

# THE FRINGED GENTIAN

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

From the very beginning of her efforts to create “the Wild Botanic Garden,” it’s clear Eloise Butler was focused on the wetland.

*A particular reason for selecting this place was the undrained tamarack swamp, such a swamp being the abode of most of our orchids and insectivorous plants so interesting in habit and structure. Indeed, most lovers of wild plants are bog-trotters and find in the depths of a swamp an earthly paradise. The indigenous flora was found to be captivating. Among the notables were sundew, pitcher plant, Linnaea, Turk’s-cap lily, the two species of fringed gentian, and the showy and yellow lady’s-slippers.*

Source: *The Wild Gardener: The Life and Selected Writings of Eloise Butler* by Martha E. Hellander.

As we welcome summer, we celebrate the glories of the wetland, sharing Eloise’s appreciation for some of the same bog plants, along with the forget-me-nots, spotted jewelweed, water horsetail and wild calla lilies.

Beautiful dragonflies and the heavenly indigo bunting may also linger there for the added pleasure of the bog-trotters. But today there is a serious problem in the Garden’s wetland. The paths are often impassably wet, muddy and slippery. Visitors will sometimes walk off the trail to find drier footing, endangering fragile plant communities adjacent to the path. Some days, Curator Susan must close the wetland path to visitors entirely, due to these conditions. This deprives all of us, of course, but it is especially sad when there are youth groups and summer school students who miss out during the peak summer weeks.

And so we come again to the urgent need for the new bridge and boardwalk installation in this, the heart of the Garden. The northern bridge portion is what the Friends call the Cary George Wetland Project, as it will be dedicated in honor of our fourth Gardener. You may have already received a letter from the Board with an appeal for your financial support for this critical Garden infrastructure. We especially encourage you to visit our website [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org) to see the Cary George Wetland Project video with photos and illustrations of the design for the boardwalk system. You will also find an explanation of the current matching grant from People for Parks and updates on the project. Please help make this well-designed, durable and attractive Garden feature a reality in 2014.

In August, two wonderful events will take place for Garden Friends and lovers of native plants. Our Summer Garden Party to replenish the Student Transportation Fund and celebrate Eloise Butler’s 163rd birthday will take place on August 3 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the renovated Wirth Park Pavilion. Also, the Florilegium display of Garden plants will open at the Minneapolis Central Library with a reception on August 14. You will find more details on both gatherings in this issue of the Gentian and on our website. Please do join us to share in the pleasures of summer and support these worthy Garden programs.

That’s all for now from this bog-trotter. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

J Pam Weiner

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Susan Wilkins



**FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN**  
**GARDEN PARTY**

*Please join us August 3, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.*  
**at WIRTH PARK PAVILION**  
~Above Glenwood Avenue and the Wirth Lake Beach area

Tickets for the event are \$20 at the door, or available on our website [friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://friendsofthewildflowergarden.org) at a cost of \$20 for the first, \$15 for each additional ticket. All ticket costs are tax deductible.

**Garden Tours** **Refreshments** **Family Entertainment**  
**Silent Auction**  
of items reflecting the spirit and history of the Garden and the Friends

This year the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden are celebrating summer and Eloise Butler's 163rd birthday with a special event to replenish our Student Transportation Grant Program.

This program brings students from Minneapolis-area schools to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary for nature and science based programs. Hundreds of young people have benefited from this program in the past four years; its success has depleted the fund, and we are committed to providing this service into the future.



# GARDEN CURATOR'S LETTER

By Susan Wilkins



A splendid spring brought enough rain and moderate temperatures to allow for woodland wildflowers to thrive from mid-April to late May. Trillium, trout lilies, bluebells and bellworts blossomed in profusion. Songbirds of many hues graced the branches of the halfbare trees. It was one of the most delightful spring unfoldings that I have seen so far here and I have watched the Wildflower Garden change and grow for a decade now. From year to year, season to season and day to day, this wild and vibrant garden changes. If one looks closely enough, not even a moment stands still. It's a remarkable process to witness, and those fortunate enough to observe it feel much gratitude.

In a wild garden like this, there are so many dynamic forces at play—some of which staff and volunteers have a hand in and many of which, although influenced by humans, are at a scale too large to directly alter in our work here. Perhaps, at best, we can intervene.

After being intimately involved for so long with the Wildflower Garden's evolution, I've grown to feel such appreciation that we as a group of dedicated staff and volunteers can do our part, every day, to nurture the health and vitality of this 15-acre sanctuary and to revel in the steady progress made.

Liz Anderson, co-chair of the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group, aptly states how this progress can be made and experienced in her report in this issue of the *Gentian*. How pleasing it is to return to a woodland acre year after year and see a trillium grow where a weed, or a sea of weeds, once stood. As Liz notes, "It involves being present with the task at hand, not being overwhelmed by the challenge and learning to really see the return of a healthier and more diverse woodland." Such clarity is shared by someone who knows the territory well.

In the face of significant challenges to our local ecosystems, pressures that are interlinked, such as climate change and increasing numbers of invasive plants, insects and other invertebrates, can feel insurmountable. Perhaps they are. Regardless, in attuning oneself to the constant changes taking place in nature and botanic gardens like the Wildflower Garden, I think that it is possible to find your place, or niche, to assist in the positive movement toward a more vital and diverse local ecology. It is through paying close attention that we can find our lead, the guidance to know what will make a difference and how to do it. And this is the gift of the Garden; it is a place for us to learn and to grow ourselves: to take root, to study, to apprentice with wild nature itself and to delight as we show up for each visit, each day to learn what it is that we can do to nurture the lands and waters that we live amongst.

May we all take inspiration from the beauty of the natural world and the wonderful work that this community of land stewards, volunteers, visitors, artists, administrators, gardeners, interns and education staff carry out daily.

If you would like to become more involved at the Wildflower Garden, many programs and events await you, as do volunteer opportunities. I invite you to celebrate the Garden by attending two wonderful summer events in August—the Friends of the Wildflower Garden Fundraiser on August 3 and the Florilegium opening at the Minneapolis Central Library on August 14. You'll find details about both events in this newsletter. Visit the Wildflower Garden's website at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/ebwg](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/ebwg) for more information about these opportunities and more. ■

## DON'T MISS THE ELOISE BUTLER WILDFLOWER FLORILEGIUM EXHIBIT

Please join us for the opening reception of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Florilegium Exhibit on Thursday, August 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nearly 50 botanical paintings of native plants found in the Garden will be on display through October 15 in the Cargill Hall Gallery at Hennepin County's Minneapolis Central Library located in downtown Minneapolis at 300 Nicollet Mall.

Both the reception, which includes refreshments and talks by artists, and the exhibit are free and open to the public. The Florilegium, which documents the plants of America's first public wildflower garden, is an ongoing project by students of the Minnesota School of Botanical Art. ■

Leadplant illustration by Barbara Illingsworth



# HELP FOR GREAT HORNED OWLS

By Tamara Mercer, Garden Naturalist



Far left: Owlet on the ground.  
Photo credit: Tammy Mercer

Left and below: Owl release in Wirth Park.  
Photo credit: ©Michelle Jueneman

For years, the Early Birders have walked the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden on Saturday mornings and have often seen a pair of adult great horned owls roosting in large oak trees. Some years we are lucky enough to see a young fledgling.

In mid-February, Al Jueneman and his dog Jax were walking through Wirth Park as they do every day when, near the Wildflower Garden, Jax discovered an injured great horned owl on the ground. The bird was unable to fly away, so it arched its wings and snapped its bill to appear big and fierce. Al called the Raptor Center, and he and Jax watched over her until they arrived. All the while, the male owl called and called for his injured mate.

The owl had suffered severe head and eye trauma and had internal bleeding. The Raptor Center was able to provide treatment and determined that her vision would not be severely impaired, but she would need time to heal. On May 3, the owl was well enough to be released in the place where she was found. And on June 7, the Early Birders once again saw two owls high in the oak trees at the Garden.

In late April, my friend Keith Ciampa saw something fluffy on a busy highway and stopped to find a young great horned owl. He could not see a nest or an adult, so he called the Raptor Center. They advised him to throw a jacket over the bird, place it in a pet carrier, and bring it in.

Great horned owls do not build their own nests or reinforce the nests they use. So, sometimes, the nests cannot stand up to active chicks or a windstorm, and the chicks fall to the ground, usually unharmed.



According to Lori Arent, clinic manager at the Raptor Center, it is very common for people to find young owlets out of the nest in spring and assume they have been abandoned, but that is rarely the case. Owlets can be helped when ill or injured, but no one can raise a chick to survive in the wild as well as its parents can.

The Raptor Center examined the owlet Keith had found to make sure it had not been injured by a car and determined it was old enough to be cared for out of the nest. The next day they found the nest and placed the chick on a tree branch nearby. Come nightfall, a chick will call to its parents, who will feed and defend it on the ground.

Owls face many hazards in their environment. With the help of professionals at the Raptor Center and caring individuals like Keith Ciampa, Al Jueneman and his dog Jax, we can help them survive.

Raptor Center staff do their best to rehabilitate and release injured raptors back into the wild. If a raptor has a permanent injury, they will find a place where it can serve as an educational animal. To learn more about the Raptor Center, visit their website, [www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/home.html](http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/home.html)

More photos of the owl release can be found on the Garden's website, [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/history/owlrescue.html](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/history/owlrescue.html) ■

# CREATING THE UPLAND GARDEN

By Gary Bebeau

When the original dimensions of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden were determined in 1907, the area was an unfenced portion of Glenwood Park, which was later named Theodore Wirth Park. Eloise Butler and her fellow botany teachers concentrated their efforts on an area of woodland hills surrounding a rare tamarack swamp. It wasn't until the 1940s, when Martha Crone was Curator, that the idea of adding an upland oak savanna environment to the Garden was considered.

Clinton Odell, founder of the Burma-Vita Company, and future founder of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, had offices on Chestnut Street just blocks from the Garden. He had been a botany student of Eloise Butler's and he frequently spent time in the Garden helping Martha Crone with weeding and planting. In June 1944, Odell wrote to Minneapolis Park Board Superintendent C. A. Bossen, proposing to donate \$3,000 to cover the cost of clearing an upland garden, fencing in the new area, surfacing the paths and constructing a small summer house. In October, the Park Board accepted his offer in October, but not all of his conditions, saying that some of his requests should be thought of as "wait and see" as Crone developed the area. Still, the Upland Garden was underway.

Invoices and letters between the Park Board and Odell, which are included in the Martha Crone Collection at the Minnesota Historical Society, show that Odell sent an initial \$1,000 check. Later, between 1944 and 1952, he reimbursed the Park Board for what they spent, eventually exceeding his original \$3,000 offer by more than \$4,000. Several aspects of Odell's offer were not implemented, including the summerhouse and the surfacing of the paths. Nevertheless, the new space added the equivalent of one-fourth of the old Garden area, bringing the total enclosed space to just under 14 acres. Crone cleared the Upland Garden area of sumac and other unwanted plants, and in 1944 alone, set out 210 new plants. Within two years she had created 2,000 feet of new paths.

Part of the upland addition included a southeast-facing hillside in the far northeast corner that descended from the upper ridgeline. In 1955 the Garden received a gift of funds from the Minnetonka Garden Club and the Little Minnetonka Garden Club to create a fern hill in that as-yet undeveloped part of the Garden. Crone started work on that project in 1956, setting out 2,160 ferns followed by 308 the next year. By the time Ken Avery took over as Gardener and completed the project, 2,843 ferns in the beautiful Upland Garden. ■



Martha Crone in the Garden in 1951.

©Minnesota Historical Society, used with permission.

# JUNIOR NATURE DETECTIVE PROGRAM

By Colin Bartol



Do you know any children, age 3 to 12, whom you think would enjoy the Wildflower Garden? Or maybe you know kids who would like to experience the garden in a new way? If so, the Friends of the Wildflower Garden is sponsoring a Junior Nature Detective program that will help them learn about nature in fun, interesting ways.

To participate, kids can check out one of two backpacks at the Visitor Shelter in the Garden. One pack has butterfly wings; the other has bat wings. Inside are all the tools Junior Nature Detectives need, including an activity book, a compass to help find the bat houses, a magnifying glass to look at bugs and colored pencils for drawing.

In order to become a Junior Nature Detective children need to fill out pages in the activity book that are designed to enhance their understanding of nature. Activities include matching animals to their habitat, drawing an insect and playing Butler Bingo by finding animals in the garden. My favorite activity


is the Batpage where you find the two bat houses in the garden and learn just how many mosquitoes a bat can eat in one night (between 4,000 and 8,000).

After completing the activity book, kids can take the final steps to becoming a Junior Nature Detective by promising to protect the plants in the Garden, leave nature as they found it, share what they have learned with others and continue to enjoy and explore nature. Each Junior Nature Detective receives a patch that can be sewn onto a jacket, hat, backpack or other favorite item. They also receive a packet of milkweed seeds, allowing them to bring part of what makes the garden so special home with them.

As a member of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, you helped make all of this happen, so thank you! This pilot program will give 100 kids a chance to experience the Garden in a fun, interactive way. If the pilot is successful and funding can be found, we plan to continue the program. Go ahead—bring your special little someone and start exploring today. ■

Junior Nature Detective bat pack. Photo credit: Colin Bartol

# MIGRATION



*Six butterflies sip from one blazing star  
Waving in my garden. They scatter in the sun.  
Regroup. One settles on the milkweed.  
Another flutters over the asphalt.  
Is it nectar that makes them cluster?  
The first whiff of migration?*

*I can't fathom migration,  
a vast pack of orange and black. Star  
followers? Do they see clustered  
constellations? Or track the sun?  
I vote they stream over asphalt  
Highways at night, high above autumn weeds.*

*Monarch caterpillars thrive only on milkweed.  
The poisonous sap's migration  
Through their cells makes them bitter asphalt.  
They've been awarded evolution's big gold star  
for clever adaptation. I'm awed by how fun  
lights a chrysalis hanging from a leaf cluster.*

*In their wintering grounds, they cluster  
In the millions, cheap as roadside weeds.  
They move slowly in winter sun.  
Can they dream only of migration?  
Or contemplate the stars  
or how cars grow deadly living on asphalt?*

*Are their nightmares of brethren crushed into asphalt?  
Does fear tremble their flock in a tighter cluster?  
At night their wings glint, lit by stars.  
In the morning, they lie still, dead weeds.  
What warms their torpor into migration  
but the falling nectar of that big flowering sun?*

*Old now, they flap north, never to see another sun-  
flower, eight feet tall, busted through asphalt.  
This will be their last migration,  
no more sipping from a goldenrod cluster.  
They subsist on bitter spring weeds.  
Even dead, each one is a gorgeous movie star.*

—Naomi Cohn

Reprinted with the author's permission from  
her poetry collection, *Between Nectar & Eternity*,  
published by Red Dragonfly Press, 2013.

Photos credit: iStock



# FRIENDS INVASIVE PLANT ACTION GROUP

As I write it's almost June, and the Friends' Invasive Plant Action Group is a little more than halfway through its garlic mustard season. In early May, it is such a pleasure to meet new volunteers and welcome back old friends. It's also a pleasure to welcome back the jack-in-the-pulpits, false Solomon's seal, wild geranium, wood anemones and other native plants that emerge once the garlic mustard is gone. This year, we are working mainly in the northeast corner of the Preservation Zone. We also collaborated with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board on a class called "From Pest to Pesto." After pulling garlic mustard for an hour, attendees took their harvest to Wirth Park Pavilion to learn how to cook with it.

As we all know, garlic mustard is a considerable adversary. To review, here's a summary from King County, Washington's Noxious Weed Control website:

Although edible for people, it is not eaten by local wildlife or insects. It can grow in dense shade or sunny sites. The fact that it is self-fertile means that one plant can occupy a site and produce a seed bank. Plant stands can produce more than 62,000 seeds per square meter [1.2 square yards] to quickly out-compete local flora. Each plant usually produces one flowering stem. However, if a plant is cut or stepped on, many stems will form. Seeds can form on plants that are cut and left on the ground. Garlic mustard's curved root helps the plant hold on to the soil even on steep slopes with loose soil. Seeds can last in the soil for at least 7 years.

Elizabeth Czarapata writes, in *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*, "Beginning growth early in the spring, garlic mustard can shade or crowd out native wildflowers and tree seedlings before they have a chance to grow. It can totally dominate a forest floor within five to seven years of its introduction."

Passersby who see us working will sometimes comment that the job seems impossible, but it's not. Our



Garlic mustard. Photo credit: iStock

work is urgent, but also slow, steady and companionable. It involves being present with the task at hand, not being overwhelmed by the challenge and learning to really see the return of a healthier and more diverse woodland. As Czarapata writes, "I have seen the tremendous difference that even a few individuals can make in the battle to regain the land for native species. What a sense of accomplishment when people realize that a trillium, shooting star or cardinal flower can go on living due to their weed control efforts and that future generations may now inherit more than a weed patch!"

Many thanks, as always, to the volunteers and all who support our efforts.

—Jim Proctor & Liz Anderson,  
Invasive Plant Action Group co-chairs



Volunteer coordinator Lauren Husting

## SAY HELLO TO THE GARDEN'S NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Greetings, Friends! My name is Lauren Husting, and I am the new volunteer coordinator for 2014. Melissa Hansen, our previous coordinator, is a tough act to follow, but I'm relishing the opportunity to meet and get to know both the volunteers and the Garden staff.

This will be my third year as a volunteer in the Shelter, and it has been the most rewarding and educational thus far. I am beyond impressed with the energy and talents that come from our staff, volunteers and Friends members and am honored to serve in this position.

We can always use more volunteers. So if you'd like to join our little family of Eloise enthusiasts, please contact us using the form in the Gentian or by sending an email to [ebwgsheltervolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:ebwgsheltervolunteers@gmail.com). ■



False dragonhead

Photo credit: Gary Bebeau

## NEW MEMBERS

- Candy Bartol, Golden Valley
- Donna Busch, St. Paul
- Karon Cappaert, Maple Grove
- Craig and Jackie Fautsch, Buffalo
- Dustin Froyum, Golden Valley
- Nivya Hoffmann, Minneapolis
- Suzanne Lauer, Minneapolis
- Mary Elaine Linden, Golden Valley
- Karen McCall, Minneapolis
- Peter Michaud and Tom Wilson, Minneapolis
- Rapha Jayne Mikulay, Minneapolis
- Beverly Munson, Richfield
- Kathleen Oss, Prescott, WI
- Nancy Shelstad, Edina
- Mary Lou Wilm, Minneapolis

—Jayne Funk, membership co-chair

## MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

FEBRUARY 2014 ~ MAY 2014

### MEMORIALS RECEIVED

For Marilyn Dickel  
from Barbara Levie and Mark Kawell

For Sharon Quast  
from Zoomo (Monta) Becker,  
Goldie (Carol) Dugan and Mary Ryan

For Richard Faunce  
from John and Joan Haldeman

In Honor of Melissa Hansen  
from Annette Hansen and Kirby Law and  
from Mikkell and Jytte Hansen

### GIFTS RECEIVED *In support of our programs from:*

- Emily Anderson
- Dorothy Armstrong
- Zackary Baker
- Philip and Olga Cheung
- Joy and Larry Davis
- Kristina A. Felbeck
- Kathy and Rick Fournier
- Arlene M. Fried
- Larry Gravitz
- Mary Kay Harris
- Mary Ireland
- Kimberly J. Johnson
- Carol Krieger
- Marcia Marshall
- Judith Morgan/AON Foundation
- Mark Rask
- Mendon Schutt Family Fund
- Tom and Pat Scott
- Joan Stenberg
- Molly Woehrlin

Memorials and gifts to the Friends are much appreciated and constitute an important part of keeping the Garden a special place for generations of people to enjoy. In 2014 undesignated gifts are being used for the Cary George Wetland Project. Project update information is on the Friends website.

Note: Memorials and gifts are tax deductible. When sending a memorial, please give the name and address of the family being honored so that we can acknowledge that a memorial has been received. An acknowledgment will be provided to all donors. Memorials and gifts should be sent to: Treasurer, Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, P.O. Box 3793, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Checks are payable to: Friends of the Wild Flower Garden or donate on our website: [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org).

—Gary Bebeau, donations chair

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Individual \$15     Family \$25     Sponsor \$100     Life \$500     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships can be ordered online at  
[www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)  
or mailed with a check payable to:

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.  
Membership  
P.O. Box 3793  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0793

*Please specify if the membership is a gift.*

*Each membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

*The recipient of your gift will receive a letter of welcome from the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.*

## DONATION FORM

Donations of gifts or memorials may be made  
at [www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)  
or mailed with a check payable to:

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3793  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0793

*Thank you for helping to sustain the Eloise Butler  
Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.*

*All gifts are tax-deductible.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift from: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3793  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0793  
[www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org](http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org)

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*The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary is comprised of cultivated but naturalistic woodland, wetland and prairie environments, 2/3 mile of mulch-covered pathways and a rustic shelter where educational programming and materials can be found. It is the oldest public wildflower garden in the United States. The 15-acre site is located within the city of Minneapolis and is owned and operated by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The Garden is open from April 1 through October 15 from 7:30 A.M. to a half hour before sunset.*



*The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.* is a 501(c)(3) Minnesota nonprofit corporation, formed in 1952. Its purpose is to educate by enhancing Garden visitors' appreciation and understanding of Minnesota's native plants and natural environments and to offer assistance for the Garden in the form of funding and other support.

*The Fringed Gentian* is published for members and supporters of the Friends.

For changes to your mailing address, please write Membership Coordinator Jayne Funk at: [members@friendsofeloisebutler.org](mailto:members@friendsofeloisebutler.org) or Membership, Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, P.O. Box 3793, Mpls., MN 55403.

*Printed with soy inks on 100% post-consumer waste paper.*

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Superintendent Jayne Miller stopped by the Garden in June to show off the award that the MPRB received from The Trust for Public Land, which named the Minneapolis the top city parks system in the nation for the second consecutive year. Above: Superintendent Miller (back row, second from the right), surrounded by students at the Garden and Shelter volunteer Donna Ahrens. EBWG Education Program Coordinator Lauren Borer, center, holds the award.

*Photo credit: Lauren Borer*