

PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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President's Letter

With our snow banks shrinking can we really say Spring is here and can we look forward to seeing green grass and flowers blooming soon? After this long hard winter, we can only hope the wildflowers in the Garden will benefit from this long rest. The robins and redwing blackbirds are just a few of the birds back from their long journey, singing loudly to remind us of a new nesting and growing season. Another new Spring to enjoy the Garden.

The annual Friend's Membership Meeting will be held **Saturday, May 18 at 10:30 am at the Shelter in the Garden**. All members and your friends are welcome. At this time, we will be electing the Friend's Board of Directors for the coming year. Our guest speaker, Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, will speak to us of changes in the Park Board Organization. Cary George, Gardener, will tell us what is happening in the Garden. Also, you will hear reports from each of the committee members, Volunteers, Membership, Memorials, and Editor of the Gentian.

Special thanks go to Kathy Wolgomott for providing us with a much needed steel file to keep our historical items safely stored in the Shelter attic. Also, to Lola Wheeler for donating a rug and an electric heater to warm the shelter on those chilly days and to Marguerite Harbison for donating a new clock to the shelter to aid the volunteers and naturalists.

We also wish to thank all of you who have sent memorials during the year.

We owe gratitude and thanks to Diane Reindl who has been Editor of the Fringed Gentian this past year. She will be leaving us after this issue which means we are again looking for someone to assume the editorship of the Gentian. If you or someone you know would be interested in producing this important contact with all our members, please call. Your help is much appreciated.

Have a great summer and enjoy the Garden.

Harriet Betzold

Each flower is a soul opening out to nature. Gerard de Nerval

Notes from our Gardener: Cary George

After the coldest spring in twenty-one years, the Garden obviously will not have its typical bloom date for the early woodland ephemerals. Snow trillium, false rue anemone, hepatica, and bloodroot will all be late, but look for the Garden to "catch up" as soil temperatures increase.

March 18 - first active chipmunk

March 23 - skunk cabbage emerges from frozen bog

April 4 - mourning cloak butterfly sighted on West Trail

April 15 - snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) blooms

Some of the early bird sightings in the Sanctuary and Wirth Park include: mallard, bald eagle, turkey vulture, brown creeper, song sparrow, redwing blackbird, hairy woodpecker, American robin, white-breasted nuthatch, great horned owl, osprey, great egret, fox sparrow, wood duck, goldfinch, pine siskin, and Canadian goose

Three more 100-plus year old oaks were removed from the Garden this winter. Again the cause of mortality was oak wilt disease. An infection center persists on the upland hillside between the woodland and prairie, despite proper sanitation methods that include timely removal and deep trenching to sever root grafts. Let's keep our fingers crossed this is the end of it. Oaks are the backbone of our shade tree canopy and we can't afford to lose any more without damage to the wildflower collection.

A new prairie path will be constructed this year. It will loop through the prairie extension that was added two years ago. Visitors will then be able to appreciate some of the new plantings (see below) and also relax on one of the granite benches in the shade of the "lone oak".

New prairie plantings or supplements in 1995:

stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigada*)

heath aster (*Aster ericoides*)

sky blue aster (*Aster oolentangiensis*)

New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)

yellow oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

mountain mist (*Pyctanthemum virginianum*)

purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurem*)

upright coneflower (*Ratibada columnifera*)

grey-headed coneflower (*Ratibada pinnata*)

flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*)

pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)

wild bergamot (*Nomarda fistulosa*)

stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)

culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*)

switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Words of Spring

Springs of My Life

*"Let springtime come quickly lest
I forget what springtime is; the
night of winter has been long; cold
loneliness has pierced my hungry heart.
Let springtime bring the gasp of Life,
reviving dreams."*

Edna E. Murray

*"All things share the same breath — the beast, the tree, the human . . .
What are people without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone,
people would die from a great loneliness of the."*

Chief Seattle's appeal to President Franklin Pierce, 1854

C A L E N D A R



DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE	COMMENTS
MAY 18 ▼	10:30 a.m. ▼	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ▼	MARTHA CRONE SHELTER ▼	Bring a bag lunch and enjoy a day with Friends in the Garden
Any day ▼	after 10:30 a.m. ▼	A PHONE CALL TO SHIRLEY SHULTZ AT 370-4903 ▼	FROM THE CHAIR NEAREST YOUR TELEPHONE ▼	Call Shirley and tell her you want to volunteer at the Garden
Saturdays ▼	5:00 p.m. ▼	TOUR OF THE QUAKING BOG ▼	MEET AT THE MARTHA CRONE SHELTER ▼	You say you've never been to the the Quaking Bog! Then there's no time like the present
Many days, especially Saturdays and Sundays ▼	Many times Call the Shelter 370-4903 to pre-register for special events ▼	SPECIAL EVENTS or JUST A REGULAR GARDEN VISIT ▼	THE GARDEN ▼	Night Hikes, Scavenger Hunts, Beginning Birding and More Ask ??????, learn about the garden, it's flowers and trees, enjoy a quiet moment . . .

