

MINNESOTA PLANT PRESS

Vol. 6 No. 1 NEWSLETTER OF THE MN NATIVE PLANT SOC. FALL '86

*** SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING OCTOBER 1ST MEETING ***

The Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily issue has surfaced again. The issue arose in May 1985 when part of a population of this endangered species was destroyed at Nerstrand State Park. MNPS is being sued for libel by Tony Tonga, the Park Manager at Nerstrand. The complaint was served on September 16, 1986. We must respond by October 6th.

Steve Eckman, a Minneapolis based lawyer, was contacted by Harriet Mason to act as legal counsel. At the October 1st meeting Mr. Eckman will be present to explain our options in this serious matter. Please attend so that the Board of Directors may have a consensus of our membership's opinion. A final decision will be made at this meeting by the membership present.

OCTOBER SEED EXCHANGE

The annual Native Seed Exchange of the Minnesota Native Plant Society will be held at the end of the October 1st meeting. The meeting will take place in Room 335 Borlaug Hall (Next to Palmer classroom: See map) at 7:30-9:30 pm. Seeds will be made available to participants, with those people who contribute to the exchange making their selections first. This is a good time to talk to Dr. May Wright and the other members of MNPS who have considerable experience growing native plants. Come share your experiences and seeds!!

SAVING ENDANGERED PLANTS

Approximately 25,000 species of plants are native to this county but one out of every eight of them -- about 3,000 -- are rare or endangered by loss of habitat, land development, predation and other causes.

To the rescue has come the national Center for Plant Conservation. The group is made up of professionals from 20 botanic gardens from the East to the West Coast and Hawaii.

The Group has set as its goal the propagation of endangered plants. These rare plant species may have significance ecologically or in medicine, agriculture or industry.

Known as C.P.C., the group is privately funded and has headquarters at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Mass. Its co-directors are Don Falk and Frank Thibodeau.

Teams from the organization are presently collecting seed and/or cuttings of endangered plants for propagation at botanic gardens. When the seed and cuttings have been collected, each participating institution will experiment in growing the plants adapted to its particular region. It is expected that a national collection of endangered plants will be formed.

The C.P.C. stresses that this collection will not eliminate the need for habitat preservation. seeds from all species collected will be deposited in the National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins, Colo. the main facility of the National Germ Plasm System.

-- Joan Lee Faust in N.Y. Times, Aug. 1, 1985. p 17.

WARNING TO GARDENERS

Mr. L.L. May created a beauty spot in Afton. Unfortunately, his eagerness to find new plants for Minnesota led him to set out in his flower garden near the nursery buildings, a European flower not then included in American botany texts: Digitalis lanata. It is now known to have escaped cultivation in the eastern United States. It is one of two species of digitalis used medicinally as a heart stimulant.

Digitalis lanata is ferociously vigorous. From its starting point in Section 3 it has spread relentlessly during the half century since it was introduced here. It invades established sod of hayfields. Unfortunately another healthy colony is growing next to Afton State Park, specifically near the northeast corner.

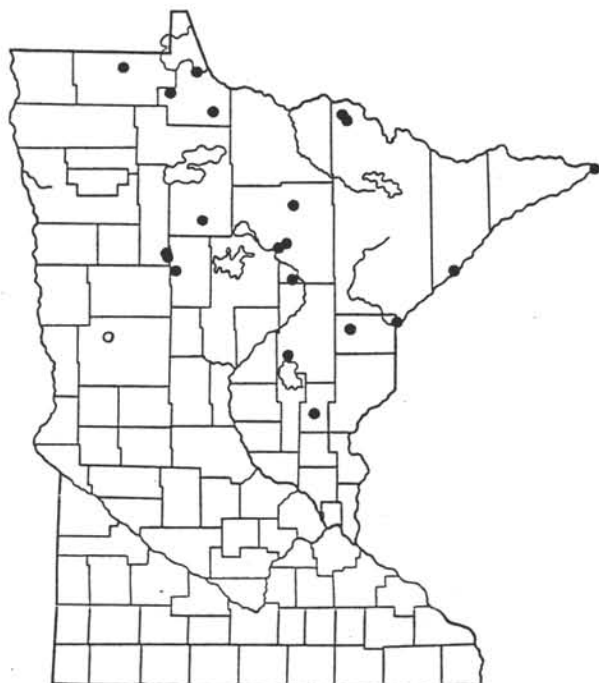
Afton horses gave the first alarm. They refused to eat hay contaminated with Digitalis lanata. Recently we have secured information that this invader is poisonous to stock.

Many people have expressed interest in this plant. Some have taken up specimens for replanting in their gardens. Some misguided person has started it in the prairie portion of the Butler Gardens in Minneapolis. This is to warn all gardeners that this illegal alien should be eradicated wherever found. It is impossible, by any means I know, to stamp it out where it is already firmly established. But let us show "horse sense" and avoid cultivating it and giving it fresh impetus.

-- Grace B. Stoltze

RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE STRIPED CORAL-ROOT

The Striped Coral-root (Corallorhiza striata Lindl.) was found on 13 May 1986 in mature maple-basswood forest at Maplewood State Park in northwestern Otter Tail County.



- Previously reported localities for Striped Coral Root in Minnesota
- Maplewood State Park

According to Morley's "Spring Flora of Minnesota", this species has been reported from Cook to Roseau, Clearwater, and Kanabec Counties. Specimens and map data from the "Atlas of Minnesota Vascular Plant Distributions", by G.B. Ownbey and T. Morley, now in preparation, confirm that no previous record exists for Otter Tail County and that Maplewood State Park represents a notable southwestern extension of the known range of this species in Minnesota.

-- C.L. Argue

CULTIVATION GUIDE FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Wildflower gardeners looking for basic information about growing native plants in their gardens can refer to a new 61-page handbook, the Garden in the Woods Cultivation Guide.

Written by the staff of the New England Wild Flower Society, this guide contains basic advice for beginning gardeners who want to know how to plant or transplant wildflowers; gives the cultivation requirements (light, moisture, and soil conditions) as well as plant descriptions for over 275 plants that are cultivated and propagated at the Garden in the Woods; and lists all the plants in the guide in combinations that will grow successfully together. In addition, the booklet includes a common name index and suggested reading list.

To order send \$4.50 (includes postage/handling to New England Wild Flower Society, Dept. CG, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

-- from the New England Wild Flower Society, Inc.

WILDFLOWER NURSERIES

The following nurseries are some of those which sell propagated wildflowers (P) and wildflower seeds (S).

Appalachian Wildflower Nursery (P), Rt. 1, Box 275A, Reedsville, Pa 17084.

Environmental Seed Producers (S), P.O. Box 5904, El Monte, Ca 91734.

Great Lakes Wildflowers (P), Box 1923, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

Passiflora (S), Rt. 1, Box 190A, Germantown, NC 27019.

Prairie Seed Source (S), P.O. Box 83, North Lakes, WI 53064.

Sunlight Gardens, Inc. (P), Rt. 3, Box 286B, Loudon, TN 37774.

Woodlanders (P), 1128 Colleton Ave., Aiken, SC 29801

1986 MINNESOTA BOTANY EXHIBITION

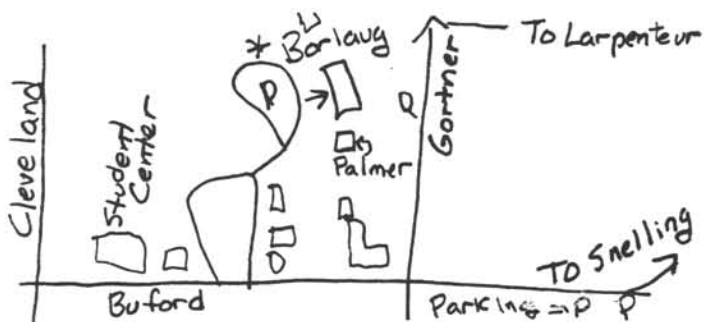
The 4th Annual Minnesota Botany Photographic Salon will be held at the November 5th MNPS monthly meeting. This exhibition is cosponsored by MNPS and the Nature Camera Club of Minneapolis. It is an international exhibition of photography and is listed by the Photographic Society of America. Come see the accepted and award winning slides. Every year there are new facets of Botany beautifully photographed and old flower favorites professionally displayed. Come and enjoy this last splash of nature before we head into the winter season.

The deadline for receipt of slide entries is October 4th, if you have not received an entry form contact Larry Quinn,

FIRST LADIES OF SCIENCE

An 1895 botany class at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, included many of the first women to become well-known scientists in the United States. A group of women had helped found the laboratory in 1888 as a permanent seaside summer school for teachers and researchers. These early women scientists were important pioneers in their fields -- as recently as 1870, there had been no graduate degree programs in science that would even admit women. Today, although more than 25% of all doctoral degrees in science and engineering go to women, women scientists are still paid 71% of what their male counterparts receive.

-- from Bioscience, September, 1986 36(8), page 580



St. Paul Campus
Meetings in Borlaug
Call Board Members
for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MNPS monthly meetings are being held at 7:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month in 335 BORLAUG HALL on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota.

Oct. 1 MNPS monthly meeting: Special Society Meeting; Annual Seed Exchange- Dr. May Wright and Chris Soutter; Prairie Burning-Peg Kohring (if time permits).

Nov. 5 MNPS monthly meeting:
Fourth Annual Minnesota Botany Photographic Salon; co-sponsored by the Minnesota Nature Photography Club and MNPS.

ELECTION OF MNPS BOARD MEMBERS

Elections will be held at the Nov. 5 MNPS monthly meeting to fill several vacancies on the MNPS Board of Directors. Nominations are being solicited to replace the board members and should be submitted by October 2 to Christine Soutter.

TREASURERS REPORT

A treasurers report, not available for this newsletter, will be presented at the October 1st meeting.

Minnesota Plant Press is published by the Minnesota Native Plant Society, 220 Biological Sciences Center, University of Minnesota, 1445 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55108

MNPS DIRECTORY

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If you have a news item, article or other information that should be included in the next issue of the Minnesota Plant Press, please send it to the editor: Jim Schuster, Botany Dept., University of Minnesota, 220 Biological Sciences Center, 1445 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108.

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Minnesota Native Plant Society Membership Registration

Mail to: MNPS, 220 Biological Sciences Center, Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108

_____ New Member

_____ Renewal

Membership Categories:

\$8.00 _____ Individual \$6.00 _____ Senior (over 62 or retired)

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individuals at same address) \$15.00 _____ Institution

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