

# THE FRINGED GENTIAN

(1)

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## WINTER

With the close of the year the cycle again is complete. The earliest twilight has been reached and we enjoy the long hours by the fireside. The unforgettable fragrance of burning wood, these merry evenings are gone all too soon.

How pleasant the isolating peace of snow and the beauty of trees and bush covered with sparkling ice. It is a country of whiteness accented by the dark evergreens.

Now that winter is here we resort to window box and flower pot gardening. A few plants grown during the winter give a sense of accomplishment as well as enjoyment of their beauty.

After the long winter passes - it is again thawing time, when the lakes and streams break up and soon the return of the robin.

Many plants have already advanced toward a new year. Although all was quiet and so carefully protected, nature was at work and smiles again with the coming of spring.

In mid-December this area experienced a number of severe thunderstorms followed by snowfalls, quite contrary to the lines in "Snowfall" by Allen E. Woodall.

"The beauty of the following snow that comes Unheralded by lightning, or the drums Of moving thunder, but on silent wings Flutters and drops to earth, billows and clings To the rough bark of trees and gathers white In crevices of roots."

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends:

Mrs. Martha Crone, Editor, has been holding up the Fringed Gentian publication with the hope that she might include some concrete news of the proposed New Shelter Building for the garden.

Mr. W. H. Tusler and his committee has been at work. He has been taking time to convince Superintendent of Parks, Mr. Robert Ruhe, that our desire for a small building is not based upon the fact that we are trying to limit the enjoyment of the garden to a small, select group of people. We merely want to preserve the lovely tranquility of that small oasis which is so unique within a teeming city.

Watch for your next Fringed Gentian with more news of our project and our announcement of our Annual Meeting.

A warm welcome to our many fine new members and a Happy New Year to you all.

Catherine Faragher, President

## MEMORIAL

A volume "Wild Flowers by Homer D. House" was received, inscribed as follows --

St. Paul Circle of "Kings Daughters" in memory of Howard E. Bahneman, 1039 Winslow Ave. West, St. Paul, Minnesota September 1968.

This volume contains 364 photographs of American Wild Flowers in color. It is being added to the library of books in the Wild Flower Garden.

## MEMORIAL

"Wildflowers in your House" by Josephine von Miklos

This volume was received in memory of Mrs. Elmer Kurtz, a devoted member of the garden for many years. Presented by friends, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tusler and Mrs. Martha Crone. These memorials will live on and on.

#### SNOW BUNTING

This is an ideal time of the year to enjoy the Snow Bunting in addition to our many winter birds.

A flock of bluebird-size birds arise from the roadside, showing white undersides as they veer away and brown backs and black-tipped wings as they swing again into the path of traffic where many are killed.

They are indifferent to blustering cold and snow storms. They breed beyond the tree-line in the Arctic.

The first ones appeared in northern Minnesota the latter part of September this past fall and they again will leave early in the spring.

#### INSECT SPRAYS

Insect sprays and weed sprays containing chlorinated hydrocarbons have a disastrous effect on wildlife.

While many of these chemicals do not kill outright, they can prove fatal to entire populations of birds through sterilization and mortality of the young birds.

Your editor has found many nests of warblers containing the young birds dead, and the species has disappeared in an area formerly occupied by them.

File this issue with the others in your "Fringed Gentian" green cover.