

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1958

THE FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INCORPORATED

The Wild Flower Gardens usefulness and popularity is increasing from year to year. The much needed help that the funds of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden provide, has done a great service to the approximately 80,000 visitors attending during the year. The mosquito control of the last several years has made it pleasant for these visitors.

17 new members were added to the organization during the past, ^{year} altho the membership suffered a great loss due to many passing away.

The new fern hill is developing nicely, 2843 plants have been set out. The Minnetonka Garden Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Club contributed the funds for this project several years ago.

8534 plants of various kinds have been set out in other parts of the garden during the last five years.

Four quarterly issues of the "Fringed Gentian" were sent to the members. Since many of our members live in distant states, this serves to keep them in touch with our progress. The printing of two of these issues was kindly contributed by Mr. Lloyd Hale, Pres. of Tennent Co.

13 lectures illustrated with kodachrome slides of flowers and scenes taken in the garden, were given before various groups by your Secretary. These help acquaint many with the beauty and usefulness of the garden.

Requests of plant identification is received daily as well as a great amount of correspondence.

The purpose for which the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., was established has proven most successful and with its continued support, great things are in store.

Respectfully submitted

Martha E. Crane
Secretary

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1956

THE FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INCORPORATED.

The Wild Flower Gardens usefulness and popularity is increasing from year to year. Altho our local newspapers contain very little news of the garden, much publizing is done in other towns, particularly in St. Paul. One of their papers carries a weekly column about the garden.

The absence of mosquitoes increases the attendance, the total for the season was between 75,000 and 80,000.

No gfeat effort was exerted for new members, yet 12 new members were added.

Four quarterly issues of the "Fringed Gentian" were sent to the members. Since many of our members live in other states, it serves to keep them in touch with our progress.

100 more alluminum plant markers were added. This method of marking plants has met favorably with many visitors.

4509 plants were added to the garden, including 2160 ferns in the new Fern Hill. As notated in the last report, work of preparing the new fernery was started in the fall of 1955, completion was delayed by the early winter setting in. The preparation of the area was completed this past spring in time for early planting. The 2160 ferns planted do not complete the project. There still remains \$251.41 of the total fund of \$775.00 contributed by Minnetonka Garden Flower Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Flower Club. The per cent of survival of these plants no doubt will be greatly reduced due to the lack of snow.

When fully established this fern hill will add greatly to the developement of the upper garden.

15 lectures illustrated with kodachrome slides of flowers and scenes taken in the garden were well received by the various organizations. Interest in Wild Flower Conservation is springing up in many parts of this area. The Curator has been requested to extend help to numerous groups.

Correspondence is received daily, these have all been answered.

The purpose for which the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., was established has proven most successful and with its continued support, great things are in store.

Respectfully submitted

Martha E. Crane
Secretary

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1955

THE FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INCORPORATED.

Inspite of the extremely hot, dry summer, plants faired very well mostly due to the diligent watering.

During the month of May there was an attendance of approximately 10,000 each Sunday. This taxed our small staff in attendance. Here one of our faithful members deserves recognition for so freely contributing her time to help out at such times. Miss Gene Dorman merits a vote of thanks. Total attendance for the year perhaps 80,000.

An added attraction to be added to the garden in the near future is the establishment of an entirely new Fern Garden in an undeveloped portion of the garden. Funds for this project were contributed by the Minnetonka Garden Flower Club. Work on this project was started last fall.

There was no membership drive the past year, yet 19 new members were obtained. The Total membership as of today is 183.

Four quarterly issues of the "Fringed Gentian" were sent to the members. This keeps them informed of garden activities.

Ways to make the garden more attractive and useable are constantly sought, such as keeping weeds controlled especially poison ivy. To the already large amount of aluminum plant markers, 100 more were added. Rabbits, Gophers and Muskrats are most detrimental to the garden and must be kept checked.

More than 1000 new plants were set out, as well as innumerable seedlings grown in flats. Many varieties of seeds were collected and shared with members who desired them.

25 lectures illustrated with kodachrome slides of flowers and scenes taken in the garden were given to various groups. Many more were requested but could not be accommodated. This seems to be a direct way to introduce many to the garden. On May 30th, the Curator was interviewed on WCCO on the Darragh Aldrich program. This also brought many responses.

With the help of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden noticeable slides forward are being made each year.

Respectfully submitted

Martha E. Cerone
Secretary

1954

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

THE FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INCORPORATED.

With the added help allotted to the garden much has been accomplished. The Mosquito Sprayer has proven most successful.

The membership now totals 192 members including the 35 added during the past year.

Methods of increasing membership-- letters were mailed to the members announcing a campaign of awarding books for all new members obtained. 17 lectures illustrated with kodachrome slides of flowers and scenes taken in the garden were given. This proves to be a direct way to acquaint many with the value of the garden.

Four quarterly issues of the Fringed Gentian have been sent to the members making a total of nine issues to date.

It was found impossible to obtain the hive of bees which was ordered at our last meeting. We expect better success for the coming season, since plans have been formed to rent several hives from the University Farm.

Of the 25 volumes of "Wildlife in Color" purchased 13 remain, and of the 10 of "Wild Flowers for your Garden" four remain.

Since the Rhododendrons and Azaleas have grown so well and bloomed beautifully the last seven years, more plants were purchased the past season.

The Lotus Lilies are making a start inspite of the marauding muskrats. 100 feet of mesh wire, 48 inches wide was purchased from our funds to enclose the pool, Hoping that the muskrats will not get thru.

Pocket gophers which have been such a problem, destroying nearly all plants with bulbous or large roots in the upper garden, have been reduced to zero by our method and constant attention.

Perhaps for the sake of records it would be well to mention here, that an Award of Merit, for Meritorious service in the promotion of horticulture was award your Secretary last August by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

Respectfully submitted

Martha E. Leone
Secretary

THE FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INCORPORATED.

Secretary's Annual Report

Since our organization 172 have applied for membership, this includes three business firms. Of this number one resigned and one passed away.

Since our by-laws require that members automatically cease to be members of the Corporation 60 days after the due date. This accounts for six members, leaving a membership of 164 as of this date.

Five quarterly issues of the Fringed Gentian have been sent to the members.

Methods of increasing membership during the past year— Various form letters were mailed to many apparently interested people. 25 lectures illustrated with kodachrome slides of flowers and views taken in the garden, were given before clubs, garden groups, school groups and others, thereby acquainting many with the facilities of the garden.

Materials purchased which the normal budget does not provide for— A mosquito Sprayer, various seeds and bulbs and other miscellaneous items.

Additional help was provided during the busy spring season.

Respectfully submitted

Martha C. Cerone
Secretary