SHOWY ORCHIS (Galearis spectabilis — a.k.a. Orchis spectabilis)

Orchids always seem to attract attention — perhaps it's their beauty, or their means of pollination, or their sudden appearance in the woods, prairies, or roadsides. Whatever the reason, we are drawn to them. In Minnesota, we are blessed with 28 species of orchids, seven of which are on the rare plant list.

One of the relatively more common species is "Showy Orchis" or Galearis spectabilis (previously called Orchis spectabilis). This spurred orchid has two somewhat elliptic leaves, 8-15 cm long, born near the base of the plant. The flowers have a small pinkish hood formed by the sepals and two petals; the lip (third petal) is white with a spur nearly as long as the lip itself. Found in rich mesic woods, Showy Orchis is common from New Brunswick to Minnesota, south to Arkansas and Georgia. Its distribution in Minnesota follows the hardwood forest belt from Lincoln and Fillmore counties to Otter Tail County. Look for it next spring or early summer.

Anita Cholewa

A second location for the Showy Orchis has been found in Otter Tail County. An earlier collection from the Clitherall Lake (May 1984) established a new county record and extended the known Minnesota range of this orchid northward from southwestern Douglas County. The most recent location, Maplewood State Park, is in northwestern Otter Tail County, about 30 miles north-northwest of the Clitherall Lake site.

Charles Argue
MNPS FALL AGENDA*

7 October -- Ron Bowen, Prairie Restoration Inc.  
   Seed Exchange

4 November -- Minnesota Botany; International Exhibition of Photography

2 December -- Clifford Wetmore, University of Minnesota; Lichens of Minnesota

*All meetings start at 7:30 p.m., 335 Borlaug Hall - University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus

MNPS BOARD MEETINGS

MNPS members are invited to attend monthly board meetings. Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (preceeding the general meeting) at the Saint Paul Student Center Cafeteria. This fall the meetings are October 7, November 4 and December 2.

OCTOBER SEED EXCHANGE

The annual native seed exchange will be held at the end of the October 7 meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in room 335 Borlaug Hall - Saint Paul Campus (note: this is a room change from last year). Seeds will be available to all those attending the meeting; seed contributors are given first selection.

Please collect only seeds that are free of pests and disease. Take only a small percentage of mature seed if the plant is from the wild. Label envelopes with scientific and common names, collection site, habitat, date of collection, and your name.

Seed envelopes can be obtained by calling Dr. May Wright, 429-7674. They will also be available 15 minutes before the meeting begins. Seeds can also be sent to Dr. Wright at 4157 Bellaire, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110, by September 30 for packing.

Many of our members have experience in growing native plants from seeds, and can discuss what methods have worked best for certain species.

Please come to share your seeds and knowledge!
THANKS TO YOU!

Thank you to all who donated plants for the 1987 spring plant sale at our May 6 meeting. And thanks to our generous plant-buyers; a total of $195 was raised for the lawsuit fund. Every plant found a new home.

1987 MINNESOTA BOTANY EXHIBITION

Time once again for the annual "International Exhibition of Photography: Minnesota Botany," sponsored jointly by MNPS and Minnesota Nature Photography Club and approved and listed by the Photographic Society of America.

Subject matter is restricted to BOTANY and its many facets: flowering plants, non-flowering plants (fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns), habitats, and fossil plant life. The photography should be done in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify to its honest presentation. Human elements, if present, should be unobtrusive and enhance the nature story. Photographs which depict artificially produced hybrid or horticultural varieties of plants may not be used. Photographs depicting still life studies, obviously set flower arrangements, mounted specimens, museum habitats or groups, derivations or any form of photographic manipulation that alters truth of the photographic statement are ineligible and should not be submitted (Exception: detailed micro or macrophotography). Entries restricted to 2 x 2 slides. ALL SLIDES MUST BE SPOTTED IN THE LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER AS VIEWED FROM AN UPRIGHT POSITION AND MUST BEAR THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MAKER. DESCRIPTIVE TITLES ARE RECOMMENDED. ENTRY BLANKS ON NEXT PAGE.

This exhibit will follow the recommended procedures of PSA and is open to everyone, everywhere. All possible care will be taken to protect slides, however, responsibility cannot be assumed for lost or damaged entries. Entries without proper fee will not be returned or forwarded. All Acceptances will be eligible for listing in PSA's "Who's Who" and will count toward "Star Ratings".

18 medals to be awarded this year for: PSA Best of Show; Best slide by an exhibitor outside USA; Best Non-flowering plant; Best terrestrial orchid; 3 medals to the Best slide of 3 Minnesota residents; 11 medals – open category.

Calendar:

Closing deadline for receipt 3 October 1987
Judging 10 October 1987
Report cards filed 14 October 1987
Total rejects 20 October 1987
Slides returned to owners 19 November 1987
Catalogues mailed 28 November 1987

Showings:
7:30 p.m. 4 November, Borlaug hall, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul
7:30 p.m. 9 November, Central Community Center, St. Louis Park

For more information, contact Laurence Quinn

L. Quinn
New Director Appointed — As part of its "Commitment to Focus," the Department of Botany is reevaluating and rebuilding its program in systematic botany. A new faculty member, Dr. John Doebley, has arrived and will be assuming the additional responsibilities of the newly created position of Director of the Herbarium. Dr. Doebley received his training from Hugh Iltis of the University of Wisconsin Herbarium and most recently was on the faculty at Texas A & M. Recent research interests involve genetic and evolutionary aspects of corn and its relative, teosinte. Dr. Doebley has spent much time in Mexico for research purposes, but is not stranger to the Upper Midwest. We welcome John and hope his stay here is long and profitable.
Open House -- The 2nd Annual Herbarium Open House will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 1987, from 3:00 - 6:00 in the afternoon at the Herbarium (8th floor, Biological Sciences Center, Saint Paul campus - parking available at the fairground lot). This will be a chance to meet the new Director of the Herbarium, Dr. John Doebley, and to socialize with other members of the University and botanical communities. Refreshments will be served. Mark your calendars!

Volunteer Program -- Have some extra time? Want to spend it in a botanically oriented way? Consider spending 2-3 hours a week preparing herbarium specimens or assisting in other day-to-day workings of an herbarium. Call Anita at 624-0215 for more information or to volunteer.

Anita Cholewa

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY

I recently received a letter from MNPS member Kriste Erickson. She is now a botanist with the Peace Corps, working with the National Biological Inventory of Natural History). Kriste is very enthusiastic about the project and is planning collecting trips along the Rio Paraguay and into the large wetland areas of southwestern Paraguay. She sounds happy with her new position (who can blame her?).

Kriste also has a request for help. It seems that the Biological Inventory is on a very tight budget and is having trouble obtaining money for equipment and subscriptions to scientific journals. She was hoping that MNPS members might be willing to make tax deductible donations to this scientific endeavor. Donors would receive the newsletter "Biological Inventory News" (in English), as well as a standing invitation to join field trips next time you find yourself in Paraguay. It is certainly a good cause and I encourage anyone interested to contact Kriste at the following address:

Kriste Erickson  
Inventario Biological Nacional  
c/o Centro de Datos  
c.c. 3303  
Asuncion, Paraguay (S. Am.)

Welby Smith

WINTER TRIPS

Summer is almost over and people are already talking about the upcoming supposedly severe winter. Sounds like the winter blues are starting to bite. Try a botanical getaway ...

Western Australia --

Botanist-accompanied coach tours operate from Perth to the Kalbarri area from mid-August through late September and to the South and South-West of Western Australia from late September through October.

Visitors with a pioneering spirit can hire cars or 4WD vehicles and visit the major wildflower areas - and areas not normally visited on coach tours - at their own pace.

From September 1 to October 31 a number of coach companies offer full-day wildflower tours from Perth and during this period free guided walks are available in Kings
Park (Perth) where a native plant display and wildflower exhibition is held annually over the last weekend in September.

Western Australian Tourism Commission
Suite 1210, 2121 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, California 90067
213-557-1987

Israel --

Israel Nature Trails, the touring department of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), invites you to explore Israel in a special way. Although Israel is a small country, it contains an unusual variety of wildlife, spectacular landscapes and historical sites. Our tours leave the main roads, and penetrate into little-known and relatively inaccessible areas. Our experienced guides explain the natural and human culture of these regions and point out hidden places of great beauty and fascination.

18 different tours are offered through March 1988. Some of the places visited include: Golan Canyons, Massada & the Dead Sea, En Gedi Nature Preserve, and the Negev Desert.

Israel Nature Trails
SPNI
13 Heleni Hamalka Str.
P.O.B. 930
Jerusalem 91008 Israel

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1987/1988

Time once again to renew your membership in MNPS and insure uninterrupted delivery of the newsletter, "MINNESOTA PLANT PRESS".

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Minnesota Native Plant Society Membership Registration

Mail to: Minnesota Native Plant Society, 220 Biological Sciences Center, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Membership Categories:

$ 8.00 _____ Individual $ 6.00 _____ Senior (over 62 or retired)
$10.00 _____ Family (Two or more related) $15.00 _____ Institution
$ 6.00 _____ Student (Full-time) $25.00 _____ Donor

Name_________________________ Address_________________________

City_________________________ State_________ Zip_________ Phone_________

U. OF M. CAMPUS ADDRESS
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 29 & October 6  Lichen Biology and Ecology
U. of M. Extension Informal Courses
Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Registration deadline September 22
625-3333 for information

October 1 - 29 Field Ecology of Minnesota
U. of M. Extension Informal Course
Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Registration deadline September 24
625-3333 for information

October 2 & 3 Reading Natural History Objects: Workshop for Professional Naturalists and Secondary Teachers
Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Bell Museum of Natural History
Members $35; Non-members $40.00
624-3898 for information

October 8 Backyard Wildlife Management
U. of M. Extension Informal Course
Thursday 7:00- 9:00 p.m.
Registration deadline October 1
625-3333 for information

October 13 University of Minnesota Herbarium Open House
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
8th Floor
Biological Sciences Center
Saint Paul Campus

November 4 Forest Fragmentation: A Bird's Eye View
Illustrated lecture by James Lynch Smithsonian Institute
Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Bell Museum of Natural History
Tickets $3.00

November 6 The Fate of the Rainforest and the Future of Zoos
Illustrated Lecture by Michael Robinson, Director, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institute
Friday 7:30 p.m.
Tickets $3.00

November 7 Photographing Nature: A Seminar
Kjell Sandved
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bell Museum of Natural History
624-3898 for information
Tickets $20.00

November 7 Beyond the Ocean, Beneath a Leaf
Film, live narration
Saturday 3:00 p.m.
Bell Museum of Natural History
Tickets $3.00

November 27-29 Wild Rice-ing: Past and Present
Friday - Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. each day
Bell Museum of Natural History
Free with admission
Board of Directors

Harriet Mason, President
Welby Smith, Vice President
Ruth Phipps, Treasurer
Jim Schuster, Secretary
Neil Anderson, Director-at-large
Steve Eggers, Director-at-large
Dave McLaughlin, Director-at-large
Christine Soutter, Director-at-large
May Wright, Director-at-large

Newsletter Staff

Anita Cholewa
Debbie Olmstead

If you have a news item, article, or other information that should be included in the next issue of the Minnesota Plant Press, please send it to Anita or Roberta, Department of Botany, University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108.

Minnesota Plant Press may be obtained through membership in the Society: $8 individual, $10 family, $6 student.

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