



Twin Cities Chapter Quarterly Newsletter

May 2007 Volume 5, Issue 2

Upcoming Events/Monthly Meetings

May Program: Tuesday, May 15, Photos of Rare Plants, Presented by Peter Dziuk.

Enjoying the rare and threatened plants of Minnesota, one photo at a time, he will be sharing his outstanding photos of rare and endangered plants from around the state. He has been traveling throughout the area documenting what might disappear from our varied habitats in the not too distant future. Peter is a longstanding member of the Minnesota Native Plant Society and has been raising native plants in his yard for many years. His passion for recording the rare and threatened plants started a few years ago when he was asked, "How did you get where you are today?" That question set off a chain of events that lead to purchasing a digital camera, printing some post cards of the rare plants and now working toward completing this collection.

Editor's note: This is our last monthly meeting until next fall. Information on summer tour events will be forwarded to members by email (or post card if you have no email capability).

Tours

* **Wildflower Garden Tour** (Rain or shine)

Thursday, May 17th, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Meet at: Horton Park in Saint Paul (corner of Hamline Ave. and Englewood Ave.)

Hannah Dunevitz Texler, Regional Plant Ecologist with the Minnesota DNR, will be our tour guide of the native community gardens she's involved in at Horton Park. To learn more about this project visit Hamline Midway Coalition's website and find their garden link: <http://www.hamline.edu/~ghankerson01/> When we're done at the park, we'll walk over to 1379 Lafond Avenue, and tour the prairie, shade, and rain gardens, at Hannah's home. Both the Twin Cities and St Croix Wild Ones chapters are invited, and we'd like to gauge attendance to be prepared. So please, Twin Cities Wild Ones, RSVP to csimonet@visi.com

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* Native Plant Nursery Tour and Visit to Foster Conservation Area

Saturday, June 23rd, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Location: Meet at Kinnickinnic Native Plants Nursery

235 State Rd. 65, River Falls, WI

Editor's Note: If you're interested in this latter tour or any other we might add this summer and you don't have an email address, please contact me and I'll keep you informed (Mary Schommer, 612-729-5274).

Nokomis Naturescape Volunteer Gardening

(Prairie Gardens and Oak Savanna Restoration located on the east side of Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis, near the intersection of Lake Nokomis Parkway and 50th St.)



Join a friendly group of volunteers at the Naturescape on Tuesday evenings May through September, from 6:30 – 8:30. Choose your level of commitment - from occasional helper to adopting a section of a garden. The **Twin Cities Chapter of the Wild Ones** are the principle garden volunteers for the hillside garden. This is a great opportunity for the beginners to learn more about native plant gardening and for the more experienced to guide the novice. Gardening by the lakeside is an enjoyable time spent with people sharing your interest. We welcome all help to keep our garden a native plant showcase, inspiring park patrons to go native in their own yards and to see the beautiful liveliness of natural habitats.

For more information or to volunteer, call Vicki Bonk 612/727-3562 or Lisa McDonough 612/721-1361

Arboretum Collaboration

Following the success of last year's "Secret Gardens" show, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is hosting another art installation entitled "Art to Amaze" (opening June 7), an exhibit to encourage visitors to walk to their new maze. Richard and Vicki Bonk have invited our chapter to collaborate with them on a piece for this year's event. (For those of you who might have attended last year Richard had a great piece titled Magic Mirrors Mandalas.) This year's is to be "Inverted Invasives, Exposing Root Problems". Its intent is to bring awareness to the problem of invasive species and will feature a gazebo-like space made from inverted buckthorn trees. Within the gazebo will be a pathway made from leaf cement castings from native trees and a central garden of native woodland plants. We would love assistance from members in putting this display together. If you are interested, please contact Richard and Vicki directly (bonkrv@core.com) or our president, Roberta Moore (Myles mom@charter.net). This will be a great opportunity for Wild One's to increase its exposure as last year the event was advertised to over a million people! And -- it is sure to be a fun opportunity for all involved -- including Arboretum events with a chance to interact with and educate the public. Unable to help with the development of this piece? - then be sure to catch the show itself.

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Would you like to be in on the development of this piece at the arboretum??? Here are ways you can participate:

1. Join us in making native plant imprinted stepping-stones. There will be at least 2 casting sessions (possibly May 12th and May 19th or 20th). At the casting event you can learn how to make stepping-stones and make one to take home with you. (Can't attend... perhaps you can supply a plant to imprint - from our species list.)

2. Locate buckthorn roots for the gazebo roof.

3. Help us prepare the grounds, install the project and plant the garden.

4. Create a handout with info on WO's, native plants, buckthorn removal, and resources.

5. Create a sign illustrating the buckthorn problem. The Arboretum has educational resources and graphic capabilities available to assist in preparing and assembling a sign.

Upcoming Events of Interest

* May 5-6, Living Green Expo, State Fair Grounds: Annual event providing information and products to help improve the environment and social impacts in our lives. For schedule of events etc., see www.livinggreen.org

* May 11-13, Friends School Plant Sale: Each year on Mother's Day weekend this school puts on the biggest fundraising plant sale in the Midwest. For more information go to www.fsmn.org/events_plant.html

President's Message - From Roberta Moore, Chapter President



Wow! Wild Ones is having an exciting year! The Expo in February was a smashing success and started the year off in full force. The momentum continues with the Living Green expo and an art exhibit (Inverted Invasives) at the Arboretum. Both of which will provide Wild Ones with some great exposure in our community.

The Living Green Expo had record breaking attendance last year. If you didn't attend, I encourage you to do so this year. I found it to be both informational and uplifting. It was great to see so many people concerned about the environment and wanting to learn what they can do to help.

The Arboretum exhibit will draw attention to the impact of buckthorn on our woodlands. An important message that deserves continued support. Not every community is getting the message. Richard and Vicki's Bonk's great design is sure to make a statement.

It's important that we take full advantage of these opportunities. If you haven't signed up to help out with one of these efforts please consider doing so. Not only will you be helping out Wild Ones and the environment, it should be a lot of fun. (Hey, chatting with people about native plants, what could be more fun?)

Happy Spring!
Roberta

And Now There Are 10...

As part of a grant through the Science Museum, our chapter developed a list of 11 garden friendly plants as an introductory recommendation to novice gardeners. The purpose of the list was to spark the interest of those who might be attracted to the thought of growing natives, but had little gardening experience. One of the criteria used in selecting plants for this list was that the species have a high success rate (i.e., “no fail” plants). (See May 2006 newsletter for further information on the grant and selected plants.) Unfortunately this spring the list was pared down from 11 to 10, with a regretful decision that the Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) should no longer be included. The Pagoda is still a recommended native plant. However, the extra care needed, while fine for the more experienced gardener who is aware of the tree’s special needs, is probably not the best suggestion for the novice. This beautiful native (as well as other alternate leafed dogwoods) is increasingly subject to a canker caused by the fungus *Crytodiarporthe corni*. Symptoms of infection initially are evidenced by infected branches turning golden-yellow with orange fungal fruiting bodies often scattered over the affected area. If unchecked, first leaves wilt and die on the affected branch, then the branch itself dies. The fungus spreads from one branch to another, with eventual spread to the main trunk where multiple cankers results in death of the tree. The mechanism by which this fungus spreads from one tree to another is unknown. However, the disease is most common in trees that have somehow been compromised through such means as an excess or deficiency of water, extreme temperatures (both high and low), nutritional deficiencies, and injury. Trees can survive the initial infection, but are typically stunted in growth.

To avoid this problem first be careful in choosing your tree - look for a vigorous, disease free tree from a reputable nursery. When selecting a site, place in an area of light shade (prominent sunny locations should be avoided!) with fertile, moist, well-drained soil, applying a heavy layer of mulch around the tree. Be sure to follow the instructions on depth of hole, spacing and pH requirements. New trees should be watered about 1 to 2 inches per week, reduced to 1 inch per week once they have become established. As for trees already planted (as well as those newly installed) it has been suggested that your trees should be (a) regularly watered - a thorough soaking to a depth of 12 inches every 10 days during hot weather has been suggested; (b) well mulched to protect roots from drying out; (c) wrapped before winter sets in with special tree wrapping paper if trunks are young and/or thin barked (remove the wrapping in the spring); and (d) protected from injury as much as possible. Be on the lookout for this canker, by examining your trees every spring and fall and, when discovered, immediately treat to control spread.

To control its spread once an infection is discovered, the only effective means is to prune the affected branches. This should be done a distance of approximately 4 to 6 inches below the diseased area, during a period of dry weather to help reduce the possibility of disease spread. Be sure to burn or haul away with the trash all removed branches. Also, between cuts and after you are done, disinfect your pruning materials by dipping for at least 30 seconds in a solution of 70 percent rubbing alcohol or a household bleach mixture of one part bleach to 5 parts clean water. If the canker has infected the trunk of your tree it is probably best to consult an experienced arborist.

So, although we don’t think we can recommend this tree as part of the “Garden Friendly” list, it remains a truly lovely specimen. Cherish your established pagoda dogwoods and plant new ones with great care. And, again, of course when purchasing this tree do so from a dependable nursery.

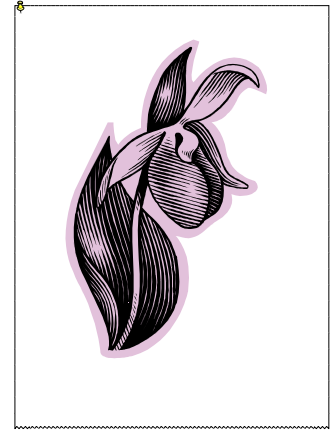
Meeting Notes

March Meeting: Raising Native Orchids in Your Back Yard, Dianne Plunkett.

Interesting fact: Which state has the greatest number of native orchids: Hawaii, Minnesota or Alaska? Surprise! It's Minnesota with 45 species, followed by Alaska with 36 and then Hawaii with only 3 natives.

Although Minnesota has numerous orchids, relatively few are commercially available. Among these, the following were recommended as easy to grow:

- * Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*). Likes a little more moisture.
- * Downy Rattlesnake Orchis (*Goodyera pubescens*) is a good ground cover.
- * Northern Small Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*)
- * Large Yellow Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*). Doesn't need much moisture.
- * Nodding Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*). Will hybridize so don't let it escape into natural areas



One plant that can be purchased but was not recommended was the Pink Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) because it is difficult to grow. If you do plant it, be sure you have picked a permanent location, since it's hard to transplant. Other species can also be purchased but check the growing needs since many needed boggy conditions. Should you want to purchase plants unavailable at a nursery, be sure the scavenger you use is officially permitted. State law allows one to claim a plant is "propagated" if it is held on the owner's property for a year. Non-permitted scavengers circumvent the law in this manner in order to "legally" sell their products.

For those who start orchids from seeds, they need to be stratified (refrigerate 3 to 5 months) to get rid of the tough outer coat. It takes about 4 years to get them to flower. If you purchase seedlings from a producer, don't plant in the garden the first year (they'll grow about 3 inches) since they are susceptible to slugs. While in a pot, be sure they are in soil that is well drained, porous and not likely to dry out too fast (suggested mix: ½ peat moss, ½ inorganic components consisting of equal parts of vermiculite, perlite and sand). Water about every 3 to 4 days. Once you place it in your back yard, if properly located, the number of orchids should double every year. Good luck if you decide to try your hand at growing these gorgeous plants. Diane inspired many of us to take the plunge!

April Meeting: Design Discussion for a Sandy, Roadside Area

Our scheduled speaker for April (herbalist Elizabeth Heck) was unavailable the night of the meeting, so we had a practical design session using a portion of member Joanne Bednarski's yard which she wished to turn native. This approximately 20 by 100 foot area fronts her property and borders a black top street without a boulevard or sidewalk. Site conditions included sandy soil; an eastern exposure that gets about 5 hours of morning sun; and city road maintenance (doses of salt compliments of the winter road crews and mowing at least once a year during the summer). Formerly there were pines that fronted the edge of the yard; however, these were cut down by the utility company this last year, leaving only their stumps and crabgrass. Through audience participation and the guidance of Fran Kielsing (our Show Me, Help Me chair) Joanne left with the following thoughts.

- * Site preparation: Three suggestions were given for clearing the area based on the assumption that the stumps would stay just because of the amount of work and cost of removal. (1) Use round-up - normally

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this would not be proposed, but given the size of the area to be cleared it might be the best option; (2) use the “lasagne” method which consists of putting down 7 layers of newsprint, watering it well and then adding a layer of mulch (i.e., wood chips); (3) cover with clear plastic weighted down with rocks and let the area sit for a season

* Plants to consider

Trees/shrubs (choose 2, for western edge of area)

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*)
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Gray Dogwood (*Cornus*)
Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

Grasses

Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*)
Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*)
Side Oats Gamma (*Boutellona curtipendula*)

Forbs

Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*)
Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
Birdsfoot violet (*Viola pedata*)
Prairie Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)
Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
Large leaf aster (*Aster macrophyllus*)

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
White Penstemon (*Pentstemon grandiflorus*)
Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)
Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)
Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*)

Armed with the above list Joanne will now research which are salt by resistant by going either to the Minnesota Department of Transportation or experts at local native plant nurseries. The plan of attack is to plant the selected trees/shrubs this year, clear the remaining area of existing vegetation using the method which best suits her, and plant her grasses and perennials the following season. We all expect a report on her progress at future meetings!

Member Spotlight - Julia Vanatta

Occupation: Self Employed. Heads The Vanatta Company, which specializes in the restoration and preservation of pre-WWI homes

Highlight: Julia just recently became our chapter vice president. At meetings and through the newsletter you are getting to know a bit about our president. This seemed like a good opportunity to get better acquainted with our president’s main support, who will be not less active but is a bit less visible to you all.

Length of Wild Ones involvement: 1 year

1. Q: What led to your interest in native plants

A: I became interested in native and wild plants in the early to mid 90s while visiting my mother's home



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in northwestern Minnesota. Her one acre lot was set in a woodland area that stood next to a swampy meadow. Across the meadow was another wooded section with mostly birch and poplar. My mother was fortunate enough to have rescued several Minnesota native treasures from the surrounding region. The long summer days and Miracle Grow made her Pink Ladyslippers grow to about three feet. She also had many Small Yellow Ladyslippers, a few Large Yellow Ladyslippers and several Jack-In-The-Pulpits.

2. Q: It seems as if influences were probably at work even earlier than the 1990's?

A: As a child I managed the yard and garden. Imagine mowing around 39 trees, mostly oak, and raking all those oak leaves! I also explored the nearby woods and the open fields. Natives I remember seeing from our lot included Mayflowers (round lobed), Marsh Marigold, Poison Ivy, Early Meadow Rue, Bracken Fern, and many others I was too much of a novice to identify. There were large and prickly wild Chokeberry bushes near the edge of the nearby woodland. Mother made jelly from the chokeberries we picked each fall.

3. Q: And how have all of these influences been applied to your present house?

A: I didn't become fully hooked on wildflowers until four years ago when a neighbor and I received a native plant grant from the Longfellow Community Council and other Mississippi River organizations. The seminars we attended explained all about how native plants draw rainwater down into the ground and also provide food and habitat for birds and butterflies. Today my property (a 40 by 120 lot size) consists mostly of gardens (three cultivated and two natural or semi rain gardens). I am gradually reducing my collection of cultivars and replacing them with native shrubs, trees, grasses and wildflowers as I learn what I like and what works best on my site. I have a little bit of lawn, used mostly as a path between the gardens. Since becoming hooked on natives, my passions have grown. I no longer use any pesticides or insecticides, and I fertilize only with great discretion. All year 'round I can watch birds, insects and a rabbit or two feed or pollinate in my gardens. Photo opportunities abound. Despite my odd mixture of cultivars and natives, my garden has been recognized annually by Minneapolis' "Blooming Boulevards" program.

4. Q: You and your neighbor continue to work together?

A: My neighbor and I share the maintenance of a native garden located on a narrow, 50 foot strip of land to the north side of my lot and to the south side of two garages and a driveway. The site has it's own microclimate, making it an interesting but fun challenge.

5. Q: Any words of advice to those just starting on their own gardening journey?

A: Knowing what I know today, I do have a few words of advice to newcomers: Start small and grow with your garden, but invest in structural elements such as trees and shrubs before spending all your resources on flowering plants and grasses. I did it backwards, and now my newly planted shrubs look out of proportion. Every year I say "This year I'll get it right so that next year it will look just the way I envisioned it!" It never happens, but it's a wonderful journey. Enjoy it.

Gardener's To-Do List (May - June - July)

Spring has sprung and we hope you are enjoying signs of your garden coming to life. What insects and birds have you been noticing return? Here are a few reminders as the gardening season gets into gear.



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- * The garden centers and native plant nurseries are open - do you have a list of your plant wants yet?
- * Start turning your compost pile, if you have the energy Or a helper!
- * A little time spent weeding early in the spring while weeds are tender will save you extra work later, when the weather is hotter.
- * Photograph new growth to help identify rosettes and seedlings and also to distinguish natives from weeds.
- * After the ground has warmed, spread 2-3 inches of mulch on beds to help conserve water and reduce weeds.
- * Keep an eye out for the return of wildlife to your garden: dragonflies, caterpillars and hummingbirds, to name just a few.
- * Water any newly planted seedlings during drier periods to help them get well established.
- * Cut off dried seed heads of spring blooming flowers. Save seeds for propagating next spring or direct sow into the ground now.
- * Do you remember thinking any of your plants were a bit leggy or just too tall last year? Pinch them back to encourage denser, shorter growth - and with more blooms, too!
- * As weather permits start moving out seedlings that you germinated indoors over the winter to acclimate them to outdoor temperatures prior to planting.
- * Divide crowded clumps of summer and fall bloomers as shoots emerge from the ground.
- * If you have a small prairie garden, burn, cut or mow (with mower at a very high setting from the ground) as needed.
- * Don't get so busy with your gardening work that you forget to enjoy the beauty of your native plants, while sitting in the shade sipping an iced tea. Your back needs a break.

From the Brown Thumb



According to my friend, there is an old gardener's saying about growing new plants "The first year they sleep, the second they creep, the third they leap." I will save how I bumbled my way into the gardens I now have for another day. Suffice it to say that I am nearing completion of my vision for my back yard and am now into my second full gardening year for a number of the new native areas I have created. It seemed to me that this was a good year to pause in my endeavors for this portion of my property and see just what I had wrought. So I plan to do a lot of sitting around with binoculars, camera and identification books; observing what new creatures - both plant and animal are thriving. Pre-native garden I recall having squirrels, rabbits, sparrows, robins, crab grass, creeping bluebells (these had taken over the entire back yard) and an occasional buckthorn and honeysuckle tree. I have, of course, removed the invasives, but will any return that I need to once again root out? What natives are thriving, and more importantly will the common animals be joined by butterflies, dragonflies, a passing hawk - who knows!!

I am not, however, planning to merely sit back in my lounge chair and observe, but know that I need to remain a bit more diligent in the upkeep of these adolescent gardens. Of course I am full of questions on the best way to assure continued success. So I thought what better way to find answers than to go to the "Show Me, Help Me" services of our very own chapter. So armed with my more burning questions I contacted them. What follows are my questions with response compliments of Fran Kiesling:

- (1) I watered very regularly the first year in each of my newly established areas. Do I need to continue to

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show such diligence in my second year or should I start treating these areas like the rest of my long established yard?

-- Response: Watering frequency depends, in part, on the kind of plant. Generally, perennials and ornamental grasses need to be watched closely for the first season after planting; shrubs need close monitoring usually for two seasons after planting; and trees should to be 'babied' for several years after installation. Watering schedules also are affected by size of property and what's possible. For example, if I plant 50 conifers on an acre of ground, I'm likely not going to give those trees supplemental water ~ there's simply too many of them. Or, my garden might be too far from a water source to get the water to the new plants. Mulching new planting beds with an organic mulch is a good idea, as a way to retain soil moisture.

(2) I tried to plant the natives at the suggested spacing, which of course has left many vacancies. Since I want these to fill in as quickly as possible, I am always hesitant to mulch these newly planted areas for fear of suppressing a quick spread of my natives. I know among other things mulch would help keep weeds out, but what about seeds from my new plants. So to mulch or not to mulch, that is the question!

-- Response: In most cases, I think 1-2 inches of organic mulch is a good idea. Most native plants can and will spread through that amount, either by seeds germinating in it or by underground roots coming up through it. Although bare dirt 'blow outs' in the prairie, and forest openings caused by fire or downed trees, are invaluable ways for new plants to germinate, both native and woodland plants evolved to germinate in a certain amount of organic debris left on the ground. Alas, however, I have learned the hard way to keep the mulch on the light side lest too many voles and meadow mice move in to your garden! I'm new to the suburbs and due in part to mild winters, a bazillion voles moved into my new, and newly mulched, prairie garden. They tunneled right through the plants. Also, if the mulch is too deep, the soil stays too cold for too long and the "warm" season plants take even longer to green up.

(3) I have planted one more prairie-like area and have native grasses interspersed elsewhere. I can neither mow nor burn, but are there other actions I should be taking to care for them?

-- Response: It's essential that ornamental grasses be cut down in late winter or early spring to remove dead vegetation. This allows the new growth to grow up and flourish. If they're big grasses, it can be a two person job. Hedge trimmers work nicely. Also, depending on the types of perennials you have, you might be able to mow in late summer or fall, after your perennials have gone to seed. This would be treating your garden more like a meadow cut for hay. Further, you can--over the long-haul--replace old, worn-out clumps with new seedlings that have, undoubtedly, germinated elsewhere in the garden. In this way, your garden is more fluid and kind of moves around, but it works for some people.

The assistance given to me through Show me Help Me was great! I recommend that those of you with burning questions like mine email them to the following address: f_kiesling@yahoo.com If you don't have any emailing opportunity, call Fran Kiesling (612-722-7596).

Book Review, Internet Info, You Name It!!



In lieu of a book review this month here are a couple of websites that you might want to browse through (with apologies to those without internet access).

<http://ricecreek.org/outreach/oss/> Blue Thumb program by the Rice Creek Watershed gives

information on designing a native garden, creating a rain garden and shoreline stabilization

<http://www.laurentiancenter.com/> The Laurentian Environmental Center is located in northern Minnesota but is operated by the Mounds View Public Schools. On its website go to plant key. They have a comprehensive list of plants common to northern Minnesota with detailed information on each one.

Featured Native Plant: *Geum triflorum*

Editor's note: This is one of the suggested 10 Garden Friendly Plants. The photograph is by our own John Arthur.

Common Name: Prairie Smoke (Also called: Prairie avens, Purple avens, Torch flower, Old man's whiskers)

Scientific Name: *Geum triflorum* **Family:** Rose (Rosaceae)

Habitat: A native prairie perennial, also found in dry, open woodlands.

IDENTIFICATION:

Height: 6-18 inches

Leaves: Pinnately compound. The leaflets are in two rows along a central axis, with the leaflets increasing in size toward the leaf tips. There is usually a pair of smaller, opposite, deeply segmented leaves near the middle of the stem; however, most are basal, arising in clumps from the root stocks. These are up to 7 inches long; covered with soft hairs; and divided into as many as 19 toothed segments.

Flowers: From 3 to 6 individually stalked, drooping, silvery-rose colored flowers, which never completely open. Sets of 3 are most common, hence the Latin name triflorum which means three-flowered. Each flower is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and has 5 rosy sepals alternating with narrow thread-like bracts, and 5 smaller creamy to pinkish petals. Blooms April - June).

Fruit: Fruits are the showiest part of the plant; with feathery, plumed, pink-gray fruits having wispy gray "tails" up to 2 inches long. After the flowers are pollinated by bees, they stand erect as the fruit matures. The fruit clusters ripen from May through June, but stay on the plant much of the summer.

Overall characteristics: Plant spreads via rhizomes. Prairie smoke leaves are evergreen throughout the winter, but in some years may turn red, orange, and burgundy. The fruits can be dried for everlasting arrangements.

GARDEN TIPS

Plant Hardiness: Zone 3-7

Sun/Shade Needs: Full sun to partial shade as long as moisture is available.

Soil Needs: Thrives in dry, poor soil as well as rich well-drained soils. 5.0-7.5 pH

Planting: Plant 9 to 12 inches apart. Spreads 2 to 12 inches

Propagation: Grow from seeds or rhizome division (faster). Collect seeds in late spring or early summer. Bag seed heads to capture ripening seed. Can plant seeds directly in fall or stratify (4-6 weeks) and plant in



spring. Place the fruits 1/4 to 1/3 inch deep in garden or in flats and keep moist. Slow growth the first year. Transplant from flats when leaves are 1 to 2 inches long. Divide rhizomes in late summer or early spring (pieces should have ample new, light-colored roots).

Care: Rhizomes may form dense mats, so division every several years is beneficial. Root rot is a problem in poorly drained soils, so don't plant in low spots. May not bloom if insufficient sun.

Companion plants: Pasqueflower (*Anemone (Pulsatilla) patens*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), and prairie phlox (*Phlox pilosa*).

Friends & Foes: No serious pests.

NOTES

Historic Use/Interest: Native Americans and pioneer settlers made tea from prairie smoke roots to treat digestive disorders and reduce fever.

Welcome New & Renewing Members

As of 1 April 2007 according to the national website, our chapter had 93 active members. Thank you to these new and returning members for their support of Wild Ones. Whether you've just joined or have been a member for several years we look forward to your participation. Besides this newsletter, visit us at www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities <<http://www.for-wild.org/chapters/twincities>>.

John Arthur, Joel Bahma, Mary-Jean Becker, Kathy Bonnett, Jenny Brazzale, Jack Broughton, Pamela Deerwood, Heather Devlin, Nancy Drake, Pat Gottschalk, Evelyn Hadden, Anne Hanley, Catherine Harrison, Fran Kiesling, Angela Luther, JoAnna McKasy, Kim & Thomas Medin, Mike Mesch, Peggy Owen, Judy Remington, Lauri Rockne, Molly Rosenberg, Barb Sayther, Bev Schillinger, Julia Vanatta, Joyce Vincent.

2007 Officers

President: Roberta Moore

Vice-President: Julia Vanatta

Secretary: Mary Schommer

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Board Members

Hospitality: Rose Meyer

Merchandise: Kim Medin

Newsletter: Mary Schommer

Outreach: Marty Rice

Photographer/Historian: John Arthur

Plant Rescue: Unfilled

Programs: Mary Alyce Krohnke/John Arthur

Public Relations: Barb Gallagher

Show Me, Help Me: Fran Kiesling

Spring Expo: Unfilled

Tours: Carmen Simonet

Website: Jim Sipe

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits To You

- Monthly meetings featuring excellent presentation on a wide array of native landscaping topics.
- Receive the new member packet, including our handbook full of information and activities on natural landscaping.
- Receive the Wild Ones journal, with articles and information to inspire and educate you about natural landscaping.
- Free admission to Wild Ones' events, such as our garden tours, and native plant walks and sales/swaps.
- Reciprocity with other chapters' meetings.
- Gather and exchange information and expertise with other gardeners of all experience levels.
- Support for the Wild One's Mission.

Join or Renew

- 1 Sign up at a meetings, or
- 2 Call Marty Rice at 952-927-6531, or
- 3 Access the national website at www.for-wild.org



Twin Cities Chapter

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OUR MISSION Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy