



2016 Annual Report

Minnesota Wildflowers Information
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<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info>

Project launched 2007, MWI 501(c)(3) established 2012

Our Mission

Our mission is to educate Minnesotans on our native plants, raise awareness on threats like invasive species, and inspire people to explore our great state, appreciate its natural heritage, and become involved in preserving it.

Our desire is to make botany accessible to the general public by providing a free, superior-quality, non-technical field guide of plants found growing wild in Minnesota, for use by people of all age groups and experience levels.

Our goal is to record all 2100+ plant species in Minnesota, becoming a complete reference for the state.

Highlights from the 2016 Field Season

Rare Species Finds

To our delight, Peter encountered new populations of two very rare species in Minnesota.

In May, he happened upon the threatened *Orobanche uniflora* in Morton Outcrop SNA, Renville County - a new county record. Two other new populations were reported to us through the Minnesota Wildflowers website.

In July, the endangered *Vaccinium uliginosum* was discovered while surveying the north shore of Lake Superior near Grand Marais in Cook County. Only one other population is known to be in Minnesota, near Grand Portage, so this was a very significant find! We have a rare species permit so collected a specimen for the Bell Herbarium.

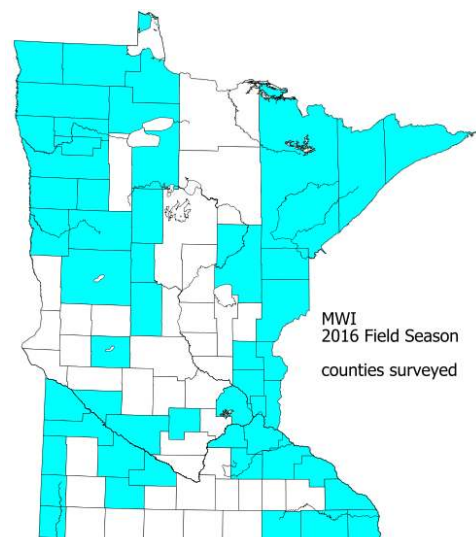
These are now all on the DNR's radar.



Vaccinium uliginosum *Orobanche uniflora*

Field Activity Summary

- 16,000 miles traveled, 15,000+ images shot, 700 hours logged in volunteer field time
- Surveyed locations in 49 Minnesota counties and parts of South Dakota and Wisconsin
- Images collected for 375 species, including:
 - 100 sedges (*Cyperaceae*)
 - 65 grasses (*Poaceae*)
 - 27 ferns and fern allies
 - 13 rushes (*Juncaceae*)
 - 140 species not previously encountered
- Collected 24 voucher specimens for the Bell Herbarium, including "historical" *Dyssodia papposa* found along roadsides in 7 new counties (total 21 since 2015!)



MWI
 2016 Field Season
 counties surveyed



Funding provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

Web Site Statistics

	2015	2016	
Unique visitors	358,110	468,586	+31%
Number of visits	560,070	862,067	+52%
Webpages viewed	2,644,380	3,547,361	+34%
Facebook fans	4,014	5,152	+28%

Number of species added to the web site in 2016: 213

Number of species updated: 17

Total species published as of December 31: 1,276

Web Site Updates and Upgrades

- 80 sedges, including all of the known MN *Cyperus* species, 46 grasses and 20 rushes are now published. These include high resolution macro images of flowering or fruiting structures to aid in a positive ID.
- A search facility for *Carex* species is in place and another specific to grasses is in development. Refinement of the Grasses, Sedges and Rushes index page is pending.

Other Services & Public Outreach

- Held the first annual MWI open house and plant sale! Turnout was very good - hope to do even better next time. Watch our Facebook page for the next event in May, 2017
- Manned tables at MN Native Plant Society Symposium and Wild Ones Twin Cities annual conference.
- Donated numerous images to other non-commercial projects. Requesters include: Wild Ones, University of Porto (Portugal), Whitewater State Park, Ramsey Conservation District, Edmonton Native Plant Group (Canada), Tama Co. Nature Center (Iowa), US Forest Service, MN Pollution Control Agency, PBS Duluth, University of MN, US Army Corps of Engineers, City of Edina, Spanish National Research Council (Spain), Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership, MN Historical Society Press, University of Wisconsin Madison, Three Rivers Park District, MN Invasive Species Advisory Council, Virginia Commonwealth University, Charles University (Prague, CZ), Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Native Orchid Conservation Inc. (Winnipeg), Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Fleming College (Ontario), St. Louis County SWCD, Carlton College, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (Canada), Lakeside Nature Center (Kansas City), Neighborhood Greening NPO (Mendota Hts), Ramsey County CWMA

We are available to lead wildflower walks or give presentations to garden clubs, environmental organizations, or any other group interested in the wild plants of Minnesota. For more information, contact Peter Dziuk at peter@minnesotawildflowers.info

A Note From the President

We are now into our last 6 months on the 3-year grant we received from the MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and will soon meet all our deliverable obligations. While we were approved for another 3-year grant, that money is not in the bag until it passes through the MN legislature in June, 2017. Assuming the funding comes through, we'll be gearing up to add aquatic species to the website and push to finish field work collecting the remaining other species. By the end of the grant we expect to have 90% of Minnesota's flora photographed and ready to publish.

On another note, in May, Peter took Michael Lee, of the DNR's Biological Survey division, on a guided tour of Banning State Park to see the *Chrysosplenium iowense* we discovered there in 2012. It was the first US population found outside of the driftless area, disjunct by about 200 miles, and several distinct colonies were found. It would be interesting to learn whether this population is more closely related to plants in the driftless area or those in Canada.



An important point is that we continue to find things that other surveys can miss, since no one can be all places at all times and some species, like *Orobanche*, are fleeting and easy to miss if you aren't in just the right place at just the right time. The website is also an important venue for public engagement, a place to share discoveries and contribute to the botanical knowledge in Minnesota. Your continued support helps make that happen.



Katy Chayka

Creator of Minnesota Wildflowers,
President and Board Chair

Board of Directors

Katy Chayka, President
Peter Dziuk, Secretary
Victoria Ranua, Treasurer
John Thayer

2016 Volunteer Contributors

Volunteers:

Katy Chayka, Peter Dziuk, John Thayer

Photo Contributors:

Christopher David Benda, Katy Chayka, Peter Dziuk, Steve Eggers, Otto Gockman, Heather Holm, Jason Husveth, Terry Serres, John Thayer

In-kind & Volunteer Donations

Field work: 698 hrs

Publishing & administration: 366 hrs

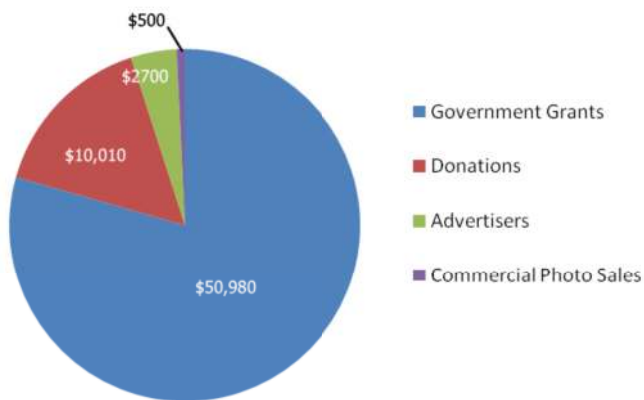
Value: \$23,813

Estimated value of photos donated in 2016:
\$3000

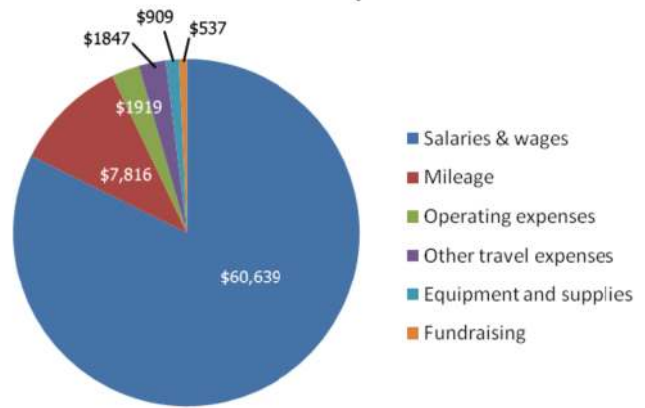
2016 Financial Summary

Total income for fiscal year 2016: \$64,193.31

2016 Funding Sources



2016 Expenses



More highlights from 2016



Advertising Sponsors

- Itasca Ladyslipper Farm
- Minnesota Native Landscapes
- Minnesota Native Plant Society
- Morning Sky Greenery
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- Wild Ones Twin Cities

2016 Donors (* repeat donor – a very special thanks to you!)

\$500+

Jason & Amy Husveth*

Thank you all for your support. We couldn't do this without you!

\$100+

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