



Minnesota Plant Press

The Minnesota Native Plant Society
Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 1

Fall 1996

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor Center, 3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1600 612-335-2323

6:30-7:00 PM—Refreshments, Room A
7:00-8:30 PM—Program & Society Business
8:30 PM—Socializing
9 PM—Doors close sharply at 9 PM

1996

October 3—**Don Del Greco**: Wildflowers With Wings: Butterflies and Native Plants.

November 7—**Char Bezanson**: Growing Wildflower Seedlings; Terry Goodfellow on Minnesota Green (report); Seed Exchange

December 5—**Scott Bradley**: MNDOT Woody Plant Selection Matrix (CD ROM); Book Store Open

December 7—**Board Meeting**, 10-12 AM

1997

February 6—**Bonnie Harper-Lore**: Roadside Vegetation Management Nationwide

March 1—**Board Meeting**, 10-12 AM.

March 6—**Dean Hansen**: Creating and Enjoying a Sand Prairie

April 3—**Lee Ronning**: Land Stewardship

May 1—**Plant Photography Contest**

June 3—**Program Meeting and Plant Sale**;
Book Store Open

June 22—**Board Meeting**, 12-4 PM

Deadline for Winter Issue is 11/15/96

•To pool rides to the **Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge**, please call—well in advance—Grace Gray who will coordinate pooling

The new season brings a varied program of wildflowers, woody plants, vegetation management, sand prairies, and stewardship

Don Del Greco, assistant manager at Banning State Park will start the season with a discussion of *Wildflowers With Wings: Butterflies and Their Association with Native Plants* on October 3. Note a minor change in time format in the schedule in column 1 on this page.

On November 7, Char Bezanson of St. Olaf College will talk on *Growing Your Own Wildflower Seedlings: A Personal Approach for Home or Classroom*. Instead of a Plant-of-the Month, Terry Goodfellow of the Minnesota Horticultural Society will report briefly on *Minnesota Green: Community Environmental Protection*. This will be followed by the annual seed exchange (see page 3 for details).

On December 5, Scott Bradley of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Environmental Services will demonstrate the *MNDOT Woody Plant Selection Matrix* on CD-ROM. At this meeting the MVNWR Bookstore will be open. Note that there will not be a meeting in January 1997.

February 6th's speaker will be Bonnie Harper-Lore of the Federal Highway Administration who will reply to the query *What's the State of the Art in Roadside Vegetation Management Nationwide?*

March 6 will bring us MNPS member and private consultant and educator Dean Hansen who will tell us about *Creating and Enjoying a Sand Prairie*.

In April, Lee Ronning will discuss the Land Stewardship Project, specifically *Land Use Planning, Population Expansion, and Impacts on Native Plants*. Results of a plant photography contest organized by the Minnesota Nature Photography Club will be seen on May 1.

The annual plant sale will accompany the program on June 3. The bookstore will be open at this meeting also.

Board meetings will not be held the same evenings as program meetings to enable greater sociability among all members. There are several important posts to fill in the MNPS and anyone wanting to serve can identify themselves to any of the board members. Note the dues envelope inserted in this issue.

Donald B. Lawrence died April 29, 1996, at the University Good Samaritan Center after a struggle with pneumonia. He was a popular professor of botany at the University of Minnesota, where he taught from 1937 to his retirement in 1976. Professor Lawrence was a major contributor to research in plant ecology, especially the return of plant life to areas that had been covered by glaciers and volcanoes. He also was an early and leading advocate of ethnobotany. He was known in his classes for his extensive use of slides from exotic and interesting locations.

The relationship Professor Lawrence had with many of his students was as a mentor, and he and his wife Lib, created a community of scholars who met often at their home to share details of their research. "He taught his students to pay attention to detail, and to observe and appreciate the process of nature," said Chris Soutter, a student and former assistant. "I've made choices in my life because of what I learned from him. He affected my education decisions, my career, and how I teach my children."

In 1974, Professor Lawrence received the University's highest award for excellence in teaching. He was greatly respected by his students and colleagues; he was also honored by the Ecological Society of America for exceptional service to the science of ecology, and in 1995, he received a special certificate of honor from the College of Biological Sciences for his long-standing contributions to that college.

Professor Lawrence took a unique path to his academic career: after attending Reed College in Oregon, he went to Johns Hopkins and was awarded a PhD degree in 1936, the only degree he ever received. He was invited by Professor William S. Cooper to join the botany faculty at the University of Minnesota. In 1964, he received a Fulbright Fellowship to support his research in the South Pacific. He continued to work on comparisons of the history of plant communities related to

glaciers in Chile, New Zealand, and Glacier Bay, Alaska, throughout his career. As recently as 1993, he presented a paper on Alaska on his work there.

He was active in the Ecological Society of America for 50 years, and in the Minnesota Native Plant Society. He was a founder of the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and he donated land, time, and professional expertise to preserving natural landscapes in both Minnesota and Oregon. His efforts to help create the University's Cedar Creek Natural History Area for ecological research and teaching led to the naming of the main building in his honor at a ceremony last year.

Professor Lawrence was a strong supporter of the Minnesota Native Plant Society. He had close ties to this organization from the beginning; two of his former students were among its founders. He was involved with the starting of the annual seed exchange, providing advice and special financial support. He gave one of the first lectures (January 1983) on *Vegetation Development in Southeast Alaska following Glacial Recession as a Key to Understanding Early Post-Glacial Vegetation in Minnesota*. He enjoyed attending the monthly lectures and did so regularly until his health failed. He will be remembered with great affection and respect.—prepared by Chris Soutter.

Conservation Online: The TNC Homepage

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) provides information online entitled *Wired for Conservation*. The homepage leads to audio and visual clips and includes information on rare and endangered species and more, within the United States. Access TNC at <http://www.tnc.org>.

Remember to pay dues

The Minnesota Native Plant Society

Minnesota Plant Press
Thor Kommedahl, editor

Membership dues are \$10 per year for regular members and includes subscription to the newsletter; dues for students and seniors are \$8, for family \$12, for institutions \$20, and donors \$25. Checks can be made out to: Minnesota Native Plant Society, and sent to: Minnesota Native Plant Society, 220 Biological Sciences Center, 1445 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Four issues are published each year.

MNPS Board of Directors

President: Char Bezanson,

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The Minnesota Native Plant Society is a tax-exempt 501 c3 organization as determined by the US Internal Revenue Service.

Announcements and Society Activities

Record native plant and landscaping projects for MNPS presentation

Members of MNPS are encouraged to take slides of their own projects on native plants and landscaping and save them to alternate with Plant-of-the-Month presentations. Projects could include native plants, propagation, butterfly gardening, mini-prairies, landscape design, habitat restoration, and more. Share your experiences with others. If interested, call Gary Perreault,

The Prairie Reader—a periodical on prairie ecology, preservation, and restoration

This quarterly publication provides a forum for discussion on prairie biology and ecology. The September issue contains 12 articles on a variety of topics, announcements of events, and book reviews. Camille LeFevre is publisher and editor. Subscriptions (4 issues/year) are \$18, and sample issues are \$5. Order from *The Prairie Reader*, PO Box 8227, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Watch valuables left in cars at parking lot

All MNPS members are reminded that valuables left in vehicles in the parking lot of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge are always at risk. Please take appropriate action.

Interesting Web Sites

Mississippi River:
<http://www.greatriver.com>
Biologist's Notebook:
<http://www.p-pub.com>

Seed Exchange is planned for November 7

MNPS sponsors a seed exchange every fall. This year the exchange will take place immediately following the regular program meeting on November 7. Seed should be from member's gardens or from the wild. Seeds should be dry; avoid storing seeds in plastic bags that retain moisture. Whenever possible, please package seeds per person not as a bulk supply.

Label the seed as completely as possible, including scientific and common names, collection site, habitat, date of collection, and the collector's name. Any cultural information provided is appreciated. First choice of seed will go to the contributors, then the seed exchange will be open to all.

Contributors often provide envelopes, but members are encouraged to bring their own envelopes. In collecting seeds from the wild be judicious in selecting quantity.

MNPS Display Board Use

All members are welcome to show our display board at events, museums, and schools, if an attendant is present or it is safely displayed. This 3 by 5 foot, 2-sided board holds information on the Society, native plants, and stewardship. Call Don Knutson

Oak ecosystems conference

A conference on *Oak Ecosystems in Minnesota and the Midwest* will be held October 9, from 8 AM to 5 PM at the Hormel Nature Center, 1304 NE 21st St., Austin, MN 55912. The registration fee is \$35. Make checks payable to DNR and send to DNR c/o Kathy Bolin,

School Nature Area Project funds native plantings

This project provides funds to schools for projects that will improve wildlife habitats and enhance native vegetation on or near school grounds. Cash awards vary from \$500 to \$1500. In 1995, SNAP funded 30 projects such as prairie restorations; native plantings for birds, butterflies and insects; native tree and shrub plantings; and more. MNPS members are encouraged to work with a school or teacher on such projects. The application deadline is December 2, 1996. Projects must be completed by June 1998. Request applications from Char Bezanon: bezanon@stolaf.edu, or write to SNAP, St Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN 55057.

National Wildlife Refuge Week at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be October 5-13

Celebrating their 20th anniversary, an open house will be held October 12 at the Visitor Center, 1 to 4 PM. Special events include:
• *Fall Colors on the Minnesota River*, Belle Plaine-Thompson Ferry Landing, October 5, 10 AM to 3:30 PM. Age 8 to adult. Call for reservations.

• *Calling All Squirrels*, Visitor Center, October 6; 2 to 3:30 PM. Short walk in woods.

• *Morning Bird Hike*, Bass Ponds, October 6, 13; 9:30 to 11 AM.

• *Late Afternoon Canoe Paddle*, in one of refuge marshes, October 9; 3:30 to 6 PM. Ten canoes only. Call for reservations.

• *Bike the Urban Refuge*, Old Cedar Avenue Start, Oct 6, 13; 9 AM to noon. Call for reservations.

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