

___ Tickets @ \$35 each

Other Guests

___ Tickets @\$45 each

___ Indicate number of Vegetarian Only tickets ordered

___ Total # of tickets

___ I would like to make a donation to benefit the UNL Botanical Garden and Arboretum

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
(payable to UNL Garden Friends)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail checks and this reservation form to:

Kit Keller
Spring Affair Tickets
1934 Twin Ridge Road
Lincoln, NE 68506

Questions? Call 202-7888 or email
SpringAffair25@gmail.com