



Gnome News

A Publication Of The International Gnome Club

Issue 2 2012

Hello Gnomers!

We have some great articles for you this issue! Our talented contributors have been very busy and their stories are not only informative, but inspiring. A big thank you to all of you that share your passion for the "Nature People" with others!

We need a volunteer to take over the "Gnome Mart" page each issue! This is a page that lets club members know about new Gnome products on the market and the contact information for ordering the items. Just drop me a line at **gnomegnet@aol.com** if you would be willing to help us out with this project and we will give you more information. Thank you! Liz

One of our club members sent me some great ideas on starting local Gnome Clubs. The Cairn Studio which produces Dr. Tom Clark Gnomes put together some tips on running their Collector Club meetings. If you have enough Gnome Enthusiasts in your area, perhaps you would like to start a group that could get together and do Gnome activities. Here are some of the things that you could do with a local group:

- Play Gnome Bingo-The top of the card should read GNOME.
- Share ideas for decorating with Gnomes inside the home and outside in the yard.
- Have an insurance expert talk about insuring your collection.
- Hold Gnome picnics and Christmas parties.
- Go on Gnome field trips.

Thank you to everyone that helps support the Club and Gnome Habitat USA by purchasing products from Café Press! The website for purchases is: www.cafepress.com/gnomegnetwork

Happy Gnome-sightings!

Membership dues: \$15.00. Three issues of "Gnome News" sent by e-mail. (Add \$5.00 if you would prefer to have your copy sent by snail-mail.) Send U.S. check or cash. Checks payable to: Liz Spera, 3901 Ayres Holmes Ln., Auburn, Ca. 95602 U.S.A. E-mail: gnomegnet@aol.com Website: www.gnomereserve.co.uk/club
Please be sure to send your e-mail address!

Gnome Items to Check Out



Gnomes sitting on garden tool swings.
www.orientaltrading.com



Gnome Bag
www.orientaltrading.com



Gnome in the Flower Garden
www.carruthstudio.com



Tiny Gnome Plaque
www.carruthstudio.com



Toad and Traveler
www.carruthstudio.com



Gnome Garden Whirligig
www.plowhearth.com



Gnome Watering Can
www.plowhearth.com

A Gnome-worthy Bond

By Alyssa L. Ochs

Since I am an only child, my mother was naturally overprotective of me growing up. This was both a blessing and a curse. Throughout my teenage years, we had our fair share of disagreements about everything from boyfriends to money to curfews. But as the years have passed, my mother and I have begun to accept and understand each other much better. I owe a significant part of our reconciliation to gnomes.

I started collecting gnomes almost ten years ago, when group of college friends and I wandered into a dollar store on a lazy Sunday afternoon. For no apparent reason, a ceramic figurine in a red hat caught my eye. I didn't know it at the time, but from that moment on, my life would never be the same.



My mother first discovered my growing obsession and expanding collection when she came to visit my apartment one weekend. Much to my surprise, she took a liking to my gnome collection and even expressed interest in putting some in her own yard someday.



That next Christmas, I gave my mother a gnome door wreath. On my next birthday, she gave me a gnome door mat. Since that time, we have exchanged gnome yard ornaments, gnome slippers, and gnome figurines. Somehow, we still never seem to run out of gift ideas!

There is no doubt that my mother and I have grown closer to each other and bonded over our love of gnomes. I am my mother's only daughter and she is the only mother I'll ever have. To many people, gnomes make their homes more welcoming and unique. I have learned that they can also help heal relationships and bring loved ones together as well.



I have no intention of ever stopping collecting gnomes, and I'm pretty sure my mother doesn't intend to either. Now the only fights I foresee between us are competitions about which one of us has a bigger and better gnome collection. However, that is a fight that I can definitely live with and embrace for years to come.



LARS CARLSSON

This talented gentleman was a unique Gnome artist. Born in 1921 in Finnskogen, Norway, he is so famous for his precious Gnome illustrations. He was affiliated with a prominent publishing firm in Stockholm, Sweden, Axel Eliasson. He created a phenomenal number of Gnomes on greeting cards, decorative household articles, and illustrated children's books. The "God Jul" ("Good Christmas") china and glassware set was produced in 2000. The items all beautifully depict Gnomes. This gentleman and Jenny Nystrom of Sweden are my favorite Gnome illustrators.

There are various pieces to the china set and glassware. They can be difficult to obtain in the U.S. – but it's sure worth trying !



I enjoy mine every day. The set is produced by Magnor Glassverk AS. They have a website ... and you can even visit them in Norway! The company and store are 30 kilometers from Kongsvinger (120 kilometers from Oslo, Norway and 3 kilometers from the Swedish border).

... GNOME DEVOTEE ...



GARDENING WITH GNOMES

Part XXVIII

Create a Gnome-Shaped Garden

By Jean Fenstermaker



Lay out a pattern in rocks.



Plant red baby begonias in hat.



Fill in pants with hen n' chickens.



The tunic was made with a ground cover and some tiny gnomes were added here and there to give the appearance that the tunic was made of a gnome print material. Rocks purchased at a landscape materials firm were arranged to create a beard and hair on the sides of the face. A tree face kit was added for final facial details. It might take a little searching to locate two rocks for proper-sized feet.

Have fun doing this project. Let your imagination try substituting other plants. These photos were all taken shortly after each addition was completed. It will be interesting to see how the gnome will look in time when the plants begin to mature and fill in each area more solidly.



PROTECTING OUR GNOME FRIENDS

Although nearly all of my Gnomes live indoors, I still give each new arrival a gentle spray of clear acrylic sealant. I don't spray china/porcelain; only synthetic figurines. A can of "Krylon UV-Resistant Clear Acrylic Coating" has always worked nicely. One gentle spraying is enough, front and back. It dries very quickly.

Be sure you don't get the opaque spray. I made that mistake and gave one fellow a cloudy appearance because of the coating. It's not removable after you've sprayed a painted Gnome! If you try to remove an over-sprayed area, you'll remove the paint, too.

Be sure not to spray indoors. I always spray in the garage with the overhead door open – away from my car.

A friend recently painted two large outdoor concrete Gnomes I've had for years. They were very faded.



FFPZ

I should have sprayed them when he brought them back home, but they were quickly placed in a shaded entrance area that had new shredded mulch. They're too heavy for me to lift, so the 'painter' is going to return and move them onto a walkway, where I can gently hose them down before spraying.



I'm certain the Gnomes will understand. They're like that (as you already know).

GNOME DEVOTEE

“Gnot the Proper Gnomeclature” – An Artistic Discovery

By Alyssa L. Ochs

What images come to mind when you think about Las Vegas? Casinos? Poolside piña coladas? Over-indulgent buffets? Scandalous nightlife? Well, how about gnomes? Believe it or not there is an art exhibition of nine-foot-tall gnomes just north of the Strip.

Artist, Jesse Smigel created an exhibit called “Gnot the Proper Gnomenculture” in the city’s Boulder Plaza behind the Arts Factory. <http://www.lasvegasweekly.com/news/2012/may/02/whats-giant-gnomes-arts-district/>

The small plaza is open from 7am to 11pm daily and visitors are encouraged pose with the gnomes and submit their photographs to Our Las Vegas, “an online New Media public art project that celebrates the fierce and passionate connection that local and out of town artists make with “The Radiant City.”



While I was in Las Vegas earlier this month, I convinced my boyfriend, Sridhar, to take an abundance of photos of me with these gnomes, which were carved from large blocks of Styrofoam, hard-coated, and painted. Sheldon, my “travel gnome” that goes on every trip with me, insisted upon getting in a few poses as well. I submitted one of my favorite photographs of Sheldon and I with the reclining gnome inappropriately peeking up my dress to Our Las Vegas and it is featured on “The Gnomes Project” of their website. <http://ourlasvegas.wordpress.com/the-gnomes-gallery-2/>

The last things I expected to ever see on a trip to Las Vegas were gnomes. But there they were, at the corner of Charleston Avenue and Main Street! Somehow, I seem to randomly find gnomes everywhere I travel. Although I can’t prove it yet, but I’m starting to suspect that Sheldon has an agenda of his own...



JENNY NYSTROM

Jenny is my favorite Swedish illustrator of Gnomes. She was born in Kalmar, a charming coastal town south of Stockholm. There is a museum displaying her artwork, and it's wonderful to visit if you're a Gnome lover and collector. Jenny's tender scenes are amazing. When I visited the town and museum, I hated to leave!



You can usually find postcards on eBay under her name – there are also a few books (in English and in Swedish) that show her pictures. Even if you don't know Swedish, the pictures tell their own stories!

If you want more information about Jenny, contact the writer at: gnomhome@tampabay.rr.com.

