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PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

MRS. MILDRED B. OLSON
4521 ALDRICH AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55409

Tech

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ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW

I'm sure that most of you already know it; but if you don't, let me inform you that this is the year of the Squirrel. In the Sanctuary each year is unique in one way or another and this year is unique in the number and in the lack of fear of the squirrels under the bird feeder. The phenomenon began some five weeks ago when a young man walked into the Martha Crone Shelter with a young squirrel on his shoulder. He said that he had met it up the path and that it had climbed up on its perch on his shoulder. It jumped onto the counter in the Shelter, examined everything, upset my coffee, climbed down the door and up my leg, jumped to the desk, back to the counter, and accepted a few sunflower seeds. Later that afternoon the

Batchelors (a couple who bird in the Garden often) were in and the squirrel tried to adopt them. It followed them in a complete circle of the lower Garden, over to a little pond outside the fence, and back again. The only way they could get home without it was for me to lock it in the office while they went to their car.

The next day a girl from the Animal Rescue League came over with six little squirrels to release in our Sanctuary but I convinced her that they were still too small to be left there on their own. Before she could leave, "the squirrel" crawled in with the six little squirrels and stole half of their food. Well, five weeks later it is still here,--the tamest squirrel I have ever seen in my life! I (and you) can actually pick her up--something that is usually even difficult to do to a squirrel that is being kept as a pet in someone's home.

The girl from the Animal Rescue League has since released her brood too and while they weren't nearly as tame as the first one, they have learned from it that a little friendliness to the public pays off in goodies. Even some of the wild adult squirrels have decided to get in on the game. We are also overrun with chipmunks this year and the whole circus is a delight to the children and parents who come to the Garden.

Oh yes, the flowers have been nice this spring too!

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Avery
Curator



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NOT TO BE TAKEN
FROM THIS ROOM

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEETING
May 12, 1973

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. was held May 12, 1973 at the Martha Crone Shelter with twenty-four members present. The Secretary reported a membership of 245.

Mr. Avery gave the Curator's report, pointing out that the parking lots are used to capacity. Due to the plan of the Park Board to rebuild the parking lot, it was torn up on September 16 and in October was finished. This cut down on the number of visitors in the Garden.

Dr. Marian Grimes gave a report of the hosts and hostesses who serve in the Shelter, this past year there were 17 volunteers.

Mr. Dassetts explained his conversations with Mr. Mattson of the Park Board regarding new steps and a handrail from the parking lot to the Garden entrance.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read and the following elected to the Board:

Mr. Robert J. Dassetts, Jr.	Mr. Harry Thorn
Mr. Calvin DeLaittre	Mr. W. H. Tusler
Dr. Marian Grimes	Mrs. Jean Chamberlain
Mr. Leonard E. Odell	Mrs. Chas. S. Chadborn, Jr.
Mrs. Mildred B. Olson	Mr. Alexander Dean
	Mr. Bruce Hooper

Mrs. Haglin for the Nominating Committee suggested that, because of their continued devotion and outstanding contributions to the organization, that Mr. Alvin R. Witt and Mr. Leonard F. Ramberg be voted to Honorary Board Members. This motion was carried.

Mrs. Bridgman presented the following motion:

"The Nominating Committee recommends that Mrs. Martha Crone be presented with an Honorary Life Membership."

Mrs. Faragher called attention to the death of Mrs. Philip Little, Jr. an Honorary Board Member.

Officers for the new year are as follows:

Mr. Robert J. Dassetts, Jr. President
Mr. C. L. DeLaittre, 1st Vice President
Mr. Harry Thorn, 2nd Vice President
Mrs. Mildred B. Olson, Secretary-Treasurer

A BIT OF HISTORY * CONTINUED FROM APRILTHE UPLAND GARDEN

For many years a real need was felt for more space for prairie and upland plants. This need was finally fulfilled in 1944 when, through the generous assistance of a friend of the garden, Mr. C. M. Odell, a tract east of the garden was enclosed with a fence similar to the one already in existence. During mid-summer when the spring flowers have gone and the shade of the woodland is so dense that few plants bloom there, then it is that the prairie and upland garden comes into its own. This tract consists of gently rolling hills and prairie, and is fully 75 feet higher than the woodland garden. The contrast is all the more striking between the upland and the woodland gardens, since they are so closely allied.

It was first necessary to remove the thick growth of sumac which covered the greater portion of this new addition, and several years of persistent digging and cutting were required for its ultimate extermination. Quack grass and ragweed were two other pests that had infested the area.

Further development consisted of laying out, grading, and graveling the trails that extend to all parts of the garden for fully a half mile, winding gracefully around and over the hills -- around the hills for those who do not wish to ascend the slopes.

The over-all plan of development for the upland garden was designed so as to include all of the flora of prairie and upland hills. Here has been brought together vegetation which varies markedly from that of the woodland and bog. In this upland area, plants thrive best which require full sunshine, such as lupine, cactus, penstemon, ground plum, puccoon, bird's-foot violets, coneflowers, and others.

From early spring to freeze-up time in the late fall, a pageant of flowers passes into view. The pasque-flower opens the season, closely followed by prairie crowfoot, purple avens, various violets, and many other. The goldenrods and blue and white asters close the season with a dramatic harmony of contrasting colors, rendering the garden to fairly glow with loveliness. The beauty of the landscape is enhanced by a few scattered, wide-spreading oak trees, both white and red that vie with each other in producing glorious autumnal foliage.

(To be continued)

We welcome the following new members since Jan. 1

Mike Link	Sandstone, Minn.
Mrs. Maude Lockwood	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mrs. Ken Standberg	Minneapolis, Minn.
Elmer W. Kurtz	Bloomington, Minn.
Mrs. D. H. Sullwold	St. Paul, Minn.
Peg Bohanon	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mrs. C. P. Randall	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Deweese	Minneapolis, Minn.
Lawrence Dallam	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mrs. Ellen Walton	Minneapolis, Minn.
Dr. & Mrs. C. N. McCloud	W. St. Paul, Minn.
Joan D. Stenberg	Minneapolis, Minn.

AN INVITATION

Mr. Michael Link, Director of the Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone, Minn. extends an invitation to all of you to join him at the nature center for Sunday afternoon nature studies from now through September. Northwoods Audubon Center is located only 100 miles north of the city of Minneapolis and makes a pleasant day's ride. The naturalist led programs are offered every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and are only a small part of the overall program of the Center. More information may be secured by writing Mike Link, Director, Northwoods Audubon Center, Route 1, Sandstone, Minn. 55072.

A letter from Mrs. Crone reads as follows:

"Please extend to the members of the Friends of the Wild-flower Garden, my sincere appreciation for being named Honorary Life Member. It means a great deal to me.

It has been worth hanging onto this wonderful Reserve, sometimes against great odds. As time goes on its value becomes more apparent. A priceless heritage to leave to those to follow."

Mrs. Martha Crone

Volunteers are still needed to serve in the Shelter. Please call Dr. Marian Grimes, 377-405.