

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Vol. 39

April 1989

No. 2

FROM PRESIDENT ANN KESSEN

Today I am volunteering in the Shelter at the Garden. My eleven-year-old son is here with me. I was a little doubtful when he asked if he could come along. An afternoon of fresh air and birdsong and gentle questions about blooming plants suits me fine, but can a person whose head is filled with batting averages and dinosaur names find enjoyment here for three and a half hours?

I needn't have worried. He has walked the paths three or four times today, map in hand, my binoculars hanging around his neck, feeling quite independent. He comes back and tells me of his sightings: a pair of mallards making their way through the bog, a female cardinal flying across the path, a nuthatch giving its "ank-ank" call. He does not remark on flowers he has seen; flowers are of little interest to him. Birds are another matter. Their movements excite his imagination in ways that the silent blossoms cannot.

The truth is, when I first became acquainted with the Garden, when this child was a baby, it was the birds that most fascinated me. Wild flowers I knew, had known since childhood, but birds were a mystery. I knew the basics: robins, blue jays, chickadees. Yet I heard songs that could not have come from one of these. That first afternoon in the Shelter, watching the bird feeders, looking at the field guides, I became a birder. Now binoculars are valued possessions, and my book shelf is heavy with field guides. I have become sharper eyes and more acute of hearing, a better observer. Birding relaxes me, focuses my attention away from concerns of daily life, provides a break, a respite.

So, too, for this son of mine. He understands the joy of observing nature, has begun to realize how the welfare of all living things is connected in a vast web. Oh, he sees more than birds. He sees flowers, too. He has heard me say their names. Someday he will say those names to his children, perhaps in this very Garden. But for now, it's the birds that catch his eye. For this spring afternoon, he belongs here, as I do. We pass this Garden on to our children, just as it has been passed on to us.



The Friends of
The Wild Flower
Garden Inc.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.....ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1989, 10:30 AM
MARTHA CRONE SHELTER, IN THE GARDEN
ELECTION OF BOARD.....ANNUAL REPORTS
NATURALIST - GUIDED TOURS, 12:30 PM
REFRESHMENTS. PLEASE COME!

1989
MAY PROGRAMS

All programs are **Free**, but we do ask that you call the shelter at 348-5702 after 10:00 a.m. to pre-register. Meet at the Crone shelter for all programs.

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH 1:00 P.M. DRAWING & PAINTING in the Garden

Come join this ongoing group to draw and paint together. Bring the materials you wish to work with. Limit 10.

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH - 7:00 A.M. EARLY BIRDING*

Come along on our monthly morning bird hike. This time we'll be searching for fall migrants as well as the summer residents. Bring comfortable shoes, binoculars* and insect repellent. Limit 15.

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH - 7:00 A.M.

(same description for Early Birding* above)

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH - 1:00 P.M. VOLUNTEER TRAINING

See details on page 4.

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH - 3:00 P.M. WILDFLOWER FOLKLORE

Cranesbill, Bedstraw, False Solomon's Seal - What's in a name? Learn some interesting facts & fables about our spring flora.

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH - 6:00 P.M. EVENING BIRDING BASICS*

Discover how markings, habits, habitat, and songs will guide you to identifying birds. We will explore the woodland and wetland areas of Wirth Park, so bring comfortable shoes, binoculars and insect repellent.

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST 1:00 P.M. DRAWING AND PAINTING IN THE GARDEN

Come join this ongoing group to draw and paint together. Bring the materials you wish to work with. Limit 10.

SUNDAY MAY 21ST 1:00 P.M. VOLUNTEER TRAINING

See details on page 4.

SATURDAY MAY 27TH - 3:00 P.M. SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETED GARDEN TOUR.

A special treat! Naturalist Nancy Niggley will interpret the regular garden tour for hearing - impaired visitors.

SUNDAY, MAY 28TH - 8:45 P.M. MOON WALK

Dilate your pupils, perk up your ears and join us for an after-hours walk through the garden. We have arranged for the moon to be full, so we hope to see you there. Bring a long-sleeved shirt & insect repellent. Limit 20.

*We have a limited number of binoculars to loan out for program use. Indicate that you need a pair when you call to register.

Wildflower Tours: Weekdays at 6:00 P.M.

Garden ** Saturday and Sunday: 11:00 A.M., 1 and 5 P.M.

NOTES FROM THE GARDENER, CARY GEORGE

"It is the wild garden alone which leads us into the clouds" --
-- Gibson

As I sit at my typewriter, rain echoes on the steel roof of my tool shed. Could this be the summer we return to normal rainfall? While I was planting columbine, trout lily and wild leek this week, topsoil moisture appeared more than adequate. But I believe there is a stratified layer of very dry subsoil that must be recharged before we go into the hotter, drier months.

All signs indicate that spring wild flowers survived the drought with insignificant mortality. Hepatica, purple trillium, bloodroot and other early bloomers returned in equal numbers, showing vigorous bloom. Could there be a better test of the genetic hardiness of native plants?

The wild flower transplants from Martha Crone's residence on Lyndale Avenue North [see our March newsletter] have yielded many surprises. We dug them in the heat, last July, when only dying clumps of ferns were visible. But hidden in those clumps were the corms and roots of trout lily, snow trillium, Dutchman's breeches, and rue anemone. Many are already blooming. A wonderful memorial to the life of Martha Crone, long-time curator.

We burned the prairie on April 18, a little later than last year. It was a warm day, and the prairie was fairly dry. It was a "fast" burn that had a few heart-stopping moments. Once again, thanks go to Ken Avery [recently retired gardener] for his help.

Here are some early bloom dates comparing 1988 with 1989. I think we're on track for a normal spring. Most bloom dates are ten days to two weeks later this year.

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Snow Trillium (Trillium nivale)	April 4	April 13
False Rue Anemone (Isopyrum biternatum)	March 31	April 16
White Trout Lily (Erythronium albidum)	April 7	April 19
Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)	April 3	April 20
Virginia Bluebells (Mertensia virginica)	April 17	April 26
Sharp-lobed Hepatica (Hepatica acutiloba)	April 4	April 17
Leatherwood (Dirca palustris)	April 7	April 17
Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris)	April 13	April 20

FLASH! REPORT OF THE FIRST EVER DEER DRIVE! APRIL 28, 1989

At 7:00 AM this morning, in a drizzle of rain, 35 concerned protectors of wild flowers banded together to get two young doe deer to leave the Garden. We had seen them for the past three weeks, and recently realized they were grazing on the plants (wild leek, purple trillium, dwarf trout lily, box elder leaf-tips) as the new growth emerged. I had walked the fence line earlier, and must have missed a small hole near the back gate. When we opened the gate, one deer went out that way, and the other squeezed through the fence, leaving hairs on the wire. Now the gate is shut, the fence is mended, and we hope this was not the "first annual deer drive." We know Theodore Wirth Park has many deer: 13 were seen together on the golf course recently. Two were hit by cars on the parkway during the winter. Ken Avery says he never saw deer inside the Garden fence till last year. I'm using Ro-pel, animal repellent, on some Garden areas.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We will offer a special opportunity for our volunteers in May. Members of the Friends, and staff from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, will provide in-depth training for our volunteers who graciously staff the Martha Crone Shelter.

Call the Shelter at 348-5702
to sign up for one of these sessions:

Saturday, May 13, from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM.
Sunday, May 21, from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM.

Training will include historical information on the garden and the Friends organization, general information on the parks, safety information, and commonly asked questions. Our naturalists will also give you a detailed tour of the Garden.

At these sessions we'd like to see all current volunteers and anyone who might be able to volunteer in the future. If these dates are not convenient for all the volunteers, we may schedule additional sessions at some other time.

CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

SINCE THE MARCH, 1989, ISSUE OF THE GENTIAN:

* Kathleen A. Connelly
4524 S. Garfield Ave. 55409
822-8835

Diana May Capra
2119 S. Aldrich Ave. Apt. 2 55405
872-4331

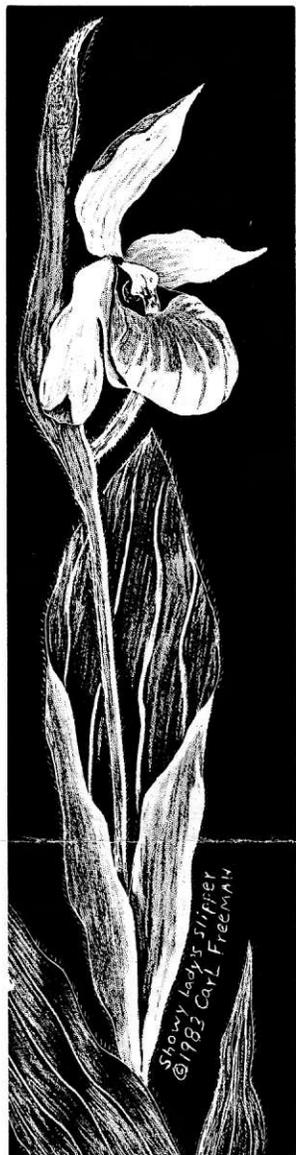
Joseph J. Berzak, Jr.
4741 - 6th St. N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421-2216
572-8575

Dr. & Mrs. C. Camak Baker (Patricia Baker)
Address same.

* Martin Stachnik
242 W. Franklin Apt 409 55404
870-9875

* Seymour Gross
1941 Drew Ave. S., 55416
926-5961

Sallie Cole
5236 York Ave. S., 55410
Phone same.



MINNESOTA STATE FLOWER
SHOWY LADY-SLIPPER
Cypripedium reginae

SIGN IN A VANCOUVER
REFUGE:
Please do not bother
the birds
animals
insects
trees
or
plants.
Sanctuary much!

 * THE *
 * MEMBERSHIP *
 * CORNER *

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND YOU WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO THE GARDEN AND BIRD SANCTUARY THIS SUMMER.... As a birthday present? Special occasion?.... Just mail in your contribution of \$5.00 or more and the "Friends" will send this special card and a year's subscription to the Gentian to your friend:



Mail your check made out to the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. to Patricia Thomesen, 1037 W. County Road D, St. Paul, MN 55126.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary exist in order to develop, conserve and make universally available the native flora of North America, and, to this end, to protect and maintain the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

The privileges of membership include subscription to the quarterly newsletter, THE FRINGED GENTIAN, issuance biennially of a Roster of Membership; voting at annual meetings; and, above all, participation in the program of conservation and development represented by the Garden.



Sponsoring

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
 FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.
 (A Non-Profit Corporation)



THE ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER GARDEN
 AND BIRD SANCTUARY
 in Theodore Wirth Park—Minneapolis

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City State Zip Code

I enclose remittance

Tel. No. _____
 Please make check payable to
 Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- ACTIVE \$ 5.00
- SUSTAINER 10.00
- SPONSOR 25.00
- BUILDER 100.00
- BENEFACTOR 200.00 or above

Classifications carry equal privileges.