



# Minnesota Plant Press

The Minnesota Native Plant Society Newsletter

www.mnnps.org

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Summer 2011

## Monthly meetings

Thompson Park Center/Dakota  
Lodge

Thompson County Park  
360 Butler Ave. E.,  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

## Programs

The Minnesota Native Plant Society meets the first Thursday in October, November, December, February, March, April, May, and June. Check at [www.mnnps.org](http://www.mnnps.org) for more program information.

6 p.m. — Social period

7 – 9 p.m. — Program, Society business

**Oct. 6: “Delays in Nitrogen Cycling and Population Oscillations in Wild Rice Ecosystems,”** by Dr. John Pastor, professor, Department of Biology, U of M, Duluth. **Plant-of-the-Month:** Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris*), also by Dr. Pastor.

## Katy Chayka creates Minnesota wildflower field guide on internet

Katy Chayka, who supervises the MNNPS blog, has created *Minnesota Wildflowers*, an online field guide with details about more than 500 Minnesota wildflowers. Peter Dziuk, a former Society board member, donated about 50,000 photos to the project.

Katy’s website ([www.minnesotawildflowers.info](http://www.minnesotawildflowers.info)) organizes plants by color, time of bloom, and scientific name. Information includes a detailed description, habitat, and a map.

## Plants and Politics

by Scott Milburn, MNNPS president

The recent state government shutdown serves as a sad chapter in the state’s history, and it will likely have continued impacts once the budget is finalized. These include lost revenue from money typically spent during this period on natural resources, including such items as fishing licenses and camping permits at the state parks. Not only did these impacts affect state coffers, but they also hurt the businesses that rely on summer travelers.

I am greatly disappointed with those politicians who seem to serve only out of self-interest rather than serving to represent the best interests of the general population. With that, I encourage our members to make a special effort this year to take a trip somewhere new in the state and to visit a state park or one of our great Scientific and Natural Areas. In doing so, each one of us can support the various local economies and, ultimately, Minnesota itself.

Another positive benefit of these trips is that each one of us can learn during the process, from finding an unfamiliar plant to seeing a unique landform. This also provides an opportunity for our members to contribute what they are seeing on our blog or in the newsletter.

Travelling around the state also makes one appreciate Minnesota and the fact that we still have intact natural areas, especially compared with

other states in the cornbelt. Think about all of the diversity and great landscapes from the North Shore to the Prairie Coteau, from the Aspen Parklands to the Driftless Area, and the great adventures to be had.

## Plant XID-CD Updates

by Ron Huber

Bruce Barnes has updated the Minnesota and the Great Plains plant identification XID-CDs. Improvements include more than 1,900 new or higher resolution images and nomenclatural changes conforming to those in Welby Smith’s *Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota*. Prices remain the same —\$70 Minnesota, \$150 Great Plains. If you purchased an earlier version, e-mail Bruce at [flora.id@wtechlink.us](mailto:flora.id@wtechlink.us) and he will send the newly updated CD for a \$6 shipping charge. (We have provided him with the names of all previous buyers.)

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## MNNPS welcomes new members

The Society gives a warm welcome to 23 new members who joined during the second quarter of 2011. Listed alphabetically, they are:

Barbara Asmus, St. Louis Park, Minn.;  
Joseph M. Beattie, Hastings, Minn.;  
Kristen Blann, Cushing, Minn.;  
Marshal Braman, no data (PayPal);  
Christina Crowther, Chanhassen, Minn.;  
Christine Dolph, Minneapolis;  
Ann Fallon, Afton, Minn.;  
Jason Garms, St. Paul;  
Anna Gerenday, Afton, Minn.;  
Leslie Gillette, Hopkins, Minn.;  
Brian Goodspeed, Falcon Heights, Minn.;  
Happy Dancing Turtle, Pine River, Minn.;  
Steve Heiskary, Lino Lakes, Minn.;  
Debra Henninger, Arden Hills, Minn.;  
Marcel Jouseau, St. Paul;  
Kelly Kallock, Minneapolis;  
Tom Meersman, Minneapolis;  
Minnesota Life College, Richfield, Minn.;

Maddy Papermaster, Marine, Minn.;  
Wendy Paulsen, Chisago City, Minn.;  
Ron Spinosa, St. Paul;  
Lisa Steidl, Coon Rapids, Minn.;  
Tavis Westbrook, Duluth, Minn.

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## ***Patience, please if you use PayPal***

by Ron Huber

If you prefer to pay your dues using PayPal, please remember to patiently wait for the pop-up of the membership data form. Otherwise, we have no info about you except for the e-mail shown. That may not be the one that you want to use when receiving newsletters, postcards, etc. Thank you for your patience.

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## **Treasurers' report**

Treasurers Ron and Cathy Huber reported that in the second quarter of 2011, income exceeded expenses by \$4,964.72. Income included: Symposium, \$6,228; plant sale, \$434; membership dues, \$2,831. Expenses included: Symposium, \$4,216.51; printing, \$878.91; postage, \$296.92. Assets totaled \$22,035.61.

## **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, ecosystems.
6. Preservation of native 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.

## **MNNPS Board of Directors**

**President:** Scott Milburn, scott.milburn@mnnps.org

**Vice President:** Shirley Mah Kooyman, shirley.mah.kooyman@mnnps.org

**Secretary, program coordinator:** Andrés Morantes, andres.morantes@mnnps.org

**Treasurers, membership data base:** Ron and Cathy Huber, ron.huber@mnnps.org

**Ken Arndt**, board member, field trip chair, ken.arndt@mnnps.org

**Michael Bourdaghs**, board member, michael.bourdaghs@mnnps.org

**Elizabeth Heck**, board member, webmaster, elizabeth.heck@mnnps.org

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**Elizabeth Nixon**, board member, conservation committee chair, beth.nixon@mnnps.org

**Erika Rowe**, board member, erika.rowe@mnnps.org

**Field Trips:** fieldtrips.mnnps@mnnps.org

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## **MNNPS questions?**

Go to [www.mnnps.org](http://www.mnnps.org) for answers. The Society blog is there, news about field trips, meetings, and committees, and all issues of this newsletter since 1982.

# Book review

*Wetland Plants of Minnesota: a Complete Guide to the Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the North Star State*, by Steve W. Chadde, published by CreateSpace, 2011, paperback, 614 pages, \$39. May be downloaded at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Review by Michael Bourdaghs

In 1998, Steve Chadde authored *A Great Lakes Wetland Flora*, which quickly became indispensable for wetland botanists working in the Upper Midwest. It provided nearly comprehensive coverage of the wetland and aquatic species in a single compact volume. That was an improvement over both simpler guides that tend to lack coverage as well as full blown taxonomic treatments that are often cumbersome in the field.

Updates and improvements have been made in subsequent editions, with the second in 2002 and the third released in February 2011. It is from this newest edition that Steve Chadde has compiled *Wetland Plants Of Minnesota*.

As with the previous guides, *Wetland Plants of Minnesota* includes the approximately 900 species that commonly occur in wetland and aquatic habitats in the state, but it is more specifically geared to Minnesota.

Following introductory materials, the book is organized by major taxonomic groups: Ferns and Fern Allies, Gymnosperms, and two Angiosperm (Dicots and Monocots) sections. The keys are technical and dichotomous, where the observer must rely on knowledge of taxonomic terminology and close observation.

The great advantage of the guide is that the keys are limited to the Minnesota wetland species and are thereby simplified. Each species has a complete description that includes physical characteristics, a county

# Snow trillium is highlight of field trip to Hastings SNA

Twenty Society members spent the afternoon of April 23 hiking and studying early spring wildflowers during a field trip to the Hastings Scientific and Natural Area.

Seeing the rare snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) in bloom (photo at right) was the highlight of the afternoon. The trip was led by Scott Milburn, MNNPS president, and Ken Arndt, board member.

Future field trips are being planned. Watch the website ([www.mnnps.org](http://www.mnnps.org)) for details. These photos are by Ken Arndt.



range map, habitat information, line drawings, and in some cases black-and-white photography. Many improvements have been made in the species descriptions, compared with previous editions. The addition of the photography also aids identification.

Species distribution maps have previously been available only from sources separate from taxonomic treatments. Having the physical characteristics, map, line drawings and photos for a species all in one place is a great convenience. In

some cases, Minnesota specific habitat information has been provided. Brief explanations of many of the genus names have been provided. The white water lily genus – *Nymphaea*: “Water goddess in Greek mythology” is a good example.

*Wetland Plants of Minnesota* is an outstanding botanical resource. Its comprehensive coverage, keys, and detailed species information make it a must have for the wetland professional and a great guide for the botanical enthusiast.

# Minnesota mushrooms: then and now

by David J. McLaughlin,  
Department of Plant Biology, and  
Bell Museum of Natural History,  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul

With the support of the Minnesota DNR, some students, a volunteer and I carried out a survey of mushrooms in western Minnesota between May and October 2007. The survey was motivated by the limited documentation for larger fungi in the western part of the state. This is a progress report on that survey.

But first we will consider how recent advances in classification of fungi, an outcome of a national research program on the Tree of Life and related projects, are changing our view of how different mushroom forms are related and how these changes affect scientific names. Then we will review the survey results. The “Then” in the title refers to the old classification for mushrooms, the “Now” to the new classification. The “Then” also refers to our knowledge of mushroom distribution before the survey; the “Now” refers to the hundreds of new county records and some new state records.

## Mushroom classification

The Fungal Tree of Life project was designed to develop a comprehensive phylogenetic tree for fungi, using molecular and structural characters. A phylogenetic tree reveals relationships among species, just as a genealogical tree reveals the relationships between members of our family and connections to other people’s families. A phylogenetic tree has predictive value, helping to explain changes among species in their form, internal structure and

ecological relationships, just as a genealogical tree explains facial and other physical similarities, as well as our susceptibility to some ailments. The goal of the Tree of Life projects is to provide a classification that reflects the actual relationships among species.

Mushrooms are produced by two great groups (phyla) of fungi, the *Ascomycota* or sac fungi and the *Basidiomycota* or club fungi. The common names for these groups refer to the structures on which their sexual spores are formed. We will focus here on the club fungi, specifically the gilled (agarics), non-gilled (boletes, polypores, coral fungi, teeth fungi, and chanterelles) and the gasteroid (puffballs, earthstars, bird’s nest fungi, stinkhorns and false truffles) mushrooms. They were classified in the 19th century in three large groups (orders or class): the Aphyllophorales for non-gilled mushrooms, the Agaricales for gilled mushrooms and the Gasteromycetes for gasteroid forms, whose fruiting bodies remained closed until maturity. This was a convenient classification system for mushrooms because it required only the external form of the mushroom to classify them. But, it also disguised who was related to whom.

The Fungal Tree of Life project has upended the earlier classification with mushrooms now spread across 14 orders and with many different mushroom forms in each order. Naturally, this has an impact on the scientific names of mushrooms. A good example is the inky caps. Formerly all inky caps were classified in a single genus, *Coprinus*, which was distinguished by its black spores

and self-digesting gills that produce the “ink.” *Coprinus* was placed in the family *Coprinaceae* with some other black-spored mushrooms, such as *Psathyrella*, which lacks the inky gills. The Fungal Tree of Life studies revealed that *Coprinus* was actually four groups (genera) of mushrooms that had independently developed the ability to form inky caps. Three were related to each other and to *Psathyrella*, but the fourth was related to the button mushroom *Agaricus*, including the type of *Coprinus*, i.e., the species to which the genus name is attached. *Coprinus* was then transferred to the *Agaricaceae*. Thus, we ended up with the family *Coprinaceae* without *Coprinus*, and a new family name was chosen — *Psathyrellaceae* for the remaining three groups of inky caps, each with a new genus name, and *Psathyrella* as the type of the new family. These name changes are disconcerting for the scientist and non-scientist alike, but they lead to greater stability in names in the long run and a better understanding of the organisms.

## Mushroom survey

Documentation for Minnesota mushrooms has accumulated erratically. From 1885 to 1910, mushrooms were studied as part of the Natural History Survey of Minnesota. Between 1910 and 1960, major fungal studies were concerned with plant diseases. In the 1960s, a renewed interest in the study of mushrooms began, but the documentation for mushrooms within the state is far from complete. Computerization of the fungal collections within the Bell Museum began in the 1990s and now makes it

possible to determine the records by county or management area, such as a state park or forest. These records can be accessed at <http://ssrs.cfans.umn.edu:8080/FungiWebSearch/> A check of mushroom records by county in western Minnesota showed that almost all counties were unsurveyed except for those in the vicinity of Itasca State Park, where the University of Minnesota Biological Station is located.

Eight trips to Western Minnesota were made to survey mushroom diversity between May and October 2007. We chose sites with a variety of habitats, including some that would remain moist in dry weather so that mushrooms might be found during drier periods. Two graduate students, Bryn Dentinger and Maj Padamsee, a post-baccalaureate student, Tom Jenkinson, and a volunteer, Esther McLaughlin, assisted with the survey. Four sites became the primary focus of the survey: Kilen Woods State Park, Jackson Co.; Camden State Park, Lyon Co.; Smoky Hills State Forest, Becker Co. (MCBS site E4); Paul Bunyon State Forest, Hubbard Co. (MCBS site T6).

Approximately 300 collections were obtained. Collecting was limited until heavy rains in August. Fifty-five percent of the collections were obtained in late August to early Oct. Most are documented with photographs, and many include descriptions and spore prints. Collections are being processed for inclusion in the Fungal Collection, University Herbarium, Bell Museum. Specimens are essential if we are to successfully document the fungi of Minnesota, a goal needed to establish baseline information on these species that interact in many ways with plants, especially the mycorrhizal species that grow with tree roots and aid the plant in mineral uptake and defense.

Genetic sequences have been obtained for some of the collections

as part of the BOLD: Barcode of Life Database project [www.boldsystems.org](http://www.boldsystems.org). The ITS, or internal transcribed spacer region of nuclear ribosomal DNA, is being proposed as the first fungal barcode, i.e., a piece of DNA that can be used to identify a species. The ITS sequences have aided in some of the recent identifications. It should be noted that keys to many mushroom genera are inadequate, and primary literature must be used. This is especially true for *Cortinarius*, *Entoloma*, *Pluteus*, *Russula*, and *Tricholoma*. A monograph for North American species of *Psathyrella* by Smith, 1972, is comprehensive but difficult to use. Maj Padamsee, who recently completed a Ph.D. project on the genus, is responsible for these identifications.

All collections are new county records based on the data in the University Herbarium. The following appear to be new state records: *Conocybe* cf. *siennophylla*, *Coprinellus tigrinellus*, *Coprinopsis conioophora*, *Cortinarius* cf. *alnetorum*, *Cortinarius gutatus*, *Galerina decipiens*, *Laccaria trichodermophila*, *Lactarius nancyae*, *Psathyrella lepidotoides*, *Psathyrella obtusata*, *Ramaria myceliosa*, and *Russula fontqueri*. Some of these collections will need further study to confirm the identification. The number of new state records makes it clear that the state is very poorly known mycologically, especially considering that collection identification is continuing. The following collections are mentioned in publications but are undocumented in the University Herbarium: *Neolecta irregularis* and *Psathyrella typhae*. *Neolecta irregularis* is an especially interesting find, as it fruits late in the fall and produces brilliant yellow, club-shaped fruiting bodies. It was collected near Itasca State Park, one of the better surveyed areas in the state. Thus, it is surprising that there

are no recent reports on its presence in Minnesota.

Another benefit of the survey is that we are beginning to understand the distribution of some of the species and how they relate to the four biomes that make plant distributions in the state of special interest, but also make it vulnerable to rapid climate warming. For example, we now have a second state record for *Russula pulverulenta*. It is now known from Rice and Lyons counties, a southern distribution in the state that suggests it may be restricted to the deciduous forest biome and river valley forests in the grassland biome. The bolete *Paragyrodon sphaerosporus* is a very distinctive species with a heavy rubbery veil which protects the spore-forming layer. It is a mid-continental endemic. In Minnesota it is well known from the deciduous forest biome and is recorded for the first time from the grassland biome, again in river valley forests. At Kilen Woods State Park it seems well adapted to the wood edge adjacent to the upland prairies.

Both saprotrophic and mycorrhizal species were well represented at Kilen Woods and Camden State Parks, with the latter mainly appearing in late August through October. Some species fruited abundantly in both state parks. In Smoky Hills State Forest MCBS site E4 is especially rich in saprotrophic species and seems well adapted to their fruiting, as new species were found regularly throughout the survey. Mycorrhizal species were never common, despite the presence of a diversity of appropriate host tree species.

Paul Bunyon State Forest MCBS site T6 is very sandy and dominated by red and jack pines. It produced few mushrooms until late in the season, when a considerable diversity of mycorrhizal species were present. These included five

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## Mushrooms

Continued from page 5

of *Cortinarius* and the very striking striking *Gomphus floccosus* and *Neolecta irregularis*, but boletes, which would be expected with pines, were scarce.

This report should not be viewed as a complete account of the mushroom species present at these sites. Our focus was on fleshy and readily decayed species, not the better known bracket and shelf fungi. When collecting was good, small species or single specimens had to be ignored, as the documentation required for a collection exceeded our capacity to handle them. Some specimens had deteriorated between visits, which were approximately monthly to each site until the end of August, when more frequent trips were made. Some *Lepiota* species were in good condition for only a day or so after rains. Also, different species are known to appear in successive years at a site, so a complete survey requires several years.

Nevertheless, this report provides a first approximation of mushroom diversity at these sites and a considerable increase in our knowledge of Minnesota mushroom diversity.

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## Free Landscape Tour

The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District will conduct a free tour of four landscapes from 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3. Each area was designed to protect and improve water quality and natural resources and has received an ecology award. The tour begins at the watershed district's office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Participants will then board a bus to visit three other sites. To register, contact Shelly Meiser at shelly@rwnwd.org or call 651-792-7965.

# Introducing three new board members

## Dr. Peter Jordan

To be honest, I must admit my greatest attachment to the land and oceans and their biota lies in California, with Isle Royale the next closest one. After that, Minnesota certainly holds the greatest interest for me.

I grew up in central, coastal California, and from an early age was fascinated with the flora of the Santa Cruz mountains and the birds of San Francisco Bay. My high-school summers were spent working for the concessionaire in Yosemite Valley, from which I began exploring the surrounding wilderness, and eventually became a devout admirer of John Muir.

I was drafted in the Army in the early 1950s and ended my tour with a year at Ft. Lewis Washington – within sight of Mt Rainier. It was my great fortune to have a colleague who was an experienced climber, leading to many weekends on the rocks and glaciers. That experience in turn shifted my professional goals towards natural-resource science and management.

I returned to college and pursued a degree in wildlife conservation at the University of California Berkeley. My academic advisor was Starker Leopold, oldest son of Aldo – whom up to that point, I'd never heard of. Also, without appreciating its academic/scientific significance, I had ended up studying among the top researchers on vertebrate animals within the western U.S. Even before graduating, I had a job with a research group working on range improvement for deer.

This soon led me into graduate work, which eventually led to a Ph.D on ecology and management of migratory deer in the Sierra

Nevada. A significant portion of my efforts was on the plant species being eaten by deer over their wide elevational range.

After my prolonged Ph.D, I moved east to join studies of wolves and moose at Isle Royale National Park, as part of a team from Purdue University. After three years of wolf studies in winter and the browsing patterns of moose year round, I took a faculty position at Yale, while still continuing studies at Isle Royale.

Our team there pioneered research on the physiology and ecology of sodium in moose, having discovered that the level of this essential mineral in all the terrestrial plants they eat was well below their minimum requirements. We found that moose compensate by consuming submerged aquatic plants in shallow warm waters during summer. These plants, such as species of *Potamogeton*, concentrate sodium from waters containing extremely low levels of this mineral.

In 1974 I joined the wildlife faculty at the University of Minnesota and have continued here, even after retiring in 2003, with my studies of moose impact on forest vegetation at Isle Royale. Additional work with students in Minnesota has included the effects of intense forest management on forage for moose, deer, and hares in the Superior National Forest, and the effects of deer on herbaceous plants in southeastern Minnesota, the latter being done jointly with Lee Frelich. Also over the years, I've been fortunate to work abroad on wildlife with students in India, Nepal, Israel, Costa Rica, and Quebec plus my own minor studies in Sweden and Alaska, and recently, even some follow-up work on my Sierra

Nevada study area. Besides research in Minnesota, I was involved with an unsuccessful attempt to re-establish woodland caribou to the far-northeastern corner of our state. I am also working with students to restore more native vegetation to a patch of natural habitat, the Sarita Wetland, on the University's St. Paul campus, and I'm currently on the DNR Commissioner's advisory committee on scientific and natural areas.

I must admit, however, that despite my many years in Minnesota, my knowledge of our native flora remains quite limited. I try, however, to compensate by maintaining ties with young botanical experts such as Andrés Morantes and Otto Gockman.

## Otto Gockman

I have been a member of the Minnesota Native Plant Society on and off since high school. I live in St. Paul and currently work as a botanist at Midwest Natural Resources, an environmental consulting company based out of St. Paul. I have been interested in native plants, conservation, lichens, etc. for as long as I can remember. I believe that my work as well as my personal experiences with our native ecosystems will contribute greatly towards the goals of MNNPS.

## Mike Lynch

I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota (2010) in Applied Plant Science. I became interested in native plants after helping my in-laws begin to restore their degraded oak savanna. I made it my mission to learn the scientific names of all species native to this area. I have recently spent free time volunteering for Great River Greening and exploring the various parks and natural areas in the Twin Cities. One of my favorite things to do is to introduce the public to the beauty of the natural landscape. My favorite plant is Anise-scented hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*).



*Photos of Goldthread (Coptis trifolia) are by Peter Dziuk.*

## DNR wants photos of Itasca State Park

Volunteers are invited to take high quality digital pictures of Itasca State Park, including its flora, fauna and scenic outlooks. Specific photos of people interacting within the park are also needed. Volunteers will work with little direction and must have experience with digital photography and appropriate digital camera equipment. They will name and catalogue all of the digital photos they take. The time commitment is variable throughout the summer and fall. For more information, contact Connie Cox at 218-699-7259 or e-mail [constance.cox@state.mn.us](mailto:constance.cox@state.mn.us)

# Plant Lore

by Thor Kommedahl

## What is goldthread?

Goldthread, also called canker root, is *Coptis trifolia* and a member of the buttercup family.

## How did it get its names?

Goldthread describes the golden-yellow, threadlike rhizomes. *Coptis* comes from a Greek word *kopto*, meaning "to cut" – referring to the dissected leaves. *Trifolia* refers to the three-parted leaves. Rhizomes were chewed to relieve canker sores, hence the name canker root.

## What does it look like?

Goldthread is a mat-forming perennial with bright yellow, threadlike rhizomes and three-lobed, shiny, evergreen leaves resembling strawberry leaves. Five white "petals" (really sepals) appear from May through July. Petals are club-like and not conspicuous. It appears to have no stem.

## Where does it grow?

It is native to northeastern Minnesota in coniferous forests, swamps, bogs, and road banks – in thickets, mossy places, cedar swamps, and in damp woods. It forms endomycorrhizal associations.

## Is it edible, poisonous or medicinal?

It is neither edible nor poisonous. The rhizome is highly astringent and contains berberine, noted for its anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties. Thus it was widely used in 19th century America for mouth sores. For a while it was listed in the *U.S. Pharmacopoeia*.

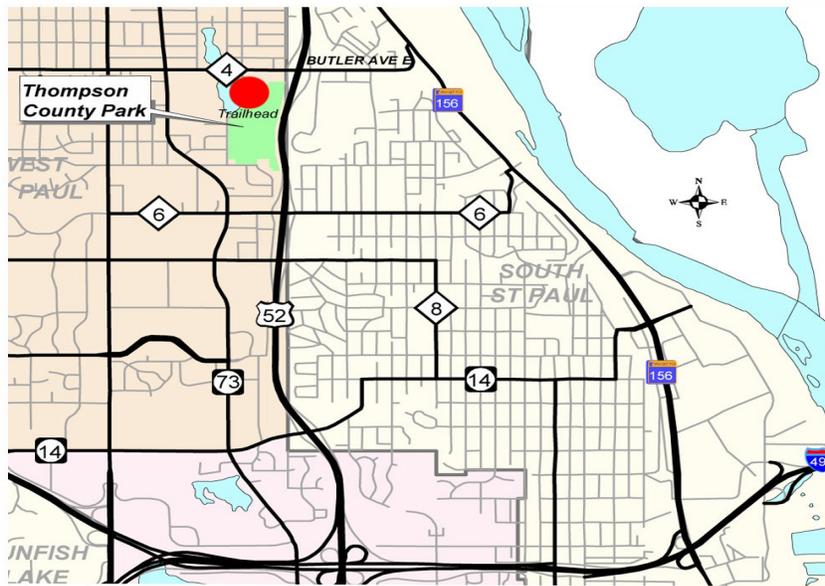
## Are there other uses?

Peter Kalm in 1749 reported that leaves and stalks were used by Indians to give a fine yellow color to animal skins, and the French learned this from them to dye wool and other materials. It is considered indicative of minerotrophic water (water that carries mineral nutrients into the peat) in peatlands. Ruffed grouse eat foliage in limited amounts.

Minnesota Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 20401  
Bloomington, MN 55420

Summer 2011

**Thompson County Park:**  
360 Butler Ave East, West St. Paul, MN 55118



**Directions:**

Take MN Hwy. 52 to the Butler Ave. E. exit in West St. Paul.  
Go west on Butler 0.2 mile to Stassen Lane.  
Go south on Stassen Lane to Thompson County Park.