



Seventy Years of the Friends

A History of
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

Volume 3



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Gary D. Bebeau

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Introduction to All Volumes

Twenty years ago the Friends produced, for their 50th anniversary year, a booklet titled *50 Years of Friends*, recording the 50th anniversary celebration and remembrances of years past. Prior to that there were some very short history summaries published in the Friends' newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian*TM. This history of the first 70 years of the Friends provides a perspective view of the wide range of events documented during this time period.

It was necessary to recapitulate some of the early history of the Wildflower Garden and the people involved at that time in order to establish why the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden came into existence. This is especially true in regards to Clinton Odell and his connections with the Garden prior to his founding the Friends. The Friends have remained a viable organization for 70 years. Many of the original concerns leading to the establishment of the Friends, including the original concerns that led to the founding of the Wildflower Garden itself, have never been laid to rest, but have resurfaced in one guise or another over this time period.

The chapter headings indicate an attempt to separate certain activities of the Friends from events that occurred in the Garden; but as the reader will note, many are interrelated and many of these events cross chapter boundaries. The approach to this history is chronological with some flashbacks to prior times for background and to portray the continuity of events.

I have chosen to extensively use quotations of the players in this history as they tell the story in their own words better than any paraphrasing could. Deleted parts of extensive quotations have been replaced with “. . .” Any comments I have inserted into a quotation are housed in brackets.

Certain naming conventions have been observed in order to follow historical documentation. I use the name that is appropriate to the time period. In the early years the Garden was located in Glenwood Park which was renamed Theodore Wirth Park in 1938 and is now named Theodore Wirth Regional Park. The early Board of Park Commissioners was renamed Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) in 1969. My use of the name “Park Board” refers to the appropriate entity for the time period. The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden was originally called the Wild Botanic Garden, then the Native Plant Reserve, and then officially renamed the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden in 1929. For brevity, the word “Garden” is used here to represent the site.

Details on how the words “and Bird Sanctuary” were added to the name are in the text, but one name change caused no end to confusion. In 1969 the Park Board changed “Wild Flower” as two words to “Wildflower.” Since that time the name of the Friends using the two words has differed from that of the Garden.

A number of themes follow throughout this history, themes centered around what I have earlier referred to as “concerns,” the most of important of these are a variance from the original intent to have the Garden remain in a wild state, the introduction of non-native plants, the need for constant maintenance to maintain a wild state, the effects of the Park Board budget, maintaining the Garden as a separate entity within the Park system, and fending off of outside influences that directly affect the sanctity of the Garden.

It is surprising then that a mission statement for the Friends was not written until 1989, but when written it addressed those concerns. Subsequent revisions have kept true to the original principles. The Minneapolis Park system is vast and the MPRB must address many concerns while the Friends concentrate on this one small part of the larger system. Despite the ups and downs over 70 years, the Friends relationship with the MPRB remains a remarkable partnership.

Grateful acknowledgement must be given to all those of the Friends and the Park Board whose thoughts and ideas were kept in the various records of the Friends, in the newsletter and in other documents from which this history is written. Important historically were the writings of Eloise Butler and Martha Crone and the Garden logs and diaries of Crone that were saved by Martha Hellander when researching her book on Eloise Butler, *The Wild Gardener*.

Volume 1 contains the narrative just explained including a set of appendices that provide more detail for the interested reader.

Volume 2 contains annual histories from 1952 through 1991.

Volume 3 contains annual histories from 1992 through 2021.

“Without it [the Friends] where would the Garden’s voice come from”?

Charles Spears MPRB Superintendent, 1970



1992

Winter 1991/1992

This is the sixth year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. During the late winter months Cary George did extensive work on cutting and removing Buckthorn, Tartarian Honeysuckle and weedy Boxelder from the area along the back fence. The fence was to be realigned and a new back gate with stonework installed. Landscape architect Sandra Welsh of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) had secured an Open Space Habitat Improvement Grant to realign the walking path outside the fence, dredge the pond, and replace the crumbling concrete dam with a rock outcropping and waterfall in the water channel. The Friends provided \$2,000 toward the water project and would provide money to rebuild the back gate with stonework. Work was expected to begin in April.

The new dam was a replacement for the concrete dam that was in the same place, going all the way back to Eloise Butler in 1917 and that 1917 dam replaced an older earthen dam that Eloise had created when the Garden was first established. The 1992 re-arrangement of the fencing and dredging the pool created the current outlines of the small pool at the back of the Garden. (1) The fence from 1938, angled southward toward the dam from the two back corners of the Garden. Outside the fence was the old bird feeding station. The new alignment moved the fence northward away from the dam, removing the angle and the bird feeding station. Maps shown below show the before and after.



The rocky outcrop dam at the pool edge - created in 1992 and seen here in 2008. Photo G D Bebeau

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (2) Cary George wrote that the back gate used to be the most convenient entrance to the Garden when people arrived by foot or Streetcar.

The realignment of the Garden's back fence.

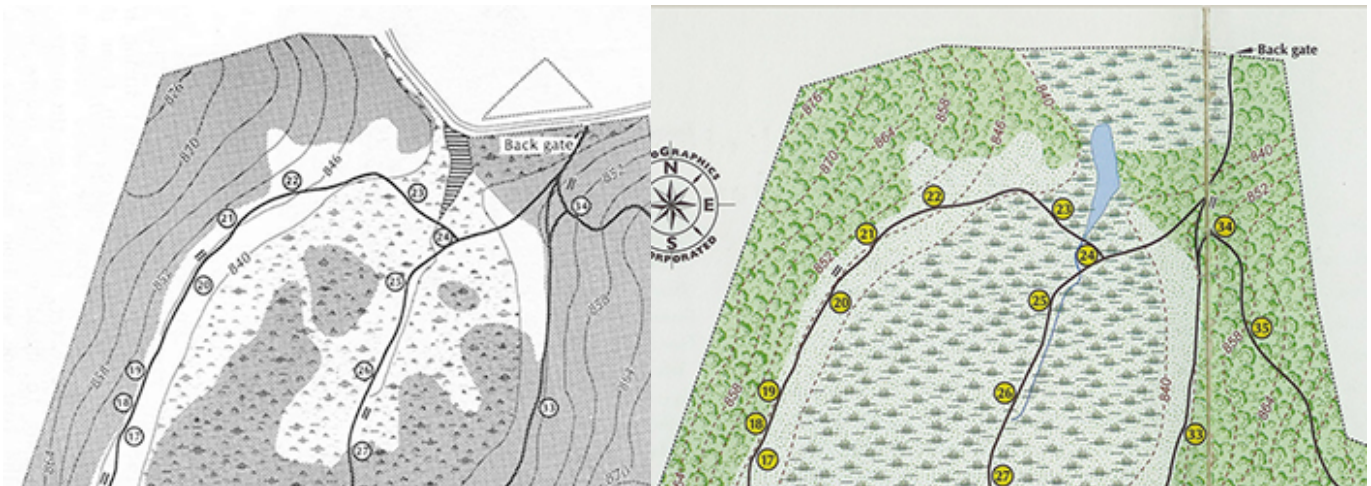
The maps shown below show the changes at the back of the Garden. In the 1987 map we see that the old fence angled southward to where the dam was before reaching the back gate. The old tarvia path, going back to Eloise Butler's time, is shown following the fence line.

The 2001 map shows the fence realignment with the fence moved northward, creating an open area between the dam and the fence. The old path outside the Garden space was moved to follow the new fence line. It is evident from viewing the texture and condition of the current path along the realigned portion of the fence that it is of newer age. Also there is an abrupt directional intersect of the old portion of the tarvia path with the newer portion and the difference in pavement age is evident.



The rocky outcrop in Winter seen from below the pool outlet - seen here in 2008 with the 1990 vintage cedar bridge still in place. The bridge was replaced by a boardwalk bridge in 2015. Photo G D Bebeau

Below: 1st photo - the 1987 map section of the north end of the Garden. 2nd photo - the 2001 map showing the realignment of the fence. Maps courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.



It was also announced in the newsletter that the Friends could now, once again, put on slide shows about the Garden using Martha Crone's slide collection which had been donated to the Friends - something that had not been done since Martha Crone's tenure. President Ann Kessen wrote:

When Eloise Butler founded this Garden, she was inspired by the great botanic gardens of the East, but with a twist of her own. She wanted it to be a wild botanic garden, wild not just in terms of the native plants cultivated in it but also in terms of the setting, the presentation of native plants. Thus it is not simply a wildflower garden, a garden of wildflowers. Rather, it is a wild flower garden, a flower garden that is wild. This is how Eloise viewed the Garden and this is how the Garden persists today.

The Winter of 1991/92 was one of the snowiest with total snowfall around 85 inches, well above the median of 43 inches, but it was all melted by late March with the Garden being able to open on time.

Spring 1992

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Saturday May 16, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden. The new front gate to the Garden, installed in 1991, welcomed those who attended. The wooden arbor for the top, was being prepared and over the gate would be written "Let Nature Be Your Teacher", a phrase from Wordsworth.

The Friends had debated what wording should be on the sign. Betty Bryan, a Friends' Board member at the time, reported that at a Board Meeting to decide, there were many suggestions, ranging from a phrase from Betty Bridgman's poetry to simply "Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden," although the Park Board preferred the wording "Wildflower," as they had began using the combined word in 1970 and had made it official in 1986. Cary George had been silent through the debate but in a lull in the conversation he said he would like to offer "Let Nature Be Your Teacher." Betty remembers that it was one of Eloise Butler's favored Wordsworth quotations. It was submitted to the MPRB for consideration and was approved. Betty said "It wears well." Back on Oct. 21st, 1989 he had stated at a Friends board meeting "I hope enough money can be found to add a wooden archway so that visitors may symbolically enter into the Garden."



The new front gate to Eloise Butler shown in the Fall of 1992 after the upper arbor was installed but before the inscription. Photo ©G D Bebeau

Directors elected were: Ken Avery, Geri Benavides, Harriet Betzold, Betty Bryan, Elaine Christenson, Sallie Cole, Mel Duoos, Dale Johnson, Ann Kessen, Connie Bartz-Lavoie, Gloria Miller, Shirley Schultz, Joyce Smeby, Kathryn Stennes.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Joyce Smeby President, Harriet Betzold Vice-President, Ann Kessen Secretary, and Connie Bartz-LaVoie Treasurer. Betty Bryan was membership chair, Elaine Christenson was memorials chair, Shirley Schultz was Volunteer coordinator, Dale Johnson was historian, and Kathy Stennes was newsletter editor.



Martha Hellander, author of *The Wild Gardener*. Friends photo

*The Fringed Gentian*TM continued to be printed on re-cycled paper. [Vol. 40 No.2 June - July - August 1992] 41 volunteers were on the active list. 227 on the membership list.

Eloise Butler biographer Martha Hellander attended the meeting and thanked the Friends who had contributed substantially to her expenses in producing her book on the life of Eloise Butler - *The Wild Gardener*. In June she and her family were moving to Chicago.

Cary George made a presentation on the state of the Garden. The Spring bloom was about a week behind normal as April was damp and cloudy and then in May so far there had been only 1/4 inch of rain. He had ordered specimens of New Jersey Tea to plant around the main garden sign in the parking lot. Work on the back gate and fence had not yet begun and the completion date was unknown.

In the Newsletter new Friends President Joyce Smeby noted that 1992

was the 40th Anniversary of the Friends and the 85th of the Garden. Park Naturalist Sarah Christiansen reported that the first male Indigo Bunting was sighted in the Garden on May 11 and the females arrived toward the end of May. Memorial day was 34 degrees.

Summer 1992

The Showy lady's-slipper bloomed on June 2nd. On June 9, the Friends hosted a get-together and potluck dinner for Garden Volunteers at the Martha Crone Shelter. The new slide presentation was shown. Martha Hellander was on hand on Saturday June 13 for book signing of her book *The Wild Gardener* which was published in May.

On Sunday August 2, commemorating Eloise Butler's birthday, a special stamp cancellation by the U.S. Post Office, using a wildflower stamp, was held at the Garden. Friends member Dan Miller helped with the envelope design. Martha Hellander returned from Chicago to sign copies of her book on Eloise Butler. Over 200 people attended.



*The Fringed Gentian*TM had an article on Friends' founder, Clinton Odell. Work on the back gate project was finally underway on August 3rd with dredging for the new pond and moving the fence. The Friends donated \$2,000 to the project. A new roster of Friends members was being readied for publication and release in the winter.

The naturalists discovered the nest of a short-tailed shrew, a venomous mammal, just under the birdfeeder in front of the shelter. As to the weather, this summer had the 2nd coldest July on record, coolest since 1865. 80+ degrees reached only four times. The entire Summer was very cool with lots of rain, which has been attributed to the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in Asia.

Autumn 1992

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (3) Cary George listed the 11 asters and 7 species of goldenrod in the Garden. The re-aligned back fence and new path was mostly finished. The waterfall at the edge of the pool was in and a new path to view it was in place. Park Board carpenters built a new rough-cedar birdfeeder for inside the back gate and for the front gate and Audubon had agreed to continue winter bird feeding - something that had been done for many years, begun by Miss Lulu May Aler in 1932, and continuing through Martha Crone's tenure. When Miss Aler could no longer do it, the Minneapolis Bird Club took



1992 model birdfeeder. Photo G. D. Bebeau

over. They later became affiliated with the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis but in the meanwhile, Ken Avery took over caring for the feeders until his retirement. The back gate re-construction itself was to wait until 1995. (4) Friends volunteer and board member Elaine Christenson was awarded Outstanding Volunteer for 1992 by the Park Board.

Forty-six volunteers of the season were recognized in the December issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM. Friend's volunteers provided 1,050 staffing hours during 1992. At the end of 1992 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$45,700. Revenue for the year was \$11,800 with \$5,800 from memberships and \$4,700 from sales of Martha Hellander's book. Expenses were \$8,100.

Unlike the previous year the winter of 1992/93 would have a typical amount of snow.



At the Park Board Volunteer Banquet: (l to r) Scott Neiman, President, Naomi Loper, Commissioner, and Elaine Christenson. (Friends photo.)

Below: The path leading to the newly dredged pool and waterfall - both created in 1992, shown here in 2007. The stone seats from Drake Marble were funded by the Friends in 1993. Photo G D Bebeau.



Notes:

(1) Background study of the Mallard Pool and other open water in the Garden. This file is available on the Friends website.

(2) *The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 40 No.1 March 1992 (all issues mislabeled Vol. 41)

(3) *The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 40 No.3 Sept-Oct 1992 and Vol. 40 No.4 December 1992.

(4). Details and photos of the old bird feeding stations and the work of Lulu May Aler are found on the website in a separate article about the historic bird feeding stations.

Photo top of first page: of 1992 The Martha Crone Shelter in the fall of 1992. Photo ©G D Bebeau

The Garden in the Fall of 1992





Photos of the Upland:-top - front gate with the old cyclone fencing still in place on the left side;
bottom - wetland central path. All ©G D Bebeau



1993

Winter 1992/1993

This is the seventh year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. During the Winter he placed 6 Wood Duck Houses of a new design in Roberts Bird Sanctuary and 8 along Bassett Creek in Wirth Park. The new design allows the bottom to be removed for cleaning and left off over winter so squirrels don't move in, and then replaced in spring before the ducks arrive.

There was no sign of deer activity in the Garden during the Winter, although last summer a young doe had spent the Summer in the Garden. Wirth Park meanwhile was inundated with deer.

In 1992 the Friends had formed a safety committee due to the high incidence of car break-ins at the Garden parking lot - 38 in 1992. The committee met with Parks Police Captain Bill Jacobs on Feb. 25th to request increased patrols.

Spring 1993

Martha Hellander's biography of Eloise Butler, *The Wild Gardener* was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award - and won. On Mother's Day, May 9th, Martha was in the Garden from Noon to 4 PM for a book signing.

Cary George reported that the Spring bloom was a little later than normal again this year thanks to the cool Spring weather. But the snow had melted and the Garden had opened on time. He noted that the Park Board in June, planted Walking Fern in the Garden, a fern which both Eloise Butler and Martha Crone planted a number of times, but without long-term success. Eloise wrote a humorous essay about acquiring the first specimens in 1908. You can find it on the Friends website. The work on the back gate area, started in 1992, was still continuing. The prairie area was burned and a barred owl was regularly seen on the west trail in the woodland.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Saturday May 15, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden with 28 in attendance



Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) Photo by Martha Crone on May 31, 1950

Directors elected were: Ken Avery, Rick Bartholomew, Geri Benavides, Harriet Betzold, Betty Bryan, Sallie Cole, Mel Duoos, Connie Bartz-Lavoie, Gloria Miller, Shirley Schultz, Joyce Smeby, Kathryn Stennes, Kathleen Wolgamott. Cary George - ex-officio.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Joyce Smeby President, Harriet Betzold Vice-President, Kathryn Stennes Secretary and Ann Kessen Treasurer.


For committee assignments: Betty Bryan was membership chair, Shirley Schultz was Volunteer coordinator, Sallie Cole was Memorials chair, Richard Bartholomew was Historian, and Kathy Stennes was newsletter editor. Beginning in the Summer of 1992 the Friends started selling Martha Hellander's book and placed order forms in the newsletter. Mel Duoos handled the mailing of orders for a number of years, then when he died, his wife Barbara continued to do it until about 2004 when Gary Bebeau took over mailing.

Winner of the
1993 Minnesota Book Award

**Celebrate Mother's Day
at the
Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
in Theodore Wirth Park**

Join us for an
afternoon at the
Garden to celebrate
Mother Nature.

Martha Hellander,
author of the delightful
book, *The Wild
Gardener: The Life
and Selected Writings
of Eloise Butler* will be
at the Wildflower
Garden from Noon to
4:00 P.M.



Eloise Butler (1851-1933)

Sunday, May 9th
North Star Press of St. Cloud
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

The flyer for the Friends Mother's Day book signing event.



Above: The 1993 Board of Directors. Front row: Geri Benavides, Betty Bryan, Shirley Schultz, Joyce Smaby, Gloria Miller; middle: Mel Duoos; back row: Cary George, Rick Bartholomew, Ken Avery, Connie Bartz-Lavoie, Kathleen Wolgamott, Harriet Betzold, Kathryn Stennes, Sallie Cole. Not in photo: Ann Kessen. Friends Photo.

Thirty five volunteers were on the active list at this time, with 264 families on the membership list.

Elaine Christenson had catalogued and sorted more than 2000 slides that Martha Crone had taken of the Garden and plants.

[NOTE: From 1948 to 1957 Martha Crone assembled a collection of Kodachrome slides that she took of plants and landscape of the Wildflower Garden. The assemblage eventually totaled over 4,000 slides. She used these slides to give illustrated lectures about the Garden to various clubs, groups and organizations. After her death in 1989 her daughter Janet, passed the collection to the Friends via Friends member Martha Hellander while she was researching her book about Eloise Butler. The Friends sorted the collection and then for a short time, used them at lectures about the Garden.]

A rare Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) was sighted near the wetland Highbush Cranberries.

Summer 1993

While concerns about Lyme Disease were becoming more and more evident, Cary George stated that in his seven years as Gardener he had never seen a woodtick, nor had Ken Avery in 30 years. The reason for the absence is unexplained.

Two clumps of the Yellow Lady's-slipper *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*, [the smaller flowered of the two Yellows] were donated by Friends Board member Mel Duoos and his mother Shirley. Cary planted one near the front gate and another near the Shelter.

The Friends purchased several granite boulders from Drake Marble for seating near the expanded pond area. Cost - \$1,204. The funds partially came from 28 memorials for Caroline Saunders who had humanitarian interests world wide.

A number of species were planted during the season, with several of the unusual ones being Rose Trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*), Wax Trillium (*Trillium erectum* var. *album*) and Painted Trillium (*Trillium undulatum*). *Trillium catesbaei* had been extensively planted by Martha Crone as early as 1946. Eloise Butler had planted the others, *T. erectum* var. *album* in 1918 and *T. undulatum* in 1914 and later.

The rebuilding of the pond in the wetland as part of the back fence and gate project has resulted in the introduction of muskrats and their burrow system. Two litters of young were raised this year in the wetland - an unexpected consequence of improving the Garden habitat but Eloise Butler had the same experience in 1932 when the Mallard Pool was dug.

The Friends published and distributed a supplement to their 1992-94 membership roster. Summer visitors to the Garden came from 20 countries and 34 states. Some comments in the visitor book were :

"It's nice to see something in a natural unspoiled state." "20 years in the Twin Cities - I wish I had known about the Garden sooner." "The Garden reminds me of my childhood on the farm."



The granite seat blocks installed at the end of the path to the Mallard Pool waterfall.
Photo G D Bebeau.

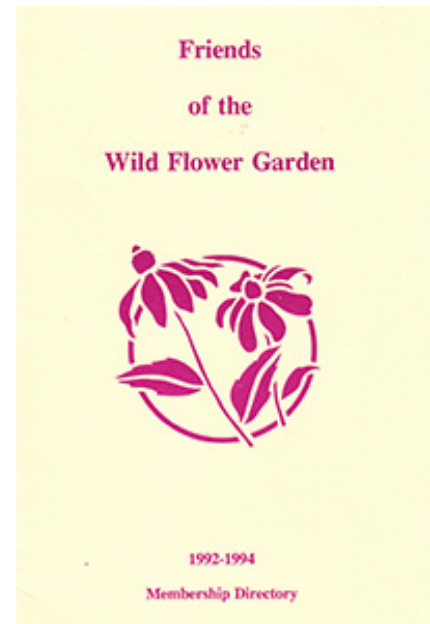
Autumn 1993

Through the efforts of Friends member and volunteer Elaine Christenson and Cary George, a proposal was to be voted on by the Park Board on Dec. 8th to add an acre to the Upland Garden, increasing the prairie area. The Friends would pay for the cost of the fencing needed to secure the area and had contracted with Able Fence to do so at a cost of \$3,695. The Park Board approved. Elaine wrote about the process, from conception to reality, in the Friends newsletter. [Full text follows].

During the summer Friends volunteer Linda Lee catalogued all the books and periodicals in the Crone Shelter, coming up with a list of over 300 volumes, some of which were damaged and 40 to 70 years old. It had just been done in 1989 but that inventory may have been overlooked.

An interesting article in *The Fringed Gentian*TM was to adopt the Chickadee as the state bird, replacing the Loon, then we would have a year-round bird.

The problem with car break-ins, continued during the year - 33 in 1993. In the summer the Friends had gotten signage installed in the parking lot urging visitors to take their valuables with them.



The cover of the 1992-94 Friends Membership Directory



Above: Showing a large part of the area added to the Garden. Photo G D Bebeau.

At the end of 1993 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$47,800. Revenue for the year was \$7,100 with \$5,100 from memberships. Expenses were \$4,200. Precipitation for the year use just above the median of 28 inches and snowfall for the upcoming winter of 1993/94 would be just above normal.

Photo top of first page of 1993: The wetland pool area in the back of the Garden - path with granite seats installed in 1993. Photo from 2008 ©G D Bebeau

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



Our Upland Garden: A Restored Prairie by Elaine Christenson

On December 8, 1992, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board granted approval for a small part of Wirth Park that lay outside the boundary of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, to be added to the Garden's acreage. This increased the size of the Garden by about one acre. This is one Friends story of her involvement in this process.

One of my volunteer projects, with some help from Sallie Cole and Board Members of the Friends, was to sort through hundreds and hundreds of slides taken by Mrs. (Martha) Crone during her tenure as curator of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. A slide taken in 1954 looking eastward from "lone oak hill" in the Upland Garden, was a view of a treeless rolling hill covered with only the fall grasses. Yet, by 1993 the view from the same hill had become obscured by overgrowth. The old Fruen Mill was completely occluded.

The view from the same hillside was one of sumac and small trees pressed against the fence line. I couldn't get the beautiful prairie view Mrs. Crone had photographed so many years ago out of my mind. On my walks around the outer perimeter of the Garden I found remnants of the grassy meadow, its size becoming smaller each year as plant growth took it over.

I met with Gardener Cary George and his predecessor, Ken Avery. We discussed expanding the Garden boundary - the pros and cons, gradually acceptance and enthusiasm for the project won. Cost for the new fence line was considerably lessened by the re-use of the old fence separating the Upland and Woodland Gardens - a fence whose purpose was no longer needed and now had become an eyesore.



Cary George and Elaine Christenson, 1993. Photo - Friends of the Wild Flower

Below: Showing a large part of the area added to the Garden. Around the oak tree at far left center are the three granite block seats presented by the Friends in 1995. The fence work was done by Able Fence Co, hired by the Friends for a net cost of \$3,695.



In the fall of 1993 the work began to remove sumac and trees. The following spring showed some stumps peaking through the snow and the beginning of a new and different look. Summer healed most wounds, as if all plants joined hands and danced in the new openness. No scars showed.

There will be much work to be done to make the optimum use of the new prairie addition. New trails will be made and prairie plants will be added to the ones that lived only underground. Take a walk through the Garden again. Be grateful for this special spot of history, its blessing of peace, resurrection, beauty and joyful surprises. Take time to look at the new dimension of the Garden. I think Eloise would approve. Secretly I call the new area of the Garden the "Cary-Laine" expansion.

Below: These photos show where the new acreage abuts the old part of the Upland Garden. In the first photo, the old boundary and trail passed near the young Oak left of center and well in front of the other oak at right center (where one of the new granite block seats is visible) and then the trail went behind the Spruce trees on the left. In the 2nd photo you see on the right side of the photo the trail coming from the front gate and then making a turn near station 39 (leftward in the photo) where it proceeds into the new area toward the far left side of the photo.



Below: The Upland Garden photographed by Martha Crone on Oct. 24, 1955. Note the chain link fence that marked the Garden boundary prior to the 1944 upland addition is still in place. The fence was removed over time and there was enough remaining to be used in 1993 to fence in a one acre addition to the Upland Garden.



Notes:

Cary George was Gardener from 1987 through 2003; Elaine was a regular volunteer at the Garden since 1985. She passed away on April 1, 1995.

This article was originally published in *The Fringed Gentian*™ Winter 1994-95 vol. 42 No.4



1994

Winter 1993/1994

This is the eighth year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. During the winter Cary George again worked building and maintaining the Parks systems wood duck boxes with the number now maintained by Park employees at 73.



Above: A view toward the East from Lone Oak Hill looking toward the new prairie area. Photo G D Bebeau

Following the approval vote of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (the Park Board) in December 1993 to enclose an additional acre of prairie within the Garden, Able Fence Company removed the old remaining fence between the woodland and the prairie and recycled it to enclose the new area, which increased the Garden's prairie size by 20%. Cary George wrote in the newsletter (Vol. 42, No. 1):

Now when you stand on the Lone Oak Hill in the prairie the view to the southeast gives you a true sense of this area before the "woodies" invaded. Much work remains to be done. It will take at least two years of Sumac, Buckthorn and cool-season grass removal before any major plantings of native prairie grasses and forbs can be initiated. Still, many prairie wildflowers will

self-seed in our expansion and I think it will be a combination of our labor and nature's self determination whose hybridization will symbolize our love of all-too-rare native prairie.

The background for this project is explained by Friends Board Member Elaine Christenson who worked with Cary on the project:

One of my volunteer projects, with some help from Sallie Cole as Board Members of the Friends, was to sort through hundreds and hundreds of slides taken by Mrs. (Martha) Crone during her tenure as Curator of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. A slide taken in 1954 looking eastward from "lone oak hill" in the Upland Garden, was a view of a treeless rolling hill covered with only the fall grasses. Yet, by 1993 the view from the same hill had become obscured by overgrowth. The old Fruen Mill was completely occluded.

The view from the same hillside was one of sumac and small trees pressed against the fence line. I couldn't get the beautiful prairie view Mrs. Crone had photographed so many years ago out of my mind. On my walks around the outer perimeter of the Garden I found remnants of the grassy meadow, its size becoming smaller each year as plant growth took it over.

Friends board members Rick Bartholomew and Kathy Stennes met with Assistant Park Superintendent Al Wittman on February 11 to review the Park Board's recommendations on making the Garden compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

It was the Friends' concern that proposed modifications would destroy the character and experience of this historic landscape. The proposal included adding handrails on steep slopes, reducing the slope of the trails, replacing the trail surface with something slip-resistant and adding signage. The intent of the Garden, established in 1907, was that "**wildness be the sole aim and that all artificial appearances be avoided.**" The Minnesota State Historical Society might advise the Park Board as to their concerns, but it will be up to the Park Board to make a final determination.

On January 17 Allan G. Odell passed away. He was the son of Friends founder Clinton Odell and a long-time member and supporter of the Friends. His sister Moana Odell Beim was Friends President 1975-76.



Allan Odell and spouse Grace. He was the eldest son of Friends' founder Clinton Odell. Family photo.

Spring 1994

The Garden opened on time on April 1 as all the snow had melted by mid-March. In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ (Vol. 42 No.1), Cary George listed the 14 plants in the Garden that were on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) list of endangered, threatened, or special concern species.

- Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), extremely rare in Minnesota.
- Marginal Shield-fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), not discovered in Minnesota until 1981.
- Lance-leaved Violet (*Viola lanceolata*), white-flowered and stemless.
- Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*), first trillium to flower in the spring.
- Dwarf Trout Lily (*Erythronium propullans*), spring ephemeral unique to Minnesota.
- Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), white flowers in spring.
- Golden-seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), exploited for its root.

- Rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), resembles leaves of the yucca plant.
- Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), common plant in prairie remnants.
- Kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*), flowers early in the spring.
- Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), shrub with white flowers and small bladdery fruit.
- Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), shrub with interesting fruit with explosive pods.
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), spreading shrub, rare in Minnesota.
- Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), an evergreen rare in Minnesota.



Marginal Shield-fern
(*Dryopteris marginalis*) Photo
©G D Bebeau

By the mid-2000's Lance Leaved-violet and Kitten-tails would disappear.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Saturday May 21, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden with 30 in attendance including former Friends President and Eloise Butler Wildflower Gardener Ken Avery.

Directors elected were: Rick Bartholomew, Harriet Betzold, Elizabeth Carr , Mel Duoos, Marguerite Harbison (new), Vi Labelle (new), Jack Lynch (new), Gloria Miller, Lynn Ogren (new), Steve & Sally Pundt (new), Shirley & Jack Schultz, Kathryn Stennes, Lola Wheeler (new), Kathleen Wolgamott. Cary George ex-officio.

Ken Avery left the board this year after being on the Board since 1991 and prior to that, from 1961 to 1986.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Harriet Betzold President, Rick Bartholomew Vice-President. Elizabeth Carr Secretary, and Jack (Chester) Schultz Treasurer.

In Committees, Shirley Schultz continued as Volunteer coordinator, and Kathy Stennes as newsletter editor. Kathleen Wolgamott became membership chair and Marguerite Harbison became memorials chair. Jennifer Gordon (not a board member) was Historian. 41 volunteers were on the active list. 270 persons on the membership list.

As to Garden projects, the fencing of the new prairie area was done. Fund raising would start for an update to the back gate, a project originally conceived to have been accomplished in 1992 when the fence was re-aligned, but not done due to funds. Cary George reported that Brower and Associates was providing the back gate design pro-bono. Also, Able Fence had submitted a bid for 200 feet of new wrought iron fencing to book-end the new front gate, replacing the old barbed wire cyclone fence. This was installed in 1995 as would the new back gate.



Former Gardener Ken Avery.
1993/94 was his last year on the
Friends Board. Newspaper photo

The rationale for the new back gate was detailed in minutes of the Friends July 21st Board Meeting:

- 1) The gardener needs a gate through which a tractor can be maneuvered.

- 2) The current gate is unsightly.
- 3) A new gate would provide a real entrance, not a "back door"; a psychological sense of security would probably be attained by having two entrance points of approximately equal importance.
- 4) An upgraded gate would provide access to the newly renovated mallard pond.

Getting national historic designation for the Garden was worked on. \$684 was spent during the year by the Friends on survey work for the application. The Friends formed a committee for this chaired by Rick Bartholomew with Martha Hellander contributing. The committee came up with a set of proposed motions for the Friends Board to consider. Park Board Commissioner Patricia Baker agreed to help. By July the committee issued a report to the Board outlining the steps and estimated costs. [Text of report is in Volume 1, appendix 13.]

Summer 1994

Cary George noted in the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM that Birders have been making hurried, exciting visits to the Garden since May 21 when an unusual Wormeating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*) was spotted on the west woodland trail near "Station 13." This sighting was included in the "Rare Bird Alert" message. Illegal plant harvesting in the Garden was also a problem.

Cary listed some plants that he had added in May, some of which were rare:

- Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
- Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*)
- American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)
- White Baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*)
- Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadensis*)
- Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*)
- Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*)
- Toad Trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*)
- Purple Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)
- Wax Trillium (*Trillium erectum* var. *album*)
- Yellow Trillium (*Trillium luteum*)
- Painted Trillium (*Trillium undulatum*)

Wax Trillium and Painted Trillium were noted on the 1993 planting list also - it is not known if this is a repeat listing or if he planted them two years in succession.



Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadensis*). Photo ©Elizabeth Parnis, Wisconsin Flora.

It was noted by several members of the Friends that some of these are not native to Minnesota and should not have been planted as that was contrary to the Friends Garden Maintenance proposals of 1980, but Mary Maguire Lerman, Park Board Horticulturist, stated that while the guideline is to keep to Minnesota plants, they also want to maintain some of the plants that Eloise Butler and Martha Crone had introduced that are popular with Garden visitors. [Friends document in Vol. 1, appendix 11.]

The Friends held a Board Meeting on July 21st at Brookview Community Center and then had a birthday celebration for Eloise Butler on her birthday of Aug. 3, from 2 to 6 PM at the Crone Shelter.

Memorials of \$3,800 received for Dr. Daniel T. Nordquist were going to be used to erect a water fountain in the Upland Garden replacing a plain spigot. He was a researcher at the University of Minnesota and died at age 34 on Dec. 11, 1993. It will be of Lannon Limestone to match the other Garden fountains. Daniel's brother Tim was building a microscope for the Shelter use. Daniel's mother

Joan Nordquist had already authorized funds for a wood bookcase for the Shelter.

Rick Bartholomew reported that some members of the Park Board did not support the idea of National Registry for the Garden. It was recommended to continue to study the project.

Park Board naturalists at the Garden this year are Kathie Baldwin, Chris Garty, Eric Lindberg, Erik Hahn, Tom Savre, Marcia Holmberg, Stephanie Torbert, and Sara Gallagher.



The new Nordquist fountain in the Upland Garden. Photo G. D. Bebeau

Autumn 1994

The Park Board was host that fall to the National Park Convention, and from that Cary George received some potted plants, including Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Steeple Bush (*Spirea tomentosa*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Big-leaf Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) and Dwarf Crested Iris (*Iris cristata*). The latter is interesting in that it had not been in the Garden for years. Eloise Butler first planted it in 1928 and Martha Crone in 1947 and then large quantities in 1951 and 1956. All their plants were sourced from nurseries as it is not native to the upper midwest.

In the Friends' newsletter for fall, Cary George reviewed Martha Hellander's book on the life of Eloise Butler, *The Wild Gardener*. He wrote:

A part of Minneapolis' history has been saved and illuminated by this biography of Eloise Butler, and while that satisfies most readers who are local history buffs, the book is much more than that. Eloise Butler's life bridges the gap between two centuries (1851-1933). It was a time when the choice of occupations for women was severely restricted. Martha Hellander's book chronicles some of the earliest women's rights issues. Men received degrees from universities while women received teaching certificates from state normal schools. And men were paid significantly higher salaries for teaching the same courses.

Oak Wilt killed two large Red Oaks (*Quercus rubra*) in the Garden during the year. A list of volunteers during the year was published in the winter Issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM. This was Kathy Stennes last issue as Editor.



Dwarf Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*.
Gift to the Garden from the
National Park Convention. Photo
G D Bebeau

Friends member and former board member Connie Lavoie was named the Minneapolis Park Board Volunteer of the Year.

The problem with car break-ins, continued during the year - 31 in 1994, 3 car thefts and one robbery. In the summer of 1993 the Friends had signage installed in the parking lot urging visitors to take their valuables with them. One problem was that most people did not take the time to report the break-ins. The issue would be hard to control until security cameras were installed in the early 2000's.



Connie Lavoie (left) receiving the Volunteer of the Year award from MPRB Commissioner Patricia Baker. Friends photo.



A Friends Board Meeting was held on Oct. 20th at Golden

Valley City Hall. There was not a quorum so discussion centered on The National Registry project and what was the intention in the Friends' Mission Statement by "Minnesota's Native Plants", especially since there was no written policy with the Park Board about that.

In October the Friends issued a new membership roster to the members in the same format as the 1992-94 directory. At the time the membership was 246. At the end of 1994 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$52,300.

The year 1994 has just above average precipitation but in late fall there was not much snow and the winter of 1994/95 would bring 30 inches of snow, well below the median for snowfall, with most of the 30 inches

falling before Dec. 31st.

Photo top of first page of 1994: Upland Garden fall hillside. Photo from October 2012 ©G D Bebeau

Winter 1994/1995

This is the ninth year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. In the winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Elaine Christenson wrote about the 1993 addition to the prairie garden. [Story follows 1993 text] A list of migrating birds that have been logged at the Garden was published. Cary George reported that:

A river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) was again spotted this winter near the North Gate. I believe this is a favorite area of his because the stream-bed is spring fed and therefore open all winter. Usually, no one is with me when I have these sightings, so I realize this could take on the dimension of some sort of furtive "Bigfoot" of the Garden. Confirmation by someone else would be desirable - especially a photographer, but the sightings always occur after the Garden has been closed for the season.

At a Friends Board Meeting held on Jan. 26th at Golden Valley City Hall, Steve Pundt, new chair of the National Register Listing Project Committee, reported that proposal of designating the Garden as an historic site was now in the hands of a Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (the Park Board) felt the cost of pursuing the issue was too expensive and that it might result in loss of control of the Garden. However, the city agency stepped in before they had to make a decision on the proposal. The commission had hired research people to see if the Garden could be eligible. [The Friends 1994 committee documents are in Volume 1, appendix 13.]



The new front wrought iron fence installed in early 1995 to the left of the gate matches this section from 1990. Photo at top of page shows the new footage extending from the left pillar. Photo G D Bebeau.

Early in the year Able Fence got the bid for the new wrought iron fence extending to the left of the Garden front gate and work was to begin soon. When the front gate was completed in 1991/92, funds were not available for the fencing, other than that between the pillars and to the right side of the gate pillars. The Friends were recipients of a bequest of \$5,000 from the estate of Lillian Jensen which would help in the cost of the front and back gate work.

A second Board Meeting was held on March 30th at Golden Valley City Hall. Jack and Shirley Schultz surprised the Board with a \$5,000 check in memory of Mrs. V. G. Peck, Shirley's mother. Diane Reindl became the new editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM beginning with the spring 1995 issue. President Harriet Betzold reported that a group of historical materials had been given to the Minnesota History Center and that the remaining material was to be stored in the Shelter attic. By the time of the meeting, Able Fence was completing the front gate iron fencing within the week. Cost to the Friends was \$6,675.



Shirley & Jack Schultz - see here on Nov. 6, 2004 at the Friends' Volunteer Event. Friends photo.

Sample bookplates had been designed by Friends member Dan Miller for all the books at the Crone Shelter, and the design chosen by the Board was then to be printed. Dan had a hand in the design of the 1992 commemorative stamp envelope also. The design for the back gate was revised. It was originally to have four columns to match the front gate but the bids were too high, so the Park Board approved a two column design. Bids were then let to LaMere Concrete and to Able Fence for the stone & iron work to do this year.

The Park Board was developing plans to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Garden by widening certain paths to five feet, building a ramp to the pit toilets and a ramp and railings from the patio area up to the Crone Shelter. The Friends had not been consulted on this implementation and a handwritten objection was drafted and given to Parks Foreman of Horticulture Dan Hasty, who was present at the meeting, to present to the Parks Operations Manager. The objection was that the work would destroy the original intent of the wildness of the Garden.

Spring 1995

The Garden opened April 1st with the Skunk Cabbage up and the Snow Trilliums emerging. There had been very little snow since the beginning of the year, most it melting after a few days.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Cary George noted the Elaine Christenson passed away on April 1st. She was a former Board Member and had worked with Cary on the addition of the extra acre to the prairie in 1993 as noted in the winter section above. The Friends hosted author Martha Hellander at the Garden on Mother's Day, May 14. She was there to greet visitors, and sign copies of her book on Eloise Butler, *The Wild Gardener*. The Friends had partially funded her research in 1989-1991.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Saturday May 20, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden. Former Friends Board Member, President and Eloise Butler Wildflower Gardener Ken Avery was in attendance.

Directors elected were: Steve Benson (new), Harriet Betzold, Elizabeth Carr, Mel Duoos, Marguerite Harbison, Jack Lynch, Gloria Miller, Steve & Sally Pundt, Kaye Rudberg (new), Shirley & Jack Schultz, Lola Wheeler, Kathleen Wolgamott. Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Harriet Betzold President, Jack Lynch Vice-President, Elizabeth Carr Secretary, and Jack (Chester) Schultz Treasurer.

In Committees, Shirley Schultz continued as Volunteer coordinator, Kathleen Wolgamott and Lola Wheeler as membership co-chairs, non-board member Diane Reindl was the new Newsletter editor and Marguerite Harbison as memorials chair. 38 volunteers were on the active list. 218 persons on the membership list, a large drop from last year.

Cary George noted the work going on of removing sumac and other undesirables from the new prairie area. The Park Board funded 3 granite slab benches for sitting which were placed under the lone oak in that part of the eastern prairie. Work was completed by Able Fence on the new wrought iron fencing left of the new front gate with Friends funding of \$6,675. The Friends were also providing funds for the reconstruction of the back gate and the Nordquist fountain. That cost was \$11,289 to LaMere Concrete for the structure and the fountain and \$1,606 to Able Fence for iron work. Additional fence funding would be needed in 1997. A memorial donation of \$2,000 from the Nordquist family in 1994 paid for the fountain.

Summer 1995

The new north gate at the back of the Garden was being worked on. The new fountain on the center hill in the Upland Garden was in operation.

The Friends held a Board Meeting on July 20th at Golden Valley City Hall. Although there are no minutes available, the agenda indicates committee reports were given, additional copies of Martha Hellander's book had been ordered and received from the printer, and there was discussion on a letter received from Mary Lerman of the Park Board (July 10, 1995) where she relayed a request from Commissioner Patricia Baker to meet with the Friends about the proposed safety and access issues at the Garden. These were the issues noted in the winter section above.

After the Garden had closed for the year, Cary George reported in *The Fringed Gentian*TM vol. 44-1, Spring 1996, that new plantings in the prairie area this year were:

- Stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)
- Heath aster (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*)
- Sky blue aster (*Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*)
- New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Yellow oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
- Mountain mint (*Pyctanthemum virginianum*)
- Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
- Upright coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)
- Grey-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
- Flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*)
- Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Autumn 1995

Twelve Friends Board members attended the meeting with Commissioner Baker on Sept. 14th. An understanding was reached that

- 1) no changes or alterations would be made to the Garden without input from the Friends,
- 2) the Horticulture Section would not be acting independently with the Garden, and
- 3) changes would go through the Planning Department as has been done in the past.

The Friends hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Get-together on Sept. 12 at the Crone Shelter at the Garden. This was the 25th year that the Friends provided volunteer greeters at the Crone Shelter. 25 volunteers attended. At a Friends Board Meeting on Sept. 28th the membership co-chairs of Kathleen Wolgamott and Lola Wheeler stated they would not be continuing after the next annual meeting. The



Above: Three granite slabs arranged for seating near the Red Oak along the new trail in the new addition to the Upland Prairie. Photo G D Bebeau



Young visitors to the Martha Crone Shelter. The microscope on the table was made by Tim Nordquist in 1994. Friends photo.

North Gate project was still being worked on. The Heritage Preservation Commission of Minneapolis decided not to pursue designating the Garden as historically significant because it was a teaching facility. [Documentation in Volume 1, appendix 13]

Friends President Harriet Betzold wrote in the autumn newsletter:

The expertise and knowledge the Volunteers impart to the many garden visitors is much appreciated. Have you wondered where the visitors who enter the Shelter and are greeted with your friendly smile come from? The guest book tells the story. In July we had visitors from as far as South Africa and Honolulu, Hawaii as well as from Maryland, Pennsylvania, California, Georgia and Connecticut. In August visitors came from LaPaz, Bolivia and Finland; and in the U.S., Oregon, Texas, Montana, Virginia, Florida, Nevada, and Ohio were represented. September brought visitors from Venice, Italy and Poland and locally from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Washington, Michigan and North Dakota.

The comments ranged from "Great cake, I'll be back" to "Breathtaking," "WOW," "Just amazing," "Wonderful," "Fabulous," "Enchanting Refuge," "Beautiful," "Cool," "Very Peaceful," and "Astonishing." Two children from Golden Valley and their "Gramps" commented that "the Lady was very nice." referring to Catherine (Kaye) Rudberg who served the beautiful birthday cake. A local couple made the statement "Wowie-Zowie - Excellent Staff." If they were referring to the Naturalists with those words, they summed it up beautifully as some wonderful programming was offered by these dedicated young people during the 1995 season."

At the end of 1995 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$61,300.

Weather: Precipitation for 1995 was a few inches below median. Very little snow had fallen in Jan-March and later the winter of 1995/96 would produce just slightly more snow than the median of 43 inches. Temperatures during the year were average.



1996

Winter 1995/1996

This is the tenth year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. The Friends held a Board meeting on March 21st at Golden Valley City Hall. Some of the mail received at the Friends post office box appeared to have been tampered with and it was discussed moving the box from Lowry Ave. to another post office. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (the Park Board) Naturalist and Friends member Cathy Baldwin had been in the process of creating a history album and after being forgotten about for years an old history written by Martha Crone was found in the Shelter attic. It was discussed adding this original document to the history. It is unclear why this document had been forgotten as it accompanied Martha's 1951 Garden Census and writer and Friends member Martha Hellander had also retrieved it and other important papers from the Crone family home after Martha Crone died (see 1989). Cary George reported that the Garden would probably open late as there was snow and ice everywhere plus a ton of debris from a winter ice storm.

There was a deep cold-snap in late January into February with the temperature reaching -32 degrees F in February in the Twin Cities. A historic all-time low of -60 degrees F was recorded at Tower Minnesota on Feb. 2. There was snow cover to protect the plants and even with a late March snowstorm of almost 7 inches, the Garden opened only several days late.



Cary George at the Garden.
Friends photo.

Spring 1996

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*[™], Cary George reported that it was the coldest spring in 21 years and the the plants would all be late in emerging. Three more Red Oaks had to be removed during the winter due to oak wilt. This issue of the newsletter was the last issue by editor Diane Reindl.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Saturday May 18, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden. Former Friends Board member and president and Eloise Butler Wildflower Gardener Ken Avery was in attendance.

Directors elected were: Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis (new), Mel Duoos, Marguerite Harbison, Juanita Lussenhop (new), Jack Lynch, Gloria Miller, Lon Miller, Steve & Sally Pundt, Kaye Rudberg, Shirley & Jack Schultz, Lola Wheeler.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Harriet Betzold President, Jack Lynch Vice-President, Juanita Lussenhop Secretary, and Jack Schultz Treasurer. Treasurer Jack Schultz reported that there was about \$50,000 in the bank accounts.

In committees, Shirley Schultz was Volunteer coordinator, Joy Davis became the new membership chair; Gloria Miller, Historian; newsletter editor still vacant, but Barb Milligan who was not a director, took over at the end of the year; Liaison to the Park Board, Steve Pundt; and Marguerite Harbison was memorials chair. 44 volunteers were on the active list. 244 persons on the membership list, a nice increase from last year.



Joy Davis, new board member and new membership chair. Friends photo.



Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for MPRB, shown here in a 2004 Friends photo.

Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for the Park Board was present at the meeting and discussed recent organization changes at the Park Board.

It was also noted that the natural spring in Wirth Park (Great Medicine Spring) was starting to come back. It had been severely affected by the I-394 construction. Cary George said it takes 3 minutes to fill a gallon. Ken Avery added that the spring never did run well and would the Friends consider adding a pump? (see 1999 for the full story of the attempt to rejuvenate the spring) The only use for the small parking lot near the spring was for water gatherers and otherwise it was a site for troublemakers, which Ken Avery had remarked on back in 1965. Cary added that the new 1993 prairie addition renovation work was virtually complete and that he had a lot of help from Americorp in completing it. A new parking lot payment kiosk was installed by the Park Board and Cary noted that the payment requirement had reduced litter considerably.

Summer 1996

During the summer the Upland Garden paths were re-routed into the new prairie addition and the old ones closed off. With the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Barb Milligan became Gentian Editor. In that newsletter the Garden naturalists wrote about the best time to visit the Garden and also about interesting examples of insects helping other insects.

Memorial Chair Marguerite Harbison reported that a new memorials book was placed in the shelter on the table so visitors could read and be encouraged to make memorials. In the mid-2000s it disappeared as had, years earlier, the original book from the shelter dedication.

Cary George reported in *The Fringed Gentian*TM:

The mystery of the river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) continues. This summer, a Garden visitor reported seeing it swimming and catching frogs in the bog pond. All of the sightings over the years have been by knowledgeable visitors or employees, but until we get a photograph it still remains in the "yah -- sure" category for most skeptics. [See 1995 for the first sighting.]



Above: The Garden back gate, seen here in 2008. Some of the surrounding stonework was completed in 1997 and about 70 feet of the wrought iron fencing around the gate was added then also. The remaining lengthy extension of fencing east and west of the gate was added in 2005. Photo G D Bebeau

The Friends held a Board meeting on August 1st in the Martha Crone Shelter. Eloise Butler's birthday on Aug. 3rd was celebrated with a cake at the shelter and a volunteer appreciation pot luck was held on September 5th at the Shelter. It was poorly attended so it was discussed later in November whether having it at a cafe or other public facility might be better. Barbara Milligan, the new newsletter editor was given a complementary membership in the Friends.

The summer was very dry. Four more Red Oaks died of oak wilt.

Autumn 1996

The construction of the new north gate at the back of the Garden had been started in 1995 and was to be completed in October of this year, with a retaining wall and fencing yet to be done. So far the cost to the Friends was \$12,985, but that included the cost of the new Nordquist Fountain in the Upland Garden,

completed in 1995, and about \$2,000 of that cost came from a memorial from the Nordquist family. Some additional new wrought iron fencing would be added around the new gate but not until 1997. The rest of the old cyclone wire fence still remaining along the Garden's north boundary was retained and then replaced by the Friends in 2005.

The first annual photo contest was successfully held in the Garden, sponsored by the Garden Naturalists and the Park Board.

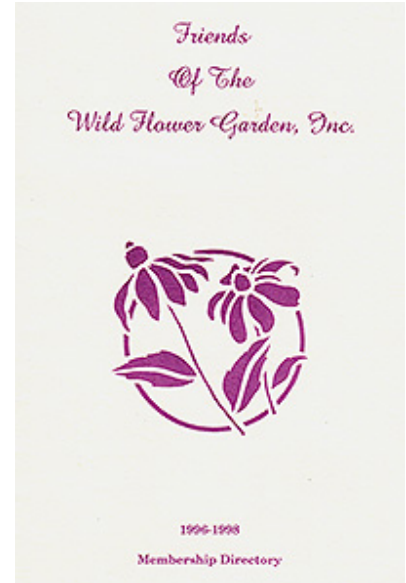
Cary George reported about the various general types of bees you would find in the garden and the fact that he had been stung so often that he had become sensitized to the venom and was taking a 5 year desensitization set of shots.

Toward the end of the year a new membership directory was mailed to members. The format and cover was similar to the two previous directories. Patricia Thomesen passed away on December 29 at age 62. She was Friends president 1984 and 1985 and then membership chair 1986 through 1990. Like Martha Crone she was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and was past matron of St. Anthony Park chapter 263, O.E.S.

The Friends held a board meeting on Nov. 18th where discussion was about the newsletter and insurance for the Shelter contents belonging to the Friends. At the end of 1996 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$56,700.

Weather: While total precipitation during the year was just above average, there was a lot of snow on the ground in Jan-March and going into fall, there were large snowfalls in November and December and the coming winter of 1996/97 was 30 inches above median in the amount of snow.

Photo top of first page of 1996: Fall Color in the Upland Garden ©G D Bebeau



Friends 1996-98 Membership Directory cover.



1997

Winter 1996/1997

This is the eleventh year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. The Friends held a Board meeting on Feb. 3rd at Golden Valley City Hall. The item of most importance was to set up a meeting with Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to discuss Garden Projects.

That meeting took place on Feb. 13th at the Park Board Operations Center. Items discussed and the conclusions were:

- 1) Reactivate the Great Medicine Spring with a pump. This is outside the Garden and the Park Board may need to contribute to the expense. (Need to do study).
- 2) Gardener's shed - it needs insulation but no major changes so as to preserve its character. (Getting estimate, Park architect to look at).
- 3) Install a Swedish toilet for shelter volunteers. (No conclusion)
- 4) Complete the North Gate. (70 feet of fencing needed - cost?)
- 5) Install interpretive plaque at the well and at the location of Eloise Butler's shelter (No conclusion)
- 6) Construct a lean-to wood rack on the exterior of the shelter to keep fire wood dry (Back to drawing board, but erected in 1998.)



Cary George at the Garden.
Friends photo.

Another Board meeting was held on March 17th. A money management committee was formed of Steve Benson, Steve Pundt and Jack Schultz. They met with Merrill Lynch to re-arrange the types of accounts where the Friends funds were deposited and invested. More results were in from the meeting on Feb. 13th with Jeff Lee:

- Jack Renner of Renner Well had reviewed the spring and determined that the water table was too low for the spring and a pump would be needed.
- The Park Board architect Peter Paulson was doing an estimate on insulating and improving the Gardener's shed.

- The City of Minneapolis does not allow non-plumbed toilets and a city ordinance would need to be changed to have a composting toilet near the shelter. Advice was to forget about it but many board members did not agree [Note - nothing ever happened].
- The north gate wall work was unsatisfactory and would be redone by this fall.
- Completion of the wrought iron fencing would cost about \$3,500.
- The Park Board carpenters could make a firewood lean-to. {Completed in 1998 see photo there.}

Spring 1997

The Garden did not open until April 7 due to heavy snow cover. The winter of 1996/97 had 72 inches of snow, 29 inches above median. Warm 40 degree temperatures in early March, were then followed by below zero temperatures in mid-March, which killed the flower buds on many Cottonwood, Elderberry, some oaks and other early flowering shrubs.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 45 no. 2) *Star Tribune* Staff Writer Darlene Pfister wrote an article titled "This Wonderful Garden" about her experiences of being alone in the Garden on opening day. Cary George wrote about winter activities including damage to the shingles on the rest room, apparently from a dog trying to root out a woodchuck. Winners on last fall's Garden Photo Contest were announced.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held their annual meeting on Saturday May 17, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden. Directors elected were: Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Mel Duoos, Marguerite Harbison, Juanita Lussenhop, Jack Lynch, Gloria Miller, Lon Miller, Steve & Sally Pundt, Kaye Rudberg, Shirley & Jack Schultz, Lola Wheeler.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Gloria Miller President, Jack Lynch Vice-President, Juanita Lussenhop Secretary, and Jack Schultz Treasurer. In committees, Shirley Schultz was Volunteer coordinator, Joy Davis, membership chair; Gloria Miller, Historian; newsletter editor, Barb Milligan (not a director); Liaison to the Park Board, Steve Pundt; and Marguerite Harbison was memorials chair.

36 volunteers were on the active list. 246 persons on the membership list.

Jeff Lee, was present and reported on the project list covered in the Winter section above. The estimated cost for the shed remodel was \$3,500. Cathy Baldwin had completed the photo history on Eloise Butler and the booklet was ready to place on the Shelter table.

Former Friends president and Board member and Eloise Butler Wildflower Gardener Ken Avery was in attendance and gave short history of the natural springs in and near the Garden. This was Ken's last meeting with the Friends. Cary George outlined the plan to replace the steep path at the back of the Garden connecting the upland with the wetland, with a path with more switchbacks. Some renovation work had been done in 1990, but not a change of slope to a more walkable path. This work began on June 16 with help from a youth group.

Summer 1997

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 45 no. 3), Cary George wrote about the increasing infestation of Garlic Mustard in the cities and in Wirth Park. He is trying to keep it under control in the

Garden. He made of list the common alien trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs; and also a list of the aggressive native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs.

In the newsletter Friends outgoing president, Harriet Betzold, wrote her last President's Letter, the annual meeting of the Friends was reported on, and Harriet wrote that last fall the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board honored Friends members Betty Bryan, Gloria Miller and Lon Miller for their volunteer work.

A new bench memorial was placed in the Upland Garden honoring Margie Baker. Back in 1995 a member of People for Parks had inquired about the process of having a memorial plate placed in the Garden, and by working with the Park Board it was accomplished.

The history of the Baker bench is explained in this letter to the Friends from Zachary Baker:

I am a native of Minneapolis, and last lived there about 30 years ago. I visit the Wild Flower Garden whenever I get back to town – some of my earliest childhood memories are connected with outings there. For my mother, the late Marjorie Baker, the Garden was a very special place, and after she passed away (1973) my father arranged to have plaques in her memory placed by two benches – one in the forest garden, the other in the prairie garden. My father, Mike Baker, died a little over a year ago, and I have been to the Garden several times during visits connected with estate matters. I feel that the very least I can do is to join the Friends as a sponsor. That way, the Baker family will maintain its connection to the Garden for the present and future.



Bench dedication to Margie Baker, situated on the oak hill in the Upland Garden. Photo G D Bebeau

During the summer the steep back trail was rebuilt with help from the Loring-Nicollet-Bethlehem youth crew - 14-15 year olds. It was lined with treated timbers and Cary George planted native plants over the old section of the trail.

On June 21, a garden designer from England, Helen Shaw, toured the Garden. It's interesting how many foreign visitors know about the Garden. It was written back in 1924 in a Minneapolis newspaper, when Eloise Butler was still curator, that she and the Garden were more well-known abroad and in other states than right here at home.

Autumn 1997

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol 45 no. 4) Gloria Miller wrote the first President's Letter of her second term as Friends President. [First term 1986-88] MPRB Naturalist Stacy Skinner wrote about composite flowers; MRPB Naturalist Sara Gallagher wrote about late August birding and Cary George reported on his work.

The Park Board carpenters were busy re-habing the Gardener's shed. The cost to the Friends was \$2,400 for materials while the Park Board paid for their employees labor which was calculated at \$7,756. The back gate iron work fencing was completed by Selby Ornamental Iron at a cost to the Friends of \$3,649.

This fence section abutted the gate, which is set back from the path along the back of the Garden (the old tarvia path), but did not include the fence section along the remainder of the back path. That section remained wire fencing and was not replaced until 2005.

37 volunteers contributed 771 hours at the Crone Shelter. Duty did not start this year until April 13, due to ice and snow. The Garden closed a week early to allow construction work to start on the Gardener's shed. The Volunteer appreciation event this year became a luncheon, held at the American Legion Post in Golden Valley. Eighteen volunteers attended. Marguerite Harbison was the chief organizer.

Finally, and sadly, Ken Avery passed away on November 19th at age 72. He had received a degree in horticulture in 1952 from the University of Minnesota, became assistant to Martha Crone in 1954, and then Curator/Gardener when she retired at the end of 1958. He was a member of the Friends since he came to the Garden and was our president 1966-1968.

At the end of 1997 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$60,600.

Weather: While the first part of the year was cold with snow, the winter of 1997/98 was mild due to El Nino, with little snowfall before December 31st and most of the winter snow coming in the first quarter of 1998. Total precipitation for 1997 was above average due to much rain between June and October with two storms in July and August dropping 3.7 and 3.2 inches of rain.

Photo top of first page of 1997: The Gardener's Shed, hidden among the foliage in August 1999. Photo ©G D Bebeau



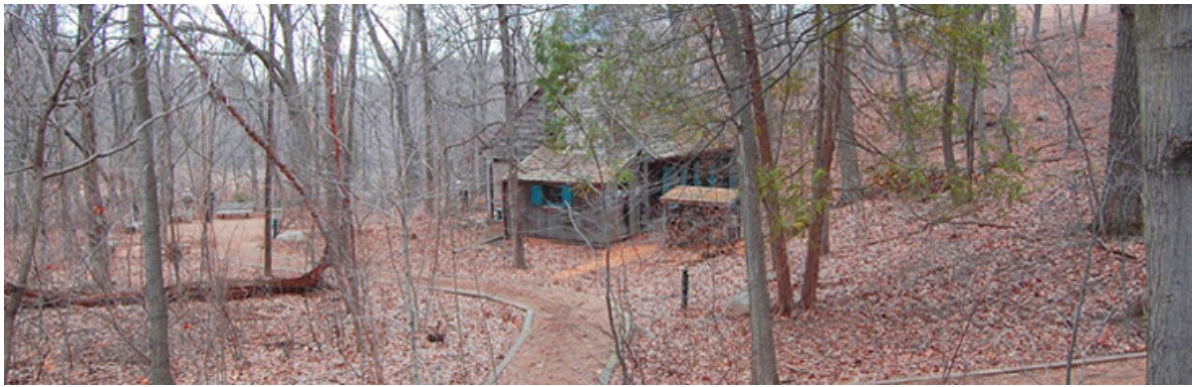
The new back path to the Upland Garden completed in the Summer of 1997 and shown here 10 years later after the vegetation has completely filled in. (Photo G D Bebeau)



The Gardener's shed before the re-hab. (Photo G D Bebeau).



The Gardener's shed, after re-hab, shown here in 2008 (Photo G D Bebeau).



1998

Winter 1997/1998

This is the 12th year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden.

The Friends held a board meeting on Jan 26th at Golden Valley City Hall. Most items were review. New items covered were:

- 1) Placement of a bike rack near the Garden front gate.
- 2) The need for a one-page flyer for Garden visitors that did not want to use the regular Garden guide book.
- 3) Suggestions for a memorial of some type for Ken Avery, who passed away in November last year.
- 4) The need for a web site - this is the first mention of the idea. Reality would occur in 2007.

Another board meeting was held on March 30th at Golden Valley City Hall. The money management committee formed of Steve Benson, Steve Pundt and Jack Schultz had met with Merrill Lynch and some accounts were re-arranged. Jack Renner of Renner Well submitted a bid of \$10,600 for a well and pump at the Great Medicine Spring. The board voted to approve the project with a limit of \$15,000. Two bike racks were approved, one for the parking lot and one for near the front gate. Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for the Park Board, was to order them and have the park maintenance people install them. The Friends would pay for the racks - cost was \$578. Cary George noted the Garden would open April 1st as the trails were clear of snow and wildflowers were emerging - quite different from 1997. There was more discussion about a Ken Avery memorial and a web page.

Photos of the prairie hillside after removal of the Red Oaks affected with oak wilt. Some of the brush was burned on site. 1st photo - looking up towards the prairie. 2nd photo looking down toward the woodland.

(Photos G D Bebeau)



In the Spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 46 no.1) Cary George reported that another 4 Red Oaks were removed due to oak wilt. These were the last oaks located on the north Prairie Garden hillside which had been the epicenter of the disease. [photos] The remodeled Gardener's shed was much appreciated. (Work done in the Fall of 1997). He also noted that this was the first Spring when Ken Avery did not greet him in the Garden with "And how is Mr. George today?"

Spring 1998

Mothers Day was celebrated in the Shelter with a birthday cake provided by the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden who then held their annual meeting on Saturday May 16, at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden.

Directors elected were: Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Mel Duoos, Marguerite Harbison, Juanita Lussenhop, Jack Lynch, Gloria Miller, Lon Miller, Barbara Milligan (new), Steve & Sally Pundt, Shirley & Jack Schultz.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Gloria Miller President, Jack Lynch Vice-President, Juanita Lussenhop Secretary, and Jack Schultz, Treasurer.

In Committees, Shirley Schultz was Volunteer coordinator, Joy Davis, membership chair; Gloria Miller, Historian; Newsletter editor, Barb Milligan; Liaison to the Park Board, Steve Pundt; and Marguerite Harbison was memorials chair.

51 volunteers were on the active list. 257 persons on the membership list.

Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for the Park Board was present and reported that the new cost estimate for the well and pump at the Great Medicine Spring was \$11,145 and that work would begin in late fall.



One of two steel bike racks funded by the Friends in 1998. This one by the Schaar Bench near the front gate to the Garden. (Photo G D Bebeau)

There were only 600 Garden guides left, so from now on guides would not be left in bulk at the entrance kiosk but would need to be picked up at the shelter, but guides could be returned to a box at the entrance. The shelter is getting a new computer and a microwave, the microwave furnished by the Friends for \$75. The first computer arrived in 1990, donated by Walker Art Center to the Park Board.

At that board meeting following the annual meeting Joy Davis reported that her query of members about a membership roster resulted in the majority saying don't spend the money. Thus the 1998-99 roster already prepared would be the last mailed. Shirley Schultz ordered and donated a clock for the shelter that Cary George had requested.

Summer 1998

In the Summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 46 no. 2) an article told how to create a butterfly garden. It was announced that the Friends would provide a birthday cake and refreshments on Aug. 2nd at the Shelter in honor of Eloise Butler's Birthday (Aug. 3, 1851) Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson

declared Aug. 3, 1998 as Eloise Butler Day. The text is in the Winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 46 no. 3) and follows this text.

An an August meeting of the Friends Board, Lisa Locken and Lyle Johnson were added to the board. During the year planning was done for the memorial for Gardener Ken Avery. The attempt was to establish a "Ken Avery Research Fund" at the University of Minnesota that would support student research in the Department of Horticultural Science. The University estimated that about 5% of a fund could be expended each year for student research.

Friends President Gloria Miller had received a ready to sign agreement from the University but the minimum funding required was \$10,000 and the board decided not to pursue it. In 2005 a memorial in the form of the Ken Avery Birding Terrace would come into being.

Autumn 1998

In the Winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 46no.3) Cary George thanked the Friends for purchasing a new log splitter (cost \$947). He reported that 12 clumps of Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) were rescued from a road project in northern Minnesota and planted in the wetland. In addition he listed the following as some of the other plants he put in during the year:

Sharp-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica aculiloba*)
Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*)
American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)
Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*)
Bottle Gentian (*Genlian andrewsii*)
Wild Quinine (*Pathenium integrifolium*)
Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)
Speckled Alder (*Alnus rugosa*)
Yellow Birch (*Betula allegheniensis*)
Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

Shirley Schultz listed the 1998 volunteers and two poems by local poet and Friends member Betty Bridgman were published. The Garden naturalists wrote an article about the rescue of an injured hawk at the Garden.



The simple firewood lean-to constructed by Park Board Carpenters in the Summer of 1998 (Photo G D Bebeau)

The park board carpenters finished the firewood rack near the Shelter.

At the end of 1998 the Friends had financial statement assets of \$61,300.

Weather: 1998 was a mild year without wild temperature swings, adequate precipitation, but the Fall was dry with very little snow. Most of the snow for the Winter of 1998/99 fell after the first of the year.

Photo top of first page of 1998: Panoramic view of the Garden Shelter from the Front Gate. ©G D Bebeau

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Winter Issue
1998

Vol. 49 No. 3

Proclamation

August 3, 1998 was declared Eloise Butler Day in a proclamation signed by Governor Arne Carlson. The major points of the proclamation are listed here:

Whereas Eloise Butler was born on August 3, 1851 in Appleton, Maine. Her home in Maine was surrounded by wildflowers and wildlife of all kinds, providing her with many opportunities to observe and learn about nature; and

Whereas Eloise Butler's interest in botany and her studious nature led her to become a teacher at the age of nineteen; and

Whereas Eloise Butler was one of many women who made substantial contributions to society during the time of the women's rights movement; and

Whereas Eloise Butler came to Minnesota at the age of twenty-four, became a teacher of history and botany at Central High School in Minneapolis in 1878 and later taught at South High School before retiring in 1911; and

Whereas Eloise Butler's study of freshwater algae and desmids earned her the distinction of having two new species of desmids named for her, *Cosmarium eloiseanum* and *Sataurastrum eloisenum*; and

Whereas Eloise Butler founded the Minneapolis Wild Botanic Garden in 1907, located in the Theodore Wirth Park area; and

Whereas in 1929 the Minneapolis Park Board formally changed the name of the garden to Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, one of the oldest public wildflower gardens in the United States; and

Whereas Eloise Butler was a dedicated teacher and tended her beloved garden until her death on April 10, 1933;

Now Therefore, I, Arne H. Carlson, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim August 3, 1998 to be Eloise Butler Day in Minnesota.



1999

Winter 1998/1999

This is the 13th year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. During the winter of 1998-99 the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the Friends contracted with Renner Well Drilling to drill a deep well for a hand pump at the site of the ancient Great Medicine Spring just outside fence of the Garden. Over recent years since the construction of Interstate 394, the flow of the old spring had gradually dropped to a trickle. In January 1999 the drilling reached an area at 135 feet depth that produced a large free flow of water such that a faucet needed to be installed. The expectation was that in the spring, visitors could once again enjoy free flowing spring water. Unfortunately, the water flow was not to last. (History - Great Medicine Spring is in Volume 1, appendix 9.)

At a Friends Board meeting held on March 15 several board members reported on their research into creating a website for the Friends. At the time it was considered to be too expensive to do and that perhaps having a section on the Park Board website might be best. That did not happen but the Friends website came into being in 2007 when Friends member Gary Bebeau brought it online.



Drilling the new well at Great Medicine Spring, winter 1998-99.
Friends photo.

Spring 1999

Friends' President Gloria Miller reported that the Garden would open two weeks later than normal due to budget constraints at the Park Board. A volunteer orientation was held on April 24th in the Martha Crone Shelter. Cary George conducted a burn of the Prairie Garden on April 26th. He was concerned about damage to the early season forbs as this was the latest date for a burn in 13 years, but the conditions were perfect and success outweighed any concerns. Cary George felt a burn every two years was necessary for the Prairie Garden (as opposed to recommended practice of 3 to 5 years) because the prairie builds up annually an enormous thatch and there are many exotics growing there which need

more frequent control than a virgin prairie area does. The late date of the burn was due to wet conditions previously. There was ample rain in early April and a huge 12.5 inch snowfall in mid March.

The spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 47 no. 1) contained Gloria Miller's last letter as she was completing her second term as Friends president.

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends was held on May 15th at the Martha Crone Shelter. Directors elected were: Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Mel Duoos, Ann Godfrey (new), Marguerite Harbison, George Jaquith (new), Lyle Johnson, Juanita Lussenhop, Lisa Locken (new), Gloria Miller, Steve & Sally Pundt, Shirley & Jack Schultz. Ex-officio - Cary George. Barbara Milligan left the Board.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Steve Pundt President, Lyle Johnson Vice President, Juanita Lussenhop Secretary, George Jaquith treasurer.

In committees, Shirley Schultz and Harriet Betzold were Volunteer coordinators, Joy Davis, membership chair; Gloria Miller, Historian; Lisa Locken newsletter editor, (beginning with the fall issue, Barbara Milligan retired after the winter, spring and summer issues); Liaison to the Park Board, Steve Pundt; and Marguerite Harbison was memorials chair.



Lisa Locken, new editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM.
Friends photo

Friends Vice President Jack Lynch had passed away on March 22nd. His poem "On Purple Bees and Poppies" was reprinted in *The Fringed Gentian*TM. You can read it in Poet's Corner on the website. Garden Naturalist Brian Walvatne wrote about Skunk Cabbage and their smell.

Summer 1999

The new well at the Great Medicine Spring was flowing with a good stream of water.

Eleven new members joined the Friends since the first of the year. Naturalist Willow Rheult wrote in *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 47 no. 2) on how simple and enjoyable it was to do "porch birding" from the front porch of the Martha Crone Shelter. A birthday cake was served at the Martha Crone Shelter on Sunday August 8th in honor of the birth date of Eloise Butler (actual date of birth was August 3).

In July long time Friends' member Betty Bridgman (1916-1999) passed away. Betty was a volunteer and she was editor of our newsletter *The Fringed Gentian*TM from March 1983 until July 1990. She served two terms on the Friends Board of Directors - 1961 until 1964, 1982 until 1990. In addition she was an author and well known local poet. A short bio follows this text.

Summer temperatures fluctuated in a moderate range above and below the averages and there was adequate rainfall with several heavy rains in July and August.

Autumn 1999

The fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 47 no. 3) starts off with President Steve Pundt looking forward to the new millennium and remarking on the resurgence of interest in the use of native plants and grasses - exactly what the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden is intended to maintain and promote. Cary George contributed an article on "Native Grasses for the Home Landscape," describing the five main Prairie grasses at the Eloise Butler Garden: Bluestem, Cordgrass, Porcupine Grass, Switchgrass and Indiangrass. Friends member and MPRB Naturalist Cathie Baldwin wrote about "Magic in the



The Upland Garden back hillside in October 1999. Photo G D Bebeau

Wildflower Garden" giving us some old plant lore. Did you know that you can forecast the number of children you will have by blowing on a dandelion seed head? Both articles are found in the web site archive. A poem of the late Betty Bridgman was printed - "First Night of Frost." 14 new members have joined since Summer.

A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held on November 13th at the American Legion Club in Golden Valley. Special honor was given to several volunteers who put in many hours at the Martha Crone Shelter - Betty Bryan, Sally Pundt, George Bridgman, Gloria Miller, Marguerite Harbison and

Harriet Betzold. Marguerite and Harriet was co-chairs of this event. Marguerite was also Memorials Chair.

1999 was the year that Lisa Locken became editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, beginning with the fall issue. Lisa made more extensive use of photos and started a column about our volunteers. She remained editor until her death in 2007.

Weather: The temperatures in late fall spiked well above average in November and December. Precipitation was poor from mid-September through the end of the year, leaving the plants to go into deep winter with inadequate soil moisture. There was a little snow in December but snow cover at year end was only about two inches.



Photo top of first page of 1999: The Martha Crone Shelter seen from the Upland Garden in early spring 1999. Photo ©G D Bebeau



Right: The Martha Crone Shelter in October 1999. Photo G D Bebeau.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden



Betty Bridgman (1915 - 1999)

Elizabeth (Betty) Bridgman (Mrs. Donald) had a long association with the Friends as a board member, volunteer and newsletter editor. She first joined the Friends Board of Directors on Jan 10, 1961 and was re-elected in 1962 and '63.

Betty was a regionally recognized poet. She wrote her first poem in 5th grade. Many of her works were originally published in the *Christian Science Monitor*. When the Martha Crone Shelter was dedicated in May 1970 she wrote a poem for the occasion with a very long title: *A letter of thanks from the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden on the occasion of the dedication of the Martha Crone Shelter on May 13, 1970*. The opening lines are:

You are good people. You mean well.
You kept the houses off my hill.
You saved my elm and tamarack.
You love this place, which loves you back.
Thank you for sixty years' restraint
of urge to tidy up and paint,
to straighten rows or trim a tree.
Neatness doesn't count to me.

Betty was a member of the nominating committee for our Board of Director elections from 1972 through 1975. She then rejoined the Board of Directors in 1982 and served until 1990.

Being a poet, she took issues with inappropriate use of words. At the 1976 annual membership meeting on May 15 she made a motion from the floor to remove the word "false" from any Garden sign, as there were no "false" plants, just different plants, and they all had alternate names. Her motion was as follows:

"I move that we request the change of every marker in the Garden which has the word "false" on it. No natural plant is false, and none imitates another plant, "False" is the word for phony or artificial, False flowers are plastic, paper, glass or wood. Every plant has a name that does not include the word "false", For instance, where our marker says False Solomon's Seal, it should say Solomon's Plume or *Smilacina racemosa*."

The motion passed after she agreed to bear the cost of new signs. It is not known if new signs were ever procured.

After election to the Board in 1982, she stepped in as co-editor of *The Fringed Gentian*TM for the autumn issue (Vol. 30 #4) and then became sole editor beginning in 1983, continuing to March 1990.



Betty Bridgman in 1988. Photo by Mary Slettehaugh.

At the 1982 annual meeting of The Friends she read a new poem she had written that had another long title: "*Ode for the 275 members of the Friends of the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.*" This was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Friends and the 80th anniversary of the Garden.

One stanza reads:

Friends say to them,
"What! You're volunteering on behalf of worthless weeds
nobody needs?
Think what beautiful homes would fill the scene
in that ravine!
Think of the expanse of lawn
When the clutter is gone!
The happy homeowners out with their mowers
and snow-blowers,
Their dandelion-diggers–
Sales in six figgers!"

In later years, several of Betty's poems would be published in the newsletter.(1)

In late 1984 (December 4) Betty was one of four members of The Friends who met with Park Board staff to air concerns of the Friends for the future care and development of the Wildflower Garden. The budget for the Garden had been lowered and Gardener Ken Avery was now usually working alone instead of having the usual two helpers of earlier years. This would be a recurring subject that would occupy the attention future board members also. The consensus of the group was that their ideas were at least listened to.(2)

In the first issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM that Betty was sole editor of, (Vol. 31 #1) she published an article by Dr. Marian Grimes about Henry Thoreau's visit to her Grandfathers orchard. (3) Betty had a personal connection to the story and inserted the following:

The editor has lived on what was the Grimes farm for 43 years, and has heard that Jonathan Grimes kept a rowboat moored at what is now 42nd Street and Grimes Avenue, and that he could row from there through swamps to Lake Calhoun.

Betty could write with humor and tongue-in-cheek. At the 1986 annual meeting Betty's report as newsletter editor included this bit:

It has been over a year now since our President, Patricia Thomesen, made my assignment more pleasant by arranging to have a committee mail each issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM. The present editor, though widely regarded with affection and tolerance, as it proved, did not have the required IQ to handle the permit mailing without getting our 35-year highly respected organization into deep trouble and possible loss of our mailing rate of \$.08 cents per copy.

In one her many writings she wrote something about herself as a child that echoed what Eloise Butler had wrote about herself, although it is certain Betty had never seen Butler's unpublished work.(4)

Try to imagine what I looked like in fifth grade. You'd say right away that I probably wasn't much to look at. Come to think of it, I never heard anyone say to my my parents, "What a

beautiful child!" And for a girl growing up, this could be a tragedy considering the value the world places on a pretty face. (*Elementary English*, 1974).



After Betty passed away in July 1999, her son George who was also a Friend's member and shelter volunteer planted a Witch Hazel at the north end of the Garden in honor of his mother. George continues to be a Friends member. The photo shows George watering the Witch Hazel he planted in the fall of 1999.

Text by Gary Bebeau

References:

(1) Examples include

A Nut, A squirrel, Winter 1998 Vol. 49 #3

First Night of Frost, Winter 1999 Vol. 50 #3

A word for Box Elder, Winter 1998 Vol. 49 #3

In 2008 her estate published "*Collected Poems and Selected Other Writings of Betty Bridgman*," hard cover, 722 pages.

(2) The others were President Pat Thomesen, Natalie Adler, and Betty Bryan.

(3) Dr. Grimes had been the Friends volunteer Coordinator from 1971 to 1980.

(4) Eloise Butler - [An Autobiographical Sketch](#) from the unpublished *Annals of the Wild Life Reserve*.



2000

Winter 1999/2000

This is the 14th year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden.

Following the dry late autumn of 1999, snow began to arrive in December followed by several significant snowfalls in January 2000 including one of 8-1/2 inches. This allowed snow cover for the Garden plants, which was only about two inches at the end of 1999, to accumulate such that snow depth in January and February averaged between 6 and 9 inches. This was good for the plants. A significant warm spurt began at the end of February such that the snow rapidly melted and temperatures were well above average for March.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 48 no. 1) Friends' President Steve Pundt wrote about volunteer activities that would be starting in the spring in the Wirth Park area that would be of benefit to the Garden. MaryLynn Pulscher, Environmental Education Director for the Park Board, wrote about some of the treasures that had been removed from the Martha Crone Shelter attic storage area. Principally books and photographs, these materials were deteriorating in the unheated attic and needed to be removed for conservation and then better storage at the Park Board Operations Center. An examination of the documents was made by a professional from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Some of the books were pre-1900 in date and there were periodicals of a botanical nature from the early 1900s. Several of these treasures were displayed in the Shelter during the upcoming spring and summer. Cary George wrote an article discussing the nine "Heritage Trees" that were located in the Garden. These included Mountain Maple, Black Walnut, Jack Pine, Ponderosa Pine, American Wild Plum, Black Cherry, White Oak, Siberian Crabapple, Canadian Hemlock.



MaryLynn Pulscher with treasures from the shelter attic. Friends photo.



Cary George with the Heritage Black Cherry Tree. Friends photo.

At the January Board Meeting of the Friends, held at Golden Valley City Hall, Jeff Lee, Manager of Environmental Operations for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, discussed the *Greenway Grant for Vegetation Management* that the Park Board had received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This grant was to be used to carry out a comprehensive survey of the plant

community in Wirth Park, including the Garden. This census would be used to develop long range management strategy for the park.

A report was received from Renner & Sons who had re-drilled the well at the Great Medicine Spring the previous year.[The History of the Great Medicine Spring is in Volume 1, appendix 9,] They addressed the reduction in flow from the spring. During the winter the well had been allowed to flow freely to prevent freezing and now a hand pump was discussed as the practical option to install, which was installed when weather permitted in the spring.

It was voted to purchase a spotting scope for the Martha Crone Shelter and to investigate the cost to purchase five sets of binoculars. During the fall and winter the Park Board replaced the three benches on the path from the front gate down to the Shelter (just the wood parts as the old stonework remains). One of these had been in honor of Dr. Marian Grimes and one a memorial for Harold E. Dalquist. The Friends membership list contained seven life members at this time.



The well head at Great Medicine Spring with the pump installed. Photo G D Bebeau

Spring 2000

The Garden re-opened for the season on April 1st but as the weather the first week of April was cold, visitors were few, but those who arrived on opening day were treated to free cookies. Cary George found a deer carcass in the Upland Garden indicating that deer had gotten into the Garden during the winter. Renner & Sons installed the hand pump that the Friends voted in January to approve. Cary George planted twelve new Showy Lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium reginae*) and two clumps of Yellow Lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*).

At the Friends Board Meeting on April 10th, it was decided to purchase five pair of new binoculars for the Martha Crone Shelter. There was also discussion of replacement of some old railroad ties that lined certain of the paths in the Garden and of replacing the benches in the patio area in front of the Martha Crone Shelter. These maintenance projects would be funded by the Friends but work would not be done until after the Garden closed in the fall to avoid disruption.

Peace Corps workers were working for the Park Board this summer including several days in Wirth Park and the Garden beginning on May 20th when some planting was done in the Prairie area followed by work in Wirth Park repairing trails and removing sumac and poplars.



Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) Photo G D Bebeau

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ (Vol. 48 no. 2) Friends President Steve Pundt discussed the background of the Great Medicine Spring and the well restoration work being funded by the Friends. (more detail above in "winter").

Cary George contributed an article on “*Orchids in the Garden.*” He remarked about the Showy Lady’s-slipper “When I walk the bog trail each morning . . . I stop to look at this wild orchid as the sun filters through the dewy bog. Its beauty always amazes me.” Naturalist Tegwin Moyer wrote about the Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) and Parks Environmental Education Director Marylynn Pulscher wrote about *What Do the Naturalists Do?*

It was reported by the Volunteer Coordinators that the list of Shelter volunteers was up to 52 people. Four new members had joined the Friends since January 1st. Friends’ Volunteer Judy Jones was spotlighted in the newsletter for her 10 years of volunteer contribution. She continued to volunteer through the 2009 season.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was held on Saturday May 20th at the Martha Crone Shelter. Directors elected were: Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Mel Duoos, Ann Godfrey, Marguerite Harbison, George Jaquith, Lyle Johnson, Juanita Lussenhop,

Lisa Locken,

Gloria Miller, Steve & Sally Pundt, Shirley & Jack Schultz.

Ex-officio - Cary George.



Volunteer Judy Jones refilling a bird feeder at the Martha Crone Visitor Shelter. Friends photo.

Elected to their offices at the Board of Directors meeting: Steve Pundt President, Lyle Johnson Vice President, George Jaquith Treasurer, and Juanita Lussenhop Secretary. In committees, Shirley Schultz and Harriet Betzold were Volunteer coordinators, Joy Davis, membership chair; Gloria Miller, Historian; newsletter editor, Lisa Locken; Liaison to the Park Board, Steve Pundt; and Marguerite Harbison was memorials chair.

During the spring the Friends received notice that they would be recipients of an annual grant from the Mendon Schutt Family Fund, courtesy of long time Friends member Elizabeth Schutt. After the cold opening week of the Garden, weather was more normal with good amounts of rain in May and June.

Summer 2000

The Garden was busy with visitors and tours and programs offered by the Staff Naturalists. This summer there were two full time and 19 part-time naturalists available to work in the Garden and do programs. Several school groups visited and Ann Godfrey, Friends member and Kindergarten Teacher, wrote about her groups visit in *The Fringed Gentian*™. (Vol. 48 no. 3) Cary George wrote about the *Tall Plants in the Summer Garden.*



Naturalist Debbie Keyes using the new spotting scope purchased by the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. Friends photo

Fallen trees and branches are left where they fall to complete the cycle of life - growth - death - decay that is essential for the processes of the natural world. Naturalist Susan Wilkins (later - Garden Curator) explained that although the Garden is located in the heart of the city, the Garden must conform to the natural cycle of nature in order to retain its distinction as a natural garden.



George Bridgman. Friends photo.

The volunteer spotlight in the newsletter was on George Bridgman who had volunteered for five years (and finally retired from volunteer duties in 2008).

He is shown here at the desk in the Martha Crone Shelter. George's mother, Betty, was a very active member of the Friends. Four new members joined the Friends since spring. It was announced that long time Friends member and director Mel Duoos passed away on May 29th. Since 1992 he had been handling the mailing of orders for Martha Hellander's book on Eloise Butler, *The Wild Gardener*. His wife, Barbara took over that task.



MPRB Staff naturalists Stephanie and Emily. Friends photo.

The stonework around the back gate, following some re-work from 1997 to this year, was finally completed in June and the Friends paid the Park Board the final cost of \$2,034 in July.

Weather was moderate with good rain in June July and August including several rainfalls over two inches.



Kindergartners observing at the touch and feel counter in the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.



Teacher Ann Godfrey who brought the group to the Garden. Friends photo.



Example of how fallen trees and branches are left where they fall to complete the cycle of life - growth - death - decay. Photo G D Bebeau

Autumn 2000

At the September 11th Board meeting of the Friends it was agreed that the Friends would fund the cost of materials for trail re-construction work that would take place in the fall after the Garden closed. This was not to exceed \$4,000. In addition the Friends would pay \$2,300 for the new benches to be installed in the patio area in front of the Martha Crone Shelter. These benches match those that were installed by

the Park & Recreation Board in the Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Naturalist Susan Wilkins reviewed plans for the new Garden Guide Book which would be available in the Spring of 2001.

Friends member Ann Godfrey (photo above) and Cary George discussed progress on making nominations for additional *Heritage Trees in the Garden*. Cary George had earlier written an article on the Heritage Trees in the Garden.

In *The Fringed Gentian*™, (Vol.48 no. 4) Friends' President Steve Pundt discussed the Heritage of Eloise Butler; volunteer George Bridgman wrote about the Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) and about the memorial Witch Hazel (photo next page) planted in honor of his mother, long-time Friends member, volunteer and *Fringed Gentian*™ editor Betty Bridgman.



MPRB Naturalist Susan Wilkins.
Friends photo.



One of three new benches installed in the patio area in front of the Martha Crone Shelter in late fall 2000. Materials paid for by the Friends. Photo G D Bebeau

Lon Miller contributed his poem "*fall equinox*"; and the volunteer spotlight was on Ann Hall (photo next page) who had volunteered since 1986. Ann was also a past recipient of a Volunteer of the Year Award by Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

Cary George wrote on two subjects - The Cedar Shavings being used as mulch on the Garden trails (photo below) and on *Gentian in the Garden*. Cedar shavings have been selected because they are rot resistant and therefore the trails need only be redone about every three years. The cedar comes from making utility poles. After the bark is removed, the poles are milled down to the desired diameter and the resulting shavings are pure cedar, no bark. Other materials were used over the years - Martha Crone used pea gravel, Ken Avery used elm chips. Both were bumpy underfoot and

washed down in rain, the elm in even a light rain.

A donation made to the Park & Recreation Board of a student's high school herbarium was highlighted by MaryLynn Pulscher, Parks Environmental Education Director. The 78 year old composition book belonged to Ruby Kent and was donated by her daughter Loris Penrod. The book contained pressings of various plants collected in the "Glenwood Botanical Gardens" (now the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden) along with written notes as to the specimen. This was a botany class project in 1922. The book was displayed in the Martha Crone Shelter in the fall.

Seven new members joined since summer. The Garden closed for the season on October 15th, two weeks earlier than the recent past due to budget cuts. The October 15 closing would continue into the future.



MaryLynn Pulscher, Environmental Education Director for the Park Board, with master design sheets for the new Garden Guidebook, partially funded by the Friends. Friends photo.



Volunteer Ann Hall. Friends photo.

The Friends held a volunteer luncheon on November 4th at the the Golden Valley American Legion Club. Friends Board members Marguerite Harbison and Harriet Betzold (Photos below) coordinated the event.

Fall weather was warm and dry with very little rainfall after a two inch rain in early September. In November

temperatures dropped to well below normal for the season with several snowfalls in November.



New timbers lining one of the Garden paths. These were installed by Tree Trust and the materials paid for by the Friends. Photo G D Bebeau



George Bridgman watering the memorial witch hazel planted in honor of his mother. Friends photo



The Cedar Shaving used as mulch on Garden paths. Photo G D Bebeau



Marguerite Harbison (left) and Harriet Betzold (right). Friends photo.

Photo top of first page of 2000: Walkers in early April in the Upland Garden. Photo ©G D Bebeau



2001

Winter 2000/2001

This is the 15th year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden.

A year of weather contrasts: A winter of much snow, the wettest April on record to date, and the warmest November on record. The winter of 2000-2001 was quite similar to 1985-1986 in that after the new year, temperatures fluctuated above and below the average range in a normal manner and snowfalls continued such that there was no period without snow cover from January 1st until the beginning of April. In fact snow depth began the year at 14 inches and increased to a peak of 22 inches in early March. There were no significant snowfalls after mid-March. Thus, like 1985-86, the plants in the Garden were well insulated from the freeze-thaw cycle that could prove so ruinous in some years.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 49 no. 1) President Steve Pundt wrote in early February “**this has been a tough winter.**” MaryLynn Pulscher, at that time Environmental Education Director for the Park Board, wrote about the upcoming new Garden Guide Book which would be available in the spring of 2001, for which the Friends provided part of the funding. The existing guidebook was first printed in 1987 and reprinted a number of times. Naturalist Susan Wilkins rewrote the text and the illustrations would be all new, created by Mark Muller, a botanical illustrator, and they would be in color.

Cary George wrote about signage in the Garden. Signs were 2" x 4" and of routed plastic laminate - weatherproof, impressive and unobtrusive. They established a Garden tradition that both common and scientific plant names would always be used. Cary's philosophy on plant signs was that the first good specimen that a visitor would encounter on a Garden walk should be labeled so that the visitor could test their identification skills thereafter. Exceptions to this rule were the popular showy wildflowers - these he would always label as they were the plants that naturalists and visitors were constantly asking about. In addition to plants, another thing secreted into the pockets of some visitors were these plant identification signs. Cary was always making new ones to replace those stolen. Most frequently stolen: "Bastard Toadflax" and "No Picking."

Also in the winter issue of the newsletter, a list of native plant and seed suppliers was provided and the volunteer spotlight was on Lyle Johnson who was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends.

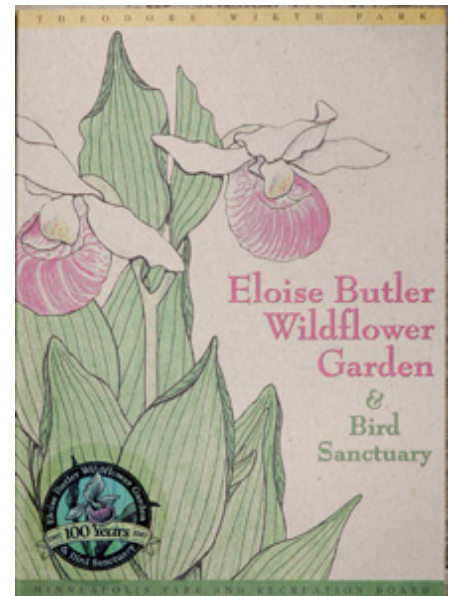
At the Board of Directors meeting of the Friends on January 22nd, there was discussion about Heritage Tree nominations in the City of Minneapolis' Heritage Tree Program. The Garden already had nine



Cary George with the Garden sign files. Friends photo.

trees registered in the program and there was discussion on whether any others, particularly of cultural significance, rather than size, should be nominated. Under consideration was the Winterberry dedicated to former Gardener Ken Avery.

Two Garden projects were re-approved for Friends funding; both had been selected and voted on in 2000. Funded were new patio area benches and funding for some trail reconstruction work that had been accomplished the previous autumn after the Garden closed.



The new Garden Guidebook cover

Total cost for materials on the two projects was \$6,300. Tree Trust provided the labor on the trail work and Park Board workers installed the benches. (Photos below) These benches match those that were installed by the Park & Recreation Board in the Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Discussion also continued of what to do for a more permanent Ken Avery Dedication. In the off season for Garden activities, one of Cary George's duties was maintaining wood duck boxes throughout the Park System. He and gardener Tom Vogen monitored wood duck houses from 1987 onwards. By 2001 they were maintaining 85 throughout the city. Two training sessions for volunteers for the Martha Crone Shelter were held in March at the Wirth Park Chalet.

Spring 2001

The Garden re-opened for the season on April 1st and the weather was fairly average for the month except in regards to rain - it rained! April 2001 became the wettest April in weather history down to the present day (2020). At 7.0 inches, rainfall beat the previous record of 5.88 inches in April 1986. One rainfall alone was 2.25 inches. Wet weather continued into the early summer.

When the Garden opened, the three new benches in the patio area in front of the Martha Crone Shelter had been installed and there were new timbers installed on the trail leading down to the Woodland Area. (photo in 2000)

The 48th annual membership meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was held in the Garden at the Martha Crone Shelter on May 12th. Directors elected were: Gary Bebeau (new), Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Launa Ellison (new), Ann Godfrey, Marguerite Harbison, Lyle Johnson, Juanita Lussenhop, Lisa Locken, Gloria Miller, Steve & Sally Pundt,



Volunteer and Friend's Board member Lyle Johnson. Friends photo

Shirley & Jack Schultz, Pam Weiner (new). Ex-officio - Cary George.

At the board meeting following the annual meeting Steve Pundt was reelected President, Lyle Johnson was reelected Vice President, Juanita Lussenhop was reelected Secretary and Gary Bebeau was elected Treasurer. Lisa Locken continued as editor of the Friends newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian*TM; Joy Davis as membership chair, Harriet Betzold and Shirley Schultz as volunteer coordinators, Marguerite Harbison as memorials chair, Stephen Benson on money management, and Gloria Miller as historian. Jeff Lee was present to represent the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

President Steve Pundt gave a brief history of the Garden, followed by Cary George who reviewed the state of the Garden, concentrating on the problem with invasive species. Jeff Lee added that the entire Park system has this problem. It was noted that there are currently 240 members of the Friends, of which 30 have been members for more than 25 years.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 49 no. 2) Steve Pundt praised the new Guidebook which was now available. The Friends had contributed \$7,000 of the \$28,000 total cost. People for Parks gave \$4,000 and the remainder was funded by the Park Board. Cost per copy was \$4.10 and the book was available for sale at the Martha Crone Shelter as take home copies were no longer free.



Cary George working with Wood Duck houses. Friends photo.

Naturalist Debbie Keyes (photo in 2000) wrote that a new seasonal checklist to document birds in the Garden area had been created and individual copies could be obtained at the Shelter. Birds were an important theme of this issue. Steve Pundt wrote of how Eloise Butler kept records of her bird sightings and that the words “and Bird Sanctuary” are part of the Garden’s name. [Added at the request of the Friends in 1968]

Cary George wrote an article about Wood Ducks and the job he has in off season months on maintaining and increasing the number of Wood Duck houses on Park Board properties. He also listed this past spring’s bloom dates for eight spring wildflowers and gave the comparison to last year and the historical record of earliest bloom date. None of the eight met a record in either 2000 or 2001.

Naturalist Sarah Gordon reviewed the many educational programs available for young people at the Garden. The volunteer spotlight this issue was on longtime volunteer Marie Demler, who has volunteered at the Martha Crone Shelter since the 1970s (photo at left). During the spring the Friends received their first support distribution or annual grant (of \$278) from the Mendon Schutt Family Fund, courtesy of long time Friends member Elizabeth Schutt (Details on this grant are in Volume 1.)



Volunteer Marie Demler at the Martha Crone Visitor Shelter. Friends photo

Summer 2001

During the summer the weather was on the warm side with a number of daily temperature maximums above the average, but with a lot of rain in June, good rain in July and less in August. Cary George

reported that it was a good growing season. The Garden was busy with visitors, deer, tours and programs offered by the Staff Naturalists. The deer that had been in the Garden at various times and in various numbers up to four (photo), were now no more than one. Summer is the time to detail projects that can improve the Garden and Jeff Lee, Environmental Operations Manager for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, was working on a number of project developments that the Friends might help fund, including a new wrought iron fence near the back gate.



White-tail Deer in the Garden. Friends photo



Pam Weiner volunteer and newly elected to the Friend's Board of Directors. Friends photo

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 49 no. 3) invasive plants were in the spotlight. President Steve Pundt wrote about Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), its history, and its effect on the Garden. Jeff Lee wrote about the successful management of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) by using a biological control - beetles - that feed on loosestrife and prevent flowering. His example was the treatment of Birch Pond beginning in 1997. By 2000 the pond was free of any flowering loosestrife. The infestation is shown in the photo below.

The volunteer spotlight was on Pam Weiner who also was just elected to the Friends Board at this years annual meeting. (Pam would in later years become President of the Friends). Gary Bebeau contributed an article on Rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes alba*) and its use in medicine by Native Americans and by the earlier settlers.

Cary George wrote a philosophical article on the "State of the Garden." He wrote:

I think, the true "State of the Garden" should be examined not by plant surveys, programming, and architectural adornments, but by asking the question, "Is the primary purpose of the Garden - to comprehend the grace of nature - still valid?" My contention is that more so than ever, a sanctuary that protects all life, both human and non-human, should be a touchstone for living our daily lives, not just a quaint natural history lesson.



Birch Pond, just outside the Garden with the extensive growth of Purple Loosestrife; photographed on Aug. 5, 1950 by Martha Crone.

The work done in prior years at the Great Medicine Spring was not paying off. Water flow had declined from the initial good flow and the purity of the water was in question. In addition, landscape work around the new well construction site still had to be finished.

Autumn 2001

At the September 10th Board meeting of the Friends, it was agreed that the Friends would fund the cost of materials for further trail re-construction work that would take place in the fall after the Garden closed. This was not to exceed \$4,000. This trail work, similar to that done the prior year near the front gate, would replace old railroad ties with new timber on the path from the Shelter patio area down to the wetland trail in the Woodland Garden. Tree Trust completed the work after the Garden closed. It was decided at the board meeting that *The Fringed Gentian*™, should always display a trademark on all future issues.



Path from the wetland to the Shelter before the project. Photo G D Bebeau.



Path from the wetland to the Shelter after project completion. Photo G D Bebeau.

On October 27th, the Friends hosted a luncheon at the Golden Valley American Legion Club for all 2001 Shelter volunteers.

In *The Fringed Gentian*™, (Vol. 49 no. 4) Steve Pundt reviewed plans for next years 50th Anniversary of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. It would be a celebration at the Garden along with the publication of a book of memories. Pam Weiner chaired the Anniversary Committee and the committee was soliciting individual stories about the Friends first 50 years.



Left: Volunteer Connie Pepin with one of the young deer enjoying the peace and quiet of the Garden. Friends photo.

Cary George wrote about the bog in the Woodland Garden - about its unique history and its significance in the Garden. Newsletter editor Lisa Locken reviewed a new handheld device for listening to bird songs. The device had over 100 bird recordings to play. Gary Bebeau contributed an article on Indian Hemp with its background in medicine and Native American Lore.

Volunteer Connie Pepin, was the subject of the volunteer article in *The Fringed Gentian*TM (her photo on previous page). She would later join the Board of the Friends. Twenty one volunteers give their time during the season to work at the Martha Crone Shelter. Twelve new members joined the Friends during the year.

Fall weather was very warm from mid-October until the winter solstice with temperatures on many days 15 to 20 degrees above average. It was the warmest November in weather history to the current date (2020) by more than 4 degrees F. There were 57 consecutive days of above normal temperature from late October to late December. There were good rains in September, but then it was dry with only one significant snowfall around Thanksgiving and then very little until the weather cooled at the end of December.

Photo top of first page of 2001: A view of the wetland area of the Woodland Garden in April 2009
Photo ©G D Bebeau



2002

Winter 2001/2002

This is the 16th year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden. The months of November 2001 to February 2002 were the mildest in local weather history - by more than 2 degrees. From January through late February there were only three days where the temperature was not above the average. There were a number of snowfalls, but they were very light and only in March when the temperatures became more normal did any significant snowfall occur.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Operations Director and Friends board member Jeff Lee reported that during the period that the Garden was seasonally closed, the rebuilding of the path from the Martha Crone Visitors Shelter to the wetland path was completed. The Friends had funded the materials. The work was done by Tree Trust. (See Autumn 2001 history for photo) Also, all the deer that had been in the Garden the prior year were removed and at the Park Board's Environmental workday the previous October, a lot of buckthorn was removed.

This year was the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. A 50th anniversary committee had been formed in late 2001 and they had met several times prior to a board meeting of the Friends held on January 14th. Two main events would mark the Anniversary: A public celebration at the Garden on Mother's Day, May 12 and publishing a memory book for a history of the first 50 years. At that Friends Board meeting there was discussion on the purpose of the Friends and it was re-confirmed that the mission was one of providing education and information about the Garden, and also one of support for the Garden in both a financial and promotional way.

In that light it was decided that as a major 50th anniversary project, the Friends would fund replacing 294 feet of chain-link fence at the back gate of the Garden with wrought iron fencing similar to that at the front gate in order to make the back gate area more esthetically pleasing. This work would cost about \$16,000 and a major fund raising effort was needed to accomplish this major project. Discussion was also taking place on a suitable project in remembrance of the Garden's third curator, Ken Avery. It would be 2005 before the Avery project was completed.



Wrought iron fence in the front of the Garden. Similar fence was to be placed at the back gate. Photo G D Bebeau

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 50 no. 1) President Steve Pundt revisited the history of Friends founder Clinton Odell and his relationship with the Garden, in an article titled *Story of the 'First Friend.'* Reprinted, was an essay by Clinton Odell about his vision for the Garden.

Cary George contributed an article on *Evergreens for Future Generations*. Nine of the 15 conifers native to Minnesota were represented in the Garden at that time and Cary reviewed their status. MPRB Naturalist Debbie Keyes wrote about *Winter Botanizing* and the Volunteer Spotlight was on Shirley Schultz, volunteer coordinator and Friends Board Member.

Spring 2002

The Garden did not open until April 7th due to snow and ice on the paths from the late March snowfalls and five inches of snow on the scheduled opening day of April 1st - a record snowfall for that day. Judy Jones was the shelter volunteer on that actual opening day, a Sunday. After the slow start to April, the weather took a turn upwards with mid-April temperatures well above normal.

Two volunteer training sessions were held prior to the Garden opening. Five new volunteers were recruited. The Friends had a board meeting on April 8th to discuss their upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration, planning for honoring Ken Avery and progress on the project to replace the Garden back gate fence.

The big event of the spring was the Mother's Day Celebration (May 12th) of the Friends 50th Anniversary, in the Garden. It was a chilly day but many people arrived including Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak, Park Board Commissioner Vivian Mason, Martha Hellander, who autographed her book *The Wild Gardener*, on the life of Eloise Butler, Clinton B. Odell, the grandson of Friends founder Clinton Odell, and Lynda Wander, the granddaughter of Martha Crone. Additional photos are in Volume 1.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 50 no. 2) Steve Pundt, looking ahead to the next 50 years of the Friends wrote:

As we begin the 51st year of the Friends, we must reaffirm our goal to educate the public (and ourselves) about the preservation of native plants. The Garden as a native preserve is constantly at risk. the Garden is threatened on all sides by alien invaders, with the main threats coming from gypsy months, garlic mustard, buckthorn and deer.

Cary George wrote about the gypsy moth devastation of the eastern states and with the species now found in Minneapolis, it was now knocking at the Garden's door. Naturalist Debbie Keyes wrote about a Summer Tanager that arrived in the Garden (a rare sighting). The bird was malnourished and it was subsequently determined that it had a fractured bone in the shoulder and wing. It was captured and taken to the Wildlife Rehab Center for care. The "Meet the Volunteer" spotlight was on Gloria Miller, past president of the Friends.

This spring Cary George added to the Garden stock Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Spring Beauty (*Claytona virginica*) and Round-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica americana* - now -*Anemone americana*). A big concern of his and the Friends was the harvesting of plants by interlopers in the Garden. It had become a spring-time problem as the plants taken are those that can be considered "greens" and



Friends President Steve Pundt speaking at the May 12th event. Friends photo.



Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak speaking at the May 12th event. Friends photo.

“potherbs.” Cary frequently would confiscate bags of picked plants and ask the people to leave the Garden.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was held at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden, on Monday May 13th, the day following the Anniversary Celebration. There was discussion about the Mountain Bike Trail development in Wirth Park and the current problem of off-trail use. Cary George mentioned that the garter snakes and the fox family were back in the Garden - a positive environmental sign.

Directors elected were: Gary Bebeau, Stephen Benson, Harriet Betzold (volunteer cp-coordinator), Joy Davis (membership chair), Launa Ellison, Ann Godfrey, Marguerite Harbison (memorials chair), Lyle Johnson, Lisa Locken (*Fringed Gentian*TM editor), Juanita Lussenhop, Gloria Miller (historian), Constance Pepin, Steve and Sally Pundt, Shirley Schultz (volunteer cp-coordinator), Jack Schultz, Pam Weiner and Cary George, ex-officio. Re-elected to their

positions at the board of directors meeting were Steve Pundt as President, Lyle Johnson as Vice-president, Gary Bebeau as Treasurer and Juanita Lussenhop as Secretary. Membership totaled 238.

Below: At the 50th Anniversary Celebration: On the left is Clinton B. Odell, grandson of Friends Founder Clinton M. Odell, holding a painting of his grandfather. On the right is Lynda Wander, Granddaughter of Martha Crone, shown holding a photo of her son walking with his great grandmother, Martha Crone, in the Garden. Friends photo.



Summer 2002

On June 12th, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board passed a resolution to formally recognize and thank the Friends for their half-century of support of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. (Copy follows this text).

In the Friends Newsletter, (Vol. 50 no. 3) volunteer and Board member Launa Ellison wrote about the many benefits of children visiting the Garden in an article titled *"It's About the Children."* Gardener Cary George wrote about *"The Pea Family Thrives in Hot Prairie Sun,"* an article you can read in our archive. The book - Weeds of the Northern U.S. & Canada is reviewed; *"Meet the Volunteers"* spotlights Debbie Norgaard and Joe Schwartz. Garden Naturalists provide excerpts from their log - summer highlights.



Friends Board member Launa Ellison. Friends photo.

Connie Pepin wrote *"Mosquito Memories,"* a tale of Theodore Wirth's 1933 Garden visit for the memorial to Eloise Butler and his encounter with the swarms of mosquitos in the Garden. Martha Crone's reply to him was classic Crone: *"I wish to offer my apologies for the ill manners of my mosquitoes, they are rather difficult to train as each one lives only a short time."* Former Parks Superintendent Charles Doell's concerns about the use of DDT by the Park Board is also reported in this article also.



Volunteers Debbie Norgaard & Joe Schwartz. Friends photo

Attendance at the Garden was good over the summer. There was a controversy about the Park Board's proposal to instigate a parking pass fee for Minneapolis Parks car lots.

There was a two week power outage in the Garden due to a lightning strike on a nearby power transformer. There were significant storms during a very wet June, July and August.

Autumn 2002

The main Garden project for the Friends this year was fencing. By the end of the year the Friends had collected \$2,566 toward the cost of the new wrought iron fence at the Garden's back entrance - well short of the estimated \$16,000 cost. Construction eventually took place in 2005.

At the Friends board meeting on October 7th at the Golden Valley Historical Center, Gardener Cary George reported on the parking pass issue. The controversy about the Park Board's proposal to instigate a parking pass fee for park car lots was still being discussed. The Board voted to send a letter of opposition to the Park Board and to Mayor Rybak. It eventually was resolved that there would be both meters and spaces for cars with parking passes.

A volunteer luncheon was held on November 23 at the Golden Valley American Legion Club, organized by Marguerite Harbison, Harriet Betzold and Nita Lussenhop. (photo next page)

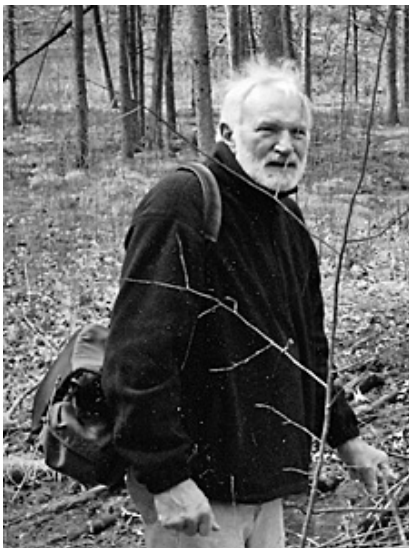
The plan for honoring former Gardener Ken Avery was coming together in the form of a bird watching area. Board member Connie Pepin had been in contact with Ken's widow Muriel, and she was in favor of this type of honor. Landscape architect George Watson offered his services in designing the area, the Park Board had surveyed a site between the Garden and the parking lot and Watson was to submit designs to the Park Board for approval. The plan was carried out in 2005. Board member Pam Weiner was coordinating a group working up designs for the Friends 50th anniversary memory book that would be published the following year.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 50 no. 4) Steve Pundt reviewed Eloise Butler's original concept of the Garden and how the Friends have provided assistance in furthering her concepts. He concluded with:

Maintaining the Garden as a natural preserve won't happen without active, but gentle, management. Our task for the next 50 years of this organization is to keep working to maintain that delicate balance.

Cary George wrote about "*Trees: the Backbone of our Woodland Garden.*" He discussed the habitat that the trees provide in the Woodland Garden. For example, while night tracking deer by a crew of the Wildlife Research Center, they counted over 50 raccoons in the Garden. Cary gave the methodology for determining the age of a tree of a given species, finding for instance, that the white oak just inside the front gate to be approximately 185 years old. The center spread of the issue was a contact print of 28 different tree leaves found in the Garden. This was the work of John Maciejny [photo below], a recently retired science teacher and Friends member. This identification key represented half of the species in the Garden.

Below: Volunteer Luncheon coordinators Nita Lussenhop, Marguerite Harbison and Harriet Betzold. Friends photo.



John Maciejny leading an identification class in the Garden. Friends photo.

The Garden naturalists again presented excerpts from their Garden Logs. The Book of Herbal Wisdom, Using Plants as Medicine was reviewed. In "Meet the Volunteer," the spotlight was on long-time volunteer and member Betty Bryan.

The Garden closed on October 15th, which since 2000 had become the annual closing date. Jean Herzberg was the Shelter volunteer on that day. The closing signaled the end of precipitation also as from late October to the end of the year there was only a trace of moisture. No snow on the ground at the end of the year.



Volunteer Jean Herzberg. Friends photo.

Photo top of first page of 2002: Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak speaking to the gathering in the Garden for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held on May 12th. L to R, Martha Hellander, Mrs. Rybak, the Mayor, Lorraine Rybak-Mesken, Park Commissioner Vivian Mason, Friends President Steve Pundt and Clinton Odell III.

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-133

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN
FOR THEIR FIFTY YEARS OF ASSISTANCE
TO THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

WHEREAS, 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden as a support group for the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, and

WHEREAS, for 50 years the Friends of the Wildflower Garden have provided assistance to the Garden, in the form of volunteers and financial help, and

WHEREAS, the Friends promote the Garden and Park Board programs and activities, through personal contacts with visitors to the Garden and through articles in *The Fringed Gentian*; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Wildflower Garden's visible contributions have included: the Martha Crone Shelter built totally from funds raised and donated by the Friends of the Garden; construction of wrought iron gates and fencing at the garden entrances; supplied the material cost for benches, gardener shed, timbers lining the paths; printing cost of a new guide book for the Garden; scholarships for naturalists and students.

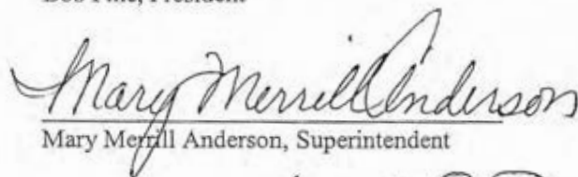
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD officially thanks and honors the Friends of the Wildflower Garden on behalf of the Board.

Adopted by the Park and Recreation Board in formal meeting assembled on June 12, 2002.

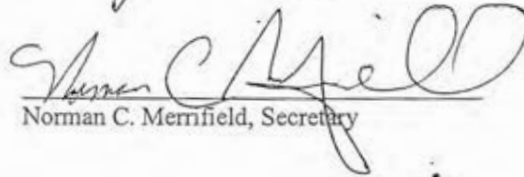
FOR THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD



Bob Fine, President



Mary Merrill Anderson, Superintendent



Norman C. Merrifield, Secretary





2003

Winter 2002/2003

This is the 17th year with Gardener Cary George in charge of the Garden.

The lack of snow at the end of 2002 was a pattern that continued into 2003 until early February when snows returned until mid-March, after which the ground was snow free.

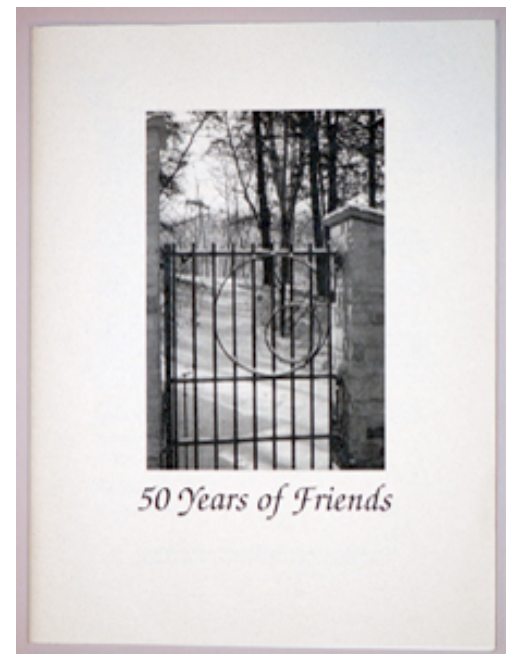
In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 51 no. 1) President Steve Pundt reviewed some of the history of the Friends and discussed the planning of a project in remembrance of former Gardener Ken Avery who died in 1997. A birding observation platform was contemplated near the front entrance to the Garden. The committee charged with the project consisted of Cary George, Ann Godfrey, Marguerite Harbison, Constance Pepin and Steve Pundt. They were meeting with landscape architect George Watson to determine a design.

When completed in 2005, the result was the Ken Avery Birding Terrance, located at the back of the Garden, not the front, half way between the lower and upper elevations.

Progress on this project was discussed at the Board Meeting of the Friends held on January 6th along with another endeavor underway which was the production of the Friends Fiftieth Anniversary Booklet, *50 Years of Friends*, which was a summary of last year's 50th Anniversary events and interviews with Friends that recorded their remembrances of years past. It was expected that the booklet would be printed by the time the Garden opened on April 1st.

This year was the 50th anniversary of *The Fringed Gentian*TM. The original issue of Jan. 1953 was reprinted as part of the current issue. Friends founding member and 2nd Garden Curator, Martha Crone, was the original editor, a post she kept for 74 issues from January 1953 through June. 1971.

In the current issue of the newsletter, Cary George wrote "*A Kit Dies in the Garden*" which poetically recalled his experience two years prior when a dying fox kit was found separated from its three



The cover of The Friends 50th Anniversary Booklet, issued in Jan. 2004

siblings. Also in that issue, Aldo Leopold's book *The River of the Mother of God* was reviewed. 2003 was Cary George's last year as Gardener, completing 17 years of service to The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

Spring 2003

Cary George reported that the Garden was the home of 14 plant species on the State Endangered Species list. The plants included: Kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*), Dwarf Trout Lilies (*Erythronium propullans*), Shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*) and Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*). Three ferns are listed: Marginal Shield Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*), Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*) and Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). Four woody plants: Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), and Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). In addition, the state flower, the Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) is protected.

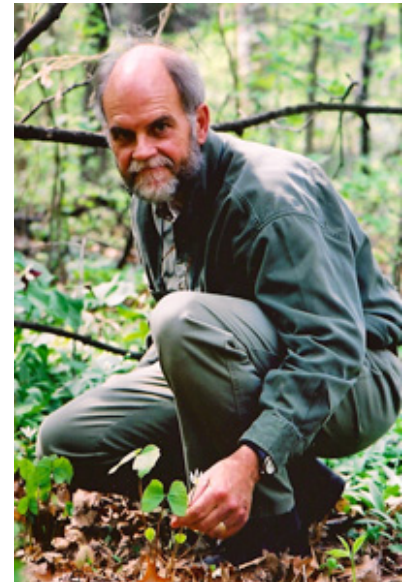
In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 51 no. 2) extensive coverage was given to the largest issue affecting the Garden at this time, which was the budget difficulties of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Cuts in state funding and other taxation issues resulted in a major budget reduction for the Parks system this year and for 2004. Friends president Steve Pundt requested members to contact their park commissioner to plead for the Garden's budget. President Pundt wrote a letter to the Park Commissioners about issues of concern for the Garden, particularly the establishment of mountain biking trails and ski trails in the buffer zone of the Garden. He wrote that

We feel strongly that mountain biking would be detrimental to the natural environment and inconsistent with current public use of this south area of Wirth Park.

The letter was copied to the membership. Newsletter editor Lisa Locken caught a photo of the three new fox kits near their den in the Garden (pictured in the newsletter issue). The Garden Naturalists gave a comprehensive phenology of the first five weeks of the Garden season including the sighting of a Cooper's Hawk. Elsewhere in the newsletter, there was a book review of Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and Harriet Betzold (Friends past president 1994 - 1996) was the subject of "Meet the Volunteers."

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was held at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden, on May 17th. Park Commissioner Vivian Mason reviewed the activities of the Park Board. Parking meters would be installed in the Garden parking lot in June. Parking permits would be available for purchase - good at all parks - to avoid having to pay the meters.

Elected to the Board for the coming years term were: Gary Bebeau, Stephen Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Launa Ellison, Ann



Gardener Cary George with an example of Twin Leaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*). Friends photo.



Friends President Steve Pundt speaking at the May 12th 2002 Friends 50th Anniversary event. Friends photo.



Lisa Locken, Friends newsletter editor in the Garden. Friends photo.

Godfrey, Marguerite Harbison, Lyle Johnson, Lisa Locken, Juanita Lussenhop, Constance Pepin, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Jack Schultz, Shirley Schultz, Pam Weiner and Cary George ex officio.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, there was discussion about the Mountain Bike Trail development in Wirth Park and the current problem of off-trail use. There was a production delay in the Friends 50th Anniversary Book and it was not yet available. The committee working on a design for a tribute to former Gardener Ken Avery was still meeting with landscape architect George Watson on designs. Construction of the new back gate fence which the Friends were funding was still in limbo as to when the Park Board planning people would finish the design. Gloria Miller was recognized for her years of service to the Friends, including two stints as president (1986-88 and 1997-99). Membership was reported to be 246, which included 17 new members and 7 life members.

Officers elected at the board meeting were Steve Pundt President, Pam Weiner Vice-president, Gary Bebeau Treasurer, Juanita Lussenhop as Secretary. In continuing roles, Lisa Locken was newsletter editor, Joy Davis was membership chair, Marguerite Harbison was memorials chair; Harriet Betzold was volunteer coordinator and Stephen Benson was head of the money management committee.

Weather: Temperatures were above the norm in April and May was a very wet month - but a good start to the season.

Summer 2003

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 51 no. 3) Steve Pundt wrote about the Summer Solstice and in the inside pages, editor Lisa Locken published photos (two shown below) that she took in the Garden at the exact time of the Solstice. Notes about the Friends annual meeting that was held in May were published.

Cary George followed up on his spring article about rare plants in the Garden with an article on the Garden's tree canopy and the four woody plants in the Garden that are listed on the State's "Special concern" list. These four are Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), and Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*).

One reason for the concern about these plants is that all are at the edge of their hardiness zones. Cary considered the Eastern Hemlock stand in the Garden to be the southernmost stand in the state (Hemlocks were first planted in the Garden by Eloise Butler in 1911). However, the plants at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum match the southern location, although they are not as old as those in the Garden. The last mature Butternut tree in the Garden succumbed to



Cary George counting the tree rings on the old butternut that was downed on June 23rd. Friends photo.



At the moment of the Summer Solstice, June 21, 2003: Led by Naturalist Joy, the group walked amid thousands of wild blue indigo and many other blooming flowers in the Prairie Garden. Friends photo.

blight and storm damage during a storm the evening of June 23. Cary George estimated its age to be 100 years.

Friends Board Member, Past President, and volunteer Gloria Miller added an article titled "The Garden as Therapist." She noted:

I sometimes wonder how many people realize the healing power of gardens? They can soothe, comfort and energize us with their beauty, if we just let them.

The book Gardening with Prairie Plants was reviewed and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Garden naturalists Jodi, Diana, Scott and Elaine provided some phenology - "Summer Garden Highlights" in which they mention the storm that downed the butternut and the public excitement in seeing the indigo buntings up on the prairie.

Weather: Summer weather was fairly typical, plenty of rain until August. The storm in June mentioned above dropped over two inches of rain.



Naturalist Joy pictured (center) with a few members of the group who began the Summer Solstice hike with an informal presentation. The hike took place at the moment of the Summer Solstice, June 21, 2003. Friends photo.

Autumn 2003

The most important news of the autumn season was the announcement by Cary George that he was retiring at the end of the year after 29 years of work for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and 17 years of that at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.

Two years prior in an article published in the Friends' newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian*TM, Cary wrote about the Garden saying:

The Garden is more than a remnant of what Wirth Park used to be. It is different geographically. It also has a transcendental spirit. Has Wirth Park been lost to invasive plants and a labyrinth of eroded trails made by kids and young adults on expensive mountain bikes? Maybe, but I trust the Garden. Yes, it's being squeezed by a consumer-oriented world, but in the end there will always be the Garden. The Garden is non-materialistic. It is a humble, modest place, unaffected by affluence.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 51 no. 4) he announced his retirement and said:

As many of you already know, this is my last season as Gardener at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. After 29 years as a gardener for the Minneapolis Park Board the time has come for a change. Retirement is a word that has a pejorative, almost funereal tone, yet one of the many gifts the Garden has given me is a realization that new things always emerge from the ephemeral. I have confidence that the Environmental Department will choose a successor who will husband the Garden well; someone who understands the legacy begun by Eloise Butler and nurtured through the stewardship of those that followed.

I will be back next year to assist the new gardener. Much information can only be accurately transferred orally: Where wildflowers are planted, topographical changes, archeological remnants, and an introduction the cast of characters both human and non-human to whom the Garden belongs. This seems like a perfect transition. As we all know, a garden is never done. This incompleteness, this imperfection is really the secret to the Wildflower Garden's beauty.

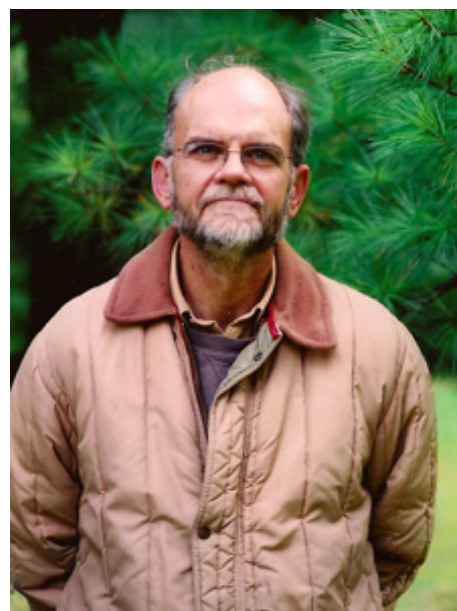
In that same issue Friends' President Steve Pundt remarked:

Thank you, Cary, for your insight, your knowledge, your dedication and your good work for all those years. You feel it was the perfect job for you, and we feel you were perfect for the job.

Elsewhere in that issue, volunteer coordinators Shirley Schultz and Harriet Betzold thanked the 33 individuals who volunteered at the Martha Crone Shelter in 2003. MPRB Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote an article on Bird Migration and Friends member Kathleen Connelly wrote about *Bees: Wildflowers' Best Friends*. The book [Wild Woods Guide - From Minnesota to Maine](#), the Nature and Lore of the Great North Woods was reviewed. There was also a phenology report by the Garden naturalists that covered the highlights of September.

At the Friends board meeting on October 13th at the Golden Valley Historical Center. The various topics covered included the following:

- 1. During the Friends 50th anniversary year of 2002, funds were solicited for construction of a wrought iron fence at the back of the Garden. The contributions received were in the bank



Cary George announces his retirement in the autumn of 2003. Friends photo.

during 2003 but the Park Board staff had not yet finalized their design work on the project. It would be 2005 before installation took place.

- 2. Production work was still going on for the 50th Anniversary Booklet about 50 years of Friends History but it would not be completed until year end. Planning work was also continuing on the memorial tribute to former Gardener Ken Avery. The committee for this project was continuing to meet with landscape architect George Watson. Muriel Avery, Ken's widow, was invited to be a member of the committee.
- 3. President Steve Pundt discussed his meeting with Mike Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Operations of the Park Board, about the hiring of a new Gardener. Mr. Schmidt was recommending hiring a full-time gardener but with budget restraints, it could not be assured. The Friends were urged to attend upcoming Park Board budget meetings to put forth the position that a full-time person was needed.

A volunteer luncheon was held on November 8th at the Golden Valley American Legion Club, organized by Marguerite Harbison, Harriet Betzold and Nita Lussenhop.



At the 2003 Volunteer Luncheon, l to r: Joy Davis, Ann Godfrey, Sally Pundt, all volunteers and Friends Board members. Friends photo.

The Shelter in the Garden closed weekdays for the season on October 15th, which had become the seasonal closing date in 2000 due to budget constraints; this followed many years when the closing had been on October 31st. It would, however, be open on weekends until the end of October - a schedule continued in future years.

Weather in the autumn of 2003 was typical for the season. Rainfall was spotty in September and October. There were two significant snowfalls - one of 5.5 inches in November and one of 9.5 inches in December, but warm temperatures in late December melted almost all of it.

Photo top of first page of 2003: A gathering of Friends in the Garden for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden held a year prior on May 12th 2002. L to R back row: Gloria Miller, Otis Godfrey, Steve Pundt, Pam Weiner, Constance Pepin; front row - Betty Bryan, Ann Godfrey, Lisa Locken.



2004

Winter 2003/2004

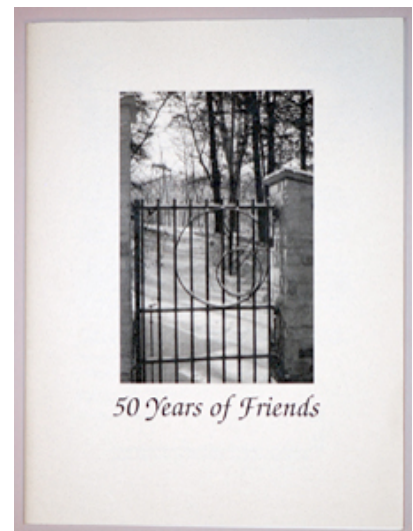
Susan Wilkins' first year as Garden Curator.

Samples of the Friends' 50th Anniversary Book, *50 Years of Friends*, were presented to the Friends Board at the January 26th Board Meeting. 300 copies were then ordered and it was distributed in early summer. Marylynn Pulscher, Environmental Education Director for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB, the "Park Board"), attended the Board Meeting and reported on the progress of finding the new Curator, and about work needed on the Martha E. Crone Shelter building. The Friends were willing to pay for new downspouts for the building but that was not approved pending the hiring of a new Curator. (1)

The big event then of the first quarter of 2004 was the selection of a new Gardener to succeed Cary George. After his retirement it was uncertain that the Park Board budget would support a full time gardener at Eloise Butler, but when the 2004 budget was approved, the position was retained. (2)



New Garden Curator Susan Wilkins. Friends photo.



The cover of the Friends 50th Anniversary Booklet, issued in January 2004.

By late spring Garden Naturalist Susan Wilkins was selected as the fifth person to manage the Garden since its founding in 1907. Furthermore, she was given the additional title of Garden Curator, a title that both Eloise Butler and Martha Crone had, but was denied to Ken Avery and Cary George, who were always referred to as "Gardener." Susan would continue the vision of Eloise Butler. Cary George would be available during the year to help with the transition.

In *The Fringed Gentian*™, (Vol. 52 no. 1) Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote about Minnesota's migratory birds, Naturalist Willow Rheault wrote about ending her career as a Park Board Naturalist in order to return to

Maine - the home state of Eloise Butler. Volunteer and Friends Board member Nita Lussenhop was in the "Meet the Volunteers" column. Friends' President Steve Pundt noted that a special fund have been started in 2002 to cover the estimated \$15,000 cost of completing the wrought iron fencing near the back gate. The project was linked with the Friends' 50th Anniversary. Contributions were still being solicited, as the fence would not actually be erected until 2005.

Weather: The winter of 2003/2004 was very light on snow - almost nothing in December and January, with a lot in February and very little in March. The total season was well below average. There was no snow on the ground as the opening of the Garden season approached.



Naturalist Tammy Mercer (with hat) leading an early Spring Saturday bird walk in the Garden. Friends photo.

Spring 2004

The new Garden Curator Susan Wilkins expressed her thoughts on the new job:

As a lover of historic gardens, I am looking forward to delving deeper into the life and vision of Eloise Butler to explore her thoughts and insights about this unique wildflower garden. With this information the Garden can grow and evolve in the spirit of Eloise Butler's century-old vision.(3)

The Garden opened on April 1st - the normal date - but still different since the last few years have had delayed opening due to snow. Temperatures in the spring were above the average. April saw little rain but in May it was abundant. The Garden Naturalists observed the return of the fox family and eventually saw seven kits.

The Friends held a Board Meeting on April 12 at which President Steve Pundt provided an update on various projects: The Ken Avery Memorial Project committee was to resume meeting; the status of the back fence replacement project was discussed and an approval vote was taken to pay for new rain gutters for the Martha Crone Shelter. Vice President Pam Weiner had been to Park Board meetings about the placement of the mountain bike trail in Wirth Park and reported that it would now be entirely north of Highway 55, away from the Garden buffer zone. (4)

The Annual Meeting of the Friends was held at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden on Saturday May 22, 2004. The following were elected to the Board of Directors: Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson (finance committee), Harriet Betzold (volunteers), Joy Davis (membership), Launa Ellison, Ann Godfrey, Larry Gravitz (new), Marguerite Harbison (memorials), Lyle Johnson, Lisa Locken (newsletter editor), Juanita Lussenhop, Constance Pepin, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Jack Schultz, Shirley Schultz, Pam Weiner, Constance Pepin became the new historian - filling a vacant position.

Elected to officer positions, at the following Board meeting, were Steve Pundt President, Pam Weiner Vice-president, Gary Bebeau, Treasurer, Juanita Lussenhop Secretary.

Curator Susan Wilkins reported that 180 new plants have been inserted in the southern wetland area, the rain gutters had been ordered for the Shelter and that the upland oaks were not doing well. There was no consensus as to the cause but in 1989 Gardener

Cary George had reported similar problems. (5)



Friends board member Phoebe Waugh who was the volunteer highlighted in the Spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™. Friends photo.

The Board authorized the funding for 294 feet of new wrought iron fence to replace the chain link fence east and west of the back gate of the Garden. Cost would be \$15,256.

A committee was formed to help the Park Board with planning for the 100th Anniversary of the Garden in 2007 and an appreciation gathering for retired Gardener Cary George was set for June 29th. The spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ (Vol. 52 no. 2) included much information on Susan Wilkins, and an article by Tammy Mercer, MPRB Naturalist, about finding native plants and a list of suppliers and resources. Friends member and volunteer Phoebe Waugh was the person in "Meet

the Volunteers."

Summer 2004

On the evening of Tuesday, June 29, 2004 members of the Friends and the Garden's MPRB Staff met at the Martha Crone Shelter for a farewell-retirement celebration for Cary George. To remind him of his gardening career he was presented with an inscribed "golden" shovel and trowel. All who could be there gave profound thanks for the care of the Garden that had been entrusted to him over the years and wished he and wife Janet great and happy days in their retirement.



Friends President Steve Pundt and Vice President Pam Weiner next to one of the new copper rain gutters funded by The Friends. Friends photo.



Cary George at his retirement party at the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.



Cary George at his retirement party at the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.

The Ken Avery Memorial committee reported that the project (a bird watching area) would be located within the Garden and be on a small plateau at the back of the Garden half way up the hill between the Woodland and Upland Garden.

During the summer the new copper rain gutters were installed by Sela at the Martha Crone Shelter at a cost to the Friends of \$2,360. (photo prior page)

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 52 no. 3) Curator Susan Wilkins reported that a Water Quality Intern for the Park Board, Youa Yang, was teaching naturalists a few phrases of Hmong on Garden related topics as many Hmong speakers frequented the Garden. Naturalists reported that the warbler migrations was more or less finished by May 30th and summer nesting for the locals was beginning.

A more lengthy article was on life-long learning and covered the experiences of 5-year olds visiting the Garden and those over 55 visiting via one of the Elder Learning Institutes from the University of Minnesota. Friends board member Steve Benson is director of

that program.

Friends' member Kathy Connelly reviewed a number of comments made in the Shelter Guest Book from 2003. There were visitors from 34 states and six foreign countries. The most commonly used descriptive terms were "gem" or "jewel." Kathie Fournier was the volunteer in "Meet the Shelter Volunteers."

The weather in summer was quite average - no extreme temperature spikes or dips and moderate rainfall without any gully-washers.

More Photos from the Cary George Farewell Celebration



l to r: A MPRB Garden Naturalist, Jimmy Young, Cary George. Friends photo.



l to r: George Bridgman, Jean Herzberg, Harriet Betzold. Friends photo.



I to r: Susan Dean, MPRB Naturalist Jodi, Cary George. Friends photo.



I to r: Larry Gravitz, Steve Pundt. Friends photo.



L to R: Betty Bryan, Shirley Schultz, Gloria Miller, Ann Godfrey, Jack Schultz. Friends photo.

Autumn 2004

It was reported in *The Fringed Gentian*TM (vol. 52 no. 4) that one of the plants added to the Garden this year was Nodding Ladies Tresses, *Spiranthes cernua*, an orchid that blooms in the fall. (photo next page) The earliest introduction of this species to the Garden was by Eloise Butler in 1909 and numerous times in later years. Martha Crone also planted it in 1938. Blooming on the prairie this fall for the first time in some years was the Downy Gentian, *Gentiana puberula*. A number of volleyball-sized giant puffballs were found following a September rain. Eloise Butler used to report on finding many of these along the same East Woodland trail (Violet Way) in an area she termed "Puffball Flats." Ninety years earlier on September 15th, 1914, she had found her 22nd giant puffball that year.

Curator Susan Wilkins reported on Oak Wilt. Some of the Red Oaks in the Upland Garden were still being affected by this pathogen. Steve Pundt compared Eloise Butler's top ten most abundant trees to the current group of most abundant - only 5 are on both lists - White Oak, Red Oak, Ironwood, Red

Maple, Basswood. In the “Meet the Volunteers” column Jim Proctor was spotlighted along with some of his natural material art - such as Buckthorn Art..

Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote an article “In Memory of a Little Red Bat” in which she describes a September 7th adventure when a young boy came running into the Shelter to say he had found an injured bat, which turned out to be a migrating Red Bat, not a species commonly found in the metro area.

The book “Butterflies of North America” was reviewed. Naturalist intern Satoko Muratake and her moss garden in the Fern Glen were shown.

On October 30 a crew of volunteers spent a cold rainy Saturday removing Buckthorn from the Fern Glen.



Nodding Ladies Tresses,
Spiranthes cernua. Photo
©Merle R. Black, University of
Wisconsin



Volunteer Jim Proctor with his natural art material. Friends photo.

A crew of forty volunteers had staffed the Shelter this past season and a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on November 6th at the Golden Valley American Legion. Friends Board member Harriet Betzold did the organizing. (Photos below)

The Friends held a Board meeting on October 4 at the Golden Valley Historical Society. Committees were working on the Ken Avery memorial and the 2007 Garden Anniversary. It was noted that the project to replace the chain-link fence at the back gate with wrought iron like that at the front gate would be completed yet this year, but it actually stretched into 2005.

Weather: 2004 was a year of just under average total precipitation and well under average snowfall. Temperatures were close to average as was rainfall. Late fall into December was very dry with little snow.

Photo top of first page of 2004: A gathering of Friends in the Martha Crone Shelter. L to R: Shirley Schultz, Joy Davis, Launa Ellison, Juanita Lussenhop (back to camera), unidentified in back, MPRB Naturalist Donna Thottungal, Connie Pepin, Ann Godfrey, Harriet Betzold, Unidentified. Photo by Lisa Locken.

Notes:

1. Minutes of the Friends’ Board, Jan. 26, 2004.
2. The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 52, No. 1, Winter 2004.
- 3 The *Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 52, No. 2, Spring 2004
- 4: Friends Board Meeting minutes April 12, 2004
- 5: Friends Board Meeting minutes May 22, 2004

**Photos from the November 6th Volunteer Luncheon
(all Friends photos)**



Mary Jo Shifsky, President Steve Pundt, Harriet Betzold



Shirley and Jack Schultz



Gary Bebeau, Connie Pepin



Larry Gravitz, Susan Dean, Sally Pundt



Phoebe Waugh, Lisa Locken



Marguerite Harbison, George Bridgman



Blair Bjerke, Jean Herzberg



Longest serving volunteer - Marie
Demler



2005

Winter 2004/2005

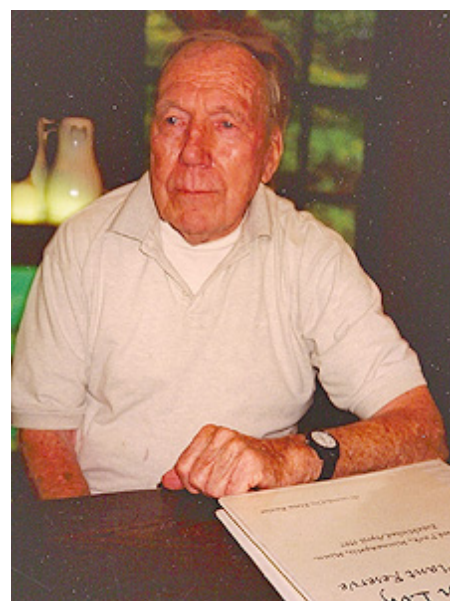
Susan Wilkins' second year as Garden Curator. During the winter months Susan was completing planning for the restoration of Hepatica Hill. Begun by Eloise Butler and furthered by Curator Martha Crone, the hillside on the Woodland's eastern facing slope had been selected years earlier to showcase a large planting of Hepatica. Over the many years since the first plantings, plants have died out and the loss of tree canopy due to Dutch Elm disease changed the habitat to a sunnier spot causing further loss of plants. Susan planned to add a large number of Hepatica during the upcoming spring season.

Another project nearing completion was the Ken Avery Birding Area - a project designed and funded by the Friends in honor of former Gardener Ken Avery who served in that position from 1959 to 1986, succeeding Martha Crone. The space selected is on a flat plateau half way between the Woodland and Upland Garden on the back trail. The site would have 3 benches and a birdbath, surrounded by selected planting. The Friends paid \$590 for a boulder on which to carve the birdbath and on which to mount a plaque for Ken Avery; and then \$4,914 for engraving, benches, plants and landscaping.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 53 no. 1) both of these projects were described. The newsletter contained an article by Constance Pepin about Ken Avery. Friends' board member Harriet Betzold published some of her drawings of birds.

A life-long member of the neighborhood of the Garden, and Garden visitor, William Toivonen (age 94) wrote a short article about the Garden area in earlier years.

Friend's President Steve Pundt led off the issue with commentary about the natural buffer zone around the Garden that had been established by the Park Board years earlier (1964)(Friends 1980 Preservation Plan) but was now being encroached upon by various outdoor activities, contrary to the original intent of the buffer zone to leave the area in its natural state. It would another 7 years before peace and quiet once again surrounded the Garden.



Bill Toivonen in the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.

The weather during the winter was milder than average with less snowfall (about 35 inches). February had a number of above average daily temperatures with several days around 50 degrees. Snow melted rapidly but March did have two large snowfalls of 9 inches and 5 inches.

Spring 2005

Susan Wilkins added over 1,000 native plants in the spring, primarily for her restoration of Hepatica Hill where 630 were added, around the new Ken Avery Birding Terrace, and near the Shelter entrance. Three important plants added included Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) and especially Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), which had been in the Garden at Eloise Butler's time, then died out and were replanted by Cary George several times, as recently as 2002, but they too died out. The third was Fringeleaf Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*) which was a plant Martha Crone added in 1947.



Fringeleaf Wild Petunia
(*Ruellia humilis*). Photo G D
Bebeau

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol.53 no. 2) the Garden Naturalists, Jodi, Diana and Erica provided notes on spring happenings in the Garden and specially noted that the Garden opened with warm weather with temps in the 50s and 60s the first week of April. Spring bloom was very good.

Steve Pundt announced the dedication date for the Ken Avery Birding Terrace would be June 19th. Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote an article about the Garden being *A Great Place for Birding*. Photos of people in the Garden on opening day were printed.

The Friends held their annual meeting on May 21st at the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden. The Board of Directors elected for the coming year were: Gary Bebeau, J. Stephen Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Susan Dean (new), Launa Ellison, Kathleen Connelly (new), Ann Godfrey, Larry Gravitz, Lyle Johnson, Lisa Locken, Constance Pepin, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Jim Proctor (new), Joe Schmidt (new), Phoebe Waugh (new), Pam Weiner. Leaving the board this year were Marguerite Harbison, Juanita Lussenhop, Shirley and Jack Schultz.

Reelected as officers at the following Board meeting were Steve Pundt President, Pam Weiner Vice President, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Phoebe Waugh was the newly elected Secretary. Continuing in positions were: Joy Davis as membership chair; Harriet Betzold as volunteer coordinator; Lisa Locken as newsletter editor; Constance Pepin as historian. Gary Bebeau took over memorials chair.



Hepatica Hill in the days of Martha Crone. Photo from a Kodachrome by Martha Crone taken April 16, 1955.



Kunde Company staff mapping the tree population in Eloise Butler with GPS in 2005. Friends photo.

Susan Wilkins reported that another five oaks had been lost to Oak Wilt and that buckets of Garlic Mustard had been removed. A new tree inventory based on a GIS system was taking place in the Garden this spring before the canopy leafed out.

Author Judy Bridell was in attendance to discuss the book she was working on - *Going Wild with Eloise Butler* - aimed at 7 to 10 year olds - about the early life of Eloise Butler.

Planning continued for the dedication of the Ken Avery Birding Terrace in June and there was much discussion about the buffer zone around the Garden and multitude of uses that it was subject to, all of which were severely damaging the area as a buffer zone. Steve Pundt wrote a summation of the issue in the summer newsletter (Vol. 53 no. 3)

Summer 2005

The Ken Avery Birding Terrace was dedicated on Sunday, June 19, 2005 with Muriel Avery (Ken's widow), former gardener Cary George, Former Park Board Foreman of Horticulture Dan Hasty, Park Commissioner Vivian Mason, and many others in attendance. The dedicatory plaque, designed by the Friends read as follows:

Ken Avery Birding Terrace
In Grateful Remembrance of
Kenneth E. Avery
Garden Curator, 1959-1987
"I fell in love with what I found here."
Dedicated June 19, 2005
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

Total cost funded by the Friends for the terrace was \$5,504.



In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol 53 no. 3) Susan Wilkins wrote an article titled "*Cherishing Orchids, an Eloise Butler Legacy.*" She added information about a rescue mission in June that secured some Showy Lady's-slippers for the Garden. Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote an article on *The Rewards of Summer Birding*. Photos from the Avery Terrace Dedication were also published. The Garden Naturalists, Jodi and Christine published some early eummer

Garden highlights including the note that Comfrey was growing well - it has since disappeared from the Garden. Weather in June was warm and wonderful, July and August had abundant rain.

Minneapolis/StPaul Magazine ran a full page about the Wildflower Garden and a full page about curator Susan Wilkins.

Autumn 2005

The Friends held a Board of Directors meeting on October 10, 2005 at the Golden Valley Historical Society. Committee reports were presented and President Pundt reported on the Garden activities in Susan's place as she had just married and was off work for a few days. More Buckthorn had been



Muriel Avery attending the dedication of the Ken Avery Birding Terrace. Friends photo.

removed from the Garden as an Eagle Scout project. There was concern about safety in the Shelter as a man had come in the back door unexpectedly and the police had to be called. A second panic button was installed and the city police were to stop daily at the Garden.

The Board voted to have a picture of Cary George added to the wall with the previous three curators. A 100th Garden Anniversary committee was formed for the 2007 celebration. Ideas were presented for a Friends' website. Mary Jo Shifsky attended the meeting as she had become involved with volunteer coordination over the summer months to help Harriet Betzold. Neither would be continuing next year but Ann Godfrey agreed to be volunteer coordinator in 2006.



The Ken Avery Birding Terrace. Photo G D Bebeau

A special meeting of the board was held on November 21st to discuss the Garden Buffer Zone concerns and the Park Boards response. The minutes follow this text.

The new wrought iron back fencing, 294 feet, matching the front Garden fence, was completed at a cost to the Friends of \$15,256. [photo at beginning of text] In addition to funds raised for this project (which was a 2002 Friends' 50th Anniversary Project, and funds raised for the Ken Avery Birding Terrace, the Friends' investment account was tapped for \$18,000 help with the funding.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol.53 no. 4) Steve Pundt wrote a continuation article about the Buffer Zone issue confronting the Garden. In addition Constance Pepin and Pam Weiner wrote "*The Friends' Vision for South Wirth Woods.*"

Curator Susan Wilkins wrote extensively about the tree mapping program taking place at the Garden. The tree inventory based on a GIS system had found 777 trees in the Garden over 8 inches in diameter. Forty volunteers for the season were recognized. Launa Ellison contributed an article about Children as Naturalists.



Children learning to be Naturalists at the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.

A luncheon for volunteers was held on Nov. 12 at the Golden Valley American Legion. Marguerite Harbison organized the event.

Fall weather was average for temperature but after a 4.62 inch rainfall in early October, precipitation was modest. There was little snow until late November. The Garden closed on Oct. 15, as has been the schedule since 2000. Unlike the previous year it was not open weekends for the remainder of October due to budget issues.

Photo top of first page of 2005: The new wrought iron fence at the back garden gate, funded by the Friends in 2005. Photo G. D. Bebeau

FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 21, 2005

Present:	Steve Benson	Ann Godfrey	Steve Pundt
	Harriet Betzold	Lisa Locken	Phoebe Waugh
	Kathleen Connelly	Constance Pepin	Pam Weiner
	Launa Ellison	Sally Pundt	Susan Wilkins

The meeting to discuss strategy for our buffer zone concerns and strategy for 2006 Lopet Impact was called to order at 7:10 pm. Eleven board members (a quorum) were present at that time.

Board members reviewed responses of Park and Park Board to inquiries. We were not notified of work planned in buffer zone, and some individuals of the Park and Park Board seemed not to know work was planned. No information is volunteered unless questions are very direct. Connelly thought we should ask park board for their vision and plans, that we need to open communication with Linden Hills, and that we need to find out when the stake holders meetings start. This may be waiting until the GPS Survey is completed and the lady who was in charge of this has moved on to another job. She suggested some action points.

1. Develop relationships with other stake holders.
2. Get the meetings going.
3. Get communication going with the Park so there are no surprises, i.e. grooming, man-made snow, and especially the 2006 Lopet Time Table for grooming, etc. (and from that develop our basis of opposition).

She also has noted that Mayor Rybeck was listed as on the Board of the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation a few years ago in some documents she found and she thought this might be a conflict of interest.

There was general discussion of compaction resulting from trucking in snow, concerns about man-made snow, and the effect of this on the vegetation and wildlife. Mike Schmidt told Pam that no man made-snow would be used in Wirth Woods. We do know that the Park Board spent \$425,000. for snow-making equipment and the Lopet group has raised \$50,000. Suggested position points:

1. We want no trucking of manufactured snow in the buffer zone.
2. Concern about impact on bird population and spring migrants.
3. Concern about impact on wild flowers near ski trails (probably killed by trucks, but probably not affected by grooming).

There was a general consensus that we might need an environmental impact study to prove our point. Godfrey saw this as part of our purpose as being Friends of the Garden. Steve Benson may have sources for experts. Steve has a name of someone at Applied Ecological Service who may be able to give us a quote on such a study. Another suggestion was to demand a Bio Blitz of South Wirth Woods. We need an ecological assay of what is actually in the area i.e. raptors, pileated woodpeckers, other birds and plants and should not be estimating what we have. Connelly suggested we might get a result we would not like; i.e. many deer browsing off native plants. This would be expensive. There was a Park Board study in 2000.

Many on the Park Board seem to see the Wirth Woods as empty space to be filled with people and do not see a place of quiet as a valid use of the land. We see the need for walking and bird watching. There was a short discussion on what was the buffer zone. It is South of Glenwood, North of 394 from Xerxes to Theodore Wirth Parkway, but not necessarily including the pavilion and tennis courts. The buffer zone committee is Weiner, Pepin, Connelly, and Sally Pundt. Pam will call Mike Schmidt about the 2006 Lopet Time Table. Locken asked to be kept informed by the committee.

Susan said that snow from the streets could not be put in the lakes, because of contamination. She was told that an oak was to be cut near the lopet trail the morning of the day it was removed. The foresters were careful and only 10% of the new plantings between the garden and the Lopet trail was damaged. Cutting debris was left. She will be burning cutting debris and branches in the garden. She tries to befriend those she works with and has to be persistent about her goals for the garden. Weiner was told by a forester that injection and trenching do not work. When asked, Susan said they did work.

The Pepins reported finding a 1914 plat book map of the garden area costing under \$100 in a local antique store. After a short discussion it was moved by Pepin and seconded by Benson that the Friends purchase that map. The motion passed without dissent.

It was suggested that we ask Paul Hokness to meet with the friends and share his vision of the park, to talk about who works with him, and about the interface with forestry. Weiner noted that he was not hired to have concern about this. It was then suggested that we have Tracy Nordstrom meet with us.

It was suggested that we look at membership rolls and at the list of people who sign the book in the shelter for supporters of the Garden and for preservation of the South Wirth Woods. We need to connect with those who have common interests. We need to improve perception of our group. We need to ask for active support in correcting the mistakes in the placement of the Lopet trails so close to the garden. There was a short discussion of how West Wood Nature Center handles skiing.

Several members received a letter from the Park Board about a community meeting to review the draft evaluation report and recommendations for the Wirth off-road cycling demonstration project on 11-28. Board Members were encouraged to attend the meeting and the secretary is to send copies of the letter to board members. The Planning Committee will vote on this 12-7 and the full board on 12-21. Connelly suggested using a temporary restraining order, as this is too soon to be voting on this since it is a one year demonstration project that was started in June. We could write letters to the Editor (but probably not the Star Tribune) The South West Journal, Golden Valley and Post papers might be appropriate.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phoebe Waugh
Phoebe Waugh, Secretary

Winter 2005/2006

Susan Wilkins' third year as Garden Curator. The Friends held a Board of Directors meeting on January 9 at the Golden Valley Historical Center. A special guest was newly elected 4th District Parks Commissioner Tracy Nordstrom. Former Commissioner Vivian Mason had not run for re-election. Nordstrom's remarks touched on Park finances, ecology of the Parks and the preservation of open space. She was given a one-year gift membership in the Friends.

Susan Wilkins discussed planning for the 2007 100th Anniversary of the Garden, plans to restore the wetland pool, the renovation of a section of the Upland Prairie Garden - needed due to the removal of some trees in order to retain the character of an oak savanna. The photo at right by shows the area in 2008 after the renovation and before new planting. Parks Operations Manager MaryLynn Pulscher was working on getting two persons hired to do Buckthorn removal in the area around the Garden.



Friends President Steve Pundt spoke of his meeting with Parks District Manager Paul Hokeness about the buffer zone around the Garden and the position of the Loppett Trail that is used for winter sports. There were committee reports, more discussion about starting a website, and whether Martha Hellander's book, *The Wild Gardener* should be reprinted as only 67 copies are left. Many memorials came in for volunteer Jimmy Young who recently passed away - they now totaled \$935. He is pictured in the 2004 text.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 54 no. 1 Winter 2006) Steve Pundt noted the change of Park Commissioners as explained above; the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Garden and the work the Board was doing with the Audubon Society to have the Area surrounding the Garden designated as a Minnesota Important Birding Area (IBA). Susan Wilkins wrote about the coming season and about the creation of Legacy Stewards Volunteer Program where trained volunteers will be responsible for removing specific invasive species for their given area of the Garden for an entire season. This program proved to be successful and was continued in future years. Naturalist Tammy Mercer contributed an article of "How Climate Change will Affect Birds in Minnesota."



MPRB Naturalist Tammy Mercer leading a birding class. Friends photo.

Snowfall in the winter of 2005/2006 was just slightly above the average of 43.6 inches. Toward the end of December 2005, temperatures began to rise significantly above average with January 2006 being the warmest January since 1846. There were no significant snowfalls until March.

Spring 2006

March weather started off with a major snowstorm at the beginning of the 2nd week that totaled 16 inches over two days. Temperatures in spring were consistently departing from average into the plus range. The Garden opened on schedule on April 1

The Friends held a Board of Directors meeting on April 10 at the Golden Valley Historical Society. Susan Wilkins reported that several more trees were lost to Oak Wilt, one right by the back door of the shelter. The Park Board allocated \$50,000 per year for 5 years toward Buckthorn removal in Wirth Park and the staff that did this was to start in the Garden. Plans were still afoot to restore wetland pool and for the 2007 Garden centennial.

New volunteer co-ordinator Ann Godfrey reported that there was a good staff of volunteers and many days of the season were already signed up. Children's author Judy Bridell has written a book for juveniles titled *Going Wild With Eloise Butler*. It was to be edited by North Star Press this year and published in 2007.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends was held in the Garden Shelter on May 20th. The Directors elected for the coming year were: Emily Anderson (new), Gary Bebeau, J. Stephen Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Susan Dean, Ann Godfrey, Cary George (new), Larry Gravitz, Lyle Johnson, Jeff Lee (new), Lisa Locken, Vivian Mason (new), Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Joe Schmidt, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner, with Susan Wilkins, ex-officio. Leaving the Board this year were Launa Ellison, Kathleen Connolly and Constance Pepin.



Friends Volunteer Coordinator Ann Godfrey. Friends photo.

Susan Wilkins reviewed an article about the Garden that was published in *_SCAPE*, a publication of the Minnesota Chapter of Landscape Architects (MASLA). The article was a sample from a publication of MASLA on 52 sites that the Chapter called "Valued Places - landscape architecture in Minnesota."

Membership was 279 at the time of meeting, including 11 Life members. President Pundt reported on the meeting of the 100th Anniversary Committee. Members were: Steve Pundt, Sally Pundt, Joy Davis, MaryLynn Pulscher, Susan Wilkins, Gloria Miller, Vivian Mason, Lisa Locken and Emily Anderson.

The annual membership meeting was followed by a Board of Directors meeting at which re-elected as officers were Steve Pundt President, Pam Weiner Vice President, Gary Bebeau Treasurer, Phoebe Waugh Secretary. Committee positions were: Joy Davis as membership chair, Ann Godfrey as volunteer coordinator, Lisa Locken as newsletter editor, historian was vacant, Gary Bebeau as memorials chair, and money management - Steve Benson, Lyle Johnson, Gary Bebeau, Steve Pundt.

There was a report by Pam Weiner on the work of the Buffer Zone Committee, their meetings with the Park Board and other groups involved in moving the Loppett trail from its position in the Garden Buffer Zone. A website committee was formed and Jim Proctor presented his idea of forming a volunteer workforce for invasive plant removal around the Garden. This would develop into the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group in 2007

The old parking lot for the Great Medicine Spring was currently being used as a storage area for woodchips to prevent people from parking there for activities not appropriate to a city park. Discussion

was had that the lot should be totally abandoned as woodchip storage was not a great gateway to the Garden approach.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 54 no. 2 Spring 2006) Susan Wilkins wrote extensively about Garlic Mustard and particularly about the efforts to remove it from the Garden. These efforts would involve the Legacy Stewards (trained volunteers will be responsible for removing specific invasive species for their given area of the Garden for an entire season) and work by interns in the Garden.

A special article - *In the Spirit of Walden* was written by Friends member Bill Toivonen who lived near the Garden. His made the connection that if Thoreau have visited the Garden area on his Minnesota visit in 1861, would he not have seen something similar to the area of Walden Pond?

Bill's photo is in the 2005 text.



Susan Wilkins with intern Tong Xiong. Friends photo.



White Throated Sparrow, photo -
G D Bebeau

Naturalist Diana Thottungal reviewed some of the earliest bloom dates for spring wild flowers. These records were kept by the two prior Gardeners - Ken Avery and Cary George.

In the "Bird Notes" article written by the Garden Naturalists Jodi, Erica and Diana, the sightings of the early morning and evening birding walks were reviewed, including the White Throated Sparrow singing its "Oh, sweet Canada, Canada, Canada" song.

Summer 2006

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 54 no. 3 Summer 2006) Steve Pundt noted that the Park Board carried through on their plan to remove invasives from Wirth Park by approving the 5-year plan for doing so. The area around the Garden and the Quaking Bog would be the first to be addressed. Susan Wilkins wrote about the Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, (Friends photo at right) which Eloise Butler had first noted in bloom in the Garden on June 25, 1924 but she had never made a note in her log of when she planted it. It is only found in the SE states so it had to come from a nursery originally. It was still growing there in 2006. Local horticulturists Charles and Betty Ann Addison of Rice Creek Gardens, took cuttings from that original plant and grew them at their nursery. Eventually they made them available to the public after registering it as a distinct cultivar with the International Cultivar Registration Authority under the name *K. latifolia* 'Eloise Butler.' Susan purchased 30 of the plants and put them in various places near the front gate and on the hillside near the original plant.



Summer weather was rainy with above average temperatures. July was the warmest since 1936.

Autumn 2006

The Friends held a Board of Directors meeting on September 11 at which John Akre of Minneapolis Telecommunication Network introduced a video project that his station would be preparing for the 2007 Garden Centennial. Friends Board members would get to speak about the Garden on this video. New board member Emily Anderson was working on grant paperwork to submit to a few selected foundations in hopes of getting more support for the Garden. It was suggested that a new screen door be purchased for the Crone Shelter. This was later approved and installed in 2007.

Board member Jim Proctor has been using small groups of volunteers to clear buckthorn and garlic mustard from around the area of the Avery Birding Terrace.

On November 18 a volunteer appreciation luncheon was held at the Golden Valley American Legion Club. Ann Godfrey, Harriet Betzold and Marguerite Harbison arranged the event. John Akre of Minneapolis Telecommunication Network did some taping during the event for his video project. The Friends had revenue of \$12,439 for the year. Invested assets were \$40,562 at the beginning of the year and \$43,937 at the end.

In *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 54 no. 4 Fall 2006) Steve Pundt reported that the Park Board was going to start meetings of the Trail Overlay Advisory Committee, that was formed in July 2005 to address conflicting needs and uses of trails in south Wirth Park. The most concern to the Friends was the location of the Loppet Trail next to the Garden.

The Friends provided \$2,000 in funding for purchases of native trees and shrubs for the Garden that were put in this fall. Susan Wilkins wrote about the project which totaled 300 plus plants covering 15 species. She wrote about 3 - Wintergreen, or Partridgeberry, (*Gaultheria procumbens*); Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*); and Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*). MPRB Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about the colors of fall leaves and how to preserve them.

35 volunteers staffed the Shelter during the season, contributing over 1,000 hours in volunteer time. This does not include the large number of hours spent in invasive removal by Jim Proctor's newly formed group.

The Garden closed on weekdays on October 15, as usual since 2000, with open days only on weekends through the remainder of October - a practice begun in 2003 due to budget constraints. Before the Garden closed on the 15th however there were snow flurries, cold wind and a severe frost. After the cold in October, November was warmer than average but total precipitation was very sparse, little significant snow and no snow depth on the ground at all for the entire fall into the end of the year.

At the time 2006 was the third warmest year in weather history with the warmest January since 1846 and the warmest July since 1936. Total precipitation about 34 inches, was quite a bit above the average of 27.7 inches.



MPRB Naturalist Diana Thottungal. Friends photo.



2007

Winter 2006/2007

Susan Wilkins' fourth year as Garden Curator.

Two sad events happened in February this year. Friends' newsletter editor Lisa Locken passed away. She had been editor since 1999 and was responsible for incorporating many more photographs into the newsletter and consistently producing 4 issues per year. Her memorial service was on March 10 and was well attended by her many friends.

Also, on February 9, Moana Odell Beim, daughter of Friends founder Clinton Odell, and past President of the Friends (1975-1976) also passed away. Lisa Locken and Steve Pundt has interviewed her about the Garden back in 2002. A number of memorials were received for both Lisa and Moana during the year.



Friends President Steve Pundt
and Moana Odell Beim.
Friends photo.

A new logo for Garden Publications incorporating the Showy Lady's-slipper was introduced by Susan Wilkins. The design was by professional illustrator Ken Jacobsen.

2007 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Garden and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board planned a number of events beginning with a special event on April 28th, which had been named Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Day by the mayor of Minneapolis. (copy of post card follows text)

A Friends' Board Meeting was held on February 12, 2007, at the Golden Valley Historical Society. Susan Wilkins announced that she and intern Kegan had been clearing Buckthorn in the Garden and that there are no mature ones left. The debris would be burnt in the spring.

She will also have an intern again this year for 30 hours a week. Classes were to be offered in the Garden, some with a fee this year. And finally, a new electric garden tractor had been acquired - an Electric Ox - to replace the old John Deere. This was the first electric tractor purchased by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Susan also presented a request for funding for a new screen



Lisa Locken at the Martha
Crone Shelter door. Friends
photo.



Susan Wilkins burning buckthorn. Friends photo.

door for the shelter, which was approved. The Friends funded the total cost of \$2,020. Photos are in the 'Fall' section.

With Lisa's passing, Kathy Connelly volunteered to take over the editing of *The Fringed Gentian*TM for the spring issue. Steve Pundt, Pam Weiner and Emily Anderson reported on trail committee meetings which concern the use of South Wirth Park near the Garden by the Minneapolis Loppett and the Minnesota Off-road Cycling Association. This year the Friends attempt edto raise \$10,000 to cover the costs of the 100th Anniversary of the

Garden that the Friends were partially sponsoring and a letter about that was sent to the membership of the Friends. (Copy of membership letter follows text.) When the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM came out, it incorporated information about all of the above items. [Vol. 55, no. 1]

Spring 2007

Although most of the snow for the Winter of 2006/07 fell in the first two months of 2007, it was all melted by April 1st for the Garden to open on time. Ann Godfrey announced that a training session was held for Shelter volunteers on April 4th, conducted by Susan Wilkins.

There are 48 volunteers on the roster this year. A burn of the prairie took place in April.

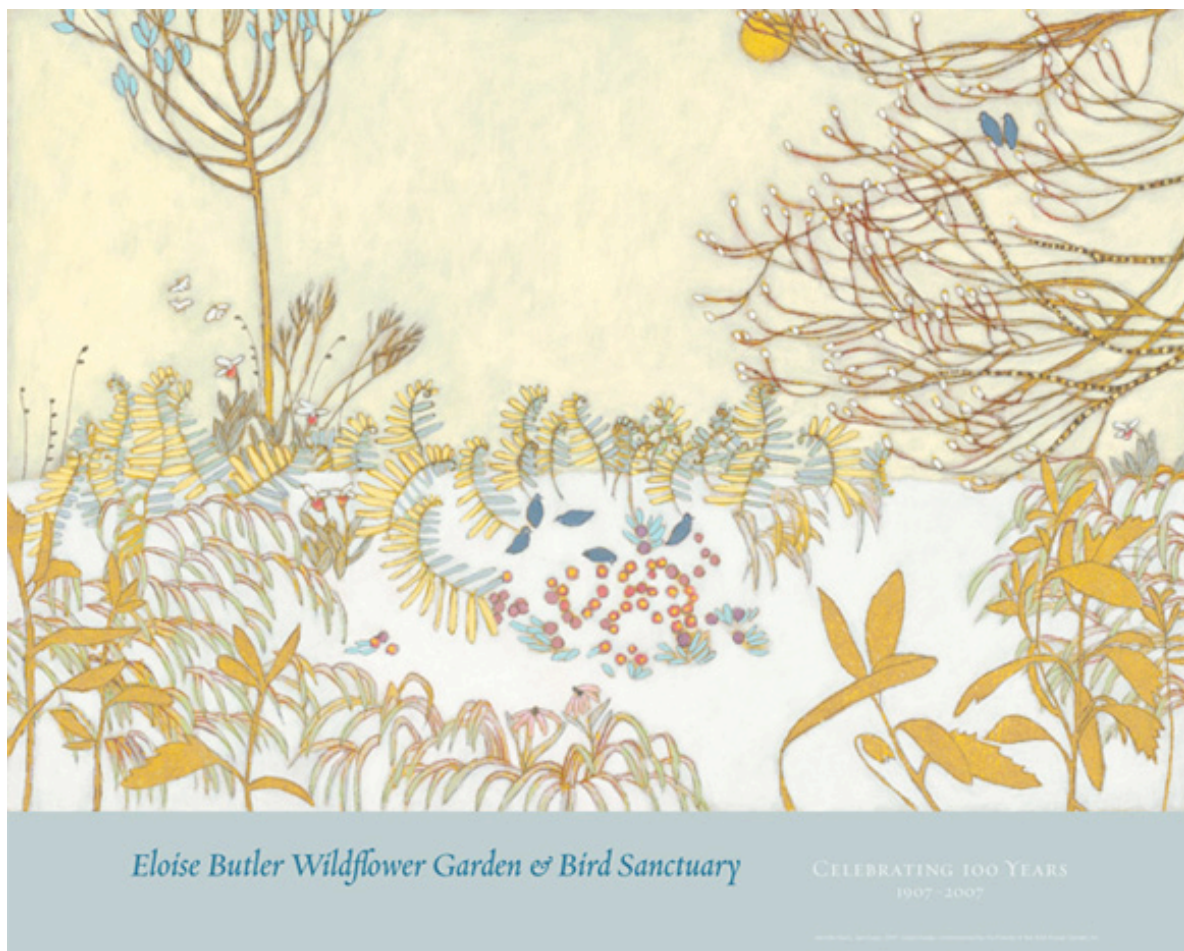


Prairie burn in April 2007. Photo Melissa Hansen.

A Board Meeting of the Friends was held on April 9th at the Golden Valley Historical Society and it was decided that no further reprints of Martha Hellander's book *The Wild Gardener* would be done. Forty copies remained and the reprint cost was in excess of \$8,000. Progress was reported by a committee on completing a website for the Friends, expected to be up in May. Designs were final for a Garden 100th Anniversary Poster and a set of Note Cards. The poster was commissioned from Minnesota artist Jennifer Davis. It is titled "Sanctuary," referring to the peacefulness of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. The size was 16 x 20 inches. Selling price - \$10. The note cards were 3 individual cards each of a partial image from the poster and boxed in a set of 12, selling at \$10.



Kathy Connelly, new temporary newsletter editor - shown here in 2004. Friends photo.



Above - the poster, **below** The three note cards.





The first event for the Garden's 100th Anniversary was held on April 28 and titled "A Century of Seasons." Minneapolis mayor R. T. Ryback presented the mayor's proclamation of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden day, and through a collaboration of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Minneapolis Swedish Institute, character actor Hans Odöo (photo) arrived in a horse drawn carriage, portraying the Swedish botanist Carl Linneaus on his 300th birthday. Music was performed by two others from the Swedish Institute.

Below: Carl Linneaus arriving at the Garden. (Friends photos)



Above: Carl Linneaus listening to the music of the nyckelharpa. Friends photo.

A second special event was held on Mothers Day, May 13. Then on June 9, it was "Showy Lady's-slipper Day." There were Garden tours, native plant sales, including sale of state certified rescued Lady's-slippers, and a special visit by Eloise Butler played by character actor Anna Anderhagen who was recruited by Pam Weiner.



The sale of certified Showy Lady's-slippers on Mothers Day, shown in front of the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.

The Friends held their annual meeting in the Martha Crone Shelter at the Garden on May 19. Susan Wilkins was given a framed poster and set of note cards. She reported that the Garden had a lot of visitors that Spring and that 1,500 wild flowers had been planted, including over 100 Virginia Bluebells. The Friends funded \$4,250 of the cost. Six naturalists were assigned to the Garden this year, plus two interns instead of the one originally proposed and also assigned as Program Coordinator was Erin Dietrich. Children's book author Judy Bridell was present, talking about her new book *Going Wild with Eloise Butler*, that was to be published in June.



Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Emily Anderson, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Susan Dean, Cary George, Ann Godfrey, Larry Gravitz, Lyle Johnson,

Jeff Lee, Vivian Mason, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade (new), Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio).

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Phoebe Waugh secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Steve Pundt was roundly thanked for his years and efforts as President.



Jim Proctor in a stand of Garlic Mustard. Friends photo.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials, Joy Davis - membership, Ann Godfrey - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, and Kathy Connelly - interim newsletter editor, historian is vacant.

Jim Proctor reported on the work of removing Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard and it was at this meeting that the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group was formed (FIPAG). This was the start of formulating the methodology of eliminating Garlic Mustard from the Garden and surrounding area, which was now a major menace. The issue of the trails in South Wirth was again discussed. Note card and poster sales were slow and it was decided that proceeds from those sold at Garden events would go to the 100th Anniversary Project and that the Friends would absorb the cost of production of the product.

Membership at the time was 285 including 13 life members.

Summer 2007

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, [Vol.55, no. 2] retiring president Steve Pundt penned his final President's Letter. It was announced that the Hennepin History Museum would have a summer exhibit on the life and accomplishments of Eloise Butler. The Garden parking lot was to be repaved in July. The issue also had background on Eric Dietrich and Judy Bridell - all mentioned above.

The final 100th Anniversary event of the season was held on August 11, commemorating the birthday of Eloise Butler (August 3, 1851).

On August 25 a group of six women visited the Crone Shelter. They had been in Girl Scouts with Kathleen Dean Hillman. When the fireplace was built in the Shelter in 1970, they had contributed to the cost. The fireplace, limestone chimney and hood were funded by Kathleen's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Dean as a memorial in memory of Kathleen who had died in 1968 at age 25. In the photo below they are standing in front of the hood with the memorial plaque visible on the wall between them. Photo below by Phoebe Waugh who was the shelter volunteer that morning.



Autumn 2007

The Friends held a Board Meeting on September 17 at the Golden Valley Historical Society. The report on poster sales showed that 103 out of 1000 had been sold and 334 boxes of note cards (these were quite successful). Sale proceeds of \$4,250 from Park Board Garden events were sent to the Park Board to buy plants for spring 2008 planting. MTN Television had produced a video disc about the Garden and Eloise Butler and they had a premier event on November 11. The Friends secured copies of the DVD to sell.

Ann Godfrey reported that volunteers had put in over 1,100 hours this year in service to the Garden. That included 35 shelter volunteers, 25 invasive pullers and 7 legacy stewards in the Garden. A web site did not come about and the committee disbanded. Jeff Lee reported on the possible wetland restoration project that had been discussed all year. Due to restraints and cost estimates, the project was tabled for now.

During the year following the deaths of Lisa Locken and Moana Beim, two memorials were established in the Garden; the funds going from the Friends to the Park Board: A group of friends of Lisa Locken adopted an Oak tree on the path leading to the Garden Shelter and second, the family of Moana Beim adopted several Hemlocks in the Hemlock Grove.



The large Oak (center of photo) dedicated to Lisa Locken, on the path leading down to the Martha Crone Shelter. Photo G D Bebeau.

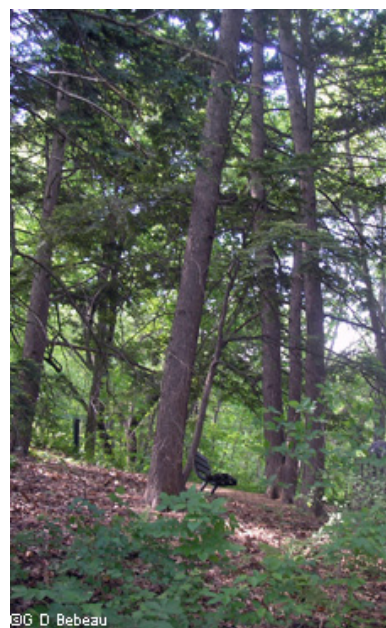
A new editor for the newsletter was found in the person of Linda Cody, who was present at the meeting and was elected to the Board.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM [Vol.55, no.3] Pam Weiner wrote her first letter as president and Susan Wilkins wrote about the Wildflower Garden in “100 years of Inspired Beauty.” Phenology highlights for the summer were given by the Naturalists; Tammy Mercer wrote about the Garden being a *Rest Stop for Weary Travelers* (Birds); Jim Proctor wrote about the invasive work, especially about Japanese Knotweed which had recently been discovered; and also reported on for the items mentioned above.

During the winter the new screen door built for the Martha Crone Visitor’s Shelter and funded by the Friends was installed. The shelter has had various screen doors over the years but there was research evidence that the original design for a door was never followed through on and various substitute doors were installed. One door was damaged in a break-in at the Shelter in the Winter of 1977 and was either subsequently removed and replaced with the existing door or was repaired and replaced and was damaged again in a 1988 break-in.

So to get back to a more original design, volunteer Kathleen Connelly and Susan Wilkins took on the replacement project and worked to find artisans to create it. The door was completed and installed. In the spring (2008) visitors could enjoy the passing breezes through this lovely work of art constructed of quarter-sawn white oak with mortise and tenon joinery. The carpenter, John May, constructed the door while blacksmith, Tom Latane created unique metal hinges and door handle. The design fits perfectly with the architecture of the Shelter building and looks as if it were always a part of the Garden.

On Sunday evening, November 11th, 2007, the Friends’ Board hosted a Thank-You reception for the volunteers who contributed to the Garden’s very successful 100th season. Legacy Stewards, Weed Pullers, Shelter Volunteers, Board Members and members of the Garden staff gathered at the studio of the Minneapolis Television Network at Saint Anthony Main on the riverfront in Minneapolis. They sampled appetizers from the Aster Café and viewed a screening of the 100th Anniversary DVD. For



The section of the Hemlock grove with bench dedicated to Moana Odell-Beim. Photo G D Bebeau



Susan Wilkins with the new shelter screen door. Friends photo.

most, it was the first look at John Akre's production which chronicles the seasons of the Garden through John's photography and interviews.

Susan Wilkins warmly thanked the Friends for their support of the garden and distributed 100th Anniversary mugs as a thank you from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Melissa Hansen added a special touch to the event with an unusual party favor. Melissa learned to propagate two types of ferns that are considered threatened in Minnesota. She brought young Christmas Ferns (*Polystichum ancrostichoides*) and Marginal Shield Ferns (*Dryopteris marginalis*) for every volunteer. The ferns need one more winter indoors before being transplanted outside. Volunteers took them for their own yards and many also took some ferns as foster parents. Those ferns came back to the Garden in the spring.

During the summer the large wood information kiosk that dominated the area inside the front gate was removed due to deterioration. It was used for displays, handouts and a garden map. As handouts were now only available in the Shelter, the kiosk was replaced by more simple information

signs in 2009.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$57,000. Revenue in this fund-raising year was \$30,200 of which membership revenue was \$6,300, memorials were \$5,800, sales of anniversary material were \$5,600, special donations were \$9,600. Expenses were \$24,700 of which \$11,000 was spent of the anniversary of the Garden, \$5,200 for newsletter and other printing, and \$6,300 was paid to the Park Board for the screen door and plants.

At the end of the year Gary Bebeau volunteered to create a website for the Friends.

2007 was a year of above average precipitation, coming in the form of summer rains. Late fall produced some snow and the winter of 2007/08 would be typical, producing the median snowfall of around 43 inches.

Photo top of first page of 2007: The new MPRB logo for the Garden's 100th Anniversary.

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary



100th Anniversary Celebration Events

■ Saturday, April 28— A Century of Seasons 10:30am - 2pm

Join Garden staff and friends in welcoming in the 100th season of wildflower wonderment at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary. Meet us at the Garden's front gates at 10:30 am to watch our special guests arrive in a horse-drawn carriage. A mayoral proclamation naming April 28, 2007 as Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Day will be read and the celebration will ensue. Hans Odöo, botanist and history player from Sweden, will portray Carl Linnaeus, father of modern botany. Stroll through the Garden and visit with him as he leads garden visitors through an entertaining morning of programs and tours. Stop into the Martha Crone Visitor's Shelter to participate in a Friends of the Wild Flower Garden sponsored postage stamp cancellation event. While in the Shelter, view the first Bird x Bird art exhibit of the 2007 season. Kids can take part in planting a piece of the season to come. We'll have clay pots to decorate and native sunflower seeds to plant. A 2pm tour of the Garden will follow the festivities.



Hans Odöo's appearance is made possible through a partnership between the American Swedish Institute and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. He has been traveling the world participating in innumerable tercentenary Linnaeus celebrations. Odöo is an environmental educator, photographer and documentarian.

Mark your calendars for these additional 100th anniversary special events!
For more information about these events, visit www.minneapolis-parks.org

■ Saturday, June 9 — Showy Lady's Slipper Day

■ Saturday, August 11 — Wildflower Garden Birthday Bash

■ Saturday, September 29 — 100 Trees for 100 Years

Parking in the Wildflower Garden's parking lot is limited. Consider riding your bike, taking the bus or walking to the Wildflower Garden to join in the festivities. You can also park for free in the Theodore Wirth Beach lot located on Glenwood Avenue just east of Theodore Wirth Parkway. To get to the Garden from the Beach lot follow the Wildflower Garden signs that will take you across Glenwood Avenue and through Theodore Wirth Park to the Garden's back gate, a ten minute walk.

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD



Friends Of The Wild Flower Garden

February 1, 2007

Dear Friend of the Garden,

We are writing to thank you for your past support of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary and to ask you to consider a special 2007 donation to the Friends in the Garden's 100th Anniversary year.

This year, the Friends' Anniversary projects will include commemorative publications featuring the life of Eloise Butler and the Garden's history, and a video about the Garden through the seasons and its staff, Friends and visitors. These celebratory and educational projects will reach into the community to promote access to the Garden and to build support for this unique and living natural treasure. The Friends' Board has also begun research on a 100th Anniversary project to restore the wetland and mallard pond to make it sustainable. Project implementation would begin after the Anniversary year. Watch the Gentian for Anniversary updates!

We are also launching an appeal to foundations for contributions to these Anniversary projects. Your special gift will help us gain this additional support.

As a Friend of the Garden, you are familiar with its unique native flora and fauna. You also know the many resources the Friends provide to nurture and preserve the Garden's species and ambience, while promoting access and education for its many visitors. You will help preserve the Garden and nurture the Friends' next generation with your 100th Anniversary contribution. You can also help by letting us know of anyone who visits and values the Garden, is not a Friends' member, and yet might welcome the opportunity to support this endeavor.

If you would like further details or if you have any suggestions, please contact Pam Weiner at dripw@earthlink.net or 612-377-3573. Contributions (to Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.) should also be mailed to Pam at 248 Xerxes Avenue North, Minneapolis, 55405.

Thank you for considering a contribution to the 100th Anniversary year and to the preservation of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Steve Pundt,
President

Pam Weiner,
Vice President

A support group for The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary



2008

Winter 2007/2008

2008 begins the second century for the Garden, the 56th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' fifth year as Garden Curator.

A Friends' Board Meeting was held on February 4, 2008, at the Lyndale Farmstead, 39th and Bryant Ave So. Garden Susan Wilkins announced that a new comprehensive plan for the Park Board had now been released. From this guide, Susan would develop a comprehensive plan for the Garden. That plan was released in 2010. Last Fall the Friends had approved a donation of \$4,250 for planting this spring. Susan was ordering plants.

In planning for invasive plant removal, Jim Proctor, Susan Wilkins, and others at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board put together a management plan for the area immediately outside the Garden fence. 2008 was the 3rd year of activity for the invasive team and now that invasives were under Legacy Steward control in the Garden, the area outside was next [plan copy follows text].

The new logo for Garden publications incorporating the Showy Lady's-slipper was reviewed by Susan Wilkins. The design was by professional illustrator Ken Jacobsen and was a slight modification of the logo that was introduced in 2007 for the Garden's 100th Anniversary.

The winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM [Vol. 56, no. 1] was the second and the last for interim editor Linda Cody. President Pam Weiner had recruited a new editor - Judy Remington. Linda was thanked for her work. President Weiner acknowledged all the hard work that had gone into the 2007 Garden Anniversary and looked forward to continued work by the Friends in the coming years. Susan Wilkins wrote about the Garden in "One Hundred Years of Vision and Counting." Photos and details were printed, about the new screen door to the Shelter that the Friends had funded last year .



Board member Ann Godfrey was in charge of volunteers again this year. The 'Volunteer Spotlight' highlighted her in the winter Issue. Phoebe Waugh's poem "A Years Color Wheel" was published. Master Gardener Kathy Urberg wrote about "Plants for Winter Interest." The first quarter of 2008 marked the first push downward of the Financial Markets - the beginning of a

major market slide resulting from the financial crises caused by the securitization of sub-prime mortgage lending. The Friends financial investments eroded for the next several years.

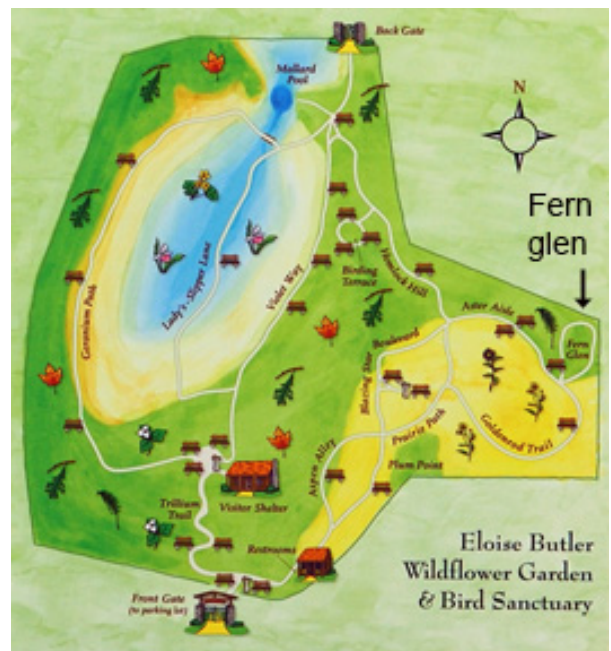
Spring 2008

The Garden opened the season on time on April 1st with a number of the early-birds of spring already up - Garlic Mustard, Skunk Cabbage and Snow Trillium. Susan Wilkins and Staff would be planting a large number of spring plants, including Bloodroot and Wild Ginger, that were funded by the Friends in the fall of 2007.

A Board Meeting of the Friends was held on April 7th at Lyndale Farmstead. A grant to the Park Board from First Bank Fund was being used to print a new Garden map, which would be the first to show the correct orientation of the the paths into the 1993 addition to the Upland Garden. Susan Wilkins presented a set of projects that the Friends could choose to fund in 2008. Funding for a collection of native trees and shrubs in an area near the back gate, that had recently been cleared of Buckthorn saplings was chosen and approved with a cost of around \$6,500.

The Friends \$8 limited income membership fee was dropped as the cost of the newsletter exceeded that amount. Other membership categories remained unchanged: Individual at \$10, Family at \$15, Sponsor at \$25 to \$99, Sustainer \$100 at \$199, Benefactor at \$200 to \$499, Life rate at \$500 or more.

New newsletter editor Judy Remington published her first issue of *The Fringed Gentian*[™] (Vol. 56, no. 2) and it was the Friends first issue with color throughout, instead of just color on the logo. She included a number of her winter photographs of the Garden and thoughts about spring by herself and others. Master Gardener Greg Lecker wrote and illustrated an article on identifying certain special trees in the Garden. Judy made a change in printers in order to get the color done at a reasonable cost and obtained the volunteer services of Janelle Bilewitch of Studio 7 Design, to



Judy Remington. Friends photo.

come up with the new

layout. Once again, the Garden staff published a list of guided tours that would be available in spring, including of course, the early Saturday, every Saturday, bird walk.

The Friends held their annual meeting in the Martha Crone Shelter at the Garden on May 17. Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Emily Anderson, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Harriet Betzold, Joy Davis, Susan Dean, Ann Godfrey, Larry Gravitz, Melissa Hansen (new), Lyle Johnson, Jeff Lee, Vivian Mason, Gloria Miller (returns), Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Judy Remington (new), Barry Schade, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Cary George retired from the Board.

Jim Proctor reported on the work of removing Buckthorn and Garlic

Mustard. His team was planned heavy work this spring on June 1st, 3rd, and 5th, just outside the west perimeter fence to remove Garlic Mustard. Photos from their events show the extent to which the area was infiltrated by the pest and the scene after the work was done. The issue of the trails in South Wirth was again discussed.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Phoebe Waugh Secretary, Gary Bebeau, Treasurer. Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials, Joy Davis - membership, Ann Godfrey - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management and Judy Remington - newsletter editor, historian is vacant.

Membership at the time was 290 including 14 life members.

Summer 2008

The Showy Lady's Slippers bloomed on June 11. June 9 is the average bloom date.

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 56, no. 3) Jim Proctor and Pam Weiner reviewed the work of the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAG). Pam reviewed Douglas Tallamy's new book *Bringing Nature Home*.

Susan Wilkins had ordered over 120 new trees and shrubs to be planted in the Fall - all funded by the Friends.



Below: Serious hail damage occurred in the Garden in early spring and again from large storms that passed through on June 21 and then heavy wind damage from storms on August 23. Photos Phoebe Waugh.



Autumn 2008

The Friends held a Board Meeting on September 17 at the Lyndale Farmstead. The first part of the meeting was a discussion about the core organizational values of the Friends. A committee was formed of Vivian Mason, Gloria Miller, Emily Anderson, Sally Pundt and Steve Benson to work on this - the result would be a restatement of the mission statement which had been written in 1989.

Approval was given to finalize the details of a Student Transportation Grant Program which would subsidize bus transportation of school children to the Garden for a naturalist education program. \$2,000 was allocated for the start of the program. In November a letter was mailed to the membership explaining the program and asking for donations to support it. [Copy of letter follows.]

The north Garden tree and shrub planting took place with 276 trees and shrubs planted with 21 species represented. The Friends funded \$6,705 of the cost. Invasive Buckthorn removal events were held on October 19 and 25th in an area just outside the Garden fence. Earlier on August 23rd a special event was held to remove Japanese Knotweed which was straddling the fence line on the east side of the Garden. The species had been planted in the Garden in 1952 by Martha Crone.

Below: Photos from the spring Garlic Mustard event and the October Buckthorn Pull. Friends photos.



We noted the passing of Dr. Chester J. (Jack) Schultz Jr. on October 20, 2008. Jack was a long-time member of the Friends. He was active on the Board of Directors for 11 years from 1994 through 2004 and served as treasurer. Jack was a retired Navy Captain and a retired professor of the University of Minnesota Dental School. His wife of 54 years, Shirley, served for a number of years as volunteer coordinator.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 56, no.4) the tree planting was covered, the naturalists wrote summer phenology notes, Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about Mushrooms in the Garden, and Tammy Mercer wrote about her early morning bird walks at the Garden. The *Gentian* was now printed on 30% post consumer waste paper. It had first been printed on recycled paper beginning in Vol. 38, no.4 in 1991, but that was dropped in years following.



A volunteer appreciation event was held on November 8 at the photography studio of Lars and Melissa Hansen, with the Friends providing beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts. The Friends hired Chow Girls to provide the food catering.



Above: Volunteers in the food line at the Volunteer event. Photo Phoebe Waugh.

Website development work continued. The site, now 15 months old, was developed by board member Gary Bebeau, it had 240 pages, 1,170 photos and a history of the Friends and the Garden was starting to be incorporated into the site. At the September board meeting the Friends authorized an account at PayPal to facilitate credit card transactions on the website. One set of pages added this season was called "then and now" and provided a photo comparison of the Garden this year compared to historical photos.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$43,000. Revenue in this non-fundraising year was \$15,800 of which membership revenue was \$6,600, memorials were \$280, special donations were \$5,000. Expenses were \$7,500 of which \$4,700 for newsletter and other printing, and \$6,700 was paid to the Park Board for the plants.

2008 was a year of below normal precipitation following a year that was above average. Temperatures were in a normal range and except for heavy hail storms in spring and wind storms in August, there were not any significant events. The winter of 2007/08 was typical, producing the median snowfall of around 43 inches, as would be the winter of 2008/09.

Photo top of first page of 2008: Artist in the Garden in May 2008. Photo Phoebe Waugh

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Invasives Management (AKA Weed Pullers) Committee 2008 Initial Plan

Susan Wilkins believes that due to the hard work of many in 2007 (Susan, her interns, Jim, our volunteers, and Legacy Stewards) the invasive challenge within the garden can be maintained by herself and staff in 2008. As we have worked inside the garden, the visible invasives just outside the fence – especially those up wind have been a grave concern. To sustain our progress and fend off new incursions, our committee will focus on this zone outside the garden fence in 2008. We will be able to install a shed just outside the garden wall to house our equipment, collection bags, gloves, etc. This will allow us much greater flexibility of hours for our group and individual pulling in our zone.

Our committee will work with Marcia Holmgren* and Susan to define our zone and develop strategy. To begin, Jim will lead five garlic mustard events over the next five weeks beginning on Saturday April 19. Additional dates will be determined soon. Dates, hours and specific locations for all garlic mustard events will be posted in Jim's notification to his e-mail list. Susan will also lead three garlic mustard pulls inside the garden open to volunteers, which we will also publicize to our list.

We plan to network with Greg Lecker, the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association, the Bryn Mawr Business Association and the Friends of the Mississippi River regarding various concerns including volunteer recruitment, publicity and scheduling.

We're developing a realistic restoration vision for the buffer area that will motivate volunteers, inspire potential donors and bring a positive feature to our relationship with various political entities. Jim introduced the initial idea of working towards restoring an oak savannah environment that would eventually allow for the use of controlled burning for management of invasives.

Estimated Friends Invasives Action 2008 financial needs:

- "Off the shelf" shed
- Custom made bags
- Gloves
- Bug spray
- Water
- Refreshments

* Marcia Holmgren has been leading park board staff in a five-year buckthorn removal project encompassing all of South Wirth.

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.
P. O. box 3793
Minneapolis, MN 55403

18 November 2008

Dear Friend:

As a member of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, I know that you recognize the many benefits the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden provides for us. Those benefits such as beauty, peace and the ability to learn about nature and the outdoors are available to all who visit the Garden. However, not all have the ability and means to come to the Garden.

You have a chance to help. For the Spring of 2009 The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden are funding a pilot project that will make it possible for a number of young Minneapolis school children, grades K - 6, to come to the Garden for a learning experience and for a rare opportunity to experience the natural world. Many of these children may never have that experience as they simply do not have the funds to make a school trip. These school class visits, of up to 30 students each, are arranged by the teacher and a naturalist at the Garden.

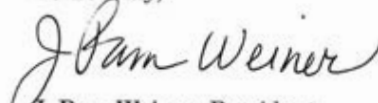
Our pilot project consists of providing a subsidy to each student in a selected class who is unable to pay any or all of the cost of the class visit. There is a \$3 fee per child for the naturalist led visit plus the cost of the school bus for transportation. Bus cost averages \$130 for a class.

You can help enhance this project by providing your tax deductible contribution. Here are some examples of what your contribution can do.

\$3	Provides for one student to visit.	_____
\$10	Provides for up to 3 or 4 students to visit	_____
\$25	Provides for up to 8 or 9 students to visit.	_____
\$50	Provides for up to 16 or 17 students to visit.	_____
—	Select your own student amount	_____
\$130	Provides for the cost of a bus to bring the class.	_____
—	All other general donations	_____

If you can, please support this program by sending your donation to us at the address above. So that all funds go directly to the program, please provide your own envelope and postage.

Yours truly,


J. Pam Weiner, President

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Transportation Grant Award Criteria

The Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. plan on awarding grants to schools to cover transportation costs. The cost of a school bus is often more expensive than the cost of a one hour program at the Garden. Many schools cannot afford the cost of transportation to the Garden. The Friends will award funding to schools based on the following criteria:

The school is located within Minneapolis

The school has at least 75% of its student population eligible for free or reduced lunch

OR

The class attending has at least 50% of its students in a ESL/ELL program

Schools may only apply for funding one trip per year. Funds will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Funding may only be used on transportation to and from the Garden.

Teachers who wish to schedule a program and have questions about qualifying for the transportation grant may contact the Program Coordinator. When a program is scheduled, an application form along with a confirmation letter and information about the Garden will be mailed. The application form, once completed, will be mailed to the treasurer of the Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc. who will award the funds to the school. The number of schools who apply and the number of students attending will be recorded by the Program Coordinator.



2009

Winter 2008/2009

2009 begins the 102nd year of the Garden, the 57th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' sixth year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place January 12, 2009, at Lyndale Farmstead. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Environmental Education Coordinator Marylynn Pulsher attended and discussed the role of her staff in regards to the Garden. Work continued on the revision to the Friends mission statement. The Board approved a grant to the Garden for \$3,500 for wildflower plant additions to areas along Violet Way.

Another Friends' Board Meeting was held on March 23, 2009, at the Lyndale Farmstead, 39th and Bryant Ave So. Susan Wilkins announced that staffing for the Garden this year would include two new naturalists, Julia and Rebecca and two interns.

The Board revised the membership dues by changing the \$10 individual rate to a \$15 rate and the Family rate to \$25, leaving unchanged the \$100 Sponsor rate and \$500 Life rate, and dropping the \$200 Sustainer rate. These were published in the spring newsletter.

Jim Proctor, Susan Wilkins, and the invasive control team worked out the spring removal schedule. The campaign for funds for student transportation to the Garden, begun in the fall of 2008, was well received by members and over \$2,200 had been received.

In the winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM [Vol. 57, no. 1], Susan Wilkins noted that late fall was a good time to remove invasives as they remained green after the native species lost their leaves. The issue contained articles by Naturalists Diana Thottungal "Baby, it's cold outside," and Tammy Mercer "Winter Survival of Warm-blooded Critters." Highlights of last fall's Volunteer Appreciation Night were included.

Board member Ann Godfrey ended her volunteer coordinator position this year and Melissa Hansen took over. A training session for volunteers was held on April 15th and 16th.



New Friends Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Hansen. Friends photo.

Spring 2009

The Garden opened the season on time on April 1st. Susan Wilkins and Staff planted a large number of spring plants, including Poke Milkweed and Bishops Cap with funding approved by the Friends in January. There were 1,460 plants of 26 different species. Cost to the Friends was \$2,869.

The spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 57, no. 2) included an article by Board Member Donna Ahrens "A Rookie's top five wildflower garden volunteer experiences" and Douglas Owens-Pike wrote on *Native Plant Diversity at Home*. Once again, the Garden staff published a list of guided tours that would be available that spring, and of course, the early Saturday, every Saturday, bird walk.

The 56th Annual Membership Meeting of the Friends was held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the Wirth Park Pavilion. For a sunny day in May it turned out to be unseasonably cold with a temperature of 42 degrees at the start of the meeting and the temperature only reaching 55 degrees in the afternoon. Twenty one members were present.



A gathering of some of the members prior to the start of the annual meeting. Friends photo.

Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Donna Ahrens (new), Emily Anderson, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Sue Budd (new), Joy Davis, Susan Dean, Melissa Hanson, Jeff Lee, Ellen Lipschultz (new), Vivian Mason, Gloria Miller, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Judy Remington, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera (new), Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Harriet Betzold, Ann Godfrey, Larry Gravitz and Lyle Johnson retired from the Board.

Annual reports were presented and accepted. The membership voted on approving a revised mission statement for the Friends and with several minor wording changes it was approved. The previous mission statement has been in place since 1989. A copy is in Volume 1, appendix 12. *The Fringed Gentian*TM editor Judy Remington presented new 100% recycled paper samples to be used in future issues.

Author Judy Bridell was present and introduced her new book for children "Thip! Thap! Shhiup!" Susan Wilkins spoke about a section of the Upland Prairie that was being renovated after the loss of a number of Red Oaks over the past years. A presentation was made about the contributions of Elizabeth Schutt to the Friends, including the formation of the Mendon Schutt Family Fund at the Minneapolis Foundation, which provided an annual gift to the Friends.



Retiring board member Lyle Johnson. Friends photo.

Membership at the time was 300 including 14 life members. The first schools to make use of the Student Transportation Grant visited in May. There were 33 12 year-olds from Olson Middle School and 51 Kindergartners from Longfellow.

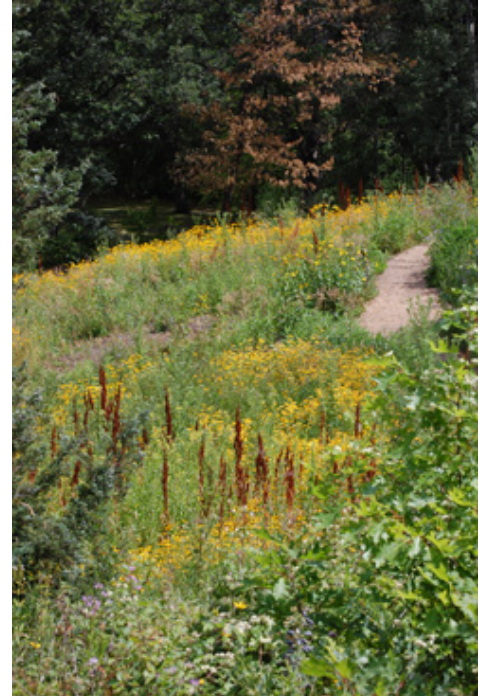
At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Phoebe Waugh temporary Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Sue Budd would take over as acting Secretary in the summer.

Continuing, or new, in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials, Melissa Hansen -volunteers (new); Steve Benson - money management, and Judy Remington - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh (new) - historian, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plants Action Group. Joy Davis retired after 13 years as membership secretary. Emily Anderson would take the position.



The area at the path intersection at guidepost 36 on July 28, 2008.

Two views of a section of the Prairie restoration.
Photos G D Bebeau



The same area on Aug. 4, 2009. The oak in the 2008 photo at the left had died and was removed.

Summer 2009

During the spring new information signs were erected near the front and back Garden gates. They contained history and seasonal information. (Photo next page, article follows text). A new Garden census was being conducted by Naturalist Barbara Delany who had previously compiled the 1986 census. The supplier of cedar shaving for trail cover was lost this summer and no replacement was known. So far in 2009 over 70 special tours have been arranged at the Garden under the leadership of Lauren Borer.

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 57, No. 3) Judy Bridell's new book was reviewed, a sampling of past history was presented, and volunteer George Bridgman was highlighted as he retired from volunteering and moved to Duluth.

July 2009 was the coolest on record. A tornado went through South Minneapolis on August 19, the first touchdown in 28 years.



MRPB employees Mike Widmer, Kent Ansell and Mark Hallberg with newly installed map, history and seasonal signs at the Garden's front gate. (Photo by Don Beimborn)

Autumn 2009

The Friends held a Board Meeting on October 5th at the Lyndale Farmstead. Pam Weiner noted that discussions with John Munger of the Loppett foundations were beginning to show success in that the Loppett trail would soon be moved away from the Garden buffer zone.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 57, no.4) Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about "Pattern of Fall Leaf Drop," and Donna Ahrens wrote about the "Kids in the Garden," highlighting the Friends Student Transportation Grant Program.

A volunteer appreciation event was held on Saturday evening October 25 at the photography studio of Lars and Melissa Hanson, same hosts as the prior year, but at a new location. The Friends provided the buffet food and beverages while the MPRB provided door prizes and also a coffee mug for everyone. The large mug sported an Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden name and logo. The selection of food and beverage was voluminous, the quantities ample and no one departed in hunger. Photos below all from the Friends.





The MPRB naturalists that worked at Eloise Butler were in attendance along with MaryLynn Pulscher who is in charge of all naturalists (second from left in the photo).



Retiring volunteer and Friends member George Bridgman was honored for his 14 years of volunteer service to the Garden. A gift book was presented to him by Susan Wilkins, Garden Curator, and Pam Weiner, Friends President.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$47,000. Revenue in this non-fundraising year was \$13,800 of which membership revenue was \$6,700, memorials were \$855, special donations were \$3,800. Expenses were \$6,500, \$2,900 was paid to the Park Board for the plants and \$1,200 was spent on Student Transportation Grants. 297 children visited the Garden under this program.

Weather: 2009 Temperatures were in a normal range. Snowfall was above average but precipitation in total for the year was the second year in a row of below normal. October was very cool with lots of rain, November was the 2nd warmest on record.

Photo top of first page of 2009: August 2009: A section of the restored prairie, completed in 2009. Photo ©G D Bebeau

New Information Signs - 2009

At the beginning of June three new information signs were installed inside the front gate of the Garden. In 2007 the large old kiosk that contained Garden information was taken down due to deterioration. It was also quite large and not in keeping with the rustic natural setting of the Garden. The new signs are mounted on elevated ground supports and tilted upward so that the viewer can look down at them to read. The sign below is the new Trail Map.. This sign only is duplicated at the back gate to the Garden.



A second sign details some of the Garden's history, concentrating on Eloise Butler and containing a time line at the bottom of the sign that covers significant events in the Garden's history up to the present time; events such as the change of curators, the founding of the Friends, the construction of the Martha Crone Shelter, etc.



The Wetland in Summer



Yellow-headed Blackbird



American Coot



Pied-billed Grebe

Starting in early summer—after the woodland wildflowers are spent and the prairie flowers are just beginning to bud—the wetland bursts forth with its floral displays. The showy lady's slippers, Minnesota's state flower, is the star of the show in June. In early July the wetland boasts a bounty of beautiful native plants such as hornet, cardinal flower, and great blue lobelia.

The wetland is a unique ecosystem. Water shapes the environment and influences the types of plants and animals that can thrive there. Our wetland is home to a special flora made up of plants that tolerate wet roots and relatively low nutrient conditions.

Watch for the Wildflower Garden's resident mammals who frequent the wetland such as woodchucks, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, and the occasional fox and mink. Myriad insects, including lively damselflies and colorful dragonflies, are easy to spot in this ecosystem.



Honey-suckle" Golden



Blueberry



Cardinal Flower



Juncus



Great Blue Lobelia



Lupinus albus

"The greatest prize of the swamp is our state flower, the showy *symplocaria*, the pink and white lady's slipper, a member of the orchid family. No flower, wild or cultivated, is more magnificent than this."

—Edna St. Vincent

In the Woodland

- Listen for the chatter of belching birds tucked away in tree cavity nests such as wood ducks, woodpeckers, owls, and nuthatches
- Look for different tree types including the berries of red elderberry, the pines of Siberian spruce, and the drooping of chokeberry.
- Pick up a guide to the native ferns in the Visitors Shelter and see how many you can identify in the Wildflower Garden.

In the Prairie

- Watch the parade of butterflies including spring azures, tiger swallowtails, red admirals, viceroys, clouded sulfurs, and monarchs.
- Take note of rustling in the prairie grasses. A resident woodchuck may be nearby eating lunch unaware. See what happens once your scent is discovered.
- Stop and smell the roses. Mountain rose, bee balm, and meadow rose are a few of the many fragrant plants found in the prairie.

Wildflower Garden open daily through a gate from the Visitors Center. Please take the Yellow-headed Blackbird and Pied-billed Grebe photo.



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2010

Winter 2009/2010

2010 begins the 103rd year of the Garden the 58th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' seventh year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends board meeting of the year took place January 11, 2010, at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins reported that the first ever management plan for the Garden was completed only subject to review by the Park Commissioners. Tour coordinator Lauren Borer was returning to the Garden staff this year along with two interns. A list of projects for future funding was presented for the board to discuss, meanwhile, the board approved funding for native tree planting in the woodland adjacent to the wetland, cost to be between \$3,000 and \$3,500. A review of the Friends bylaws was started - they had last been re-written in 1991.

In the winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM [Vol. 58, no. 1], Susan Wilkins reviewed the four categories of undesirable plants at the Wildflower Garden and what methods are used to control or tolerate them. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about *The Secret Life of Winter* - what goes on under the snow. Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote "*My life and death as a Tree.*" Photos of last November's Volunteer Appreciation Event were printed. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently had issued a small spiral bound booklet about "*Minnesota invasive non-native terrestrial plants*" and it was reviewed in the newsletter.

Spring 2010

The Garden opened the season on time on April 1st with an unusual high temperature of 81 degrees. There had been no snow during March and only 0.69 inch of rain.

A Friends' Board Meeting was held on April 5, 2010, at the Lyndale Farmstead, 39th and Bryant Ave So. Susan Wilkins confirmed she had on staff this season two interns, one new replacement naturalist and six students from Breck school.

Jim Proctor and the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAG) were selected to receive the 2009 Remarkable Volunteer Service Award from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. (MPRB) Jim is the volunteer coordinator for FIPAG. The group was nominated by Susan Wilkins, for the extensive and critical work they have accomplished in helping to control invasive plants in and around the Garden. The award ceremony for recipients was held on Wednesday April 7th, 2010 at MPRB

headquarters, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis. The award included a \$500 donation to the Garden.

The purpose of the Friends newsletter was discussed. Besides copies sent to the membership, a larger number of copies were reserved for handouts at the Garden Shelter and other educational venues. Costs must be constrained to the amount of revenue that the Board felt should be allocated to the newsletter. The newsletter has a mix of purposes - communication with the membership, information about the Garden, and educational aspects that dovetail with the Mission Statement. Newsletter editor Judy Remington had enlisted a new layout designer, Karen McCall, who lives in Bryn Mawr, to help with newsletter production.

Volunteer coordinator Melissa Hansen reported a full roster of 52 shelter volunteers. Jim Proctor noted had four invasive pulls scheduled for spring and the effort would now be on the east side of the Garden, as the west side would be turned over to the Legacy Stewards. Ellen Lipschultz, who joined the Board in 2009, joined Jim as co-chair of the Invasive Plants Action Group - the new name for the endeavor.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 58, no. 2) Susan Wilkins reported that this year there would be an artist's residency program with local painter and educator Joel Pieper, who would be painting in the Garden and teaching a program in June. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about "*A Butterfly in Your Hand*" and Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote "*Native Plants for the Birds.*"



Susan Wilkins presents the Garden Management Plan at the Friends Annual Meeting. Friends photo.



Friends board member Jim Proctor. Friends photo.

A burn of the prairie area at the Garden took place on April 20th. There was frost on May 9th. Jim Proctor, had an exhibition of his natural materials art work from May 1 to June 6 at the Swan Song Gallery in Maiden Rock WI.

The Friends 2010 Annual Meeting was held May 22, 2010 in the Garden, beginning at 10 AM. The meeting began outdoors then was moved into the shelter when rain began to fall. Thunder and lightning continued for most of the meeting. Special features of the meeting included a presentation by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner Anita Tabb and a report about the five-year Garden Management Plan by Susan Wilkins.

Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Donna Ahrens, Emily Anderson, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Sue Budd, Susan Dean, Jayne Funk (new), Melissa Hanson, Jeff Lee, Ellen Lipschultz, Vivian Mason, Karen McCall (new), Gloria Miller, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Judy Remington, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Newly elected director Karen McCall is assisting Judy Remington.

Membership at the time was 283 including 20 life members. A number of non-paying members were dropped during the past year which caused the drop in numbers from the prior year count of 300.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Sue Budd Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Director Sue Budd had agreed to make the secretary position permanent. She was acting secretary for the past year.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Melissa Hansen - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Judy Remington - newsletter editor; Phoebe Waugh - historian, Emily Anderson - membership; Jim Proctor and Ellen Lipschultz - Invasive Plant Action Group.

Summer 2010

Just after the summer solstice a severe rain storm hit the Garden on June 25 causing extensive path damage, followed by another storm on July 18th that caused much tree damage.

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 58, no. 3) long-time volunteer and Friends member Marie Demler was interviewed and board member Steve Benson wrote a short article about former newsletter Lisa Locken's photographs. Her collection had been given to the Park Board and a number of them were printed in this issue.

Autumn 2010

The Friends held a Board Meeting on October 4 at the Lyndale Farmstead. An invited guest was Dr. Lee Frelich, President of The Friends of Loring Park, who presented a summary of his organization and how it works with the Park Board. Jeff Lee reported that David Fisher had returned to head administration at the Park Board. President Pam presented an outline of discussion on the financial future of the Friends. A special meeting was held on this topic on December 14 with guest facilitator Julia Classen of Aurora Consulting. The key issue was whether the Friends should put more emphasis on fund raising in order to provide more help for the Garden. The consensus of that meeting was yes.

In October the trees that were to be funded by the Friends arrived for planting. There were 125 of 6 species.. Cost to the Friends was \$3,046.

President Pam had been in contact with former Gardener Cary George. The Friends wished to provide some kind of



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner Anita Tabb (on the right) meets with the Friends Board, outside before the rains came. Others are (l to r) Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Vivian Mason. Friends photo.



Tree damage from the July 18th storm. Photo - Phoebe Waugh.

feature in the Garden in his honor and as Cary thought the wetland was the heart of the Garden, a project to replace the main bridge over the water channel in the wetland would be a fitting honor. This idea would develop into the first section of the wetland boardwalk that would be installed in 2015.



Garden staff planting some of the new trees purchased with funds from the friends. Photo- Friends.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 58, no.4) Susan Wilkins reviewed the artist in residence program at the Garden and announced a new partnership with the Minnesota School for Botanical Art whereby a florilegium would be produced by current and former school students. All plants would be from Eloise Butler and the art work would be donated to the Park Board for display and educational programs. The first work would begin in the spring.

Part of the newsletter was devoted to Board member art, drawing, photos and Jim Proctor's seed creations. Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote about "*The Many Colors of Feathers.*"

Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Hansen reported on the years work:

Closing out an amazing autumn and the warmest October since 1963, the last volunteer shift of 2010 was on a beautiful Sunday, October 31. The temperature hit 49 degrees and the sky was brilliant blue in the sunshine. Those of us who visited that final day felt lucky to have seen the Garden that last time. The volunteers did a great job this past season. The early spring and long moderate autumn brought us a steady stream of visitors, which kept volunteers very busy. This season we added nine wonderful new people to our Shelter volunteer roster, and other areas of volunteering also gained members.

A volunteer appreciation event was held on November 7 at the Kenwood Cafe on West 21st street in Minneapolis. with the Friends providing beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts. Susan Wilkins also provided an Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden tote bag to all attending.

Seventy attended. Susan Wilkins reported that during 2010 Volunteers affiliated with the Friends provided 2,046 hours of service.

A guest speaker at the volunteer event was Marilyn Garber, founder of the Minnesota School of Botanical Art, who gave a brief talk explaining the Florilegium Project, a joint project of the school, EBWG and MPRB, that was organized in the fall and would continue for several years.

Below: two photos from the 2010 Volunteer Event. 1st photo - Steve Benson and Nita Lussenhop. Second photo - two volunteers. Friends photos.



The Friends ended the year with assets of \$62,000. Revenue in this non-fundraising year was \$10,600 of which membership revenue was \$5,200, memorials were \$516, special donations were \$2,600. Expenses were \$7,300, \$3,100 was paid to the Park Board for the plants and \$150 was spent on Student Transportation Grants.

Weather: 2010 had some unusual weather. March and April were among the warmest in history. July had a tree destroying storm. August was the second warmest in local weather history. September was very wet. November and December had a lot of early snow including a record snowfall for December. On the 10th-11th, 17.1 inches was recorded at the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. That caused the collapse of the fabric roof on the Metrodome arena in downtown Minneapolis.

Photo top of first page of 2010: The front gate area of the Garden in Spring 2009. Photo ©G D Bebeau

The cover of the new MPRB Garden Management plan with photos of the Garden.



Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary Management Plan 2010-2015



**MINNEAPOLIS
PARK &
RECREATION
BOARD**





2011

Winter 2010/2011

2011 begins the 104th year of the Garden, the 59th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' eight year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 7, 2011, at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins reported that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) budget was tight this year. Besides unfilled positions, 14 full time staff have been lost. There was still not a replacement for the supplier of cedar chips to use on the Garden paths (supplier was lost in 2009). She was also working on a new guide for the Garden and she presented a list of projects that the Friends could choose from to fund.

Friends' membership chair Emily Anderson stepped down and the position was taken jointly by Susan Dean and Jayne Funk. Emily suggested that a "gift membership" be an alternative offered as it once had been in prior years.

In the winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM [Vol. 59, no. 1], President Pam and Susan Wilkins summed up the results of the past year. An important milestone had been achieved when, after an 8 year effort, spearheaded by Steve Pundt when he was president and by the current president, the Loppett Ski trail was finally moved last fall away from the buffer zone around the Garden.

Former Friends president Harriet Betzold was interviewed for the newsletter. Harriet was president 1994-1998, co-chaired or chaired the volunteer coordinator job for seven years and spent many hours as a volunteer. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about "Water in Winter - its magical." Photos of last November's Volunteer Appreciation Event were printed.



Harriet Betzold. Friends photo.

A second early board meeting was held on March 21 at the Kenwood Community Center. Susan Wilkins was not sure when the Garden would open due the presence of winter. It actually opened on April 11. Susan had Lauren Borer back as program coordinator, two interns and two teen internships. Most naturalist programs this year would have a fee. Finally after two years, a new wood chip supplier for the trails had been found.

Jayne Funk reported on the status of membership. While the total count was 323, only 145 of those who were annual members were current on membership dues, 24% were two years overdue, making actual membership counts of the least few years questionable. Besides annual members there are life members and courtesy members. This prompted the board to authorize terminating membership of those past due after they received one more letter and then a note on their newsletter address that this was their "last issue."

Volunteer coordinator Melissa Hansen set up a web based calendar for volunteers to use to slot themselves in for a shift. Jim and Ellen had organized Garlic Mustard pulls for April and May.

The Board voted to fund two of Susan's Garden planting projects - wildflower and fern plants on the hillside of Violet Trail and understory tree planting in the same area. Total cost to be kept to \$5,000. The Friends had a booth at Gerten's Plant Society Day on March 27, which Pam attended, and Melissa attended a table at the Arboretum's Plant Information Fair on April 16.

Spring 2011

The Garden opened the season late on April 11 due to ice and snow still in the Garden. The Friends adjusted the times of weekend volunteer shifts at the Martha Crone Shelter by splitting them into 4 segments instead of 2. Shorter hours would attract more volunteers.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 59, no. 2) Pam Weiner announced a new Garden project to replace the main bridge in the wetland in honor of former gardener Cary George. A letter was also sent to members [copy follows]. The bridge idea was soon be expanded into a bridge and boardwalk for that section of trail. Susan Wilkins reviewed the six volunteer programs that serve the Garden and the hours contributed. The Friends manage the Shelter volunteers and the Invasive Plants action group. These two groups contributed 1,200 hours in 2010. The MPRB staff manage the Legacy volunteers, special group invasive removal events, Breck Students volunteer work program and the field work assistants. Those four groups contributed 850 hours. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about "What's in a Flower's Name?" discussing the many varieties of common names for some plants. The students at the Minnesota School for Botanical Art were working on their first drawings for the Florilegium Project announced last fall.

The Friends held their Annual Meeting at the Kenwood Park Center on April 30. Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Donna Ahrens, Emily Anderson, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Sue Budd, Susan Dean, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hanson, David Krause (new), Jeff Lee, Ellen Lipschultz, Vivian Mason, Karen McCall, Gloria Miller, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Judy Remington, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio).



The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group scheduled 6 dates in April and May to pull Garlic Mustard. Above: Co-coordinator Ellen Lipschultz with supplies. Friends photo.

MPRB Commissioner Anita Tabb attended the Annual Meeting. Susan Wilkins spoke of the April start of the Garden season. The Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lilies had bloomed. There were now four clusters of them in the Garden. Minneapolis Schools 4th graders would be visiting this Summer, making use of the Friends Student Transportation Grant Program.



Marilyn Garber, Director of the Minnesota School for Botanical Art. Friends photo.

Two volunteer training sessions were held this spring. Emily Anderson reported on the South Wirth Redevelopment Project. She had been attending a citizens advisory committee. Jayne Funk reported on the membership activity, noted above in the notes to the March Board meeting.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the Annual Meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Sue Budd Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Melissa Hansen - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Judy Remington - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh - historian, Jayne Funk and Susan Dean - membership, Jim Proctor and Ellen Lipschultz - Invasive Plant Action Group.

The new Board voted to continue using 100% recycled paper for the newsletter, even though it was more costly - in order to demonstrate environmental responsibility. The concept of offering the newsletter by email was approved and Jayne Funk was to add that option to her correspondence with members. As part of a new outreach package a membership card was designed that could be distributed at gatherings, placed in the Shelter and used at table-tops.

In early May Pam Weiner was contacted by John Munger of the Loppett group. They had received a donation of 50 trees to beautify the new Loppett route and he wanted us to have some say in where they would be placed. The reply was that the Friends thought several should be planted where the new trail diverged from the old to direct skiers in the new direction.

On May 8, long-time Friends member and former volunteer coordinator Marie Demler passed away at age 96. Several interviews with her occurred in recent years and are found on the website.

Last year summer began with a severe wind and rain storm. This year spring ended with a tornado that touched down near the Garden on May 22. It passed through Wirth Park on the corner of Glenwood Ave. and Theodore Wirth Parkway, uprooting many trees and causing much damage in the Garden and damage to the west fence from falling trees. Board member Emily Anderson's first hand report follows the text.



Marie Demler. Friends photo.

Summer 2011

Following the clean-up from the May 23 tornado, the herbaceous plant order arrived for planting. The Friends funded this at a cost of \$2,650. 1,429 wildflowers and ferns were planted along Violet way but

because of extremely dry conditions, the trees and shrub order that the Friends were also funding was delayed into 2012.

Below: Tornado damage on May 22. Photo Judy Remington.



In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 59, no. 3) long-time volunteer and Friends board member Joy Davis was interviewed and Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about the “Eyeshine” of animals. Updates on Garden activities were also reported.

Gary Bebeau and Jayne Funk were producing laminated plant identification thumbnail photo sheets for Garden visitors. These could be checked out at the visitors shelter. Gary was providing the photos and layouts, Jayne was laminating them.

Below: An example of a row of images from the identification sheets.



Yarrow

Achillea millefolium U



Black Bugbane

Actaea racemosa W



Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata B



Garlic Mustard

Leaves with heart-shape base, coarse teeth. B



Wild Leek

Allium tricoccum W

Autumn 2011

In September over 200 native trees and shrubs were donated to the Garden via an REI Gives Grant and were planted outside the Garden fence in areas where the volunteer groups had removed invasive species. The trees funded by the Friends could be delayed due to the dryness but these had to be taken.

The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group scheduled three sessions in September and October to remove Buckthorn in the buffer zone around the Garden.

On October 13, Friends member Bill Toivonen celebrated his 100th birthday. Board member Gary Bebeau attended and spoke about Bill's interaction with the Wildflower Garden. Bill had written two articles for *The Fringed Gentian*™ in 2005 and 2006 about his early experiences in Wirth Park and his reflections on the quiet space.

The Friends held a Board Meeting on October 3 at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Susan Wilkins noted that over 1,700 had taken part in Garden tours and programs this year. The Forestry department was injecting 15 oaks for Oak Wilt, the Florilegium Project was proceeding with an exhibit planned for 2012. She also reviewed problems with developing the wetland project, now called the "Cary George Wetland Project." Permits would now be needed from the MN DNR and a group of the protected MN Dwarf Trout Lilies would have to be moved as they were close to the boardwalk location.



Above: Liz Anderson working on Buckthorn on Oct. 20. Friends photo.

Membership at this time was 311 but 61 had lapsed and were receiving their final notice, so the real membership was 250 of which 23 were life members and 40 were courtesy memberships.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ (Vol. 59, no. 4) Susan Wilkins reviewed extensively the many and varied groups that took part in Garden tours and programs this past Summer. Included in those groups were 705 Minneapolis School kids whose transportation to the Garden was subsidized by the Friends at a cost of \$2,340.

In other business Judy Remington stated that she was losing the volunteer services of newsletter designer Karen McCall and a search was needed for a replacement. Karen could continue only if she was paid. On the ongoing question of newsletter cost, Gary Bebeau put together a survey form for board members to see what the consensus of the board was about the newsletter. Answers would come in early 2012. President Pam was preparing grant applications to some of the foundations that might help support the new boardwalk.



Above: Liz Anderson and volunteer working on Buckthorn with a weed wrench on Oct. 20. Friends photo.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, the Garden's program coordinator Lauren Borer was interviewed and Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about "*Spooky Fungi*."

A volunteer appreciation event was held on October 9 at the Kenwood Cafe on West 21st street in Minneapolis with the Friends providing beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts. Susan Wilkins also provided an Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden tote bag to all attending. Seventy attended.



In October one of our longest serving shelter volunteers, Judy Jones, passed away from Cancer. Judy was a volunteer from 1983 through 2009.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$73,000. Revenue in this fundraising year was \$28,400 of which membership revenue was \$6,100, memorials were \$3,500, special donations were \$14,700. Expenses were \$8,400; \$2,640 was paid to the Park Board for the plants, \$2,340 was spent on Student Transportation Grants, and \$1,000 was spent on small projects including a storage bin for tools for the Invasive Plant

Action Group and on providing laminated plant identification sheets for checkout at the Garden visitors shelter.

Solicitation for the Cary George Wetland Project brought in \$12,018 during the year, included in which was a major \$7,000 donation from The Steven Leuthold Foundation. Memorials for Marie Demler, \$1,840, were specified by the family to also go to the wetland project.

Weather: 2011 had some unusual weather, even excluding the Tornado in May. There was a lot of snow on the ground during January, February and March with a 12 inch snowfall in late February. March was the warmest in weather history, but there was still enough snow and ice to prevent the Garden from opening until April 11. September, October and November were very dry, just 1/2 inch short of the all time record for dryness in that period. Only 1.06 inches of rain fell. November and December were bare of snow except that on the last day of the year rain began and turned to snow in early evening, ending the year with 1 inch of snow on the ground.



Above: Judy Jones. Friends photo.

Photo top of first page of 2011: The Avery Birding Terrace in the Autumn. Photo ©G D Bebeau

The tornado report

Dear Friends -

The tornado here yesterday plowed right through Theodore Wirth park - less than a block away from us. I was out and heading north toward home, on highway 100, from an errand in South Minneapolis, and unbeknownst, even though I had the radio on, I was following its path less than five minutes after it hit. Because of at least 50 huge and beautiful trees that were torn from limb to limb and/or pulled out of the ground and piled onto the roads, I wasn't able get through on Glenwood to my Bryn Mawr, and Theo Wirth Parkway was blocked going north and south. I had to circle back south through St. Louis Park, and come back to cross 394 on Penn Av. Finally made it home, relieved to find our house and neighborhood virtually untouched. I headed in to the woods to the Garden to make sure the naturalist and other staff on duty were OK and knew that they could exit south, but not turn north - they were OK - but ran into many neighbors on the verge of tears at the sight of all the huge trees that had come down, including most if not all that were marked to save around the beach improvement area. It was heartbreaking to see the loss of the trees, especially so many of the tallest firs. Terrifying to see the power and helter-skelter damage. The tornado headed north across Theo Wirth Lake, then plowed across the north side - the most impoverished neighborhood in the city - an incredible swath. I'm thankful most folks are OK, especially looking at footage of Joplin Missouri. Feeling very, very lucky and still a bit shocked this morning.

Please take care, heed the weather warnings this season - go inside and seek shelter.

Emily



Friends Of The Wild Flower Garden

Dear Friend of the Wild Flower Garden,

Two years ago, your board of directors reviewed what we agreed was our mission:

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden is an organization of private Citizens whose purpose is to protect, preserve and promote the interests of the Garden, for its unique beauty, and as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna of Minnesota, and to educate and inspire people of all ages in relating to the natural world.

A compelling concern emerged: how to sustain our work and support the Garden into the future.

In addition to the Friends' invaluable volunteer contributions, the board designates about \$7,000 each year for plant materials, tree seedlings, and infrastructure repair to nurture and maintain the Garden. We select these projects in consultation with the Garden Curator, using funds from two sources: membership fees and a portion of the interest income on our current endowment.

The need for funds to care for the Garden will always exceed the public monies available through the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. New costs arise from new threats to the Garden, among them invasive plants and pests, violent storms and climate change. The economy and the aging of a significant portion of our membership are also concerns.

Looking to the future, the board initiated several strategies to ensure our ability to provide ongoing support, including membership promotion, networking with like-minded organizations, and enhanced communication through our website and the Gentian. And, in our 60th anniversary year, 2012, we plan to initiate a capital campaign to grow our endowment.

Today, we are excited to announce a special project for 2011, the Cary George Wetland Project. We invite all Friends to join us in this important restoration of Garden infrastructure. It will be of great benefit to Garden visitors, while honoring the dedication of our fourth Gardener. Please take a look at the attached description and consider joining in this commemorative endeavor.

The economy has taken an undue toll on many of us. Thank you for your continued annual membership contributions. They are of great value to the organization and continue to be our largest source of funds. But, if you do have some additional discretionary capacity, your consideration of this appeal is greatly appreciated. We know that many Friends deeply value Cary's service to our treasured Wild Garden. We hope you will choose to help if you can.

Sincerely, *J Pam Weiner*

J Pam Weiner, President

P.S. If you wish to know more details about Friends finances, board service or our mission please contact J Pam Weiner at drjpw@earthlink.net or 612 377 3573.

A support group for The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary



2012

Winter 2011/2012

2012 begins the 105th year of the Garden, the 60th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' ninth year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place January 23, 2012, at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins reported that winter activities in the Garden included removing second generation invasive species shrubs from all areas of the Garden and the cut piles would be burned in late winter. Cleanup was also continuing around Wirth Park from the tornado damage last May. An updated tree inventory was also done in the late fall along with a new topographical survey. The wetland was to be surveyed in the spring in preparation for the boardwalk development. There was a plan to keep bees in the Garden this year and finally, a new flue liner was installed in the Shelter Fireplace.

Proposals for Garden funding were submitted by Susan Wilkins and the Board agreed to fund, not to exceed \$6,000, buying more herbaceous woodland plants for Violet Way where an extensive amount of *Vinca minor* was removed in 2011.

The Friends staffed a table at the Landscape Arboretum on March 10 and 11 for their spring gardening event. Melissa Hansen, Steve & Sally Pundt, Gary Bebeau & Christi Bystedt, David and Judy Krause, Ellen Lipschultz, Jayne Funk, volunteers Mike Steffes and Mary Furth helped out.

The Friends lost two long-time associates in the winter. Ann Hall [photo] passed away on January 2nd. She had been a Shelter Volunteer since 1986, and was awarded "Outstanding Volunteer for 1991" by the MPRB. In the fall 2000 issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ it was written:

Throughout every season at the Garden since 1986 Ann Hall has served as a weekly volunteer. "It began as a meaningful activity after my husband died," she said, "and I enjoyed it so much I kept on." Always interested in wildflowers, Ann holds a college degree in botany and is an avid gardener. In recent years she created and maintains a wildflower garden in a general use area at her condominium complex. "It is a sunny



Ann Hall. Friends photo.

area," she said, "so I planted flowers such as purple coneflower, dames rocket, wild sweet william, liatris and early phlox.

On February 18, Preben Mosborg, Friends member since 1997, passed away. He was a carpenter by trade and a lover of nature, jazz, opera and wrote poetry, some of which was published in *The Fringed Gentian*TM. You can read them on the Friends website.

The survey taken last fall of Board members on the newsletter cost issue led to the conclusion that we could reduce the issues from 4 to 3 by dropping the winter issue. Each issue would continue to be 8 pages and we would print extra for distribution at the Shelter. Mailed versions would continue to be used for those who do not elect to receive a downloadable copy by email. It was decided to go to three issues per year, beginning this year.

In the winter issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM [Vol. 60, no. 1], Susan Wilkins reported on the off-season work that she spoke about at the January board meeting. Long-time Friends members John & Joan Haldeman were interviewed. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about "*Icicle theory, practice and weirdness*" and Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote about "*A tale of two owls.*" Photos of last October's Volunteer Appreciation Event were printed.



John and Joan Haldeman, shown here on their wedding day in 1981 in the Martha Crone Shelter. Friends photo.

Spring 2012

The Garden opened the season on April 1. Unlike the weather delayed opening in 2011, this year the snow was gone on March 7. Temperatures were in the 70s and 80s much of March.

The next Board meeting was held on April 2 at the Kenwood Community Center. Susan Wilkins reported that the bees were definitely coming to the Garden, bee-keeping done by Beez Kneez and that the boardwalk project had hit some major snags. First, the wetland is protected and many governmental units must approve any changes. Second, cost estimates are much higher than anticipated - up to \$100,000 instead of \$15,000. A new set of financial guidelines for the Friends was established and approved.

The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group (FIPAG) met with MPRB staff about joint communications on what each is doing around the Garden. The previously called "buffer zone" around the Garden was now the "Preservation Zone." Conservation Corp of Minnesota (CCM) was doing work in the area for MPRB and the Friends agreed to fund \$500, for one day of their work. Jim, Ellen and Liz Anderson, FIPAG co-chairs, scheduled 6 Garlic Mustard events for April into early June.

Planning was started for a Friends 60th Anniversary Garden Party Fundraiser for July 22 at the Wirth Pavilion. The goal was to increase membership and raise \$2,000 for the Student Transportation Grant Program.



Two hives placed in the Garden by Beez Kneez. Photo G D Bebeau, May 2012.



Green Heron. Photo ©Tammy Mercer

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 60, no. 2) President Pam Weiner announced the Friends goals for the year and the future and provided details on the Summer Garden Party. Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote about Green Herons. Liz Anderson, now co-chair of our Friends Invasive Plants Action Group, was interviewed. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote about Clouds.

An Urban Birding Festival was held in Wirth Park and the Garden on June 16 and 17 with bird talks, bird walks, touch and see table, and family activities. This was organized by the St. Paul Audubon Society.

The Friends held their Annual Meeting at the Kenwood Park Center on May 19. Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Donna Ahrens, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Sue Budd, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, David Krause, Jeff Lee, Vivian Mason, Meleah Maynard (new), Gloria Miller, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Judy Remington, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Emily Anderson, Susan Dean, Karen McCall and Ellen Lipschultz left the board.

Susan Wilkins now reported that the survey of the Garden wetland showed that the area was of very good quality and that it would be possible to bypass DNR permitting for the boardwalk. Melissa Hansen needed to have a replacement for her volunteer coordinator position and the secretary position would also need a new person. Planning for the upcoming Garden Party was worked on. Membership at the time was 264 after dropping those who no longer responded to renewals. Jayne Funk presented a chart that showed 23% of current members had been members for 16 to 27 years. Unfortunately, those dropped from membership the majority had been members for 6 to 27 years.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the Annual Meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Secretary - vacant but Sue Budd would fill in, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Melissa Hansen - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Judy Remington - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh - historian, Jayne Funk - membership, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (but Liz Anderson and Ellen Lipschultz continued to assist).

Summer 2012

The Friends 60th Anniversary Garden Party was held on July 22 at the Wirth Park Pavilion to raise membership and funds for the Student Transportation Grant Program. Tickets were sold in advance on the website and at the door on that date. A silent auction was held, there were refreshments, Garden tours, and a jazz combo on a wonderful sunny, but hot, day. Only three new members were obtained but the silent auction brought in \$2,137, ticket sales of \$1,535, with net proceeds of \$4,157.



Below: The family of Muriel Avery (center seated), widow of former Garden Curator Ken Avery, attending the Garden Party. Photo by Judy Remington.



Cary George and Susan Wilkins at the Garden Party. Photo by John Maciejny.



Pam Weiner, Steve Benson, Sally Pundt at the Garden Party. Photo by John Maciejny.

The summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM was delayed into fall to space out the new 3-issues per year plan.

During the summer Garden staff and staff from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum made a trip to Beltrami County in North Central Minnesota to collect Showy Lady's Slippers that had been salvaged from road construction projects. Both the Garden and the Arboretum provided a new home for these.

Below:A storage area for rescued Showy Lady's-slippers in Beltrami County. Some of these were brought to the Garden in 2012. Photo courtesy Susan Wilkins.



During the spring and summer 2,850 herbaceous plants and 152 trees and shrubs were planted on two separate projects funded by the Friends. The trees had been approved in 2011, but planting was delayed due to lack of soil moisture until this year. Total cost to the Friends was \$7,647. [Details of species planted are on the website]

Autumn 2012

The Friends held a Board Meeting on October 1 at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Susan Wilkins noted that over 1,400 had taken part in Garden tours and programs this year. Over 5,700 new plants were put in during 2012, although those later in the season were being affected by the dry summer weather.

Steve Pundt reported on his meeting with the Citizens Advisory Council on Wirth Park. The group had prioritized projects and recommended a list to the Park Board, but the Park Board voted to move only the new Wirth Park Welcome Center to the top of the list and use all the available funding for it. Therefore other park areas including the Wildflower Garden, would receive no project funding.

The boardwalk project was in need of a designer, and the MPRB will not go forward without assurance of funding - thus stalled for now. Assurance of funding was not possible without good cost estimates.

The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group scheduled three sessions in September and October to remove Buckthorn in the preservation zone around the Garden. At this time Ellen Lipschultz resigned as co-chair of the group. On October 26th, the Conservation Corps of Minnesota cut and treated buckthorn in the Preservation Zone along with help from Jim Proctor, Liz Anderson and Susan Wilkins. The Friends funded the cost of \$740 as previously agreed upon. [photos of all pulls of the Fall are on the website.]

Below: Part of the crew from Conservation Corps of Minnesota working on buckthorn on October 26, 2012. Friends photo.



Below: More photos from the Fall buckthorn pulls. Friends photos.





Membership at this time was now clear of most delinquent members. Board member Anthony Waldera had offered to donate \$250 for each board member that took on a life Membership. Four members did so and Anthony donated \$1000.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 60, no. 4) Susan Wilkins reviewed all the planting that occurred this past season and among the Garden guests this season were six women from around the world who were influential leaders working on climate change issues. The women were from Morocco, Liberia, Brazil, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Ethiopia and while touring the Garden they helped remove some *Vinca minor*. Naturalist Diana Thottungal wrote a second article about Clouds.

This issue was the last for editor Judy Remington. The new editor would be Meleah Maynard, a master gardener, writer, and senior editor of the University of Minnesota's *Alumni Magazine*.

A volunteer appreciation event was held on November 9 at a new location - St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis. The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts. St. Mary's had a large meeting room available with a large attached kitchen and all tableware was available to use.

During the year board member Gary Bebeau opened a Facebook page for the Friends (named Friends of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden) and began weekly posts about plants, the Garden and the Friends. The web site which he also maintained, completed its 4th year. Annual histories of the Friends and the Garden were beginning to be added to the site. Twenty-seven years were now complete. Individual plant information pages numbered 350 and most of the back issues of *The Fringed Gentian*TM were now on the website.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$85,000. Revenue in this fundraising year was \$24,400 of which membership revenue was \$6,400, memorials were \$350, special donations were \$15,500. Expenses were \$8,100, \$7,600 was paid to the Park Board for the plants, \$740 to CCM, \$705 was spent



Above: During the Summer the Park Board carpenters refurbished some of the benches in the Wild Flower Garden. Photo G D Bebeau

on Student Transportation Grants, and \$470 was spent on storage bins for tools for the Invasive Action Group.

Donations for the Cary George Wetland Project were \$7,050 during the year, included in which was a major \$7,000 donation from The Steven Leuthold Foundation - the same amount the Foundation provided in 2011. Donations for the Student Transportation Grant Program totaled \$5,038.

Membership at year end was 274, of which 42 were courtesy memberships and 28 were life memberships.

Weather: 2012 did not have the harsh weather of the prior year. Snow disappeared on March 7. March was the warmest in weather history by 3 degrees. 2012 was a dry year; early Summer was wet, but late Summer and Autumn were dry - total precipitation and snowfall, regardless of a 10.5 inch snowfall in early December, were both below average.

Photo top of first page of 2012: The Upland Hillside in October 2012. Photo ©G D Bebeau



2013

Winter 2012/2013

2013 begins the 106th year of the Garden, the 61st year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' tenth year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 11, 2013, at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins discussed Wirth Park budget issues, progress on the Florilegium Project, and a planned spring prairie burn. Proposals for Garden funding were submitted by Susan Wilkins for the Board to review.

New newsletter editor Meleah Maynard presented her plan for the 2013 issues. Jim Proctor noted that initial invasive removal in the preservation zone around the Garden was completed and now more defined activity was needed. Director Jeff Lee was moving to Duluth but wanted to stay on the board, whereas David Krause wished to drop off. Donna Ahrens resigned from the Board.

Below: Deep snow still around the Garden entrance on April 17th. Photo courtesy Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.



Spring 2013

The Garden did not open until April 29th, the second latest opening ever due to heavy snow and repeated snowfalls in April, including one of 9 inches at mid-month. This was just the reverse of 2012 when the last snow disappeared by March 7.

Amidst the snow the next Friends Board meeting was held on April 1 at the Kenwood Community Center. The MPRB (Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board) Planner for Wirth Park, Andrea Weber, attended and provided a summary of plans. A concept master plan for Wirth Park had been approved by the Park Board. She provided a slide showing the prioritization of projects that were both public and donor funded. Only the two top priorities had funding, whereas the request of \$669,087 for Garden projects was fourth on the list. The remodel of the Wirth Pavilion was complete and a grand opening was scheduled for June.

Susan Wilkins reported that the bees were coming to the Garden again, bee-keeping done by Beez Kneez. The Conservation Corp Minnesota was to be back doing lots of buckthorn removal in Wirth Park.

The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group (FIPAG) scheduled 6 Garlic Mustard removal events but 2 were canceled due to weather, the four were held in May and Early June.

From Susan's list of Garden Projects, the Board chose to fund planting herbaceous plants around the front entrance - expected cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000. Also the Board agreed to match MPRB funds for a scientific survey of bee species in the Garden. The data and samples of activity can be used for future monitoring and environment education programs. Expected cost was \$3,750.



Bees maintained by Beez Kneez. Photo courtesy MPRB, April 2013.



Hives placed in the Garden by Beez Kneez. Photo G D Bebeau, April 2013.

In the Spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 61, no. 1) President Pam Weiner explained the delays in going forward with the Cary George Wetland Project. Gary Bebeau contributed an article to the newsletter on four plants that are the first signs of Spring - Snow Trillium, Skunk Cabbage, Dwarf Trout Lily and Hepatica.

Susan Wilkins outlined planned highlights of the 2013 Garden season. The Ecological Society of America was holding its National Conference in Minneapolis and a special Garden program was planned. A partnership with Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre was made to create a nature program. The Urban Birding Festival



Bee nesting box and trap. Photo G D Bebeau, May 2013.

would be held again on June 8 & 9. A “nature tots” program for parents and toddlers was being offered. Lauren Borer’s homeschool program for Garden visits was expanded and several new classes were being offered.

Susan remarked:

We are growing more than a very special botanic garden within our 15-acre boundaries. We are growing ourselves, and each other, making room for a more beautiful, beneficent world in the process.



New Garden Naturalist Karen Katz.
Photo - Meleah Maynard

Orientation was held by Melissa Hansen and Garden Naturalists for new volunteers on May 1 at the Martha Crone Shelter. The naturalists returning to staff this year are Jodi Gustafson, Kimberlee Hunter, Becky Horton, Elizabeth Heck, Julia Manor, Tim Glenn, Wes Nugteren and Diana Thottungal. New naturalists for the season are Ron Spinosa and Karen Katz. This was Diana’s 12th and last year as a Garden naturalist.

The Friends held their annual meeting at the Kenwood Park Center on May 19, a Sunday being tried for the first time. Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Colin

Bartol (new), Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Sue Budd, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, Jeff Lee, Vivian Mason, Meleah Maynard, Gloria Miller, Jennifer Olson (new), Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Donna Ahrens, David Krause, and Judy Remington, left the board.



New Garden Naturalist Ron Spinosa. Photo - Meleah Maynard



New signs designating areas maintained for invasives outside the Garden fence. Photo G D Bebeau

Susan Wilkins reported that the Garden was busy. The MPRB was creating a request for proposal (RFP) on the boardwalk and that a design team was being chosen, after which the Friends would provide an adhoc committee to meet with the designers to work out details. Meanwhile, the MPRB had received a \$43,000 donation from the Donald J. Miller Revocable Trust, which funds were to be used for the Garden, and were being allocated to the boardwalk. The Garden parking lot was converted from a meter system to a pay kiosk system and 16 new spaces were added along the drive. The Florilegium Project was going to have its first exhibit in August.

Jayne Funk’s membership report listed 262 members of which 28 were life members and 41 courtesy members. Jim proctor reported that the Park Board was funding new signs to mark ‘adopted’ areas in the preservation zone so that the mowers would stay out.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Sue Budd Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Melissa Hansen - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Meleah Maynard - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh - historian, Jayne Funk - membership, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (Liz Anderson co-chair).

Summer 2013

During the summer 646 plants were put in around the Garden front gate to fill in the area. The cost of \$1,652 was funded by the Friends.

Below: Some of the new plants added around the Garden front gate, shown here the following Spring. Photo G D Bebeau



In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 61 no. 2) Board member and twice former Friends president Gloria Miller was interviewed by Donna Ahrens. A detailed article by Meleah Maynard explained the Florilegium Project, and showed several examples. Thirty-three works had been accepted so far. Another article by Meleah introduced the 11 naturalists that staffed the Garden this year. Gary Bebeau contributed a brief article on three unique plants of the Garden in late summer - Butter & Eggs, Partridge Pea and Queen of the Prairie.

The long awaited opening exhibition of the Eloise Butler Garden Florilegium took place on the evening of August 23 at Longfellow House in Minnehaha Park. Artists were present, refreshments were served, Bluegrass music was played. President Pam manned a table of information about the Friends. The exhibition announcement [copy on last page] featured a Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) on the cover by artist Linda Powers.

Below: Two images from the Eloise Butler Florigieum Project, 2010-2014, MPLS School of Botanical Art.



Iris versicolor, Blue Flag Iris
Shelley Bowman.



Viburnum opulus, Highbush Cranberry
Elizabeth Cole

During the summer 21 school classes came to the Garden with bus transportation subsidized by the Student Transportation Grant Program - 986 students, cost to Friends: \$3,410.

Autumn 2013

The Martha Crone Shelter was broken in to via the back room window in early September, with a computer and cell phones taken. That room lacked a motion censor for the alarm system.

The Friends held a Board Meeting on September 30 at the Kenwood Park Community Center. A new citizen group was founding "Friends of the T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary" and several officers of the group made a presentation to the Board explaining their plans and organization. While the Friends cannot donate to them directly, as our mission is the Garden, board members were encouraged to do so if they wished.

Susan Wilkins reported on plans to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer which is known to be in the Twin



This old Oak came down in a severe wind storm the night of June 21/22. Photo G D Bebeau.

Cities. A group of Green Ash in the Garden would be selected to be preserved by preventative treatments, but some culling of others would take place over time. Environmental Education Coordinator Marylynn Pulscher took on a new position with MPRB as Community Outreach Coordinator and her replacement is Jamie McBride.

Gary Bebeau has designed several different new member premium books for new family members, new Sponsor members and new Life members. He would be paying the cost of these himself initially to see how they were accepted. He and Pam presented a \$25,000 check to Susan as the Friends down payment for the boardwalk development.

Colin Bartol described his backpack project for the Garden. A backpack would be available for children in the Shelter that would contain items used repeatedly for observation in the Garden - that is - consumable individual materials for students to work with while at the Garden on field trips. Requested funding - \$300. It was funded in 2014.

Sue Budd wished to be relieved of the secretary position. Candice (Candy) Bartol was elected to the Board to replace her. Membership at this time was 236 but 28 were delinquent members. The 236 included 41 courtesy members and 28 life members.



Below: The old cedar bridge from 1990/91 which is to be replaced by the new bridge section of the new boardwalk. Photo G D Bebeau



Boardwalk progress in the fall: In September, following the Request for Proposal, MPRB chose the Cuninghame Group to do the design and engineering work for the project. Design development along with community meetings was scheduled for September and October 2013. Permitting and bidding was scheduled for November through January 2014 with first phase construction to be done before

spring in 2014. The Friends deposited \$25,000 with the Park Board as the phase one commitment to this project.

The first planning meeting for boardwalk design was held on October 1st at Park Board headquarters with members of the Cuningham Group design team, Park Board planning staff, the Garden Curator and members of the Friends Planning Committee (Pam Weiner, Steve Pundt, Gary Bebeau) in attendance. Members of the Planning Committee met at the Garden on October 29th with Susan Wilkins to review the proposed design of the boardwalk, width, height, and ideas for the bridge area.

An open house and public comment meeting occurred on November 21st for public review of the design thus far. The meeting was at the Wirth Park Pavilion, 3275 Glenwood Ave. No., Golden Valley, MN 6:30 to 7:30 PM. In December People for Parks setup a \$12,500 matching grant for the Friends for the Cary George Wetland Project - to be reached by August 2014.

The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group scheduled three sessions in September and October to remove Buckthorn in the preservation zone around the Garden.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 61, no.3) Pam Weiner reviewed the full years events. Susan Wilkins reviewed all the Garden happenings. Naturalist Liz Heck had created an inventory of Garden sedges and wrote an article about them. New Garden Naturalist Ron Spinoso wrote "*A fascination with Fungi.*" Jim Proctor and Liz Anderson summed up the years work for his group and added this detail:

This July, a special group visited the Garden for the first time and were Invasives volunteers for an afternoon. As part of a Family Partnership summer program, nine urban kids, ages 10 to 12, participated in a Buckthorn and Art project organized by Jim Proctor. The kids spent about two hours in the preservation zone outside the Garden, where they used weed wrenches to enthusiastically pull Buckthorn.

Next, they gathered up and cleaned the plants' black, wiry roots for the art project. Jim also brought in additional plant materials, including the stems of sumac, maple and ash; pine needles and cones; grape tendrils and more. He showed the kids ways to assemble them into art objects that became wands, swords, gifts and even a microphone. The entire project took place outside on a beautiful summer afternoon. Best of all, the kids seemed at ease and at home in their outdoor classroom.

A volunteer appreciation event was held on November 3 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis. The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$68,000. Revenue in this non-fundraising year was \$17,200 of which membership revenue was \$4,300, memorials were \$260, special donations were \$9,600. Expenses were \$6,100; \$1,650 was paid to the Park Board for the plants, \$25,000 to the Park Board as deposit on the boardwalk, \$3,750 to the Park Board for the bee survey, \$3,410 was spent on Student Transportation Grants, and \$520 was spent on weed wrench tools for the Invasive Action Group. One major donation of \$6,000 from The Steven Leuthold Foundation was received.

Below: At the November Volunteer Event, Garden Naturalists Dakota Sexton, Karen Katz and Lauren Borer. Friends photo.



Weather: The unusual late date for the Garden opening was the most notable weather element this year. There was also the severe wind in summer which knocked down several of the old oaks. Total snowfall and precipitation were above average - snowfall at almost 70 inches compared to the average baseline of 43.6 inches.

Photo top of first page of 2013: The Upland hillside on October 27, 2013. Photo ©G D Bebeau

Cover of the invitation to the Florilegium

You're Invited



Eloise Butler Wildflower

Garden Florilegium

Opening Exhibition

Friday, August 23, 2013

6 - 8 pm

Minnesota School of Botanical Art

at Longfellow House

4800 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis

Artists will be present.
Bluegrass Music by Ivory Bridge
Light Refreshments

This is the inaugural exhibition of botanical paintings that document the flora of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.

Exhibition Dates: August 23 to November 30, 2013.



2014

Winter 2013/2014

2014 begins the 107th year of the Garden, the 62nd year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' eleventh year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 10, 2014, at the home of President Pam Weiner. Entomologist Elaine Evans was present to report on the progress of the Bee Study at the Garden that the Friends and The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) were funding. In the first year of the survey she had catalogued 75 species of bees.

Susan Wilkins confirmed that the Florilegium Project would have another exhibition this year, this time at the Minneapolis Central Library, arranged by Friends Board member Jim Proctor. Botanist Barb Delaney has been hired to complete a new Garden census and a photographer was to take images of each species also. Ms Delaney had previously done the 1986 and 2009 census. The Emerald Ash Borer Plan for the Garden was underway with some trees to be removed on a case-by-case basis but because the ash were dominating areas of the Fern Glen, 5 were removed there in the Winter.

Planning for the boardwalk in the wetland was ongoing. A final planning meeting was held on February 13th and bidding documents were being prepared. One of the new ideas was to make the walking surface out of cut ash wood from the city parks. The wood would go through a heat treating process to make a durable surface.

Colin Bartol brought in a sample of the backpack to be used by children in the Garden Junior Nature Detective Backpack program. Funding of \$300 was provided for two sets of backpacks. Melissa Hansen introduced her replacement as volunteer coordinator - Lauren Husting, and Lauren was elected to the Board.



The Martha Crone Shelter in deep snow in mid-March 2014. Photo courtesy MPRB.

Below: Green Ash cut in the Fern Grove during the Winter of 2013/2014. Photo G D Bebeau



A date of August 3rd, Eloise Butler's Birthday, was set for a fundraiser at the Wirth Pavilion for the Student Transportation Grant Program. This is same site where the previous fundraiser was held in 2012, but the facility is newly remodeled. A fundraiser for the boardwalk is in the planning stages. Anthony Waldera has arranged with the current owner for the use of the historic Schutt house at 2100 James Ave. in Minneapolis. The house was the home of Mendon and Clara Schutt. Clara was a friend of Eloise Butler and the Schutt's daughter Elizabeth, created a family fund at the Minneapolis Foundation in 1999 and named the Friends as one of the beneficiaries. [details of the Schutt Family in the 1999 text]

In mid-February 2014, Al Jueneman and his dog Jax found a downed injured Great Horned Owl who had some form of eye injury. It just outside the back fence of the Garden. It was taken to the Raptor Center to be fixed up and then was brought back in May to the same spot for release.



The injured Great Horned Owl. Photo courtesy Al Jueneman.

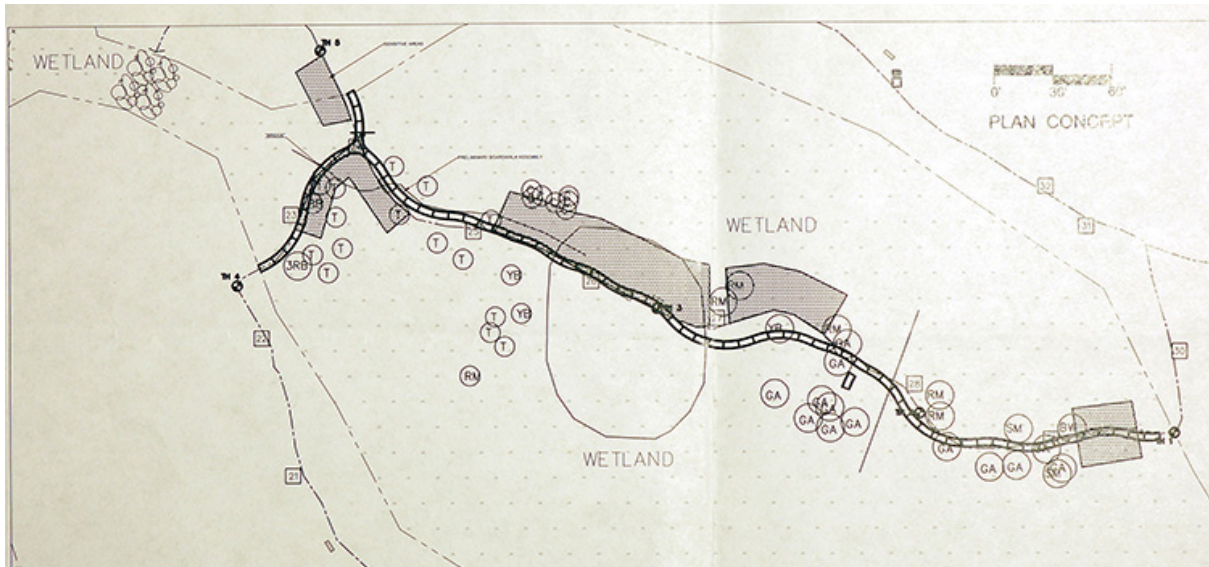
Spring 2014

The Garden opening was late again this year due to weather, opening on April 15. Snowfall in March was not bad but the first week in April brought a heavy snowfall. Weatherman Paul Douglas wrote:

It seems as if something gave Mother Nature a shot of caffeine here as of late. Until just recently, it seemed as if we were just muddling through March.

The next Board meeting of the Friends was held on April 7 at the Kenwood Community Center. Susan Wilkins made an extensive report which included a note that a motion sensor had been installed in the back room of the Shelter where a break-in had occurred last fall. She had program schedules prepared for spring at the Garden; the boardwalk design group was finalizing the details and bids were to let shortly.

Below: Drawing of the boardwalk concept used in the bidding process.



The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group (FIPAG) scheduled 5 Garlic Mustard removal events for May and early June. Pam Weiner had done extensive planning for the August 3rd fundraiser and presented the details. It was agreed that the invitation letter to members should reference the need for funds for both the Student Transportation Grant Program and for the boardwalk project. It was also agreed that the Friends would forego any funding for Garden plants this year in order to use funds for the boardwalk project. Copy of letter follows text.

Once the Garden opened in April, Gary Bebeau took videos and prepared a video on the Garden's opening and another video on the boardwalk project. Both were posted to the Friends Website and Facebook page.

Lauren Husting held her first volunteer orientation on April 22 with 20 attending. That was the same date that a crew came in to burn off the prairie area - a task that needed to be done every 2 to 5 years. For safety reasons, volunteers are no longer used for burns.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 62, no. 1) Pam Weiner updated the membership on the boardwalk project and announced the Garden Party to be held August 3 in the Wirth Park Pavilion.



Burn crew arriving at the Garden on April 22nd for a prairie burn.
Photo G D Bebeau.

Susan Wilkins outlined planned highlights of the 2014 Garden season, including the return of the bees. Friends board member Melissa Hansen was interviewed by Donna Ahrens. Garden Naturalist Karen Katz wrote about the phenology program at the Garden. Recently retired Naturalist Donna Thottungal wrote about how plants cooperate in nature. Jim Proctor and Liz Anderson wrote an extensive summary of what the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group is accomplishing in the preservation zone around the Garden.

On Saturday May 3, Jayne Funk manned a Friends table at the Bryn Mawr Garage Sale event. Next was the Friends annual meeting, at the Lyndale Farmstead, 3900 Bryant Ave. So., Minneapolis on May 4, a Sunday, that day of the week being tried for the second time. A guest was Mary Linden from the Minneapolis Central Library where the Florilegium exhibit would be held in late summer.

Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Candy Bartol (new, from September 2013), Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Sue Budd, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Husting (new, from February), Vivian Mason, Meleah Maynard, Gloria Miller, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Jeff Lee left the board.

Susan Wilkins reported that spring weather had been beneficial to the plants. Wood shavings from the new supplier were being put down on the paths. The RFP for the boardwalk was to be ready for bidding in a week. The "in-honor-of" plaque for Cary George would be installed on the bridge portion of the new boardwalk.



FIPAG volunteers Pam and Molly pulling Garlic Mustard sprouts on May 4, 2014. Friends photo.

Gary Bebeau pointed out that our meeting date was the 80th anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial Tablet for Eloise Butler, placed on the boulder that rests in front of the Garden Shelter. Lauren reported that some volunteer shifts were going unfilled as volunteers were not signing up so much as in the past for standing days when they would do the same shift every week.

Jayne Funk reported on membership. She now had 124 members email addresses. Of those 102 opted for renewal notices by email and 32 for the newsletter by email.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Vivian Mason Vice-president, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer. Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Lauren Husting, - volunteers (new), Steve Benson - money management, Meleah Maynard - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh - historian, Jayne Funk - membership, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (Liz Anderson co-chair).

Summer 2014

On July 4th a fundraising letter was mailed to the membership about the Garden Party and the boardwalk funding, [copy follows text] The planning committee for the Garden Party met at Pam Weiner's house on July 14 to finalize the event.

On August 3 the Friends Garden Party got underway at the Wirth Park Pavilion. Tickets were sold in



The pavilion at Wirth Park where the Garden Party was held. Photo G D Bebeau

advance on the website and at the door. There was a raffle, a silent auction of 62 items, food, beverages, a jazz trio and Eloise Butler, played by Anna Anderhagen, visited. Tours could be taken of the Garden, a bird-spotting scope was set up. \$4,200 was raised, including 3 new memberships.



FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN

GARDEN PARTY

*Please join us **August 3, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.***

*at **WIRTH PARK PAVILION***

~Above Glenwood Avenue and the Wirth Lake Beach area

⌘ Garden Tours ⌘ Refreshments ⌘ Family Entertainment

⌘ Silent Auction

of items reflecting the spirit and history of the Garden and the Friends

Tickets for the event are
\$20 at the door,
or available on our website
friendsofthewildflowergarden.org
at a cost of \$20 for the first,
\$15 for each additional ticket.
All ticket costs are tax deductible.

This year the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden are celebrating summer and Eloise Butler's 163rd birthday with a special event to replenish our Student Transportation Grant Program.

This program brings students from Minneapolis-area schools to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary for nature and science based programs. Hundreds of young people have benefited from this program in the past four years; its success has depleted the fund, and we are committed to providing this service into the future.

Below: The set-up for a silent auction in the Wirth Park Pavilion - Garden Party, Aug. 3, 2014. Photo G D Bebeau





LEFT: Eloise Butler entertaining Julia Haase (right) and Johanna Nassif (left) at the Garden Party. Friends photo.

RIGHT: The Junior Nature Detective Backpack. Photo Colin Bartol.



In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol.62 no. 2) Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote an article on Great Horned Owls, concentrating of the wounded owl found in February. Colin Bartol described his Junior Nature Detective Backpack program. Gary Bebeau wrote on creating the Upland Garden. Liz Anderson of the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group explains why Garlic Mustard is such a horrific adversary. New volunteer coordinator Lauren Husting is introduced.

The MPRB received an award from the Trust for Public Land, which named Minneapolis the top city parks system in the nation for the second consecutive year.

Below: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Superintendent Jayne Miller stopped by the Garden in June to show off the award that the MPRB received from The Trust for Public Land, which named the Minneapolis the top city parks system in the nation for the second consecutive year. Superintendent Miller (back row, second from the right), surrounded by students at the Garden and Shelter volunteer Donna Ahrens. EBWG Education Program Coordinator Lauren Borer, center, holds the award. Photo Lauren Borer.



The next event was the exhibition opening of the Eloise Butler Garden Florilegium at the Minneapolis Central Library on August 14. Forty-five paintings of native plants from the Wildflower Garden were exhibited. Susan Wilkins and Marilyn Garber (head of the School for Botanical Art) spoke about the

history of the Wildflower Garden and the history of the botanical art school. MPRB Superintendent Jayne Miller also spoke. The Friends paid \$300 for some of the refreshments provided, the Friends of the Library paid for the remainder. Pam Weiner manned a Friends Table and a number of other board members were present.

Below: The entrance to the Florilegium Exhibition on August 14th. Photo Melissa Hansen



LEFT: Marilyn Garber (left) director of the Minneapolis School for Botanical Art. Susan Wilkins, Curator, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. Photo Melissa Hansen.



RIGHT: Friends member Linda Fritschel viewing the display. Photo Melissa Hansen.

In August, the Friends were able to announce that the fundraising match offered last Fall by People for Parks had been met - that brought in \$12,500 from them. Several other large donations came in during the summer and are summarized below in the autumn section.

During the summer 18 school classes came to the Garden with bus transportation subsidized by the Student Transportation Grant Program - 752 students, cost to Friends: \$2,816. The majority of kids were 4th grade, some 3rd grade and one high school group.

Autumn 2014

The Friends held a Board Meeting on September 29 at the Kenwood Park Community Center. MPRB Planner for Wirth Park, Andrea Weber, was present and gave an update on the boardwalk project. The RFP was released in August. Contractors were so busy that only one bid was received on the project and at \$234,000, it was too far above Cuningham Group's estimate to be accepted. The project was to be re-bid in November. The board did agree to add another \$50,000 to the project.

Susan Wilkins reported that some new trenching to prevent oak wilt was done this summer, the first since 2008. Barb Delaney was continuing the plant census and Elaine Evens was finishing the bee survey.

Below: The bee-keeper tending hives on May 21st in the Upland Garden. Photo G D Bebeau.



Jayne Funk summed up the membership at this point: 245 members, 175 annual renewing, 33 life and 37 courtesy members. FIPAG (Friends Invasive Plants Action Group) reported that one Buckthorn pull happened on September 28 and two more were scheduled in October. Susan Wilkins was able to extend the Garden preservation zone beyond to the SE of the path that leads from the front gate to the eastern fence. FIPAG would be working in this maple forest area in future years.

Minneapolis Audubon had requested help in funding a video about the need for bird-sale glass on the new Vikings Stadium being built downtown. \$500 was donated to the project. [The glass was never installed].

In planning for 2015, the Friends needed to update the bylaws and plan the fund raiser to be held at the home of Mark Addicks at 2100 James Ave - the old Mendon and Clara Schutt house.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 62, no. 3) Pam Weiner reviewed the full years events. Newsletter editor Meleah Maynard interviewed Eloise Butler, who participated in the Summer Garden Party (in the form of a historical character actor). Susan Wilkins reviewed all the Garden happenings. Naturalist Wes Hugteren wrote about assisting 42 baby turtle hatchlings find their way safely to water in Birch Pond from the Garden entrance area. Jim Proctor and Liz Anderson summed up the years work for his group and wrote about the new area to be worked on.

So what's next for the invasives group? Thanks to a recently adopted cooperative arrangement between the Park Board and the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, FIPAG will be involved in a truly beautiful and extraordinary project. Outside the Garden, at its eastern edge, a wide gravel path runs from the driveway / parking area to the Garden. A tall impenetrable buckthorn hedge (photo below) has bordered the gravel path, obscuring the deep ravine of maples, oaks and hemlocks that lies behind it. Earlier this summer, the Park Board agreed to work with FIPAG to remove invasives there. The goal is to remove the invasives that encircle the ravine.

Below: The impenetrable Buckthorn hedge that Jim Proctor writes about. Photo G D Bebeau.



The Friends ended the year with assets of \$76,000. Revenue in this fundraising year was \$73,600 of which membership revenue was \$7,600, memorials were \$1,450, special donations were \$59,400. Expenses were \$7,300; \$50,000 went to the Park Board as an additional deposit on the boardwalk, \$3,750 to the Park Board for year two of the bee survey, \$2,850 was spent on Student Transportation

Grants, \$300 to Colin Bartol for the Junior Naturalist Backpacks, \$300 to the Florilegium Exhibit, and \$500 to Minneapolis Audubon for the video.

Engraved name plates were placed on the Eliason Honor Board in the Shelter for Sharon Quast, Joseph O'Donnell and William Toivonen, our eldest member who passed away at age 102 on July 14.



Dessert cakes provided by Susan Wilkins and MPRB. Photo Melissa Hansen.



Guests lined up for food. MPRB Naturalist Karen Katz on the right, Friends board member Phoebe Waugh 3rd from right. Photo Melissa Hansen.

The annual volunteer appreciation event was held on October 26th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis, the third year at that facility. The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts and a EBWG water bottle for everyone.

Special Honor: Friends Board Member Phoebe Waugh received the Park Board's Volunteer of the Year Award. Phoebe was nominated by Naturalist Tammy Mercer, leader of the Early Birder's group at the Garden. Phoebe was one of the first members of that Saturday morning group.

Several significant donations this year were: \$5,000 from The Steven Leuthold Foundation; \$10,500 from the Dorothy Pawlcyn Family Foundation [more info below] ; \$12,500 from People for Parks as a matching grant to the Friends fundraising; \$5,000 from Judy McKim, daughter of Moana Odell Beim; \$12,500 from Mark Addicks. Mr. Addicks would be hosting the Friends 2015 fundraising event at his house.



Friends Board Member Phoebe Waugh MPRB Volunteer of the Year. Friends photo.

Pawlcyn Family Background: Dorothy and Stephen Pawlcyn built a house in 1949, just across Wirth Parkway from the Garden and near the Quaking Bog, in what would become the city of Golden Valley. The parents loved the Garden and were frequent visitors, as are the daughters, Mary and Cindy, today. Both remember playing in the Garden and the bog when young. They remember coming to the Garden and finding no one there - gates locked that day. [That would have been a Wednesday during Martha Crone's tenure - her one day off per week.] The parents would have probably met or at least seen Martha Crone, Ken Avery and Cary George. They were members of the Friends for some years beginning in 1977. Stephen passed away 15 year ago and Dorothy would in February 2015. The daughters had not met Susan Wilkins until now, so now only Eloise Butler is missing from this story. Their daughter, Mary, made the contribution for the estate.

Below: The Pawlcyn Family visiting the new Boardwalk on August 17, 2015: l to r Cindy, husband John Watanabe, Mary, son Byrnes. Photo G D Bebeau.



Weather: The Garden opened late again due to piles of snow melting slowly, but the rest of the year was uneventful. The summer was wet. Total precipitation was above average; snowfall in the winter of 2013/14 was above average with snow depth reaching 24 inches on February 21st, but the coming winter of 2014/15 would be below average with no major snowfalls.

Photo top of first page of 2014: The Upland Garden on August 27, 2014 Photo ©G D Bebeau



Friends Of The Wild Flower Garden

July 1, 2014

Dear Friend of the Garden,

I am writing today for a very important reason. The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden are determined to ensure the installation of the Cary George Wetland Project bridge and boardwalk in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, so that next season's visitors will be able to enjoy the Showy Lady's-slippers without having to wade through muddy water to see them. Our very wet spring brought home the urgent need for this project; the wood-chipped paths have been impassable at times. On Mothers' Day hundreds of visitors were walking off the muddy surface onto fragile plants because of the soggy conditions, and the problem has intensified since then.

We are very fortunate to have a timely incentive to help us reach our final fundraising goal of \$25,000. for this project. The People for Parks Foundation is offering a matching grant of \$12,500., if we can raise that amount by August 31, 2014. We need these funds to proceed with installation of the new bridge and boardwalk by the end of this summer. We are asking for your help to reach this goal.

As you may recall, The Friends have already contributed an initial \$25,000. for the project, and we offer our heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped bring us this far. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is underwriting a significant additional portion of the project's cost. I believe we all truly want to see this essential project realized.

This total restoration of the Garden's wetland path system will enable visitors to explore and appreciate this unique habitat, considered by Eloise Butler and Cary George to be "the heart of the Garden. To fully appreciate the critical importance of the project and the excellent quality of the design, please visit our website www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org and use the links on our home page to see the history of this endeavor. Then use the designated link to watch the Cary George Wetland Project video to see photos of the target area as well as detailed drawings of the final plan.

We are asking all Friends members to please join us in this effort to preserve and protect the Garden while honoring our Fourth Gardener. Donations can be made on the website or, if you prefer, via the enclosed envelope. Let's make sure this important project becomes a reality this year !!

Sincerely, J Pam Weiner

For the Board of Directors, Friends of the Wild Flower Garden

P.S. We are enclosing an invitation to the Friends' 2014 Summer Garden Party. Hope to see you there !!

A support group for The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary



2015

Winter 2014/2015

2015 begins the 108th year of the Garden, the 63rd year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 12th year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 9, 2015 at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins reported that Entomologist Elaine Evans has concluded her research at the Garden, having found 104 species of bees other than honey bees. In the first year of the survey she had catalogued 75 species of bees. The honey bees that have been kept in the Garden by Beez Kneez will be moved out and the focus will be on the volunteer bees in the area. More ash trees were removed from the Garden, this time in the wetland area. On the boardwalk project, contractor bids were still much too high. MPRB is going to contract directly with metal manufacturer and with Conservation Corp of Minnesota for installation in mid-summer 2015. Recycled ash wood for the treads is ready to go. It looked like this was the year it would get built.



Friends Volunteer Coordinator
Lauren Husting. Friends photo.

Newsletter editor Meleah Maynard found a new design professional to volunteer doing layouts for the newsletter - John Toren from Nodin Press. Lauren Husting was looking for a way that volunteers could manage their own shifts on the on-line calendar. A committee was formed to review and restate the Friends bylaws: Gary Bebeau, Jayne Funk, Steve and Sally Pundt.

On February 21st, Melissa Hansen and Jayne Funk hosted a Friends table at the Wild Ones conference at the Nicollet Island Inn. Seven new members were obtained.

The date was set for June 25th to have a fundraiser at the restored historic Schutt house of Mark Addicks, retired Chief Marketing Officer of General Mills. It would be known as the "Schutt House Event." Details in the summer section.

Below: The restored historic Mendon Schutt House where the Friends Summer Garden Event would be held.



In early March acceptable bids were secured for framework and installation of the boardwalk. Expected installation - July or August, dedication in September. Conservation Corps Minnesota was to do the installation, the boardwalk sections were ordered from Wickcraft of Madison WI, the heat-treated ash wood was prepared at Arborwood in Duluth. All installation would be under the supervision of Jim Robin, the design architect and David Motzenbecker, both of the Cuningham Group.

The next Friends Board meeting was on March 30 at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Based on the early spring weather there was no doubt that the Garden would open on April 1st. Susan Wilkins noted that the first wildflowers were already visible. The Garden's program coordinator, Lauren Borer was not returning and Holly Fetzer was taking the position. Mice got into the shelter during the winter and that problem was being fixed, but the Shelter needed a new roof and that would be done in the fall.

Gary Bebeau had placed the advance ticket order capability on the website for the Schutt House Event and the first ticket orders had already been received. He also noted that the long recovery in the Friends investments from the 2008 market drop reached its high point last November and the market had not declined again.



Schutt House Event ticket

Spring 2015

The Garden opening on time this year on April 1. The Friends Invasive Plants Action Group (FIPAG) scheduled 5 Garlic Mustard removal events for May and early June. They concentrated on the east side and near the back gate - areas just outside the fence.

Lauren Husting held a volunteer orientation on April 22 with 20 attending. For the season, there were 4 new volunteers and 30 returning. By the end of the year there would be 10 new volunteers.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ (Vol. 63, no. 1) President Pam Weiner updated the membership on the Schutt House Event and the Schutt Family's relationship to the Garden.

Susan Wilkins wrote:

Every spring, what feels like a miracle occurs. The days begin to warm and lengthen. We find ourselves dropping layers—mittens, scarves and heavy coats—and stepping out to feel the caress of sunlight on bare skin. When only weeks ago we traveled to and fro with our busy lives cloaked in winter's dark blanket, now the soft evening light or early morning's glimmer guides us into our gardens to discover what is emerging from awakened soil. A hint of green under decayed leaves—delight! A flower found in full bloom—pure joy! Tree buds bursting in vibrant hues above our heads—unstoppable! As our planet tilts and spins so steadily along, rested earth gives way to another season of refreshed potential and irrepressible growth. We have arrived and spring is singing.

Donna Ahrens interviewed Shelter volunteer Kris Felbeck who commented that she still enjoys pulling a chair up to the shelter window to watch the birds at the feeders and building a fire in the fireplace on cooler days. "It's like having an Up North cabin in the city." Naturalist Tammy Mercer wrote about the warblers seen in the Garden in the spring.

Next was the Friends annual meeting, at the Kenwood Park Community Center, 21st and Franklin Ave., Minneapolis on May 17. Susan Wilkins could not attend but in her submitted report she added several requests that the Friends could decide to fund. Boardwalk installation was scheduled. Board member Phoebe Waugh had received the 2014 Volunteer of the Year award from the MPRB.

Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Husting, Vivian Mason, Meleah Maynard, Gloria Miller, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Sue Budd, left the board.

Gary Bebeau reviewed the financial information and the website. Website page count was now 1,780 with 10,913 photos; 586 plant information sheets, 37 history years complete. Jayne Funk reported on membership: 229 members of which 33 were life and 35 were courtesy.



One of the Wild Turkeys that caused havoc with plants in the Garden in 2015, this one strutting in front of the Martha Crone Shelter. Photo G D Bebeau.



Kris Felbeck. Friends photo.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Melissa Hansen Vice-president, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Lauren Husting - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Meleah Maynard - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh - historian, Jayne Funk - membership, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (Liz Anderson co-chair).

Gary Bebeau presented the draft of the new bylaws for the Board to review prior to voting on them at the October Board meeting. The Board approved offering a three-year membership in the Friends at the Schutt House Event for \$100. Also approved was the Garden's request to fund native tree planting along Geranium Path where a number of Ohio Buckeye's had been removed to open up the canopy. Estimated cost \$3,000 to 5,000.

Summer 2015

The big event at the Schutt House took place on the evening of June 25. Mark Addicks opened the house to guests at 5 PM, provided free food and drinks and tours of the house and grounds. Tickets were also sold at the door. There was a silent auction for three special group events: A dinner on the grounds of Kelly and Kelly Nursery who owners were known for such events; tickets to the annual Tangletown Gardens dinner, another well known event; and a brunch and Garden tour with Susan Wilkins and Pam Weiner. After the silent part of the auction, the events would move to a live auction to see if there was further bidding.

The weather that evening was clear and warm. The gardens were beautiful. Advance tickets sold were 205. Ten new members joined. Total proceeds for the evening were \$9,205.

Below: Guests enjoying the grounds and the warm evening outside the Schutt House on June 25th. Photo Melissa Hansen.





Susan Wilkins speaking at the Schutt House Event. Photo Melissa Hansen.



Guests enjoying the grounds at the Schutt House. Photo Melissa Hansen.

In the Garden the boardwalk and bridge segment were installed between July 10 and 23rd and opened the public on July 24. Photo G D Bebeau.



In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*[™] (Vol.63 no. 2) the Garden's new Program Coordinator Holly Fetzer was interviewed by Donna Ahrens.

Susan Wilkins wrote in the newsletter:

Timeless and essential, the Wildflower Garden is such a place. In our ever-changing world and landscapes, we are fortunate to have such an enduring model for how wild gardens, full of diversity, novelty and surprise, can grow. And grow they must. The Wildflower Garden is an opportune place in our community to connect with the richness of the natural world that we are a part of.

Naturalist Wes Nugteren wrote a two page article about "The Trees of Eloise Butler." MPRB Planner Andrea Weber announced the installation of the Boardwalk and the water channel bridge crossing dedicated to Cary George. FIPAG updated their work.

During the summer only one school group came to the Garden with bus transportation subsidized by the Student Transportation Grant Program - 20 youngsters from Early Wonders Preschool.

The Park and Recreation Board made a name change to the area surrounding the Garden. The operations manager, Deb Pilger, renamed the area to the "Volunteer Stewardship Area." It had only been 3 years ago that the "Preservation Zone" name had been adopted to replace the "Buffer Zone" term which dated back to 1964.

Autumn 2015

On Sunday September 20, 2015 at 3 PM, Friends, Garden Staff, and invited guests gathered in the Garden to dedicate the new boardwalk and specifically to dedicate the new bridge to Cary George, 4th caretaker of the Garden. Brief comments were made by Friends President Pam Weiner, Garden Curator Susan Wilkins, MPRB Commissioner Anita Tabb and then Cary George. There is a complete history of the project with more photos on the website.

Below: The Boardwalk dedication. Cary George, 2nd from right, Pam Weiner, right, Susan Wilkins 3rd from right. Photo by Christi Bystedt





At the boardwalk dedication - Phoebe Waugh, left; Cary George, center; James Robin, design architect, right. Photo Christi Bystedt.



Dedication plaque for the boardwalk bridge

The Friends held a Board Meeting on October 5th at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Susan Wilkins reported that MPRB Planner for Wirth Park, Andrea Weber, after being the moving force that finally found contractors for the boardwalk, was leaving her job at MPRB. The Garden's new program coordinator, Holly Fetzer was also leaving and was being replaced by Kirsten Grohovsky. Over 100 youth and adult groups had visited the Garden this season. After the removal of a number of Ohio Buckeyes last winter, there were more thoughts at the Park Board about removing all of them as they are not native to Minnesota, but they will continue to be managed and not eradicated. Both Eloise Butler and

Martha Crone planted the tree. Wild turkeys have been busy in the Garden and are quite destructive, but a permit from the DNR is required to trap them. More ash trees would be removed during the Winter.

A new management plan for burning the prairie and controlling invasives in both the Prairie and the wetland was being designed and implemented in the winter of 2015/2016. The main control issues



Above: An area of the Upland North hill in May 2016, showing the effects of Sumac being burned off in the winter of 2015/16 as part of the prairie restoration project. Note the wild turkey near the bench. Photo G D Bebeau.

were Buckthorn, Reed Canary grass, Allegheny Blackberry, sumac and the re-sprout following a controlled burn, which would now be done 1/3 of the area at a time. Following the meeting, with the Board's approval, President Pam sent a letter to Superintendent Jayne Miller committing the Friends to fund the management plan by committing up to \$5,750 for the project and by providing up to \$3,500 yearly in 2016, 2017 and 2018 for ongoing work, all to be done by Prairie Restorations.

The trees the Friends had agreed to fund arrive and were planted this fall. Total cost came to \$2,140.

The new draft of the Friends bylaws was presented and approved at the meeting. [copy follows text] The FIPAG has found Oriental Bittersweet in the preservation zone and will removing it and watching for new growth. Meanwhile the area of concentration is the wooded "maple bowl" just SE of the main gate to the Garden. Three invasive pulls were scheduled for September and October.



The area of the Maple Bowl SE of the Garden entrance where FIPAG had begun the work of clearing Buckthorn. Photo G D Bebeau.

Jayne Funk summed up the membership at this point: 271 members, 202 annual renewing, 34 life and 35 courtesy members.

The annual volunteer appreciation event was held on October 25th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis, our fourth year at that facility. The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts and a EBWG water bottle for everyone.

In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 63, no. 3) Pam Weiner reviewed the full years events. Donna Ahrens interviewed Phoebe Waugh who had been awarded the 2014 Minneapolis Parks Volunteer of the Year Award. Susan Wilkins reviewed all the Garden happenings. The Boardwalk dedication, the Schutt House Event and the Volunteer Event were all covered in a special 12 page issue.

The Friends ended the year with assets of \$84,000. Revenue in this fundraising year was \$32,500 of which membership revenue was \$6,100, memorials were \$2,300, special donations were \$16,100. Expenses were \$8,300; \$2,140 to the Park Board for the tree planting project, \$5,150 to the Park Board for the restoration effort, \$325 was spent on Student Transportation Grants, and \$385 on miscellaneous projects.

Below: Photos from the 2015 Volunteer Event held at St. Mary's. Photos by Judy Remington.



Susan Wilkins and Friends board member Barry Schade



Judy Remington (l) and Nita Lussenhop, both former Friends Board members.

The significant donations this year were: \$3,000 from the McNerney Charitable Remainder Trust and the proceeds from the Schutt House Event. New name plates were placed on the Eliason Honor Board in the shelter for memorials for Dorothy & Stephen Pawlcyn, Judith Nelson. Jean Lyttle, Glenda Larson, and Bennett Lauerey Busselman. "In-honor-of" plates were placed for: the Marriage of Devorah Herman & Edward Juda, Mark Addicts & Tom Hoch, Arla Carmichiel & Steve Kelley.

The Friends website count of total visitors during the year was 44% above the prior year. and all back issued of *The Fringed Gentian*TM were now on the site.

Weather: The Garden opened on time with all snow gone in March. Snowfall in the fall was minimal, but the Garden season was wet and annual precipitation was about 6 inches above average.

Photo top of first page of 2015: The Boardwalk dedication on September 20, 2015. Photo Melissa Hansen.

BYLAWS
FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

ARTICLE I
Definition of Terms

Section 1. The following terms will be used throughout and will have the definitions given below:

Wildflower Garden – Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, located in Theodore Wirth Park, City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and administered by Minneapolis Parks.

Shelter – Martha Crone Shelter, located within the Wildflower Garden.

Friends – Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.

Minneapolis Parks – Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Annual Meeting – Annual meeting of the membership of the Friends.

Annual Board Meeting – Annual meeting of the Board of the Friends.

Board – Board of Directors of the Friends.

Officers – Officers of the Friends.

Members in Good Standing - Members who are current on membership dues. Courtesy members are excluded from voting.

ARTICLE II
Purposes

Section 1. The Wildflower Garden is a 15 acre garden and sanctuary for native flora and fauna, owned by the people, and maintained by Minneapolis Parks.

Section 2. The Friends was incorporated in 1952 as a non-profit organization. Its purposes are to protect, preserve, and promote the interests of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary for its unique beauty and as a sanctuary for native flora and fauna of Minnesota, and to educate and inspire people of all ages in relating to the natural world.

ARTICLE III Organization and Governance

- Section 1. The Friends is a membership organization whose members have full voting rights as described in Article IV of these bylaws. The governing bodies of the Friends shall be the Board, as described in Article V and the Officers as described in Article VI.
- Section 2. Participation in the Friends is on a volunteer basis. Under no circumstances shall any Director, Officer or member of the Friends, receive remuneration of any sort whatsoever for their time, service, or talent spent in conducting the business of the Friends.
- Section 3. The Friends, a non-profit organization incorporated under State of Minnesota Statutes 317A, was formed for the purpose described in Article II of these bylaws. Gifts and donations to the Friends are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended.
- Section 4. The fiscal year of the Friends shall begin January 1 of each calendar year and shall end on December 31 of that calendar year.

ARTICLE IV Membership

- Section 1. Membership to the Friends shall be open to:
- A. Individuals and families
 - B. Organizations such as garden clubs, libraries, educational institutions, businesses, environmental and other agencies.
- Section 2. Membership Dues
- A. Annual membership dues shall become due and payable on the first day of the anniversary month in which the member joined, and shall be at such rates and categories as will be established from time to time by the Board and published in *The Fringed Gentian*[™], the Friends' newsletter. The Board may grant courtesy memberships with no dues required.
- Section 3. Membership Privileges
- A. Members in good standing may vote at Annual and Special Meetings, may serve on committees, may serve on the Board, and may hold office.
 - B. Organizational members in good standing – shall designate a representative who may vote at Annual and Special Meetings and serve on committees.
 - C. Members in good standing and designated representatives shall each have one vote. Courtesy members do not have voting rights.

ARTICLE IVA

Membership Meetings

- Section 1. Annual Meeting
- A. The Annual Meeting shall be held annually, following the close of the fiscal year, at a time and place fixed by resolution of the Board and advertised in the Notice of the Annual Meeting.
 - B. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be advertised in *The Fringed Gentian*TM, or by such other means so as to reach all members in good standing at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.
 - C. The business of the Annual Meeting shall include but not be limited to:
 - (1) Election of directors.
 - (2) A report on the activities and financial condition of the Friends.
 - (3) Consideration of and action upon other matters as determined by the Board.
- Section 2. Special Meeting
- A. A Special Meeting shall be called by the President, a majority of the Board, or by 10% of the members in good standing.
 - B. A Special Meeting shall be held at such time and place and upon such notice as may be determined by resolution of the Board, provided such notice be given at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, and the purpose of the meeting be stated.
- Section 3. Members in good standing may submit proposals and participate in discussions. Guests may address the members at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- Section 4. A quorum at such a meeting shall consist of at least ten (10) members in good standing.
- Section 5. When a quorum is reached a simple majority of members present shall be required to take action on any question properly brought before such meeting.
- Section 6. The presiding officer shall determine the manner of voting, whether by voice or ballot, except that a request by one or more members for a secret ballot shall be granted.
- Section 7. Proxy voting is not allowed.

ARTICLE IVB

Cessation of Membership

- Section 1. Membership ceases upon:
- A. Non-payment of dues after a period of sixty (60) days after the first day of the anniversary month.
 - B. Receipt by the President, the Secretary, or the Membership Committee Chair of a letter of resignation.

ARTICLE V
Board of Directors

- Section 1. The Board of Directors:
- A. The Board shall be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting and shall consist of no fewer than five (5) directors, elected according to the procedures in Article VIII, Section 1.
 - B. The term of office shall be of one (1) year's duration and shall commence at the time of election at the Annual Meeting.
 - C. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive one (1) year terms a director may serve.
 - D. In the event that a director resigns or for any reason cannot fill the entire term, a majority of the remaining directors shall elect an eligible candidate to fill the remaining term of office.
 - E. A director may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining directors for failure to fulfill the obligations outlined in Article V, Section 4.
 - F. The board may appoint a person to serve on the board as a temporary director, until the next Annual Meeting. Such appointments are limited to one person and the appointment must be by majority vote.
- Section 2. Ex-Officio Directors
- A. The Gardener/Curator of the Wildflower Garden shall serve as an ex-officio director with full privileges.
- Section 3. Meetings of the Board
- A. Meetings shall be held seasonally, at least four (4) times a year with date, time and location determined at the previous meeting by the directors present. Notice shall be given in the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - B. The Annual Board Meeting shall be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers and to transact other business that may properly come before the Board. Notice of the Annual Board Meeting shall be announced at a previous board meeting and included in the minutes of that meeting.
 - C. Special Meetings shall be called by the President or any two (2) or more directors. Notice stating the purpose of the meeting shall be mailed or delivered in person at least two (2) days before the meeting.
 - D. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority or one half (1/2) of the directors.
 - E. When a quorum is reached, a simple majority shall be required to take action on any question properly brought before such meeting.
 - F. In case a quorum not be reached, those present may adjourn to such day as they shall agree upon and notice thereof shall be given to each director at least one (1) day before such agreed upon meeting.

G. Voting may take place by proper action without a meeting.

H. Each director shall have one (1) vote.

Section 4. Duties of the Directors

A. The directors shall have general management, control, direction and possession of, and control over all of the business and affairs of the Friends, its properties, and its funds; and shall have all of the powers necessary, essential or incidental to the carrying out of the purposes for which the corporation was created.

B. A director shall act in good faith, in a manner the director reasonable believes to be in the best interest of the Friends, and with care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

C. A director shall disclose to the board a conflict of interest should it arise.

ARTICLE VI
Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Board shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board shall from time to time elect.

Section 2. The term of the office begins with election at the Annual Board Meeting.

Section 3. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms an officer may serve.

Section 4. Vacancies during the year shall be filled by a director, elected by a simple majority of the Board to fill the unexpired term of office. Voting may take place at a quarterly or special meeting or by proper action without a meeting.

Section 5. An officer may be removed by a resolution adopted by the Board.

ARTICLE VIA
Duties of Officers

Section 1. An officer shall act in good faith, in a manner the officer reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Friends, and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Section 2. The President shall be the chief officer of the corporation and as such shall:

A. When present, preside at meetings of the Board, the officers and the membership.

B. Sign and execute in the corporation's name and on its behalf and as its President all written instruments necessary, essential or incidental to the carrying out of the purposes for which the corporation is created, and which shall have been first duly authorized by the Board.

C. Perform all acts incidental to the office of President and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board.

- D. Coordinate the activities of the officers and make such changes or additions to the activities as is deemed necessary.
- E. Appoint Chairs of the standing committees as outlined in Article VII, Section A, and other committees as shall be from time to time be deemed necessary.

Section 3. The Vice President shall:

- A. Serve as assistant and consultant to the President.
- B. Assume the powers and duties of the President during the President's absence or disability.
- C. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board or the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall:

- A. Prepare and keep proper books in which are recorded current proceedings of the meetings of the Board, the officers and the membership.
- B. Be custodian of the books containing the historic records of proceedings of the meetings of the Board, the officers and the membership.
- C. Disseminate to directors copies of the proceedings of each meeting of the Board, officers and the membership.
- D. Send notices in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as requested by the President.
- E. At the President's request, sign all written instruments necessary, essential or incidental to the carrying out of the purposes and which shall have been first duly authorized by the Board.
- F. Perform other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board or the President.

Section 5. Assistant Secretary

- A. The Board may elect an Assistant Secretary who shall:
 - 1. At the request of the Secretary, or in the Secretary's absence or disability, perform the duties of Secretary, and when so acting shall have all of the powers of and be subject to all of the restrictions upon the Secretary.
 - 2. Perform other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board or the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall:

- A. Be the custodian of all moneys, funds, securities, evidence of indebtedness, and other similar properties.
- B. Keep or cause to be kept at all times accurate current financial records.
- C. Keep or cause to be kept full and complete historic accounts of the financial transactions.

- D. Endorse and deposit, or cause to be deposited, all money, drafts or checks in the name of and to the credit of the Friends, in such banks and depositories as the Board shall designate from time to time.
- E. Maintain an adequate balance of account with the U.S. Postal office.
- F. Disburse the funds as ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers therefor.
- G. Prepare and present at quarterly meetings a written quarterly financial report, and at the Annual Meeting a written annual financial report, and such other reports as required by the President.
- H. Oversee that statements of annual dues are mailed to all members as soon as such dues become payable.
- I. File required state and federal forms and reports.
- J. Perform other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board or the President.

Section 7. Assistant Treasurer

- A. The Board may elect an Assistant Treasurer who shall:
 - 1. At the request of the Treasurer, or in the Treasurer's absence or disability, perform the duties of the Treasurer and when so acting shall have the powers of and be subject to the restrictions upon the Treasurer.
 - 2. Perform other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board or the President.

ARTICLE VII

Standing Committees

- Section 1. The Standing Committees shall be Membership, Newsletter, Volunteer, Memorials/Honors, Historical, and Invasive Plant.
- Section 2. The Chair of a committee shall be appointed by the President from among the directors for a one (1) year term.
- Section 3. Committee members may be members of the Board, individual or family members, or be drawn from the community at large.

ARTICLE VIIA

Duties of the Chairs of Standing Committees

- Section 1. Membership Committee
 - A. Keep an updated roster of members of the Friends and provide renewal notices to members when their annual membership becomes due.

- B. Cause statements of annual dues to be mailed to all members as soon as such dues become payable if so directed by the Treasurer and provide members with written acknowledgment of receipt of membership donation
- C. Recruit new members by communicating regularly with Newsletter and Volunteer Committees, and participating in community events as opportunities arise.

Section 2. Newsletter Committee

- A. Prepare, publish and mail seasonal issues of *The Fringed Gentian*TM to members and supporters.
- B. Keep abreast of changes in postal regulations. This duty may be delegated to a designated mailing service if such service is employed in production and mailing of the Newsletter.
- C. Maintain a file of past issues of *The Fringed Gentian*TM.

Section 3. Volunteer Committee

- A. Search for, screen, train and schedule volunteers, who need not be members, to staff the shelter from the opening date in the spring to the closing date in the fall.
- B. Plan and carry out appropriate recognition of the work of the volunteers.

Section 4. Memorial/Honors Committee

- A. Acknowledge gifts donated in remembrance of a deceased person or in honor of a living person.
- B. Cause the name of the person so remembered to be placed on a plaque in the Shelter, following the guidelines established by the Board.
- C. Recommend appropriate tributes to enhance the Garden.

Section 5. Historical Committee

- A. Organize, maintain and store the collection of historical material, with due regard for proper preservation of the different media and deposit such material as the Board designates, with the Minnesota History Center.
- B. Gather, organize and properly store current memorabilia pertaining to the Garden and the Friends including but not limited to newspaper and magazine articles, photographs, slides, books and pamphlets.
- C. Maintain a file of past issues of *The Fringed Gentian*TM.

Section 6. Invasive Plant Committee

- A. Schedule, publicize and lead volunteers in invasives-removal events, weeding invasive plants from areas as directed by the Garden Curator.
- B. Recruit volunteers, who need not be members, and train them in recognizing and removing invasive plants.

- C. Work on special invasives projects as directed by the Garden Curator.

ARTICLE VIII

Election Procedures

Section 1. Election of Directors

- A. The Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee. A notice shall be published in an issue of *The Fringed Gentian*[™] or by such other means so as to reach all members in good standing, that members may submit director nominations to the Board Chair prior to a date set by the Board. Such date shall precede the Board Meeting that immediately precedes the Annual Meeting.
- B. Prior to the Annual Meeting the Chair of the Nominating Committee will correspond with all Board members asking if they will stand for re-election. Newly nominated persons, who have agreed to stand for election, shall be, or be willing to become at the time of election, a member.
- C. The Board Chair shall present a list of candidates at the Board meeting that immediately precedes the date of the Annual Meeting, which slate shall be approved by the Board.
- D. At the Annual Meeting the President shall present the slate and introduce each candidate. The President shall call for a vote on the slate, provided a quorum is present. A simple majority of members in good standing present shall be required to take action. Election may take place by voice vote acclamation. Voting shall be by secret ballot if requested by one (1) or more members present, and the President shall appoint two (2) members to count the votes.

Section 2. Election of Officers

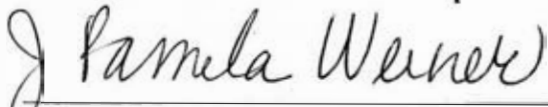
- A. By the date of the Board meeting that immediately precedes the date of the Annual Meeting, the Chair of Nominations shall submit to the President a slate consisting of one (1) or more candidates for each office duly authorized by the Board. Candidates shall have agreed to stand for office, shall hold a current membership in the Friends and shall be on the slate for Board election.
- B. The President shall present the slate at the Board meeting that immediately precedes the date of the Annual Meeting. The Board may offer additional candidates.
- C. At the Annual Board Meeting a vote shall be taken provided a quorum is present. A simple majority shall be required to take action. Election may take place by voice vote acclamation. Voting shall be by secret ballot if requested by one (1) or more directors and the President shall appoint two (2) directors to count the votes.
- D. In the event a quorum is not present, the procedure in Article V Section 3.F shall be followed.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

- Section 1. The power to adopt, amend or repeal the bylaws is vested in the Board, subject to the limitations provided in Minnesota Statutes 317A.181.
- Section 2. A proposed amendment to the bylaws, having been sent to all directors for consideration, shall subsequently be presented to the Board for approval or rejection.
- Section 3. The power to amend the Articles of Incorporation is vested in the members subject to the provisions in Minnesota Statutes 317A.133 and 317A.139.
- Section 4. A proposed amendment of a provision of the Articles shall be submitted in writing to the Board which shall review it for clarity, content and consistency.
- Section 5. Upon adoption by majority vote of the Board, a proposed amendment to Articles of Incorporation shall be submitted to the members for adoption.
- Section 6. An adopted amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall become effective when filed with the Secretary of State under Minnesota Statute 317A.151.

These updated and revised bylaws of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc. were adopted by the Board of Directors on October 7, 2015.


Pam Weiner, President
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.

October 5, 2015
Date



2016

Winter 2015/2016

2016 begins the 109th year of the Garden, the 64th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 13th year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 22, 2016 at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins reported on off-season work that had been done in the Garden. Several green ash and box elder trees were removed to reduce their number and make way for more appropriate species. More trenching was done in the fall to control the spread of Oak Wilt, which is still present in the Garden. A new fireplace insert was being installed in the Shelter fireplace, the bathrooms were getting a cosmetic

do-over; the boardwalk was repaired where several treads broke due to knot weakness, the shelter needed a new desk and the great horned owls were again sighted in the Garden and are probably nesting nearby.



Garden Naturalists, Wes Nugteren and Tim Glenn. Shown here at the Volunteer Event later in the year.
Photo Melissa Hansen.



The newly installed fireplace insert at the Martha Crone Shelter. Photo G D Bebeau

Most of the same Garden staff was returning this season with the addition of a seasonal gardener. Kirsten Grohovsky was returning as Education Program Coordinator, as were naturalists Wes Nugteren, Tim Glenn and Jodi Gustafson. Susan would be taking a leave of absence this summer to have her baby; Sherry Brooks, MPRB Volunteer Coordinator, would fill in.

Melissa Hansen and Jayne Fund manned a Friends table at the February Wild Ones Conference. Two new members were obtained. More discussion was held on fundraising for the next boardwalk phase and on the idea of more advanced training for volunteers. President Pam announced that she would serve one more year as president so a replacement must be found.

Spring 2016

The next Friends Board meeting was on April 25 at the Kenwood Park Community Center. The Garden opened on April 1 for the season. Susan Wilkins was there to report, but started her leave the following week. Three Great Horned Owlets have been sighted in the conifers just outside the Garden fence. There was an early brush burn on the Prairie to keep woody plants under control. Those areas, under the new restoration plan announced last year, would be mowed and treated during the season to further control of sumac and blackberry. A problem occurred with newly planted basswood trees - rabbits liked them. So future plantings would need more protection than is usually done in the Garden.

The Wild Turkeys did considerable damage in the Garden, rooting up many of the new plants put in near the shelter and the boardwalk. Speaking of the boardwalk - it won People's Choice Award from the Minnesota Society of Landscape Architects.



One of the Great Horned Owlets. Photo ©Tammy Mercer.



One of the Wild Turkeys that caused havoc with plants in the Garden in 2015, this one strutting in front of the Martha Crone Shelter. Photo G D Bebeau.

Over the winter board member Gary Bebeau prepared a third name plate board for the Eliason Honor Board in the Shelter as space had run-out on the first two boards. He also arranged for the Friends to receive Amazon Smile donations.

Lauren Husting noted that there were a total of 45 volunteers on the shelter docent list this spring - "docent" was the new name for the shelter volunteers. The FIPAG (Friends Invasive Plants Action Group) scheduled five garlic mustard pulls beginning on May 7, but students from Blake School have already been there for one pull.

Steve and Sally Pundt reported on meetings of the Wirth Park Alliance Group to coordinate strategic planning with the Park Board. This is a community action group that the Park Board solicits comments from.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 64, no. 1) both President Pam and Susan Wilkins focused on the new spring season. Gary Bebeau contributed some history notes on past

spring seasons in the Garden. Newsletter designer John Toren wrote about what is on the other side of the Garden gate - the pleasures of the spring Garden.

Below: The Martha Crone Shelter with its new shingle roof installed during the winter. Photo G D Bebeau.



Summer 2016

The Friends annual meeting, was held at the Kenwood Park Community Center, 21st and Franklin Ave., Minneapolis on Sunday June 5, a later date than usual. Susan Wilkins could not attend due to maternity leave, but her seasonal replacement, Sherry Brooks filled in. Sherry gave the group her background, update notes on the season's staff and noted that the Showy Lady's-slippers had started blooming on May 30 - really early.

Gary Bebeau reviewed the financial information and the website. He presented a listing of all the funds the Friends have spent on Garden related projects since the Friends' founding in 1952. The total was \$298,000. A photo board was presented showing the house where Eloise Butler spent her winters in Malden MA. He also noted that website traffic was 38% above the prior year. The site now had 1,838 pages, all back issues of the newsletter, 11,800 photos, and 44 years of history were complete.

Jayne Funk's membership report showed 295 members of which 37 were life and 37 were courtesy. Jennifer Dunne would be soon replacing Lauren Husting as volunteer coordinator as Lauren had major post-graduate work coming up.

Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Kathy Connelly (new - 2nd term), Jennifer Dunne (new), Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Husting, Meleah Maynard, Betsy McNerney (new), Gloria Miller, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade, Anthony Waldera, Phoebe Waugh, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Vivian Mason, left the Board.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Pam Weiner President, Melissa Hansen Vice-president, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Lauren Husting - volunteers with Jennifer Dunne in training for the volunteer spot, Steve Benson - money management, Meleah Maynard - newsletter editor, Phoebe Waugh - historian; Jayne Funk - membership; Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (Liz Anderson co-chair).

Gary Bebeau made contact with a furniture maker he knew and obtained plans for a new custom made desk at a price no greater than ordering one from desk suppliers. An order was placed. A follow-up report from the Wirth Park Alliance Group was received, which noted that most major dollars that the Park Board had for development were going to go to a new welcome center near the ski area.

The Friends collected personal donations from Board Members for a hi-class Burley baby stroller for Susan Wilkins and her new baby Oliver William. It was delivered to Susan and her husband Casey on July 12.

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol.64, no. 2) Susan's new baby was announced. A photo of one of the new owlets taken by Naturalist Tammy Mercer was printed (shown on prior page). Susan's column will be resumed next year. Some spring photos were printed along with one of a pair of mink crossing Glenwood Ave.

The background history of the Eloise Butler Memorial Tablet was given; an interview with the Garden's program coordinator Kirsten Grohovshy was printed, several summer plants were highlighted in an article by Minnesota Landscape Arboretum naturalist Matt Schuth. In the FIPAG report, Dr. Lee Frelich of the University of Minnesota was quoted about the significance of the Maple Glen in Wirth Park, a Big Woods remnant, that FIPAG is currently working in.



Pam Weiner with Susan Wilkins and new baby Oliver. Shown here at the Volunteer Event later in the year. Photo Melissa Hansen.

During the summer 13 school groups came to the Garden with bus transportation subsidized by the Student Transportation Grant Program - 635 youngsters in 3rd and primarily 4th grades.

Autumn 2016

The Friends held a Board Meeting on October 17th at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Mark Addicks, who helped the Friends with a fundraiser at his house in 2015, came to the meeting to speak about fundraising topics for the next boardwalk phase. His suggestions would result in the Showy Lady's Slipper Days event of June 2017. Also presented for board approval was the registration statement to register the Friends under the Minnesota Charities Act for the fiscal year 2015 ended 30 April 2016. An annual report would be needed each year thereafter. Registration had not been needed as it was very rare for annual revenue to exceed the registration requirement.

Gary Bebeau was refinishing the main table and the six benches in the Martha Crone Shelter. All are badly worn and in need of facelift.

Below: The table in the Martha Crone Shelter after stripping and refinishing. Photo G D Bebeau.



In the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*[™] (Vol. 64, no. 3) Pam Weiner reviewed all the work that went into the first phase of the Garden boardwalk and thanked those who led the efforts at the Cuninghame Group and at the MPRB. She also announced that the Friends would begin a new campaign to raise funds for phase two of the boardwalk. She referred to the restoration ongoing in the Garden to control some of the very aggressive shrubs and brambles so that the Garden could remain a garden, not a wild patch of aggressive plants.

Donna Ahrens interviewed Garden Legacy Volunteer Jim Coleman. Photos of the annual volunteer event were included, and John Toren wrote about Acorn Bread. Jim Proctor and Liz Anderson summed up the years work for FIPAG and Jim wrote:

At times I get a bit overwhelmed by the scale of what we are trying to do, but all I have to do is look at the areas we started in almost a decade ago to remind myself of what is possible. In those areas I see a rich diversity of shrubs and young trees filling in the gaps left by Buckthorn, and a more varied ground layer of wildflowers. I see a protective zone surrounding our beloved Wildflower Garden, one that will send a rain of native seeds into its midst rather than a deluge of seeds of just a few invasive species. Now we are attempting the same strategy for another beautiful natural community close by.

FIPAG held three Buckthorn pulls in the Maple Glen next to the Garden, running into a lot of Poison Ivy.

Below: Volunteer Mary Furth with Buckthorn removed during the fall work in the Maple Glen.
Photo Liz Anderson.



The area of the Maple Glen FIPAG worked on in October 2106 before work started. Photo Liz Anderson.



The area of the Maple Glen FIPAG worked on in October 2106 after the work. Photo Liz Anderson.

The annual volunteer appreciation event was held on November 6th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis, our fifth year at that facility. The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes and the Park Board providing desserts.

Below: The Buffet scene from the 2016 Volunteer Event. Sally Lewis in the foreground, Gloria Miller behind her. Photo Melissa Hansen



Volunteer event - Lauren Husting and Marge Toff.



Volunteer event - The dishwasher crew - Steve Pundt and Gary Bebeau. Photo Melissa Hansen.

At the end of October, Friends membership was 304, including 37 life and 37 courtesy memberships. The Friends ended the year with assets of \$91,000. Revenue in this non-fundraising year was \$18,300 of which membership revenue was \$5,700, memorials were \$735, special donations were \$6,700. Expenses were \$10,474 of which \$878 went to the Park Board for the restoration effort, \$2,358 was spent on Student Transportation Grants, \$1,641 for volunteer support, and \$4,414 on the educational program. A \$524 deposit was made on the new desk for the shelter.

One new name plate was placed on the Eliason Honor Board in the shelter for memorials: Joel Kracker Jr.

Weather: While snowfall was moderate in the 2015/16 winter, the snow melted in time for an April 1 opening of the Garden. Summer rains made up the moisture with 2016 ending as the wettest year in recorded weather history. There was a sub-zero cold snap in early December, but snow was again, moderate.

Photo top of first page of 2016: The Upland hillside on Oct. 27, 2012. Photo G D Bebeau



2017

Winter 2016/2017

2017 begins the 110th year of the Garden, the 65th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 14th year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 6, 2017 at the home of President Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins was in attendance and back from her leave of absence. She reported that the conditions in the Garden indicated that the spring growing season would start early. Earthworms have been a worry of hers in recent years due to the damage they do to soil conditions. As they mix the soil they change the growing conditions for our plants. She was meeting with habitat restoration and natural resource management specialists to take in views of how to adapt. Echoing what Pam Weiner wrote in last fall's Friends newsletter, she said the Garden is a garden, not a wild place so it must be managed as a garden.

Gary Bebeau had added to the Friends' website historical lists of Friends Directors, Officers, and newsletter editors, from 1952 to the present. He also presented drafts of a proposed plant identification book for Garden plants. It would be 8-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches, spiral bound and would use thumbnail photos for identification. Cost was to be kept under \$10 per copy so they could be sold at a reasonable price. A few Board members offered to review and comment. He also announced that the new shelter desk that he had commissioned would be ready in April.



A bat nesting box located in the deep wooded area of the upland garden. Photo G. D. Bebeau

Fundraising for the boardwalk phase two was discussed and in coordination with Susan Wilkins, June 10-11 has been set aside as a Showy Lady's-slipper celebration at the Garden. The Friends would set up tables and provide volunteers in the Garden.

New volunteer coordinator Jennifer Dunne was rounding up volunteers for the shelter and had 24 solid commitments so far from her list of 42. A training session was scheduled for April 11.

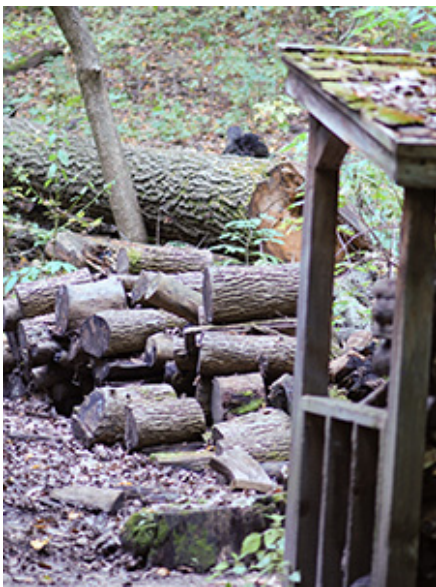
Spring 2017

Due to an early spring, the Garden was open on April 1st with spring plants already showing including Virginia Bluebells.

The next Friends Board meeting was on April 3rd at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Susan Wilkins reviewed which staff was returning for the season and who was new. A new program coordinator, Kari Vanstrom, was on board. Susan presented a list of Garden projects, but funding for the boardwalk was to take priority. The Friends were already committed for up to \$3,500 this year and 2018 for prairie restoration. An ADA compliance audit had been completed for the Garden, but the lack of funds to do anything and that there are certain historic place exceptions, would preclude any major changes. A large oak right behind the shelter was removed as it was rotting at the base.



Friends volunteer coordinator Jennifer Dunne. Friends photo



The remains of the old Oak tree taken down next to the Shelter.
Photo G D Bebeau

The board specified that the plant identification booklet Gary Bebeau was working on should be reviewed by a botanical expert and a copy editor. That work would go to Barb Delaney who had prepared the Garden plant census and Donna Ahrens, copy editor of the Friends' newsletter.

Newsletter editor Meleah Maynard, and her two helpers, John Toren and Donna Ahrens were leaving those positions in the fall. Garden naturalist Kari Christianson joined FIPAG (Friends Invasive Plant Action Group) as co-chair.

FIPAG conducted four Garlic Mustard pulls in May and early June. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) applied for a Department of Natural Resources \$55,000 matching grant to be used for the boardwalk, but the funds ultimately went to another entity.

More planning was done for the June Showy Lady's-sipper Celebration. Pam announced that Kathy Connelly had agreed to be the Friends new President.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 65, no. 1) President Pam wrote her last letter as President. She announced the capital campaign to fund the boardwalk phase two - Campaign 175 - a take on the need to raise \$175,000 and that this year was the 175th combined anniversaries of the Garden and the Friends. She also announced the June celebration event to the membership. A donation envelop was included with the mailing of the newsletter. New volunteer coordinator Jennifer Dunne was interviewed by Donna Ahrens. A brief history of the Fern Glen was given, along with photos of Spring blooms to be seen in the Garden. FIPAG showed photos of their work in the Maple Glen

On May 7, long-time board member Gloria Miller passed away. Gloria Miller wore many hats during her years of volunteer activity with Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. She served 17 years on the Friends Board of Directors over two intervals, the first beginning in 1985. She was twice President of the Friends (1986-1988 and 1997-1999), as well as serving for many years as a volunteer in the Garden's Martha Crone Shelter which she called her "weekly 'gift' of mental



Gloria Miller, Friends past president and board member. Friends photo.

relaxation and renewal." Also, as an artist and former art teacher, Gloria has shared her graphic skills. As a designer, she created the distinctive coneflower logo used on Friends' stationery, envelopes, note cards and a new member booklet titled *From The Friends to Friends*.

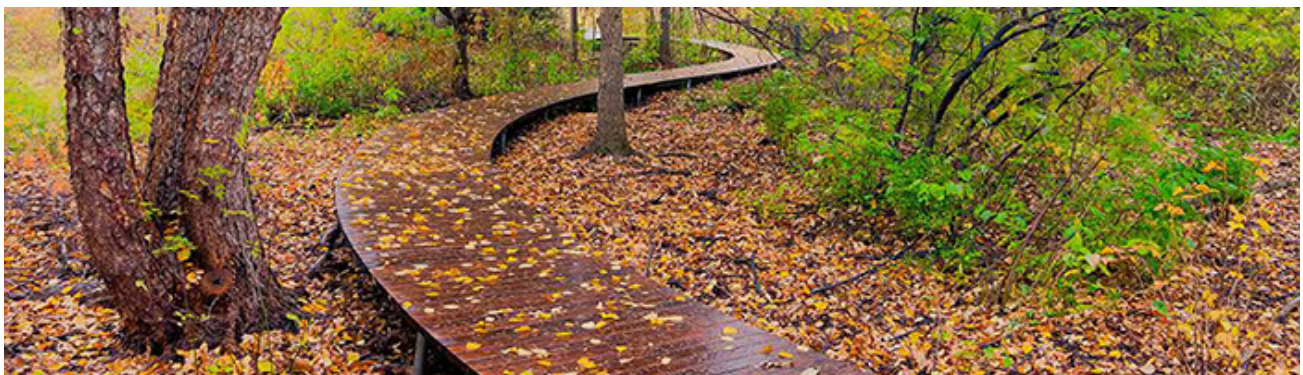
A native of North Dakota, she grew up enjoying the prairie wildflowers that were so abundant in the North Dakota countryside. Her favorites were the beautiful blue harebells and wild roses. Gloria was a graduate of Valley City State University in North Dakota, and also did graduate work at Moorhead State University. She taught in Montana and northern Minnesota prior to teaching in the Twin Cities. She was a tutor for Minneapolis Public Schools for home-bound and hospital-bound students. Gloria was a longtime member of the Richfield Garden Club and has participated in the Minneapolis Art Institute's "Art in Bloom" event. She once said of the

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden: "Most of all, the Garden is just good for the soul! There is no other place like it. ... I call it heaven on earth."

The Friends annual meeting, was held at the Kenwood Park Community Center, 21st and Franklin Ave., Minneapolis on Sunday May 21.

Susan Wilkins announced that the boardwalk had won a second award - the Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects, Minnesota Chapter. She then reviewed for everyone why the Garden is such a rich place and that the signage is being looked at for updating.

Photo below courtesy Cuningham Group - Landscape architects for the boardwalk project



Gary Bebeau reviewed the financial information and the website. The purpose for the website was to support the Garden and the Friends, to educate the public about the Garden, its history and its plants, and to be a repository of Friends history.

Jayne Funk's membership report showed 291 members of which 37 were life and 38 were courtesy. Phoebe Waugh would be stepping down as historian.

Elected to the Friends Board for the coming year were: Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Kathy Connelly, Jennifer Dunne, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Hustung, Betsy McNerney, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade, Pam Weiner and Susan

Wilkins (ex-officio). Anthony Waldera, Meleah Maynard and Phoebe Waugh left the board.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Kathleen Connelly President, Melissa Hansen Vice-president, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.

For Pam's retirement, a special seed/wood sculpture by Jim Proctor was commissioned and a special planting would be made near the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden. Funds for both items were collected personally from board members.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Jennifer Dunne (new) - volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Jennifer Olson (new) - historian, Jayne Funk - membership, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (with non-board members Liz Anderson and Kari Christianson, co-chairs).

Much discussion was had on the upcoming Showy Lady's-slipper Days event on June 10 and 11. Mark Addicks donated \$7,000 in order to cover the cost of 15 second spots that would air on Minnesota Public Radio beginning at the end of May. The Friends would have tables at the Garden entrance for membership, and merchandise sales. Pam had arranged for fabric items with Garden and Lady Slipper embroidery - hats, dish towels, tote bags, aprons, and baby bibs. Also, the note cards, designed for the 2007 Garden anniversary and sold out were reprinted and for sale. Eloise Butler would make an appearance. Posters were designed by Gary Bebeau for posting in the neighborhood.



The poster for Showy Lady's Slipper Days.



Gary Bebeau delivering the new shelter desk. Photo MPRB.

Steve Pundt had arranged for a bicycle raffle and for a sales table at the new brew-pub, Utepils, just down Glenwood Ave. from the Garden at 225 Thomas Ave. One-on-One Bicycle Studio would sell the Friends a hi-tech bike at cost and then provide \$350-\$400 of equipment for it. The bike would be on-display at Utepils on June 3 and June 10 -11. Raffle tickets were designed and printed, charitable gambling licenses were obtained from Minneapolis and the State. Raffle tickets would be \$5 and it was hoped that \$4,000 of tickets could be sold.

Gary Bebeau picked up the new shelter desk from the builder, Welchwood Cabinetry in Welch MN and delivered it the the shelter on Tuesday May 16. The desk was 30 x 50 inches and built of quarter sawn White Oak. Susan Wilkins and a few naturalists helped cart it down to the Shelter. The old desk was original to when the shelter was furnished in 1970. [Desk photo next page - G D Bebeau.]



Summer 2017

The big event to start of the summer was the Showy Lady's-slipper Days. The Lady's-slippers actually started blooming a good week prior but there were still nice clumps of bloom on this weekend - June 10/11. Saturday was sunny but Sunday was damp, but not bad. Anna Anderhagen again arrived in the form of Eloise Butler and provided historical backdrop for visitors. The Friends sold \$3,076 in raffle tickets, some merchandise and signed up eight new members. Total receipts after expenses were \$3,597.

Shortly after the event, a dead tree fell on the front gate completely crushing the wood arbor superstructure that had been put in place in 1992. The only piece salvaged was the plank with "Let Nature Be Your Teacher" carved on it. It was retained to add back when a new arbor was made.

Following the summer event, Pam Weiner continued in the role of fundraising head and sent a letter to membership on the Campaign 175.

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol.65, No. 2) Kathy Connelly wrote her first letter as president, expressing thanks to Pam



Turtles once again made a nest at the edge of the parking lot. Garden staff marked the area for protection. Photo G D Bebeau.

Weiner for her 10 years of service as president as expressing thanks for all who have helped the Friends.

Susan Wilkins listed all the staff at the Garden this summer. New Staff: Kari Ramstrom Garden Education Program Coordinator, Timothy Glenn Interpretive Naturalist (in a new role as lead daytime naturalist), Amie Durenberger Interpretive Naturalist, Maia Campbell Interpretive Naturalist, Chee Yang Natural Resources Specialist, Emily Christian Horticulture Support Intern, and Kathleen Mitchell Horticulture Support Intern. Returning interpretive naturalist staff were: Lauren Borer, Jodi Gustafson, Tammy Mercer, Wes Nugteren, Kyla Sisson, Kara Snow, and Ron Spinosa.

Below: The Garden gate after a falling tree destroyed the wood arbor structure. Photo G D Bebeau.



Below: Scenes from Showy Lady's-slipper Days. First photo - Jayne Funk and Roger Battreal man the Friends membership table at the front gate on June 10. Second photo - Jennifer Dunne (l.) and Melissa Hansen (r.) flank Eloise Butler who attended on June 11 and introduced herself to Garden visitors. Friends photos.



John Toren wrote in the newsletter on how to recognize the songs of certain birds. Eloise Butler was quoted writing about herself and Jim Proctor of FPAG wrote:

People often tell FIPAG volunteers that their efforts are wasted and futile. Nevertheless, they persist, and the results are not only obvious, but growing. Work at the maple glen will continue for several more years, but we have already begun to see the Big Woods re-emerging.

Following publication of the summer issue, editor Meleah Maynard had to retire early due to other commitments. Board member Betsy McNerney agreed to be the new editor for the fall issue.

During the summer 10 school groups came to the Garden with bus transportation subsidized by the Student Transportation Grant Program - 525 youngsters, all 4th graders. Transportation cost to the Friends - \$2,040.

Autumn 2017

FIPAG held three Buckthorn pulls in the Maple Glen next to the Garden, in October. Part of the work area shown below. Photo G D Bebeau.



The last 2017 Board meeting of the Friends was on October 16, held at the Kenwood Community Center. Susan Wilkins attended. Final plans were made for the Volunteer Appreciation Event to be held later in the month. Besides the usually committee and officer reports, fundraising for the boardwalk second phase was discussed, the first annual filing of the Minnesota Charities Report was reviewed and approved, and President Kathy Connelly initiated the process of a formal budget review for the upcoming year.

Volunteer chair Jennifer Dunne reported that there were 47 people on the volunteer roster with 38 as active Shelter Docents this year and that a great job of training had been done by Melissa Hansen and

Rod Miller. Jennifer presented her ideas for 2018 to make the volunteer experience even better for those who give their time and she had come up with a new training outline.

President Connelly issued a special letter to life members of the Friends to review with them the importance of the wetland boardwalk and of our needs for funding the second phase. Pam Weiner also wrote in a similar manner to a select list of potential donors - the list composed of persons known to love and support native plants. She also was continuing to contact foundations and grantors to further our cause.

Four hundred dollars was provided to MPRB to pay for special planting near the Garden shelter as an honor for Past President Pam Weiner. The Friends also paid \$3,500 to the Garden for the 2017 installment of prairie restoration work that was started in 2015 and continues into 2018.

The annual volunteer appreciation event was held on October 29th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis, our sixth year at that facility. The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes, free gardening books and the Park Board providing desserts. Sixty-three volunteers, Garden staff, and Friends Board members were attending. Catering of food was by Borders Cucina. For the first time a sales table was set-up during the event where Garden theme hats, dish towels, aprons, note cards and the new Plant Identification Book (book details below) were sold.

For several years running Pam Weiner had brought in a supply of donated books related to plants and gardening. The books were originally donated to an organization that ships donated books to other countries where specific books on North American plants and gardening would be of no use. Attendees at the event could take home what they wished. Photos (some shown here) by Melissa Hansen, Maggie Tuff and Karen Smudski were published in the fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM

Below: Volunteer Appreciation Event. First photo - Dave Stack, Jim Coleman, Bill Blood. Second photo - Jeff Mancl, Jim Proctor.



That fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 65, no.3) was Betsy McNerney's first as editor. She had Andrea Vollmer as volunteer designer and Emily Anderson and Denise Sterling as copyeditors.

Jim Proctor reviewed the work of FIPAG in the Maple Glen just south of the main gate. His concern was how to mitigate erosion on the slopes after removal of all the invasives. There was also the discovery that the bottom of the glen may actually be a vernal pool.

Susan Wilkins wrote about how the Garden is changing:

I admit I generally don't like change when it comes to the places I love. Here at the Garden, for instance, I like the forests to look and behave in ways that are familiar and to my liking: a healthy layer of leaf litter all season long; soft supple soil under the duff; an abundance of wildflowers, ferns, sedges, grasses, shrubs and trees; everything regenerating on its own with no invasive plants. But that's not what I see. The forests aren't behaving! The soils show bare by mid-summer, sometimes compacted and dry, many forest species are not regenerating and invasive plants are continually popping up.

Why? Relatively new factors like invasive plants and earthworms are infiltrating the forest, making conditions more inhospitable to native plants. Nature will continue to change in the "natural" ways we expect — e.g. forest succession and seasonal transformation — but in addition we are experiencing a host of other changes which bring new conditions to grapple with and will in turn influence the "natural" changes.

Kathy Connelly, in the issue's main article, describes what sets the Garden apart and contributes her take on what the Garden's main issues are.

We are in good hands – the current Curator has a vision for the Garden that is forward-thinking and science-based, and it appears that the Park Board and the City recognize that the Garden is the jewel of the award-winning Minneapolis park system. I would like to see the Friends continue to focus on making the Garden a welcoming place for children, especially children without other access to outdoor spaces, to safely play and learn.

The issue also highlighted the new *Photo Plant Identification Guide* just printed by the Friends in July and now available for purchase. The guide was printed on heavy stock paper, spiral bound, contained brief information about the Garden and the Friends and 640 photo thumbnails of 403 different Garden plants, arranged by scientific name within color groups. The guide will be useful anywhere in North American where this selection of wild flowers grows. Board member Gary Bebeau complied the



In the buffet line at the Volunteer Event are l to r: Maggie Tuff, Karen Smudski, Mary Steinbicker and Howard Towle.



The vernal pool at the bottom of the Maple Glen. Photo - Jim Proctor.

booklet from his photos and website data. The 1st print run of 80 was sold out by the end of the year and the second edition was printed at year-end

A new newsletter column was started by Jennifer Dunne titled “Ask Eloise” - it answered a few questions the visitors typically ask volunteers and Garden staff.

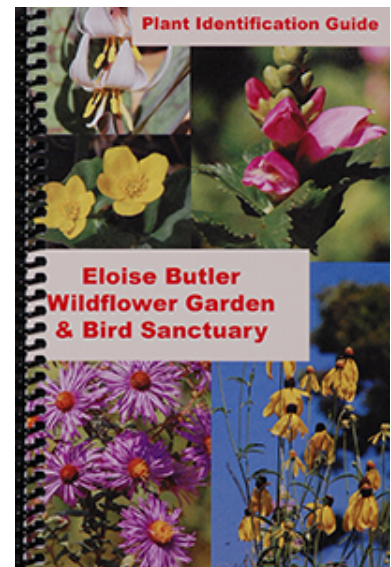
Summarizing the year:

Mission Project expenditures: \$3,900 to the Park Board - \$3,500 for the restoration effort, \$400 for a special planting and the balance owed on the new Shelter desk of \$940 was paid [total cost was \$1,440]. \$2,040 was spent on Student Transportation Grants.

Membership at year end totaled 318, of which 40 were life members and 39 courtesy memberships. Nine new name plates were placed on the Eliason Honor Board in the shelter for memorials: Molly George, Karen Arrel, Pam Weiner (in-honor-of), Laurie Snow, Natalie Tittrington Quinn, Gloria Miller, Heather Rueth, Vernon Brundell and Gladys Olson.

Weather: Like 2016, the snow melted early in spring bringing on one of the earliest spring seasons in recent years. Summer rains were adequate, but much less moisture than 2016 which was the wettest year in recorded weather history. There was a sub-zero cold snap in late December, but snow was, as in recent years, very light through the end of the year.

Photo top of first page of 2017: The Garden front gate on Jan. 12, 2017. Photo G D Bebeau





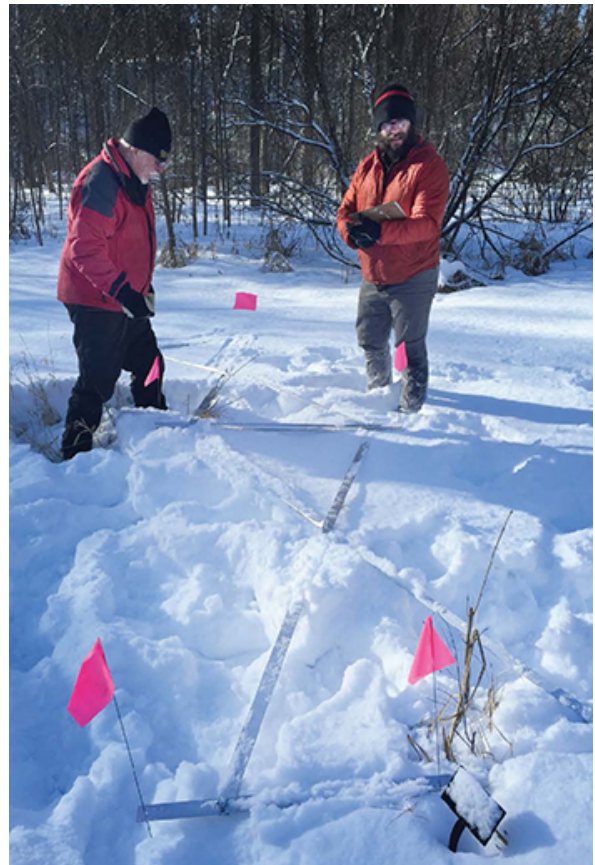
2018

Winter 2017/2018

2018 begins the 111th year of the Garden, the 66th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 15th year as Garden Curator.

The first Friends Board meeting of the year took place February 5, 2018 at the home of Pam Weiner. Susan Wilkins was in attendance and reported on major governance changes at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and on winter activities. First, Annie Young, 28 years as a commissioner, had passed away; then with the departure of Superintendent Jayne Miller to Pittsburgh, former Superintendent Mary Merrill was coming back as interim until the board selected a permanent candidate; and finally, many of the Board Commissioners are new in the posts following the last election when many of the previous commissioners did not stand for re-election and these commissioners are probably not familiar with the Friends or the Garden. As to the budget, Susan believed that she would have more naturalist resources available in 2018 than in 2017.

Susan also submitted three Garden proposals for the Friends to fund in 2019. A decision on these was delayed until the April meeting. Tyler Pederson, the MPRB planning person was working on phase II boardwalk cost estimates and contracts. It was decided that the best approach to achieve least cost would be for the Friends to directly fund the construction and installation costs and then gift them to the MPRB. Kathy Connelly and Steve Pundt were to work with MPRB attorneys on the drafting of an agreement. It was now estimated that the cost to the Friends would be around \$75,000. Contrary to these early expectations of having everything done by summer, it would be late fall before all the agreements and the pricing was finalized and winter before installation work could begin. The Park Board already had, at their expense, the heat treated ash lumber ready to install. Meanwhile, Susan and Tyler were refining the final design with James Robin of the Cuninghams Group.



James Robin (l) and Tyler Pederson (r) marking positions for the new boardwalk sections. Photo MPRB.

In *The Fringed Gentian*, spring issue, Vol. 66 no. 1, Susan noted:

It is late January and I've been out in the shining Garden this week working on a variety of projects. My first task was to stake out the next sections of the boardwalk in the Garden's wetland with landscape architect James Robin and Minneapolis Park Board design project manager Tyler Pederson. Although more than one of us (I won't say who!) temporarily lost our footing in the icy reaches of the open water below the snow, we successfully charted our way through the wetland with drawings, templates, tape measures and marking flags.

To accommodate the placement of the boardwalk, a few large Green Ash trees would need to be removed along the wetland trail. Susan provided a second reason why ash trees are being removed - Emerald Ash Borer:

We have been methodically removing specific ash trees in the Garden while they are still alive. One infested, they are difficult to safely cut down without causing harm to nearby trees and shrubs. We don't want to delay removal, as their branches will become brittle and break off, posing a hazard for visitors and staff.

As part of the new Friends budget process instituted by President Kathy Connelly last year, a proposed 2018 budget was presented, modified and approved. She also provided an update of the MPRB proposal to allow people to forage in the parks. Certain areas that are vulnerable such as the Garden itself and the Volunteer Stewardship Area outside the Garden could be delineated as protected areas.

Volunteer coordinator Jennifer Dunne was modifying the training program to include a minimum number of days that volunteers had to work so as to keep their training fresh in their minds and to give satisfaction that the time is worthwhile. Jennifer planned to step down from the coordinator position by the end of the year.



The Garden front gate buried in snow on April 5, 2018. Note the wood arbor destroyed in 2017 has not yet been replaced. Photo G D Bebeau

Fundraising for the boardwalk phase II was continuing under Pam Weiner's direction. Mark Addicks and Tom Hoch had committed \$35,000 in matching funds. No other major donors were known as this time.

The treasurer's report for calendar year 2017 was submitted in abstentia and approved. Jayne Funk's membership report totaled membership at 285. Jayne and Lauren Husting manned a table at the annual Wild Ones Conference on February 17. Four memberships were obtained and 12 plant books sold. Betsy McNerney was at work on the

spring newsletter. The board decided that the current newsletter issue should be available immediately on the Friends website for anyone who wants to see it. Gary Bebeau implemented the procedure and also created a browser friendly html version of the current issue and added the html version to the newsletter archive.

Spring 2018

April 1st is the target date for opening the Garden season. It is often missed when winter refuses to leave. This year's refusal was historical. By the time the ice on the trails melted it was May 1 - the latest opening date known. Late March snows plus 8+ inches on April 2 and 3 with more heavy snow on 13th, 14th and 15th gave us 25.2 inches for the month, an all time record for April, breaking the 1983 record of 23.8 inches, and it was only the 15th of the Month.



Two views of Birch Pond just west of the Garden parking lot, in April after a large snow fall.
Above: April 5, 2018, following the 11 inch snowfall of April 2/3, photo by G D Bebeau. **Below:** Birch Pond on April 14, 1949 following a 9-1/2 inch snowfall. Photo by Martha Crone. In both years the opening of the Garden was affected by heavy snows.



Before the Garden opened, the Friends held a Board meeting on April 16th at the Kenwood Park Community Center. Both Curator Susan Wilkins and project manager Tyler Pederson were present to review the status of the boardwalk. The educational meeting area planned on the boardwalk near the Showy Lady's-slippers had been expanded to accommodate 12 seated, 12 standing and still room for others to pass through. The donation agreement with the MPRB was still being developed but the Friends would have an agreed cap of \$75,000. The Garden staff was working on planning for programs once the Garden opened.

The board approved two of the three Garden projects for 2019 that were presented in February by Susan Wilkins. Approved were native shrub planting between Geranium Path and Lady Slipper Lane with an estimated cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000; and prairie plantings in the newly restored and managed areas of the Upland Garden with an estimated cost \$3,000 to \$3,500.

For the past three years the Friends have provided funds for the removal of invasive species and restoration of the areas in both the wetland and the upland prairie, principally Reed Canary Grass and Buckthorn in the wetland and sumac, various berries (*Rubus* species) and Buckthorn in the prairie area. The removal was done partially by Garden staff in the wetland and by Prairie Restorations Inc. in the

prairie. The funding approved above would fill in areas left bare and control the re-emergence of the unwanted species.

Gary Bebeau filed a short-year form 990 report with the Internal Revenue Service to change the Friends fiscal year from ending April 30 to ending on December 31, effective for 2017. This had been voted on by the Board several times in the past but nothing had ever been filed to make it official.

Volunteer coordinator Jennifer Dunne held a training session on May 8 for 6 new volunteers and 34 who were returning from 2017. The late Garden opening had forced the meeting to be rescheduled twice



An area of the prairie cleared of sumac and blackberry - part of the 3-year restoration work. Photo G D Bebeau.



The front gate after MPRB carpenters installed the new replacement arbor. Photo G D Bebeau.

Spring catches up quickly when winter hangs around too long. The week of May 5 to 13 had 84 degree temperatures and all the Trilliums in bloom, plus Marsh Marigold and Skunk Cabbage in the wetland. In addition the spring warblers were passing through. By the third week of May the summer bird residents were nesting and the leaf canopy was fully extended. (1)

By the time the Garden opened, the Park Board carpenters had reconstructed the wood arbor over the front gate that had been destroyed by a falling dead tree last summer. If you compare the look of the gate in the winter photo shown above to the look after the arbor is back in place you can see the wisdom of former Gardener Cary George. It was Cary who had suggested the wooden arbor. Back on

October 21st, 1989 he had stated at a Friends Board meeting **"I hope enough money can be found to add a wooden archway so that visitors may symbolically enter into the Garden."** It was also he who came up with the quotation from Wordsworth that is inscribed over the gate.

In the spring issue of *The Fringed Gentian*™ (Vol. 66, no. 1) the lead article was on *Forest Bathing, A Mindful Walk in the Woods*, by MPRB Interpretive Naturalist Kyla Sisson. The topic is a fairly new one for most readers. Kathy Connelly reviewed what the Friends have been doing; Susan Wilkins wrote about the winter work in the wetland preparing for the boardwalk installation and about the change in the tree inventory of the Garden following the loss of all the elms in the last century. A review of the book *How Trees Think* by Peter Wohlleben was included along with several naturalist articles on spring ephemerals and the **Maple Glen** where the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAC) was doing work.

On May 13, Mother's Day, Friends members and volunteers were at the Garden to man a membership table and assist in helping visitors. The group included Jennifer Dunne, Rod Miller, Kay Orr, Joan Thompson, Mary Steinbicker, Betsy McNeerney, Leslie Gillette, Diane Newberry, Nancy Nikora,

Melissas Hansen, Linda Fritschel, Anne Morrow, Roger Battreall, Jayne Funk and Gary Bebeau. Six memberships were sold and eight plant books sold.

The Friends annual membership meeting, was held at the Kenwood Park Community Center, 21st and Franklin Ave., Minneapolis on Sunday May 20. Attendance was sparse and a quorum just reached. Refreshments were provided by Board members.

The nominating committee for the Board of Directors slate consisted of Kathy Connelly, Sally Pundt and Colin Bartol. Summary reports of Friends activities were available for those attending. Elected to the Board for one year terms were Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Kathy Connelly, Jennifer Dunne, Jayne Funk, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Hustung, Betsy McNerney, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Barry Schade, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio).

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Kathleen Connelly President, Melissa Hansen Vice-president, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.



The spot in the wetland where Phase II of the boardwalk will begin. Photo G D Bebeau.



The newly restored basin of the Amy Odell birdbath. The pedestal is original 1968. Photo G D Bebeau.

Continuing in committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials and website, Jennifer Dunne = volunteers, Steve Benson - money management, Jennifer Olson - historian, Jayne Funk - membership, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (with non-board members Liz Anderson and Kari Christianson, co-chairs).

With the delayed start to the season, FIPAG held only 3 Garlic Mustard Pulls this spring - on May 5, May 20 and June 3, all in areas previously worked in.

Last summer a dead tree had fallen and destroyed the wood arbor over the front gate to the Garden. This spring another tree fell on the Amy Odell birdbath near the shelter and broke the limestone bowl. The

MPRB cement shop foreman was able to fashion a new one out of the same limestone - it looked just like the old one - missing only the age patina. Amy Odell was the wife of Friends founder Clinton Odell. All memorials in the Garden can be viewed on the website.

Summer 2018

Summer had no large surprises at the Garden. There was abundant rain and very few days with temperatures above 90 degrees. One historical event was the removal of the well head and the capping of the well at the Great Medicine Spring, just west of the Garden. Tests had shown arsenic contamination above the Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water, so on June 25 a crew removed the pump, pump platform and capped the well. The pump handle had been removed in 2014 to prevent people drinking the water. The pump and well were the result of the attempt of the Friends

to rejuvenate the flow of the Great Medicine Spring in 1999/2000. The flow of the natural spring had dried up in earlier years with only a trickle now and then. After the tornado of 2011 that went through the area, that part of the park was left to grow wild. Full details on the history of the spring are in Volume 1, appendix 9.

Below: The area of the Great Medicine Spring after removal of the pump and platform (the dirt area behind the old catch basin stonework, which remains. Photo G D Bebeau.



Removal of invasive species during the summer was an ongoing project by the staff in the wetland and by the staff and Prairie Restorations in the upland.

At a planning meeting held in June at Utepils (a brewhouse) board members decided to implement an email news program for members that had given us permission to use their email addresses for communication. It was decided to use the MailChimp program as it is free use for less than 2000 addresses. Gary Bebeau set up the program and Lauren Husting composed the first emails. (Example follows text)

In the summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol.66, no. 2) a group of Garden naturalists wrote a number of short essays on “*Shiny Stuff and other Garden Wonders.*” Naturalist Tammy Mercer contributed another birding article titled “*Baby Songbirds have Hardworking Parents.*” In addition she listed 25 birds commonly seen in the Garden during breeding season. The website has a long list of birding articles written by Tammy



An area of the wetland partially cleared of invasive species. Photo G D Bebeau.

over a number of past years. Another article about the impact of earthworms was written by FIPAG co-coordinator Liz Anderson and echoes recent discussions Susan Wilkins has had with the Friends about their effect in the Garden.



A group of 4th grade students on a summer school visit - one of 8 groups from the Student Transportation Grant Program. Photo Wendy Trembly.

During the summer 8 schools sent children to the Garden with bus transportation subsidized by the Friends [Student Transportation Grant Program](#) - 560 youngsters, all 4th graders. Transportation cost to the Friends - \$2,040.

Board member Gary Bebeau put together in book form a history of former Curator Martha Crone's 53 years of service to and support of the Garden. The title was "*This satisfying pursuit - Martha Crone and the Wild Flower Garden.*" It was posted on the website in [downloadable pdf format](#), 176 pages. It included her background as a helper to Eloise Butler, her years as Curator and her 20 years of involvement with the Friends.

He also compiled a research document on the history of open water pools in the Garden. Susan Wilkins prompted the additional research with a question on the position and naming of the Garden pool at the north end of the Garden. There were a number of documents that provided insight to the current and past water pools, including Eloise Butler's Mallard Pool, which was located outside of the current Garden boundaries, but no single document that tied all the information together. [This document is available on the website.](#)

Autumn 2018

FIPAG held three Buckthorn pulls in the Maple Glen next to the Garden, in October, on the 7th, 13th and 21st. This has been the area of concentration since 2014. Canada Rye seed was scattered on the disturbed soil to help stabilize the ground. A ground cover such as this was recommended by Dr. Lee Frelich, Director of the Center for Forest Ecology at the University of Minnesota. Also on his recommendation list was milkweed and [Pennsylvania Sedge](#).

The last 2018 Board meeting of the Friends was on September 29, held at the Kenwood Community Center. Final plans were made for the Volunteer Appreciation Event to be held in October. Besides the usually committee and officer reports, the fundraising efforts of Pam Weiner for the phase II boardwalk were acknowledged. That fundraising is now complete as the Friends have sufficient funds to complete the project. Also, President Kathy Connelly had initiated a process of a formal budget review in 2017 and at this meeting the budget for 2019 was approved.

The process of moving the boardwalk to completion was just



Volunteers in the Maple Glen using weed wrenches to remove stumps of buckthorn that have re-sprouted from previously cut plants. Photo Kari Christianson.



Delivery of sections of the new boardwalk at the end of November. Photo MPRB.

about finished. During October the design was finalized. It was found that additional posts were needed for stabilization, resulting in a change order, but the fabricator, Wickcraft in Wisconsin, was beginning fabrication of the sections. They already had the ash wood from the Park Board for the treads at their site. The sections would end up being delivered November 29. Total cost to the Friends was \$50,765 for the sections. Kathy Connelly had visited with Wickcraft at the Garden in early November to confirm some details. The old section of the boardwalk from the 2015 phase I had some areas where it was sinking. Stabilization plates were needed to shore that up and the Park Board was going to pay for that out of their maintenance budget. The next cost will be the installation. Trail Source was selected by the Park Board as the installation contractor and their bid was expected to be about \$15,000. They will do the installation work during the winter.

Two major pronouncements came from the Park Board in the Fall. First was the passing of a resolution to ban the use of glyphosate on all Park property. There was a partial ban in effect in previous years. It was to be worked out in 2019 how the implementation would work and how it would affect the Garden. The second pronouncement concerned the budget. An initial budget reduction proposal was to reduce the staffing hours at the Garden by 400. This would be done by opening later than April 1, closing earlier in the fall or closing on Mondays. Kathy Connelly used the new "E-news" program to communicate the information to our members, asking them to respond directly to the Park Commissioners. Kathy sent a letter from the Friends Board laying out our opposition. (copy follows text). On November 14, the Park Commissioners modified the draft budget to restore funding for the Garden. It was not yet final, but a good omen.

The annual volunteer appreciation event was held on October 28th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis, our seventh year at that facility. (photos next page) The Friends provided beverages, food, door prizes, free gardening books and the Park Board providing desserts. Over sixty volunteers, Garden staff, and Friends Board members were attending. Catering of food was by Borders Cucina.

For several years running Pam Weiner has brought in a supply of donated books related to plants and gardening. The books were originally donated to an organization that ships books to other countries where specific books



In the buffet line at the Volunteer Event, l to r, Jim Coleman, Gary Bebeau, Meg Forney, Becca Brackett, Howard Towle and Bill Blood. Photo Maggie Tuff.

on North American plants would be of no use. Attendees at the event could take home what they wished. Photos were published in the Fall issue of the newsletter. Photo below - Karen Smudski.



The fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 66, no. 3) was Betsy McNerney's last as editor. She still had Andrea Vollmer as volunteer designer and Denise Sterling as copyeditor.

In the newsletter Susan Wilkins summarized the Garden's past season. Over 14,000 visitors were logged stopping in to the Martha Crone Shelter. She noted:

This is the highest count on record in recent history. It means that thousands of people each month had an opportunity to connect with staff and volunteers in the Shelter to learn more about the flora and fauna and the rich history of American's oldest public wild flower garden. It is exciting to know that the Garden is appreciated by so many - far more than we can count! As only a portion of visitors stop at the Shelter during their visit to the Garden, staff are looking into ways to capture a precise number of total visitors.(3)

Susan also noted that two new toddler/pre-school Garden programs were very successful: Nature Tots (weekly) and Garden Story Time (twice weekly) with over 560 registered participants. Over 3,000 people participated in free and paid programs. There were also over 80 special group programs with 1,370 youth and adults taking part.

Also in the newsletter, Kathy Connelly noted changes in Board member responsibilities, including Betsy McNerney stepping down as newsletter editor. Lauren Husting was now setting up the "Friends News" emails and Melissa Hansen was taking over volunteer responsibilities for the second time.



At the Volunteer Event, Kathy Connelly (l) and Susan Wilkins (r) Photo Karen Smudski.

The lead article in the newsletter was about “*The Brilliance of the Forest*” by MPRB Naturalist Ron Spinoso - an article on colorful mushrooms and molds found in the Garden. Betsy McNerney reviewed what Mary Furth does in her patch of the Garden that she is responsible for as a volunteer Legacy Steward. Gary Bebeau’s book on Martha Crone was reviewed.

The Garden closed on weekdays on October 15 but remained open on weekends through the end of October. By mid-month most of the passing warblers had left. The white and yellow fall flowers were still blooming and the mushrooms and fungus were putting on a very nice colorful display according to the

Garden Naturalist’s Phrenology Notes.

As a follow-on to Gary Bebeau’s book on Martha Crone, he produced two additional volumes detailing the events of the years of Eloise Butler’s tenure and those of Martha Crone. His previous book on Martha Crone was more her history and not a year-by-year summary of her years as Curator. Likewise, [Martha Hellander’s](#) book on Eloise Butler - *The Wild Gardener* - did not cover the specific events of each year in chronological order. The Crone book is titled “*The Native Plant Reserve in Glenwood Park, 1933-1958,*” 228 pages, and the Butler book is titled “*The Wild Botanic Garden, 1907 - 1933,*” 294 pages. Both were listed on the website in downloadable pdf format.

The 2nd Edition of the Plant Identification Guide was printed at the beginning of the year. It was expanded to 142 pages from 75, contained larger photos, more photos (1,015) and more plants (437) were covered.

Friends director Barry Shade resigned from the Board at the end of year.

Summarizing the year for the Friends:

Mission Project expenditures: \$3,479 to the Park Board for the habitat restoration efforts; \$50,765 to Wickcraft for boardwalk construction; \$2,040 was spent on Student Transportation Grants; \$19 for Junior Naturalist backpack supplies; and \$1,550 for volunteer support. Membership at year end totaled 277, of which 41 were life members and 37 courtesy memberships.

A major donation this year was \$35,000 from Mark Addicks and Tom Hoch in support of the boardwalk project. Two new name plates were placed on the Eliason Honor Board in the shelter for memorials: Alice Lindquist Lundblad and Penny Jacobs.

Weather: Unlike 2016 and 2017, the snow did not melt early, resulting in the latest Garden opening known. Spring and summer rains were very good, without extremely hot weather. Temperatures in December were above normal, with very little snow through the end of the year.

Photo top of first page: A panorama of the Maple Glen with its hillside of Interrupted Ferns, on August 9, 2018. Photo G D Bebeau

Below: The Friends first e-news **bulletin**.

From: **Friends of the Wildflower Garden** news@friendsofeloisebutler.org
Subject: Budget News & Boardwalk Updates
Date: December 11, 2018 at 5:03 PM
To: Gary gbebeau@gmail.com



You are receiving this email as a member of the Friends of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden



MPRB Restores The Garden's Full Budget!

We did it! Thank you for your emails, letters and calls calling for the withdrawal of the proposed cuts to the Garden budget. On Wednesday, the park board voted to approve the budget with the full Garden funding restored. Because of the outpouring of support, the new members of the park board gained greater appreciation of how important the Garden is to all of us, and learned what a valuable and unique place it is within the park system.

[Send MPRB a Thank You!](#)

What's Happening This Winter?



November 7, 2018

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., as its president. We are a 66 year old citizens' support organization for the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in Theodore Wirth Park. We are an active, invested and knowledgeable group of citizens devoted to the well being of the Garden. We have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of structures, hardscaping, plant materials, and thousands of hours of services. We, the Friends, have more than 225 lifetime and dues-paying members. Our popular website draws between 2,500 and 4,500 unique visits each week.

Our activities include recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers who supplement MPRB staffing at the Martha Crone Visitor Center, removing invasive plants from the Garden and its margins, and publishing a beautiful and informative newsletter, the Fringed Gentian. The Friends have made significant donations of Garden amenities including the Martha Crone Visitor Shelter and more recently, the award-winning boardwalk through the Garden's wetland.

We appreciate that producing a budget for an organization like the Minneapolis park system is a demanding task, and we respect the effort. However, we must respectfully object to any cuts to the Garden budget.

The Garden's Purpose

The Garden is a quiet place where Minneapolis residents from all walks of life and points of view come together to rest, think and encounter each other. Differences fall away there, and the Garden becomes a cradle of peace where a common affinity for nature creates common ground. On any given day, visitors speaking languages from European, Asian and African countries can be heard conversing there. The availability of this place every day of the week, from early morning through evening ensures that whenever a person's daily schedule permits a visit, the Garden will be open to them.

Visitors to the Martha Crone Shelter in the Garden have increased from about 8,000 in 2007 to more than 14,000 in 2017. Not all Garden visitors enter the Shelter. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of visitors to the Garden itself can be arrived at by multiplying the number of Shelter visitors by between 4 and 6. This means that there were between 56,000 and 84,000 visits to the Garden in 2018.

The Garden hosts families, scout troops, youth clubs, school groups, early childhood care centers/schools, recreational-based youth groups, homeschool groups – children are ever present in the Garden. It is a place where they can safely play and learn in the woods located in the center of the city.

Educational STEM programming is a key function of the Garden. In 2018, 588 children were served in fee-based public programs, and 1,079 children were served in special (non-public) programs. Please see Attachment A for a list of the schools served. The Friends fund a transportation program that ensures access to the Garden for programming. Programs explore history, science and aesthetics. Please review the public program summaries attached as Attachment B, and the fee-based course titles attached as Attachment C.

Opening and Closing Schedule

The proposed budget suggests changing the Garden's opening and closing dates. The Friends strongly oppose abbreviating the Garden season. The Garden normally opens April 1, if paths are dry enough. In 7

of the last 12 years, the Garden has been able to open on or about April 1. In other years, the paths have been too wet. With the boardwalk's completion this fall, path condition will be less of an issue and a regular April 1 opening will be possible. This is important in part because the Garden boasts the presence of the snow trillium, a species of special concern in Minnesota. The opportunity to see it blooming is a highlight of the spring for many, as is the chance to see the early spring flowering of the witch hazel (rare in Minnesota) as well as the hazelnut, with its early spring fuchsia blooms.

October sees some of the most favorably reviewed visits to the Garden. At the Friends' recent volunteer recognition event, the possibility of losing October hours was a matter of significant and vocal concern. This most beautiful season in the Garden must not be eliminated. Because of the unique topography of the Garden, the fall is a particularly beautiful time to view the contours of the land, carpeted with the bright colors of fallen leaves. Because so much of the other public spaces in the city are covered with invasive buckthorn, the Garden provides an unusual opportunity to see a Big Woods type environment without driving an hour or more from the city.

Weekly Schedule

The proposed cuts also include closing one day a week during the proposed abbreviated season, because "Monday closures are not uncommon for museums and botanical gardens." The University of Minnesota maintains a list of public gardens in Minnesota. Using that list, I surveyed the gardens' hours. There are no public gardens that close on Mondays in Minnesota (other than the Bakken Garden that closes Mondays because the only way to access it is through the museum that is closed on Mondays). The Garden staff has always been able to complete its work with visitors present with safety precautions taken as needed, and have not requested that the Garden be closed so they could work. We are not persuaded that closing the Garden one day a week is necessary for a Minnesota garden of this size that is so very popular, and strongly oppose shortening the Garden's season opening and closing.

Daily Schedule

We understand that there is some support for changing the hours each day that the Garden is open, with a standard closing time at night, rather than tying the closing time to sunset. While it is a charming tradition to close the Garden at a time tied to the sunset, we also understand that the standardization of the closing hours may give staff a more regular schedule, as well as reducing confusion on the part of the public as to the Garden's hours.

Reduction in Staffing Hours

The proposed budget cuts require reduction in FTEs or in hours or both. But the demand for programming at the Garden exceeds available staff as it is. And, the public programs are often fee-based. We have been told that some requests for programming are currently denied for lack of staff. These public and educational programs offer opportunities for outdoor exercise and education for children and fit the Garden's purpose. So long as there is a demand, FTEs and hours should be increased, not decreased.

In fact, we believe that a way should be found to make the Environmental Education Program Coordinator at the Garden into a full time position. Trained personnel serving as Coordinator have resigned to take other opportunities that provide a reliable living wage and schedule. When this happens, it becomes necessary to recruit and train replacements, at avoidable expense. This training is conducted by the Curator, during the busiest time of the season and competes for her time that could be spent doing work

more suited to her special expertise. The Coordinator then needs to develop curricula, programming and materials, to schedule sessions and to engage in outreach to ensure availability of programming to as many people as possible. During the winter when the Garden is closed, if it were a full time position, the Coordinator could be engaging in outreach, priming the education program to provide a unique learning opportunity in the natural sciences to school children through the city. The position should be fully funded as a permanent full time position.

Summary

No cuts to the Garden budget should be considered, because available data do not support the specific reductions. The Environmental Education Program Coordinator position should be made a full time position, beginning immediately, because the Coordinator can create programming that will generate revenue, and enrich the experiences of hundreds of school children in STEM education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments, and for your consideration. I ask that this letter and attachments be included in the public record for the administration and finance committee meeting tonight.

Best,

Kathy Connelly

President,
Friends of the Wildflower Garden, Inc.



2019

Winter 2018/2019

2019 begins the 112th year of the Garden, the 67th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 16th year as Garden Curator.

It was one of those years when a long sought-after goal was achieved - the completion of the wetland boardwalk - the planning for which began ten years prior in 2010. The year was also kind to the vegetation in the Garden as rainfall was timely and in November 2019 there were large snowfalls to protect the plants, so large that by November month-end all previous annual precipitation records were broken and at year end the historic mark was 43.17 inches of precipitation.

However, this being Minnesota there were a few other curves: It was not until January 19 that we had our first below zero temperature - the latest date ever, but January 28 gave us the coldest day in 26 years at 28 degrees below zero F; February set a snowfall record of 38.9 inches, a foot more than the previous record and the 4th snowiest month ever in the Twin Cities.

The Friends held their first Board meeting of the year on February 4 at Past-president Pam Weiner's house. There was much to discuss. First was the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's (MPRB) proposal (noted in 2018 history) to ban pesticides (which includes herbicides and fungicides) in city parks. There has been opposition raised about how control of certain invasive species will be handled, particularly large Buckthorn stumps that cannot be pulled out and must be treated to prevent re-sprout. The issue was not decided at this date but the ban was put into place later in the year.

During the winter the 2nd half of the wetland boardwalk was installed [photos next page] with a few minor finishing touches to be done in April. The first section of the boardwalk installed in 2015 was reinforced with special support plates to keep the support piers from sinking too far in to damp wetland soil during the freeze-thaw cycle of our winters. The MPRB was paying for the upgrade. Dedication of the final section was set for April 26 which would also be



Above: An example of Buckthorn resprouting when trunks are cutoff but not treated. Photo G D Bebeau.

Arbor Day celebration in Wirth Park.



Installation of the boardwalk in late winter. Photo MPRB.



Examples of the boardwalk support plates that were also installed in the 2015 section. Photo G D Bebeau.

Plans were reviewed for a special event at the Garden around the time of the Lady's-slippers blooming. President Kathy Connelly had drafted a Restated Articles of Incorporation, the first revision since 1991, and those were approved. A bylaw revision was being worked on.

Membership and treasurer's reports were received by email as both Jayne Funk and Gary Bebeau were absent from the meeting.

In other activities, volunteer coordinator Melissa Hansen said that the MPRB was requiring a new volunteer application form that would be submitted directly to them for processing and background checks. Colin Bartol was taking over editorship of the newsletter; Jennifer Olson was working on having a guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends. Jim Proctor undated the Board on what FIPAG (Friends Invasive Plant Action Group) had accomplished in the Maple Glen last fall. He also noted that Liz Anderson was no longer going to be co-coordinator of the group as she wanted to spend more time on other volunteer work.

On February 19 the annual Wild Ones Conference was held in St. Paul and the Friends had a sponsorship table. Visitors learned about the Friends and the Wildflower Garden. The Friends' Garden-themed note cards and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Plant Identification Book were available for purchase.

In mid-February the Friends received an anonymous donation of \$50,000 to support the Wildflower Garden. This was the largest single donation ever received by the Friends.

Spring 2019

The ice and snow stuck around long enough such that the Garden did not open until April 8, then had to close again for a major snowstorm on April 10/11 leaving 8.9 inches of new snow. Snow Trilliums were in bloom before the storm. The boardwalk installation however was finished by April 1 so all was ready for the dedication. Trail Source did the installation with assistance from Landscape Architect James Robin. The Garden reopened on April 17. The resident foxes of the Garden again had a litter of kits.

Seventy-five years previously Martha Crone wrote in her Garden Log on April 1, 1944:

Six inches snow covering the ground. Nothing up and still very cold. Heavy snow storm in November followed by mild weather during December, January and February. March has been cold." On April 2nd "the temperature was 14 above in the morning. Pails of water frozen almost solid in the office.

Below: The completed boardwalk on April 9 before the heavy snow that forced the Garden to close until April 17.
Photo G D Bebeau



The spring meeting of the Friends Board was on April 1 at the new Trailhead Building in Wirth Park - a test run to see if the facility would work for meetings - not satisfactory due to noise level. Kathy Connelly presented the revised bylaws and they were approved They replaced the 2015 revision. (Both the bylaws and the new restated articles are in Volume 1, appendix 14.) Melissa Hansen went over the new shelter volunteer procedures where reference checks and background checks were now handled by the MPRB, not our volunteer coordinator. An orientation was set for April and new volunteers would again have to shadow an experienced volunteer through a training shift. Seven new volunteers have signed up.

Resignations from the Friends Board were received from Jennifer Dunne and Jayne Funk. The Minnesota Charities Report for 2018 was approved for filing. Susan Wilkins had submitted in January a list of projects for funding in the year 2020. Two were selected and approved -

1. Purchasing up to 1,500 sedges to fill in bare areas of the woodland hillsides and
2. Purchasing up to 1,000 wildflowers and ferns to plant between the front entrance and the shelter along the trail.

The total cost was estimated to be \$7,000.

A new 3-year membership category was approved, principally to be used for gift memberships.

The final plans for Arbor Day on April 26 were reviewed. The Garden staff was planning a Family Day for a Sunday in June and Director Steve Benson was working on the Friends part of the activities.

The Arbor Day official event was from 4 PM to 8 PM but at 3 PM the boardwalk dedication was held. The Friends had a small information table in the patio area of the Shelter. Board members and volunteers assisted Garden staff on the events of the Day. Jennifer Olson prepared a handout on Minneapolis Heritage Trees that were in Wirth Park and on the reverse side was information about the Tamarack. Activities in Wirth Park included a tree planting, tree climbing, a nature play, a 5K race plus games, a food truck and beer garden.

The total cost of the entire boardwalk was just under \$300,000 not including some expenses related to the wood and some maintenance work incurred by MPRB. The Friends had contributed \$148,104 for the entire project.

The boardwalk dedication on April 26, 2019. L to r: MPRB Commissioner Jono Cowgill; Friends' Board Member Pam Weiner; donor Tom Hoch, MPRB Commissioner Meg Forney; donor Mark Addicks; Friends President Kathy Connelly. MPRB photo.



On Mother's Day, May 12, the Friends had an information table on the patio in the Garden with Kathy Connelly, Janet Anderson, Gary Bebeau and Christi Bystedt helping. Six new members were obtained.

Editor Colin Bartol's first issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 67 No. 1) came out in April. It included articles about the Purple Pitcher plant, saving the Monarchs and the Aurora Borealis. Susan Wilkins reviewed the boardwalk project; Kathy Connelly gave notice of the upcoming annual meeting and FIPAG reviewed their recent work.

Garden Curator Susan Wilkins wrote in that issue:

The return of spring is such a heartening part of our four season cycle. It feels like a genuine miracle, to have the warming earth re-awaken the vibrancy of our sensory awareness. Especially those senses that can almost go dormant in the winter, like one's sense of smell. Until a whiff of damp earth reminds a woodland walker how much they longed for a mossy moment in the thawing sprawl of a spring forest.

A celebration of completion of the boardwalk was hosted by Pam Weiner at her house on Sunday May 19. Attending were the major donors to the project, Mark Addicks and Tom Hoch. It was at their historic house on James Avenue that a fund-raising event for the Friends was held in June 2015.



The spot in the wetland where Phase II of the boardwalk will begin, seen in 2018. Photo G D Bebeau.



The new Phase II boardwalk after installation continuing on from Phase I, seen in 2019. Photo G D Bebeau.

FIPAG had 3 workdays scheduled in May and June in the Volunteer Stewardship Area around the Garden pulling Garlic Mustard, but due to continued rainy weather only one day took place. They were able to plant sedges and Wild Ginger in the Maple Glen on the steep slopes where Buckthorn had been removed. This was a necessity to prevent erosion of the soils on the unprotected hillsides.

The annual meeting of the Friends was held at 7 PM on May 20 at the Kenwood Community Center. Thirteen members were present. Summary reports of Friends activities were available and presented to those attending. The upcoming summer events were reviewed.

Elected to the board for one year terms were Janet Anderson (new), Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Kathy Connelly, Melissa Hansen, Lauren Husting, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio).



An example of the bare ground after Buckthorn is removed. A ground cover needed to be planted to prevent erosion. Photo - FIPAG.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Kathleen Connelly President, Janet Anderson Vice-president, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.

In committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials, money management and website, Melissa Hansen - volunteers, Jennifer Olson - historian, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (with non-board member Kari Christianson, co-chair), Colin Bartol = newsletter editor, Lauren Husting - electronic communications.

Kathy Connelly was submitting a new application for tax exempt status to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The Friends had done the same in 2000 but it was rejected. Steve Benson reported on the preparations for Family Day coming up in June.



Janet Anderson.
Friends photo.

The Garden's public programs offered in May provide a sampling of the wide variety of things the Garden staff was doing. A Nature Tots set of programs appropriate for kids 2 to 5 provided classes titled "Budding Botanists," "Camouflaged Critters," "Art in the Garden," and "Rainbow in the Garden." "Garden Storytime" occurred each Wednesday; each Saturday still had the "early birders" ramble, and every Sunday had a family wildflower walk. Saturdays and Sundays had many other events. These programs are created and presented by the MPRB staff associated with the Wildflower Garden.

May was much wetter than usual with many heavy rains. The Mississippi River dropped below flood stage in St. Paul on May 5, ending a 42-day flood period - longest ever. With a delayed start in April and a wet May, the spring wildflowers bloomed quickly but briefly.

Summer 2019

June 9 was Family Day at the Garden. The Showy Lady's-slippers were in bloom. Through-out the day Jennifer Olson and her book club held a "story time" under the hemlocks. A self-directed "nature quest" for young people organized by staffers Elaine Thander and Wendy Tremblay went on all day with small prizes for those who could rummage through the Garden and put answers on a clue card. The Friends funded the presence of an artist, La Luchadora, to make custom lady's-slipper screen prints. She brought in a mobile cart for people to interact with. A felt board and a frog toss manned by Steve Benson added to the activities. Other Friends volunteers had an information table on the patio, where four new members signed up. 425 people were counted coming in at the front gate.

This type of event requires considerable planning time, staff time, and a large number of volunteers to carry it out - so much time in fact, that it was decided by the Curator that such events cannot be done very often. The Friends can only concur with the decision as the Friends are not responsible for the staff time or the Garden budget.

During the summer the plants arrived that the Friends were funding: 145 shrubs from Prairie Restorations and 122 trees from Outback Nursery. The shrubs were planted between Geranium Lane and Lady's Slipper Lane. The trees went between Violet Way and edges of the Upland Garden.

The first group included American Elder, Winterberry, Balsam Fir, Bog Birch, Silky Dogwood, Redosier Dogwood, Thimbleberry, Pussy Willow, White Cedar and three native introductions - Low Juniper, Inland Serviceberry and Autumn Willow - the latter had been noted in the Garden by Eloise Butler in 1916.

The second group included White Pine, Eastern Wahoo, Witch Hazel, Red Elderberry, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Blue Beech, Hackberry, American Plum, American Basswood, and a reintroduction of Cockspur Hawthorn (photo next page by Gary Bebeau) which Eloise Butler had planted back in 1912.



Garden staff member Mark Emmons planting witch hazel. Photo by Kyla Sission.



In June Christi Bystedt volunteered to be membership coordinator, a non-board position, picking up the membership duties from Jayne Funk. A review of how membership communication was handled led to several changes. Members receiving renewal notices by paper or by email were now sent a follow up letter by mail 60 days later if there was no response to the first communication. A request to rejoin letter was sent to all former members who had been dropped in the past year. Email renewal notices were now sent out using the MailChimp database.

On August 19-21 a group of park officials and civic leaders from Pittsburgh were in Minneapolis to meet with the same local officials on a “ParkXchange” visit. They were led by Pittsburgh Parks Superintendent Jayne Miller (former MPRB Superintendent). They visited the Wildflower Garden on the morning of August 20 for purposes of hearing about how the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden interact with the MPRB. Friends Board member Gary Bebeau met them and explained the function of the Friends and took them on a tour of the newly completed boardwalk.

During the summer the MPRB announced that budgeted funds may be available for some infrastructure upgrades to the Wildflower Garden in 2020 or 2021. On June 19, Kathy Connelly, Gary Bebeau, Pam Weiner and Jim Proctor met with Susan Wilkins and MPRB staff members Emma Pachuta, MaryLynn Pulsner and Adam Arvidson to review what they had in mind. The work would include an addition to the Crone Shelter for staff needs, moving them out of the old gardener’s shed, which would then be replaced with a new maintenance building and moved to a more appropriate area. A family bathroom would be added to the current restroom building and some ideas were also reviewed on how to improve the entrance area to the Garden from the parking lot to the gate. Emma later came to the Friends board meeting in September to review this with the entire board.



A rendering of the proposed addition to the Crone Shelter - MPRB drawing.

The summer issue of the Friends newsletter (Vol. 67 No. 2) highlighted the 75th Anniversary of the upland addition to the original Wild Flower Garden. In 1944 Friends founder Clinton Odell had persuaded the Board of Park Commissioners to include a new upland area and abandon the north meadow where Eloise Butler’s Mallard Pool had been located. Full details of that endeavor are on the website and in Volume 1.

Other articles in the newsletter included what goes on underground in root systems, Kathy Connelly’s review of Friends’ activities and notes about her visit to the Devil Track Wildflower Sanctuary in Northern Minnesota. An interview with board member Lauren Husting rounded out the issue.

Garden programs were used by 781 4th grade students, representing 11 schools, during the summer with their bus transportation costs subsidized by the Friends' Student Transportation Grant Program.

More summer examples of MPRB programs for youngsters at the Wildflower Garden were: A 3 program group for 4th to 6th graders titled "Igniting Critical Thinking" and for 7th to 12th graders a 3-program group titled "Becoming Stewards." Special programs aimed at Scouts were also available. A very special booklet was put together titled "What Will I Experience at the Garden?" that was a guide for individuals, families and groups as to what to expect to see and how to be aware of the rules. Illustrations were plentiful and the text was brief and at a level of understanding that youngsters could comprehend it.

Some detail of what goes on in these programs is explained by MPRB Garden Naturalist Kyla Sisson in *The Fringed Gentian*TM Vol. 67, no. 3, Fall 2019:

Although most school groups visiting the Garden only stay for an hour, summer school students are immersed in nature for most of their school day. Aligned with science standards for their grade level, the program explores the concept of adaptations. Half the day focuses on birds, using games and hands-on play to investigate how birds have adapted to survive in their is the opportunity to see birds up close.

Today, use of the Garden by students is primarily limited to the lower grades in schools in Minneapolis, as many other botanical sites are now around for such purposes, especially for higher education. That was not the case in the past. Eloise Butler was quoted 100 years prior in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* titled "Botanists all over U.S. Visit Glenwood Wildflower Garden:"

All Minneapolis botany teachers, including those at the University of Minnesota, send their students to study in this beautiful outdoor museum of flowers. Many students of botany and lovers of flowers in St. Paul, too are frequent visitors. The curator's office is equipped with anti-mosquito fluid so that those who can stay away from the woods for fear of the over-enthusiastic mosquito, need have not fear. If the visitor's epidermis is unusually thin, he can get a "face and hand wash" free and after the fluid has been applied the mosquito will break all aerial records getting away from him.

In Martha Crone's tenure as Curator University Professors Roberts, Breckinridge, Posner and Kilgore continued to bring in their University classes for study as they had done when Eloise was Curator.

July days were very warm, not in extremes, but the average temperature made July the warmest ever in the Twin Cities. By August 11 warblers were being sighted in the Garden on their migration south.

Autumn 2019

On September 9th the Friends set up an information table in downtown Robbinsdale at the annual "meet and greet" event. Board member Janet Anderson arranged it and Gary Bebeau and Christi Bystedt helped out. They talked to a number of people about the Garden, some of whom were already familiar with it, but it was a cold evening with continuous drizzle and rain so turnout was light. The Friends final Board meeting of the year was held on September 23 at the Kenwood Community Center. MPRB planner Emma Pachuta was present for the first hour to review the plans for upgrading the shelter and restroom. During October a public survey would be taken to get a sense of what type of design elements Garden visitors were interested in. The results pointed to a desire to keep the Garden facilities simple and rustic.

The Friends' budget for 2020 was presented and approved. The Friends budget is a year behind the budget set for the Garden. It was agreed that the Friends would budget a standing sum of \$7,500 for funding MPRB Garden projects, with the particular projects to be approved from year to year, to assist Susan with her budgeting process. In addition an emergency fund of \$1,500 will be maintained for boardwalk and other necessary work that will not otherwise be funded.

Susan Wilkins reviewed the tree care situation at the Garden. Some older oaks on the west hillside were still affected by Oak Wilt and four of the more significant ones were being injected to fore-stall the fungus. Additional ash trees were going to be removed during the winter. More work of clearing over-story plants was also going on in the Fern Glen. Overall, the Garden's plants were doing well. The staff had tallied 17,000 visitors into the Shelter as of August, which was well ahead of the 14,000 for the entire 2018 season.



A portion of the Fern Glen in summer 2019 cleared of unnecessary growth and cover. Photo G D Bebeau

On November 6, a public hearing on the concept design plan for the "Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary Operations and Visitor Comfort Improvements Project" as it was officially known was scheduled at 6:30 pm during the regular Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) of Commissioners meeting. The concept was approved, so the idea now moved to the budget hearings in early 2020.

The MPRB autumn programs at the Garden continued with new sessions for the children's programs, storytime and family hikes. Also highlighted were Homeschool Days for homeschoolers, another ongoing Garden program. The Friends' FIPAG Buckthorn removal schedule was also listed in the autumn brochure. FIPAG's work this autumn was a 3 event schedule in October in the Maple Glen. Significant progress was made including some renewal work on the back side (East) of the Garden fence.



FIPAG at work in the Maple Glen on October 12, 2019. Photo - Friends.

Historic event: 50 years ago in September 1969 construction began on the shelter at Eloise Butler. The Board of Park Commissioners maintenance staff had cleared the site and the Friends' contractor Joe Peterson Construction, was putting in the foundation.

It had been a long process. The original Garden shelter/ office was constructed in 1915 to Eloise Butler's specifications. It was now 54 years old and had served 3 curators. When the Friends asked the Board of Park Commissioners (renamed to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board in 1970) to make plans for a new building in early 1968, they were not able to budget money for the foreseeable future so Superintendent Robert Ruhe suggested that the Friends provide a design for approval and provide the funding. The Friends did so. Friends board member Wilbur Tusler hired architect Hiram Livingston to do the design. Funds were raised but not completely until the last minute.

On October 23, 1969 former curator Martha Crone hammered in a "golden nail" (retrieved from the old building) on the above ground construction, all of which was duly reported by Barbara Flanagan of the *Minneapolis Star*. The new building was named for Martha Crone at its dedication on May 13, 1970. The photo at right is Martha Crone with her great-grandson, Alan Wander, age 3, on October 23, 1969, at the building site of the new shelter as published in the *Minneapolis Star*, October 24, 1969.



The spring and summer had been wet. Fall color was very good but late. The first freeze (29 degrees) was not until October 24 and the first hard freeze waited until the week of November 3rd, which brought down the last of leaves and the last blackbirds departed.

Publication of the autumn issue of the Friends newsletter was delayed until after the New Year. The Garden closed on weekdays on October 15, opening on weekends for the remainder of October. Susan Wilkins noted that an estimated 60,000 people visited the Garden during the season and that the final shelter visitor count was 19,643. She wrote in the fall newsletter:

Each count represents each visit a person makes to the Shelter. It is truly incredible to think that such a significant number of visitors had a meaningful exchange with staff and volunteers; viewed the interesting natural history displays created by Garden staff; participated in a craft activity; interacted with the touch and see table; utilized reference books and field guides, children's books, and more.

Susan also reported that "over 4,000 wildflowers, grasses, sedges, trees and shrubs were selected and added to the plant collections this season." This included the shrubs and trees funded by the Friends.

Two events relating to land use around the Garden happened in the fall. On the east side of Wirth Park there were four vacant residential lots that were purchased by Firefly Woods, LLC and then placed into a permanent conservation easement creating a buffer between the residential area and the Park. In an opposite state of affairs, on the southeast corner of the Park sat a vacant commercial building and lot, formerly belonging to Century Link. A developer proposed new construction there with the request to the Park Board to build a storm water retention pond on park property. At the close of the year this issue was unresolved.

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Event, sponsored by the Friends and the MPRB was on Sunday October 27 from 5 to 8 PM at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis. Marna's Catering of Robbinsdale was the new food vendor this year. Pam Weiner again organized the event



Friends Invasive Plant Action Group Volunteers at the annual event. Photo Bob Ambler.

and brought in a selection of gardening and plant books. The books were originally donated to an organization that ships books to other countries where specific books on North American plants and gardening would be of no use. Attendees at the event could take home what they wished. Susan Wilkins provided great desserts and also a 5x7 inch hardcover note book for volunteers.

Lauren Husting prepared a set of post cards to be used for Friends marketing purposes, using photos taken in the Garden by new Friends member Bob Ambler. Example at right.

Another conservation land-use issue directly involved the Friends. Kathy Connelly worked out an agreement with the Friends of Cullen Nature Preserve that the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden would act as their fiscal sponsor until such time as they obtained non-profit status from the IRS. The Cullen Preserve is a 35 acre plot in the City of Minnetonka that had been the homestead of Ann Cullen Smith. When she died on January 25, 2015 she left the property to the city to be retained as a nature preserve. The Friends of Cullen were formed to work with the City on preserving this piece of woodland much like the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden were formed to work with the MPRB in regards the Butler Wildflower Garden.



Below: The entrance into the Cullen Nature Preserve. Photo G D Bebeau.



Wrap-up of the year: Total Friends support for the Garden during the year was \$32,809, which included \$2,349 for volunteer support, \$2,730 for Student Transportation, and \$27,730 for plants and infrastructure in the Garden (includes the final boardwalk costs).

At year end 165 copies of the 2nd edition of The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Plant Identification Book had been sent out with only 12 remaining. Gary Bebeau, the editor, was preparing a 3rd edition for printing in early 2020.

The website traffic continued to increase, with just over 230,000 visits during 2019, a 43% increase over 2018. The site handles 75% of sales and 37% of membership support funds.

Donation support during the year was \$59,371 from 76 donors. Memorials of \$3,407 were received from 33 donors for 16 different persons. Name plates were added to the Eliason Honor Board in the Crone Shelter for former Friends director Catherine Rudberg, and for Pat Sjoquist, Dorothy Gillette and Elizabeth Higgin.

At the end of the year the Friends active membership was 220, including 46 life members. Courtesy memberships were 35 for a total count of 255. Forty two new members joined; sixty-eight in-arrears members were dropped from the roster but those remaining provided the highest member support total ever - \$9,950; this included 4 new life memberships vs 3 in 2018.

Photo top of first page of 2019: At the dedication of the new boardwalk segment, April 26, 2019. MPRB Photo.



2020

Winter 2019/2020

2020 begins the 113th year of the Garden, the 68th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 17th year as Garden Curator.

This year brought the SARS-coV-2 virus to the United States, spreading from a few locations into a nationwide and worldwide pandemic, known as Covid-19, taking over 400,000 lives in the United States by year-end, millions more abroad, and restricting personal interaction in many forms. Garden activity was restricted, in person meetings were abandoned for virtual meetings and it was a year of political upheaval. 2020 is also the 50th anniversary of dedication of the Martha E. Crone Shelter at the Wildflower Garden and of the Friends volunteer docent program for the Shelter.

As the new year arrived with future events still the future Friends President Kathy Connelly messaged the Friends membership with these words:

As the new year dawns, the Garden paths are covered with snow and with the footprints of the foxes that overwinter there. The only humans inside the gates these days, from time to time, is the Curator and her crew, doing that work that is best done during the deep freeze.

The rest of us are thinking about this very special place and planning how to be the best possible stewards and supporters in the coming year. The Friends will coordinate volunteers, invest in new plants, pay for student bus transport, as usual, and will also support the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) new project updating Garden buildings and re-visioning the entrance area.

Over the winter months Gary Bebeau compiled the 3rd edition of the Plant Identification Book. The 2nd edition of 180 copies was almost sold out. The new edition of 350 copies was printed in February at Fast Print. It was much enlarged, now totaling 264 pages vs 142. 787 species of plants were represented with 1,949 photos. Sell price increased to \$26.95 from 19.95.



The first Friends Board meeting of the year was held in the evening of January 27 at the home of Past President Pam Weiner. The status of the Friends Fiscal Sponsorship arrangement with the Cullen Nature Preserve was reviewed (details in 2019). No transactions ever occurred via this arrangement and Cullen received their own non-profit status later in the spring. The Garden Shelter improvement plan had been put on hold as the project manager had resigned from the MPRB. With no new person assigned, the project moved forward to 2021.

Jim Proctor commented that a faction of anti-pesticide activists has been very vocal about opposing use of pesticides, including in the Volunteer Stewardship Area around the Garden (the VSA). Jim spoke at a recent MPRB meeting where the issue was being discussed. Kathy Connelly said she and Jim will follow through on this to educate others about the Friend's position, which is to support Jim's assertion that wise and measured use of pesticides is necessary in some instances. MPRB data show that the amounts of pesticides used in the Garden are small, ounces in fact. Jim's presentation helped provide MPRB staff with helpful information and a public showing that the community was not universally opposed to pesticide use.

However, the MPRB's proposal (see 2018 and 2019 history) to ban pesticides (which includes herbicides and fungicides) in city parks took another step forward with a discussion at the MPRB meetings. A summary of where the MPRB was on this topic was written by Jeremy Barrick on January 22 and was basically the policy adopted by the operations committee and then the board. (copy follows text)



Old Oak in the Upland in January. Photo G D Bebeau

A second issue confronting the MPRB was the private developer request in 2019 to store stormwater runoff on a part of Theodore Wirth Park. That issue was addressed at the January 22 meeting. (copy follows text). Some members of the Friends board wanted a response drafted on the developers proposal but the argument at the January 27 board meeting was that there were many political entities involved in this and our concerns while legitimate, we should not weigh-in now. The developer's request was eventually rejected.

Susan Wilkins could not be in attendance at the meeting but via a submitted report she stated that equity training was being provided to all staff to implement and encourage everyone to feel welcome. The Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden is not a private garden; it's a public garden and should be welcoming to all according to the goals of the MPRB's Parks for All initiative. She also announced that ash trees in some areas where visitors walk are going to be taken down. Choices for replacement plants and trees are being informed by many factors including climate change. The goal is to pick plants and trees that grow well in the current environment, not recreate the past. At the MPRB, commissioner Jono Cowgill replaced Brad Bourn as president. The Board meeting included review of membership, volunteer and financial reports from the end of 2019.

The delayed fall issue of the Friends newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian*TM, (Vol. 67 No. 3) was distributed in late February. It was the last issue for designer Theresa Ptak as she was out of state and had difficulty arranging time. Articles were about Summer School at the Garden, a review of a new book about naturalist David Hosack titled *American Eden*; and a description of various sunbeam effects seen in the sky. Jim Proctor wrote on the work the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAG) had accomplished in the Maple Glen adjacent to the Garden during the past fall; Susan Wilkins summed up the 2019 Garden season and Kathy Connelly explained the needs behind the Shelter addition plan, which had now been delayed until 2021 as explained above.

The winter months were mild, the lowest temperature was -13 degrees F on February 20. By March 20 most snow had melted. March was a very dry month with little rain or snow.

Circumstances of the world changed quickly. On March 27 all non-essential travel was restricted in Minnesota until April 10 due to the spread of the Corona virus.



Naturalist David Hosack, subject of Victoria Johnson's new book "American Eden."

Spring 2020

Were it not for the Covid-19 pandemic, the Garden would have opened on April 1 but would have had to deal with a six inch snowfall on April 12 and temperatures of 20 degrees overnight. With the travel and gathering of people restrictions continuing in place, many businesses and public facilities closed, Susan Wilkins was able to write on April 21 to the Friends:

It is a sad EBWG season in the sense that the Garden is sequestered away from those who find such joy in being a part of spring's unfolding here. On a brighter note, the Garden is looking quite beautiful, healthy and vibrant. The snow trillium have flowered and now the bloodroot, trout lilies, hepatica and leatherwood blossoms are starting to shine. The mother fox and her young are happily living under the bathrooms and office / tool shed, four kits in all. The great horned owl family is living nearby in a very high nest and a pair of mallards, as always, has taken up residence in the wetland garden.. There is a sense of "normalcy" here, life unfolding as we have come to expect, so please know that the Garden itself hasn't missed a beat in the dance of spring this season.

Susan also noted that the Garden staff was on site to care for the collections. During the winter months an entire program of Garden hikes and educational programs had been designed and a 13 page brochure covering them all for the months of April and May was prepared. Now, all had to be abandoned. Instead, the Garden staff quickly responded and had developed their own virtual means of connecting people to the Garden. Via video, weekly wildflower walks were presented and filmed by the Garden Naturalists. Every Thursday morning there was a live Facebook Garden Storytime for children.

By the time the Friends held their next Board meeting on May 18, plans for opening the Garden were formulated. Due to personal distancing requirements during the pandemic the shelter would not be open to visitors. Visitors would be



met at the front gate. The goal was to open the Garden safely. Susan Wilkins explained how it would work: Over 40 signs including rules for visitors in the Garden were already posted; one way trails were marked as well as pass zone directions set up. There was a controlled entry system. Timed entrance was limited to 10 people per time slot during the Garden's hours of 10 to 7. The staff had already conducted a simulation, and people reported experiencing a nice, quiet time inside.

For those waiting at the main entrance there was a porta potty available. A 2020 visitors guide was given out to enhance visitors' experience. Signs were posted outside the entrance to help visitors plan their visit and suggesting a one hour experience. The staff at the gate would be able to tell visitors how long the wait to enter would be. Face masks had been given out to staff and they had practice distancing from others by six feet which was the current pandemic protocol. All MPRB staff were to wear face masks. The general public had been asked to do so as well by the state health department but at this point in the year it was not yet mandatory as it became later in summer for visiting public places. Lots of cleaning supplies were available as it was believed at the time that antibacterial applications to touched surfaced was needed. Naturalists were available in case the visitors had plant questions. The phone system was working and calls to the shelter went to Susan's email.

Below: The one-way trail map of the Garden used for keeping visitor groups separated during the 2020 season. Map MPRB.



The Garden thus officially opened May 20. The Garden's website outlined the procedures in detail in a Garden Visit Guide:

What to Know Before Your Visit

- Garden hours are 10 am to 7 pm, Tuesdays through Sundays. The last entry is at 6:30 pm.
- Group size is limited to 10 people visiting together.
- **Visitor capacity is limited; there may be a long line at the entrance.** Entry times are staggered so that everyone can enjoy the Garden with safe social distancing. Staff determine when groups and individuals enter.
- **Plan to spend about 1 hour inside the Garden.** A single, one-way trail includes steep hills and uneven terrain with wood chips, rocks, tree roots, etc.
- **Social distancing is required.** Throughout your visit, remain at least 6 feet away from other individuals and household groups.
- Children must be within reach of an adult from the same household at all times.
- Bench use in the Garden is limited. Do NOT use benches marked with green tape. Maintain social distancing, and please consider others' needs when using a bench. **Restrooms are closed and drinking water is not available;** please plan your restroom use and water needs accordingly. An ADA-accessible temporary toilet in the Garden parking lot is maintained weekly by contractors (not MPRB staff). Hand sanitizer may not be available.
- Consider bringing: Insect repellent, water, hand sanitizer / wipes, sunscreen, sunhat, raingear, and a mask (to wear to protect staff and other visitors).
- Cameras are permitted, but please do not bring tripods, photo umbrellas, reflectors or other large camera accessories.
- Pets are not allowed. Service animals performing work are permitted.
- Follow all Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for protecting yourself and others, including:
 - Stay home if you are sick
 - Cover your mouth if you cough or sneeze
 - Stay at least 6 feet from people from other households
 - Cloth masks or face coverings are recommended
 - Wash hands before and after visiting
- Parking is limited and meters are enforced. Make sure to reserve enough time at meters for your Garden visit, including the time before entering.

Visitor Assistance

- MPRB staff are stationed outside the Garden at the main entrance during operating hours and inside at the back (north) gate periodically.
- Please respect staff. Stay at least 6 feet away at all times.

During Your Visit

- A one-way trail with signs leads all the way through the Garden. Its length is a little over 1 mile and may take more than an hour to complete. **See map for details.**
- Stay on the trail at all times and maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals or household groups. Remember to keep children in reach of an adult at all times.
- Please be considerate of those around you in maintaining your pace through the Garden.
- Turning back is not allowed. Visitors may pass others at the designated passing zone halfway through the Garden (see map), or at designated areas near benches, if the benches are not occupied. Do not step off the trail to take a picture. While photography is permitted from the trail, please be mindful of the time it takes. Do not ask other visitors to move out of your camera view or take pictures for you.
- Use of benches is limited. Do not use benches marked with green tape. Do not share benches with others outside your group, and please be considerate of others' needs when using a bench.

After Your Visit

Please avoid lingering near the Garden entrance and in the parking lot, so that everyone can follow social distancing requirements.

This is the system which worked and was in place throughout the 2020 Garden season. During the first week of the Garden open to the public, nature provided the usual assortment of Minnesota May weather: sometimes gloomy forecasts, sunny times of day., clammy mornings and sticky afternoons.

The Garden entrance set-up during the 2020 season. Garden staff await visitors. An abundance of signs tell visitors what to expect. Photo G D Bebeau



Before the Garden opened Jim Proctor of the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAG) discovered that Garlic Mustard was not aware of the pandemic. It was growing in the VSA and Maple Glen. He had previously announced that there would not be any spring invasive work due to restrictions since Garlic Mustard was under control, but he had to write on May 13 to the FIPAG volunteers:

It turns out there's a quite a bit more Garlic Mustard than we initially thought. We will need more help, so here's the plan. We're looking for volunteers experienced with garlic mustard who can meet us this Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. We will assign you an area and you will commit to five or six hours of work over the next three weeks. You'll have to bring your own gloves and a dandelion puller (or a decent sized flat head screwdriver) and garbage bags.

He was able to get a small group together and work was done over the next few weeks.

That Friends Board meeting of May 18 was the first virtual meeting for the Friends. It was hosted by Colin Bartol via Web-ex. Committee reports were presented and a fall date was set for the annual meeting instead of the typical May meeting time. It was hoped in person meetings would be allowed by that time. The usual committee reports were given. The volunteer report by Melissa Hansen was unusual in that there was no volunteer activity due to the shelter remaining closed. Six new people has been scheduled for training but that was canceled also.

The Friends annual charities reports to the state and to the IRS were approved. It was noted that the Garden's back wrought iron fence in the wetland area was continuing to deteriorate around its footings and leaning considerably. It would be fixed during the coming winter. A motion was put forth for the Friends to buy face masks for the Garden staff to hand to visitors who came without one and the motion originally carried but was later rescinded as that was something the MPRB should have responsibility for.

*The Fringed Gentian*TM was getting back on schedule with the spring issue coming out in May with Gary Bebeau helping editor Colin Bartol with the layout design. (Vol. 68 No. 1) The issue focused on climate change and what effects it would have on the Wildflower Garden. Environmentalist Carolyn Sampson wrote about what differences one person can make; Colin Bartol wrote about the earthworm invasion; the city of Golden Valley was highlighted for its resolution to protect pollinators and to protect habitat.

Another article in the newsletter covered the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Martha E. Crone Shelter. Details of the planning and construction are covered in other parts of the Friends history but with the completion the building was turned over to the city on May 13. Friends, Board of Park Commissioner officials and the interested public gathered for the dedication. The dedication plaque mounted on the front pillar reads:

"The Martha E. Crone Shelter was planned, financed and erected by The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc and it was given to the City of Minneapolis through the Board of Park Commissioners and dedicated May 13, 1970 at 4:30 PM."

Martha Crone wrote to the Friends in July 1970:

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation and extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members and friends who made possible the beautiful shelter building in the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden and Bird Sanctuary and dedicated it to me. This is really the culmination of many years of my life devoted to the Garden."

Below: At the dedication of the shelter - in front left, Leonard C. Odell, master of ceremonies; center, Martha E. Crone; right, Hiram H. Livingston, architect. *Minneapolis Star* photo.



A Parade for Pollinators in Golden Valley, organized by People for Pollinators. Photo Jeannie Schwartz

Summer 2020

2020 is the 25th anniversary year of several improvements added to the Wildflower Garden in 1995. There are 3 fountains in the Garden, constructed with limestone bases, and the newest one, referred to here, is up on the prairie near the large White Oak. The dedication plaque is to Dr. Daniel Nordquist. The fountain was built by LaMere Concrete & Masonry and funded by the Friends via a memorial from Dr. Nordquist's mother and father. They also funded, as a memorial, the wood bookcase that sits by the volunteer's desk in the Garden Shelter.

A more substantial improvement was the back gate - the one you enter the Garden from if you come from Wirth Beach - at least you could if Covid-19 protocols had not closed it for the 2020 season. This construction was designed pro-bono by Brower and Associates, built by LaMere Concrete, and funded by the Friends for \$9,089. The original design included four columns, just like the front gate, but the cost was too high, so only two columns were built. Then the iron work on the gate, the wrought iron fencing in the immediate area of the gate, plus the wrought iron fencing that is currently around the front gate was installed by Able Fence Co. and funded by the Friends for \$8,300.



The back gate work continued into 1997 with the stone work retaining walls completed by the MPRB. Then in 2005 the Friends funded the continuation of the iron fencing from the back gate area to the back corners of the Garden. All these 1995/97 improvements have held up well these 25 years except for the fence post piers in the wet area at back of the Garden. That issue would be rectified in the coming winter.



The week of June 15th brought storms and rain around the time of the summer solstice. One maple fell across a section of the boardwalk and another rotted tree collapsed near the toolshed. But many flowers were coming into bloom, including Fireweed and False White Indigo. For flashing color a Scarlet Tanager made an appearance. One Thursday morning in July during Garden storytime two Garden naturalists were approached by a young red fox while reading the children's story *Are You A Butterfly?*. From a courteous distance of six feet, the curious creature studied the two naturalists for nearly five minutes before slipping into the prairie. (Naturalists reports - June and July)

In July the Friends mailed a post card note to all supporters outlining the events of the season, suggesting a visit to the Garden and announcing that the Friends annual meeting would be held in the fall this year after everyone's vacation time was past.

After a wet July, August alternated between wet weeks and dry weeks, but visitors to the Garden continued to see one of the nicest displays of flowers in recent years. The wild turkeys were mostly absent during the summer, returning in the fall for acorn season. The naturalists kept busy refilling the suet feeders in front of the Shelter, finally discovering that it was a pair of pileated woodpeckers that were helping themselves very often. A rare rusty-patched bumblebee was sighted during the last week of August. This is Minnesota's state bee. A Cooper's Hawk was around the Garden most of the season. (from Naturalists reports - August)



A MPRB Naturalist holding "Storytime" on Facebook. Photo - MPRB

The Friends ended the summer with a virtual board meeting via Zoom hosted by Lauren Husting on August 27. Jim Proctor updated the Board on the status of preventing erosion when areas are cleared of Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn. The Maple Glen was used as an experiment. Grass plots did not work out well but Wild Ginger and sedge were successful. He has learned that in shady areas cutting buckthorn and leaving part of the stem, preventing soil movement, often results in the plant dying anyway. This is not successful where the stem gets a lot of sunlight.



A MPRB naturalist on the weekly wildflower walks via video. Photo MPRB.

As the shelter has not been open for volunteer staffing and group gatherings were restricted, there would not be a volunteer appreciation event this fall. The annual meeting was scheduled for October 18 via Zoom. Susan Wilkins presented proposals for the Friends to fund in 2021. An allocation of \$7,500 was made for plants and a separate allocation of an additional \$10,000 was approved for uses to be determined in the new year. President Connelly wishes to have 2020 as her last year as president. She felt a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee should be formed to review our practices and position ourselves as an inclusive and meaningful organization. Steve Pundt, Lauren Husting and Steve Benson volunteered to form the committee. Membership

issues, especially fewer members renewing during this pandemic year were discussed. A summary of membership activity is at the end of the autumn section.

Autumn 2020

The summer/fall issue of the Friends newsletter came out in early September. (Vol. 68 No. 2) Editor Colin Bartol covered a history of prior Garden closures, almost all related to weather and any unlike the current situation. The past president of the Friends, Pam Weiner was interviewed.

President Kathy Connelly wrote: During this time of unrest, I have been thankful for the Garden, and enjoyed visiting there. I am immensely grateful for the leadership of the Garden Curator, Susan Wilkins and to others on the Park Board, who designed a way to open the Garden safely. And also for the Garden staff who bravely staff the areas where they encounter members of the public, possibly exposing themselves to the virus. I have been delighted by the Garden's robust social media presence that has expanded by the

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on Facebook and Instagram during this time.

Susan Wilkins wrote about how the restricted visit rules were working and about planting work:

Another gift of the Garden this year comes thanks to the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. Staff have been busy, all season long, planting a variety of plant species in all corners of the Garden. The Friends funded plantings along the entry way trail, Trillium Trail, and adjacent hillsides are adding to the richness and beauty of the Garden experience and to the health of the Garden's woodland plant collection. This project will continue into September with at least 25 species of wildflowers, ferns, sedges and grasses represented and over 2,000 plants being added by the time the project is completed. Year by year and plant by plant, the complexity and beauty of the Garden's plant collections grow with a little help from the Friends. Thank you to all of the members who have contributed to these efforts.

The Friends provide funding for 36 different species of flowers, ferns and sedges - total of 2,664 plants - cost \$7,341, which were all planted at various times during the year. In addition the MPRB provided another 2,000 plants.

The lead article in the newsletter was a review of current social media campaigns that highlighted Black scientists and nature enthusiasts, written by Lauren Husting. The final article was about the historical research on Native American ethnobotany by Minnesota writer Frances Densmore. Her notes about the use of various native plants by Minnesota Native Americans is quoted frequently in the Friends website plant identification pages.

This issue highlighted the people who have been Friends members for 50 years or more.

Karol Gresser joined the Friends in 1967. "There is no other place around the Twin Cities where the seasonal changes are so enjoyable and visible, or where one feels safe walking the paths, as in our special Garden. It has been a place of peace and quiet to enjoy our native plants and birds, and to recharge my spirit."

Jerry and Lee Shannon also joined in 1967. They particularly like visiting the Garden - "from April, when the snow trillium is blooming, until mid-June, when the showy lady's slipper is standing tall in all her resplendent beauty. This span of each year brings back the ephemerals of the woodland garden, each exhibiting its own seasonal splendor."

Mr. J. S. Fetcher rounds out our threesome. He joined in 1970 and was a member of the Minneapolis Bird Club. He remembers becoming acquainted with the Garden and Martha Crone when he was in the eighth or ninth grades in 1946 and 1947. Mr. Fetcher has been able to provide us some important and elusive Garden history details of the natural springs and of birding events in those earlier years.



The Wildflower Garden staff at the end of the 2020 season. Photo MPRB

#BlackBirdersWeek

- May 31 #BlackInNature**
Celebrating Black nature enthusiasts everywhere
- June 1 #PostABird Challenge**
Post any bird you find or a bird fact with the hashtag
- June 2 #AskABlackBirder**
2-hr Q&A with Black Birders on Twitter 7pm - 9pm EST
- June 4 #BirdingWhileBlack**
Livestream Discussion tinyurl.com/BlackBirders 7pm - 830pm EST moderated by @annagiftyo
- June 5 #BlackWomenWhoBird**
Follow all the amazing #BlackWomenWhoBird

Design by: @bellzisbirding and @beaniejean_

The Garden continued presenting a great show of color in September and October. The second week brought low overnight temperatures and while the relatively wet summer and early fall resulted in the usual speculation of what the effect would be on fall color; it turned out to be spectacular, but earlier.



The Crone Shelter in October. Photo - Bob Ambler

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden was held at 1 PM on October 18 via Zoom with Lauren Husting hosting. Twenty members were present. Summary reports of Friends activities were presented. President Connelly reviewed the past year and most events have been included in previous pages of this history. A new item was that she and Steve Pundt toured the South Wirth area with representatives of the Loppett Foundation as there was still a question of their trails being too close to the Garden buffer zone. The situation with those trails was a contested issue for many years, now the trails in that area that had been cleared and used previously will be closed and trees planted. The MPRB was being asked to pay for the trees, but the Foundation would take care of planting them.

Susan Wilkins noted that the MPRB has set major goals for 2020 to 2030 on how to incorporate indigenous community members and give recognition through land acknowledgment. The latter was usually carried out by stating that the parks were located on Dakota Homelands and by signage such as renaming of Lake Calhoun and adjacent parkways to Lake Bde Maka Ska. She wrote later in the year:

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is working diligently to assure that each and every person in every corner of our beautiful City and beyond feels welcome, safe, comfortable and engaged while visiting public park spaces in Minneapolis, including the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. There is work to do and one way to be a part of this work is to review and send your feedback about the new Comprehensive Plan that will be used as a guiding tool for

shaping the priorities and policy direction of the MPRB for the next ten years. This draft was developed with significant community engagement and input gathered in a variety of ways over a year-long outreach process. [Friends Newsletter, Vol. 68 No. 3 Winter 2020]

With the Garden now closed for the season except for the last October weekends, Susan said the daily average visitor count was about 175 and many were first time visitors. The tally at the entrance gate was nearly 23,000 visitors.

Elected to the Friends board for one year terms or, under the new bylaws, until the next election was held, were Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Kathy Connelly, Lauren Husting, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio). Melissa Hansen left the board but remained as volunteer coordinator.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Kathleen Connelly President until December 31, Jennifer Olson President after December 31, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau Treasurer.

In committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials money management and website, Melissa Hansen - volunteers, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (with non-board member Kari Christianson, co-chair), Colin Bartol - newsletter editor, Lauren Husting - media communications and non-board member Christi Bystedt as membership coordinator.

The budget for 2021 was approved and a draft of a revised mission statement was approved. [Copy in Volume 1, appendix 12]

Garter Snakes were prevalent in the Garden this year, their routines appearing frequently in the naturalist's notes. Their last report of the season on October 15 included this:

Many garter snakes have been seen slithering through the Garden's boundless leaf litter. Particularly active this time of year, snakes must carefully prepare for winter. Not only do the serpents need to locate an adequate hibernaculum to pass the winter, but they must also make sure they've eaten just the right amount of food. Should they eat too little, they won't have enough energy to make it through the winter. However, if they eat too much, they risk having undigested food rot inside their stomach during dormancy. The Garden's garters are busy making sure their fall feasting stays right on schedule with the changing temperatures!

FIPAG's work this autumn was a 3 event schedule in October in the Maple Glen. Significant progress was made once again, even though the work force size was smaller, about 38 people total over the three periods, due to the need to keep people separated and the reluctance of some to take part in group activities. Pre-registration for work by time slot was required so that too many people did not show up at the same time. The dates were October 1, 8 & 17. Part of the work this time included stripping new growth from some previous 'high-cut' plants and seeding native plants into cut areas.

In October the MPRB treated some of the oaks in the Garden and in other places in Wirth Park for oak wilt which is an ongoing problem for red oaks. They explained the procedure this way in a public announcement on October 22:

The diseased trees identified this year will be removed during the winter and their wood disposed of off-site, as spores from the fungus can overwinter and cause new infections in

healthy trees during the next active growing season.

Because oak wilt spreads primarily through root connections of mature oak trees, MPRB has scheduled a control method called vibratory plowing for late October. This method involves contractors cutting underground root connections between healthy and diseased trees, reducing both the spread of the disease and its associated tree mortality.

After plowing, park visitors may notice areas where the soil looks disturbed in a linear fashion. Staff will rake out areas where the soil does not naturally settle.



The vibratory type plow used in trenching around oak tree roots. Photo MPRB



The Maple Glen in October. This section of the bowl has been completely cleared of non-desirables by FIPAG volunteers. Photo G D Bebeau

October 19 brought 7 inches of snow - the earliest snow in 104 years. October 28 matched the 1919 record with a cold high temperature of 32 degrees.

In the week of December 9th the MPRB fence contractor, Hansen Brothers, began to repair the fence at the back of the Garden wetland area. Instead of using piers for the fence post, the supports were inserted into hollow galvanized posts which has been driven into the soil until they met a solid surface. The fence would then float in these hollow post, similar to the way the boardwalk supports were designed. Then the original rectangular wrought iron post was slipped over the galvanized post.



The final 2020 issue of *The Fringed Gentian*[™] (Vol. 68 No. 3) came out in December containing articles about Flying Squirrels, how to read snow track of animals and a story of an earlier wild garden that preceded that of Eloise Butler - that of Dr. George Upham Hay near Westfield, New Brunswick. Kathy Connelly said of the year now passing:

This difficult year has yielded some positive things for the Garden thanks to the efforts of the MPRB. Safe visiting practices for the Garden were implemented, tested, and received positively. The MPRB Garden naturalists pioneered outreach in informative and entertaining ways that have enriched our experience of the Garden, and MPRB Garden leadership has been prudent and laser-focused on providing a peaceful refuge from the unique challenges of 2020.

Susan Wilkins summed up the Garden year this way:

Although it was a shorter and quieter season, overall, at the Garden, it was a rich one. We received hundreds of comments about how much joy and enrichment people received from their visits and how comfortable they felt walking the trails with the social distancing measures in place. This was heartening. Also, a source of delight was the sheer beauty of the Garden itself. It was a special year where many years of hard, thoughtful work came to fruit. Mass plantings bloomed one after the other in a rainbow of colors, invasive plants noticeably were on the wane, young trees grew bigger, and the synergy of it all took hold. It felt good to walk the trails and see the vibrancy and vitality appear around each bend and witness the Garden's community of plants and animals thriving, together.

This newsletter issue reported on the passing of four Friends members during the year.

Harriet Betzold, a member since 1989, was a director for 19 years, 1990-2008, Vice-president for three years 1991-1993 and served three years as President 1994-1996. She then stepped in as volunteer coordinator from 1999-2006, sometimes by herself, sometimes with Shirley Schultz, in addition to helping with the arrangements for the annual volunteer luncheon.

Annette Dreier, a sponsor member since 2016, she was an avid birder and a well known worker at the Wedge Community Co-op in Minneapolis.

Vivian Mason, a Life member, was a director for 10 years, 2006-2015, Vice-president for 8 terms 2007-2014, and a MPRB Commissioner.



Harriet Betzold. Friends photo from 2011

Marilyn Rohlfing, a member for 48 years, originally joined with a gift membership from her parents Bruce and Jane Hooper, who were active on the Friends Board in the 1970s, Bruce being treasurer 1976 through 1978.

Wrap-up of the year for the Friends:

Total Friends direct support for the Garden during the year was \$7,341 for plants; additional educational mission expenditures totaled \$4,162. Over the past 20 years the Friends have funded \$410,000 for the Garden and the educational program.

The website traffic continued to increase, with just over 360,000 visits during 2020, a 57% increase over 2019. The site handled 90% of sales and 39% of membership support funds.

Donation support during the year was \$9,995 from 70 donors. Memorials of \$5,709 were received from 37 donors for 9 different persons. Name plates to be added to the Eliason Honor Board in the Crone Shelter are for former Friends director and president Harriet Betzold, former director and MPRB Commissioner Vivian Mason, Barbara Pickering and for Douglas Murray.

At the end of the year the Friends active membership was 199, including 47 life members. Courtesy memberships were 36 for a total count of 235. Sixteen new members joined; 36 were dropped from the roster due to death or for being in-arrears. New members included 2 new life memberships vs 4 in 2019. In spite of many members not renewing their support, perhaps due to other concerns with jobs and the pandemic, a number of other members at the sponsor and sustainer level continued their high level of support so that our average member payment (excluding life) was \$50.56, 4 cents less than 2019, although there were fewer payments in total.

The treasurer presented the board of directors two expense reviews during the year. One concerned how administrative expenses are covered by our non-contribution income (sales and investment income) which is referred to in reports as "other income." For the past 20 years other income has covered all administrative and fund raising expenses, insuring that all contribution income is used to support the Friends mission. That mission consists of two parts - direct support of the Garden and Garden activities such as volunteer support. The second part is our educational program. This is in several subparts: Grants to schools to provide visits to the Garden for an educational program, the website which contains much educational material on plants, the Garden and the natural world, and the educational newsletter.

The newsletter was the subject of the second review. While the production of the newsletter is done entirely by volunteer help without any cost, printing and mailing uses funds. With many members switching to digital access to the newsletter via our website, plus full digital access to non-members, the number of printed copies required for member distribution continues to drop. A member survey indicated that some members, principally our older ones, want a printed copy of the newsletter. It was proposed that the cost of printing and mailing and printing a small number of extra copies for special distribution be limited to around 200 copies per issue and not to print extra copies beyond 200. This would reduce by half the funds needed for the newsletter and leave more funds for the other parts of the mission just referred to. The remaining newsletter cost would also be covered by other income. The closing of the Garden Shelter during 2020 removed the need for providing extra printed copies of the newsletter that were previously put there for distribution and the proposal going forward into 2021 is that printing of extra copies should cease for the reason just stated. When the Shelter re-opens a replacement marketing document for the Friends should replace the newsletter or a minimum number of copies of the current newsletter.

Other notes: The spread of Covid-19 during the year caused the delay or cancellation of many events. Sports activities either had canceled or moved to later in the year with delayed seasons playing to empty venues. Baseball for example had a late start 60 game season. The Masters was delayed from April until Autumn. The Summer Olympics were delayed until 2021. The Minnesota State Fair was canceled. Air travel to Europe was canceled. Some states had quarantine periods for out-of-state visitors. Businesses that could have employees work from home, did so and closed offices. Bars and restaurants were frequently closed or subject to very restricted occupancy. The serious weather ended the year on December 23 with a blizzard and 8.7 inches of snow.

Photo top of first page of 2020: A scene at the front gate on October 10 as visitors wait their turn to enter. Photo G D Bebeau.

The Garden rests for another year under a blanket of snow. Photo G D Bebeau



December 18, 2019

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The time being 8:08 PM, Chair, Commissioner District 5 Steffanie Musich called the meeting to order.

President Bourn Appointed himself to serve as a December 18 Operations & Environment Committee member.

Chair, Commissioner District 5 Steffanie Musich: Present, Vice Chair, Commissioner At Large Londel French: Present, Commissioner District 1 Chris Meyer: Present, Commissioner District 4 Jono Cowgill: Present, Commissioner District 2 Kale Severson: Absent, Commissioner District 6 Brad Bourn: Present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chris Meyer, Commissioner District 1
AYES:	Musich, French, Meyer, Cowgill, Bourn
ABSENT:	Kale Severson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Operations & Environment Committee - Committee Meeting - Nov 20, 2019 5:20 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Londel French, Vice Chair, Commissioner At Large
AYES:	Musich, French, Meyer, Cowgill, Bourn
ABSENT:	Kale Severson

IV. ACTION ITEMS

V. STUDY/REPORT ITEMS

5.1 Park Natural and Naturalized Areas

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 18, 2019 6:00 PM (APPROVAL OF MINUTES)



TO: Operations & Environment Committee

FROM: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward

DATE: January 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Understanding Pesticide Reduction Efforts in the Minneapolis Park System for 2019

BACKGROUND

Pesticide use within the Minneapolis park system remains an important conversation topic as staff and the Pesticide Advisory Committee work together to fully understand the next step in the work to end pesticide use in our park system. While the question at hand may seem very straight forward, the work it impacts requires more than a yes or no answer to pesticide use. First, understanding what qualifies as a pesticide lays a foundation to comprehending how we measure our current use. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a pesticide is “any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.” The umbrella term of pesticides is further broken down into categories focused on the type of pest a substance aims to control. Some of the common types of pesticides include herbicides which control plants, fungicides which control fungi, and insecticides which control insects. While herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide are the focus of most conversations, other types of pesticides are more prevalent in our parks. Bactericides, algacides, and rodenticides are often relied upon to meet health codes and sanitation standards. From pool chemicals to restroom disinfectants, pesticides are relied upon to meet the expectations of park users and ensure their health and safety.

The next step in the work is understanding how and where pesticide products are used in the landscape and even more so, where they are not used. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM) dictates that herbicides are not to be used within 100 feet of any playground or wading pool. Currently general park land is not treated with any pesticide product for cosmetic reasons. Dandelions, clover, and other broadleaf plants often referred to as “weeds” have become a welcome and common sight in our parkland turfgrass. Areas that may use landscape pesticide products currently include our historic Rose Garden where fungicide is used to ensure common fungal diseases aren’t allowed to completely defoliate our over 2,500 rose shrubs while we search for more disease resistant varieties, in managed natural areas where our Environmental Management Department works to control invasive species and noxious weeds outlined by the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law, and at our premiere athletic complexes and golf courses where user expectations drive maintenance standards.



Glyphosate has not been used on any park property since 2018 and since 2016 it has not been used in any neighborhood parks, except for Loring Park's pond shoreline restoration. Currently, if you put aside swimming and wading pools (except for Webber Natural Swimming Pool) along with building facilities, over 100 park properties were free of active landscape pesticide use during our last two growing seasons. This count is not stagnant, and we've seen it increase over the past decade. Landscape management practices evolve with the industry and the land needs. New products, equipment, and changing public interest impact the work and as time passes, the work is also impacted by new exotic introductions and concerns around how our green space is managed.

MPRB is tasked with finding a balance between all parts of the story. From preserving our limited native landscapes and displaying historic plant collections that inspire and delight to maintaining public health and safety and ensuring we remain fiscally responsible and economically sound.

MPRB continues to make strides forward with reducing pesticide use in our parks with our eye on elimination as our endgame. 6,800 acres of land, from aquatic to native landscapes to manicured fields, requires dynamic management. Each feature has unique needs, impacts, and user groups that need to be reflected in the management plan. Continued support is needed from the community as we take incremental steps and tackle each challenge we encounter in this work. Be assured that the work has begun.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion purposes.

Prepared By: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward, Operation Services

Review:

Jeremy Barrick Completed 01/15/2020 3:59 PM

Jennifer Ringold Completed 01/15/2020 4:33 PM

Al Bangoura Completed 01/15/2020 8:09 PM

Operations & Environment Committee Pending 01/22/2020 5:10 PM



TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: January 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Development Proposal for 2800 Wayzata Boulevard and Its Impacts on Theodore Wirth Regional Park

BACKGROUND

Lupe Development and Swervo are proposing a development at 2800 Wayzata Boulevard, a property situated east of and adjacent to Theodore Wirth Regional Park and located in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood. The developers are proposing to include, as a part of the development project, trail connections from the neighborhood to and into Theodore Wirth Regional Park. The developer is also proposing to construct stormwater management improvements within Theodore Wirth Regional Park to meet the project's stormwater management requirements. Both the trails and the stormwater facilities would occur easterly of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.

The developer's plans are at a preliminary stage. The intention of this discussion is to review key issues related to the development proposed and its impact on parkland. In particular, the stormwater management facilities proposed to be constructed on parkland would permanently occupy about 0.5 acres of parkland and would make difficult any other use in that area. In addition, the introduction of stormwater may result in changes to the landscape in this small part of the park; the implications of stormwater introduction have not been addressed in the developer's plans. The use of parkland to serve the development proposal's stormwater management needs is one of two ways in which the developer has proposed to deal with stormwater management; a second alternative would locate the stormwater management facility on the grounds of Anwatin Middle School.

Most significant in this discussion is the use of parkland to support private development. Even when the proposed development intends to deliver new and desired uses in a neighborhood, the Board of Commissioners would want to offer its opinion of the use of parkland to support that development in light of its greater mission to serve the recreation needs of park users and to protect significant natural resources within the city and its parklands.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion purposes.



2021

Winter 2020/2021

2021 begins the 115th year of the Garden, the 69th year for the Friends and Susan Wilkins' 18th year as Garden Curator.

The SARS-coV-2 virus continued to spread, but with the advent of vaccine availability early in the year, beginning with older or vulnerable people, activity restrictions began to loosen. As the year went on, vaccine became available for those under age 65 and by the end of the year for all but the youngest children. This did not stop the spread of the virus however, due to variants and too many people not taking the vaccine or following safe protocols.

Jennifer Olson began her term as Friends President on January 1st and in a letter to the membership she wrote:

The past year has been difficult and challenging. Despite a shorter season and fewer hours, the Garden staff welcomed over 23,000 visitors. The majority of the 2020 visitors were first time visitors. As a semi-retired physician, I feel finding ourselves in the natural world is therapeutic, a refuge from our busy and at times uncertain lives.

I am so glad you are a fellow member. In 2020 the Friends funded the planting of 36 species of over 2600 plants in addition to 2000 plants funded by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

As members, we appreciate your financial contribution through your membership. We also would love you to visit the garden with friends and family. I would encourage you to share your talents with the Garden, writing for the *Gentian*, sharing photographs and memories, being involved as a volunteer or with special projects. Feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, and concerns.

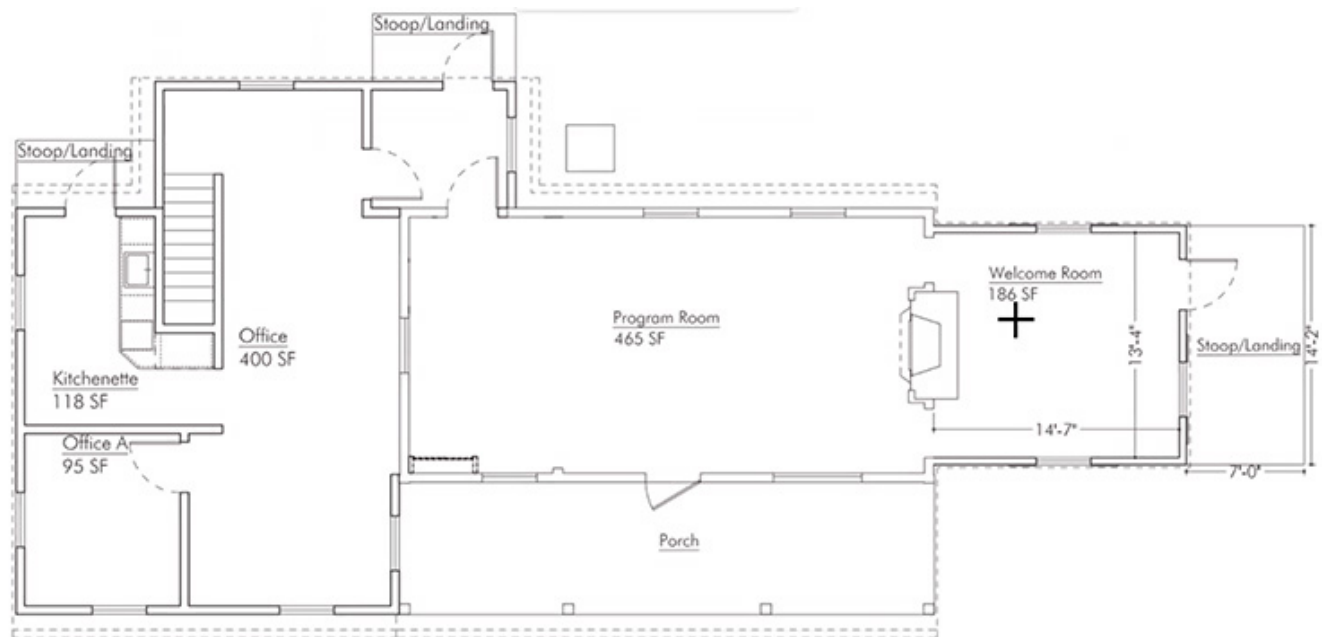
The Shelter Improvement Project, first announced in 2019, then delayed in 2020 due to lack of a staff planner at the Minneapolis



Jennifer Olson in the Garden teaching about what is needed for a Lady-slipper to grow. Olson photo.

Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), was further delayed at the beginning of 2021. The Friends Board met via Zoom with Emma Pachuta and new project manager Allison Dahlin of the MPRB on February 1 for an update on the plans. The layout of the addition was modified to move the new staff addition forward so that it now abutted the front edge of the existing Shelter patio. This was done to avoid a substantial amount of hillside excavation at the opposite end at the back side of the new addition. Next, a welcome center room was proposed as an addition to the opposite end of the Shelter where the lean-to is. This would become a new entrance to the building, requiring no steps, and while the existing entrance will be kept, it would allow the current large room to be more usable for classes and group meetings. It was proposed that the Friends fund the welcome center. If a ground level entry point were not built, then the existing entrance would have to be redone to meet new codes. Following this meeting, the MPRB staff was to complete the necessary drawings and specifications so that the project could be bid.

Proposed floor plan for the Crone Shelter as of early 2021. Drawing MPRB



The concept of a welcome center at the Shelter was well received. Not only would it provide a ground level entry point into the shelter, but volunteer staffing could be used more extensively. The Shelter was to remain closed until pandemic protocols indicated it would be safe to reopen, but as the year moved forward, that point never came. Melissa Hansen's volunteer docents were unemployed in 2021, just like in 2020. Forty eight volunteers were on her roster, including 6 newly trained in early 2020 but who never had the chance to work. New applications were not being accepted until 2022.

The Shelter project meeting was incorporated into the first Friends Board meeting of the year, held on a Zoom link, like those meetings of 2020. This was Jennifer Olson's first Board meeting as Friends president. Susan Wilkins was the first to make a presentation at the meeting. In the fall 2020 issue of the Friends newsletter, *The Fringed Gentian*TM, she had written:

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is working diligently to assure that each and every person in every corner of our beautiful City and beyond feels welcome, safe, comfortable and engaged while visiting public park spaces in Minneapolis, including the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. [Vol. 68 No. 3]

She now said that new signage would be installed at the top of the stairs to the Garden from the parking lot that would carry this welcome message in 15 languages, all of which are heard in the Twin City area. As part of the Garden's outreach program an activity center would be set up at the Wirth Beach during the Garden's open season. The Garden was to open on April 1st but the shelter was not expected to open anytime soon. During the winter months a few more green ash trees were removed from the Garden and some old dying maples and river birch. Brush piles from these removals were burned beginning on March 4.

The Friends' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) put forth some ideas for the Board to explore, not just for the make-up of the Board, but also for connecting a more diverse group of people, young and old, with the Wildflower Garden.

Another topic for discussion was the cost of the newsletter.

Lauren Husting had done an email survey of members in the email address file to understand what they liked, wanted, or were indifferent about the content of the newsletter. Eighty members responded, some were negative about the digital version but OK if it saved money; 70% connected with the Friends on the website; people wanted more communication in different ways - flower of the month, highlight plants, other media, or book reviews.

Gary Bebeau had provided the Board with discussion document on the cost of the newsletter and what could we do to use those funds better and more effectively. The basics of the document were:

The Friends, are on average, spending 55% of our membership contributions on printing and mailing a newsletter. That is not sustainable for the following reasons.

1. The number of people benefited for the dollars spent is unsupportable.
2. We have no idea if the number of copies we provide to non-members result in any tangible benefits for us.
3. We have no idea if the copies sent to courtesy members are even read.
4. We do not have a policy statement substantiating the use of contributions in such manner and in such a large amount.

Since we no way to judge the effectiveness of copies that are sent or otherwise provided to non-paying parties, we should use those funds for a more supportable purpose.

His considerations were that the newsletter is an integral part of our education program and that it should be continued and that a certain number of print copies may be necessary. Several courses of action were set out, not all inclusive, but a new direction should be chosen. Any choice that involves printing or mailing copies (which is where the expense is) must be supported by a policy position which we currently do not have.

The Board discussed the topics and a few conclusions were made. Gary considered \$2,000 the maximum the Friends should spend on the newsletter per year. This would accommodate all members that required a paper copy and provide extra copies for Garden visitors when the Shelter re-opened. Furthermore, \$2,000 could currently be entirely supported by the Friends "other revenues" not contributions. Getting down to \$2,000 required printing far fewer extra copies of each issue, especially the end of year issue which usually came out when the Garden was closing. The number of courtesy members getting paper copies should be restricted to the institutions that archive them and other



The new Welcome sign at the Garden parking lot. Photo G D Bebeau

courtesy people placed on the email list. Jennifer recommended an abbreviated newsletter type document be used at the Shelter instead of the full 8-page version. Finally Colin Bartol and Gary agreed that handling the mailing ourselves instead of a mail service would save funds also.

Going forward into the year, the print runs of the newsletter were automatically restricted as the Shelter was not open to make use of them. Colin hired a new printer - Minuteman Press - and beginning with the summer issue, volunteer labor (Colin and Gary and family members) was used to do the mailing.

A special meeting of the Board was called for March 3 on Zoom to get an update from MPRB on the Shelter planning. Details of that meeting are incorporated into the text above.

A Friends life member, Mary Steinbicker, made the *Minneapolis Tribune* on March 27 when reporter Becca Most wrote a story on how Mary had taken up the practice of sending a daily postcard to someone she knew or had met, just as a gesture of goodwill and happiness. Mary used travel postcards that she picked up here and there. The whole thing started from a New Year's resolution for 2020.



Mary Steinbicker. *Minneapolis Tribune* photo.

Spring 2021

The Garden opened on April 15 with staff at a table at the front gate to greet visitors, as they had done in 2020. The paths in the Garden were still one-way and the Shelter was still closed but there was less concern for separating visitors by a certain number of minutes. Susan Wilkins wrote in the spring *Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 69 No. 1):



We received a significant amount of positive feedback from Garden visitors in 2020, noting that the systems in place provided for a comfortable and safe visitor experience. We will continue to be guided by State of Minnesota and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board practices and procedures related to the pandemic at the Garden throughout the season.

2021 visiting restrictions at the Garden: Staff at the gate, one-way paths and the Shelter closed. Photos G D Bebeau.



In that newsletter issue were articles by two new contributors - the reward of an effort made by Editor Colin Bartol. Rod Miller, a Garden neighbor and volunteer, wrote about the Great Horned Owl - a bird with a long history of being resident near the Garden. Karen Shragg, a retired naturalist, wrote of the appreciation for Eloise Butler's drive to preserve the Garden space when there are so many pressures on the environment around us. Other articles were on "Our Native Dogwoods" by Gary Bebeau and "The Art of Collecting Native Seeds" by Lauren Husting.

In the Garden, there was a burn of the Prairie area on April 21st and portions of the hand rail along the steps from the parking lot to the front gate were removed as they were unstable. The rail dated back to a Friends project in 1975. Replacing the railing and the steps with something more user friendly would wait until budget funds could be applied. The MPRB was one of four finalists for the 2021 National Gold Medal Awards in Parks and Recreation Management, but lost out to Metro Cleveland.



Burning the prairie in spring 2021. MPRB photo

During May the Friends Invasive Plant Action Group (FIPAG) scheduled 3 pulls of Garlic Mustard in the area east of the Garden. Six volunteers from Aveda also came to help. Aveda has sent help for 15 years. Jim Proctor reported that during the winter someone or some group had constructed a ski run in the area and have moved out of the way branches and logs that had been placed to prevent erosion. Perhaps some signage was needed to protect the area.



A slope in the Maple Glen, cleared of Buckthorn, with native plants emerging in spring. Photo G D Bebeau

A Friends Board meeting was held via Zoom on April 12, which included another update from MPRB on the Shelter project. That was still in the documentation stage and no bid proposals had yet been let out, however, the effects of the Covid pandemic on the building supply industry were such that as pent-up demand for materials broke loose in early 2021, prices, especially of lumber, were so elevated that the MPRB staff saw no point in bidding at this time. More details emerge later in the year - see the autumn section.

Board discussion continued on several topics. The first topic was about how the newsletter should be circulated and how costs can be controlled. A consensus of opinion centered on 1) continuing paper copies for those that require paper, including the institutions that archive them, 2) put new members automatically on the email list, 3) put courtesy members that are not institutions on the email list, 4) limit how many extra copies are printed for non-member distribution, and 5) possible create a smaller handout for use in the Shelter.

The required annual report to the Minnesota Charities Office of the Attorney General was distributed and approved. The Federal non-profit report had been filed in March by the treasurer.

Summer 2021

The Friends had not pledged any funds to the Garden this year in lieu of accumulating funds for the Shelter Improvement Project. Gary Bebeau recommended that some be pledged as it is part of our standard fund-raising appeal to support the Garden plant population. The Board wanted it limited to \$1,000. Colin Bartol presented his ideas for creating a podcast about what visitors would see as they walked through the Garden. The idea had merit and needed to be determined who would do it and how to make it timely.



506



Susan Wilkins reported that naturalists Jodi and Tammy were back on the Garden staff but that everyone else was new. Programs back in action were the Early Birders, Garden Story-time and a suite of engaging evening programs like the Illuminated Trails tour and the Glow-in the Night Hike plus “pop-up” programs on a variety of Garden-themed topics. A special program was the Wirth Beach Nature Station that allowed for creative learning and enjoyment while meeting social distancing

requirements at Wirth Beach at which over 2,370 kids and adults took part during the season. (photo previous page)



The summer issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol. 60 No. 2) featured a review of FIPAG’s work over the past 15 years in which Jim Proctor reviewed what had been accomplished in the areas around the Garden, the “Volunteer Stewardship Area,” (VSA) and the various techniques that had been learned to deal with invasive plants. Work in the Maple Glen was nearing completion. Inside articles included Eloise Butler’s descriptions of the flowers of summer, and a review by Jennifer Olson of John Moriarty’s latest book *Minnesota’s Natural Heritage*. He was to be the guest speaker at the September annual meeting. Jennifer Olson announced the annual meeting schedule of events.

Susan Wilkins reflected on how the Garden had begun the year:

This past spring was delightful as well, with mild weather and just enough rain to allow for many of the woodland wildflower species to bloom for weeks on end. In many years, due to spikes of higher spring temperatures, strong winds, or extended dry spells, many species only bloom for days. The prolonged bloom times for many species allowed for more overlap of blooming plants and the layered display of woodland wildflowers for several weeks was truly synchronistic and a feast for the eyes and spirit.

Autumn 2021

The annual meeting of the Friends was held on September 19, via Zoom again, as the increase in Covid-19 infections and hospitalizations warranted less close contact at an in-person meeting, which was how it was originally scheduled.

Elected to the Board at the meeting for one year terms or, under the bylaws, until the next election was held, were Candy Bartol, Colin Bartol, Gary Bebeau, Steve Benson, Kathy Connelly, Lauren Husting, Jennifer Olson, Jim Proctor, Sally Pundt, Steve Pundt, Pam Weiner and Susan Wilkins (ex-officio).

The special feature of the meeting was a talk by John Moriarty, senior manager of wildlife for Three Rivers Park District. He has written or co-authored five books on the natural world of Minnesota. His talk concentrated on the latest book - *Minnesota’s Natural Heritage*. Minnesota hosts three of the world’s ten biomes: the northern coniferous forests, the deciduous forests, and the prairie, each with its lakes,

wetlands, streams and rivers. The book covers all three allowing readers to comprehend our ecosystems and its future. Three of his books were offered for sale on the website following the meeting. President Olson donated his speaker's fee.

At the Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting, the officers elected were: Jennifer Olson President, Candy Bartol Secretary, Gary Bebeau, Treasurer.

In committee roles were: Gary Bebeau - memorials money management and website, Jim Proctor - Invasive Plant Action Group (with non-board member Kari Christianson as co-chair), Colin Bartol - newsletter editor, Lauren Husting - media communications and non-board members Christi Bystedt as membership coordinator and Melissa Hansen - volunteers coordinator.

There was discussion about having a Friends fund-raiser in 2022 at the historic home of Mark Addicks, where we had a successful fund-raiser in 2015. President Olson is working on revising the membership information card that is primarily used for a handout in the Shelter and at events.

FIPAG held three Buckthorn pull events in October in the VSA of the Maple Glen. Because of the scare caused by the advent of Jumping Worms in the area volunteers were cautioned to not bring their own tools unless all dirt was washed off, to prevent spread of egg cases.

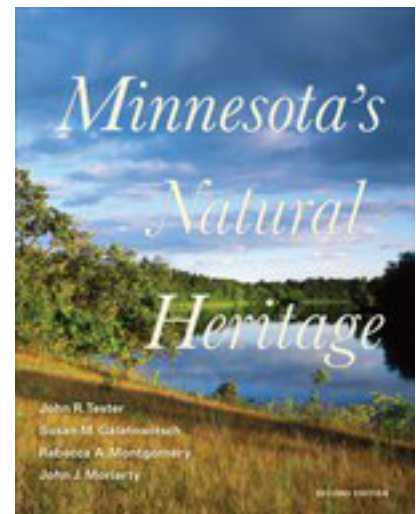
As volunteer activities were extremely limited this year, no annual Volunteer Appreciation Event was held. The fall issue of *The Fringed Gentian*TM (Vol., 69 No. 3) came out the 1st of November. The lead article had a description and photos of the creatures that show up in the Garden's trail cameras. Candy Bartol reviewed John Moriarty's book *A Field Guide to the Natural World of the Twin Cities*. This turned out to be the best seller of his books selected for sale on the website.. Gary Bebeau wrote an article about our native Oaks and how their dominance in Minnesota may be retained during this period of climate change. The final article by Lauren Husting summarized a recent book and film about water contamination - *There's Something in the Water*.

Susan Wilkins noted in her report that while we had a very dry summer, the Garden plants seemed to thrive. She added:

It's been another year of sharing the beauty and joy of the Garden in many familiar and also adaptive ways during the on-going pandemic. Operating the Garden over these past two seasons has required incredible flexibility on the part of staff as we've been nearly constantly adapting and developing strategies that allow us to operate safely while engaging visitors with nature-filled experiences and programming.

Jennifer Olson, wrote that

Another end of a Garden season that began with masks, one-way trails, staggered entry times and social distancing requirements and evolved to no restrictions. I hope you have enjoyed the



The repaired back Garden fence, completed in early 2021. Photo G D Bebeau

seasonal transformations of each Garden Trail. In the late summer, the Upland Garden is my favorite with the contrasting goldenrods and the purple asters. I was excited to read Robin Wall Kimmerer's chapter of 'Asters and Goldenrod' in her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass* in which the author discusses how indigenous peoples appreciated plants.

We were notified of the passing of several Friends members during the year.

Juannita 'Nita' Lussenhop, joined in 1994, and was a director from 1996 to 2005 and secretary from 1996 to 2005. (at left in photos below)

Marguerite Harbison, joined in 1993 was a director from 1994 to 2005, served as memorials chair and helped organize volunteer appreciation events. (in center in photos below)

John Haldeman was a member for 48 years. (at right in photos below)



Wrap-up of the year for the Friends:

Total Friends direct support for the Garden during the year was \$1,000 for plants; additional educational mission expenditures totaled \$1,801. Over the past 20 years the Friends have funded \$397,000 for the Garden and educational program.

Donation support during the year was \$15,876 from 67 donors. Memorials of \$2,440 were received from 22 donors for 15 different persons. Name plates to be added to the Eliason Honor Board in the Crone Shelter were for former Friends director and secretary Juanita Lussenhop, member John Haldeman, and for Warren Johnson and Helen Wright King.

At the end of the year the Friends active paying membership was 140, plus 49 life members. Courtesy memberships were 21 for a total count of 210. Nine new members joined; 19 were dropped from the roster due to death or for being in-arrears; 15 courtesy members were removed from the courtesy list for various reasons. New members included 2 new life memberships, the same as 2020. In spite of many members not renewing their support for various reasons, a number of other members at the sponsor and sustainer level continued their high level of support so that our average member payment (excluding life) was \$68.54, compared with \$50.56 in 2020. Financial assets at year-end were \$223,275.

Photo top of first page of 2021: The Garden wetland showing luxuriant growth along the new boardwalk with many Queen of the Meadow in bloom on July 13, 2021. Photo G D Bebeau.

List of illustrations - Volumes 2 and 3

These histories can be read independently of one another, thus some illustrations that are appropriate to multiple years may be repeated. Repeats are not necessarily listed in this index. Pages 264 and above are in Volume 3.

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