

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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SUMMER IN THE GARDEN

The summer flowers are now taking the place of those of spring which were with us for such a brief period. The general succession produces a continuous bloom.

The foliage of the Trout-lily, Dutchman's-breeches, Spring Beauty, Mertensia and Harbinger-of-Spring has completely disappeared.

The various varieties of Lady's-slippers have come and gone as well as many kinds of violets, Anemones, Bellworts, Beard-tongue, Marsh Marigold, Columbine and others.

Then there is a kind of pause as summer passes its peak and prepares to coast down through August toward September, and the splendor of summer is gone. For summer reveals the maturity of all creation.

The lazy air is still full of fragrances.

"The south wind searches for the flowers whose fragrance late he bore"
And sighs to find them in the wood and by the stream no more".

- William Cullen Bryant

BIRD NOTES

In August most nesting chores are over and the fledglings are all feathered and on the wing, getting ready for the migration to the south. Some leave as early as mid August.

It was interesting to note that birds were more numerous this spring than in several years past. Altho they passed thru this area rather hastily, there was a greater concentration at their nesting site.

In northern Minnesota great numbers of Veerys, Oven-birds, Song Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers and many others were noted in song.

It is impossible to exaggerate the magic of the Hermit Thrushes song. It holds one enthralled.

The Scarlet Tanagers also were noted in great numbers, Thoreau said - "The Tanager flies through the green foliage as if it would ignite the leaves".

Always of interest, the gracefulness of white Gulls skimming low over the water, their only brood having been reared for the year.

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



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CHERRY BLOSSOMS

A beautiful sight worth driving to see the first two weeks in June--
Amidst the pine woods the blooming of Pin Cherry, Juneberry and Choke Cherry.
They impart a brightness like sunshine to the landscape, especially those
along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Beyond a doubt the great collection of Cherry Trees in Washington, D.C.,
couldn't be lovelier.

The great masses of white blossoms of Juneberry, Shadbush (*Amelanchier*)
mingling with the rose-tinted leaves just unfolding make a beautiful spectacle
against the background of Pine, Balsam and Spruce.

The Pin Cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*) and Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
add to the display, giving the landscape the appearance of having been swept
by a snowstorm.

Their delightful fragrance attracts multitudes of bees.

DID YOU KNOW

That Bananas are not picked green to preserve the fruit during shipment and
storage? They would not be fit to eat if left on the plant to ripen. If
allowed to turn yellow on the plant, the skin breaks open, and bacteria and
insects enter and it becomes unpalatable. Only when they are picked green
will the starch in them turn to sugar and become edible.

PORCUPINE

The Porcupine also called Quill Pig is in danger of extermination in North-
ern Minnesota due to the Fisher preying upon it. The Fisher is an animal some-
what like a Marten and it is the only animal that will attack the Porcupine.

This rodent has a thick-set body covered with sharp barbed spines loosely
attached to the skin (Many dogs have discovered this fact). It is exceeded in
size among American Rodents only by the Beaver.

The quills are white with black tips, well concealed by the long hairs.
They are the longest and most numerous on the lower back and tail. The flat
thick tail is well covered with quills. The tail is also used for clinging
when climbing trees somewhat as a woodpecker uses his tail feathers.

The animal has no power to discharge the backward pointing quills at any
distance, yet when they are touched they are elevated by muscular contraction.

The Porcupine does not depend upon flight to escape his enemy, since he
ambles along rather slowly. He depends upon his protective coloring and the
quills when touched.

It has saved the life of many a hungry man lost in the wilds, since it is
the only edible animal that can be killed without firearms.

Some plants renew themselves each year by means of a creeping rootstock,
with a bud forming at the end for the following year. Some of these are
Clintonia, *Pipsissewa*, *Shin-leaf* and various others.

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NEW RESERVES

Encouragement should be given to groups establishing Wild Flower Reserves in various areas. Perpetual pleasure and satisfaction comes from such a venture, after a small measure of success is attained.

So that future generations may benefit by what a few far seeing citizens have accomplished.

The success of growing some of the wild flowers gives inspiration for further efforts.

A wholly wild area that thrills you to the finger tips, where many varieties of wild flowers grow is an ideal situation.

Plant some in large masses to emphasize their beauty, yet this beauty cannot be retained for long, the blooming period being very brief therefore others must take their place.

Some like the deeper shades of the forest and others the long hours of sunshine. Try to imitate their original habitat.

A secluded spot is preferable with a background of trees and shrubs.

Altho wildflowers after they are established and left to themselves will multiply, they can be increased faster by propagating them in seedbeds.

Wild flowers encouraged to grow in their natural habitat in the remnants of our wilderness that is left, are a great national treasure. When these areas are destroyed they cannot be replaced.

BLACK BEARS

Another vacation period is with us, and again many bears will be encountered in the wilds.

It is fortunate that an animal of the strength and ferocity which he displays when aroused seldom attacks man, yet severe lacerations can result in attempting to feed them by hand. Many tourists delight in doing so.

They have great strength in their fore-arms, and their paws have very sharp claws.

Their principal food is - berries, fruit, grass, mice and squirrels. As well as birds and their eggs, honey and young bees, also fish, frogs, ants, vegetables and roots of various kinds.

Frying bacon will bring a bear to camp quicker than anything. They raid barn yards for sheep, calves, pigs and poultry. Recently garbage dumps of Summer Resorts have become favorite places for them to feed.

In spite of their playful disposition it is well not to get too close in feeding them. They climb trees very readily.

They mate just before going into hibernation, but hibernating bears are not in a deep coma, like Woodchucks. Altho they sleep they are easily aroused.

They come out of hibernation from the first of April to the middle of May depending upon weather conditions, with the cubs that were born during hibernation.

Up to July the weeds take a foothold, if pulled out, almost over night they root again. When the days begin to shorten the weeds seem to diminish.

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RARE ORCHID

Ram's-head Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium arietinum)

The smallest and rarest of our Lady's-slippers growing in cold evergreen bogs or swamps. It is about 6 to 12 inches tall, has a solitary, nodding pointed pouch somewhat resembling the head of a ram, and purplish in color.

In most parts of the United States it is so rare that many enthusiasts have never seen it.

Our native orchids are retreating before the advance of agriculture and the spread of civilization, and many are already threatened with extinction.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

Often in driving thru the country one comes upon a group of Lilac bushes neglected and spread out in barren areas. This generally marks the site of a home long gone.

In the old days of superstition, Lilac bushes were planted in many country doorways by the early settlers for the purpose of guarding the household from the Evil Eye. The perfume of the Lilac was supposed to be powerful enough for this purpose.

The Lilac was an original inhabitant of Europe and I believe the real reason for most old gardens containing the well known single-flowered lilac was that it was easy to propagate from cuttings brought from Europe by the early settlers.

In later years this old time favorite has been replaced by hundreds of hybrids.

EXTENDING THE SEASON

There is always a certain amount of regret when our spring flowers have passed, and we must look with longing to another year, for the renewal of the cycle.

Some compensation can be had by following the blooming season to the north. The transitional space of almost four weeks between the blooming of spring flowers in this area and the same varieties in the north is very conspicuous.

The early spring flowers that bloomed here in April and May are still blooming there in June and July.

If, by the distribution of these issues a broader knowledge, a deeper interest, a truer appreciation and a better understanding comes to those in whose hands its pages open, the writer will feel well repaid for the effort of preparation.

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