



THE FRINGED GENTIAN

April * May
1994

Vol. 44 No. 1

From President Joyce Smeby

Just the other day I caught a whiff of Spring! The scent may be fleeting, but it is, unmistakably, the breath of Spring. That ethereal odor that makes us realize all's right with the world after all.

There were many ancient rites of Spring. And, acknowledged or not, each of us probably have a way in which we celebrate the return of Spring. I have my own little rituals I perform as Spring draws closer. For me, it begins with the pussy willow cuttings. I take walks with my eyes peeled looking to see if any fresh growing things have pierced the earth yet. One of my favorite "finds" is skunk cabbage, a very early and unusual ambassador of Spring.

Spring plays with our emotions with all of its "false starts." However, we can take heart in these early signs and the songs of birds that Spring is indeed, "just around the corner."

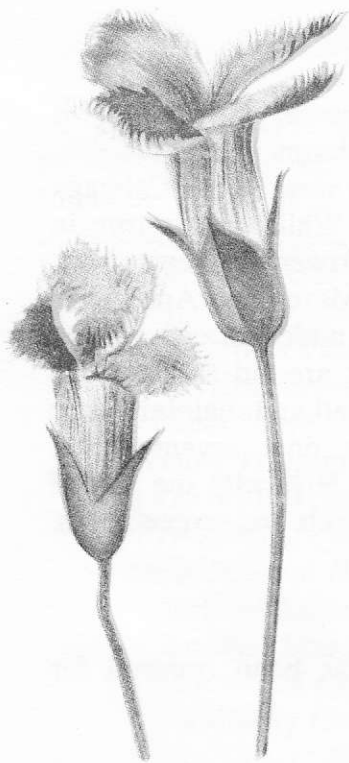
The longer days and the warmth of the sunshine nurtures me in much the same way as it revitalizes the Garden. Breathing new life and energy into us both after the long and very cold record-breaking winter. The malady we call Spring Fever really does exist, come experience it at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden!

Report: Challenges Ahead

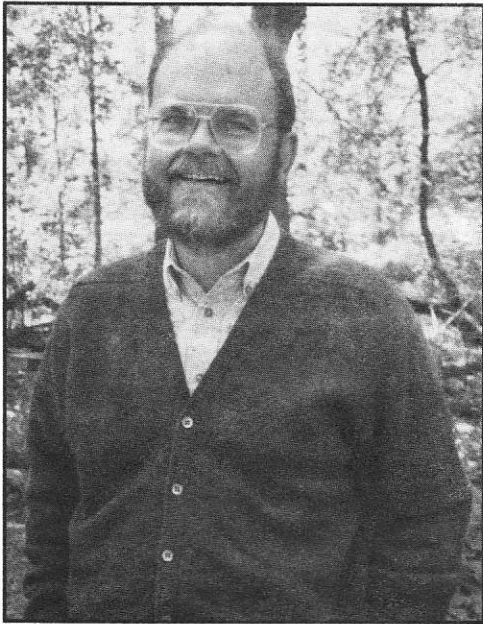
This winter the Minneapolis Park Board completed surveying the park system for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In January the Friends appointed a committee to review the recommendations as they relate to the Eloise Butler Garden. Committee members Rick Bartholomew and Kathy Stennes met with Assistant Park Superintendent Al Wittman on February 11.

It is the Friends' concern that proposed modifications will destroy the character and experience of this historic landscape. The proposal includes adding handrails on steep slopes, reducing the slope of the trails, replacing the trail surface with something slip-resistant and adding signage. The intent of the Garden, established in 1907, is that "wildness be the sole aim and that all artificial appearances be avoided." The Minnesota State Historical Society may be willing to advise the Park Board as to their concerns, but it will be up to the Park Board to make a final determination.

This spring the committee will again meet with the Minneapolis Park Board. The Friends have already been in close contact with landscape historians, environmentalists / hikers who are themselves disabled and other interested parties. Contact Kathy Stennes at 374-1268 for further information.



Notes From Our Gardener Cary George



False Rue Anemone (*Isopyrum biternatum*) is always the first wildflower to bloom in the Garden. This surprises many people who view Skunk Cabbage as the earliest sign of spring. While this is true in many habitats, our bog remains frozen until early May. Wood ducks will also arrive in March and April. We at the Minneapolis Park Board added fifteen nesting boxes to various shoreline sites around the city this year. The total number monitored and maintained by gardeners and parkkeepers is now seventy-three. Success remains at slightly over 50% with the rest of the boxes inhabited by grey squirrels and screech owls.

* * * *

The following nursery stock has been ordered for spring planting in the Garden:

Black Sugar Maple (*Acer nigrum*)
Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*)
Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)
Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*)
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentali*)

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)
Prairie Wild Rose (*Rosa arkansana*)
Prairie Rose (*Rosa setigera*)
Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)
Slender Willow (*Salix petiolaris*)

* * * *

Of course, the most exciting news is the completion of the prairie expansion project. In December Able Fence Company removed the superfluous fence between the woodland and the prairie and recycled it to enclose roughly one acre of restored prairie. This adds twenty percent to our prairie garden. I think, most importantly though, it adds a depth and a "sweep" to our prairie that was missing.

Now when you stand on the Lone Oak Hill in the prairie the view to the southeast gives you a true sense of this area before the "woodies" invaded. Much work remains to be done. It will take at least two years of sumac, buckthorn and cool-season grass removal before any major plantings of native prairie grasses and forbs can be initiated. Still, many prairie wildflowers will self-seed in our expansion and I think it will be a combination of our labor and nature's self determination whose hybridization will symbolize our love of all-too-rare native prairie.

"Everywhere, as far as the eye could reach, there was nothing but rough, shaggy grass, most of it as tall as I ... As I looked about me I felt the grass was the country, as the water is the sea ... And there was so much motion in it; the whole country seemed, somehow, to be running."

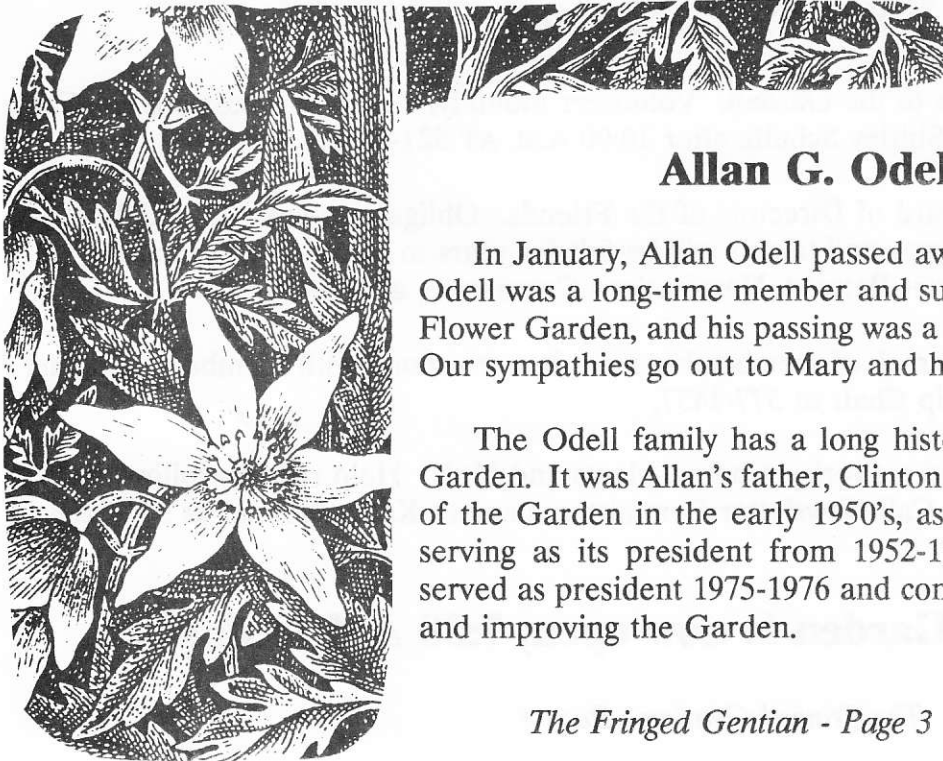
Willa Cather, *My Antonia*, 1918

Special Plants at the Wildflower Garden

On your visits to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden this spring be on the lookout for some very special flowers, shrubs and trees. Below is a list of 14 of Minnesota's very rare and protected plants found in the Garden. These plants are on the Department of Natural Resources' list of endangered, threatened and special concern species. According to the DNR "the list draws attention to species in Minnesota that are at greatest risk of extinction within the state."

- 1 Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), extremely rare in Minnesota
- 2 Marginal Shield-fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), not discovered in Minnesota until 1981
- 1 Lance-leaved Violet (*Viola lanceolata*), white-flowered and stemless
- 1 Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*), first trillium to flower in the spring
- 1 & 4 Dwarf Trout Lily (*Erythronium propullans*), spring ephemeral unique to Minnesota
- 2 Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), white flowers in spring
- 3 Golden-seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), exploited for its root
- 1 Rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), resembles leaves of the yucca plant
- 1 Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), common plant in prairie remnants
- 3 Kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*), flowers early in the spring
- 1 Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), shrub with white flowers and large bladdery fruit
- 1 Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), shrub with interesting fruit with explosive pods
- 1 Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), spreading shrub, rare in Minnesota
- 1 Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), an evergreen rare in Minnesota

- 1 - **Special Concern** = These species are extremely uncommon in this state, or have unique or highly specific habitat requirements and deserves careful monitoring of its status.
- 2 - **Threatened** = These species are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
- 3 - **State Endangered** = These species are threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
- 4 - **Federally Endangered** = These species are the state's only federally endangered species.



Allan G. Odell 1904-1994

In January, Allan Odell passed away after being in frail health. Mr. Odell was a long-time member and supporter of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, and his passing was a great loss to his family and friends. Our sympathies go out to Mary and her loving family.

The Odell family has a long history of nurturing the Eloise Butler Garden. It was Allan's father, Clinton who was instrumental in expansion of the Garden in the early 1950's, as well as founding the Friends and serving as its president from 1952-1958. Allan's sister, Moana Beim served as president 1975-1976 and contributed significantly to protecting and improving the Garden.

FRIENDS' SPRING CALENDAR

Come to the Garden on Mother's Day

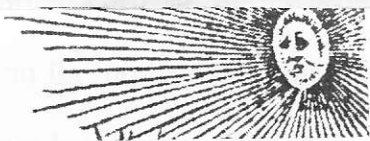
Join us at the Wildflower Garden Mother's Day. The Friends will be hosting Martha Hellander, author of *The Wild Gardener: The Life and Selected Writings of Eloise Butler* on Sunday, May 8 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. where she will greet visitors to the Garden. We will be celebrating springtime and Mother Nature. Come meet Martha, tour the Garden and welcome the advent of spring.

Annual Membership Meeting

On Saturday, May 21 beginning at 10:30 A.M. members of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden will gather at the Martha Crone Shelter for the annual meeting. Sallie Cole is organizer again this year. Members and their friends are urged to attend.

Volunteer Appreciation

The Friends' Annual Volunteer Dinner will held at the Martha Crone Shelter on Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 P.M. Volunteers & their families are invited to attend.



The May Queen

by R. A. Widdowson

"Oh! May is the Madcap Spirit of
Spring,
That flits through the world like a
bird on the wing;
Her smile is delight, her laughter a
song,
And the woods turn to life as she
carols along.

The snowdrop peeps forth from his
dark, wintry bed,
While the violet raises her purple
crowned head;
The flame of the crocus gives light to
the day
And the daisies and buttercups 'round
her path play.

The arbutus, proud in its newly found
birth,
With its soft, blushing petals would
cover the earth;
While Jack-in-the-pulpit gives May a
sly wink,
For he's more of a lover than cold
mortals think."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greeter * Volunteers greet visitors to the Garden. Volunteer monthly, weekly or occasionally. Call Volunteer Coordinator Shirley Schultz after 10:00 A.M. AT 521-5422.

Board Member * Serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends. Obligations are minimal, but the contribution of time, energy and talents will be felt for years to come. No fundraising will be necessary. Call Harriet Betzold, Nominations Committee, at 588-4374.

Membership * Volunteer to keep track of membership records, correspond with members. Contact Betty Bryan, Membership Chair at 377-1437.

Newsletter * Volunteer articles and artwork on native plants and birds. Help readers follow the seasons at the Garden. Call Newsletter Committee member Kathy Stennes at 374-1268.

The Wildflower Garden is now open, 7:30 AM to dusk

Park Board Commissioners

This past November Minneapolis voters elected Park Board Commissioners to serve a 4-year term of office. In Districts 1, 2 & 3 candidates ran unopposed. All of the District Commissioners (with the exception of newcomer Dean Zimmerman) were re-elected, as was Annie Young. Tom Baker will serve as Park Board President. Congratulations to them all!!

- * Dist. 1 - Patty Hillmeyer
- * Dist. 2 - Tom Baker
- * Dist. 3 - Dean Zimmerman
- * Dist. 4 - Patty Baker
- * Dist. 5 - Dale (Skip) Gilbert
- * Dist. 6 - Scott Neiman
- * At-Large - Annie Young
- * At-Large - Rochelle Berry Graves
- * At-Large - George Puzak



Membership News - Betty Bryan

Fiscal 1993 ended with a membership count of 268, a 5% gain over fiscal 1992. New members, 39, and 7 gift memberships added 46 new Friends.

The Friends are 42 years old this year, for most of those years we published a Membership Roster every two years. In an effort to shape the history of the Friends membership, I am seeking past rosters. When did the Friends begin to publish the rosters? Years missing are: pre-1972, 1978, and 1985-1986. If members can help, please call Betty Bryan at 377-1437.

Membership Application

To join the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden complete the membership form below. Make your check payable to Friends of the Wild Flower Garden and mail to: Friends, 1076 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405-2129.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

____ I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ____ Sponsor | \$ 25.00 - \$99.00 |
| ____ Family | \$ 15.00 |
| ____ Individual | \$ 10.00 |
| ____ Limited Income | \$ 8.00 |
| ____ Sustainer | \$100.00 - \$199.00 |
| ____ Benefactor | \$200.00 - \$499.00 |
| ____ Life Member | \$500.00 & Up |

Gardens to Visit in Arizona

Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum. The early 1920's saw the creation of this useful arboretum, as well as beautiful desert garden. Plants from many lands are studied for drought-tolerance, usefulness, and their landscaping potential. The Visitor Center, on the National Register of Historic Sites, houses a book store, gift shop and displays, with numerous species of cacti, succulents and water-efficient trees and shrubs for sale. Nature trails wind through 35 acres of grounds with surprising specimens around every bend. Open all year. SE of Apache Junction and NE of Tucson, near Superior, Arizona.

Biosphere 2. Also in Arizona, Biosphere 2 offers a glorious setting on a high plateau of the Sonoran Desert. Guides lead you to every part of this tremendous experiment in living "under glass." On view through the windows are the varied plantings of a tropical rain forest, a desert, agricultural areas, a marsh, the ocean, a coral reef - - together with animals, fish and insects. A new crew entered the Biosphere 2 in early March, for a year. Open 7 days a week, with excellent restaurant, many displays and overnight accommodations. NE of Tucson, S of Florence, near Oracle, Arizona.

Rio De Flag Nature Trail. The Museum of Northern Arizona maintains a small, pristine wildflower preserve on the outskirts of Flagstaff. After a tour of the museum, take the self-guided tour along the Nature Trail which takes you through the canyon and along a mesa. The trail follows along a creek and skirts a wildflower meadow, the distance of the trail loops is about one-half mile.

Minneapolis Hosts International Fiber Conference

Plants have been used for centuries as natural dyes for fibers. Local artist Connie Magoffin has found that even the common buckthorn shrub, much despised for its invasiveness, is useful in the art of dye-making. The plant's berries dye fabrics shades of green, the leaves create orange-golds to bronzes.

To learn more of this ancient art of using plants register for the upcoming international fiber conference entitled "Fiber Reflections - Fiber Visions." The conference will be held in Minneapolis July 7-10. Convergence 94 will be a gathering of spinners, weavers and dyers. Day passes are \$6.00. For further information call 644-6945.

Friends of the
Wild Flower Garden
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