



# 2025 Annual Report

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

**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.

## Highlights from the 2025 field season

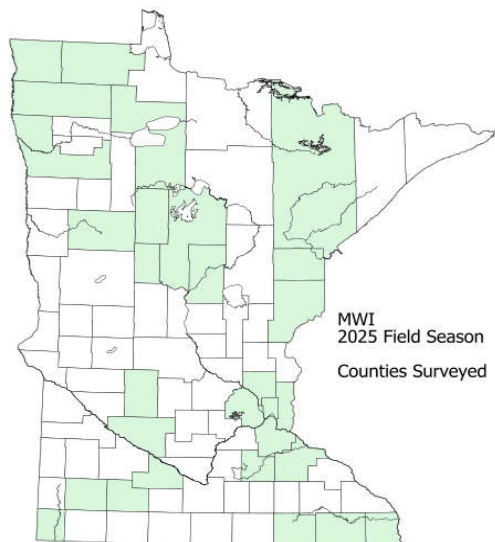


### Field Activity Summary

- 8,000 miles traveled
- 2,500 images shot
- Surveyed locations in 29 Minnesota counties

### Genera completed

*Geum*  
*Impatiens*  
*Oenanthe*  
*Phalaris*  
*Rosa*  
*Zannichellia*



### 2025 Website Statistics

Species added: 12  
 Species updated: 44  
 New maps: 550  
 Total species: 1848  
 Website visitors:  
 1.5 million

## Other Services & Public Outreach

Our images continue to be in high demand. Requestors include:

- Biophare Museum (Québec)
- Como Community Seed Library
- Dakota County Historical Society
- Forêt Capitale Forest (Canada)
- Georgia Botanical Society
- Hydro-Québec (Canada)
- Invasive Species Action Network
- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
- Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network
- Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
- Minnesota Conservation Volunteer
- Minnesota GreenCorps
- Minnesota Horticultural Society
- North Shore Forest Collaborative
- Northern Gardener Magazine
- Panjab University (India)
- Penn State University
- Ramboll
- Red Line Editorial
- RES
- Santa Fe Botanical Garden
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Chicago
- University of Minnesota Extension
- University of Wisconsin Madison
- USDA
- W. Szafer Institute of Botany (Poland)
- Wild Seed Project
- Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
- Working Lands Conservation (Utah)

## 2025 Contributors

Many thanks to the following, who helped move the project along this year by providing plant images and/or location info: Ben Bullard, Tony Ernst, Otto Gockman, Gabriel Jenny, Rhett Johnson, Jaxon Lane, and John Thayer.

## 2025 Board of Directors

Katy Chayka, President  
Victoria Ranua, Treasurer

Cora Rost, Secretary  
John Thayer, Board Member

## A Note From the President

Botany is not static. As research progresses, species that were once thought to be one thing turn out to be something else, sometimes multiple something elses. We see this in several Minnesota species, which means Minnesota Wildflowers has to adjust its plant profiles accordingly, and new image sets may well be required to document it adequately.

I've learned a fair amount of this from monitoring and taking part in discussions on iNaturalist, what is now an enormous biodiversity atlas first conceived by students at UC Berkeley in 2008. While I take some of the "research grade" observations with a large grain of salt, there are increasingly real experts weighing in on identifications of some of the more troublesome groups.

Minnesota's cacti fall into this category. What has been called, at different times, *Opuntia macrorhiza* or *Opuntia humifusa* may actually be something else altogether, the consensus being *Opuntia cymochila*, which is considered by some references to be a synonym of *Opuntia tortispina*. It is questionable whether *O. macrorhiza* or *O. humifusa* still exist in Minnesota, or elsewhere in the Upper Midwest, but in 2025 I started the task of photographing different populations in the state to build a new image library, and to look for differences across these populations. This process will continue in 2026 and beyond.



*Opuntia* sp. at Blue Mounds State Park, Rock County

Other species under review include a rare *Minuartia* (sandwort), perhaps now a different species, and a rare *Thaspium* (meadow parsnip), perhaps now two different species.

While the website is currently pretty comprehensive in its coverage of Minnesota's flora, it really means the project can never be "finished". There's always something new in the plant world, and we'll do our best to cover it.



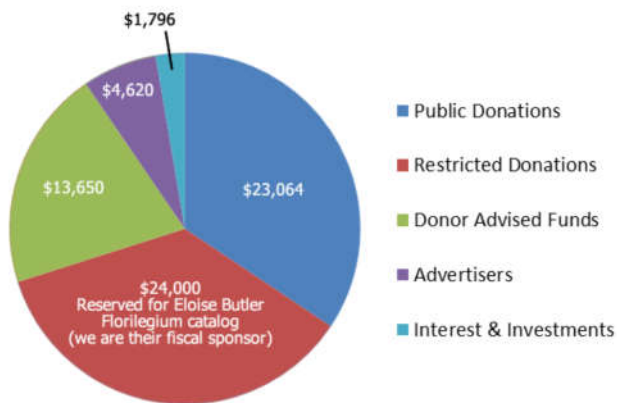
**Katy Chayka**

Creator of Minnesota Wildflowers,  
President and Board Chair

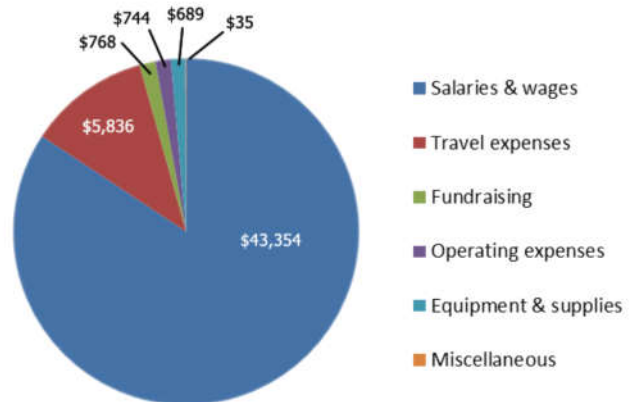
# 2025 Financial Summary

Total income for fiscal year 2024: \$67,130

## 2025 Funding Sources



## 2025 Expenses



## Advertising Sponsors

Kinnickinnic Natives, Landscape Alternatives, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Morning Sky Greenery, Natural Shore Technology, Outback Nursery, Prairie Moon Nursery, Prairie Restorations, Shooting Star Native Seeds, Spangle Creek Labs, Windflower Natives

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