

THE FRINGED GENTIAN



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SPRINGTIDE'S

In this world of noise and hurry, it is a pleasure to loiter awhile in the Wild Flower Garden where solace is found in its silence. And to roam along the trails and feel the moist springy earth underfoot.

For spring has arrived again in the garden and the bursting into bloom of the flowers is always a delight. During this season the beauty of the garden is most noticeable.

Caressed by springs soft breezes the firstlings are always the Hepaticas and Dwarf Trillium in the wooded area, the Pasque-flower in the prairie garden as well as the ill-scented yet interesting Skunk Cabbage in the bog.

The pulse of spring soon awakes many others and this procession goes on for many weeks. Yet the days pass all too swiftly and so the spring goes rolling on into summer.

"The sun does arise,
And make happy the skies;
The merry bells ring
To welcome the Spring;

-Blake

BIRD NOTES

The males of many migratory songbirds start north in the spring toward their summer nesting regions. They are followed later by the females. Large flocks of male Red-winged Blackbirds arrive some time before the females. The first Robins, Song Sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers are among the many species where the males arrive first. They arrive early and select the nesting area and hold it against intrusion of other birds.

Then the annual play is again performed by the returning birds, and as the sun rises in the morning, songs gush from the throats of birds hidden in the foliage.

The Swallows have again returned this year to Capistrano as they always have on March 19th, (St. Joseph's Day.)

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

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NATIONAL FLOWER

The Rose has been suggested as a possible National Flower of the United States. The Rose already is the National Flower of England and the Wild Rose is the Emblem of Alberta, Canada.

The American Beauty Rose is the State Flower of the District of Columbia, the Cherokee Rose of Georgia, the Wild Rose of Iowa, the Wild Prairie Rose of North Dakota and New York also has the Rose.

This certainly would cause great confusion if the Rose were chosen as our National Flower.

A National Flower is usually recognized only when tradition and legend give it significance and not because of the choice of a few.

Why not make an original choice?

FOLIAGE PLANT

In answer to inquires received in reference to a house plant frequently grown. It is the tropical Dieffenbachia seguine - Tuffroot or Dumb Cane. It belongs to the Arum Family and is a relative of Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

Sections of the stem which contain the sharp crystals of oxalate of lime will pierce the tongue if chewed, causing it to swell, actually rendering a person temporarily speechless. Hence its popular name.

This woody-stemmed plant has large white-spotted leaves toward the top, and grows to be 3 to 6 feet tall. It likes warmth, moisture and shade. A temperature of 65 or more is suitable and the north window without sun a likely place. Give it plenty of water and never permit the soil to become dry.

A native of the West Indies and Central South American, it was named for a German physician and botanist, J. F. Dieffenbach.

If it becomes too tall cut it down cutting part of the stem into sections and place them in water until a new sprout forms.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Wild Flower Garden, Incorporated, was held Tuesday January 5th, 1960, at the home of our President, Mrs. Dorothy Binder, 1627 W. 26th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Officers elected were Mrs. Dorothy Binder, President; Mr. Leonard F. Ramberg, Vice-President; and Mrs. Martha E. Crone, Secretary-Treasurer.

Renamed Directors were-

Mrs. Dorothy Binder	Mr. Russell C. Nye
Mr. Russell Bennett	Mr. Leonard Odell
Mr. Earle Brown	Mr. Leonard F. Ramberg
Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter	Mr. Carl Rawson
Mrs. Martha Crone	Mrs. Clarence Tolg
Mr. Walter E. Lehnert	

Annual reports were given showing that much progress has been made in furthering the work for which this group was organized.

A discussion was held in reference to enlarging our membership to share in this unique organization.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends of the Wild Flower Garden-

Spring is on its way after the long winter and the Wild Flower Garden will soon be transformed into its fairyland of charm.

You, the members of the "Friends" should take especial pride in the new plantings, mosquito control, irrigation and the excellent maintenance of the garden for it is through your membership fees and our annual gift to the Park Board that extra things are possible.

This organization as you probably know was conceived by Mr. Clinton M. Odell in 1952 as a means not only of supplementing the Park Board allocations but also of serving as public defender of the garden if occasion should arise. A depression could influence a park board to consider the Wild Flower Garden an unnecessary luxury. A park development policy might want to make radical changes or indeed eliminate the Wild Flower Garden altogether. Thus the "Friends" form a useful nucleus of public opinion to preserve this unique outdoor museum for posterity. We are also I trust a means of telling our friends about this unusual spot, so peaceful and so beautiful and yet so near the city.

Your Board of Directors has considered methods of bringing our membership together to make them more aware of their usefulness. Last year Mrs. Martha Crone showed her colored slides of the garden at the Annual Meeting, at Walker Art Center. But it was a bitter night and the attendance was poor. This year we are planning conducted tours of the garden for members of "Friends" on a Saturday in May. You will receive a later notice. A door prize will be given to anyone bringing a new member. Memberships range from \$3.00 up. We need new members to spread the word that in Minneapolis we have one of the rarest gardens in the world and that it deserves support.

Sincerely yours

Dorothy W. Binder, Pres.

DOES THE SAP OF A TREE RISE IN THE SPRING?

That the sap of a tree rises in the spring and goes down in the fall is a common but erroneous notion. In the spring there is an increased circulation of liquids thru the tissues of the tree and the food materials stored in the trunk and branches are dissolved and carried to the buds and root tips where first growth begins. It is this increased activity preceding the bursting of the buds and the development of visible growing parts that is so often taken for the rise of sap.

In sugar maple trees the circulation of liquid thru the stem in the spring is attended by considerable pressure.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Hawaiian Islands were once called the Sandwich Islands. These islands are of purely volcanic origin, being really the summits of volcanic cones raised from the bottom of the ocean.

WHICH IS SWEETER, BEET OR CANE SUGAR?

Contrary to popular belief cane sugar and beet sugar do not differ in sweetness. They are chemically identical. Its practically impossible to destinguish between the two. Brown sugar is partially refined cane sugar. There is no brown beet sugar being used.

Levulose found in honey is the sweetest of all common sugars. Corn sugar is the same chemically as cane and beet sugar.

NEW JERSEY TEA

In the summer the garden is resplendant with the white bloom of New Jersey Tea, (*Ceanothus americanus*). The name arose from the fact that the Indians and early settlers, especially in New Jersey, used the plant to brew a beverage. There is a tradition that some of the American colonists used this plant as a substitute for tea to avoid the tax on imported tea.

CULTIVATION OF RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS

The experiments with Rhododendrons and Azaleas started in the garden 14 years ago have been very successful. Among several species planted the following flourished best - Rhododendron maximum and catawbiense of the broad-leaved evergreens and Azalea calendulacea and vaseyi of the deciduous type. They have survived 13 winters including some very severe weather. Vaseyi is a mass of pink blooms before the leaves are formed in early spring.

Protection from winter sun and wind is particularly important. If space is limited the north side of a building is recommended providing they are planted at a distance of at least 10 feet from the building. This will permit them some sun in the summer. Then when the sun receded to the south in the winter, they will be protected in the shelter of the building.

In exposed areas, protection such as burlap or wrapping in straw will be necessary. In spite of ample watering they must be well drained. Planted on a slight slope is advisable.

Mulch with a deep layer of oak leaves in the fall, let the mulch remain all year. Also apply Aluminum Sulphate once a year.

PROTECTED WILD FLOWERS

A Minnesota Law protects the following Wild Flowers against digging or picking. All Orchids - that includes the Minnesota State Flower, (The Showy Lady's-Slipper, *Cypripedium reginae*) and all other Lady's-Slippers.

Lotus Lily
Gentians

Trailing Arbutus
All Lilies

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Martha E. Crone -- Editor