

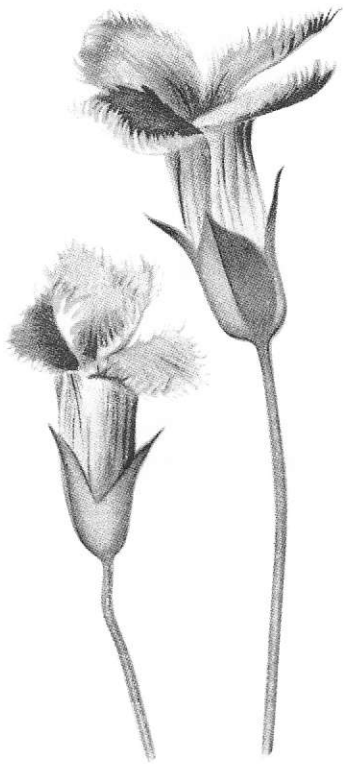


PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE  
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

# THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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## President's Letter

Welcome spring!

Our winter seems to be over and it almost seems as if we didn't really have one. Soon we'll be out walking and exploring the wild flower garden again, and seeing green shoots and buds "popping up" through the blanket of leaves. Spring is a wonderful, magical, renewing event that none of us ever tire of. This year, it feels exciting to realize that we will likely have that energizing renewal earlier than usual. Thinking about the sights, sounds and smells of the Garden truly warms my heart and disposition on some of these chilly March days.

See you at the Garden!

Gloria Miller  
President  
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

*For lo, the winter is past! . . .  
The flowers appear upon the earth,  
The time of the singing of birds is come.*

Song of Soloman  
(2:11,12)

## Notes From Our Gardener

*Cary George*

Again this year, the question on everyone's mind is how will the schizophrenic fluctuating weather affect the spring wildflower bloom. Last year the below zero temperatures in April, preceded by 40 degree above zero temperatures, killed the flower buds on cottonwood, elderberry, some oaks and other early flowering trees and shrubs. Most of the damage to the wildflower collection was necrotic damage to the leaf tissue, causing mostly an aesthetics problem. The very earliest wildflowers suffered the most die back: trout lily, false rue anemone, bloodroot and Virginia bluebells.

Thanks to the Friends for the remodeled gardener's shed. The new cedar siding and cedar shake roof take away the "tacky" look and the insulated walls and ceiling have made yours truly much more comfortable, especially on those cold February and March mornings.

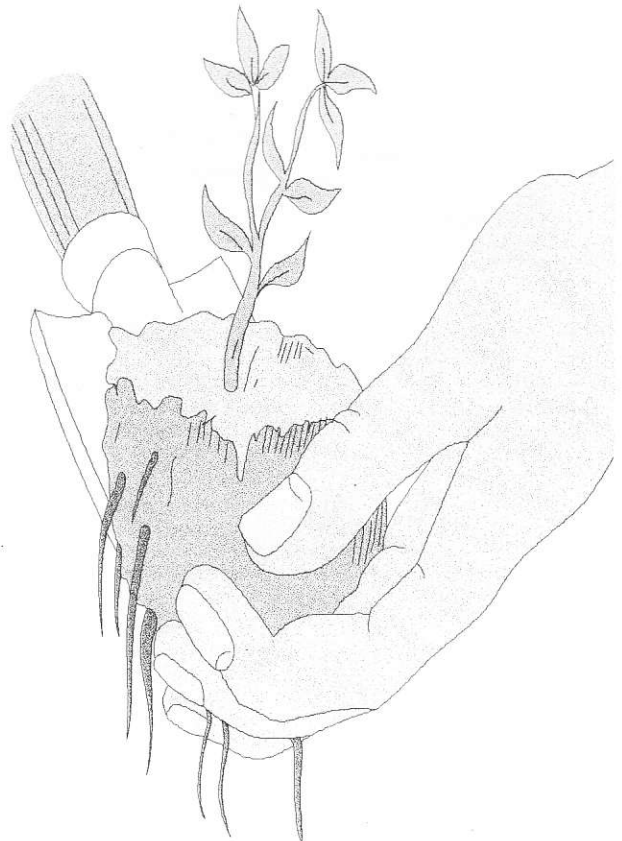
The old corrugated steel shed remains underneath; it was simply sheathed over. The shed was built at the same time as the Martha Crone Shelter in 1970. It has served the gardeners well in its unique "mongrel" way, especially considering that before it was built, gardeners had no inside shelter from the weather except for a small tool shed where they could stand during a downpour.

The Friends have agreed to fund a new bike rack for the front entrance. The old rack is rotting off at the posts and is seldom used. As bicycles have evolved and become expensive, hi-tech inventions, no one wants to leave them at a rickety bike rack and instead prefer to walk them through the Garden. Hopefully, the new rack will be better utilized.

Our oak trees took another hit this winter as four more red oaks were removed by the Forestry Dept., due to oak wilt disease. Again, these were located in the infection center on the north Prairie Garden hillside. Because these are the last oaks in this area, we're

crossing our fingers that this will be the end of the problem, assuming, of course, that root grafts are causing the "leap frog" spread of the disease.

After twelve springs at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, this was the first that Ken Avery did not say to me, "And how is Mr. George today?" I miss his gentle spirit, his love of the Garden, his above-the-fray attitude. He made me a better person. Some losses cannot be replaced. Ken Avery is one of them.



## Agenda for March 30th Friends Meeting

- I. Call to Order
- II. Minutes of the last meeting
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Committee Reports
- V. Unfinished business
  - a. pump and bike projects
  - b. Avery memorial
  - c. seed packets for Eloise Butler birthday and Mother's Day
  - d. web page project
- VI. New business
- VII. Gardener's Report
- VIII. Adjournment

### Notes and Item to Remember

*Harriet Betzold*

#### Volunteers -

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer a few hours, mornings or afternoons, in the Martha Crone Shelter, please let us know. We need your help to answer the phone, answer visitor's questions, etc. Call Shirley (521-5422) or Lon (722-1564) if you can help. Any help that you can give to the Garden is always greatly appreciated.

#### Family Event -

The Como Zoo and Conservatory has great programs for children and adults throughout the year. Call 487-8272 for more information and to get their brochure.

#### Upcoming Event in the Garden -

The Garden opens **April 1**

Mother's Day in the Garden on **May 10**

Annual Meeting of the Friends on **May 16**

## Welcome New Members

Nancy C. Azzam, Golden Valley  
Heidi & Jeff Haines, Golden Valley  
Deborah A. Hoffman, Edina  
Constance Pepin, Minneapolis  
Mark Westman, Minneapolis  
Jimmy Young, Minneapolis

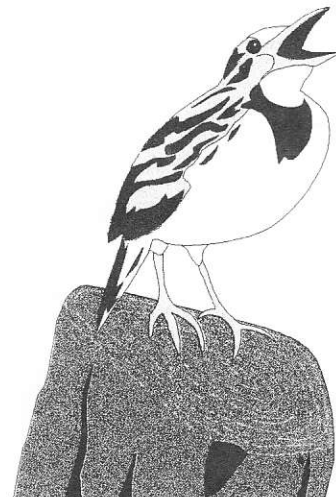


### Membership Directory What do You Think?

*Joy Davis*

A Friends' member has suggested that we discontinue publishing a membership directory. She wonders how useful it is to members, and suggests that the money could be used for a Garden project instead.

We would like your input on this question. Should we continue publishing the directory every two years? You can leave a message on my answering machine (374-4503) or write your comments to Joy Davis, 1089 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405.



**Gift Memberships:**

To order a gift membership, please fill in the form below and indicate that this is a gift membership and from whom. Each membership is tax deductible.

**Membership Application**

To join the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc or or give a gift membership, complete the form below. Make check payable to *Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc* and mail to Joy Davis, 1089 Cedar View Dr. Minneapolis MN 55405

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

- Family \$15
- Sponsor \$25 - \$99
- Individual \$10
- Limited Income \$ 8
- Sustainer \$100 - \$199
- Benefactor \$200 - \$499
- Life Member \$500 & up
  
- This is a gift membership from:

New Member     Renewal     Gift From     I am interested in becoming a volunteer

**Friends of the  
Wild Flower Garden**  
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