



Minnesota Plant Press

The Minnesota Native Plant Society Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 3

Spring 2005

Monthly meetings

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor Center, 3815 American Blvd. East
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
9:00 p.m. — Building closes

Programs

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

May 5: Native Grass Identification Workshop, by Anita Cholewa, Ph.D, curator of temperate plants, J.F. Bell Museum of Natural History. **Plant-of-the Month:** Bottle Grass (*Elymus hystrix*), presented by Erin Hynes, President of the Ornamental Grass Society of Minnesota and author of *Cold Climate Ornamental Grasses*.

June 2: “Forests, Logging and Plants: How forest management and natural history interact to affect northern forest understory plant communities,” by Daniel R. Dejoode, senior natural resources specialist for Peterson Environmental Consulting, Inc. **Annual Plant Sale**, open to the public.

New MNPS Web site

www.mnps.org
e-mail: contact@mnps.org

MNPS Listserve

Send a message that includes the word “subscribe” or “unsubscribe” and your name in the body of the message to:
mn-natpl-request@stolaf.edu

Explore natural areas during five field trips

MNPS members will lead five field trips to natural areas this spring and summer. They are to the Falls Creek Scientific and Natural Area, Beaver Creek Wildlife Management Area, Hayden Prairie (Iowa) State Preserve, Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, Boot Lake SNA, Helen Allison Savanna SNA and Cedar Creek Bog.

Participation may be limited, so early registration is encouraged. Site directions and other information will be provided to registrants. Details and updates for upcoming field trips are available on the Society’s Web site, www.mnps.org

Sunday, May 15 — Falls Creek SNA Spring Wildflowers

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Arrive by 9:45 a.m.

Northern Washington County, Minnesota

Led by Barb Delaney, professional botanist

Contact: Doug Mensing, fieldtrips@mnps.org or 612-202-2252

This trip was planned as a follow-up to a wonderful winter foray. Please join us in exploring a truly unique plant community — virgin white pine forest on the ravines of the St. Croix River. We will see abundant spring wildflowers, such as trilliums, rue anemone, bellwort, and some rare species, such as kittentails.

Saturday, May 21 — Spring Flora at Beaver Creek WMA and Hayden Prairie State Preserve

10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (12:30 p.m. lunch at Hayden Prairie)

Fillmore County, southeast Minnesota and Howard County, Iowa.

Led by Mark Leoschke, Iowa

DNR state botanist, and Paul

Bockenstedt, Bonestroo natural

resources plant ecologist

Contact: Paul Bockenstedt,

651-604-4812, or

pbockenstedt@bonestroo.com

Join members of the Minnesota Native Plant Society, Iowa Native Plant Society and Iowa Prairie Network for a day afield on the Iowan Surface as we

Continued on page 4

In this issue

MNPS plant sale.....	2
Evelyn Moyle honored.....	2
Board changes.....	3
Bioblitz.....	3
Reed canary grass studies.....	5
Review of Steiner book.....	6
Volunteer opportunities.....	6
Toothwort (Plant Lore).....	7
Think Native Grants.....	7

Plant sale to be after June 2 meeting

The annual MNPS native plant sale will be June 2, following the meeting. Plants will again be arranged on the low walls in front of the Visitor Center. Members are asked to start bringing native plants they have raised from seed or grown in their gardens at 6 p.m. Plants must be individually potted and labeled.

No out-of-state plants can be accepted unless they have been certified by the Department of Agriculture of the state in which they were grown. Minnesota has reciprocity with all other state departments of agriculture, so they will let in plants from other states if they were certified there.

A few volunteers are needed to help accept and arrange the plants. When the sale begins, these volunteers may select their plants first; members who brought plants may choose next. Other members and visitors will follow.

Dave Crawford and Gerry Drewry are chairs of the sale. To volunteer, contact Gerry Drewry at 651-463-8006, or gdrewry@infionline.net

Evelyn Moyle named honorary member of MNPS

by Esther McLaughlin

Last year Evelyn W. Moyle was given a well-deserved honorary membership in the Minnesota Native Plant Society as one of the state's longest standing experts on and protectors of our native plants.

She and her late husband, John B. Moyle, co-authored the well-known guide, *Northland Wild Flowers: A Guide for the Minnesota Region*. It was first published in 1977 and has been reprinted, most recently in 1984.

John was a biologist and research supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Evelyn, a wildflower enthusiast, photographer and gardener, took most of the photographs in the first edition of the book.

The Moyles were charter members of our Society and were present at its founding. Evelyn has long been devoted to the principles on which the MNPS was founded and is greatly deserving of honorary membership.

MNPS Board of Directors

President: Jason Husveth, Critical Connections Ecological Services Inc., 14758 Ostlund Trail N., Marine on St. Croix, MN; 651-247-0474; jhusveth@ccesinc.com

Vice-President: Scott Milburn, 744 James Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102; 651-261-4381; smilburn@ccesinc.com

Secretary: Karen Schik, 13860 236th St. N., Scandia, MN 55073; 651-433-5254 (h), 651-222-2193 (w); kschik@fmr.org

Treasurer: David Johnson, 6437 Baker Ave. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432; 763-571-6278; treasurer@mnnps.org

Ken Arndt, 2577 Co. Rd. F, White Bear Twp., MN 55110; 651-426-8174; karndt@pioneereng.com

Ron Huber, 2521 Jones Place W., Bloomington, MN 55431-2837; 952-886-0783; huber033@umn.edu

Daniel Jones, 208 Linden St. S., Northfield, MN 55057-1723; 507-664-9663; dwjonesecoserv@earthlink.net

Shirley Mah Kooyman, 4520 Terraceview Lane N., Plymouth, MN 55446; 952-443-1419 (w), 763-559-3114 (h); shirley@arboretum.umn.edu

Douglas Mensing, 5814 Grand Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419; 612-926-8637 (H); doug@appliedeco.com

Program Chair: Linda Huhn, 2553 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405; 612-374-1435

Listserv Coordinator: Charles Umbanhowar, ceumb@stolaf.edu

Minnesota Plant Press editor: Gerry Drewry, 24090 Northfield Blvd., Hampton, MN 55031; phone, 651-463-8006; fax, 651-463-7086; gdrewry@infionline.net

Technical or membership inquiries: contact@mnnps.org

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.

Changing Faces on MNPS board

by Karen Schik

While many of our members may not be aware of the “inner workings” of the Society, a lot goes on behind the scenes. There are nine board members, who spend a considerable amount of time on the organization and functions of the Society, plus quite a few members who also volunteer tremendous amounts of time and talent. I want to recognize our departing board members and say a huge “Thank You” to each of them for their many contributions.

David Johnson served on the board as treasurer and membership database manager this past year, but his contributions far exceed one year. He has been providing his services as treasurer and data manager for almost seven years. We hardly noticed what he did because he quietly went about doing it so well that it just seemed to happen on its own. In fact, he updated both the financial and membership databases to more useful programs, and has monitored all that information all these years. David produced the membership directories and all the monthly mailing labels, including the little “membership expired” reminders. David will be sorely missed

Doug Mensing served on the board for the last three years. Doug was the one you could count on to help out with everything, whether to speak at a conference or to help clean up after it. A busy dad of two young children and a professional ecologist, Doug somehow made the time to contribute countless hours for countless events, organizing field trips, and working on the symposium. There wasn't much that Doug didn't do. We will miss his

enthusiasm, readiness, and competence serving on the board.

Dianne Plunkett Latham served nearly two years on the board, stepping down recently to pursue her many other interests, including travel. But Dianne made up for her shortened term by her engagement in the board and her many contributions, which included coordination of the Think Native Program, chairing the Conservation Committee, staffing the booth and giving presentations at numerous events. Perhaps her more core contributions to the society, however, were the ways that she helped to steer some of the board policies and operations. She repeatedly brought her expertise as an attorney and her experience serving on other boards to help guide our board. Her knowledge, thoughtfulness, and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

On the flip side of these good-byes, the board is very pleased to welcome three new members: Daniel Jones, ecologist at Barr Engineering (who has already stepped in to fill Dianne's term), Mary Brown, a long-time member and native plant enthusiast, and Sandy McCartney, St. Louis Park tree inspector (who will both start their terms in June 2005). Each brings talents and experiences that will help the Society to keep growing strong.

Treasurer's Report

by David Johnson

In 2004 we had \$13,548.35 of income and \$9,074.54 of expenses. We increased our assets by \$4,473.81, mostly because of the 2004 symposium.

Our assets, as of Dec. 31, 2004, were: CD, \$1,063.40; Checking, \$11,279.51; Cash, \$52.00.

MNPS maintains dedicated funds in the checking account for the following projects: Refuge Avian Feeder Project, \$776.68; Think Native, \$641.07.

Volunteers are needed June 10, 11 for BioBlitz

Minnesota's second annual BioBlitz will be from 5 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. MNPS members are invited to assist. The BioBlitz is a festival, a contest, an educational event for the public, and a scientific endeavor. While scientists from around the state are conducting an intense biological survey, walks and demonstrations will be held at the MVNWR Visitor Center.

The scientific goal of a BioBlitz is to count as many species of plants and animals as possible during a 24-hour biological survey of a natural area. More than 750 species were recorded during the first Minnesota BioBlitz, which was held in 2004 at Tamarack Nature Center in Ramsey County.

Volunteers are needed to assist in surveys and to help lead walks for the general public. Survey subjects include reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, fish, butterflies, moths, beetles, ants, flies, bugs, spiders, mites, centipedes, worms, snails, grasses, sedges, trees, flowers, and mushrooms. To volunteer or for more information, contact John Moriarty at 651-748-2500, or Dr. Susan Weller at 612-625-6253.

Additional information on the BioBlitz is available at www.bellmuseum.org

For information on the Saturday morning, June 11, “Rally for the Refuge” run, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, see www.friendsofminvalley.org/rally.htm

Enthusiastic group enjoys winter field trip

by Ken Arndt

On Saturday, March 12, MNPS Board Members Ken Arndt and Scott Milburn led over 25 enthusiastic winter botanists to Falls Creek Scientific and Natural Area to learn winter woody plant identification. What started as a slightly chilly morning turned into a beautiful winter day in northern Washington County.

The group started out in the northern part of the SNA, where we learned about the forest restoration that is taking place. From there we hiked down the first of two forested ravines, identifying trees and shrubs along the way. At a lower terrace along this first hike, we came across an area where we observed several large white pines that were over 26 inches in trunk diameter. Having obtained a special permit from the director of the SNA program, we were allowed to take increment borings of a few of these trees to determine their ages.

The second part of the morning, we hiked, slipped and slid down the steep ravine in the southern part of the SNA. A high diversity of plants occurs where one of the creeks flows past. Trees such as butternut, bitternut hickory, yellow and paper birch, blue beech, sugar and red maple, pagoda dogwood, red and bur oak, black cherry, and red and white pine were encountered along the way to the east property line. It was here where we came across several populations of downy rattlesnake plantain orchid (*Goodyera pubescens*). By the time we made it back up the ravine to the parking area, many of us had shed the multiple layers of clothing we started out the day with.

Field trips

Continued from page 1

explore the prairie, wet meadow, and low oak savannas of Beaver Creek WMA in Fillmore County, and then drive six miles to Iowa to spend an afternoon on the internationally renowned Hayden Prairie. See Beaver Creek WMA and Hayden Prairie in full spring regalia.

Tuesday, June 7 — Grey Cloud Dunes SNA Prairie Hike

6 to 8 p.m., Cottage Grove, southern Washington County, Minnesota

Led by Karen Schik, Friends of the Mississippi River restoration ecologist and MNPS board member

Contact: Doug Mensing, dougm@appliedeco.com or 612-202-2252

Join members of the Minnesota Native Plant Society for a hike through one of the metro area's natural gems — the dry prairies of Grey Cloud Dunes SNA. Participants will explore this beautiful remnant native prairie and learn about restoration efforts underway. This SNA was “adopted” by the MNPS in 2004, and the Society has intermittent events at the site.

Saturday, July 9 — Bogs and Fens Field Trip

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., East Bethel, Anoka County, Minnesota

Boot Lake SNA and other nearby bogs and fens

Led by Jason Husveth, MNPS president, botanist

Contact: Jason Husveth at president@mnnps.org or 651-433-4410.

Boot Lake SNA contains a continuum of plant community types including oak forest, aspen-shrub thickets, and prominent old white pine stands; the wetland contains wooded bog, wet meadows, floating mats, emergent aquatic plants, duckweed, and algal communities. Rare plant species (water willow, sea-beach needle grass, and long-bearded hawkweed) are present, along with occasional sandhill cranes and Blanding's turtles. Red-shouldered hawks, pine warblers, Louisiana waterthrush and other bird species nest on the site. Woodland wildflowers make a late spring visit memorable. A long-term research project is studying the effects of deer in forest succession.

Sunday, Sept. 18 — Helen Allison Savanna SNA, Cedar Creek Bog

2 to 5 p.m., Bethel, Anoka County, Minnesota

Led by Hannah Texler, Minnesota DNR regional plant ecologist

Contact: Doug Mensing, fieldtrips@mnnps.org or 612-202-2252.

Helen Allison Savanna SNA is a prairie and oak savanna. It was named for Helen Allison Irvine, “Minnesota's grass lady,” who wrote a text on the 180 grasses of Minnesota. This SNA lies within the Anoka sand plain, providing an excellent example of sand dune plant succession, with blowouts and dunes in various stages of stabilization by pioneer species. Community types found on the site include oak sand savanna, dry prairie with bur oak and pin oak, thickets of willow and aspen, and sedge marshes in scattered depressions. Trees and shrubs include pin oak, bur oak, American hazelnut, chokecherry, willow, and quaking aspen. Other savanna species include lead plant, smooth sumac, slender willow, steplebush, aster, and goldenrod. Look on the dunes for pioneer sand plants such as sea-beach, needle grass and hairy panic grass. Sedge meadows contain tussocks of Hayden's sedge, along with marsh fern and blue-joint grass. Other rare species include long-bearded hawkweed, rhombic-petaled evening primrose, and tall nut-rush.

A side trip will take participants on a short boardwalk through the nearby Cedar Creek Bog, which is located at the University of Minnesota Cedar Creek Research Center. This is one of the most interesting bogs in the Anoka sand plain. Common plant species include leatherleaf, cottongrass, three-way sedge, and bog cranberry.

Reed canary grass treatments studied

by Craig A. Annen, ecologist, Michler & Brown, LLC. This is a summary of his Dec. 17, 2004, presentation to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Can reed canary grass be selectively controlled?

Reed canary grass abatement and subsequent native species restoration are challenging tasks, for many reasons. One reason is a lack of treatments that selectively target reed canary grass with minimal collateral damage to non-target species. This is usually not a problem during the early stages of restoration when reed canary grass is dominant, but can become a problem as the restoration progresses and native species begin to return from the seed bank or active planting.

I have been exploring selective control options for use in transitional areas where reed canary grass is present, but not the dominant species. I began by conducting a feasibility study to determine if Vantage™ (sethoxydim), a grass-specific herbicide, would reduce seed production and above-ground biomass of reed canary grass without harming native species.

Early summer (May 29) sethoxydim application reduced seed head production 98 percent and total seasonal above-ground biomass production 56 percent. A late summer follow-up application (Aug. 2) failed to improve biomass suppression, possibly because the litter that resulted from the initial application intercepted spray during the subsequent application.

Sethoxydim application had no effect on native species abundance, indicating that it may possess a useful level of species selectivity. Herbicidal effects on reed canary grass did not carry over into the second growing season. Reed canary

grass often recolonizes treated areas from its seed bank and rhizomes when treatments are discontinued. As a consequence, maintaining suppression of growth and seed production requires multiple-year herbicide applications.

Why are multiple-year herbicide applications necessary to control reed canary grass?

My next objective was to look at reasons why reed canary grass is able to quickly recolonize treated areas. One reason may have to do with rhizome apical dominance. Apical dominance is the promotion of apical growth with corresponding inhibition of lateral growth, and is caused by interactions among limiting factors and plant hormones. Apical dominance results in both actively growing and dormant rhizome buds in perennial grass stands.

When herbicides are applied to reed canary grass top growth, they move throughout the plant along with carbohydrates. Studies with radioactively labeled herbicides show that both glyphosate and sethoxydim translocate to and accumulate within the apical portions of rhizomes because the apex has greater sink strength for carbohydrate when apical dominance is in place. As a result, lateral rhizome buds are not affected by herbicide applications, and reed canarygrass is able to resprout (resurge) from these lateral buds.

Rhizome apical dominance is well documented in the scientific literature, and rhizome bud dormancy has been reported in reed canary grass stands. The end result of resurgence is that multiple-year herbicide applications are necessary to sustain the suppressive effects of chemical treatments and deplete the dormant bud bank.

Can we enhance herbicide effectiveness?

I am currently investigating whether short-circuiting apical dominance will enhance the effectiveness of herbicide treatments. Tillage and plant growth regulator (PGR) applications are known to reduce the effects of apical dominance and promote lateral growth in perennial grass rhizomes. Tillage overcomes apical dominance by decapitating rhizomes and breaking them into isolated fragments. PGRs mimic plant hormones, and “trick” the plant’s molecular signal system into promoting lateral growth. Once dormant lateral buds become active, they are able to receive carbohydrates (and herbicides) from the rhizome assimilate stream.

I want to find out if either tillage or PGR pretreatments followed by herbicide application will suppress reed canary grass to a greater extent than herbicide application alone. In the first field season, PGR pretreatments failed to improve reed canary grass suppression, while coupling tillage (June 2) to sethoxydim application (June 23) reduced reed canary grass stem density 35 percent greater than herbicide application alone, and improved native species richness and abundance.

Craig A. Annen is a practicing restorationist and researcher. Contact him at 608-424-6997 or annen00@aol.com, or write to 228 South Park Street, Belleville, WI 53508.

Thicket! - A Voice for Integrated Weed Management

This newsletter is produced twice a year by the Integrated Weed Management Group, which includes the MDA. For current and past issues, see: www.mda.state.mn.us/ipm/thicket/default.htm

Book tells how to landscape with Minnesota native plants

by Karen Schik

Lynn Steiner has filled a void with a comprehensive and beautifully written book, *Landscaping With Native Plants of Minnesota*. While many books exist on native plant landscaping, most are general and apply to very large regions of the United States. A person interested in landscaping with Minnesota native plants has had to hunt for information from multiple resources.

Steiner's book has a strong ecological basis, providing background information about Minnesota biomes, and emphasizing the importance of referring to natural areas for gardening inspiration and insight. Steiner defines native plants based on *The Vascular Plants of Minnesota*, the accepted reference by Ownbey and Morley. She describes the types of habitats where they grow, their ecological benefits and misconceptions about them. She also warns the reader about plant conservation issues, such as illegally harvested plants and endangered species. She strongly encourages understanding and acceptance of the uniqueness of native plants, and discourages the use of insecticides and other non-ecological practices.

The layout of the book is easy to follow. The first half leads the reader from an overview of native plant communities, to evaluating a garden site, to selecting plants and designing and installing a garden. Sidebars provide tips, including lists of deer-resistant plants, and plants for butterflies, hummingbirds, and specific conditions. An abundance of high quality color photographs beautifully illustrate the text. The second half of the book is devoted to comprehensive descriptions and photographs for 350 species of native flowering plants, grasses, trees, shrubs, evergreens, ferns, and vines.

Overall, I found her plant lists for different conditions to be fairly accurate, though some designations seemed incomplete. Little bluestem, for instance, is listed as a savanna species, and not listed for mesic prairie and dry prairie, when clearly it is a significant species of dry prairies. The lists provide a good basis, but a gardener should consult other reputable lists as well. Given the strong ecological nature of the book, a reference to the presettlement vegetation map created by Marschner would also have been helpful.

Steiner has produced a beautiful book that clearly demonstrates her knowledge and passion for Minnesota native plants. I was, however, disappointed by the author's ready acceptance of non-native cultivars. While I have no issue, per se, with the use of cultivars, the title of the book implies dedication to natives. Novices who don't understand the difference may have little incentive to choose natives over cultivars. Given the facts that less than one percent of native prairie (for example) is left in the state, and that cultivars generally provide less nectar and other wildlife benefits, I would have expected cultivars would be mentioned only as an aside.

Furthermore, she did not explain the importance of local genotype, nor the fact that nursery location does not connote seed source location. This book far exceeds most I have seen in regards to plant community ecology, but in my opinion, it fell short of educating readers about these issues and the uniqueness of Minnesota's natural heritage. The book is not the "one reference" that I had hoped it would be, but it is nonetheless an excellent resource and I would not hesitate to recommend it as a supplemental resource.

Get involved

by Karen Schik

Have you noticed new activities at the Society? Things are happening — more field trips, a new Web site, new opportunities as land stewards at Grey Cloud, more Society-associated events, like the BioBlitz and the State Fair. Are you wondering how you can be a part of all this fun? Scan the list below and let us know what you are interested in. Contact Karen Schik (kschik@fmr.org or 651-433-5254) for more information or to sign up.

Occasional activities — Sign up; we will contact you as the need arises.

- MNPS Booth. Bring the display board to one or more events.
- State Fair. MNPS may again participate at another organization's fair booth. Visit with fairgoers.
- Presentations. Organizations occasionally request presentations on plant-related topics. Let us know if you have a presentation you can give.

Regular Needs — May be only once.

- Field trips. Lead a field trip to your favorite place, solicit others to lead trips, or help organize trips.
- Submit an article to the Plant Press.

Long-term tasks — Firm commitment needed.

- Database manager. Receive and enter new or renewing members, generate mailing labels, etc. The computer (laptop) and program are provided, as well as training.
- Annual symposium. Help plan and organize the 2006 symposium. Planning will start this summer.
- Coordinate the Think Native program, a winter activity. Solicit participants, go through a selection process, and follow up on results.
- MNPS historian. Compile the history of the society to post on the Web site before the Society's 25th anniversary in 2007.
- Postcard mailer: Produce and mail meeting announcements and annual "We want you back" postcards.

Plant Lore

by Thor Kommedahl

What is toothwort?

Toothwort is a common name for *Dentaria laciniata* and *D. diphylla* in the mustard family. Some botanists include *Dentaria* in the genus *Cardamine*. Both species are native to Minnesota.

What do these names mean?

Dentaria refers to the toothed rhizomes of some species, whereas *Cardamine* comes from Dioscorides' Greek name for cress. In fact, toothwort is also called spring cress because it has been eaten as an alternate to watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*).

What does toothwort look like?

Toothwort (*Cardamine diphylla* / *Dentaria diphylla*) is a perennial with a creeping rootstock (rhizome). Leaves are divided into three-toothed leaflets, and the flowers have four petals, usually white or pale pink. Cut-leaved toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*) also has three leaflets per leaf, but the leaflets are narrower and more sharply toothed; this is called *Cardamine concatenata* by Gleason and Gronquist. Moreover, the petals are pale lavender, and the rhizomes are segmented.

Where do toothworts grow?

Most are found in moist woods or river bottoms and bloom about the time that hepatica, bloodroot, and Dutchman's breeches bloom, that is, in early spring before shade blankets the forest floor.

Are toothworts medicinal or edible?

Toothwort rhizomes have been used as a folk remedy for toothaches, and the American Indians chewed rhizomes for colds. A poultice was made to treat headaches. Menominee Indians piled masses of rhizomes under a blanket for three to four days to induce fermentation to make them sweet, then cooked them with corn. They said this was good to eat and

2005 Think Native Grants

by Dianne Plunkett Latham

Five 2005 Think Native Grant recipients have been approved by the MNPS Board of Directors. If you are near any of the winners, see how the grants are making a difference.

Minneapolis

Anna Dvorak, on behalf of the McKinley Community Garden, in partnership with the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church and the Camden Garden Club, accepted the \$200 grant to create a rain garden at Cityview School, 3350 Fourth St. N., Minneapolis. Students will help plant and maintain the garden, which is on the border of Perkins Hill Park.

Marshall

Diane Gunvalson, on behalf of the Community Action Partnership in Marshall, accepted the grant of prairie seeds remaining from last fall's MNPS seed exchange. The seeds will be used for the wildflower hill in Independence Park in Marshall. They also received a small grant to purchase native plants from Prairie Restoration, which they put along a path. They hope to create informational markers. They also partnered with the Biology Club and Dr. Desy at Southwest Minnesota State University to collect seeds from the native prairie at the university. They planted the seeds in the university greenhouse for planting on the hillside. The MNPS seed will be germinated in the university greenhouse as well.

Brainerd

Theri Wasniewski, on behalf of Central Lakes College, Brainerd, Minnesota accepted the grant of also was good medicine for the stomach. Rootstocks are peppery, and when mixed with vinegar and salt are substituted for horseradish, or chopped up are used in salads.

Does it have economic value?

Not really. It is sometimes cultivated in wild or rock gardens.

woodland, wetland and rain garden seeds remaining from the seed exchange. They plan to create a campus woodland garden at the edge of a jack pine savannah on the top of a hill above the Mississippi River. This interpretive garden will highlight native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Wasniewski's students will create pamphlets and place them in at the entrance to the Think Native Woodland Garden.

Plymouth

Linda Miller, on behalf of the Gleason Lake Elementary School Outdoor Learning Center (OLC), accepted the grant of prairie plants remaining from the 2005 MNPS plant sale. The school is located at 310 Co. Rd. 101 N., Plymouth. Since 2002, they have been removing invasives and restoring prairie, wetland and woodland habitats. Students help maintain the area; Fortin Consulting provides oversight, burning and herbicide. The PTA hired a naturalist, who takes each classroom out into the OLC for instruction six times a year.

Centerville

Lisa Gilliland, on behalf of the Wargo Nature Center in Centerville, accepted the grant of woodland and wetland plants remaining from the 2005 plant sale. By implementing sustainable native landscapes as a community resource, Wargo is involved in a community-based science project with the Science Museum of Minnesota. Wargo seeks to demonstrate the wide variety of plants that could be used as alternatives to bluegrass lawns. Visitors will see the plants in a semi-native habitat and receive printed information about them. Wargo will have interpretative signs for a bird feeder watch area, a tallgrass prairie, woodland, and a butterfly garden.

The 2005 Think Native Grant Committee consisted of Dianne Plunkett Latham, chair, Dave Crawford and Linda Huhn.

Minnesota Native Plant Society
University of Minnesota
250 Biological Sciences Center
1445 Gortner Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Spring 2005

