



Garden Clippings

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

OUR MISSION

To establish a year-round botanic garden for northwest Michigan that provides educational and cultural enrichment while demonstrating environmental stewardship.

Two “Garden Angels”

For the past year, two new BGSNM board members have been busy helping the Botanical Garden Society achieve their dream of a public garden in this region. We'll introduce other board members in future newsletters as well.

KEN RICHMOND, of Richmond Associates Architects, is an architect and urban designer who has been strongly committed to the historic preservation of buildings and land use in the region since 1990. As officer and active member of AIA Northern Michigan, he has involved local architects in preservation issues. He served as Historic District Commissioner from 1996 to 1998, helping to refine, expand and enforce the ordinance to protect the quality of in-town neighborhoods. He has been a member of the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority Advisory Committee since 1995, was a Traverse City Planning Commissioner from 1998-2001, and co-chaired the committee to establish an historic district designation for downtown Traverse City.

Richmond was a member and officer of the Con Foster Historical Museum from 1998 to 2004, helping that organization to renovate and move into the Carnegie Library and to develop an association for organizations sited there. He was chosen as water-color-artist-in-residence at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore in 1999, where his work

documented and helped to save 50 abandoned buildings not slated, at that time, for preservation by the park.

Perhaps closest to his heart, the old Traverse City State Hospital buildings and grounds have been a beneficiary of Richmond's passion for historic preservation. He was part of the local group, “Architects and Engineers for the Preservation of Building 50”, who developed the plan to make the renovation of Building 50 possible. In 2002, Richmond completed the renovation of the Old Munson Hall, which was the original Traverse City Hospital Building and the first building built on the Commons, for his architectural firm's offices.

Before coming onto the Executive Board of BGSNM, Ken Richmond served on the Botanical Garden Society's Community Advisory Board for seven years. He brings knowledge, experience and commitment to the BGSNM goal of establishing a public garden on the grounds of the Commons. He is truly a dedicated champion of the Commons, and the Botanical Garden Society.

THERESA (Terry) ANN HARDING also joined the Botanical Garden Society's board in 2008 and serves as Board Secretary. Harding received a B.S. degree in Occupational Therapy through Wayne State University and worked for a number of years as an occupational therapist in the orthopedic unit of Berkley Schools and the preschool program at

Macomb Intermediate School District in Michigan.

Since retiring, Harding has become very active in the gardening community of the region. She belongs to the Cherryland Garden Club, Master Gardeners of Northwest Michigan, Old Mission Women's Club, and The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City, where she has held offices as corresponding secretary, board member, Garden Walk Committee member, Civic Beautification Committee member, and Publicity Chair. She has done advanced work in landscape design and has helped to design the landscape containers at the Peninsula Township Hall, serves on the Peninsula Township Cemetery Beautification Committee and designed the Harding Memorial Garden at Peninsula Community Library. Her own garden was featured in The Friendly Garden Club's Garden Walk.

Harding's extensive skill and experience in gardening and landscape design will be of great value in the development of the botanic garden at the Commons. Her knowledge and background as an occupational therapist will be most beneficial as BGSNM begins the process of establishing a horticultural therapy program and handicapped-accessible enabling garden for the site.

The Botanical Garden Society of Northwest Michigan is most fortunate to have these two outstanding individuals as board members.