

No. 84 Winter 2020

Iris

The Alberta Native Plant Council Newsletter



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Look for more information on the ANPC's website.
anpc.ab.ca



Cover photo: Marsha Hayward
Western mountain-ash shrub and berries (*Sorbus scopulina*), Hutch Lake and Watt Mountain Tower area.

Counting Clyde's Collection

Joelyn Kozar

The May Species Count was started province-wide in 1976 by Chip Weseloh and Julie Hrapko, curators of ornithology and botany, respectively, at the Provincial Museum of Alberta. Over the years the count has included almost everything: flowering plants, birds, mammals, butterflies, dragonflies, etc. The first flowering plant species count at Clyde Fen Candidate Natural Area (Clyde Fen) was in 1992, the same year that ANPC became the Volunteer Steward for the area. Between then and 2011, flowering plant species counts were conducted most years while only missing five of those 19 years.

This year's May Species Count had some old friends and new faces turn out. The group of us did our typical May Species Count route. We wandered through an aspen stand and around a

fire break from the 2001 wildfire. We walked toward the fen as the habitat transitioned from aspen forest to willow swamp to treed fen to open fen. Last year (2018) was the first time we had ever spotted the common bog habitat species cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*). It was a very nice surprise, but we almost didn't find it again this year! After some concerted searching around the treed fen, we found one flower on a particularly sunny hummock. Its leaves were still wrinkly and not fully opened yet as it started a slow spring stretch after a long sleepy winter.

We spent quite a bit of time in the open fen looking for orchids, including the tracked plant Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), and admiring the pitcher-plants (*Sarracenia purpurea*). We took our time getting to lunch where we

See **Clyde Fen Count**, page 3

MacCalla's willow (*Salix maccalliana*)
at Clyde Fen, May Count 2019



David Fielder

May Plant Count: 43 Years and Counting

Kim MacKenzie, Sydney Toni and Trevor Floreani

The May Plant Count has taken place every year during the last week of May (May 25-31) since its launch in 1976 by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, a not-for-profit organization now known as Nature Alberta (naturealberta.ca). Ever since, faithful volunteers have trekked out to natural areas across the province and, using a standardized metric, recorded the flowering stage (phenology) of all vascular plants they find. It seems that 2019 was no exception, as at least 16 groups surveyed 12 different sites (see Figure 1). At two of these sites, Nose Hill Park (fonhs.org) and Wagner Natural Area (www.wagnerfen.ca), volunteers collected data at multiple locations on both phenology as well as the ecological communities or microsites.

While not all of the 2019 count's data has trickled into the May Plant Count inbox, some preliminary observations can be made. A total of 305 different species were recorded across all sites. Dandelions aside, the most common species were star-flowered Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*) recorded

at 11 sites, followed by saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) recorded at 10 sites. The Whaleback had the greatest richness of recorded species at 95!

These numbers can only grow as the remaining data come in! Do you have any dusty May Plant Count data that you meant to submit? Perhaps even from years ago? Send along a scanned copy to mayplantcount@outlook.com, so your data can be included in future *Iris* newsletters and in a presentation at the 2020 Alberta Native Plant Council Workshop in Peace River on March 28, 2020. ♦

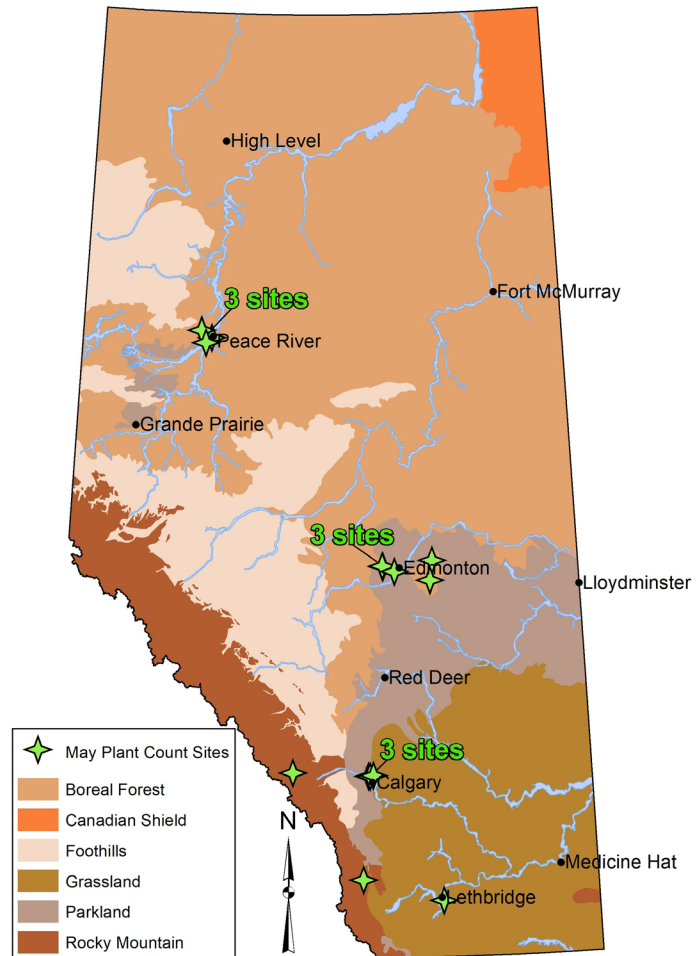


Figure 1: Map of 2019 May Plant Count sites
Source: Trevor Floreani



Pale coralroot (*Corallorhiza trifida*)

EDDMapS Alberta

Have you heard of the EDDMapS Alberta app? It is a state of the art invasive species tracking and reporting program, currently tracking 62 aquatic and terrestrial species. The app makes it possible to submit invasive species observations directly with your smartphone from the field. These reports are uploaded to EDDMapS Alberta and emailed directly to verifiers for review. EDDMapS Alberta provides:

- Real time tracking of invasive species occurrences
- Local and national distribution maps

- Electronic early detection reporting tools
- Library of identification and management information

The app is available for download from the AppStore or Google Play. For more information, visit the Alberta Invasive Species Council website at <https://abinvasives.ca/invasive-species/eddmaps-alberta/> ♦



Clyde Fen Count, from page 1



David Fielder

Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*)

ate on a sandy mound and took shade under some jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*). After we explored the sandy upland habitat and found northern rice grass (*Piptatheropsis pungens*).

We hand-pulled an invasive patch of common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) that has established in the pine stand. We then went to a small mineral island in the fen where we know there to be a patch of cicer milk-vetch (*Astragalus cicer*) and hand-pulled it as well. Many hands made light work, and we quickly pulled two large garbage bags of invasive weeds.

The result of the 2019 May Species Count of flowering plant species at Clyde Fen was 48 species. We saw more than we did in 2016, but less than we did in 2015, 2017 or 2018. This is very close to the long-term average (48.8 species). There were no new species or any tracked species to report, nor were there any species reported that hadn't been seen for a long time. We had seven participants, which is the most we have ever had for the May Species Count at Clyde Fen. It made for a pretty good day! With the extra set of eyes, and some external (friendly) pressure of fanatical diligence, we found 11 willow species (*Salix* sp.) of which five were in

flower. We also found 15 sedge species (*Carex* sp.), of which 11 were in flower.

Table 1. Count of flowering plant species at Clyde Fen during May Species Count.

Year	Count of Flowering Species
2019	48
2018	55
2017	54
2016	41
2015	57

Bebb's willow (*Salix bebbiana*)

David Fielder

The stewards of Clyde Fen conduct the May Species Count the last weekend of May. The results are useful for monitoring the change in flowering times and species occurrence. It is often one of the first botanical outings of the year for many people and is a great excuse to get outside. In 2020 the May Species Count will be either May 30 or May 31. Keep an eye out in the ANPC email newsletter for the event, and we hope you will join us next time! ♦

Bog buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)

David Fielder

ANPC Small Grants

ANPC provides grants of up to \$1,000 for small or large projects. Applications can be submitted from January 1 to February 28. You may send in your completed form by mail or email, or you may fill in the form online.

The application form is available on the ANPC website (anpc.ab.ca).

Instructions for filling out the application form:

- Please read the "Information for Applicants" before completing the application form
- Enter "N/A" if a question is not applicable to your project

Please send the completed application form by mail to:

ANPC Small Grants Program
Box 52099 Garneau Postal Outlet
Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

Or by email to: grants@anpc.ab.ca

Alberta Native Plant Council (ANPC) Grant Application Online Form:

- The online form is available on the ANPC website under the About Us tab (anpc.ab.ca)
- Click on the ANPC Small Grants tab
- The boxes will allow unlimited text, but please be concise
- Use your finger on your device to sign your signature, and type your name in the box following
- When the information is complete, click on the submit button. You will receive notification that your application has been submitted
- If you do not receive a response (confirmation of submission) within 24 hours, please contact grants@anpc.ab.ca

Deadline for applications: February 28, 2020.

If you have any questions, please email: grants@anpc.ab.ca ♦

NPESG and ANPC Northern Outreach

Marsha Hayward, Northern Director

In Alberta, we value our native species — to a point. In northern Alberta, plant species are losing the battle against development in much the same way they did when people first settled the south to develop our agriculture-based economy there. And this is unfortunate, because people themselves really love wild native plants!

My own experiences include working in environmental jobs, doing boots-on-the-ground scientific research for my own native plant GIS database of northwestern Canada's native boreal plants, participating in Adopt-a-Plant Alberta (a joint ANPC and Alberta government re-documentation of historically recorded rare plants), conducting the outdoor Northern Plant and Ecology Study Group (NPESG), and working to get the indoor northern plant study groups up and running (a third northern group is beginning in 2020). In my opinion, there is real hope that we can increase the level of importance that our wild native plants hold in the minds of the general public.

The NPESG has allowed me to share a love of native plants with people throughout the northern half of the province, and those I met on the field excursions love our wild species and want to learn more about them. People in northern Alberta also really enjoy getting outdoors to discover plants for their beauty, usefulness, and aesthetic and cultural value.

Since 2006, I have travelled between 4,500 and 6,000 kilometres per year in my role as an ANPC volunteer in northern Alberta. During these years, I have focused on projects that included:

- Actively participating in the Adopt-a-Plant Alberta program (2006–2009) to see how our rare plants are doing. Occurrence of the rare species varied. Some are growing in areas where there is little chance of development for a long time while

others are already gone, and there are minimal resources available to mitigate destructive conditions much less learn how our valuable species will survive long term and through climate change.

- Organizing NPESG, which began in 2012, so that interested people can get outdoors to participate in a field trip similar to Botany Alberta. This involves searching out readily accessible areas where individuals, families and kids can get outdoors into interesting and beautiful areas to “discover” our wild native plants and learn about their habitats and ecology.

I have followed the model of the Junior Forest Wardens for this part of ANPC. We have liability insurance through Nature Alberta, the hikes are accessible, and emergency services can get in if needed. If the hike is more challenging, this is clearly pointed out in the advertising. We cancel for safety if bad weather is forecasted or if bears have been reported in the area.

I try to find unique areas that host amazing plant communities and even rare plants, if possible. We have had NPESG excursions at Muskeg Creek near Athabasca, Shaftesbury Trail area near Peace River, the Martin Hills in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, the Salt Plains of Wood Buffalo National Park, Saskatoon Mountain near Grande Prairie, Crow Lake Provincial Park and Ecological Reserve near Wandering River, and the Boreal Upland habitat of Hutch Lake and Watt Mountain Tower near High Level. The NPESG is succeeding. We have a wonderful time in the field, and the people who come out are encouraged to join the ANPC so they can learn even more about Alberta's native plants.



Northern fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis detonsa*)

- Researching key communities in northern Alberta that could be supportive places to host ANPC indoor plant study groups. I was given excellent advice by our former president Leslie Monteleone to focus on getting each study group up and running before going on to the next one.

See NPESG & Northern Outreach, page 5



Cassy Hale (left), from the new northern plant study group, and Walter Andreeff (right), sorting and identifying their plant finds.

NPESG & Northern Outreach, from page 4

Members of Peace Parkland Naturalists and ANPC enjoy an NPESG field trip at Saskatoon Mountain near Grande Prairie, 2016.



Marsha Hayward

- Setting up indoor plant study groups (so far in Grande Prairie, Peace River, and High Level-Fort Vermilion-Fort Smith area) because they are an important opportunity for interested northern Albertans to get out in the winter months to learn more about our native plants through the education and conservation approach of ANPC.

Volunteers

We have had wonderful volunteerism from people who have helped out in northern Alberta through ANPC. Thus far, Kim MacKenzie, Kristen Andersen, Melanie Bird and Cassy Hale have contributed a great deal.

We have also had wonderful support from people working in northern Alberta, including Sharon Irwin (Wood Buffalo National Park) and Margot Hervieux (Alberta Parks, Grande

Prairie), who have really helped ANPC convey the message of native plant education and conservation.

Special thank you to:

- Ken Jones for helping me initiate the NPESG in Peace River in 2015 and introducing me to Laura Gloor from the Peace River Museum and Archives
- Mackenzie Centre in Peace River, which has supported us wonderfully all the way (including operating the ANPC display right beside the museum display table at the Peace River Powwow)
- Hugh Seaton, Director, NAIT Centre for Boreal Research, who offered to help me get the Peace River Plant Study Group up and running by providing a room to use for the study group

See NPESG & Northern Outreach, page 6



Marsha Hayward

Marsha Hayward (ANPC) and Jane Pederson (WBNP) documenting possible rare plants at the Snake Pit area in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Alberta Native Plant Council

Garneau P.O. 52099
Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

website: www.anpc.ab.ca
email: info@anpc.ab.ca

President

Eri Hiraga
president@anpc.ab.ca

Vice-President

Laurie Hamilton
laurie@zanshinenvironmental.com

Secretary

Jennifer Muir
secretary@anpc.ab.ca

Treasurer

Julie Figures
treasurer@anpc.ab.ca

Directors

Marsha Hayward (**Northern**)
wildloonart@mcsnet.ca
Kristen Andersen (**Central**)
bluestems@hotmail.com
Christina Metke (**Southern**)
christina.metke@gmail.com
Kim MacKenzie (**Nature Alberta**)
kim.mack@goldpaw.ca
Trish Hiley (**Communications**)
communications@anpc.ab.ca

Membership Secretary

Kelly Ostermann
membership@anpc.ab.ca

Conservation Action

Laurie Hamilton
laurie@zanshinenvironmental.com

Information and Education/Outreach

Kristen Andersen
bluestems@hotmail.com

Rare Plants

Vacant

Reclamation and Restoration

Vacant

Webmaster

Carole Dodd
webmaster@anpc.ab.ca

Social Media

Cam Johnson
cam@makoj.com

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Marsha Hayward

Above: Park summer staff participated in a native plant workshop offered in 2016 by Marsha Hayward and Kim MacKenzie at the salt plains saturated habitat in Wood Buffalo National Park. Upper Right: Salt plains in Wood Buffalo National Park. Lower Right: False Solomon's-seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*) at Saskatoon Mountain. Below: NPESG trip participants at Muskeg Creek near Athabasca.



Marsha Hayward

Also, a special thanks to Jane Pederson (Wood Buffalo National Park) who helped me and Kim MacKenzie initiate and conduct the native plant workshop at Wood Buffalo National Park. A very special gal!



Marsha Hayward

And if I have forgotten anyone, please accept my sincere apologies. **Thank you so much!**

In conclusion

Perhaps the most valuable lesson I have learned on my travels throughout northern Alberta is that the many wonderful people I have met also love wild native plants and nature, and they are just as eager to learn about them as I am. People here want to get outdoors, to see the plants and learn what they are and how they grow, and to enjoy their beauty.

ANPC can get the message out there that native plants matter by engaging with and letting people know across Alberta that this wonderful learning

and conservation-based organization is there for all of us. The ANPC is a province-wide organization, and my experience is that people in northern Alberta share an interest in native plants with those in the central and southern regions of the province. So, I encourage us to truly be the *Alberta* Native Plant Council.

The concept of the Northern Plant and Ecology Study Group was realized through the enthusiasm of the fantastic people I have met who just love nature and wild plants.

That is what ANPC and NPESG are all about — the people and the plants! ♦



Marsha Hayward

Iris is published three times a year by ANPC. The Council aims to increase knowledge of Alberta's wild flora and to preserve this diverse resource for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

If you have an announcement, article or other item, you are invited to submit it to the editor for publication. Items concerning native plants will be given highest priority.

The editors reserve the right to edit submissions, but will review changes with the authors whenever possible. Disputes will be resolved in favour of the audience.

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Submission deadline for the next issue:
April 30, 2020

A subscription to *Iris* is included with membership in the ANPC. To join, contact the secretary, or check our website, www.anpc.ab.ca.

Northern Native Plants and Ecosystems

32nd ANPC Workshop and AGM

In collaboration with the NAIT Centre for Boreal Research

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Chateau Nova Peace River

10010 - 74 Street, Peace River, AB

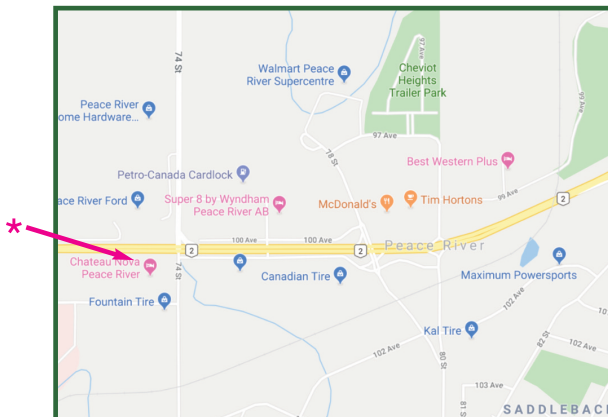
You may register for the workshop here:

www.anpc.ab.ca/2020Workshop



Photo: Katryna Forsch
June 2015, Near Cold Lake, AB

Town of Peace River - west side



PROGRAM TIMES:

Check-in and Registration: 8:00am-8:30am

Workshop Presentations: 8:30am - 4:15pm

Annual General Meeting: 4:30pm-6:00pm

Banquet: 6:15-8pm

A tour of the NAIT Centre for Boreal Research has been organized for Sunday, March 29, 2020 from 9:30-10:30am.

Location: 8102-99 Ave, Peace River (next to Northern Lakes College)



32nd Workshop and Annual General Meeting

“Northern Native Plants and Ecosystems”

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Chateau Nova Hotel

10010 - 74 St

Peace River, Alberta

For Workshop & Registration Information please email:

workshop@anpc.ab.ca

To register by MAIL:

Mail registration from and cheque to:

2020 ANPC Workshop

2528 106 Ave S.W. Calgary, AB T2W 2H9

Please make payment to Alberta Native Plant Council

Please mail before March 14, 2020 to ensure timely receipt.

To register ONLINE (with PayPal or credit card) please

see our website page:

[www.anpc.ab.ca/2020 Workshop](http://www.anpc.ab.ca/2020%20Workshop)

REGISTRATION FORM: (Please print)

NAME:
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESS:
CITY:
PROVINCE:
POSTAL CODE:
PHONE NUMBER:
EMAIL ADDRESS:

WORKSHOP FEES:

☒ Applicable Box	Early Bird Rate until Sunday, March 15, 2020	Regular Rate from Monday, March 16, 2020
ANPC members	☐ \$75	☐ \$90
Non-members	☐ \$90	☐ \$105
Students	☐ \$35	☐ \$45
Seniors	☐ \$35	☐ \$45

Dinner Banquet ☐ \$35

My diet is restricted (please describe):

ANPC MEMBERSHIP FEES:

☒ Applicable Box	
Individual	☐ \$25
Family (includes 2 adults at same address)	☐ \$45
Senior (65+)	☐ \$10
Student (anyone in full-time education)	☐ \$10
Corporate (up to 5 named employees)	☐ \$100
Lifetime	☐ \$500
Donation (specify amount)	☐

Total Enclosed:

\$ _____

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- ☐ I consent to receive correspondence from ANPC by email
- ☐ I consent to receive Info emails
- ☐ I consent to receive Iris newsletter by email
- ☐ I consent to receive Plant Happenings emails
- ☐ I would like to be included on the ANPC's contractor/botanist list (see ANPC website for details)
- ☐ I would like to receive Iris and all correspondence from ANPC by mail

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Please use my donation: ☐ Where most needed
☐ For education
☐ For conservation

☐ I would like my donation to remain anonymous

☐ I would like a receipt - *ANPC is unable to provide a tax-deductible receipt.

Personal data will be collected and kept in accordance with PIPA for the sole use of the ANPC.
 (ANPC Privacy Policy - click [here](#))



Sights from the Northern Plant & Ecology Study Group field trip to Shaftesbury Trail area, Peace River, Alberta, in June 2015.

