



Minnesota Plant Press

Vol. 12:1 Newsletter Of The Minnesota Native Plant Society, Fall 1992

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

- Nov. 4 -** Bob Jacobson, MN Dept. of Transportation. The Corridor Concept: Linking Natural Areas with Highway Corridors Containing Native Species.
- Dec. 2 -** David French, Dept. of Plant Pathology, U. of M. Ash Yellows, Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease
- Jan. 6 -** Speaker To Be Announced.
- Feb. 3 -** Mark McKone, Carleton College, Northfield Ecological Restoration in the Carleton Arboretum.
- Mar. 3 -** Anita Cholewa, Dept. of Plant Biology, U. of M. Common Plant Families of Minnesota and How to Know Them.

President's Report Fall, 1992

Don Knutson

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to autumn and the Minnesota Native Plant Society. Our native plants had a most unusual summer. I read that no summer in Minnesota has been this cool since 1915. Native plants seemed to thrive in the cool, wet weather: leaves were bigger and more numerous, flowers were very abundant and plant stature was greater than usual.

We are all looking forward to fall, winter and spring season of our monthly get-togethers, speakers, plant-of-the-month programs, fall seed exchange, spring plant sale, our newsletter, The Plant Press and of course, the Spring Symposium.

The Board of Directors will continue to emphasize the the education of ourselves and others as the primary goal of the Minnesota Native Plant Society. We will work hard to strengthen our committees, viewing them as the principle means of meeting our objectives. We want to broaden and strengthen the newsletter and improve communication among members.

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Announcements

- The Minnesota Plant Press may be obtained through membership in the Minnesota Native Plant Society. The newsletter is distributed three times a year (fall, winter and spring). Items of interest for the newsletter will be welcomed. Please submit typed, double spaced copy: submissions via computer disk are welcomed, but please include a hard copy and identify word processing program.
- **Membership Information and Registration** - Last call for 1992 dues. This is the last newsletter for lapsed memberships; check your mailing label for membership status. If you have moved recently, please let us know as soon as possible so we can update our records. Our newsletter is sent by bulk mail, which is not forwarded. To renew your membership please fill out form on page 10 and mail to:

Minnesota Native Plant Society
220 Biological Sciences Center
1440 Gortner Ave
St. Paul, MN 55108.

- **MNPS Volunteers Needed** - Volunteers are needed to serve on various committees within our organization. If you are interested in helping with any of the following committees, please call the appropriate committee chair person.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE - The program committee functions in three areas, as outlined below. Each of these areas requires a coordinator who is a committee member, as well as volunteers who may or may not be committee members. The three subcommittees can operate almost independently of one another, reporting to the board through the coordinators or through the Program Committee board liason. The Native Plant Society vice-president acts as the board liason for this committee.

A. Monthly Programs. The coordinator of this area recruits and schedules program speakers and Plant of the Month presenters. This includes contacting speakers, making sure that they have the information and equipment necessary for their presentations, and arranging for a one-year complimentary Plant Society membership for program speakers. Additional volunteers are needed to take care of audio-visual needs at the monthly meetings. Currently coordinated (1991-93) by Char Bezanson.

B. Field Trips. The coordinator of this area plans field trips and recruits field trip leaders, arranging for publicity through the newsletter and providing a mechanism for signing up for trips. Field trips are sometimes cosponsored with the Nature Conservancy or other organizations. No current coordinator; done by an ad-hoc group of board members in 1991-92.

C. Symposium. The coordinator of this area works with the board to plan the society's annual spring symposium, arranging the program as well as the physical accomodations. This annual event attracts many non-members, and is an important outreach function of the Plant Society. Many additional volunteers are also needed for this event, and are recruited by the symposium

coordinator. The 1992 symposium was coordinated by Esther McLaughlin. Contact person is Char Bezanson, work:

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE - Responsible for publishing and soliciting articles for the newsletter, printing brochures, posters, etc. Keeping a roster of members with addresses and phone numbers. Also for sending out written materials in response to public requests for information about native plants. Contact person is Roy Robison, work:

EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Responsible for new memberships, answering inquiries about memberships. Promoting new member involvement in Society affairs and providing activities and outreach to schools. Contact person is Diane-Peck Hilscher, home:

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Responsible for representing our point of view to duly elected officials of government, for lobbying legislators, for liaison with other conservation groups. Contact person is Bonnie Harper Lore, home:

- **Eloise Butler's Birthday Party** - On August 2, the Native Plant Society was represented at a delightful birthday party. An exceptional summer's day in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden served as the backdrop. Free birthday cake and beverages added to the party feeling. At any given time, 100+ cars with families were on hand.

They were rewarded not only with birthday cake, but music which flowed through the garden via guitar on the path and harp from the "Wildflower Station" or Martha Crone Shelter. Party goers were also entertained with readings from "The Wild Gardner" by the author Martha Hellander. Adding to the fun of the occasion was the selling of the recently released wildflower series by the U.S. Postal Service who set up the "Wildflower Station" for the afternoon. The stamps, cachets, and postcards were appropriate souvenirs of the celebration!

It was my privilege to care for the Native Plant Society table, hand out brochures, and explain our organization. Most attendees were not familiar with the Native Plant Society. Because most of the birthday goers share obvious common interests, some could become new members (I should have emphasized that our meetings provide free cookies and beverages and a party feeling too!).

- **National Wildflower Research Center Midwest Office Closing** - Two years ago the Native Plant Society welcomed the opening of the National Wildflower Research Center (NWRC). The Midwest office was closed July 8.

Closing occurred as a direct result of the sluggish economy. Grants from foundations and others were impossible to secure to replace the original state funding. Our matching support from the NWRC national office was withdrawn because of the same problem in national fund raising efforts. The Austin TX office has experienced layoffs and attrition of about half of their staff as well. Their official position is that they will reopen the Midwest Regional office when they can afford to. In the meantime, our office supplies, McIntosh, files and books remain in storage.

Thank you for the support of the Native Plant Society and that of so many of you individually. Our time was short, but we believe we were of use to many as a clearinghouse of information regarding the use and preservation of native plants.

- **Native Seed Producers Association Forms** - The Minnesota Native Wildflower/Grass Producers Association was officially formed this spring. The mission of the association is to promote the responsible use of high quality, regionally adapted native plants and seeds. The members support the preservation of endangered native plant communities and, therefore: will not sell plants taken from the wild; will give preference to local genotypes. If you are interested in receiving a listing of the members and products/services they offer, contact:

Minnesota Native Wildflower/Grass Producers Association
Rt 3, Box 163
Winona, MN 55987

Other Society Notes

- Just a reminder that we still have for sale (\$2.50) the 34 page booklet entitled, "Minnesota Native Plant Society Guide to Spring Wildflower Areas in the Twin Cities Region." Just send a check to the Society Headquarters and we'll fire a copy out to you.

- We received the following letter from Nelson T. French, State Director, The Nature Conservancy.

"I was delighted to learn of your \$100.00 gift for Prairie Day 1992. Your support is truly appreciated and will make a valuable contribution to this very special project.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota Chapter and the entire staff of The Nature Conservancy, thank you again for your special gift."

Thanks to the entire membership for making this donation possible. We also had a Prairie Day booth at the National Wildlife Headquarter at the invitation of Ed Moyer. Thanks, Ed, for the opportunity.

- We've been asked to announce a two week travel seminar to Nicaragua and El Salvador with special focus on the environment and the economy. This takes place 25 Jan - 5 Feb 1992. The cost is \$1,680.00 from Houston, Texas. For more information, please call (612-330-1159) or write Ms. Ximena N. Scherz, Center for Global Education, Augsburg College, 731, 21st Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55454.

Summary of the Spring 1992 Meeting

The Plant-of-the-Month: Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), was presented by Char A. Bezanson. The name of this plant comes from the Latin sanguis (blood). It is also called red puccoon; puccoon is a Native American term for plants used for dyeing cloth. Bloodroot is in the Poppy family, Papaveraceae. It is the only member of this family native to Minnesota.

Bloodroot is found in Eastern North America, from Canada in the north to Texas and Florida in the south. It is found throughout Minnesota, most commonly in the deciduous forests of the southeastern part of the state. Bloodroot grows in full sun to partial shade. It prefers the rich, humus soil of cool moist deciduous woods and woodland slopes. Cultivation is not difficult where these conditions can be approximated. Propagation is by seed, or by rhizome division in autumn. Bloodroot is hardy to USDA Zone 3.

An herbaceous perennial, bloodroot spreads from a thick horizontal rhizome. It has a single palmately veined leaf, and a single flower consisting of 2 sepals, 8-12 white petals, and 24 stamens. The rhizome, petiole of leaf and flower stalk all exude the red sap from which the plant takes its name. Flowering occurs in late March to early May. The leaf wraps around flower until pollination, possibly providing protection from the cold. The fruit is an ellipsoid capsule. The leaf continues to grow until midsummer, reaching 2-4 dm and overtopping the mature capsule.

Bloodroot was used by Native Americans as a fabric dye, a body stain, and medicinally. The body stain was intended to frighten away enemies. After the advent of European colonization, Native American women forced to spend the night with Captain John Smith reportedly painted their bodies with bloodroot. The efficacy of this strategy has not been documented.

As a fabric dye for silk and wool, bloodroot produces a number of different colors. If used without a mordant, it produces an orange color. When a mordant of alum is used, the color obtained is rust, and with a mordant of tin, pink.

The medicinal uses of bloodroot are also quite varied. The plant contains the alkaloid sanguinarine, which is known to be pharmaceutically active. Lake Superior Indian tribes used the juice to treat skin cancers. (treatment of breast cancer also mentioned). A tea from the leaves was used to treat sore throats, as was a drop of sap on a lump of sugar. Some tribes chewed the root and spat the juice on burns; another source lists nausea, vomiting, headaches, and tunnel vision as possible side effects of ingestion. Other listed uses include use for rattlesnake bites, as an insect repellent, and treatment for sick mules.

References: 1) Gray's Manual of Botany, 8th Ed, Fernald, 1970; 2) Wildflower Folklore, Laura C. Martin; 3) Rodale Encyclopedia of Herbs, 1987; 4) Vascular Plants of Minnesota, Morley and Ownbey.

The May 1992 speaker was Dr. Larry Inman, discussing the American chestnut and the chestnut blight. This fungal disease was first observed in the New York Zoological Park in 1904. The chestnut blight, a native of Asia, spread very rapidly throughout the range of the American chestnut, especially the Northeast. As with most introduced diseases, there was no natural resistance in the American chestnut and the species was completely eliminated as a component of eastern forests.

Americans lost one of the most versatile trees. The chestnut tree was used for high grade lumber, poles, railroad ties, slack cooperage (for barrels) and paper-making. It was prized as a shade tree, and, of course, the nuts were roasted for food.

Dr. Inman insists that it is not necessary to allow such diseases to decimate our tree species--that breeding programs can introduce resistance from trees growing in the areas where the disease organism is native. What is needed is the appropriate methodology; especially important is the use of the backcross for quick determination of resistance to the disease. A backcross is the cross of a hybrid to one of the parental types. It is used to determine the genotype of individuals that may carry recessive alleles which would otherwise be obscured by dominant alleles. In many plants, resistance is a recessive trait. In addition, a graft-compatible, dwarfing chestnut hybrid rootstock is available. Seedlings grafted on it grow like bushes, produce flowers with pollen the second year after the graft and produce nuts the third year. This reduces the time required for successive generations of backcross breeding, allowing rapid screening for trees resistant to the disease, while maintaining trees with the other desirable traits of the recurrent parent trees.

Dr. Inman was a student of Dr. C.R. Burnham, one of the founders of the American Chestnut Foundation. Dr. Burnham was unable to give this talk due to illness.

Native Plant Society Speaker List

Ruth Phipps has developed a 10 year list of the program lectures for the Minnesota Native Plant Society. As part of our 10th anniversary celebration, we list them for your enjoyment. It is a very impressive catalogue, don't you agree?

- Feb 1982 Introduction to the wildflowers of Minnesota. Ms. Evelyn Moyle, co-author of Northland Wildflowers.
- Mar 82 Natural history of the maple-basswood forest in Minnesota. Dr. Edward Cushing, Prof. Ecol. U. of Minn.
- Apr 82 The prairie and it's weeds--A human perspective. Ann Sigford and David Johnson, Wood Lake Nature Center.
- May 82 The Herbarium--what it means to you (includes a tour). Dr. Gerald Ownbey, Prof. Bot. U. of Minn.
- Jun 82 Slides and tour of St. Paul Campus flower and prairie garden. Dr. Robert Mullin, Prof. Hort. U. of Minn.
- Oct 82 Restoration and Management of the U. of Wisc. Arboretum. William. Jordan III, U. of Wisc.
- Nov 82 Minnesota mushrooms. Dr. David McLaughlin. Prof. Bot. U. of Minn.
- Dec 82 Vegetational patterns in Minnesota peatlands. Dr. Herbert Wright, Dir. Limnol. Res. Ctr. U. of Minn.
- Jan 83 Vegetational development in SE Alaska following glacial recession, as a key to understanding post-glacial vegetation in Minnesota. Dr. Don Lawrence. Prof. emer. Bot. U. of Minn.
- Feb 83 Tour of Biological Sciences Greenhouse, U. of Minn. Roberta Sladky, Manager(postponed due to weather).
- Mar 83 Butterflies and plant interactions. Robert Dana, Grad. stud.
- Apr 83 Conservation of flora in Great Britain. David Jordahl.
- May 83 Wetland plants and plant communities. Steve Eggers, Bot. Army Corp. of Engineers.
- Jun 83 The fun of wild plants and wild plant lore. Marv Borell.
- Oct 83 Tour (from Feb 83).
- Nov 83 Winning slides from the Minn. Botany International Exhibition.
- Dec 83 Rare plants of Minnesota. Welby Smith.
- Jan 84 Do plants benefit from the animals who eat them? Tabor Allison.
- Feb 84 The vegetation patterns and history of Minnesota Jack pine forests. John Almendinger.
- Mar 84 What is an individual plant? Mark McKone.
- Apr 84 The flora and vegetation of Minnesota peatland. Norman Aasing.
- May 84 The flora and vegetation of old growth northern hardwood forests in Minnesota. Barbara Coffin.
- Oct 84 Seed exchange.
- Nov 84 Fern workshop. Harriet Mason
- Dec 84 Minnesota mosses. Jan Janssen
- Jan 85 Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas program. Bob Djupstrom.
- Feb 85 Costa Rican National Parks. Peg Kohring.
- Mar 85 Minnesota Ginseng. Welby Smith.
- Apr 85 ?
- May 85 Root & seedling exchange and field trip slides.

Oct 85	Seed exchange.
Nov 85	Third annual Minnesota Botany Photographic Salon. Ken Olson.
Dec 85	Fires in coniferous forests. Sandy Bartell Hansen.
Jan 86	Wetland plants and plant communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Steve Eggers.
Feb 86	Natural history and management of Crex Meadows, Wisc. Jim Hoefler.
Mar 86	Insect pollination of forest wildflowers. Rich Hansen.
Apr 86	Distribution of plants in Minnesota. Prof. Gerald Ownbey, Prof. of Bot. U. of Minn.
May 86	Seedling exchange and field trip slides.
Oct 86	Prairie burning. Peg Kohring. Seed exchange.
Nov 86	Minnesota Botany Photography Exhibition.
Dec 86	?
Jan 87	?
Feb 87	Fire and vegetation in S. Minnesota before settlement by Europeans. Eric Grimm.
Mar 87	Establishing a prairie and a spring woods garden. Robert Mullin.
Apr 87	Impact of acid rain in ecotypes in Minnesota. Ron Lorenz.
May 87	Plant sale. Slides of field trips.
Oct 87	Prairie restoration. Ron Bowen. Seed exchange.
Nov 87	Minnesota Botany International Exhibition of Photography.
Dec 87	Lichens of Minnesota. Clifford Wetmore.
Jan 88	Voyageurs Nat'l Park: The boreal forest. Nancy Albrecht.
Feb 88	Mushrooms of Minnesota. Dr. Dave McLaughlin. Prof. of Bot. U. of Minn.
Mar 88	Prairie grasses of Minnesota. Dr. Anita Cholewa. Prof. of Bot. U. of Minn.
Apr 88	Native plant collection at the U.S. Nat'l Arboretum. Cole Burrell.
May 88	Seedling, plant exchange. Field trip slides.
Oct 88	Soils as a factor affecting plant distribution in Minnesota. Dr. Ed Cushing. Prof. of Ecol. U. of Minn.
Nov 88	(probably the nature photography show).
Dec 88	?
Jan 89	Glacial relict plants. Peg Kohring, Nature Conservancy.
Feb 89	Cultivated native trees and shrubs for the home. Dr. Gerald Ownbey. Prof. of Bot. U. of Minn.
Mar 89	Update on the Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily. Dr. Tom Morley. Prof of Bot. U. of Minn.
Apr 89	Mosses of Minnesota. Barbara Delaney
May 89	River plants of central Minnesota. Audrey Engels. Plant exchange.
Oct 89	Minnesota rare plants. Welby Smith.
Nov 89	Inventory of Prairie Bush Clover. Nancy Sather.
Dec 89	Natural history of the dwarf mistletoes. Dr. Don Knutson.
Jan 90	Open forum and discussion among members.
Feb 90	Historical aspects of early Minnesota plant collectors. Mike Heinz.
Mar 90	Wilderness values. Dr. Eville Gorham. Prof. of Ecol. U. of Minn.
Apr 90	Botany of South Africa. Peg Kohring.
May 90	Annual Minnesota Botany slide show. Field trip reviews. Plant sale.
Oct 90	?
Nov 90	National Wildflower Research Center. Bonnie Harper-Lore.
Dec 90	Forest intensification. Jan Green.
Jan 91	Questions & answers & open discussion on native plant use and gardening with the experts.

Feb 91 Prairie Bush Clover recovery efforts. Nancy Sather.
Mar 91 Vegetation of Kittson county, Minnesota's northwest frontier. Robert Dana.
Apr 91 Pollination studies of native prairie plants in natural and restored prairies. Dr. Catherine Reed.
May 91 Nature photography show. Field trip reviews. Plant sale.
Oct 91 Seed storage and germination tips. May Wright. Seed exchange.
Nov 91 The dynamic prairie. Disturbance leads to diversity. Prof. Charles Umbanhower.
Dec 91 Conserving grassland and biodiversity. David Wedin.

President's Report continued from pg. 1

We need to define our outreach programs to individuals, schools and other institutions that request information. The conservation committee has asked for more specific guidelines to help them structure their efforts. The membership committee needs goals; how many members do we want?

So, please signal your availability to help. Putting your interests to work will strengthen our Society and help us be a real "force" in our efforts to make everyone aware of Minnesota's native plants.

Ruth Phipps has accepted the position as treasurer. Welcome, Ruth! And thanks, Harriet Mason, for your long duty-tour in the counting house! We hope that, after a reasonable rest for a week or two, you will channel your skills and enthusiasm toward your favorite committee.

We on the Board of Directors need to hear from you--your interests, your concerns, your ideas, your 'druthers, your neighborhood news about plants and how we can help them. Feel free to call me or leave a message. I promise I'll call back.

I hope to see many of you at our monthly meetings on the St. Paul Campus, Univ. of Minnesota!

Don Knutson, President.

MNPS Board of Directors Fall 1992

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Don Knutson

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Minnesota Native Plant Society Membership Registration Form

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Membership categories:

☐ Individual - \$10.00

☐ Family - \$12.00

☐ Student - \$8.00

☐ Institution - \$20.00

☐ Senior - \$8.00

☐ Donor - \$25.00

Name _____ Phone _____

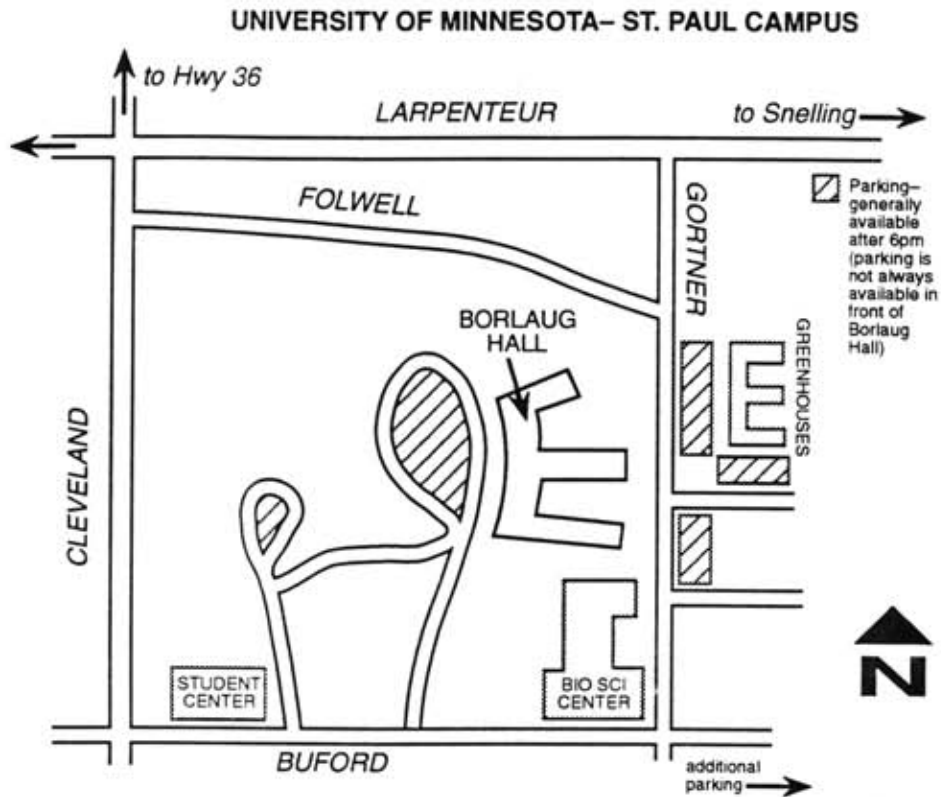
Address _____

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Checks can be made out to the Minnesota Native Plant Society. Please fill out above form and mail with check to:

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

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