



Minnesota Plant Press

The Minnesota Native Plant Society Newsletter

www.mnnps.org

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Summer-Fall 2017

Minnesota Native Plant Society

A non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and appreciation of Minnesota's native plants and plant communities through education and public awareness.

Monthly meetings

Thompson Park Center/Dakota Lodge
Thompson County Park
1200 Stassen Lane
West St. Paul, MN 55118

First Thursday of the month, October-December & February-June. Social period begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting runs from 7-9 p.m. Please check the website at www.mnnps.org for more program information.

Membership

The MNNPS membership year starts January 1st. Dues may be paid at the February meeting or mailed to:

Minnesota Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 16257
St. Paul, MN 55116

Please notice a new P.O. Box address effective immediately.

Membership categories are:

- Individual or family \$15
- Student or senior \$8
- Institution \$20
- Donor \$25
- Lifetime \$300

The monthly meetings serve as a great opportunity to expose a friend to our organization and this also presents a chance to meet up with other folks that have a strong passion for Minnesota's native flora.

Monthly Programs – Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

October 5: Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) – highlights from the past 30 years and priorities for the future: Bruce Carlson, MBS Program Supervisor.

POM: Green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*) by Hannah Texler, MBS Plant Survey Supervisor.

November 2: Crow-Hassan Prairie – Fifty Years and Counting: John Moriarty, Senior Manager of Wildlife, Three Rivers Park District.

POM: Prairie violet (*Viola palmata*) by Angela Isackson, Wildlife Technician, Three Rivers Park.

December 7: Natural History and Restoration Ecology of Anoka Sand Plain Peatlands: Jason Husveth, Principal Ecologist, Critical Connections Ecological Services.

POM: A rare species of bristle-berry (*Rubus stipulatus*) by Jason Husveth.

February 1: Dean Lakes Conservation Area Restoration Project: Speaker TBA

March 1: MBS Long-term Ecological Monitoring Network in Minnesota: by Hannah Texler and Erika Rowe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

April 5: Rusty Patched Bumble Bee: Elaine Evans, University of Minnesota – Bee Lab.

Society Leadership

Board members' names are followed with the year their term expires in parentheses.

President: Scott Milburn (2018)

Vice President: Welby Smith (2019)

Secretary: Mike Lynch (2020)

Treasurer/Membership: Ken Arndt (2019)

Board Member: John Arthur (2018)

Board Member: Simba Blood (2019)

Board Member: Tom Casey (2020)

Board Member: Steve Eggers (2018)

Board Member: Otto Gockman (2020)

Conservation Chair: Tom Casey

Field Trip Coordinator: Mike Lynch

Program Chair: Jyneen Thatcher

Publications Chair: Open

Symposium Chair: Otto Gockman

Website: Katy Chayka

Technical or Membership Inquiries:
contact@mnnps.org

MNNPS Board of Directors

The board held officer elections at the summer board meeting. Of note is that Ron and Cathy Huber stepped down after twelve years at the helm. We are fortunate to have had their help, dedication, and commitment all of these years. Ken Arndt was elected by the board as our new treasurer and he will also coordinate efforts pertaining to membership. Mike Lynch, Scott Milburn, and Welby Smith were all re-elected to their positions.

MNNPS is a Volunteer Organization

You do not need to be a member of the board to contribute your time and skills. We always need field trip ideas and leaders as well as hospitality and logistics at monthly meetings. Ideas for monthly speakers are always welcome. At this time we are seeking a newsletter editor. We are preferably looking for someone who can write content in line with our mission as well as seek out writings from our membership. As you are aware, the newsletter is an integral part of the Society, serving to not only inform our membership about the goings-on of the Society, but also to educate the membership.

Summary of the Flora of Wisconsin's Interstate State Park Presentation

Derek Anderson

Wisconsin's Interstate State Park was formed in 1900, and is the oldest state park in Wisconsin. The roughly 1,300 acre park is located along the St. Croix River on the south side of St. Croix Falls, about 45 miles northeast of the Twin Cities metro area. Minnesota's Interstate Park is located on the south side of Taylors Falls. While it is smaller at 280 acres, it shares many species with the Wisconsin park. Over the course of three years, I visited the park throughout the growing season to document the flora of the park.

Interstate State Park has had a long history of botanizing, but until my survey, there had not been any exhaustive documentation of the flora. Richard Pohl conducted one of the more intensive surveys of the Park in 1936. Other noteworthy collecting trips were made by Norman Fassett in 1927 and 1934, Jacqueline Patman in 1959, and Theodore Cochrane in 1972.

Geologic events of the past shaped many of the native plant communities observed within the park today. These events include ancient lava flows, a vast inland sea, and most recently, the glaciers of the last ice age. The Park is primarily forested, and the most common forest types are mesic forest, dry-mesic forest, floodplain forest, and oak woodlands.

When we look at early public land survey records, we find that the tree composition in the area of the Park in the mid-1800s was similar to that of today. Surveyors characterized the Park as being "very broken," and "abounds with traprock [basalt]". The trees they noted in their notes included linden, birch, white oak, elm, hickory, pine, and butternut (presumably *Tilia americana*, *Betula* sp., *Quercus alba* and/or *Q. macrocarpa*, *Ulmus* sp., *Carya cordiformis*, *Pinus strobus*, and *Juglans cinerea*, respectively). Interestingly, the notes that describe section 36 in Township 34N, Range 19W mention prairie, which is consistent with the extensive bedrock glade community seen in the vicinity today (dominated by prairie grasses).

The section line notes for the area near the St. Croix

River indicate the presence of such species as white maple, black ash, willow, elm, and linden (presumably *Acer saccharinum*, *Fraxinus nigra*, *Salix* sp., *Ulmus* sp., and *Tilia americana*, respectively), which confirms the wetter nature of this area. The notes also reveal that in upland areas beyond the basalt exposures, mesic forest became common, including sugar maple, linden, white walnut, white ash, pine, elm, and oak (presumed to be *Acer saccharum*, *Tilia americana*, *Juglans cinerea*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Pinus strobus*, *Ulmus* sp., and *Quercus rubra*, respectively).

Findings

A total of 652 vascular plant taxa representing 366 genera and 118 families have been documented from the Park (I identified 612 of these species during the course of my surveys). The ferns and fern allies were represented by 35 taxa, gymnosperms by 9 taxa, and angiosperms by 608 taxa. Of the angiosperms, 184 taxa were monocots and 424 were dicots. The predominant plant families were the aster family with 68 taxa, the grass family with 67 taxa, the sedge family with 57 taxa, and the rose family with 33 taxa. These totals include two rare species listed as Threatened (kitten tails and brittle prickly pear cactus) and five species listed as Special Concern (Back's sedge, Laurentian bladder fern, fragrant fern, ginseng, and prairie fame flower) by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources. In addition, three of the species were previously tracked by the Bureau of Endangered Resources, but were removed from the state's endangered species list during the course of the survey. These are *Carex assiniboinensis*, *Juglans cinerea*, and *Taxus canadensis*.

Ninety-four of the species are introduced, some of which are ecologically invasive. When comparing the species we collected with species previously documented by collections in the State's herbaria (UWSP, WIS), we identified 59 species not previously reported from Polk County. These include 25 species that are introduced and naturalized in the state of Wisconsin.



St. Croix River gorge – Photo by Derek Anderson

Plant Communities

Southern Mesic Forest, together with southern dry-mesic forest, comprises the majority of the acreage of the Park. These two communities grade into one another with changes in topography, slope aspect, and soil composition. The southern mesic forest is most commonly encountered in the eastern half of the Park. It is found on gentle to steep slopes, and there is little or no influence from the underlying bedrock on its composition. The southern mesic forests within the Park are dominated by sugar maple. Occasionally red oak, basswood, bitternut hickory, white ash, and green ash are canopy co-dominants. The understory is dominated by sugar maple and ironwood. The ground layer is diverse and consists of trilliums, hepaticas, Virginia waterleaf, maidenhair fern, lady fern, and many other spring ephemerals.

A well-developed **Floodplain Forest** can be seen along the St. Croix River. The forest is dominated by silver maple with lesser amounts of cottonwood, hackberry, box elder, and occasionally elm. Ground layer forbs include violets, wood nettle, ostrich fern, cut leaved coneflower, and cardinal flower.

Forested Seeps and **Wet/Mesic Forests** are found throughout the park, most commonly along the steep slopes above the river. These areas are usually dominated by black ash, American elm, and yellow birch. Occasionally sugar maple and basswood are found on the slightly more elevated areas. Where groundwater springs and seeps are present, skunk cabbage is abundant. Orange jewel-weed, water pennywort, marsh bluegrass, and swamp saxifrage are also common.

Cliffs are found in several area of the park. West- and south-facing cliffs tend to be dry, while north- and east- facing slopes tend to be wet. Some of these cliffs also have seeps that keep them wetter and allow them to support mosses and other plants. The cliffs are composed of both basalt and sandstone rock. These habitat supports a diversity of ferns (rusty woodsia, fragile fern, polypody fern). Commonly seen forbs include columbine, harebells, and corydalis.

Northern Dry-Mesic Forests occupy a fairly small portion of the overall acreage of the Park. It is associated with draws and ravines of the basalt cliffs along the St. Croix River. The canopy is dominated by white pine and occasional red pine, red oak, and northern pin oak. The shrub layer contains blueberries, while the ground layer contains abundant Canada may-flower, wild sarsaparilla, bunchberry, and star flower.

Oak woodlands are usually found between bedrock glades and the oak forests. Bedrock is usually close to the surface, with drier soils. Sometimes broken rock is scattered throughout. Several oak species (hills, white, and bur) are common. Sumac and hazel are found in the shrub layer. The ground layer is commonly composed of bottlebrush grass, northern bedstraw, big leaf aster, and various prairie species including prairie phlox, northern bedstraw, and kitten tails.

Bedrock glades are found where bedrock is at or near the surface (basalt rock here at the park). Dry, shallow soils support unique assemblages of plants adapted to these xeric conditions. Lichens, moss, and spike moss are common. Where there has been some soil accumulation, prairie/savanna/barrens species are observed. This includes a number of prairie grasses and forbs. Additionally, two rare species, brittle prickly pear and prairie fame flower are also found in this habitat.

Conclusions

The forest flora at the Park is the result of about 100 years of secondary successional regeneration of forest in northwestern Wisconsin. The diverse flora of the site is also influenced by several factors including things like bedrock, topography, and groundwater seepage. Nearly 25% of the state's flora can be observed within the boundaries of this one park. 163 species were documented in the Park for the first time and, of those, 59 were newly documented in the county. It becomes evident from these numbers that gaps still remain in our knowledge of plant distributions

within the state, particularly in those regions located the farthest from the state's universities. This situation has been observed throughout North America. Even with the many new discoveries, 40 taxa previously collected from the Park were not relocated during this three-year study. These species may actually no longer be found in the Park, or they may have been simply overlooked.

The diverse landscape of the Park supports several rare species. Kitten tails were rediscovered during the course of the survey. An older collection of the species was made in 1959. However, it did not include a specific location in the Park. As a result, it is uncertain whether the new record is from the same population as the older collection. Another species of particular interest is fragrant fern. It was first collected at the "Falls of St. Croix" by Charles Parry in 1848. According to correspondence between Parry and Dr. John Torrey, this was the first time the species was documented within the limits of the United States. Parry (1852) indicated that the plant was "quite abundant." This species now appears to be quite rare in the Park. Between 2011 and 2013, only a few small populations were discovered on the extensive cliffs.

The documentation of the flora at Interstate State Park sets the stage for future research and management activities at the Park. Follow-up activities could include: 1) monitoring and removal of invasive plant populations; 2) monitoring rare plant populations; 3) monitoring impacts of the white-tailed deer population on plant species and communities; 4) assessing comparisons of phenological shifts in certain species over time; and 5) using the results of this study as a baseline for future floristic work in the Park and the surrounding area.



Lobelia cardinalis – Photo by Derek Anderson

Bladderworts of Minnesota (update)

Welby Smith

Bladderworts (genus *Utricularia*) are aquatic plants in the family Lentibulariaceae. There are more than 200 species of bladderworts and they occur nearly worldwide. Their popular appeal comes from the nature of the "bladders" that are attached to the leaves. They are tiny sacs with an opening at one end guarded by trigger hairs. When a small aquatic animal touches one of the trigger hairs, the bladder rapidly expands and sucks in the prey. So, they aren't simply bladders, they're traps designed to capture and digest small invertebrates. Each plant will have dozens or hundreds of such traps, qualifying them as important predators of aquatic animals.

In the spring 1988 newsletter of the Plant Press (vol. 7:3). I reported the discovery of a bladderwort that was new to Minnesota – *Utricularia resupinata*. It was found by Chel Anderson in Makwa Lake in the BWCAW. That brought the number of native bladderworts in Minnesota to six. Well, interesting things have happened in the world of bladderworts since then. Two additional species have been found in Minnesota, bringing the total to eight.

In 1992, Karen Myhre found *Utricularia purpurea* (the aptly named purple flowered bladderwort) in Cass County, it was the first time in Minnesota. Since then it has been found in lakes in Cass, Aitkin, Pine and Crow Wing counties. The plant produces rather conspicuous purple flowers that rise a few inches above the surface of the water. So, why hadn't it been found earlier than 1992? First, it is actually quite rare in Minnesota, and is now listed as endangered in the state. Secondly, the conspicuous purple flowers are not often produced. With no flowers, the plants won't be noticed unless a person is in a boat on a lake looking directly down into the water. Then what you see is a long slender stem with whorls of lacey leaves. We don't know for sure, but apparently the flowering pattern for this species is "boom or bust". This led to an interesting situation in a small lake in Cass County. In 2010 a lakeshore owner alerted the DNR that a strange purple-flowered plant had invaded the lake. When DNR botanists investigated,

they found a large and healthy population of *U. purpurea*, with just about every plant in flower. In all likelihood, the plants had been there all along, but never flowered before, or flowered at such low densities they weren't noticed.

In 2004, *Utricularia geminiscapa* (hidden-fruit bladderwort, another apt name) was found by Perry Scott in a wetland adjacent to Bald Eagle Creek in Lake County, another first for Minnesota. It has since been found in St. Louis, Becker, Itasca, Cass, and Chisago counties. Unlike *U. purpurea*, *U. geminiscapa* doesn't occur in lakes. It's found in shallow pools in fens and bogs, but like all *Utricularia*, it is carnivorous. The common name (hidden-fruit) tells you how to identify the plant, but it requires a bit of explanation. All species of *Utricularia* (that I know of) produce flowers that are held above the water to attract insect pollinators. Hidden-fruit bladderwort does that too, but it also does something quite different. It produces flowers that grow downward, into the water. They are never visited by insects, in fact they self-pollinate without ever opening. This type of flower is called cleistogamous. A cleistogamous flower may produce fruit, but it is "hidden" at the end of a short stalk on the underside of the plant, usually in the axil of a branch. You have to know what to look for in order to find it. And this plant won't be found easily, it is very rare in Minnesota and is officially listed as threatened.



Utricularia purpurea – Photo by Donna Perleberg



Utricularia resupinata

See Bladderwort Key on Page 9

The Local History and Science behind Eastern Hemlock, Minnesota's Most Endangered Conifer

Emily Ellingson, University of Minnesota

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* (L). Carrière) is a slow-growing and long-lived conifer in the Pinaceae family. Of the four species in the genus *Tsuga* native to North America, *T. canadensis* is the most prolific and widely cultivated with over 270 cultivars of weeping, dwarf, and variegated varieties recorded. Historically, hemlock were used as a source of tannins in the tanning industry and as a timber species for making telephone poles, railroad ties, and paper pulp.

Eastern hemlock's range extends from Nova Scotia west into Wisconsin and Minnesota and south into Georgia and Alabama, with a number of disjunct populations in Indiana and Ohio. It grows in moist, temperate climates (Zone 3-7), often on north-facing slopes and in protected valleys or on rock ledges. Eastern hemlock can be distinguished from other conifers by its deeply furrowed bark, drooping and pendulous branches, and a "nodding" top. Their foliage is finely textured and individual needles are small, flat, and twisted around the stalk. They have small, wind-pollinated

cones that ripen in October and gravity and wind dispersed seeds.

Eastern hemlock is a late-successional climax species in forests across its range. They are considered a foundation species, which means their specific ecology and life-history traits define forest structure and ecosystem function. For example, eastern hemlock regulates soil chemistry and moisture and provide shelter for a variety of wildlife, ranging from birds to arboreal spiders. They are also incredibly shade tolerant and long-lived.

About 5,000 years ago, eastern hemlock experienced a range-wide decrease in populations in response to pests, pathogens, and/or a changing climate. Eastern hemlock is once again facing a decline due to the presence of an invasive pest from Asia, the hemlock woolly adelgid. This aphid-like insect is destroying populations in the eastern United States and has even been found in Michigan, where recent reports indicate that it is unlikely to be eradicated. Additionally, eastern hemlock is now considered “near threatened” by the International Union on the Conservation of Nature, due to a decreasing population trend.

Eastern hemlock has existed in Minnesota in smaller disjunct populations for at least 1,200 years, but is now listed as an endangered species. The number of trees has decreased significantly due to logging, fire, herbivorous predation, and poor recruitment. Where there were once over 5,000 eastern hemlock in the state in the early 1900’s, there are now likely *less than 40* sexually mature trees with scattered saplings and seedlings of known native provenance. There are additional trees of various provenance in cultivation across the state in public gardens, state and municipal parks, and on private property.

Native Minnesotan eastern hemlock occur most often in St. Louis and Carlton counties. Trees are found along creeks and on moist, generally north-facing slopes, often with white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). At least one site has regeneration, partly due to the deer exclosures that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources put in place. Generally, these sites are under threat from White-tailed deer predation and extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and fires.

The cultivated eastern hemlock in Minnesota have a range of provenance stories. The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen contains several trees that are recorded as being derived from seeds collected from an extirpated population at Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota. Additionally, there are a large number of trees of unknown, but possibly native origin across Minnesota. Notably, Jay Cooke State Park near Hemlock Ravine SNA, has one native tree and two trees of unknown origin. McCarthy Beach State Park near Hibbing contains a number of trees that were planted in 1935, possibly by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Theodore Wirth Park and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in Minneapolis also contain a large number of trees, many of which were received and planted in the early 1900s. Additionally, Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, a nationally registered Historic Place, has several trees in cultivated and uncultivated areas of the garden that were recorded as being planted in 1907. Our studies at the University of Minnesota seek to address the variation in seed and vegetative propagation efficiency, the genetic diversity in Minnesota native, putatively native, and cultivated trees and seedlings, and the likelihood that reproductive age trees growing in Minnesota are of native origin. Additionally, by comparing eastern hemlock trees in Minnesota to those that occur within the main range and center of species diversity, we can further understand population structure.

Our ultimate goal with this research is to develop a set of recommendations for land managers in regards to the management and restoration potential of eastern hemlock. It is our hope that this information will be used to further the reproduction and distribution of eastern hemlock in Minnesota through sound nursery practices. This research could not be done without the collaboration of state, municipal, and private entities and we are thankful for their support and interest in this project.

This information was originally presented by Emily Ellingson during one of our monthly programs last year.

President's Column

Scott Milburn

I appreciate everyone's patience regarding the delayed newsletter. It has been a few years since Gerry Drewry stepped down as editor of the Plant Press, and it has been quite difficult to replace her. We are currently looking for someone who would enjoy the responsibility and the challenge. The newsletter had served as a primary mechanism for communicating with the membership along with postcard mailings and notifications in local newspapers. We now rely on email, internet, and social media platforms to communicate. However, it is crucial that we hold onto certain traditions while embracing the new. Not only are we looking for an editor, but we are looking for contributions from the membership with articles that are in line with our mission. Our goal is to produce a high-quality newsletter that educates, informs, and entertains. If you have interests in helping out from written content to the overall layout, I ask that you contact me directly.

To change the subject, I would like to go into a discussion that our organization has typically shied away from in the printed form. We are in a highly charged political time, and it seems constant. Much of that is how we now communicate and the immediate access to information. But another factor is that we have an unorthodox and colorful president who has yet to show any interest in conservation. He is not alone and it seems that natural resources take a back seat to a myriad of reasons and excuses. The chief argument by opponents against environmental protection is often the claim that the jobs will be affected or that the costs will be too great. However, these pretenses should be challenged under the notion that there is an economic advantage directly related to protection.

A good case in point is our very own Buffer Law. There has been much resistance to the law due to perceived government overreach and the potential for lost revenue in the private sector. Buffers around waterways and ditches appear to be a solid best management practice in the hypothetical. There is no argument that our waters have been impacted by agriculture, an industry that we are reliant upon. Farming is a difficult business, and we must empathize and support those who opt to choose this path for their livelihood. However, agriculture is highly subsidized in various ways from the federal to the state level. On the state level, tax-paying citizens are having to pay in one way or another for the pollution of water, and basically subsidizing those who implement poor management practices. There is opportunity to provide for real solutions that not only protect those in agriculture, but protect everyone. I don't hold the view of Ronald Reagan and his well-known adage that government is the problem and not the solution. Yet, the current political landscape is filled with inept individuals. We need contentious and altruistic types in political positions rather than the current class.

On the other end of the spectrum are taxing bodies like county entities. These county governments are centered on increasing their tax base, and they seem to need continual growth in order to sustain themselves. Certain counties are directly opposed to the addition of public lands with one reason being the loss of potential tax revenue. This approach makes it extremely difficult to acquire and protect those remaining natural areas that are under private ownership. The conversion of these lands to public ownership should not be seen as a detriment, but as a means of protecting resources for future generations. We have the ability to enjoy many natural areas which include a rich flora and fauna, but we also need to ensure this in perpetuity and to not relegate these experiences to only botanical gardens and zoos. One solution to reduce the pressure on these counties is to consolidate counties into larger units. Such maneuvering would allow for the sharing of resources like equipment and staff. With that, less tax revenue would be needed perhaps, and thus reduce the opposition against additional acquisition of public lands. Minnesota is such a marvelous state with much to see and explore, and we need to look beyond the now. My column is not intended to offend anyone and serves as an opinion piece. With that, hopefully this provokes thought, discussion, and perhaps change.

The 1988 newsletter contained a key to the identification of the six species of *Utricularia* known from Minnesota at the time. The following key incorporates the two new species:

1. Flowers some shade of purple or blue.

2. Plants free-floating in the water; leaves whorled and bladders formed at leaf tips ____ *U. purpurea*.

2. Plants rooted in the substrate _____ *U. resupinata*.

1. Flowers yellow.

3. Plants aquatic, free-floating limply in open water; each leaf divided into 2 or more segments.

4. Leaf segments flat, each with a visible midvein; bladders borne on separate leafless branches
_____ *U. intermedia*.

4. Leaf segments generally round in cross-section (terete); bladders borne on the leaves, all branches of the stem essentially alike.

5. Stems with cleistogamous flowers (appearing as a small spherical structure at the end of a short, stout, curved peduncle on the “underside” of the stem, usually at a branch of the stem), regular petal-producing flowers present or not _____ *U. geminiscapa*.

5. Stems lacking cleistogamous flowers, all flowers with distinct petals rising above the surface of the water, or flowers lacking).

6. Plants coarse, the stems long and at least 0.4 mm wide; leaves 1.5-7 cm long, divided into numerous segments _____ *U. macrorhiza* (*U. vulgaris*).

6. Plants delicate, the stems short and less than 0.3 mm wide; leaves 0.2-1 cm long, divided into 2--4 segments.

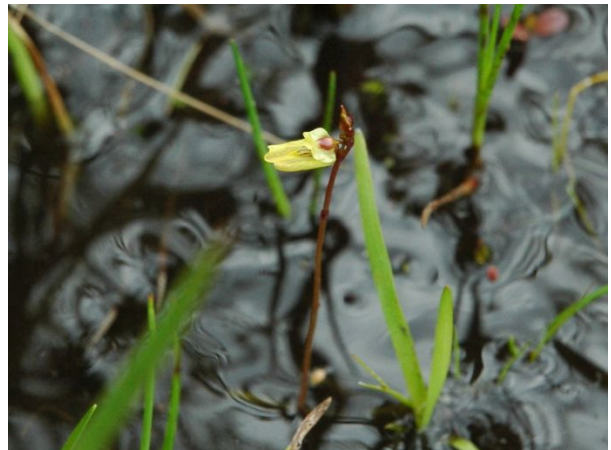
7. Leaves divided once near the base, resulting in 2 unbranched segments ____ *U. gibba*.

7. Leaves divided once near the base, with each resulting segment branching into 2 additional segments _____ *U. minor*.

3. Plants terrestrial, rooted in wet sand, peat or mud; leaves undivided, usually covered by sediments and not visible, or only the tips visible _____ *U. cornuta*.



Utricularia cornuta

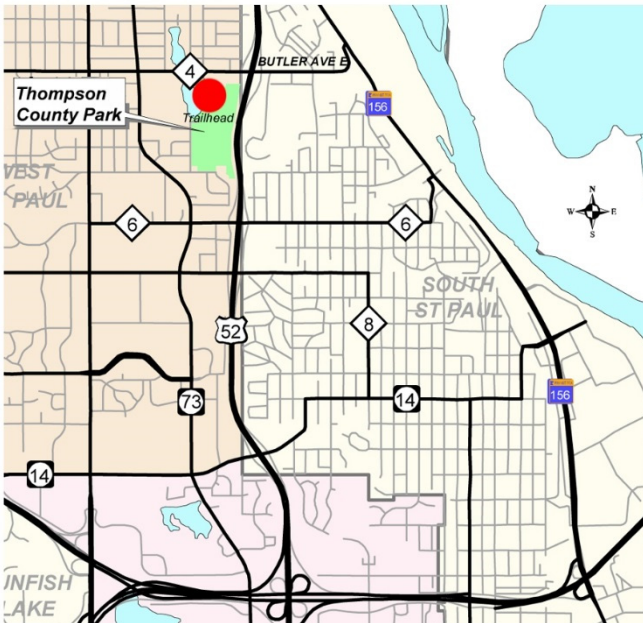


Utricularia minor

Minnesota Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 16257
St. Paul, MN 55116

SUMMER-FALL 2017

Dakota Lodge, Thompson County Park
1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul, MN 55113



Directions:

Take Highway 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 the parking lot at the end of the road in Thompson County Park