

THE FRINGED GENTIAN™

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

Dear Friends,

It has been a very good year at the Garden. Moderate temps, adequate rainfall and wonderful service to our visitors. All of these things contributed to a fine Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden season.

And yet, the ultimate accomplishment for 2015 has been the completion of Phase 1 of the Cary George Wetland Project, a new wetland boardwalk, highlighted by the bridge span honoring our fourth Gardener, Cary George. Perhaps you were able to join us for the boardwalk celebration on September 20 when Cary cut the ribbon to the bridge and saw his small plaque installed on the bench. I have to say that it was most satisfying to be present for this long-awaited event.

On behalf of the Friends board, and all of us who cherish the stewardship history of the Garden, thank you so much for your donations and support toward making this dream come true.

Please enjoy these photos and know that you are a part of preserving the Garden and our traditions.

This special issue of the Gentian is full of photos of the boardwalk celebration, our Schutt House Garden Party, which was held in late June and our October Volunteer Appreciation Event.

I hope you will be warmed at heart by the many happy faces and beautiful images shared in these pages as we go into the colder months while the Garden rests and we wait for another amazing year.

Most sincerely,

J Pam Weiner

J Pam Weiner



People gathered on the new boardwalk to honor Cary George, EBWG gardener from 1987 to 2003.

Photo: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

At Home in the Garden

A Q & A WITH PHOEBE WAUGH, 2014 MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Phoebe Waugh has been coming to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden for more than half a century. She has served on the board of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden for 10 years, as board secretary and, since 2009, as historian for the Friends. In 2014, she was named Volunteer of the Year by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Here, she talks about her love of the Garden and why it is so important to her.

Do you remember the first time you visited the Garden?

I first saw the Wild Flower Garden in the first half of the 1960s when, as a young couple, my husband and I explored many things in the Twin Cities on the weekends. My first memory is of [then-Garden Curator] Ken Avery talking about having showy orchids in the very wet wetland and pasque flower on the very hot mown grass of the upper Garden. I never saw either flower but did see the showy lady slipper.

My second memory is of a visit in 1969 when we had a young family. I remember our two-year-old daughter waving at the dwarf irises that were planted in the open circle in front of what is now the shelter.

How and when did you become a volunteer at the Garden?

In the mid-'90s I was between jobs and becoming more involved in caring for my aging parents. I returned to the Garden and found it to be a refuge from the stresses of my responsibilities and concerns. I also found large patches of lovely trout lilies and a glorious prairie on those high hills above the woodland. I started to visit every few weeks and soon was bringing a camera or camcorder to record what I had discovered.

I signed up as a volunteer in 1998. With the help and encouragement of Diana Thottingal and other naturalists, I began to take pictures of the grasses and, eventually, to collect information on and photos of the grasses in the Garden in a notebook that is in the shelter. Diana and I shared the view that it was much easier to study plants and mushrooms because they did not move as fast as other elements of our natural world.

You received a 2014 Volunteer of the Year award from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, after being nominated by naturalist Tammy Mercer, leader of the Early Birders group. Can you talk about your volunteer efforts with that group?

Tammy says I was one of the original Early Saturday Morning Birders, but we are both unsure when the group started. I have always been interested in bird song but frustrated with the difficulty in spotting the singer. (All birders have this problem in differing degrees.) So I easily slipped into the task of recording the birds seen and/or heard when it became a problem to



Phoebe Waugh (center) with Tammy Mercer and David Waugh

remember some of the many we had noted. A few years ago, I began to write up the phenology notes on our experience. [The phenology notes are compiled in a notebook in the shelter.] In 2014 I began including more descriptions of bird behavior. This year I have been compiling a list of when birds were seen in the Garden and South Wirth.

In a way I was surprised by the nomination, and both pleased and embarrassed by the recognition. There are so many who contribute to the success of the Garden as volunteers and professionals. The award included \$500 that could be designated toward a project or projects in a Minneapolis park. I decided my award money would go toward some books on birds and plants and to the Cary George Wetland Project.

What do you like most about the Garden?

What I enjoy most about my experiences in the Garden is the joy of exploration and discovery. Some of it is my own discovery of things, like a migrating Bachman's warbler, the spotlight of the ruby and yellow throats of our hummingbirds and common yellowthroats, and hearing a wood thrush one evening in the Garden. But I also enjoy sharing the joy with others in finding a mushroom or seeing a pretty bird.

—Donna Ahrens, copyeditor of the *Fringed Gentian*

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| PRESIDENT J Pamela Weiner | VOLUNTEERS CHAIR Lauren Husting | THE FRINGED GENTIAN Meleah Maynard, <i>editor</i> |
| VICE PRESIDENT Melissa Hansen | MONEY MANAGEMENT Steve Benson | Donna Ahrens, <i>copyeditor</i> |
| TREASURER & MEMORIALS CHAIR; WEBSITE COORDINATOR Gary Bebeau | INVASIVE PLANT CHAIRS Jim Proctor Liz Anderson | John Toren, <i>designer</i> |
| SECRETARY Candy Bartol | HISTORIAN Phoebe Waugh | Colin Bartol |
| MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR Jayne Funk | GARDEN CURATOR, EX OFFICIO Susan Wilkins | Kathy Connelly |
| | | Melissa Hansen |
| | | Betsy McNeerney |
| | | Vivian Mason |
| | | Gloria Miller |
| | | Jennifer Olson |
| | | Sally Pundt |
| | | Steve Pundt |
| | | Barry Schade |
| | | Anthony Waldera |



Garden Curator's Letter

By Susan Wilkins



So quickly, another Wildflower Garden season has come and gone. It was a very full year, complemented by a truly beautiful season of weather. With plenty of moisture to nourish recently planted and well-established plants throughout the season, the Garden's flora was even more radiant than usual and so many visitors took delight in the beauty of this extraordinary place all season long.

We had many special events and projects this year, along with the ongoing hustle and bustle of programming and garden care. I would like to acknowledge a handful of highlights from the past season and send a warm thank you out to everyone who has contributed to these efforts. Please know that there is a lot more great work that is not mentioned, but is deeply appreciated.

Heartfelt thanks to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Board and to Mark Addicks and Tom Hoch for hosting a fantastic fundraiser in the beautiful gardens surrounding Mark and Tom's home. The fundraiser was a great success on many levels, and it was touching to see so many community members present to support the Wildflower Garden.

Phase 1 of the wetland boardwalk project was completed in July. Thank you to all of the donors, the Friends, the designers, the wood millers and modifiers, the boardwalk fabricators, and the installation crew, as well as to numerous Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff members who worked to bring this to fruition. A lovely celebration of the project and dedication of the bridge to former Gardener Cary George on September 20 brought many together to honor Cary's great work and legacy here.

Another enjoyable volunteer appreciation banquet was held in late October to celebrate the fabulous work that Wildflower Garden volunteers carry out every day. Thank you again to each and every volunteer for your efforts and enthusiasm this season. I also want to thank the Wildflower Garden staff who educate and inspire visitors with each encounter, and who organized and led a remarkable number of special tours and programs for youth and adults this season.

If you haven't yet gone to see them, 22 prints from the Eloise Butler Florilegium Project will be on display at Macalester College's Smail Gallery until August 1, 2016. Also of note, the Florilegium Project was featured in the November/December 2015 issue of the Department of Natural Resources' magazine, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, which reaches an estimated 500,000 readers. We are fortunate to have this wonderful project (and the Wildflower

Garden) shared with such a wide audience within the conservation community.

Although the Garden gates are now closed to the public, we continue to work on several projects to maintain the health of the Garden and to prepare for next season's programs, plantings and special projects. For instance, oak wilt management is underway, as we continue our efforts to maintain the health of the majestic oaks of the Garden. The Shelter roof has been reshingled with new cedar shakes and it looks great. A new wood-burning stove insert will be installed soon in the now-defunct fireplace, so the Shelter will be as cozy as ever come next spring. Several ash trees close to garden trails have been marked and will be removed as part of our efforts to minimize the negative repercussions of anticipated Emerald Ash Borer infestations.

Five years have passed since the Garden's first management plan was approved by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. This plan has proven to be very useful and supportive of our work at the Wildflower Garden. Updates to the management plan's project and program goals are being made for the next five-year period this season.

I'm continually awed by how much effort goes into stewarding the vitality and integrity of the Wildflower Garden. Thanks again to all who contribute to this dynamic and meaningful work. As we continue to care for the Garden and prepare for another vibrant season, we wish you the very best and look forward to seeing you in 2016!



Susan Wilkins and Cary George in the Garden before the boardwalk dedication ceremony.



Photos: Melissa Hansen

THE SCHUTT HOUSE GARDEN PARTY was held on June 25 at the historic Schutt home above the north-end lagoon at Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis. Thanks to

all who attended (or donated to) this wonderful event, which helped raise funds to support the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

BOARDWALK BRIDGE DEDICATION

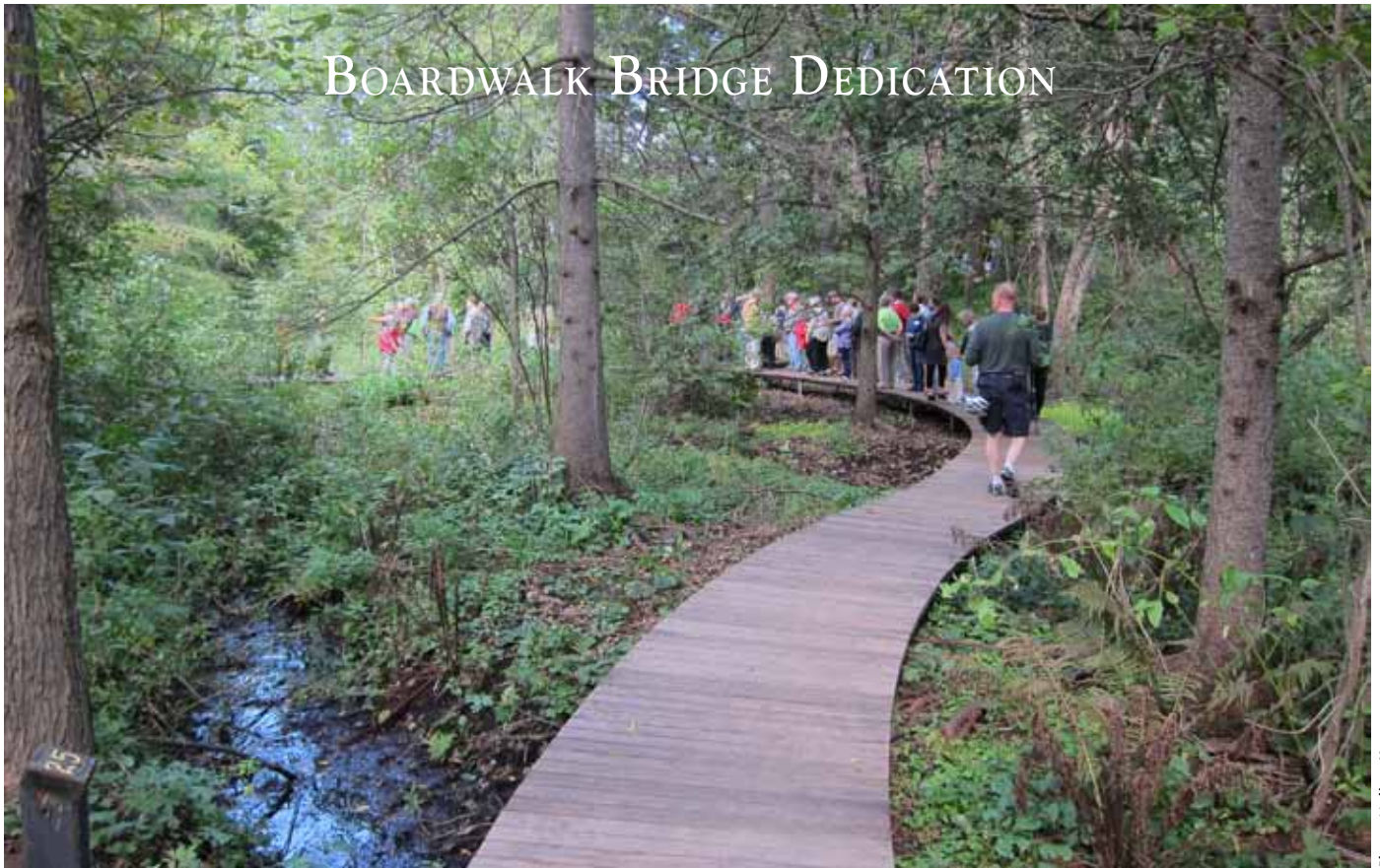


Photo: Melissa Hansen

Many gathered at the Garden for the ceremony celebrating the completion of the new bridge honoring Cary George, the Wildflower Garden's fourth Gardener. For those who weren't able to join us, we hope you enjoy

these photos of the dedication event. Cary George was Head Gardener from 1987 to 2003, having first started work at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in horticulture in 1975.



Photo: Judy Remington

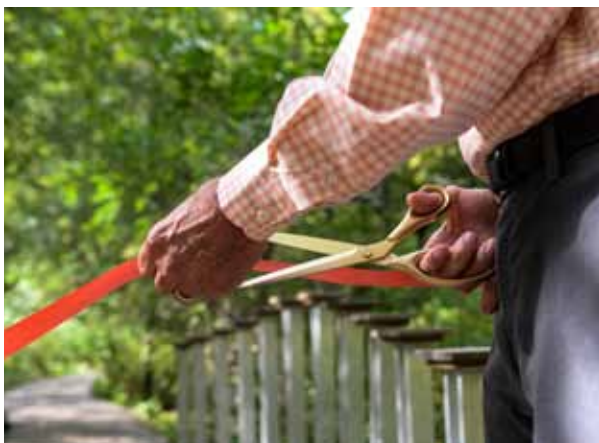


Photo: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Photo: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Ants in Winter

Down here in the nest,
we eat eggs
our queen laid last fall
as sun waned.
We huddle in a writhing mass
around the queen,
keeping her warm.
Slowly,
though we share everything—
our bodies' heat,
remnants of food—
some of us
still starve, still freeze.
Our orb dwindles.

— Naomi Cohn

Friends' Invasive Plant Action Group

Two days prior to this writing, the Friends' Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAG) held its first buckthorn event of 2015. Two years ago we started work in an area outside the northeast part of the Garden, and we're still plugging away at it. It's the hardest, slowest kind of buckthorn removal. The area was mowed about four or five years ago, and the mowed buckthorn stems have re-emerged.

The dreaded resprouts are difficult to get hold of and have newly sprouted limbs that break off easily along with very long roots. All of this adds up to a thicket of perversely challenging work. But on Sunday, September 27, we were up to it. We had fine weather, a dozen people (four of whom were first-time volunteers), and plenty of weed wrenches, treats, and good spirits. Our remaining two buckthorn events went well, and we were able to finish the work!

We schedule a total of three buckthorn events in the fall. Each lasts about 2½ hours on Saturdays or Sundays. If you'd like to help, please go to the volunteer section of the Friends' website—

<http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/volunteer.html>

for details. You're all invited to join us, but whether you come in person or in spirit, we appreciate your support. Also, if you're not on our email list but would like to get involved or just keep up on what we're doing, please contact us at

invasives@friendsofeloisebutler.org

Thanks to all!

—Jim Proctor & Liz Anderson
Invasive Plant Action Group co-chairs



Garden Curator Susan Wilkins discusses garden management at a special walk for volunteers in September.

Shelter Volunteer Update

Dear friends, it's been an undeniably lovely year at the Garden and, as always, my troop of loyal Shelter docents were there to welcome visitors and help them make the most out of their visit. I am grateful every day for the folks who make the Shelter run and give so generously of their time.

This year, we had 10 new volunteers join our ranks and offer their time. I'd like to recognize them by name:

Farrand Anderson
Ann Beane
Jennifer Dunne
Karen Frei
Jan Schulz

Kira von Steinbergs
Carol Stoops
Gillian Tomasini
Maggie Tuff
Gail Yuhasz

Even though our season is nearly over, potential new volunteers are always welcome to contact me for more information. We can get you started in 2016!

—Lauren Husting, Shelter Volunteer Coordinator
ebwgsheltervolunteers@gmail.com





Giving Thanks

From the journal of Friends Founder Clinton Odell, November 22, 1944.

Thanksgiving day today—the turkey is in the oven—and real winter weather has descended upon us. There is a howling gale—and snow straight from the north. So I did what I love most; I put on overshoes, winter coat, muffler and heavy gloves. And I walked over to the Wildflower Garden. Down into the glen I descended where it was very still, with snow flakes falling straight down— though the wind was still roaring thru the tree tops above. Really beautiful down there. I looked for my owl but could not locate him. And I could not help but wonder why mortals huddle around their radiators when they could go abroad and enjoy this delightful specialty of winter—snow flakes sifting down thru the spruce trees—and the wind roaring over head. Maybe I'm just different.

2015 Volunteer Appreciation Event

On October 25 we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church to celebrate all those who help make the Garden such an extraordinary place. Volunteers help out with so many things at the Wildflower Garden, from greeting guests at the Shelter and pointing them to specific plants to pulling buckthorn and garlic mustard and personally tending designated areas in need of extra care.

We are very grateful to all of you. And we hope you enjoyed the evening and left with memories of tasty food and drinks and stories shared with others who love the Garden as much as you do.

Photos, clockwise from upper right: Judy Remington and Nita Lussenhop; Melissa Hansen and Dave Stack; Roger Battreall, Jayne Funk, Ann Beane and Jennifer Olson; Susan Wilkins and Barry Schade; Troy Johnson and Erin Hartman; Melissa Hansen pouring wine



Memorials and Donations ~ june / september 2015

GIFTS RECEIVED *In support of our programs from:*

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cindy Angerhofer | Edith Miller |
| Phillip and Olga Cheung | Judith Nelson |
| Harry Ettinger | Pam Newsome |
| Arlene Fried | Jennifer Olson |
| Lisa Goodman (friends of) | Richard and Sharon Parsons |
| William Gullickson | Mark Rask |
| Dolores Johnson | Suzanne Riesterer |
| Gerald Kollodge | Anita Tabb |
| Sylvia Lang | Anthony Waldera |
| Angons Liu | |

Special thanks to Mark Addicks and Tom Hoch for hosting our summer event at their house and to the 238 people who bought tickets to attend.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

For John Brunier from John and Joan Haldeman
For Glenda Larson from Donna Ahrens, Susan Dean, Ann and Tracy Godfrey, Faye Knowles and Steve and Sally Pundt
For Joyce Momont from Phillip Momont

In Honor of the wedding of Ed Juda and Devorah Herman from Barbara deBorhegyi
In Honor of the wedding of Amy Boland and Beth Berila from Michael Steinhofer

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 2015, 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



photos: John Toren

November color – blackberry brambles.

— New Members —

Melissa Anderson and Dan Baldwin, Minneapolis
Joyce Beaudry, Minneapolis
David Bjork & Jeff Benetson, Minneapolis
Suzanne Born, Golden Valley
Kathryn Culley, Minneapolis
Edward Ekkers, St. Louis Park
James Fulton, Minneapolis
Penelope Hornig, Wayzata
Kathy Jacobsen, Maple Grove
Jean Johnson, Minneapolis

Carol Jordan and Bob Callahan, Minneapolis
Leonard Larson, Minneapolis
David and Esther McLaughlin, Minneapolis
William Naylor, Minneapolis
Mary Pawlcyn, Minneapolis
David and Shelly Rottenberg, Minneapolis
Wendy Steele, Minneapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Tellman, Rosemount
Dennis and Suzanne West, Minneapolis



Membership Form

☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Sponsor \$100 ☐ Life \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Memberships can be ordered online at
www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org
or mailed with a check payable to:

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.
Membership
P.O. Box 3793
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0793

Please specify if the membership is a gift.

*Each membership is tax-deductible to the extent
allowed by law.*

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

The recipient of your gift will receive a letter of welcome from the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

Donation Form

Donations of gifts or memorials may be made
at www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org
or mailed with a check payable to:

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.
P.O. Box 3793
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0793

*Thank you for helping to sustain the Eloise Butler
Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.*

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

This is a gift from: _____

In Honor / Memory of: _____

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.
P.O. Box 3793
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0793
www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 90251

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.



Photo: Judy Remington

As always, the buffet supper at Volunteer Appreciation Day was scrumptious.

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.

*Printed with soy inks on
100% post-consumer waste paper.*