

"THE FRINGED GENTIAN" -- June 30, 1977
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On a Sunday early last spring Boyd Lien dropped by the office and during our conversation he remarked that he thought that it would be interesting to list the opening dates of some of our flowers and the dates that birds have been seen in the Garden. Over the years I have kept track of these two events and I would like to share them with you but first I would like to make a few remarks about this particular spring. If you remember last spring I wrote that it was the earliest spring I had ever recorded. Well this spring is even earlier. On Sunday, June 26, we had 66 species of flowers blooming and of these 49, or 74%, had opened earlier than they ever had. To break this down further, in the woodland 15 species were blooming and of these 13, or 86%, had opened earliest and in the upland garden 36 out of 51 (70.5%) had set a new record. To pursue this a little further, I went back one week and at that time 39 out of 44 (88.6%) had opened the earliest they ever had and in the woodland 14 out of 14 (I'm not sure what the percentage of that would be) were earliest and in the upland 25 out of 30 (83.3%). This is the first year since I have been here (23 years) that the Showy Lady's Slipper has opened in May.

Now to get back to my statistics. I started keeping record of the opening dates of flowers because I became aware of the simple fact that while I knew about when our flowers bloomed I couldn't accurately approximate the date that they could be expected to bloom. The information I received was often surprising--perhaps it will be to you too. One thing that is hard to believe is that one of our Asters (large leaved) started blooming on June 28 this year.

*Following is a list of the opening dates for
some of our woodland and upland flowers.*

Known earlier or later dates have been noted in the text. Some are from Ken's records, others from Cary George, and a few from Martha Crone's notes.

		<u>Earliest</u> <u>Opening Date</u>	<u>Latest</u> <u>Opening Date</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>Opening Date</u>
✓ 1.	Skunk Cabbage (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>)	March 13 1973	April 19 1964 May 1 in 1944	April 5.52
✓ 2.	Snow Trillium nivale (<i>Trillium nivale</i>)	March 27 (March 22, 1945; March 26 1987)	April 22	April 7.35
✓ 3.	Bloodroot (<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>)	April 1 (March 31 in 1987)	April 28	April 15
✓ 4.	Hepatica (<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>)	March 29	April 24 April 27 in 1944	April 17
✓ 5.	Pasque Flower (<i>Anemone patens</i>)	April 3	April 30	April 12.58
✓ 6.	False Rue Anemone (<i>Isopyrum biternatum</i>)	April 1 (March 24 in 1981)	May 4	April 19.8
✓ 7.	White Trout-Lily (<i>Erythronium albidum</i>)	April 12 (April 7 in 1988)	May 2	April 22.5
✓ 8.	Dutchman's breeches (<i>Dicentra Cucullaria</i>)	April 13	May 6	April 23.2
✓ 9.	Cut-leaved Toothwort (<i>Dentaria laciniata</i>)	April 12 (April 9 in 1987)	May 7	April 24.4
✓ 10.	Large-flowered Trillium (<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>)	April 16 (April 10 in 1981)	May 22	April 28
✓ 11.	Marsh Marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>)	April 16	May 7	April 28.6
✓ 12.	Large-flowered Bellwort (<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>)	April 15	May 7	April 29.1
✓ 13.	Spring Beauty (<i>Claytonia virginica</i>)	April 16	May 11	April 29.8
✓ 14.	Virginia Bluebells (<i>Mertensia virginica</i>)	April 24	May 11	May 4.5
✓ 15.	Jack-in-the-pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>)	April 22	May 15	May 6.7
✓ 16.	Bird's Foot Violet (<i>Viola pedata</i>)	April 28	May 23	May 9.8
17.	Purple Avens (<i>Geum triflorum</i>)	April 17	May 25	May 12.95
18.	Showy Lady's slipper (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>)	May 24	June 18	June 9
18.	Hoary Puccoon (<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>)	May 4	May 24	May 13.7

		<u>Earliest Opening Date</u>	<u>Latest Opening Date</u>	<u>Average Opening Date</u>
✓ 19.	Wild Geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)	May 2	May 30	May 14
20.	Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)	May 8	May 24	May 16.1
21.	Golden Alexanders (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)	May 10	May 30	May 20.16
22.	Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)	May 15	May 28	May 20.6
23.	Wild Calla (<i>Calla palustris</i>)	Apr 30	June 2	May 21.3
24.	Spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>)	May 22	June 7	May 30.8
✓ 25.	Showy Lady's slipper (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>)	May 24	June 18 (June 21 in 1936 and 1958, June 28 in 1945)	June 9