

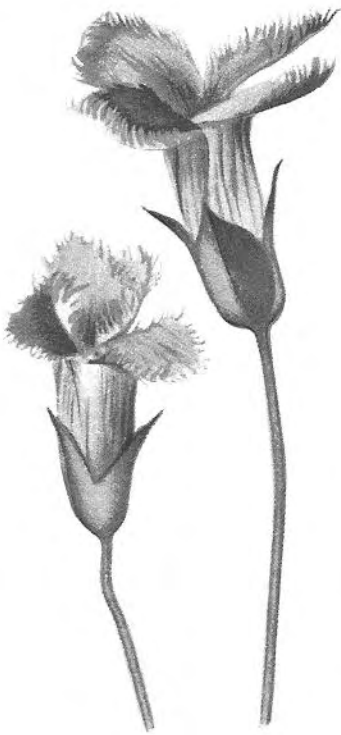
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WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

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President's Letter



Once again, I look forward to serving as president of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, as I did once before, over 10 years ago. A lot of changes and activities have happened in those intervening years, but one thing that hasn't changed is our lovely Garden. Year after year, and season after season, it continues to be a sanctuary of beauty; in flowers, trees, and birds. They soothe and refresh us whenever we go there. It is that wonderful feeling of permanency, of knowing that the Garden is always there for us, waiting with all of its beauty, that keeps reminding us of why the Friends' organization exists. We want to do every thing we can to keep the Garden as it is for generations to come.

It seems amazing that our summer is nearing its end, and soon we will see flecks of gold and orange in the lush green of our Garden's woods. Fall brings a whole new type of beauty to enjoy, while we take our exploratory strolls through the Garden. Come to visit often in the weeks ahead, as fall's beauty will be all too fleeting - and while we can enjoy the colors of the blooming prairie area.

I look forward to serving as president this year, and to the many activities and projects ahead for the Friends. I'll probably be seeing you in the Garden.

Gloria Miller
President
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

*I go to Nature
to be soothed
and healed
and to have
my senses put
in tune once more.*

John burroughs (1837-1921)
American naturalist

Those Amazing Composites

Stacy Skinner

Next time you are walking through the garden, take a close look at a coneflower or sunflower. Like all members of the *Compositae* Family, they are composed of many small flowers in each flower head, surrounded by the brightly colored ray petals. In some composites, like Daisies and Daisy Fleabane, each ray petal is fertile, containing a single fertile female flower. Most other members of the family have sterile ray petals. Their only function seems to be to attract insects to the fertile flowers in the cone or flower head.

Each small flower in the cone has both stamens (male part) producing pollen and pistil (female part) producing ova. You can easily watch these flower parts develop on Black-eyed Susans. Each tiny flower in the cone develops the male stamens first. This can readily be seen on Black-eyed Susans because the yellow pollen is easily seen against the black cone. Then, after the stamen has matured, the tiny flower then develops a curled Y shaped female pistil. The two are never mature at the same time, ensuring that each tiny flower does not pollinate itself. Over a period of a couple of weeks, you can watch as this process starts at the bottom and works its way up the cone.

Western varieties of Purple Coneflower were widely used by the Plains Indians as medicine. Scientific research has backed up this use, showing the plant has anti-bacterial and anti-viral properties, and has shown some ability to inhibit human cancer cells in culture.

A Garden Visitor

Harriet Betzold

A special visitor, Helen Shaw, a Garden designer in England, came to the Garden on Saturday, June 21. She was given a private tour by the Naturalists, Paul Manuel and Sara Gallagher. Helen was here on an overseas traveling fellowship, funded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Her fellowship is designed to study natural gardening and landscaping with native plants in North America. She had traveled to San Antonio and Vancouver before stopping at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Helen also vis-

ited with some landscape professionals in the area.

The Showy Lady's Slipper was still in bloom when Helen arrived and she said in a note that she managed to get some good photographs of the flowers.

We were pleased to meet Helen and we were also pleased that she included the Garden in her itinerary. We hope that she will be able to return some day.



Please Welcome These New Members

Joy Davis

Samuel & Ione Siegel, Golden Valley
Dottie Speidel, Minneapolis
Launa Ellison, Minneapolis
Amy Hesby, Rangeley, Maine
Liz Blood, Minneapolis
Gladys Sheehan, Minneapolis
Marylea Osler, Minneapolis
Carol Eshelman, Moundsview



The Friend's Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
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Lon Miller
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Kaye Rudberg
Lola Eda Wheeler
Harriet Betzold

Cary George (**Gardener**, Ex-Officio)

To reach any member of the board, please call the Martha Crone Shelter (370-4903) and leave a message with the volunteer.

Notes from Our Gardener

Cary George

The new section of trail to the Prairie Garden has been completed. This steep back trail is now easier to climb and aesthetically much more pleasing. It has been moved away from the chain-link fence and new pressure treated timbers were installed for edging. The old section of trail was abandoned and planted with wildflowers including large-leaved aster, heart-leaved aster, zig-zag golden rod, columbine and other transplants from the Woodland Garden. Most of the work was done by a Loring-Nicollet-Bethlehem youth crew. These 14-15 year olds were a pleasure to work with and helped to remind me of both the anxiety and fun of learning a skill from your first job experience.

This fall, after the Garden closes on October 31, the Gardener's shed is going to be completely rehab'd by the Park Board carpenters. Thanks to the generous funding by the Friends, the building will be more in character with the other structures in the Garden. A cedar shake roof, cedar siding and rigid foam insulation will make this both a beautiful and warm addition to the Garden.

This steel storage shed was installed in 1970 when the Crone Shelter was built and has gone unimproved since.

As many of you know, Shirley Schultz, the volunteer coordinator, has been ailing with a bad back much of the summer. Even so she has managed, with the help of Harriet Betzold, to make the endless phone calls needed to staff the Crone Shelter with volunteers 7 days a week. These two, along with many other members of the Friends and volunteers, are what keep the Garden a pleasure to visit by thousands of visitors each year.

From Majorie Kinnan Rawlings, Cross Creek
"Who owns the land? It seems to me that the earth may be borrowed but not bought. It may be used but not owned. It gives itself in response to love and tending, offers its seasonal flowering and fruiting. But we are tenants and not masters. Cross Creek belongs to the wind and the rain, to the sun and the seasons, to the cosmic secrecy of seed and beyond all, to time."

Late August Birding

Sara Gallagher

A short tour through the garden on a recent Tuesday evening began with the usual sighting of Indigo Buntings, American Goldfinches, Monarch and Swallow-tail butterflies on the wing. The predictable quickly changed when I saw a Pileated Woodpecker dangling upside down, Nuthatch fashion, on the twig ends of a Black Cherry. The bird was gulping cherries, of course, and seemed a bit embarrassed when it spied me. It quickly flew and assumed its usual upright position on a dead oak.

The Black Cherry and Pin Cherry trees were visited by fledgling Robins, immature Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Orioles, Northern Flickers and a Great Crested Flycatcher - all enjoying the cherries. The birding at the cherry tree was even more interesting when I noticed a warbler-like bird sipping, apparently, the cherries. "Enough," I said and returned to the shelter for a pair of binoculars. This proved to be a wise move as my eyes were afterward delighted with Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Redstarts, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Nashville warblers, Canada Warblers and Pine warblers, all feasting on the insects in the garden. Unfortunately, the insects were feasting on me, so a more thorough warbler search would have to wait until I could return with DEET or armor.

The warbler's plumage was still bright and distinctive; the Pileated Woodpecker was hilariously out of character - the Mosquitoes were intense - but all in all: delightful! Late August birding - do try it.

