

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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



Dear Friends,

As I write on this first day of October, we have just had the big shift from balmy, sunny 80-degree days to cool, wet autumn. Walking in the Garden today in a light rain, I admired the glistening green and yellow leaves of the woodland, mostly still on the trees. Stepping around small puddles on the wood-chipped path, I inhaled a fresh earthy smell followed by the aroma of wood burning in the Shelter's fireplace. The zigzag goldenrod by the path to the back door was bright yellow, reminding me of the riot of color that remains vibrant in the upland Garden.

At the feeder, I saw a pair of cardinals, a downy woodpecker the ever-present chickadees and two chipmunks below, stuffing their cheeks with fallen seed. As always, I was thankful to be there to experience the simple pleasures of our "Wild Garden," knowing that in a few weeks the 2014 season will be over along with such lovely walks.

The Friends have had a good year in many ways. Our fundraising efforts for the Cary George Wetland Project (also known as the Boardwalk project) were very successful with hearty support from many of you, including a few very magnanimous contributions of several thousands of dollars. Please accept our thanks for your generous assistance. Happily, we were able to fulfill the match challenge from People for Parks, so with their \$12,500, we can now provide \$50,000 for the project, in addition to our original donation of \$25,000.

Unfortunately, the installation will not take place this fall, as planned. When the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's planning staff put out the public bid in August, only one contractor responded, and their bid amount was exceedingly high.



Photo: Wes Nugteren

Baby snapping turtle.

Staff and the design team have told us that this was due to a weather-related, shortened construction season and that they will recommence the bid process in early winter when they expect a much more reasonable response. Of course, all of us on the Board are very anxious to see this project accomplished, but we are also determined to see it done prudently, with appropriate use of donated funds. Please check our website for updates over the winter.

Our August events were enjoyable successes. The Garden Party fundraiser for the Student Transportation Grant was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, and Eloise herself was there to guide Garden visitors and cut her birthday cake. The youngsters who came enjoyed the face painting, and the Garden tours and silent auction were entertaining for the adults. Later in the month, we were pleased to co-host the well-attended opening of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden's Florilegium exhibit at the Minneapolis Central Library. The impressive display of artworks was much admired by all. Many people who came learned about the Garden for the first time—always a welcome bonus.

Lastly, I am proud to share with you that our volunteer programs are strong and providing wonderful value to the Garden and its visitors. We have added new volunteers to both the Shelter program and the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group's garlic mustard and buckthorn warrior crews. Photos of our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on October 26 can be found on the back page of this issue. We cherish the opportunity to honor all Garden volunteers and to spend a pleasant evening together at season's end.

I hope you had a last lovely walk in the Garden before the gates were locked for the year. Soon I will be imagining those magical strolls of early spring and looking forward to another year of grateful enjoyment in our special Garden.

Sincerely,
J Pam Weiner

J Pam Weiner

Meet Anna Anderhagen aka Eloise Butler

By Meleah Maynard, Gentian Editor

Anna Anderhagen can't remember a time when she didn't enjoy dressing up as historical characters. In first grade, when other little girls were donning standard princess fare for Halloween, she opted to go as Betsy Ross. Martha Washington followed and by the time she was in high school, Anderhagen was getting paid to dress up as an Oreo cookie and other brand mascots at grocery stores. She'd also dubbed herself "Anna Banana," and even made her own banana costume. "I wore it whenever I was in the mood—if I felt like a banana that day," she recalls, laughing. I met Anderhagen this summer at the Friends' Garden Party fundraiser for the Student Transportation Grant. It was a sweltering August day, but there she was, standing in the Wildflower Garden as Eloise Butler. Dressed in a heavy, Victorian-era dress, her hair all but covered by a wide-brimmed hat topped with flowers, she was telling a gathering crowd about her garden. The children in the group stared, wide-eyed, as Eloise told them in a whispery voice about how she'd once or twice been visited by a ghost.

Her voice, her grasp of the Garden's story and Eloise's devotion to it, her ability to tell a good tale—Anderhagen was captivating in so many ways. And that is why I'd like you to meet her. So please read on to learn more about the talented woman who plays Eloise Butler.

Q: Where did you grow up, and did you ever think of being an actor?

Anderhagen: I'm from Omaha, Nebraska, and I majored in theater and psychology in college. When I graduated, I put \$500 in the dashboard of my car and headed out east to Philadelphia and New York City, thinking I would get into theater and make it big. But the city felt claustrophobic, and I realized pretty quickly that it wasn't for me. I was living with my sister and she said she was moving to Minnesota. I offered to go with her and be the nanny for her two kids, and that's how I ended up here.

Q: When did you start playing Eloise Butler, and how did you prepare for the role?

Anderhagen: Pam [Weiner] heard that I play historical characters and asked me if I'd like to play Eloise for the Garden's 100th anniversary celebration in 2007 and I said, "Oh, my gosh, yes!" One thing I've learned over time is that to even do a few minutes of a program, you have to do so much research because you never know what people will ask you when you're in character. Thank goodness Pam asked me in the winter so I had months to go to the Minnesota History Center, where I found all sorts of images and sources. I've created so many binders full of hundreds of pages of information about Eloise's life and the garden.

Q: How did you get involved in playing historical characters locally?

Anderhagen: I got involved with the children's theater community here really quickly and spent a year and a half dressed up as



Anna Anderhagen with Julia Haase (right) and Johanna Nassif (left).

a big, red, fuzzy heart for Climb Theater. We traveled to Minneapolis schools doing a show. I also played Alice in Waterland and taught children about conserving water. Next, I took a position at the Minnesota History Center as an interpreter, teaching children about history, and I loved that. But then a couple of wonderful people came up with the idea to create the History Players. Characters from the past would come to

life at the History Center and wander around talking to people and teaching all sorts of wonderful things. Every hour, we would give little performances. I felt like I'd really found my calling.

Q: Are you still doing that?

Anderhagen: When I worked at the History Center, I was already working on my master's in education. I performed as Harriet Bishop, the first schoolteacher in St. Paul and teachers were coming up to me asking if I would come to their classrooms and do an even longer show. So my supervisor, Wendy Jones, and I came up with a program called History Player in the Classroom. I did that for years, and I still do that sometimes. But I left the History Center in 2007 when I had my first child. I still do contract work for them sometimes, like writing scripts. Now that my kids are getting older, I'm sneaking back into performing more.

Q: What resonates with you most about Eloise Butler?

Anderhagen: Her love of creating and learning and wanting to share that with children of all ages. What I really love about her is that she was just a fearless pioneer. She went to Jamaica with her sister. She traveled all around, and she has plants named after her. She was an amazing person, so vivacious and she was always carrying a book with her wherever she went. I love that about her.

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Garden Curator's Letter

By Susan Wilkins



Wildflower Garden at this time of year. With the great diversity of tree species, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, grasses, sedges, ferns, mosses and fungi, the end of the season can be as colorful, if not more so, than the most exuberant summer day. Autumn is also a great time to celebrate all that has been realized and enjoyed in the months of birth and growth within the Garden. And there are many, many wonderful moments, events and goings-on to be grateful for this season.

The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Florilegium opened on August 14 at the Minneapolis Central Library. Forty-five botanical illustrations were on display and the event was attended by hundreds of visitors, including many members of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Superintendent Jayne Miller spoke at the event, sharing her appreciation for the project, the efforts of the artists from the Minnesota School of Botanical Art and the Wildflower Garden. Two lectures were also offered, and both were very well attended and well received. Thank you to the Friends for your support of this project, and for sharing the costs of the delicious refreshments provided at the opening in partnership with the library.

On September 6, an inspired and enjoyable new event took place when more than 50 visitors participated in the first Community Spoon Carving at the Wildflower Garden. This fun and creative project was made possible through a connection made by Mark Knierim and Friends Board Member Jim Proctor. The event was led by the University of Minnesota Carving Club and Summit View Spoon Carvers, and the spoons were carved out of buckthorn harvested from Theodore Wirth Park. People really enjoyed themselves, learned a lot about spoon carving and helped with woodland restoration efforts in the process. Thanks to Mark Knierim; the spoon carving leads; Jim Proctor and the Youth Outdoors crew from the Conservation Corp of Minnesota; Marcia Holmberg, Natural Resources Coordinator for the MPRB; Wildflower Garden staff; and all of the participants, for making this a successful event.

Speaking of buckthorn, Friends Invasives Plant Action Group (FIPAG) co-chairs Jim Proctor and Elizabeth Anderson continue to do an amazing job of leading volunteers in restoration efforts in the Preservation Zone surrounding the Wildflower Garden. As a result of their steadfast leadership and the wonderful efforts of Jim, Liz and the other FIPAG volunteers, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Assistant Superintendent of Environmental Stewardship, Justin Long, approved a request to expand the Preservation Zone into a beautiful maple forest immediately south of the Garden's main entrance. This new area will

keep FIPAG volunteers happily weeding for years to come, and the results will be appreciated by so many. The woodland areas of the Preservation Zone continue to grow more healthy and vibrant each year, thanks to the efforts of FIPAG and the Legacy Volunteers who work to keep areas where FIPAG volunteers have pulled invasive plants weed-free long into the future.

Also, I would like to thank Lauren Borer and the Wildflower Garden staff naturalists, who continue to provide high-quality, engaging environmental education opportunities for a wide variety

of learners. In addition to the numerous free, public tours offered several times a week at the Wildflower Garden, Lauren and the naturalists have led more than 100 paid programs for youth and adults, serving nearly 2,000 people throughout the 2014 season. Their tremendous work, inspiring and educating the community about the wonders of the natural world, have untold benefits. We are so fortunate to have such a skilled and passionate group of educators on staff at the Wildflower Garden.

And please let me also thank Lauren Husting for her great work this season. Lauren is a longtime Shelter volunteer who, this year, took over for Melissa Hansen as the Garden's volunteer coordinator. Lauren's enthusiasm for the Garden is infectious, and she's already signed on several new people who want to help out in different areas.

Finally, thanks to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden board and membership. Your organization provides essential support for the Wildflower Garden's health and vitality in innumerable ways. Your 62-year friendship with the Wildflower Garden is of incalculable value and deeply appreciated. So, thank you for another great season, everyone. See you in the spring!

In autumn, the scene is of surpassing loveliness with the beautiful groups of tress on the hills, in the valleys, and about the ponds, the vivid reds of the maples and the oaks, and the gold of the poplars set off by the white boles of the birch and the dark green foliage of the tamaracks.

– Eloise Butler



Baby Turtle Crossing

Story and photos by Wesley Nugteren, Garden Naturalist

I woke up that Saturday morning with a strong notion to get outside before my afternoon naturalist shift. Perhaps I would go on a mushroom foray or give some much-needed attention to my vegetable garden, but I had done neither. It was 11:45 a.m. and I'd procrastinated the morning away. Mired in this quandary, I opened my laptop to check my email. And there it was, an email sent 11 minutes earlier: The snapping turtles were hatching at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. In a single moment, uncertainty gave way to purpose, excitement and incredible joy. Twenty minutes later, I was at the Garden, nurturing the cutest babies of one of Minnesota's fiercest reptiles.

Turtles often lay their eggs on the banks of ponds and lakes, but it's not uncommon for them to travel considerable distances to lay them in sandy soil on sunny hills. On June 9, Garden volunteer Rod Miller saw a large snapping turtle laying her eggs just feet from the bike rack in the Garden's parking lot. Snapping turtles lay anywhere from 25 to 80 eggs, and they hatch between 60 to 130 days later. I had been eagerly awaiting the hatch, but for a number of reasons I wasn't even sure I'd get to see it. Raccoons sometimes raid nests and cool temperatures can delay hatches until the following spring. Or the mother snapping turtle could have designated this site as a "false nest," as they often do to confuse predators.

But at 8:30 a.m. on September 13, one of the Saturday morning Early Birders spotted a baby turtle walking around in the parking lot. Garden Naturalist Tammy Mercer and the rest of the early birding group quickly found seven more babies and delivered them to the safety of Birch Pond as they sought glimpses of fall-migrating warblers. Upon returning from their walk, the birders saw that the lot was flush with another batch of adorable and completely vulnerable baby turtles. The warm asphalt was a magnet for the little ones who need the sun's energy to start their journey. But it was also a danger zone full of cars, watchful predators and people walking.

When I arrived around noon that day, the 30th hatchling had just emerged, and a Baby Turtle Crossing sign was being posted on the entrance drive. Before she had to leave, Tammy helped me find a few turtles that had nestled into tufts of grass. As visitors arrived, the hatch became quite the attraction. It was an amazing experience to witness children laying inquisitive eyes on their first baby turtle. All the while, new baby turtles continued to crawl from the nest hole and make their way toward the treacherous parking lot. I was overcome with a maternal urge and started using my camera satchel to gather batches of babies for a voyage to the pond.

After laying their eggs, mother snapping turtles play no part in their babies' lives. But with an evolutionary instinct to seek water for safety, the babies have everything they need for a chance at survival in an increasingly dangerous world. I brought three batches to three nearby ponds that afternoon and watched the babies amble into the water and disappear under mats of duckweed. I'd done my part to give those bite-size babies their best shot. But they will face many dangers in their path to adulthood. Herons, crows, hawks and large fish are natural predators of snapping turtles, and humans hunt them into adulthood for their meat. Those that survive have been known to live over 100 years and are often seen with moss growing on their shells.

In all, 42 hatchlings came into the world that day and they brightened the lives of those fortunate enough to see them. This wet year has been a boon for reptiles and amphibians; and even as I write this article, we are awaiting the emergence of baby painted turtles from two known nests on the outskirts of the Garden. At this point, they are beyond their average hatching window and may not emerge until next spring. Maybe some of us will be lucky enough to see them.



Friends Invasive Plant Action Group

The first buckthorn event of fall 2014, held on September 29, was an enjoyable and notably productive afternoon with sunny, mild weather. A large group of 20 new and familiar volunteers (a record by our informal count), showed up to continue work in the northeast corner of the Preservation Zone, the large area that encircles the Garden. We completed garlic mustard removal there last spring, and hope to do the same with buckthorn this fall. If we're able to do that, we will have accomplished a longtime goal of the Friends Invasives Plants Action Group (FIPAG). Stay tuned: If we get similarly large turnouts for the remaining two events, we will do it!

As FIPAG's co-chair, Jim Proctor, would remind us, "completing" anything involving invasives of major concern, like garlic mustard and buckthorn, is relative. This fall, specifically, it would mean having removed all small- to mid-sized buckthorn in the northeast corner of the Preservation Zone. Conservation Corps Minnesota (CCM), the group the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board contracts with for buckthorn removal, will still need to come in to cut and treat the largest buckthorn in the area. And our invasives group will return at least one more time to scour the area for new growth, stragglers and patches we've missed. Once that's done, FIPAG will turn the area over to the Curator's Legacy Stewards, volunteers who work, regularly, individually, and on their own schedule in an assigned area, monitoring and removing invasives that creep back in.

So what's next for the invasives group? Thanks to a recently adopted cooperative arrangement between the Park Board and the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, FIPAG will be involved in a truly beautiful and extraordinary project. Outside the Garden, at its eastern edge, a wide gravel path runs from the driveway/parking area to the Garden. A tall impenetrable buckthorn hedge has bordered the gravel path, obscuring the deep ravine of maples, oaks and hemlocks that lies behind it.

Earlier this summer, the Park Board agreed to work with FIPAG to remove invasives there. The goal is to remove the invasives that encircle the ravine (see Curator Susan Wilkins' column for more on this project). Already this fall, CCM spent a day opening up the area by removing the largest buckthorn trees and shrubs along the gravel path. Invasives volunteers will start working there later.

Also in the garden, Jim Proctor recently helped coordinate a buckthorn spoon-carving event. Spoons were carved from freshly cut, larger buckthorn trees provided by CCM, and it was so interesting and well attended that we may repeat it again next year.

As always, thanks to our invasives volunteers, both the familiar faces and the new volunteers, who demonstrate each season the beautiful productiveness of determined, slow and steady work.

—Jim Proctor & Liz Anderson,
Invasive Plant Action Group co-chairs
invasives@friendsofeloisebutler.org



Shelter Volunteer Update

Greetings, Friends. I couldn't have asked for a better first season as the Garden's Shelter Volunteer Coordinator. On top of watching the Garden outdoing itself in beauty on lovely, mild summer days, I met so many new people with a shared love for our precious public space. I'd like to recognize the new volunteers who stepped up to help in the Shelter in 2014:

Joyce Beaudry
Steve Benson
Mary Brown
Jamie Hanson

Barbara Jansen
Dan Kohn
Dixie Voels

We greatly appreciate their commitment, and that of our continuing volunteers. Here's to a great season next year, as well!

— Lauren Husting, Shelter Volunteer Coordinator



Photo: Gary Bebeau

Correction: The photo accompanying the Junior Nature Detective Program story in the summer issue of the *Gentian* was credited to Colin Bartol but should have been credited to Kelli Bartol, his wife.

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In Honor of Louise Hotka and Jill Meyer from Jill Anania, Ann Benrud, Patricia King, Alan Makinen, Angela Preimesberger, and Michele and Joseph Quinn

And to all of you who participated in the Friends Garden Party by buying tickets and bidding on the silent auction; Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

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

— New Members —

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Emily Alverson, Minneapolis
Rynn Burke, St. Paul

Naomi Cohn and Ray Phillips, St. Paul
Peggy Cuda, Plymouth
Jamie Hanson, Minneapolis
Lauren Husting, Minneapolis

Sylvia Lang, Minnetonka
Sarah Nettleton, Minneapolis
Sue Nyhammer, Long Lake
Becki Pedersen, Arden Hills

Rectangle Designs, Minneapolis
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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 or Membership, Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, P.O. Box 3793, Mpls., MN 55403.

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A good time was had by all at the Garden's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in October.

Photo: Melissa Hansen