

2016-2017 LMGC Garden History and Design and Visiting Gardens Annual Report

The mission of the Garden History and Design Committee is to educate members about trends in historical and contemporary landscape and garden design. Minnesota, and our club in particular, has not had many submissions to the Archives of American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institution. This past year we decided to focus our efforts on a submission that might demonstrate environmentally sensitive plantings and water management. Club member, Barbara Burgum agreed to offer her garden for submission. After being approved by the Zone Representative for Garden History and Design, we began to learn about the process and procedures for doing so. Very stringent guidelines must be followed in this process. A skilled photographer needs to be engaged. Fortunately for me, photographer, Tori Gagne, the next chair of this committee, has provided the photography. She has been photographing the garden throughout the seasons to tell its story. The gardener, in this case, Barbara, has been very involved in the process providing us with some history of the gardens and home, home owners and landscape designers, her vision for the landscape, plans and plant lists. As chair of this committee, I have worked to assemble all the pieces and wrote the description of the garden. We hope to have this finished in the very near future.

Because of the complementary nature of the two committees, it was decided to merge the Garden History and Design Committee and the Visiting Gardens Committees. To celebrate this merger, the Zone XI Reps of these two committees were invited to speak at our May meeting. Lou Ellen Murray, the GH&D rep spoke about the history of the committee and the Garden Club of America's collection at the Smithsonian. Over 4700 gardens have been documented for the collection. She showed many slides of beautiful gardens that have been documented. Debbie Ross, the Visiting Gardens rep, shared slides of a trip to the Cotswolds. She urged us to consider the GCA trips. She also explained the process for our members to arrange to visit GCA member gardens when traveling in the U.S. I, personally, benefitted from this experience when visiting in Atlanta.

We also initiated the concept of the pop-up garden whereby members are encouraged to send out an email to club members inviting them to visit their gardens for an impromptu and informal viewing when their gardens are looking great. This is meant to build camaraderie as well as enthusiasm for the gardening we all love. A list of members who would be willing to share their gardens with out of town visitors is also being developed.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Johnson