

2017 Awards Year End Summary Lake Minnetonka Garden Club

Club Awards: Three awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. These awards need to be submitted by April 1, 2018 (two months prior to meeting) to be considered by Zone Rep/GCA. The Club President should be consulted regarding potential award nominees. Awards are submitted directly through the GCA portal.

Club Conservation Commendation

The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club is pleased to propose **Gerald Erickson** for a GCA Club Conservation Commendation. This commendation honors his dedicated stewardship in the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities and for the protection of the Woodland Marsh for future generations. We applaud his determination to rid the marsh of invasive species and restore it to its native glory. As Gerald nears his 80th birthday, we wish to acknowledge his commitment to leave the world a better place for plants, water, birds, pollinators and all marshland creatures. According to Gerald's sons, over the past 40 years, the 2 acre marsh became stagnant with invasive species and non-native plants. Around the time he had grandchildren, Gerald had the idea of returning the marsh to the same ecologically pristine condition as when they purchased the property in the 1960's. First, all invasive and non-native plants were removed. Then, a dramatic overhaul of the habitat to provide birds and pollinators with a healthy habitat began. Gerald researched for the best partner with whom to work to restore the marsh and partnered with Natural Shore, a local ecological restoration company, to oversee the implementation of the project. From 2014- 2016, over 6,600 individual plants were planted in the marsh including over 60 varieties of emergent and wildflower species and 15 grass, sedge and rush species. He also installed posts and large boulders to deter snowplows from pushing salt, sand and debris into the marsh. In 2016, the Woodland Marsh displayed verdant plant life, active waterfowl, many birds and insects and exhibited many bright colors of the new healthy marshland. During the GCA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, fifty GCA members were treated to the seeing the newly restored Marsh on the Wayzata Pre-

trip to Lake Minnetonka. Gerald is delighted that the neighborhood enjoys the ecological restoration as much as he does, whether it's taking a walk to reconnect with nature, observing the bees, butterflies and other pollinators or watching native ducks take off and land. And best of all, his twin grandsons can skate during the winter the same way that his children and their friends enjoyed over 40 years ago! The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club is excited to acknowledge Gerald's commitment to this ecological rehabilitation.

Club Appreciation Award

Kitty Petit has been a steady, dependable, trusted member of the LMGC and has most recently served two terms as Treasurer. She is accurate and detail-oriented and has served two consecutive terms in this position with a positive and can-do attitude. She does not seek the spotlight, but reports, records and keeps us in the black. . Kitty was instrumental in helping us spearhead our 2016 Minnesota Landscape Arboretum "Bee Fund" -- raising \$50,000 with 100% participation from our club members. Further, Kitty is a generous volunteer for any project in need and is willing to help anywhere. As an active, involved member of the club since 2008, Kitty is deserving of special recognition for her commitment to service.

Club Horticulture Award

The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club is pleased to submit **Nancy Guldburg** for Club Horticulture Award consideration. Nancy's boundless enthusiasm for horticulture education and hands on teaching has made an indelible mark on our club. She embraces horticulture with a passion. She most recently served as a co chair of the Wayzata Depot Garden during its conversion to a pollinator garden. This involves scheduling, meeting, training and organizing our fleet of member gardeners who attend the garden each week. Additionally, Nancy started our club's first garden blog, writing weekly updates and notes on the garden blooms and busts. She enthusiastically promoted seed saving in our club with a fun "seed bomb" project. Her home garden includes a notable rain garden and fairy garden and is often on local garden tours. She is a Master Gardener and an avid volunteer at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, sharing her knowledge and joy with both adults and children. Her love of horticulture is also evident in her superb

photography. Nancy loves to exchange plants and can often be found in members garden eyeing plants after board meetings. She loves being in the dirt and spreading her love of horticulture. She makes our club better and for this, is well deserving of this recognition.

Zone Awards: Need to be submitted two months before Zone meeting. Awards should be discussed with the Zone Award Representative prior to submission.

Founders Fund: A proposal was sent to GCA for Founders Fund consideration in Fall 2016. *Flowers for Pollinators* was created in partnership with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and utilized the Master Gardener program to distribute the educational program throughout Minnesota. The project did not make the final three – but we were asked to re-submit for 2018 consideration. A revised project is under current development and will be submitted in October 2018.

Elizabeth Winton