



# MINNESOTA PLANT PRESS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE MINNESOTA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

FALL, 1982

## First Annual Meeting Held

Sunday, October 3, MNPS held its First Annual Meeting for purposes both business-like and pleasurable. All events were held at the North Star Ballroom at the St. Paul Campus Student Center. All events, that is, except the field trip, which was item one on the agenda:

- 12-2 pm Field trip to Wolsfeld Woods
- 2-3 pm Native Plant Propagation Workshop
- 3-4 pm Social Hour
- 4-5 pm Business Meeting
- 5-6 pm Lecture: Restoration and Management of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, by Bill Jordan III
- 6 pm Wrap-up

MNPS drew a winner of a day for its First Annual Meeting. Sunday, October 3, was

sunny and warm, a perfect day for a hike in the Big Woods. As it happened, a field trip to Wolsfeld Woods was the first scheduled event. Sugar maples were in full color, the air was clear and still, and Keith Wendt, field trip leader, was in fine form as he interpreted the development and ecology of the woods. Special find for the day was a coral root growing at the trailside.

Dr. May Wright presented slides, displays, and her considerable expertise at the second event on the program, the Native Plant Propagation Workshop. After a survey of plant propagation techniques, the session culminated in a seed exchange, with seeds provided by Brad Blackett, Deny Hahn, Dianne Plunkett, Ruth Phipps, and Jean Schossow (many thanks, folks!). Participants are encouraged to record their techniques and results on the forms



Members examine Native Plant Propagation Workshop materials.



J. B. Andersen

Newly elected officers:  
Heidi Van't Hoff,  
Welby Smith,  
Peg Kohring,  
Deb Brown,  
May Wright  
and Evelyn Moyle.

provided so that data can be collected and summarized next year. Extra forms will be available at the November meeting, according to Chris Soutter and May Wright, who organized the project together.

A free hour followed the workshop, during which time hikers and propagators came together to relax with food, friends, photographs, and books, all focused on native plants. Audrey Engels provided a varied and colorful display of native Minnesota plants. The Blue Heron Bookstore provided a tableful of books on native plants, from algae to pine trees. MNPS provided the food and friends.

The business meeting convened, with distribution of a proposed draft of a constitution followed by election of officers and choice of a name for the newsletter. Extra copies of the proposed constitution will be available at the November meeting; members are urged to read and discuss it so that action can be taken at the December meeting.

Ballots for the election resulted in the following officers for the coming year:

President: Peg Kohring  
Vice President: Welby Smith  
Secretary: Deb Brown  
Treasurer: Heidi Van't Hof  
2 Directors at Large:  
Evelyn Moyle  
May Wright

Terms of office are proposed in the draft of the constitution.

The Name-That-Newsletter Contest generated a large field of nominations and some tough decisions at balloting time: MNPS Newsletter, Root Words, Minnesota Floraphila, Minnesota Vasculum, The Native Leaf-let, The Ladyslipper, Native Notes, The Green Leaf, The Aspen Leaf, The Offshoot, and Quercus Quarterly all bowed in the end to Minnesota Plant Press, as you can see on the masthead.

Final event of the day featured Bill Jordan III, Public Relations Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum at Madison, who described just how a 1,200 acre arboretum got started in the midst of an economic depression and how it happened to develop the concept of ecosystem agriculture (see summary of his address elsewhere in this edition).

Announcement of election results brought the First Annual Meeting to an end, but opened our new season, with new lectures, new officers, new field trips, and new tasks awaiting us. Mark your calendar now for the November 3 meeting. We're still booked for the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in 10 Palmer Classroom Building on St. Paul Campus.

-M. Andersen

## Jordan Speaks on Restoration

Bill Jordan III, of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum at Madison, delivered the main address at the MNPS First Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 3. He described the ecological factors -- both natural and social -- that contributed to the restoration and management of the present-day, 1,200 acre UW Arboretum.

Jordan began by reviewing the destruction of natural plant communities that followed in the wake of European settlers, who tamed the Madison area through farming, deforestation and lead mining. The tree count was down to six when the 200 acres of wetlands and uplands were first acquired by the University. Farming attempts had not prospered; nor had the natural plant community.

Jordan went on to describe how the Great Depression of the 1930s served as catalyst for the arboretum. Economic stress made sale of the impoverished land an unprofitable venture, and the University was able to acquire it as a result. Dust bowl years called into question the agricultural practices of the time, making the University research community even more receptive to new ideas. Inexpensive labor, provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), made it possible to move prairies, if not mountains. Autopsy of the devastated land allowed researchers to infer what was necessary to restore the patient to health. All of these components contributed to the development of the restoration concept in land management.

While civic leaders of the area thought the newly acquired land should be developed into a park or Renaissance arboretum, complete with a variety of trees and shrubs, Aldo Leopold, formerly of Sand County, had another idea.

Leopold successfully persuaded planners to apply the intensive techniques of modern agriculture to cultivation of a plant community modeled after the natural ecosystem. By 1935, CCC crews were available, and a large-scale effort was launched to transplant a prairie onto the site. Trees were moved, big blue-stem patches were implanted, and soon a

60-acre prairie was growing -- in rows. This came to be known as the agricultural approach.

The horticultural approach evolved later, presumably when labor was not so plentiful. Prairie plants were installed, plant by plant, in conditions similar to their natural niches. Natural prairie provided the model, and while this attempt was on a much smaller scale and the effort more meticulous than massive, the prairie was more prairie-like.

The process worked for other ecosystems as well. Prairies, marshlands, oak savannahs, and deciduous and coniferous forests have now been restored. They, of course, support further research on the restoration and management of natural communities, said Jordan.

-M. Andersen



J. B. Andersen

Speaker Bill Jordan, III, fields questions after his presentation at the first annual meeting.

## Strictly Classified

Tired of thinking of yourself as a "lower" plant? Join the Spore-Bearers Support Group. Meets Sundays.



## MNPS Financial Statement

(year to date)

1 October 1982

### RECEIPTS

Membership Dues	\$1097.00
Annual Mtg. Registration	130.00
Draft Dividends	11.82
Savings Dividends	1.79
	<hr/> 1240.61

### EXPENSES

Postage	165.46
Printing	145.35
Supplies	25.22
Miscellaneous	7.12
	<hr/> 343.15

BALANCE ON HAND                   \$ 897.46

### RECONCILIATION

Draft Account	\$ 367.47
Savings Account	446.79
Petty Cash	83.20
	<hr/> \$ 897.46

## Members Study Ginseng

Three MNPS members have participated as volunteers in a ginseng monitoring program directed by the Department of Natural Resources. Roger Eliason, Celine Lyman, and Sandra McKay helped search for suitable habitat and set up five study plots. They worked with Welby Smith, Heritage Program botanist.

Purpose of the program is to monitor ginseng's reproduction and growth over a long period of time, and particularly to contrast the results of plants grown on protected and unprotected plots.

Ginseng is harvested by digging out the root, which is believed to have medicinal value. While the federal government makes the decision to allow biennial harvesting, harvesters are not required to have permits. No harvesting is permitted within state parks, where four of the study plots are located; the fifth study plot, however, is on private land.

-Judith Horsnell

## Field Trip Round-Up

Summer field trips proved to be successful and rewarding adventures for the lucky participants. Most groups were ideal in size, ranging from twelve to twenty people. We were almost always lucky with the weather; the Mississippi float trip experienced some rain at the end of the day, but was rewarded by finding a swamp white oak at the river's margin and a green dragon plant, which is related to the jack-in-the-pulpit, in the flood plain woods.

The Whitewater Wildlife Area trip walked the sand barrens and the black oak savannahs and climbed the bluffs to the goat prairie for a spectacular view of the Whitewater valley. They were joined by a local family who were MNPS members interested in finding out more about their area.

On the trip to the Minnesota River valley granite outcrops, hikers observed a common nighthawk incubating eggs on a nest perched on the granite surface. One patient photographer, Audrey Engels, was present when the tiny, purple Flameflower, *Talinum parviflorum*, opened its blossom as predicted, at 4 pm. It only stays open until 6 pm, and then it closes again. Someone long ago must have noted that its blossoms were as fleeting as fame.

Schaeffer Prairie was abloom in the brilliant colors of purple bergamot, yellow greyheaded coneflower, white prairie clover, and orange butterfly weed. The bright yellow flowers of a carnivorous horned bladderwort colony made an exciting find.

We will offer field trips again next year and hope for your continued participation. We hope you will find a good number of the trips that fit your personal interest and schedule. Please send your suggestions for places to visit to Peg Kohring, at the MNPS address.

-Judith Horsnell



## ESA — Soon a Law?

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has made good progress since our spring issue. It survived the joint committee hearings in good form, passed both houses of Congress, and now awaits only the presidential signature before passage as law. That apparently clear sailing in reality took a great deal of effort, and success of the prospective law is still up for grabs pending proper funding -- a separate issue entirely.

The ESA protects both plant and animal species considered to be endangered (in danger or extinction in all or most of its range) or threatened (likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future). Protection extends only to those species listed in the Act. Major hazards to these species include loss of habitat, overcollection, and competition with introduced species. ESA is the only national program that addresses these issues.

ESA must be reauthorized every three years. Every three years a struggle ensues, with various industrial groups proposing weakening amendments. Strong measures are required to counter these proposals, and stronger ones still, to strengthen the program. Representation is particularly crucial for protection of plant species, which seem to be under-represented in organized fan clubs. Outstanding efforts came this year from the Environmental Defense Fund, the Sierra Club, and other wildlife groups. Particularly effective, however, were the testimony provided by the Nature Conservancy, and the monitoring of lobbying activity, maintained by Faith Campbell of the National Resource Defense Council in Washington, D.C.

The struggle is not yet over. A strong law without adequate funding accomplishes little. Funding of the ESA has yet to be appropriated. Constituent letters urging members of Congress to provide strong financial support for the Act are now needed. Without our support, Federal activities to conserve endangered species may yet be futile.

-M. Andersen



Audrey Engels

Echinocystis lobata - wild cucumber

## Volunteer Trail Guides Needed

Won't you share your love of nature with children? Maplewood Nature Center has openings this fall for volunteers to lead groups of visiting school children on trail hikes. Orientation and training sessions for volunteers began September 8. Please call Chris Soutter or Jan Grew for further details.

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*Take a bow, Dorothy!*

*Without Dorothy Walby's generous donation of time and typing, our entire newsletter would look like this brief, painful paragraph.  
Thanks, Dorothy.  
The Editors*

## Name Dropping Linnaean Style

Have you ever wondered how plants got their names? Of course, common names have been in use since prehistoric times, but as the science of botany began to develop, a better method was needed to name the plants, one that scholars in every country could understand, and that would be consistently applied to the same plant. Our present style of scientific names for plants, in which each species is given two names, was initiated by Carolus Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist. He published a book of plants and their names called *Species Plantarum* in 1753. He wrote in Latin, which was the language used by scholars in Europe at that time, and that tradition has continued through our use of Latin in scientific nomenclature.

There is an interesting botanical story behind Mr. Linnaeus' name. His name refers to a great linn or linden tree (of the genus *Lilia*) that stood on the family property. Two of his uncles who were clergymen took the name "Liliander" from this tree. When Linnaeus was granted a title of nobility, he took the name Carl von Linne, which latinized to Carolus Linnaeus. Otherwise he might have remained Carl Nilson, son of Nils Ingemarson.

Often the names that Linnaeus and others used for plants reflected some character of the plant or flower (i.e. *Penstemon* which means five stamens) or were named after a person (i.e. *Lobelia* named for Matthias de l'Obel, a Flemish botanist), but most come from Greek or Latin words associated with the plant, or adaptations of common names. Here are a few genera you will recognize and the stories behind their names:

*Achillea* (Yarrow) named after Achilles, who is said to have used it to heal wounds at the Siege of Troy, having been taught the uses and virtues of plants by Chiron the Centaur.

*Aquilegia* (Columbine) from the Latin *aquila*, referring to the spurred form of the flower, like an eagle's claw.

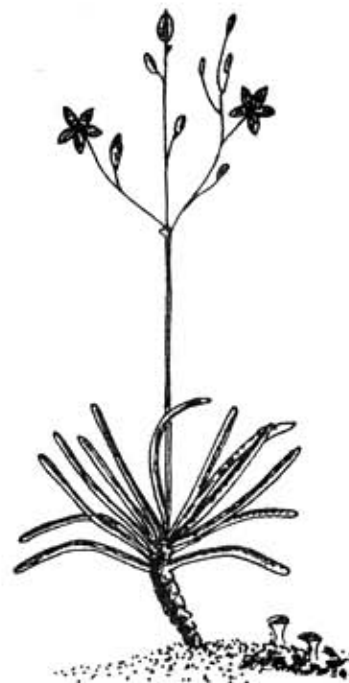
The common name is said to come from the Latin, *columba*, a dove; the form of the flowers suggesting a flight of doves.

*Artemisia* (Wormwood) named after the Greek *Artemis*, daughter of Zeus and sister to Apollo; the virgin huntress and goddess of wildlife, childbirth and all young things.

*Caltha* (Marsh Marigold) from the Greek, *kalathos*, a goblet; describing the shape of the flowers.

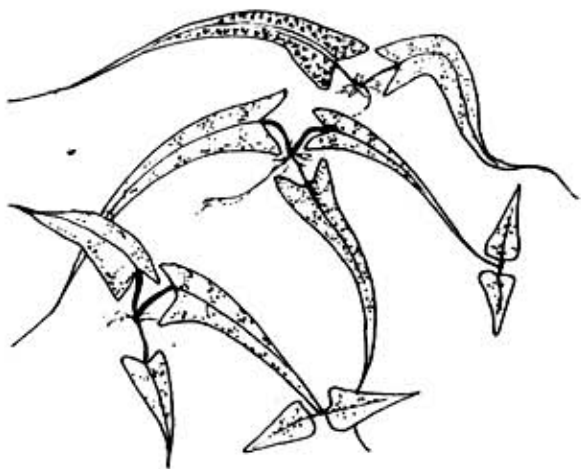
*Delphinium* (Larkspur) from the Greek *delphin*, a dolphin; referring to the flower buds having some resemblance to a dolphin's head.

*Eupatorium* (Joe-pye weed) named after Mithridates Eupator, a king of Pontus about 115 B.C., who is said to have discovered an antidote to poison in one of the species. When he was taken by his enemies, he preferred death to captivity, but he had fortified himself against poison so strongly that he could not poison himself and had to order a slave to stab him. The common name comes from an Indian herb doctor who prescribed the plant.



*Talinum rugospermum* Hott.  
Sand prairie - July

Sue Galatowitsch



*Camptosorus rhizophyllus* L.  
rock outcrops.

Sue Galatowitsch

Hieracium (Hawkweed) from the ancient Greek, hierax, a hawk. Pliny, the Roman naturalist, believed that hawks fed on this plant to strengthen their eyesight.

Lysimachia (Loosestrife) from the Greek luo, to loose, and mache, strife. The Romans are said to have placed these flowers under the yokes of oxen since they were supposed to keep away flies and gnats and thus relieve the animals from irritation.

Oenothera (Evening primrose) from the Greek oinos, wine, and thera, pursuing or imbibing; the roots of one plant being thought to induce a thirst for wine.

Polygonatum (Solomon's Seal) from the Greek polys, many, and gonu, a small joint, referring to the jointed rhizomes. In 1597, this was written in Gerard's Herball: "The root of Solomon's Seale, stamped while it is fresh and greene, and applied, taketh away in one night, or two at the most, any bruise, black or blew spots gotten by falls or women's wilfulness, in stumbling upon their hasty husband's fists, or such like".

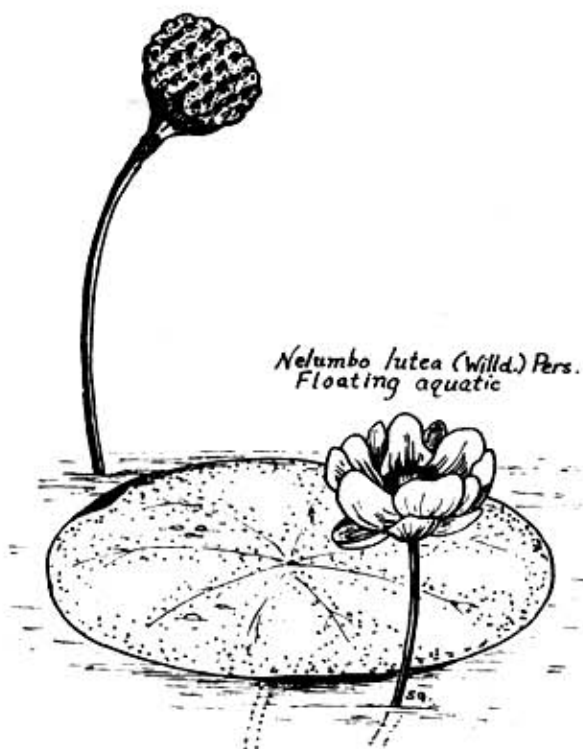
Ranunculus (Buttercup) from the Latin rana, a frog, since many species occur in marshy places where frogs also are found.

Tradescantia (Spiderwort) commemorating John Tradescant, who died in 1637. He

was one of the greatest and most adventurous of the early plant collectors. He became gardener to King Charles I, founded a botanic garden, and introduced the gladiolus, apricot, and primrose to England.

Not everyone appreciated Linnaeus' attempt at naming, as a letter from Peter Collinson to Linnaeus in 1753 states: "I have had the pleasure of reading your Species Plantarum, a very laborious and useful work, but my dear friend, we that admire you are much concerned that you should perplex the delightful science of botany with changing names that have been quite well received and adding new names quite unknown to us. Thus, botany which was a pleasant study and attainable by most men, is now become, by alterations and new names, the study of a lifetime, and none but real professors can pretend to attain it".

-Emily Nietering



*Nelumbo lutea* (Willd.) Pers.  
Floating aquatic

Sue Galatowitsch

## Strictly Classified

Weary of floating adrift in the waters of life? Seeking others interested in setting down roots? Write to Lemna.



## Nature Center Plant Programs

- Oct 23 Gourds, Pumpkins and Jack O'Lanterns 2:00 pm. Coon Rapids Dam (757-4700).
- Oct 30 Dyeing Naturally 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. Use plant materials to make woolen dyes. Wood Lake Nature Center (861-4507). Fee: \$5.
- Nov 6 Weed Arrangements 1:00 pm. Eastman Nature Center (425-2324).
- Nov 7 Plant Rainbows 1:00 pm. Beautiful colors for fabric dyes can be obtained from several of our more common plants. Learn to identify several dye plants, prepare yarn or fabric for dyeing, make the dye bath, and see the lovely results. Westwood Hills Environmental Education Center (544-7912).
- Nov 13 Birch Basketry 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. Indian Art of making waterproof baskets. Wood Lake Nature Center (861-4507). Fee: \$7.
- Nov 14 Paper-Making and Poetry 1:00 pm. Learn the fun process of making your own paper from pulp, grasses, and leaves. Then try your creative talents on a poem or drawing to make your paper an attractive art object. Westwood Hills Environmental Education Center (544-7912)
- Nov 28 Seeds for Spreading 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Plants spread in many ways. Look at the form and function of devices plants use to do this. Lowry Nature Center (473-4693).
- Dec 4 Cordage and Netting 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. Cords, twine and nets from plant fibers. Wood Lake Nature Center (861-4507). Fee: \$7.

## Strictly Classified

Lonely male Ginkos on classy boulevard in Minneapolis wish to meet female Ginko for mutually beneficial relationship. Only mature females need respond.

Cultivated Thymus vulgaris looking for a wild thyme.



Audrey Engels

*Asclepias syriaca* - milkweed

## Letter to the Editors

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is preparing blueprints for the first Photographic Nature Sanctuary in Minnesota. The proposed location is on Minnehaha Creek, about two miles west of Minnehaha Falls.

The Photographic Nature Sanctuary will provide a place to view birds, native plants and nature through the seasons.

Members of the Native Plant Society who would like to contribute seeds, plants or time are invited to contact Dr. Jim Nelson

Members who would like to contribute a memorial or a gift are invited to contact Mr. Bill Quam,

Treasurer  
of the Minneapolis Audubon Chapter  
Sanctuary Fund. Contributions are tax deductible.

More news when the blueprints are ready for revision and when the next treasurer's report is ready. Suggestions are welcomed.

- Dr. Jim Nelson



## Books for Winter Browsing

Judith Carter, of the Blue Heron Bookstore, suggests the books listed below for personal enjoyment and gift-giving this winter. Other bookstores will be contacted for future book lists for the Plant Press. Readers, too, are invited to share their old favorites and new discoveries by mailing brief descriptions in to the Editors at MNPS.

GROWING WOODLAND PLANTS, by Clarence & Eleanor Binns, \$3.00, paperback. The authors present information on caring for woodsgardens as well as gathering and propagating plants. Following the narratives, the authors present detailed information on over 200 wildflowers and ferns.

PODS: WILDFLOWERS AND WEEDS IN THEIR FINAL BEAUTY, by Jane Embertson, \$12.95 paperback.

This is the first field guide to more than 150 species of wildflower and weed pods, with 450 full-color photographs that show the flower in bloom, its pod, and in a dried arrangement.

WEEDS IN WINTER, by Lauren Brown, \$5.95 paperback.

This book will be a joy to woods-walkers and strollers who have puzzled over the skeletal remains of herbaceous plants they see in winter. Line drawings give basic clues, while the narrative describes the weeks in careful detail.

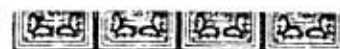
PRAIRIES, WOODS AND ISLANDS: A GUIDE TO THE MINNESOTA PRESERVES OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, \$6.00 paperback.

This guide includes 37 of the Conservancy's preserves in Minnesota. The guide is organized on a regional basis with a map and written directions for each area.

December 1 - 5 is the Holiday Sale at the Blue Heron Bookshop, Bell Museum of Natural History. Keep the store in mind for your holiday purchases. We carry over 2000 natural history titles in addition to our greatly expanded childrens' book selection. Childrens' books are always 10% off retail cost.

Store hours: 9 - 5 Tues - Sat; 1 - 5 Sun.

Bell Museum of Natural History is located on University and 17th Avenue SE in Minneapolis. Phone: 373-2423.



## Merry Mistletoe to You

Yes, Virginia, there is a Minnesota mistletoe. Of the Loranthaceae family, the genus Arceuthobium does grow right here in Minnesota, though it is too small for commercial Christmas use. Its larger relative, Phoradendron flavescens, however, grows wild in the southern United States, Mexico, and further south, where it is harvested from trees in the wild by simply breaking off the branches.

But wait, Virginia -- it's not a tree at all, but a woody parasite that grows on deciduous tree branches. Its modified roots grow into the wood of the host tree and extract the nutrients. The thick, oval, yellowish-green leaves are evergreen. It grows in dense bunches from one to three feet across, and produces the small, amber-white berries familiar to us all.

Legend has it, though, that mistletoe was not always a parasite. Once, as a magnificent forest tree, the legend goes, it provided the wood for Jesus' crucifixion cross. As a result, it fell from grace -- and stature -- to its present parasitical form.

The Scandinavian kissing legend similarly involves a death and resurrection. Baldur, god of poetry and eloquence, was slain by an arrow made of mistletoe. Other gods and goddesses prayed successfully for his resurrection, however, and mistletoe was given to the goddess of love. As part of the celebration, it was ordered that anyone who passed under the mistletoe should receive a kiss - kiss and mistletoe symbolizing the love that redeemed Baldur. May you, Virginia, and all MNPS members be blessed with successful searches for this year's crop.

-M. Andersen

Minnesota Native Plant Society  
220 Biological Sciences Center  
1445 Gortner Avenue  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

## '82-'83 Lecture Series Begins

William Jordan, III, opened MNPS' new lecture season at the First Annual Meeting on Sunday, 3 October, with his lecture on the Restoration and Management of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum. Regular Wednesday-night, monthly meetings will resume, however, on 3 November. Meetings will begin at 7:30 pm in 10 Palmer Classroom Building on the Saint Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. The following lectures have been scheduled:

- Nov. 3 Minnesota Mushrooms  
Dr. David McLaughlin
- Dec. 1 Vegetational Patterns in  
Minnesota Peatlands  
Dr. Herbert E. Wright
- Jan. 5 Vegetation Development in  
Southeast Alaska Following  
Glacial Recession as a Key

to Understanding Early Post-  
glacial Vegetation in  
Minnesota  
Dr. Don Lawrence

- Feb. 2 Trip to Biological Sciences  
Greenhouse  
Roberta Sladky



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