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### MALLARD POOL

Ever since the Native Plant Preserve was started I have wished to have a pool constructed where two small streams converge in an open meadow, the only pool in the Preserve being too shady for aquatics. The hard times gave this joy to me, for a jobless expert did the work for a sum that could be afforded by the Park Commissioners. The pool is about 35 feet long, several feet narrower, and of irregular outline. Indeed, the contour is beautiful. The excavation was made in a dense growth of cat-tails. While digging, the workman saw a mallard duck wending its way through the meadow with a train of four little ones. Hence the name of the pool, as this duck had never been listed before in the garden.

The voracious muskrat was also observed, and I began to fear that the roots of my water lilies would be gobbled up. It was thought that stout wire netting at the top and bottom of the pool would prevent the muskrats from entering; but my adviser knew little of their predatory habits. Some white water lilies were planted in the pool. In two days only a fragment of the leaves could be found. Then it was decided to encircle the pool with the netting, sinking it two feet in the ground, before this work was completed, a muskrat preempted the pool with two little ones. We thought we could trap them inside and throw them over the fence but before the circuit was complete, they left of their own accord, probably in search of more food, and the gap was closed against them. It is possible that they will burrow under the fence. Traps must be set next spring.

A neat rustic fence of unpeeled tamarack poles has been built across the narrow lower end of the pool. Here one at advantage the pool and the border. Opposite, at the upper end, is "The Gurgler", the water entering gently by a short series of low rapids. Here my ingenious bridge-builder will insert a water-wheel made of galvanized tin and about five inches in diameter, designed to throw a mistlike spray over plants like *Pinguicula* that flourish on dripping rock. We call the place Atlantic City because, at each end of the bridge, a plank walk was laid over the cat-tail slough.

Many desirable plants were already established near or on the border of the pool: *Sagittaria latifolia*, *Eupatorium maculatum*, *E. perforatum*, *Verbena hastata*, *Epilobium coloratum*, *Lythrum Salicaria*, *Mentha canadensis*, *Rumex Brittanica*, *Solidago canadensis*, *S. uliginosa*, *Aster puniceus*, *A. juncea*, *A. umbellatus*, *A. paniculatus*, *Asclepias incarnata*, *Helianthus tuberosus*, *H. grosse-serratus*, *Rudbeckia laciniata*, *Chelone glabra*, *Galium asprellum*, *Caltha palustris*, *Impatiens biflora*, *Aspidium thelypteris*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and an overplus like water cress and cat-tail, and others that must be grubbed out with ruthless hand like *Cuscuta Gronovii* and *Bidens cernua*. In the near vicinity are the grandest species of our flora-- *Cypripedium hirsutum*, *C. parviflorum*, *C. pubescens*, *C. candidum*, and far enough distant not to shade the pool *Cornus stolonifera*, *C. paniculata*, *Viburnum Lentago*, *V. Opulus*, and a few tamaracks.

The soil is a rich peaty loam. Here and there on the border this was mixed with a due proportion of sand to accommodate the plants that will not grow except in wet sand. Large sods of sand-lovers have been contributed by friends of the garden--packed full of *Polygala sanguinea*, *P. cruciata*, *Viola lanceolata*, *V. sagittata*, *V. arvensis*, *Triocaulon articulatum*, *Gratiola aurea*, *Steironema quadrifolium*, *Xyris flexuosa*, *Hypericum canadense*. In lesser amount have also been planted *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, *Alopecurus pulchellus*, *Tilium superbum*, *T. umbellatum*, *Gerardia tenuifolia*, *Spiranthes gracilis*, *S. Romanzoffiana*, *Drosera rotundifolia*,

muskrat problem.

Rosa plant  
Lily  
superior

Spiraea tomentosa, Mimulus ringens, M. Jamesii, Gerardia tenuifolia, Sagittaria heterophylla, Cyperus strigosus, Calla palustris, Parnassia caroliniana, C. palustris, Veronica americana, Primula farinosa, P. mistassinica, Saxifraga aizoon, Pinguicula vulgaris, Gentiana Andrewsii, Aster novae-angliae, A. modestus, Lysimachia terrestris, Viola incognita, Boltonia asteroides, Vernonia fasciculata, Helenium autumnale, Hydrocotyle americana, Comandra livida, Solidago Ridellii, Astragalus canadensis, Helianthus hirsutus, Habenaria ciliaris, H. blephariglottis (the last two a contribution from Mr. Lownes), several clumps of Lobelia siphilitica and L. cardinalis; sowed seeds of Cassia Chamaecrista, Crotalaria sagittalis and Strophostyles helvola, also Collinsia verna. This may seem too large a number of plants for a border; but the border is of indefinite width. It comprises nearly an acre and extends across the sunlit area of the marsh. I shall probably think of more desirable plants!

The small pool is another proposition. Its size will not not admit more than one or two specimens of all the species that I wish. I have already planted therein Castalia tuberosa, Nymphaea lutea, Pontederia cordata. I shall also introduce when I can get them-- next spring if not this fall-- Nymphaea advena, N. microphylla, Brasenia Schreberi, Lymnoides lacunosus, Ranunculus aquatilis var. capillaceus, R. delphinifolius, Lobelia Dortmanna, Hippuris vulgaris, Sparganium simplex. I should have written above Castalia odorata instead of tuberosa, the latter is not a free bloomer and spreads too rapidly. Any member of the Chapter will confer a great favor by telling me where I can get the Nymphaea which is not listed by florists. I find that I have omitted from the margin, Osunda regalis, Liatris pycnostachya, Thysostegia virginiana, Decodon verticillatus, Zygadenus chloranthus, Tofieldia glauca, Tanacetum huronense, Lobelia Ralmii, Hypericum Ascyron, Prenanthes racemosa, Gentiana Andrewsii, Hibiscus militaris, Stachys palustris, Habenaria psycodes, H. fimbriata, Myosotis scorpioides, Lysimachia quadrifolia, Lythrum alatum, Chelone obliqua, Saururus cernuus, Alisma Plantago, Liliun canadense, Melanthium virginicum, Spiraea salicifolia, Iris versicolor, Pedicularis lanceolata.

I intend the fence barring out the muskrats to be concealed by the tall herbaceous perennials.