

PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

MHC
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2001 Bryant Ave. S. #314
Minneapolis, Minn. 55405

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Vol. 28

Spring 1978

No. 2

ANNUAL MEETING
FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN
MAY 20, 1978
10:00 A.M.
the MARTHA CRONE SHELTER
ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN

Business: Election of Board of Directors for 1978-1979
Reports on and plans for FRIENDS activities this year
Program: Ms Mary Maguire (Mrs. Wm. Lerman) Park Board
Horticulturist will present a slide talk on native
poisonous plants. This will be followed with a
tour of the garden led by Mary. Those FRIENDS who
already know Mary are looking forward to a very
exciting morning. COME! and learn more about
your GARDEN.

CURATOR'S REPORT -Today as I stood by the drinking fountain (where the old office stood for sixty years) looking down into that unfamiliar area of scrub trees and brush thinking of the changes that have taken place since I have been working here, I felt as though I had worked here forever. When I started working here there were still people in the Park System who could remember Miss Butler. Now I am about the only one left who was even alive when she was.

I remember when the road to the Garden was not paved. Warren Cadillac used to try out its cars on our road. If they didn't rattle there they wouldn't rattle anywhere. When the frost went out in the Spring, it was virtually impassable between the spring and our parking lot.

I remember when that huge elm--the one that was so large that you didn't have to further describe which tree you meant when you said that huge elm--died. I counted one hundred and thirty rings and the middle foot of the tree was rotted out. It had to have been at least 150 years old. Just think--during the first part of its existence there were only Indians walking by that tree.

The first year I worked here was the last year that any spring in the Garden ran. It was only a drip but it was the last. That was also the last year that the Park Board had a fountain at the one remaining spring--the one I have given a running report on the last few years. Since then the water table has been too low.

Marvelous things have happened over these years. One year a Goshawk nested across the road and moved into our area in the fall. What a magnificent bird! I saw it make an unsuccessful attempt to take a squirrel. Once I counted 40 wood ducks on the little pond over by the School. One spring the Garden was full of Veeries--hundreds of them. I don't remember seeing one before or since then.

(Curator's Report Continued) Strange plants have appeared, stayed one year, and disappeared. One year it was a Stiff Gentian. It appeared from nowhere and went back there after one year. The year after the Martha Crone Shelter was built a strange Nightshade grew by the foundation of the Shelter. The book said it grows primarily in disturbed soil. The soil must have settled too much that year and it didn't come back.

The most marvelous thing is that this Garden still remains a little bit of Eden. About two weeks ago I had filled the bird feeders and was checking the battlefield where the war on Dutch Elm Disease had been fought, when I looked up and saw a fox up the hill only about 50 feet from me. I looked at it--it looked at me. I spoke to it--it ignored me. I spoke to it again -- it yawned, and having been put in my place, I went about my business.

Kenneth E. Avery, curator

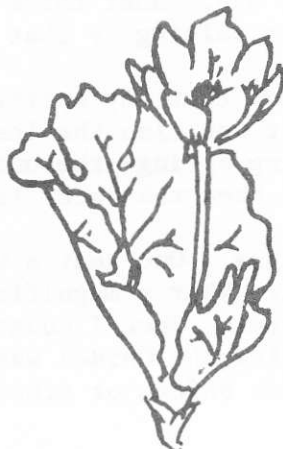
Several notes from FRIENDS have been received since the Winter GENTIAN was mailed. We appreciate each good word and every suggestion.

Mrs. Cora Wahl, now of Ansgar, Iowa, writes: "My interest in the GARDEN has continued for many years, even though I am (now) located far from it. I taught Botany in the Greenhouse at Central High School from 1917-1935, so knew Miss Butler as a "teacher". Mrs. Wahl is interested now in learning more about the many changes in the GARDEN during recent years. We will try to discuss some of these items in future issues. Hopefully Mrs. Wahl will be willing to share some of her memories of Miss Butler and the earlier years of the GARDEN with us.

Mrs. Arthur D. Strong (Mary B.) a member of the FRIENDS since 1960 has been awarded the 1977 Arbor Day award by the Williamsburg, A. Council of Garden Clubs for retaining "one of the great natural treasures of Virginia." Mrs. Strong credits her acquaintance with the ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN and the helpful correspondence of Mrs. Crone with helping her to develop interest in preserving Virginia wild flowers. CONGRATULATIONS Mrs. Strong on your good work.

Mrs. Clark Chamberlain (Jean) secretary of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden was awarded a certificate for volunteer service by the Volunteer Action Center, an arm of the United Way, this Spring. Jean has been a loyal volunteer for the FRIENDS. Congratulations!

BLOODROOT: *Sanguinaria canadensis*. The common name is derived not from the root, but from the thick horizontal underground stem. Its red color is due to an alkaloid used by the Indians as a pigment. One leaf appears in the Spring, wrapped around a single flower stalk. There are 2 sepals which fall when the flower opens, and often 8 petals of two sizes. There are many stamens and a single pistil forming a spindle shaped pod. This is a familiar Spring flower along streams and in woods found from Quebec to Florida, from the Eastern Seaboard to Manitoba, Kansas and Texas.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The woodsy glen with the bog in its center and the sunny hillside above, form the almost perfect habitat for the wildflowers of this area which blossom through the seasons from mid-April to mid-October in an annual rhythm and for the birds and small animals that live in or visit it.

To encourage a greater appreciation of wildlings in general and this area in particular, your Board has agreed with its Concepts & Budget Committee to use a substantial portion of the annual receipts of the FRIENDS for two projects. One is the establishment of scholarships to help a few high school students to pursue the natural sciences.

The second is the establishment of a few tuition grants for grade school teachers in the Minneapolis Public Schools to take a course at a Nature Study or Audubon camp each summer. The details of these projects are to be worked out by the committee and reported to the BOARD next Fall so they can be implemented in 1979.

This, besides the incidental aid to the physical garden, should be a little contribution to the ongoing appreciation of wild life in this area.

Alexander Dean, president

VOLUNTEERS REPORT: Dr. Marian Grimes chairman and coordinator of volunteers reports that we have an excellent crew of volunteers for this 1978 season at the Martha Crone Shelter. Many are returning from past years, but 14 of them are new volunteers. We are grateful to each one of you.

Miss Elizabeth Anderson	Miss Janet Hagen	Mrs. O. M. Merry
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Anderson	Mrs. Richard Hagen	Mr. Mark Nemeth
Mrs. Henry Anderson	Mrs. John Hendrickson	Mrs. H.S. Nicholls
Mrs. Harold Bowman	Mrs. Corbyn Hohenstein	Ms. Janet O'Leary
Mrs. Donald Bridgman	Mrs. Clarence Holten	Mrs. G.L. Olson
Miss Margareth Burd	Mrs. Robert Kessen	Mrs. Mildred Olson
Mrs. Clark Chamberlain	Mrs. Ralph Klapperich	Mr. David Peterson
Mrs. Kathleen Darley	Mrs. Ronald Larson	Mr. Todd Pilarski
Mrs. Janet Davidson	Mrs. Russell Larson	Mrs. Robert Price
Mrs. Max Demler	Miss Julie Lea vitt	Mr. & Mrs. Wm Quam
Ms. Karen Dragon	Ms. Colleen Lewis	Ms. Patricia Seeley
Mrs. Larry Dumdei	Ms. Rosemary Logan	Mr. Gary Saxton
Ms. Leslie Fedorchuk	Mrs. Genevieve Lyman	Mrs. Robt. Shannon
Mr. & Mrs. Art Flannagan	Mr. Michael Mann	Miss Betty Shingelby
	Mrs. David McQuirk	

Thanks are again in order to the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune whose YOU CAN HELP Column on March 15 helped us locate our new volunteers.

OTHER GARDENS: According to news reports, a collection of non-native vegetation is being assembled at the new Minnesota Zoological Garden in Apple Valley. In a one and one-half acre building, it will be possible to see not only the animal life, but many examples of the vegetation found in the jungles of Malaysia and Indonesia. This could be a very exotic "wild-garden" in Minnesota. We wish them the greatest success in their habitational creation.

TREES: Be different. Leon Snyder of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, in his Sunday Tribune column GARDENER in February listed several trees that could be used to replace a diseased elm. Some of the less common suggestions were buckeye, corktree, and Kentucky coffee tree. Consider making your yard unique!

The day was still --- and bright -- and warm ---
the day the leaves came out
Gulls that glided through the air had already
mated --- black tips on their pearl grey wings --
snow white breasts ----- bright yellow eyes and
bills made them seem more beautiful than at any
other time
Spikes of jack-in-the-pulpits had pushed their way
to the light and fuzzy little fiddleheads were
uncurling into ferns ... All through the woods
trilliums lifted great white flowers upward --- and
now and then - at the base of a tree - the deep wine
trillium blossomed ... Violets in whites - yellows -
and blues seemed to be everywhere -----
the day the leaves came out
Bumblebees hummed incessantly among the
trout lilies - forget-me-nots -- and yellow dandelions
--- sparkling crystal dragonflies seemed suspended
in the still air --- butterflies had left their cocoons
and were slowly fanning their colored wings -----
the day the leaves came out
High in the sunlit treetops little warblers - finches
and tanagers flitted about ---- showing flashes of
crimsons - yellows and greens ---- blues --- and
greys Mushrooms rose from the dampness of
last year's leaves --- and here and there a dead
tree stood -- majestic among all the new growth ---
the day the leaves came out
Not one by one ---- but - spontaneously they
seemed to break their casings ---- and tiny leaves
completely formed hung from all the branches -----
the beech were green --- the maples copper ---
the birch showed tints of yellow ---
---- and soon
the woods stood shimmering ----- a delicate fantasy
---- the wind was still
---- the air was warm
a great phenomenon of life took place
THE DAY THE LEAVES CAME OUT

(Gwen Frostic - THESE
THINGS ARE OURS)

With these lines, a final reminder, these things are our garden - The Eloise
Butler Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in the Theodore Wirth Park.
Your editors and your Board hope to meet each of the FRIENDS at the annual
meeting, Saturday, May 20.