

# THE FRINGED GENTIAN

September \* October  
1992

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## Historical Perspective - Clinton M. Odell

by Dale W. Johnson, Historian

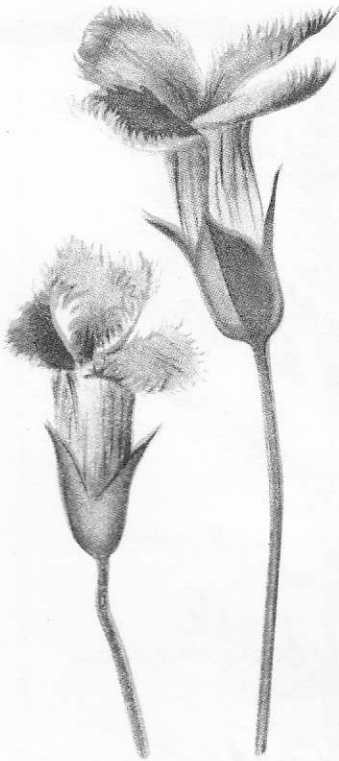
During this 40th anniversary year of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden it is appropriate to write a few words concerning some of the people who started our organization and who have sustained it through the years. Therefore, this will be the first in a series on founders of the Friends which I trust you will find interesting.

Clinton M. Odell, a former student of Eloise Butler's at Minneapolis Central High School, was the prime mover with Martha Crone in forming the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. On June 9, 1952 the Friends was formally incorporated as a Minnesota non-profit corporation. Mr. Odell served as the charter president of our organization during its initial six years. As an ardent conservationist, Odell also suggested the newsletter name *The Fringed Gentian* honoring a nearly extinct native Minnesota wild flower.

So who was this man Clinton Odell? He was a family man and a successful businessman, having founded the Burma Vita Corporation, makers of Burma Shave. In fact, many of the early meetings of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden were held at the business offices of Burma Vita Corp. located in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood adjacent to the Garden. It is said that Mr. Odell frequently enjoyed walking in what was then simply a portion of 'Glenwood Park' as a welcome respite from the concerns of his business. After Miss Butler's death in 1933, Clinton Odell realized that her successor, Martha Crone, had insufficient staff and funding to properly maintain the Garden. He worked side by side with Mrs. Crone in clearing weeds and grooming the trails.

Not satisfied with the relatively cramped size of the original Garden, Odell donated the entire \$3,000 which allowed the Park Board to purchase and fence the Upland/Prairie segment of the Garden in 1944. Robert J. Dasset, Jr., himself a former president of our organization, recalls helping Mr. Odell fight a grass fire in the Upland Garden during the 1940's. Through dedicated lobbying Odell also managed to get the Minneapolis Park Board to provide a dependable, permanent water supply to the Garden in 1948.

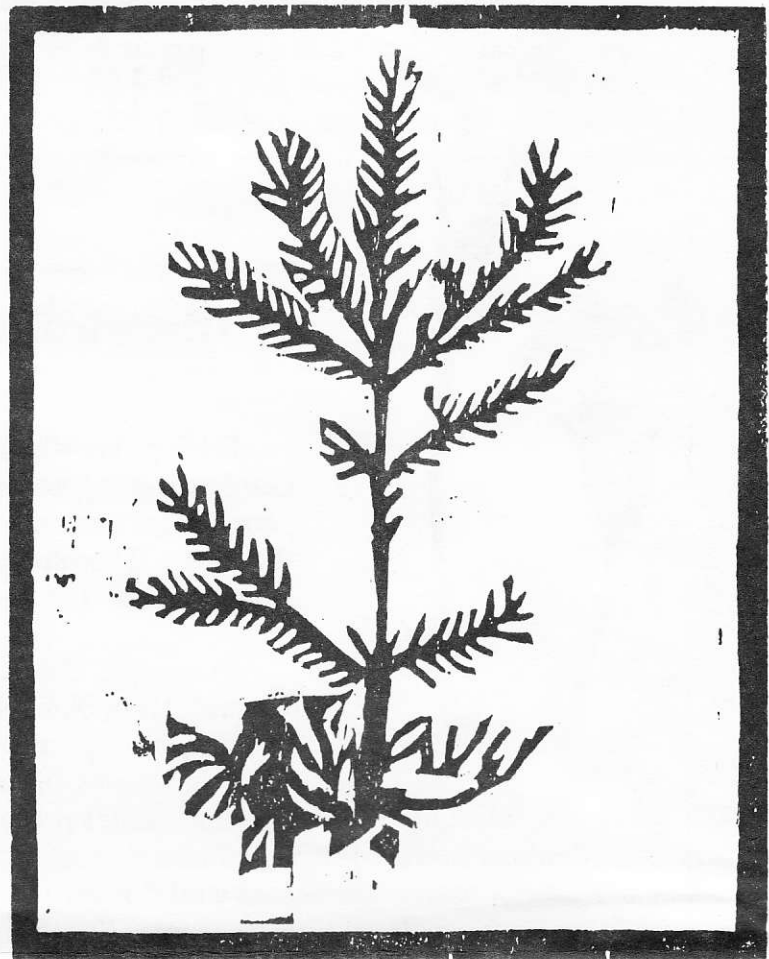
One year prior to his death at the age of 80 on June 4, 1958, Clinton Odell was honored for his long and devoted conservation efforts by being awarded a plaque as "a courageous crusader for conservation" by the Minnesota State Forester at the Northwest Sports Show. In this anniversary year of the organization he instigated, we can only add that we are most thankful for the timely interest, tireless efforts and generosity of Mr. Odell and his family over these past many years. Clinton Odell, we salute your memory; you are a major benefactor to untold future generation of wild flower garden fans!



## Notes From Our Gardener, Cary George

Fall is my favorite season in the Garden, and as we all know, summer was like one long September day. The morning temperatures were chilly and it rarely made it into the 80's. There was little humidity and that made for very pleasurable working conditions. Plants were not stressed from heat or drought and, therefore, their bloom periods were extended. Many ferns and woodland wildflowers didn't die-back or go dormant as is often the case in the heat of the summer.

We have all observed the anomaly of maples and virginia creeper turning color months too early. I believe this might be a precursor of spectacular fall color in all the deciduous trees. Also, don't miss a fall visit to the Garden because it looks as if the asters and goldenrods are more floriferous than ever. While their bloom



period is determined by the short-day length of fall, their colors seem unusually vibrant due to the cool, yet sunny weather.

There are 11 species of asters and 7 species of goldenrod in the Garden. These are listed at the top of page 3. It is usually Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) that is seen along roadways and unjustly blamed for pollen allergies. Usually the culprit is common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisifolia*), largely unnoticed due to its inconspicuous greenish flowers.

\* The illustrations and verses in this issue are from Elaine Christenson's collection of Carol Urness' Trees and Leaves and Birds and Words, published by Maple Ridge Press, Isanti County, Minnesota. Carol's illustrations were hand printed.

## Asters & Goldenrod in the Garden

Sky-blue Aster, Aster azureus  
Woodland Aster, Aster cordifolius  
Heath Aster, Aster ericoides  
Side-flowering Aster, Aster lateriflorus  
Big-leaf Aster, Aster macrophyllus  
New England Aster, Aster novae-antliae  
Ontario Aster, Aster ontarionis  
Red-stemmed Aster, Aster puniceus  
Heart-leaf Aster, Aster sagittifolius  
Panicked Aster, Aster simplex  
Flat-topped Aster, Aster umbellatus

Canada Goldenrod, Solidago canadensis  
Zig-zag Goldenrod, Solidago flexicaulis  
Giant Goldenrod, Solidago gigantea  
Grass-leaf Goldenrod, Solidago graminifolia  
Gray Goldenrod, Solidago nemoralis  
Stiff Goldenrod, Solidago rigida  
Showy Goldenrod, Solidago speciosa

### From President, Joyce Smeby

As I write this I am in the Garden for my afternoon of volunteering in the Shelter. I am reflecting on how quickly the summer is passing. The Garden is fast approaching the end of a busy summer schedule. Plants have grown, bloomed and are setting seed before frost intervenes.

This season was a busy and fruitful one for the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. The publication this spring of The Wild Gardener prompted increased interest in Eloise Butler, bringing many visitors to the Garden and new members to the Friends.

On August 2, the Friends co-sponsored with the Mpls. Park Board a special day at the Garden. Over 200 people came to celebrate the birth date of Miss Butler, to meet author Martha Hellander, and to tour the Garden. Stamp enthusiasts came that day for the special stamp cancellation held at the Crone Shelter; the event coincided with the recent release of wildflower stamps by the U.S. Postal Service.

There is splendor in all of the seasons. So, before the fall season ends at the Garden, I hope that you return for a bit of magic that the Garden holds.



**The Black Capped Chickadee**

**A cheery chickadee  
Is at the winter table.  
He brings an instant of delight,  
As only he is able.  
Dee, Dee, Dee!**

## Membership News . . .

**From Betty Bryan, Membership Chair:** Membership renewals continue at a steady pace. My thanks to each one! Meeting and visiting with members at the Annual Meeting, book sales, and big birthday celebration was a pleasure. Interesting, active people! Thanks to Friends' volunteers the membership list is on computer disk and up-dating will be easier. You should receive your new Member Directory in mid-September.

**\*\*\*Note:** A special "thank you" to Friends' member, artist and postal employee, Dan Miller for his commendable work on the Friends' August event. Also, thank you to the many people at the post office, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation, and the Friends volunteers for their outstanding contributions on that very special day.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Nona Butler Allen & Dwight A. Butler, Murphys, CA...Robert J. Martin, St. Paul...Judy Yaeger Jones, St. Paul...Barbara J. Miller, Burnsville...B. Faith Bennyhoff & Susan A. Hanson, Osseo...Wayzata Garden Club, Wayzata...John & Amanda Hatton, Mpls...Candace Barrick, Mpls...Teresa M. Graham, Mpls...Frances C. Reid, Mpls...Florence K. Fagerstrom, Mpls...Vern & Marilyn Bublitz, Mpls...Pat McNair Kennedy, Mpls...Benita Sirkin, Golden Valley...Sue H. Bohn, Mpls...Grace E. Goodrich, Mpls...George & Lois Carlson, Columbia Heights...Tim & Linda Koelz, Golden Valley...Bruce & Mary Jane Pappas, Golden Valley...Vernon Nelson, Richfield...Florence Flugaur, Mpls...Ron & Karen Bowen, New Hope...Lola Eda Wheeler, Brooklyn Center...Lois Nerheim Wilder, Edina...Kevin Kuschel, Mpls...Mary Elizabeth Collins, Mpls.

Friends of the  
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# FALL PROGRAM CALENDAR - 1992

## Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

### September

Saturday, September 5, 3:00 P.M.

**Birding Program.** Walk with park naturalists to Cedar Lake to see juvenile Osprey take flight from atop their "hackbox."

Sunday, September 6, 3:00 P.M.

**Nature Printing.** Create unique objects of art using natural materials. Bring your own white T-shirt, pillowcase, etc.

Saturday, September 12, 8:00 P.M.

**Moon Walk.** Join in an after-hours walk through the Garden during the full moon.

Sunday, September 13, 7:00 A.M.

**Morning Birding.** Join us for an early morning search for year-round residents and fall migrants in and around the Garden.

Saturday, September 19, 7:00 P.M.

**Evening by the Fireside.** Folksinger and naturalist Tom Savre will share his songs and stories about Minnesota's wildlife and wildplaces.

Sunday, September 20, 3:00 P.M.

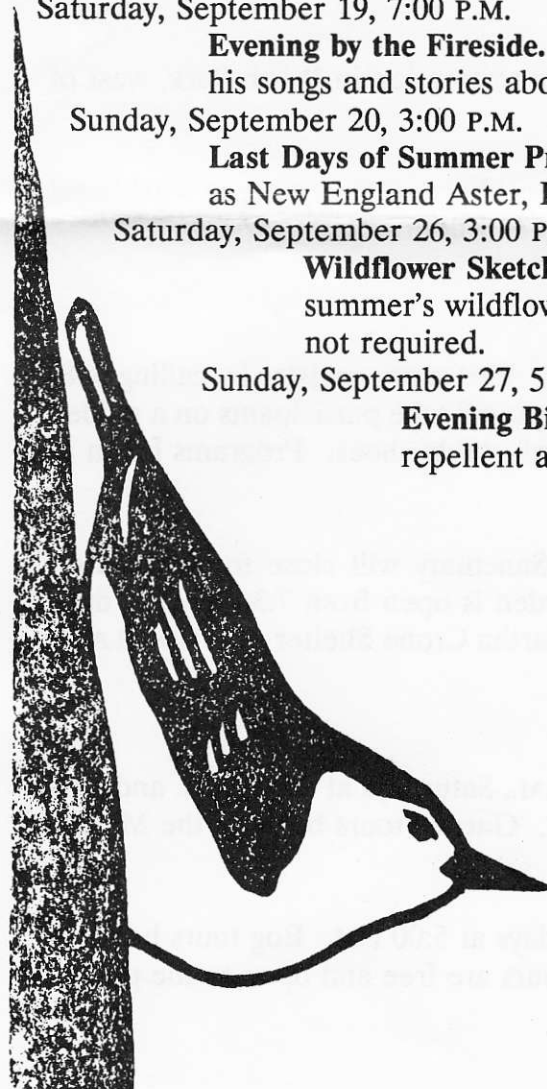
**Last Days of Summer Prairie Tour.** See the summer colors in such plants as New England Aster, Prairie Dock and Big Bluestem.

Saturday, September 26, 3:00 P.M.

**Wildflower Sketchbook.** Acquaint yourself with a few of this summer's wildflowers. Bring your own sketchbook, artistic ability is not required.

Sunday, September 27, 5:00 P.M.

**Evening Birding.** Bring comfortable shoes and insect repellent and then enjoy glimpsing some of the fall migrants.



### The Nuthatch

When the world seems sour  
and your time ill-spent,  
Consider the nuthatch.  
He is content  
to work with gravity  
down the tree.  
Yank! Yank!!

# FALL PROGRAM CALENDAR - 1992

## Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary

### October

Saturday, October 3, 3:00 P.M.

**Ballads & Tales.** Park naturalist, Tom Save will share songs and stories about the out-of-doors...outside if it's warm, inside by the fireside if it's chilly.

Sunday, October 4, 3:00 P.M.

**Fall Colors Tour.** Hike with naturalists to see the array of colors.

Saturday, October 10, 7:00 P.M.

**Night Hike.** Experience the Garden in the moonlight.

Sunday, October 11, 3:00 P.M.

**Afternoon Birding.** Join us for an afternoon of bird watching.

Saturday, October 17, 3:00 P.M.

**Fireside Stories.** Relax by a cozy fire in the Martha Crone Shelter and listen to excerpts from journals, poems and stories by Eloise Butler and other writers.

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 P.M.

**Bog Tour.** Explore the bog that is under restoration in Wirth Park, west of Birch Pond. Meet at the Crone Shelter.

Saturday, October 24, 3:00 P.M.

**The Season in Wildflowers.** From skunk cabbage in the spring to witchhazel in the winter, join us to recap the season in wildflowers.

The Fall Programs are free and open to the public. Please pre-register by calling 348-5702 after 10:00 A.M. as space is limited. Park naturalists will take participants on a guided walk through the Garden so it's advisable to wear comfortable shoes. Programs begin at the Martha Crone Shelter.

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary will close for the season October 31. During September and October the Garden is open from 7:30 A.M. to dusk seven days a week. For further information call the Martha Crone Shelter after 10:00 A.M. at 348-5702.

Daily tours of the Garden are: weekdays at 5:00 P.M., Saturdays at 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. and Sundays at 11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. Garden tours begin at the Martha Crone Shelter.

Tours of the Wirth Park Tamarack Bog are Saturdays at 5:00 P.M. Bog tours begin at the main entrance of the Garden. Garden and Bog tours are free and open to the public; it is not necessary to register ahead of time.