

# THE FRINGED GENTIAN



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## THE JOYS OF SUMMER DAYS

May and June days have swiftly and gently drifted away. The early spring flowers have passed, also a great deal of our anticipation.

But summer has always something new in store.

By July the meridian of the year is reached. The luster of the season begins to dim, the foliage of the trees and woods to tarnish, the plumage of the birds fades and their songs cease.

August is the month of the high-sailing hawks. The scarlet tanager loves the hottest weather and his rich notes can still be heard.

The characteristic sounds of midsummer are the sharp, whirring sound of the cicada or harvest-fly, and the rasping of nocturnal insects.

It is here that we vividly recall the words by John Donne - "Summer's robe grows Dusky, and like an oft-dyed garment shows."

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## REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Incorporated, was held Saturday May 21st, 1966, at 10:00 a.m., at the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden, in Theodore Wirth Park.

The setting was a never-to-be-forgotten scene, with trilliums, mertensia, and numerous spring flowers blooming all around the group gathered outside the little office.

Birds coming to the feeder overhead and the singing of the lovely Rose-breasted Grosbeak added to the enjoyment.

Named to the Board of Directors were:

Mr. Russell Bennett

Mr. Kenneth Avery

Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter

Miss Marion Cross

Mrs. Martha Crone

Mr. Whitney Eastman

Mrs. George Ludcke

Mr. Walter Lehnert

Mrs. Alice Martin

Mr. Leonard Odell

Mrs. Elizabeth Reed

Mr. Leonard Ramberg

Mr. Carl Rawson

Mrs. Mary Simmons

Mrs. Hazel Solhaug

Mrs. Clarence Tolg

Mr. Alvin Witt

10 new members were added to the membership during the year.

The usual contribution was made to the Board of Park Commissioners.

The Board meeting followed this meeting at which time the following officers were elected: Mr. Kenneth E. Avery, President; Mr. Alvin Witt, Vice-President and Mrs. Martha Crone, Secretary-Treasurer.

A Conducted Tour of the garden was held for those who wished to enjoy the garden.

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AN INTERESTING VOLUME FOR SUMMER READING

"PORTAGE INTO THE PAST"

By Canoe along the Minnesota-Ontario Boundary Waters,

By J. Arnold Bolz,

with chapter drawings by

Francis Lee Jaques

University of Minnesota Press

To recapture some of the past that was traveled by early voyageurs of as long ago as 250 years.

The Minnesota-Ontario border lakes country, a favorite wilderness area for modern canoeists has a long and colorful history.

As fur traders, guides and canoe-men for explorers, they made their way through the border waters.

Dr. Bolz traveled by canoe over this route from Grand Portage on Lake Superior through the Quetico-Superior Country to Rainy Lake.

This book will also serve as a guidebook for those wishing to do what the author did - make a portage into the past.

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BIRD NOTES

As a matter of general principle, one should not feed the summer birds. They should forage for themselves, especially garner insects in the garden.

However it is pleasant to see the birds that are nesting in the locality, so it's no great infraction to offer them a little man-provided food.

The fruit-eating and insectivorous birds comprise many species. They relish fruits such as raisins, cherries, apples, bananas as well as oranges for the Baltimore Oriole.

They will also take cooked macaroni and spaghetti. Oatmeal or rice and peanut butter are relished in summer as in winter.

A good mixture for the Hummingbird feeder is 1 part honey to 3 parts water.

In comparison with our brilliantly hued birds, our sparrows are meek and lowly birds. Nature has denied them the colorful tints of Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Cardinals and many others, but she has given them sweet and musical voices.

SHOULDN'T OUR BIRDS BE CAREFULLY GUARDED?

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File this issue with the others in your "Fringed Gentian" green cover.

WHITE FLOWERS

Many of the hundreds or more varieties of early spring flowers are in bloom at one time. Some remain in bloom until well into the summer.

It is interesting to note that many of these early blooming flowers are predominately white.

Just to mention a few --

- |                   |              |                      |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Bloodroot         | Goldthread   | Dutchman's Breeches  |
| Various Trilliums | May Apple    | Squirrel Corn        |
| Wood Anemone      | Golden Seal  | Wood Strawberry      |
| False Rue Anemone | Shad Bush    | Sweet Clover         |
| Foam Flower       | Pin Cherry   | False Solomon's Seal |
| White Violets     | Wild Plum    | Lily-of-the-Valley   |
| Baneberry         | Bishop's Cap | Some Hepaticas       |

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BEAUTIFUL SIGHT

One of the most beautiful sights is the moon shining on a lake, especially on a large lake such as Lake Superior. There the moon rises like a silver shield, turning the darkly rolling lake to molten glory in her path.

Later as it rises higher, the sparkling path cuts across the shining water, glistening on the waves and dancing about like fireflies.

The beauty of this scene has few equals and must be seen to fully enjoy. There are two full moons in August this year, on the first and the 30th.

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THE WILD FLOWER CORNER

This is an ideal time to check your wildflower corner, since August is one of the best months of the year to see which larger wildflowers are lacking, and just which sort would be suitable for the area.

The small spring flowers have become dormant, some disappearing completely, such as Mertensia, Dutchman's Breeches and others.

The mid-summer and fall bloom then takes over and, if sized properly, will in nowise interfere with the less obtrusive flowers.

Visit the Wild Flower Garden at various times and get hints of what you would like in your own garden.

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MOTTO ON A SUNDIAL

"Let others tell of storms and showers,  
I'll only mark your sunny hours."

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CONDOLENCES

Deepest condolence is extended to the family of Mrs. Grace B. Dayton, who passed away April 1, 1966. Among her many activities she was a staunch supporter of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. Her interest and enthusiasm in furthering the garden for so many years will be greatly missed.

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START OF THE GARDEN

This is the 60th year of the existence of the garden, and the 15th year of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

May this area be preserved for all time in its present charm. Much credit is due to those who had the inspiration and vision to establish such a unique area.

All effort should be made to protect the beauty of the garden.

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SHEEP SORREL

(Rumex acetosella)

Sheep Sorrel is one of the worst weeds due to its snake-like rootstalks which crawl under and among grass roots and plants, sending up numerous new plants. Its seeds are carried by the wind.

Other common names are Red Sorrel, Field Sorrel, Sour-weed, Red-topped Sorrel, Cow Sorrel, Sour Leek, Horse Sorrel and Toad Sorrel.

This weed is not a native, having been naturalized from Europe.

It is particularly vigorous in acid soils or soils that are deficient in nitrates and for this reason it often takes possession of old fields and roadside banks.

When the plant occurs in solid stands and is in bloom, the masses of reddish blossoms present a pleasing effect.

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DID YOU KNOW

That the Whale is the largest living animal and the largest one that ever lived, so far as is known.

The Whale is not a fish although it spends its entire life in the water. It is warm-blooded, not cold-blooded like fish. Breathes with lungs instead of with gills as a fish does.

They frequently reach a length of 75 feet or more.