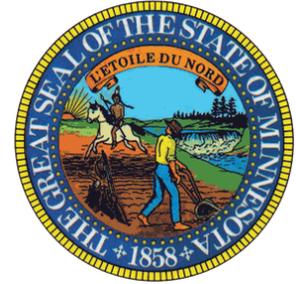




October 12 Meeting: Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon!

Our annual "kick-off" has been moved to October 12, when we will have Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon talking about the Voting Rights Act and where we are now 50 years after its passage. We will also present our annual "Friend of League" award in October.

Bring a friend, it will be a great meeting!



Save the Date: October 19 – special meeting for consensus on LWV MN study of the process for amending the Minnesota Constitution. Materials for this meeting will be distributed during the social time on October 12. All LWV ABC members are invited to attend.

Our last meeting, August 8. At our August picnic, we toured Geri and Darby Nelson's gardens (thanks again to them for hosting!) and Gretchen Sabel gave a short talk on bee-friendly lawns and how to keep your lawn healthy with less inputs.



Geri discussing gardens with Bruce Pomerantz and Joellen Ambrose.



Geri showing Grace Baltich rain garden plants

(Free tickets are available to Mickman Brothers' September 5 Fall Lawn Care Seminar, which will feature Dr. Sam Bauer, turf grass specialist with University of Minnesota Extension. If you would like to attend and want a free ticket, please contact Gretchen at gpsabel@yahoo.com and she will mail you one or two tickets. First come, first served. Here's a link to some info about Dr. Sam Bauer and his work: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/turfgrass/>. Dr. Bauer writes the Turf Grass blog and most of the other material here.)

GARDEN TOUR -- Andover Pollinator Awareness Project

On **Saturday, August 8**, more than 100 people toured properties in the City of Andover that have pollinator-friendly landscapes. Enjoy these lovely photos courtesy of Kathy Aanerud.



Sally and Jim Myers, bee keepers



Ellen and Pete Fastner's Raingarden



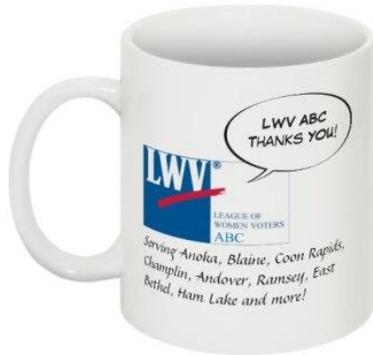
Cheryl Seeman, Master Gardener



Right, upper – LWV ABC President Jeorgette Knoll in her garden

Right, lower – Erin O'Leary, Andover resident who is restoring 3 acres of native prairie



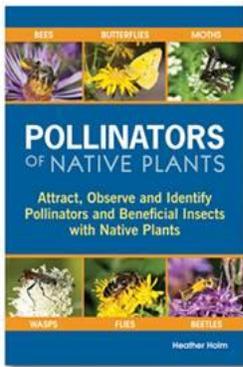


LWV ABC “thank you” mugs for sale

It takes all of us pulling together to keep our League vital and relevant. You can purchase an LWV ABC “Thank You” mug for just \$10 to remind you of all the great things we accomplish together! Contact Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com if you are interested in purchasing one of these fine mugs.

Heather Holm’s Pollinators of Native Plants for sale

Purchase this beautiful book for \$25, proceeds benefit LWV ABC Pollinator work, a savings of \$4.95 over list price. Contact Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com to purchase Heather Holm’s lovely book. It makes a great present for gardeners and nature observers!





The following letter was sent to the Anoka County Commissioners to introduce them to our LWV ABC study of Anoka County Government and make them aware of LWV ABC Observers.

August 25, 2015

To Anoka County Commissioners,

Protecting our right to know is integral to the health of our democracy. Decisions that determine how our schools are run, how our cities operate, at what level community programs will be funded, how land in our communities will be used, and how decisions are made in Anoka County impact our lives and are vital to our well-being. These kinds of decisions need to be made with public input and oversight. One important way to ensure that is to observe government meetings.

The League of Women Voters has been a champion of government transparency since our founding in 1920, and since the League began a local chapter in Anoka in 1938 we have participated in watching our local government entities. Through the years members of League have observed and participated in all levels of government from federal to our city council meetings.

Anoka County Government was selected as the focus of our newest local study. Over the next year or so we will be studying how county government works, how decisions are made, how citizens participate, and how information is shared with the public. To better understand Anoka County Government we will be observing several different kinds of meetings, asking questions, and sharing our findings with League members.

League of Women Voters of Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, and Champlin Area (LWV ABC) observer corps members will be watching county proceedings; *they will not be watching because something is assumed to be wrong*. They will be observing to learn what is happening. They will be observing to ensure the public's right to know is being honored.

You may also be observing us. We will most likely be wearing a LWV button or pin. We will be courteous and have no intention of disrupting proceedings. At some point in our study, we may ask questions and we may ask for more information, or we may request speakers who represent the county to attend our local League meetings. When our study is complete all LWV members as well as the general public will receive the results.

Sincerely,

Jeorgette Knoll, LWV ABC president