

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

Vol. 33

July 1983

No. 2



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by CAROLINE PRICE

May first marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. I think it fitting and symbolic that the start of our year is synchronized with the bursting forth of new life, especially at Eloise Butler Garden.

To attend our April board meeting held in the Martha Crone shelter, we waded in deep snow left by a mid-April blizzard. If the skunk cabbage was blooming, we didn't see it. However, for our annual meeting on May 21st, Mother Nature provided a beautiful day with several flowers in bloom: Trillium, Marsh Marigold, Hepatica, Wild Geranium. Puccoon was also in bloom in the Prairie Garden.

As reported at the annual meeting, the year just ended saw several accomplishments by the Friends. We have organized our archives. We have launched our memorial plaque with two names engraved thereon, representing an honorarium and a memorial. We purchased and ordered the installation of two benches in the Garden, using part of the proceeds of these gifts.

The telephone-answering device provided by the Friends has been greatly appreciated by those who work at the park.

We presented scholarship awards to six Metro Area college students. We also gave four grants to agri-business students of the Minneapolis school system, and one Audubon campership. Students interested in preserving our natural environment were the recipients of these grants.

As we start our new year, I want to thank each of our officers and directors and all of you loyal members who continue your generous support of the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

STUDENT GRANTS ANNOUNCED AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING, May 21, 1983

Grants chairman Robert Price reported the choice of students for scholarships totaling \$1,975.00. Six college grants at \$200 each went to:

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| Mark Harelstad | Augsburg College |
| Margaret Menzies | Bethel College |
| Steven Fifield | Hamline University |
| Paul Blackburn | Macalester College |
| Matthew Moraczewski | St. Thomas College |
| Kathleen Bowden | College of St. Catherine |

Four awards of \$100.00 each to agri-business students in Minneapolis schools: Stacey Northrop, Kent Huntington, Todd Larson and Theodore Alford.

One campership, for a week at Audubon Ecology Camp, \$375.00, to Jean Mueting.
over —

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Marie Demler, assisted by Natalie Adler, arranges the schedule of volunteers who keep the Martha Crone Shelter open seven days a week. Board members DORIS LARSON, CAROLINE PRICE, NATALIE ADLER and CINDY BERG served on Sunday, May first, Metro Awareness Day, at the request of Mary Lerman of Minneapolis parks.

Marie and Natalie continued the practice of holding an open house for volunteers and members. A buffet of hors d'oeuvres drew a capacity crowd to the Shelter on June 7, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Some of those present told how they became interested in the Garden:

STU BARRON says the Garden is part of his yard since he moved nearby last fall. He saw a request for volunteers in the newspaper. Coming here is "part of my therapy." He brings Caleb, who will be three in August.

LIZ POMEROY answered the newspaper request and is now to be a Board member.

CAROL CASSMAN came many times to enjoy the Garden during the last years of her deceased husband. He took delight in going from bench to bench as his strength permitted. Memorials in his name were directed to the Garden.

DORIS LARSON says coming as a volunteer is "my mini-vacation every week."

JOYCE SMEBY appreciates all the friends she has made through volunteering here.

ANN KESSEN started to serve here when she needed to get away from a demanding small child for awhile.

DAVE PETERSON has volunteered here for eight years. He noted in Jim Klobuchar's column June 6 that "the Minnesota Twins are now regularly outdrawn by the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden." Thanks, Jim!

JEAN STILLWELL calls this place "a treat and a retreat."

JUDY JONES remembers coming here about 20 years ago. She picked up a tiny ball of fur near the bird feeder, and heard a voice behind her — caretaker Ken Avery — saying, "Are you a connoisseur of owl pellets?"

We also heard from EMIL and LAURIE ELFTMANN, LYNN HALLBERG, MAX DEMLER, SCOTT and SUE REXER, CAROLINE PRICE, BERNICE LARSON, ARLINE WHITEHEAD, CAROL BRUNSGAARD, SHIRLEY SCHULTZ, FRAN TESAREK, BETTY BARLOW, and JYOTHI POTHAPRAGADA.

MORE FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Pat Thomesen, our Historian, has the journal written by Eloise Butler, who started the Garden. Pat read from Eloise's last entry. We hope to quote from this Journal in future issues of the Gentian. Pat has organized and bound our historical materials and will give copies to the Minneapolis Public Library history collection, and to Minnesota Historical Society. A copy will be available in the Garden Shelter as well.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE WILDFLOWER GARDEN!

Send dues to Treasurer, Doris S. Larson, .. Box 66, .. Chanhassen MN 55317. Make checks payable to "Doris S. Larson, Treasurer." Dues are tax-deductible. Membership categories: Active, \$5.00 a year. Other categories: call Doris, 934 - 7648. And would you like to help us keep the Shelter open? Call Marie Demler, 938 - 5856.