

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 2014 Field Season

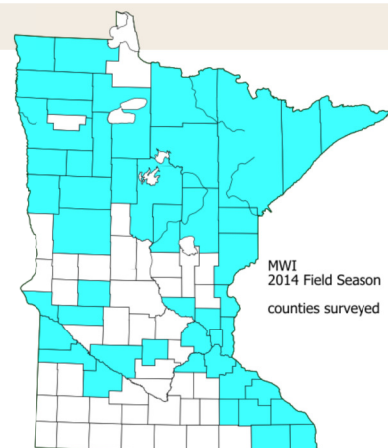
First new species of 2014



Minnesota Wildflowers Field Activity Summary

Seasonal field work focuses on a set of selected “target” species we hope to get that year. Criteria for setting search priorities is based on rarity, availability of other needed species in the search area, and the relation to other species already published on the web site. Extensive travel during the growing season is required to capture images of all the plant species in our geographically and ecologically diverse state. For the 2014 field season:

- 11,000+ miles traveled, 20,000+ images shot, 1100+ volunteer hours logged in survey and travel time
- Surveyed locations in 45 of Minnesota’s 87 counties and parts of North Dakota and Wisconsin
- Image sets collected for over 275 species (some only partial sets)
- Collected 30 voucher specimens for the Bell Herbarium and 1 for Wisconsin DNR



Web Site Statistics

	2013	2014	
Unique visitors	213,835	290,592	+36%
Number of visits	398,557	499,545	+25%
Facebook fans	2,112	2,858	+35%

Number of species added to the web site in 2014: 125

Number of species updated: 163

Total species published as of December 31: 885

Web Site Updates and Upgrades

- Began a significant expansion of **trees and shrubs**, with more ferns, grasses and sedges coming next
- Started a push to make county distribution maps for the 160 species that still linked to the USDA maps, which were replaced by a new mapping system this past summer. About 60 to go!

New Partnerships

- Work is being done with **Heather Holm** to bring pollinator information to individual species pages.
- Some species extremely rare or even extinct in MN are more common in other states. **Vicky May**, a citizen scientist in Arkansas, is providing images for some of these species that we cannot obtain ourselves. *We seek other collaborators.*
- Discussions are taking place with MN DNR for additional collaborative projects

Other Services & Public Outreach

- Manned a table at MN Native Plant Society Symposium
- Gave a presentation at the Minnesota Master Naturalist annual convention
- Manned a table at the 3rd Annual Native Plant Revival and Expo in Roseville, Ramsey County
- Led two wildflower walks at Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area for the organization Writers Rising Up
- Consultation at Roberts Bird Sanctuary for the Minneapolis Chapter of the Audubon Society
- Donated approximately 100 images to other non-commercial projects. Requesters include: US National Arboretum, USDA NRCS, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, MN DNR, BWSR, MN Master Gardeners, Cook Co. Invasives team, Twin Cities Public Television, Wild Ones, Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area (ND), SD Game, Fish & Parks, Chicago Botanic Garden, New York City Parks, Connecticut Conservation District, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Centre d'interprétation du lac Boivin (Quebec, CA), Universidad de Concepción (Chile, SA)

A Note From the President



2014 was truly an exciting year for us. We were the recipients of a 3-year, \$150,000 grant from the MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. We are using this funding to expand travel around the state to photograph plants missing from our image catalog, especially non-forbs, but a large chunk of the money is being used to accelerate publishing for all species. The goal is to have about 2/3 of Minnesota's flora published on the website by the end of the funding. A very special thanks goes to the **Minnesota Native Plant Society** for "seed money" to make this all work.

This means I now have dedicated time for publishing and the results speak for themselves: for the first 6 months of 2014, only 33 species were added and 41 species updated. The funding began on July 1 and for the second half of the year, 92 species were added, more than 50% of those were non-forbs, as well as 122 species updated with improved imagery, information and new county distribution maps. I think we're on track! This does not mean we no longer need donations – the grant does not cover all expenses and donations help make up the difference.

In 2014 we also began collecting field images for many grasses and sedges, to be published in the next couple years. We are now working on the macrophotography needed to properly show the identifying characteristics, some of which are fractions of millimeters in size. We had high hopes for a Leica microscope with inbuilt camera, but the image quality did not meet our expectations so we now have an alternative in mind, using a set up much like USGS uses for insect macrophotography. The donations made towards the microscope will be used for this new gear, which we expect to have for the 2015 season. We are very excited to bring this new level of imagery to all our users!



Katy Chayka

Creator of Minnesota Wildflowers,
President and Board Chair

Board of Directors

Katy Chayka, President

Peter Dziuk, Secretary

Victoria Ranua, Treasurer

John Thayer

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

2014 Volunteer Contributors

Volunteers:

Katy Chayka, Peter Dziuk, John Thayer

Photo Contributors:

Christopher Benda, Katy Chayka, Peter Dziuk, Steve Eggers, Lorry Erickson, Vicky May, Keir Morse, Brian O'Brien, Eugene Reimer, John Thayer

In-kind & Volunteer Donations

Field work: 1147 hrs

Publishing & administration: 290 hrs

Web programming: 60 hrs

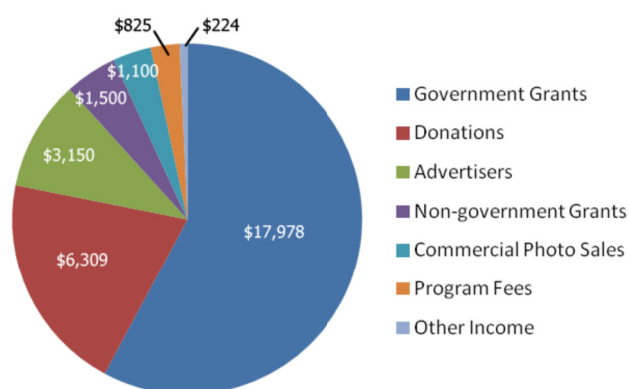
Value: \$34,493

Estimated value of photos donated in 2014: \$5,220

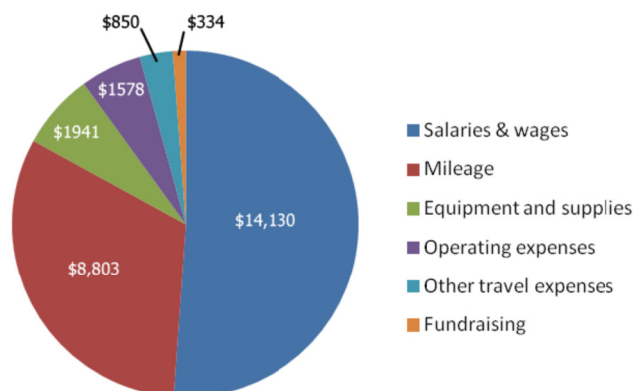
2014 Financial Summary

Total income for fiscal year 2014: \$31,085.54

2014 Funding Sources



2014 Expenses



A Few Places we Visited



2014 Donors

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

\$500+

Jason Husveth*
MN Native Plant Society*
Ann & Mark Thelen Fund

\$100+

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and 1 anonymous donor

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support. We couldn't do this
without you!*