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PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE
WILD FLOWER GARDEN, INC.

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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FOR THE 275 MEMBERS OF
" FRIENDS OF ELOISE BUTLER WILD FLOWER AND BIRD SANCTUARY "
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY —
AND THE 75TH
OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GARDEN

by Betty Bridgman

These people: let me present them.
Mother Nature sent them
into this world of Real Estate,
of too-little-caring-too-late,
of weed-eradicator promotion,
particulates and pollution,
of mopeds and snowmobiles.

They take care
lest the forest floor be trodden bare,
and the prairie tracked and packed by RV wheels.

These people are fervently, ecstatically, passionately, irrationally,
obsessively, fiercely, militantly, unequivocally, irreversibly,
non-negotiably, one thousand per cent
in favor of wild flowers.

No pallid sentiment,
no live-and-let-live toleration,
no "Make-it-if-you-can—but first comes access and recreation."

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! "

These people care all the more
for seed and spore
because at 45° latitude and above
they have a short season for their love.



more

Here, flowers are few.
They count three British Soldiers, one Sundew.
Compared with the orchid riot
Of steamy jungle, these woods are quiet.
One Calopogon is a summer when they spy it.
The Buck-eye dapples
a spread of May-apples
and imparts a glow
they bask in when it's twenty-five below.
A high holy-day of their year:
when Showy Lady-slippers appear,
when the gooseberry is ripe
or they find an Indian Pipe.

These benefactors
would lie down in front of tractors
to save a virgin patch of prairie
or a bird sanctuary.
They storm the legislature
to keep one marshland safe for nature.
They ask for grants
To bully bull-dozers and rescue pitcher plants.
A soft cry of delight will pass
from their lips when Ken mentions Blue-eyed Grass.
It brings a flush to their cheeks, and stepped-up pulse
to think that Ken would label any flower "false."

They want our ditches
filled with Dutchmen's Britches.
They scold
pluckers of Marsh Marigold.
They won't pull a stalk
of Spatterdock.
Better not injure
Eloise's Ginger.
Their efforts won't slacken
for hillsides of Bracken.
They dote on the woollen
stalks of Mullein.
They're ready to champion
Bladder Champion,
and keep things from getting worse
for Shepherd's Purse.
They won't let Boneset
ride off into the sunset.

They enshrine Eloise Butler.
No Park Board budget-cut can scuttle her.

more --

They know time will tell
our city's debt to Clinton Odell,
and they'll make known
the long devotion of Martha Crone,
the bravery and slavery
of Kenneth E. Avery,
and his side-kick,
Dick Wick,
Kay Faragher's amazing
shelter-fund-raising.

It's high time
we salute Moana Beim;
and those with effort and intelligence
who keep up the fence, and the defense.

Eloise, you of the trowel and duff-stained knees,
you'd have loved knowing such as these.

The garden that was all yours
endures.

From wood-chip paths and ostrich-fern-lined ways
rises our praise.

END

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FRIENDS OF THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN, INC.

Membership categories:

Active	\$ 5.00	Make all remittances to :
Sustainer	10.00	Mrs. Doris S. Larson, treasurer
Sponsor	25.00	Box 66
Builder	100.00	Chanhassen, MN 55317
Benefactor	200.00	

All membership categories carry the same privileges.

All dues are tax deductible.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS : Since our annual meeting in May, the transition of officers has gone smoothly and I am privileged and happy to serve as your President this year. It is a distinct pleasure to represent the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, an organization united and dedicated in its primary purpose - that of the preservation and betterment of our beloved Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden. As most of you know the Friends enters its 31st year as an organized group in 1982 and it is my earnest desire that we, officers and directors, carry on in the fine tradition established by our predecessors pf by-gone years.

Because of so much loyal support from our membership we continue to find it possible to fund projects that are helpful and desirable for the garden. Current plans include the installation of a telephone answering device for the shelter phone to be activated when volunteers are not on duty. This will free our Park Board staffers, Ken Avery and Dick Wick, for ongoing and important work in the garden, while the device answers telephone inquiries with an appropriate recorded message. Also planned is the acquisition of a wood chipping machine for use in the fall to convert brush into cover for the paths.

A recent visit to the North Shore divulges cooperative effort between a group of interested citizens and the United States Forest Service. The West End GardenClub of Lutsen is working with the Forest Service to establish a self-guided wildflower identification tour on the Oberg Mountain Trail in the forest between Tofte and Lutsen. The concept includes identifying information on about 30 wildflowers found along the trail with markers and printed brochures. This is a prime example of beneficent results stemming from cooperation between the private sector and government which is so beautifully exemplified by the relationship enjoyed over the past 30 years between the Friends and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Incidentally, members of the Friends, Bill and Beth Blank, are also members of the Lutsen group, the West End Garden Club. They are former Twin Citians who are proprietors of Solbakken Resort at Lutsen.

For now then, let me close with sincere thanks to our dedicated officers and directors, and to all our members for their continuing fine support.

Caroline Price, president
Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc.

MEMORIALS : The Friends are grateful for several memorial contributions which have been made in memory of Ebba W. Tolg (Mrs. Clarence). Mrs. Tolg was one of our earliest members. Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Russell, Mr. & Mrs. James Russell, Mr. & Mrs. Frank McDonald, and the Golden Valley Garden Club.

We are also grateful for the memorial made in memory of Jack Roddy. Our thanks to Kristin McDougall-Jater.

BUILDERS : The Friends appreciate the Builder contributions of the Wood-Rill Foundation and of Edward W. Verbarg. Thank you.

CENNTENIAL : 1983 will be the century anniversary of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation system. Enjoy your parks!