

Grace Notes in Miniature,

Tuesday June 9th, 2020

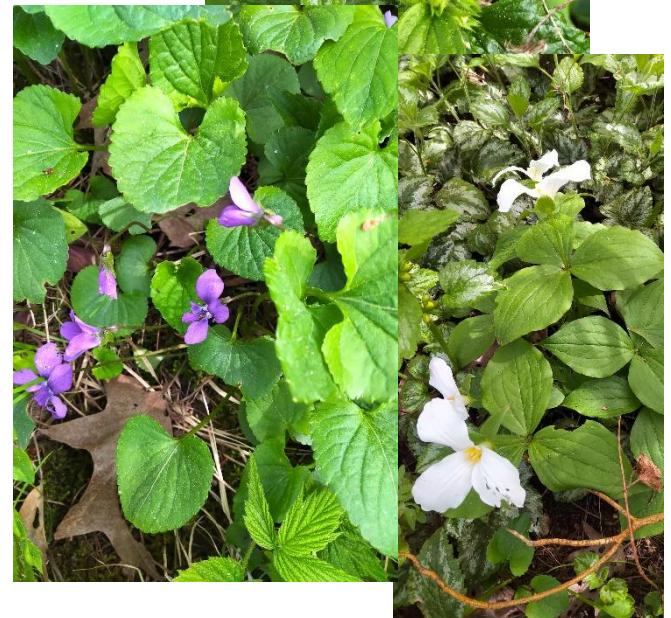
Dear friends:

On this beautiful June morning, as I am trying to decide which T-shirt to wear, my thoughts keep going back to a passage from Matthew 6 which I learned as a Sunday School memory-work assignment more than 60 years ago:

And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? ²⁸ And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Living in a Church of Scotland household, I learned my verses from the King James Bible and I still have a love for the poetic language of that translation. I have never forgotten the passage – although I have to say that I am a slow learner with regard to the message! Today it reminded me of some snapshots I took a couple of weeks ago in the woods just north of Georgetown. I was wandering along what appeared to be a rather nondescript section of the woods and suddenly the flash of white caught my eye – and there were the trilliums; I turned my head and saw the yellow and the purple flowers (I believe they are archangels and violets, respectively) and wanted to capture all of them “on film”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyS-xA-9zOU>

We need to believe that each of us is every bit as beautiful in the eyes of God who made us. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT_oDqOEGpc



Yesterday, I asked the question why some flowers are sneered at and called weeds and others nurtured like royalty and sold in garden centres: the lowly dandelion was the example I used. I'm told that botanists consider dandelions to be herbs, and that the leaves, stem, flower, and root of the dandelion are used for medicinal purposes. It is considered an anti-oxidant, containing beta-carotene and polyphenols; it is found to be useful in lowering cholesterol levels and regulating blood sugar and blood pressure; it can aid in weight loss, boosts the immune system and aids in digestion; it can help reduce UV damage to skin, and there is current in vitro research which suggests it may be an anti-inflammatory, and it may slow the growth of certain cancerous tumours. Not an unimpressive list for a plant which is identified in many municipalities as a 'nuisance weed'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taYxyE34jjY>



We all know stories, anecdotal or personal, about the child who was dismissed as being unlikely to achieve anything and yet blew everyone away with a success story. We all stand by vision statements which claim that we want to see every child reach his or her potential – yet some children do need an awful lot more love than others, and we can be tempted to dismiss them as weeds. I remember feeling quite ashamed once when I ran into a young man, whom, as a student in a Grade class, I couldn't wait to see move on at the end of the semester. He gave me the biggest bear hug, insisted on showing me the pictures in his wallet of his lovely wife and beautiful children, then told me I had been his favourite teacher and proceeded to tell me some things he remembered my saying in class. I heard the story of his life unfolding and the success that he was making of it and was so happy for him. Thank you, Lord, for that lesson!

It's been said that every child who enters our schools has the potential to become a saint. Like a tender plant, they need nurture and feeding. They may need pruning and staking up occasionally, but ultimately, given the right conditions, they can all flourish and be recognised as the beautiful flowers they are in God's garden. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9qzaLTIGXI>

For pure pleasure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxHkLdQy5f0>

May you be blooming where you are planted!

With every blessing,

Gillian