

Our 50 year members.

A special anniversary notice about three of our members who have been with us for 50 years or more.

Karol Gresser joined in 1967. Her remembrances include: Times of birding in the Garden as early as 1953 and of coming with the Minneapolis Bird Club; of meeting Martha Crone at the Garden Office; of later talking with Ken Avery; and she remembers his helper, Ed Brucklemeyer who was the first to hear about her exciting find of a black-throated green warbler on May 12, 1967. She was also a shelter volunteer as early as 1975. Karol says of the Garden -

“There is no other place around the Twin Cities where the seasonal changes are so enjoyable and visible, or where one feels safe walking the paths, as in our special Garden. It has been a place of peace and quiet to enjoy our native plants and birds, and to recharge my spirit.”

Jerry and Lee Shannon also joined in 1967. They particularly like visiting the Garden “from April, when the snow trillium is blooming, until mid-June, when the showy lady slipper is standing tall in all her resplendent beauty. This span of each year brings back the ephemerals of the woodland garden, each exhibiting its own seasonal splendor”.

The Shannons have seen the environment changes caused by Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s and the subsequent re-adjustments to the habitat in the following years.

Mr. J. S. Futcher rounds out our threesome. He joined in 1970 and was a member of the Minneapolis Bird Club. He remembers becoming acquainted with the Garden and Martha Crone when he was in the eight or ninth grades in 1946 and 1947. He later held the job of Night Overseer at the Minneapolis Science Museum while attending the University - the same job Martha Crone held during part of World War II. As a member of the Bird Club he helped take over maintaining the bird feeding table at the back of the Garden after Miss Lulu May Aler was no longer able to. In recent years Mr. Futcher has been able to provide us some important and elusive Garden history details of the natural springs and of birding events in those earlier years.