



# *Minnesota Plant Press*

The Minnesota Native Plant Society Newsletter

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Volume 22 Number 1

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## Monthly meetings

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
Visitor Center, 3815 East 80<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1600  
952-854-5900

6:30 p.m. — Building east door opens  
6:30 p.m. — Refreshments,  
information, Room A  
7 – 9 p.m. — Program, society business  
7:30 p.m. — Building door is locked  
9:30 p.m. — Building closes

## Programs

The MNPS meets the first Thursday in October, November, December, February, March, April, May and June. Check the Web page for additional program information.

**Nov. 7: “Restoring native landscapes in an urban environment,”** Keith Prussing, Cedar Lake Park Association; **Seed exchange.**

**Dec. 5: “Dutch elm disease,”** Mark Stennes; **Plant of the month:** Bladdernut, by Mike Zins.

**Feb. 6: “Logging influence on plant diversity;”** **Plant of the month:** Cardinal flower, both by Alaina Berger.

**March 6: “Invasive species,”** **Plant of the month:** Poison sumac, both by Peter Djuk; **Board member election.**

**April 3:** To be announced.

**May 1: “Native Rain Gardens,”** by Fred Rozumalski.

**June 5: Plant sale.**

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## MNPS Web site

<http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/biology/mnps>

**e-mail:** MNPS@HotPOP.com

## New Duluth ordinance may protect native plant habitats

by Meredith Cornett

Monday, Sept. 9, the Duluth City Council passed an ordinance officially creating the Duluth Natural Areas Program (DNAP). The purpose of the program is to protect special natural features that make significant contributions to the area’s biological diversity. Enrollment in the program will convey special protection for these areas.

Duluth is known nationally for its system of natural parks and open space, encompassing over 10,000 acres of forest and other natural areas. City staff recently revisited the status of these areas and found that they are technically unprotected from development and other uses that can be incompatible with healthy ecosystems.

Places that may be strong candidates for the program include those that contain examples of significant native plant communities, rare species, important bird congregation areas, unusual geologic landforms, and special water features. Through the program, any individual or organization can nominate city-owned lands and waters. Private lands may also be nominated, but only with cooperation and approval from the landowner. DNAP is a science-based land and water conservation program. All nominations will be accompanied by a professionally prepared scientific analysis of what makes the place significant.

The development of DNAP has been a grassroots effort. The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota worked closely with city staff to draft guidelines that reflect the value that local residents place on the conservation of natural areas. First announced by Mayor Gary Doty, the program has broad-based public support. Groups such as the St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee, Hawk Ridge researchers, and private citizens testified on the benefits of DNAP for the local community. Not only a benefit to local biological diversity, programs like DNAP can contribute to ensuring quality of life and economic sustainability that come from a protected system of natural areas.

The DNAP Ordinance became effective Oct. 8. Nominations can now be made to the program by any individual or organization. For further information, visit the City’s website: [www.ci.duluth.mn.us/city/planning/dnap/TMP3yfg6zliil.htm](http://www.ci.duluth.mn.us/city/planning/dnap/TMP3yfg6zliil.htm)

## Esther McLaughlin is new president

Esther McLaughlin was elected Minnesota Native Plant Society president at the Sept. 22 board meeting. Linda Huhn was elected vice president and will serve as program chair. Meredith Cornett was elected secretary; David Johnson was re-elected treasurer.

### Fall field trip

Jason Husveth will lead a Winter Botany Walk Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Refuge. Check the MNPS Web site for details.

### Seed exchange is Nov. 7

Members are invited to collect mature seeds of native plants, package them and bring them to the meeting. Seeds should be placed in individual envelopes, ready for members to pick up. Labels should include the plant name, scientific name (if known), habitat type, the city or county where the seeds were gathered, and the name of the donor.

### Symposium topic is shrubs

The 2003 symposium will be about native shrubs in your landscape. Janet Larson will chair the event.

## Water hyacinths are found in Wisconsin

A Wisconsin DNR staff member discovered a healthy population of water hyacinths at a wastewater treatment plant in Price County this summer. They may have been growing there for at least two years. Waterfowl use the site, which is difficult to access. It is suspected that the plants came in on a bird. The DNR removed and disposed of the plants and will monitor the site.

## Classified ads

This is a new department in the *Minnesota Plant Press*. Members may place one ad of up to 15 words in the newsletter at no cost. Include a telephone number. Ads must be consistent with the mission of the society.

Send the ad by e-mail to [gdrewry@infi.net](mailto:gdrewry@infi.net) or mail it to Gerry Drewry, 24090 Northfield Blvd., Hampton, MN, 55031. Deadlines for ads to be received are Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct. 1. We reserve the right to edit ad copy.

### For sale

One Gro-Lite 48" 4-shelf plant stand, \$250. Dottie Lillestrand, 952-884-7619, or [lillestrand@msn.com](mailto:lillestrand@msn.com)

## MNPS Board of Directors

**President: Esther McLaughlin**, Biology Dept., Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN 55454; 612-330-1074; [mclaugh@augsborg.edu](mailto:mclaugh@augsborg.edu)

**Vice-President: Linda Huhn**, 2553 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405; 612-374-1435

**Secretary and Conservation Committee Co-Chair: Meredith Cornett**, 1520 N. 9th Ave. E., Duluth, MN 55805; 218-728-6258; [mwc@duluth.com](mailto:mwc@duluth.com)

**Joel Dunnette**, 4526 Co. Rd. 3 SW, Byron, MN 55020; 507-365-8091; [dunnette.joel@mayo.edu](mailto:dunnette.joel@mayo.edu)

**Field Trip Chair: Jason Husveth**, Tetra Tech EMI, 11300 Rupp Dr., Suite 100, Burnsville, MN 55337; 952-736-2770, ext. 22 (W); 651-247-0474 (C); [j.husveth@ttemi.com](mailto:j.husveth@ttemi.com)

**Don Knutson**, 3355 Hiawatha Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55406; 612-721-6123; [knuts049@tc.umn.edu](mailto:knuts049@tc.umn.edu)

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**Treasurer: David Johnson**, 6437 Baker Ave. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432; 763-571-6278; [MNPS@HotPOP.com](mailto:MNPS@HotPOP.com)

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**Minnesota Plant Press editor: Gerry Drewry**, 24090 Northfield Blvd., Hampton, MN 55031; phone, 651-463-8006; fax, 651-463-7086; [gdrewry@infi.net](mailto:gdrewry@infi.net)

**Technical or membership inquiries: MNPS@HotPOP.com**

## Minnesota Native Plant Society's purpose

*(Abbreviated from the bylaws)*

This organization is exclusively organized and operated for educational and scientific purposes, including the following:

1. Conservation of all native plants.
2. Continuing education of all members in the plant sciences.
3. Education of the public regarding environmental protection of plant life.
4. Encouragement of research and publications on plants native to Minnesota.
5. Study of legislation on Minnesota flora, vegetation and ecosystems.
6. Preservation of special plants, plant communities and scientific and natural areas.
7. Cooperation in programs concerned with the ecology of natural resources and scenic features.
8. Fellowship with all persons interested in native plants through meetings, lectures, workshops and field trips.

# Plant Lore

by Thor Kommedahl

## What is black-eyed Susan?

Black-eyed Susan, known also as brown-eyed Susan and coneflower, is in the sunflower family. The most frequently found species of *Rudbeckia* in Minnesota are *Rudbeckia hirta* and *R. laciniata*.

## How did it get its names?

Linnaeus named this species for his mentor, Professor Olof O. Rudbeck and for his son, J.Olof Rudbeck, both, of whom taught at Uppsala, Sweden. The name coneflower comes from the conical shape of the inflorescence center.

## What about “black-eyed Susan?”

Perhaps it came from the ballad that John Gay wrote in 1720 called “*Sweet William’s Farewell to Black-ey’d Susan*,” which begins: All in the Downs the fleet was moor’d,/The streamers waving in the wind,/When black-ey’d Susan came aboard./“Oh! where shall I my true love find!/ Tell me, ye jovial sailors, tell me true,/If my sweet William sails among the crew.”

## Where does this plant grow?

Most native rudbeckias grow in dry areas or prairies throughout the state, but *R. laciniata* can be found in wet ditches at the edges of swamps.

## What do the plants look like?

*R. hirta* can be an annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial; whereas *R. laciniata* is a perennial. Often a rosette forms in the fall. Its one- to two-foot-tall stems are finely grooved, probably to add strength (fluted stems are stronger than plain ones). The composite flower has a center that is dark purple-brown except for the bright yellow pollen. The yellow ray flowers are sterile.

## Are the plants edible, toxic, or medicinal?

No, they are not edible. Poisoning has been reported in cattle, hogs, and

# Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee meets

by Esther McLaughlin

Janet Ebaugh represented MNPS at the July 23 meeting of the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee (MISAC). Other organizations represented on the committee include the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and APHIS. A variety of topics were discussed, including:

- Criteria to be developed for ranking species by their level of risk or noxiousness, and additions to the list of affected parties, such as industry and urban landscapes, in addition to agriculture and horticulture;
- The need for a centralized database to record and track information on invasive species;
- Revisions of the statutes referring to agricultural pests, especially as related to invasive species;
- An update on a new pest, the emerald ash borer, on ash trees, recently recognized in Michigan but not previously on anyone’s pest list; and
- Formation of a new Education and Outreach subcommittee of MISAC.

I plan to attend the October meeting of MISAC, and will report any noteworthy items from that meeting in the next *Minnesota Plant Press*.

sheep. Some humans are sensitive to touching plants. The American Indian used *R. laciniata* as a treatment for indigestion and burns.

## Are they good garden plants?

Yes, there are many varieties that are cultivated in gardens, but if not kept under control, they can become weeds.

# Carroll Henderson honored for Costa Rica field guide

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist and author Carrol Henderson was guest of honor Oct. 3 at a reception and book signing hosted by the Costa Rican Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Henderson’s newest book, *Field Guide to the Wildlife of Costa Rica*, has just been published by the University of Texas Press. The 539-page book includes information about the country’s major habitats, details about some of the best tourism destinations, and accounts of nearly 300 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, and moths that travelers may encounter in Costa Rica. The book contains more than 430 color photos taken by Henderson.

Henderson is best known in Minnesota for his nongame wildlife conservation work with the Minnesota DNR and for the five books he has authored or co-authored for the DNR. This is the first book that Henderson has written on his own time. It is based on information and photos he collected in Costa Rica since he did his graduate studies there in 1969 and while leading 17 annual birding and wildlife tours there since 1987. The birding tours, which feature Henderson and his Costa Rican wife Ethelle as the trip leaders, are coordinated by Preferred Adventures in St. Paul.

Henderson will donate a portion of the book royalties to Costa Rican conservation projects. Proceeds from the book signing in Washington, D.C., will go to the Costa Rica-Minnesota Foundation. The book is available for \$39.95, plus shipping and tax, at all major booksellers.

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