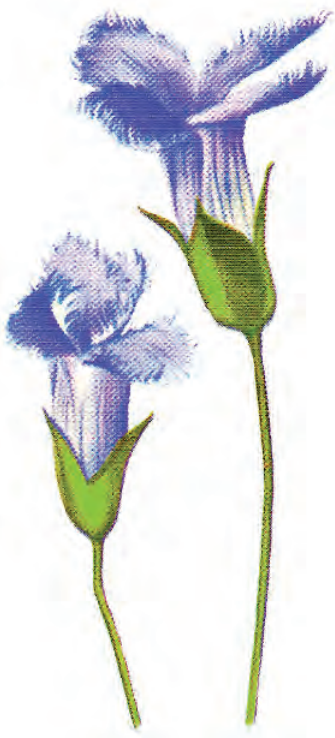


THE FRINGED GENTIAN™

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



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DEAR FRIENDS,

This year my winter reverie started in the fall. Maybe the Medicare card arriving in the mail had something to do with the early onset. I was definitely on the reminiscence program, drawn to thoughts and images of people and places from the past. And then, at Thanksgiving I looked into the faces of my nieces and nephews and saw the features of their grandparents, a generation now disappeared. Into December, as the days became shorter and colder, this recollecting and remembering continued, expanding into other realms of my life.

For me, the Garden's buffer zone in winter—real winter—has been a snowy dream, as well as a destination. I treasure the memory of following my now-deceased dog, Buck, along the perimeter fence line, where he seemed to be on patrol. No amount of snow was enough to keep him on the sidewalks and roadways in the neighborhood, so into the park we tramped. In the mornings, there were chickadees flitting and bluejays chattering; once in a while, we'd see a fox or the pileated woodpecker. At dusk, Buck scanned and sniffed while I listened for the great horned owl as the western sky turned pink, then purple. Sometimes we'd meet a cross-country skier or two; often we had this lovely white world all to ourselves.

Soon, of course, this state of reverie with its fluid sense of time will pass. As spring approaches, the very real and present 2012 season of the Eloise Butler Willdflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary will come into focus and, as always, there will be much to anticipate and experience. 2012 is the 60th anniversary year of the Friends, and we are hoping to create a special event during the summer months. Information will follow in the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*.

Fundraising for the Cary George Wetland Project has been very gratifying; we now have \$13,700 toward our goal of \$15,000. Friends members have donated almost half of this amount, and we received a generous grant of \$7,000 from the Steve Leuthold Family Foundation. Special thanks are due to board members Emily Anderson and Jeff Lee, who directed this effort on behalf of the Friends.

The Student Transportation Grant program, a major ongoing Friends endeavor, was very successful last year, with more than a thousand students provided access to the Garden and its programs. We plan to continue this important work, and we will be reaching out to you for support to do so.

Finally, please consider receiving your copy of *The Fringed Gentian* via email to reduce our use of paper and our printing costs. The Friends and the trees will thank you! To request this service, please send an email to info@friendsofeloisebutler.org, indicating your preference for a high- or low-resolution pdf version of the *Gentian*. You will need Adobe Reader or a similar program to view the pdf.

Here's to a fine winter with just enough reverie!

Sincerely,

J. PAM WEINER, PRESIDENT

Photo by Judy Remington

