

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

(1)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GARDEN?

The news of the year for the Garden has to be phenomenal growth in attendance this past year. We have always had good attendance and it has steadily increased through the years, but the increase this last year has been striking and we consistently have capacity crowds on Sundays. Last year was the first time that we presented a guest book for public signatures. This was begun rather late (about May 15) but we acquired about 3,500 signatures by the end of the year. This year we have already 1,300 signatures in the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ months that we have been open.

The Garden was in especially good shape this spring. All of the flowers seemed to have come through the winter very well and were at their best this spring. The violets, in particular, out-did themselves. Very often one or two species of flowers seem to do very badly. Last year, for example, the *Phlox divaricata* was all but absent.

While the flowers appeared to be in fine condition this spring, this did not appear to be true of the birds. The early migrant birds usually seen in the Garden have been very scarce both last year and this year. This is the second year that I have not seen one fox sparrow. Last year I saw only one or two hermit thrushes and only a few this year. I have seen fewer than the normal number of kinglets in the past two years as well. Many people have asked me the reason for the scarcity in these species but I must admit that I don't know the reason. I would doubt that it would have been the result of an ecological catastrophe (i.e. DDT) killing them off since they winter in different areas and just pass through in early April. I would suspect that it was the weather.

Those of you who have been distressed by the unfinished look to the area since the completion of the Martha Crone Shelter will be glad to know that the Park Board seems to be ready to act now. Landscape plans have been presented by Mr. Mattson, the Park Board Architect.

Report of the Curator 1970-1971

Kenneth E. Avery

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Report of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. was called to order by the President, Mrs. Reginald Faragher, on May 15, 1971 at 10:12 a.m. at the Martha E. Crone Shelter.

Mr. Robert J. Dasset, Jr. was asked to serve as Recording Secretary in the absence of Mrs. Mildred B. Olson.

Mrs. Crone read the minutes of the previous annual meeting and the treasurer's report.

Mr. Kenneth Avery gave his Curator's report which was enthusiastically received.

The report of the volunteers serving as Hosts and Hostesses in the Shelter was given by Dr. Marian Grimes.

Discussion of a change in the Annual Meeting date and the By-Laws were cleared to set place of meeting at the Martha Crone Shelter on a Saturday morning in May at the discretion of the Curator and Officers.

Mr. Ramberg moved the Fiscal Year be changed from January 1 through December 31 to May 1 through April 30.

The report of the Nominating Committee was given and the following were elected as Board Members for the ensuing year:

Mrs. Martha Crone	Mr. Leonard C. Odell
Mr. Robert J. Dasset, Jr.	Mrs. Mildred B. Olson
Mr. Calvin L. DeLaittre	Mr. Leonard Ramberg
Dr. Marian Grimes	Mr. Harry Thorn
Mrs. Walter Menzel	Mr. W. H. Tusler
	Mr. Alvin R. Witt

Ex-officio members named are

Mr. Kenneth Avery, Curator
Mrs. Carroll Binder
Mrs. Reginald Faragher
Mr. Walter Lehnert

The Board Meeting followed at which time the following were elected as officers:

Mr. Robert J. Dasset, Jr.	President
Mr. Calvin C. DeLaittre	1st Vice President
Mr. Alvin R. Witt	2nd Vice President
Mrs. Mildred B. Olson	Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following who have become members since March:

Mrs. T. A. Hoffmeyer	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Young	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mary Ellen Lucas	Waseca, Minn.
Mrs. Elizabeth Theissen	St. Paul, Minn.
Miss Nancy Stout	St. Louis Park, Minn.

MEMORIALS

A memorial gift has been received from Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Tusler in memory of Dr. Fred and Ruth Rodda.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Mrs. Hazel Solhaug, an Honorary Member, who died in March 1971. Mrs. Solhaug had recently made her home in Schroeder, Minn. on the shore of Lake Superior.

We are saddened at the death of Mrs. G. Victor Lowrie who died March 14, 1970.

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES

Dr. Marian Grimes has provided hosts and hostesses in the Shelter, the following have served up to this time:

Arnott, Mrs. Herman	Holtzen, Mrs. Clarence O.
Borman, Mrs. C. N.	Humphrey, Miss Constance
Carleton, Mrs. Frank	Kerr, Mrs. Franklin
Dean, Mrs. Alex	Lindholm, Mrs. Albert
Griffith, Miss Marion	Menzel, Walter R.
Gutteridge, Mrs. Russell	Miller, Mrs. Lee N.
Haglin, Mrs. Preston	Nicholls, Mrs. Joyce
Hanley, Mrs. J. B.	Naton, Mrs. Henry
Hardacker, Mrs. W. H.	Obermeyer, Mr. & Mrs. Harry
Hoffmeyer, Mrs. T. A.	Peterson, Mrs. George
	Simmons, Mrs. David
	Stutsman, Mrs. Marion S.
	Van Lander, Mrs. Oscar
	Witt, Mr. Alvin

Anyone interested in serving in the Shelter, may call Dr. Marian Grimes at 377-0583.

APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING OFFICERS

Mrs. Martha Crone served the Wild Flower Garden for twenty-six years and as Editor of the Fringed Gentian since its first number in 1953. Her dedication to the Garden is deeply appreciated.

Mrs. Reginald Faragher (Cay) has served three years as President. Cay's outstanding abilities for planning and organization, and most of all her enthusiasm have given us a beautiful Shelter building. Thank you, Cay, for all you have done for the Garden.

The tree nearest the porch of the Shelter has been brought to our attention by Mr. Alvin Witt. The buckeye tree is native to the State of Ohio, hence its nickname "The Buckeye State". The Indians called the buckeye "Hetuck" meaning the eye of the buck, because of the striking resemblance of the seed, both in color, shape and appearance to the eye of the buck. Early settlers used the wood for building purposes.

During the last week of April, several "Bird Watchers" were rewarded with the arrival of a rare bird to this area, the "Ruff" (the female of the species is called the "Reeve". News of his arrival, near Schilling Lake and Glencoe, spread fast and although his stay was of short duration, many were drawn to his resting place. According to Peterson's Guide Book this bird is rare in the New World, and this one is the second to be recorded in Minnesota.

The "Ruff" associates with the Yellow-Legs, and on this day appeared also the Dowitcher, the Hudsonian and Marbled Godwit, and the Pectoral Sandpiper.

Perhaps you noticed a letter recently in the Minneapolis Star telling of a father and three children who visited Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden on April 17 and the father suggested they might help to beautify the parks by picking up the litter there. It was reported that they picked up 701 pieces of paper, cans, bottles, rags and bottle tops. We do commend this father for pointing out what a problem litter can be, but we do want you to know that their visit occurred before the opening of the Garden, and presumably much that they found must have been in the parking area.

Your Editor for this issue has been Mrs. Mildred B. Olson, 4521 Aldrich Ave. So. Telephone 825-1464. Contributions for future issues would be greatly appreciated.
