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Iris

The Alberta Native Plant Council Newsletter



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ALBERTA
Native Plant
COUNCIL

Cover photo: Marsha Hayward
Northern black currant (*Ribes hudsonianum*) in
flower in northern Alberta.

My ANPC Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge

Marsha Hayward

"Take part in the ANPC Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge..." I read. What a super idea!

Hooked before I delved further into the provided details, I settled deeper into my chair, took another sip of my coffee, gazed out my window at the winter landscape beyond, and began dreaming about what I could do with this concept. Having never planned, constructed or planted a true native plant garden, this was irresistible to me as a native plant nut.

But where to start? I have already had many well-established garden beds, full of non-native perennials and annuals on my rural acreage in the northeastern Alberta boreal. And the idea of cutting more trees and undertaking the back-breaking work of preparing yet another bed, adding good soil and finding more plants (especially native plants) was a time-consuming and expensive venture for the 2022 gardening season. Nope.

Besides this, my property could be termed as "difficult" for the average gardener. One half is a higher-elevation xeric boreal sand push-up area, covered with huge jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) and white spruce (*Picea glauca*). Another quarter of the property is located within a low, very moist black spruce (*Picea*

All photos by Marsha Hayward

mariana) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*) treed fen habitat—complete with common Labrador-tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), deep sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) and feathermosses all perched barely above a high water table. The rest of the property is taken up with a huge vegetable garden, a greenhouse, large lawns, tall coniferous pine and spruce trees, and finally a woodlot, which requires constant care. All of this has slowly developed through very hard work over a 25-year period.

I am tired of BIG projects. And even more challenging is the fact that all the physical spaces on my acreage sit atop an ancient glaciofluvial area between



Early spring in the backyard location where the native plant pollinator garden was later to bloom

See **Pollinator Garden**, page 2

Pollinator Garden, from page 1



The main garden (left), the greenhouse (centre), and the delphinium bed (right)

two lakes, with 18 ft. (5.5 m) of sand beneath the entire space (except the treed fen area). So, ALL my gardens and beds are painstakingly constructed, with the soil needing to be created or hauled in and constantly enriched to keep things growing. This is a challenging gardening location to say the least, with a LOT of back-breaking, arduous work put in over MANY years to develop my little paradise. Sigh. Time for a second cup of coffee.

Reinforced with caffeine, I pulled on my winter boots and headed outdoors to start scouting around my still snow-covered yard. A careful search revealed no new gardening possibilities until I rounded the back corner of my house and came to a sudden stop.

Of course! And who would have thought?

Could it be that the garden nature had already created – and not my human-centred concept of what a native plant garden should be like – was right there beneath 68 in. (173 cm) of record-deep snow, which my son had recently cleared off with his skid steer? Silly me. I already had my native plant garden!

And who else but nature itself could take an ugly, pushed-up pile of topsoil left over from water well construction some 35 years ago, and turn it into an amazing and production ecosystem – with a little (okay, a LOT) of help.

And so, there it was! My native plant pollinator garden was born.

The Site Factor

The location was perfect. It is an out-of-sight and out-of-mind corner of my land, complete with the typical rural water well casing, cover and main waterline of the property, accompanied by a weed-infested, abandoned topsoil pile left by the original owner some 35 years ago. Anything would be an improvement on this “butt-ugly” corner of my world that sadly I had abandoned five to six years ago. I abandoned the site after my attempts to build a contained, treated-wood flower bed at the location, complete with some expensive non-natives and annuals, had failed. Miserably.

In one of my previous efforts, I had spent quite a bit of money on purchasing non-native plants for this

location. And I thought I had nailed it in beautifying what can be every rural landowner’s messy bane of existence. Several years later, I realized that my hard work was slowly sinking into the soft, sandy soil thanks to the high water table at this location, and that non-natives were simply being choked out amongst a mass of weeds and nasty grasses. In short, it was a disaster!

After this experience, I had decided this particular rural landowner experiment had failed. And who was going to see this anyway? In that area, I have a summer clothesline, an old back porch and unsightly 35-year-old skirting that needs to be replaced along the original part of the building constructed years ago by the previous owner. It is not pretty.

But did it need to be? This was, after all, about the pollinators and native plants. Maybe I was missing something.

And so, while sitting in my kitchen with yet another cup of coffee and staring out at the huge snow-covered mound – which I KNEW contained

See **Pollinator Garden**, page 3

Pollinator Garden, from page 2

a weed-infested mess beneath the snow—I came to a decision. Do or die!

Therefore, my “butt-ugly” and (fortunately) somewhat hidden corner of my property became my pollinator garden challenge location! I was in.

Besides, I have a secret weapon.

The Boreal Factor

Before we delve deeper into a description of my attempts to develop a native pollinator garden, I must warn you about something. And that something is called “the boreal factor.”

And (a strong word of warning is needed here), as anyone who has ever lived in the country knows, life in the backwoods is more of a “beat-back-the-bushes” series of events—unexpected challenges relating to wildlife invasions, broken equipment and water systems, bad weather, sheer hard work, and what I have come to call “the human factor”—than it is a simple experience of a romantic country cottage or cabin by the lake.

In fact, it is plain hard work!



Native white-tailed deer visit my property in the winter (left) to eat shrubs like the red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) in my native plant garden (right)

It can also be nothing short of adventuresome, bizarre at times and really, really frustrating to undertake any type of horticultural project in a rural Alberta area. And, as you will read further, it is a bit like the experience of Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor shown on the old TV show *Green Acres*, or is close to it.

What is the boreal factor?

Unlike a small urban property, where you can carefully set aside a controlled small space and successfully build a contained bed with topsoil and strategically placed plugs or shrubs of native plants, rural boreal life can present unique challenges all of its own. To begin with, in the boreal forest there is a strong rule that states that anywhere you live that is 54 degrees north latitude or north of that, there will be 17.5 hours and more of daily sunlight during the latter part of June. That much continuous sunlight will quite successfully produce boreal species and invasive/noxious weeds that WILL grow MUCH FASTER than ANY horticultural species you can ever imagine!

Twice as fast in fact!

As the wild boreal native plants and the weeds become conditioned to their natural climate and latitude, this just adds to their vigor!

And if your imported-species garden looks perfect the first year, well, just watch out for year number two. I have observed and measured weeds having amazing growth spurts! They love to



See **Pollinator Garden**, page 4

Alberta Native Plant Council

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

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

President

Kristen Andersen
president@anpc.ab.ca

Vice-President

Natalie LaForest
vicepresident@anpc.ab.ca

Secretary

Vacant
secretary@anpc.ab.ca

Treasurer

Julie Figures
treasurer@anpc.ab.ca

... Directors ...

Marsha Hayward (**Northeastern**)
northerndirector@anpc.ab.ca

Vacant (**Northwestern**)
northerndirector@anpc.ab.ca

Kristyn Mayner (**Central**)
centraldirector@anpc.ab.ca

Jon Kozak (**Southern**)
southerndirector@anpc.ab.ca

Kim Mackenzie (**Director-at-Large**)
na.director@anpc.ab.ca

Diana Tirlea (**Director-at-Large**)
AB.director@anpc.ab.ca

... Committee Leadership Team ...**Botany Alberta**

Anna Mozolik
amozolik@gmail.com

Communications

Kristyn Mayner
communications@anpc.ab.ca

Conservation

Sarah Clermont
conservation@anpc.ab.ca

Grants

Kim Mackenzie
info@anpc.ab.ca

Information and Education/Outreach

Andrea Dechene
outreach@anpc.ab.ca

Membership

Kelly Ostermann
membership@anpc.ab.ca

Newsletter

Natalie LaForest
newsletter@anpc.ab.ca

Rare Plants

Jane Lancaster
rareplants@anpc.ab.ca

Reclamation and Horticulture

Jillian Shearer
reclamation@anpc.ab.ca

Volunteer Coordinator

Hannah Hammond
volunteer@anpc.ab.ca

Website

Carole Dodd
webmaster@anpc.ab.ca

Pollinator Garden, from page 3



Spotted Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), a favourite of bees (left, centre and right)

keep you in suspense, and just when you sit back and relax in your peaceful haven with a soothing cup of tea in your outdoor oasis, they will strike back and grow twice as fast.

These unwanted plants in your garden (I am convinced they know you do not want them) will resort to getting even upon realizing they are being forcefully removed. Native boreal unwanteds and weeds fully utilize their unique abilities to grow two inches for every 24 hours of daylight.

I know. I have measured them. Just to be sure!

Therefore, I realized that if I was going to develop my pollinator garden, it needed to be about the pollinators and my ability to OUTSMART the plants and convince them to work cooperatively with me and NOT against me.

Bottom line. I have learned the hard way, after living for 25 years in my abode at the edge of the wilderness ecosystem, that working against nature really does not work.

The Ecosystem

Do not let anybody fool you. If you live in a rural boreal area of Alberta, you live in an ecosystem and will be faced with a jungle of boreal vegetation and wild creatures who are working as hard as they can to take over your space and thrive there. The big secret (which any smart gardener knows) is that through their vigor to thrive in this short growing season area of Canada, they will unconsciously aid in the pollination of your gardens and native plants by taking over every corner they can – as rapidly as they can. But you CAN utilize their efforts. If you are smart!

Here at my property, annoying errant red squirrels chew holes in EVERYTHING. They also plant new trees for firewood and shade. Over time they provide us with our yearly Christmas tree. Red-sided garter snakes simply love the ugly green canvas cover over the main waterline. Cow moose venture in to prune the shrubs of the forest behind the house and help drink up the water in an annoying low area that fills every time we get an intense rain. They also help graze down the grass that has become drowned there

and eat numerous dandelion flowers. I have not been able to determine if they eat the weeds as well, but no matter, they also do a good job of chasing off boreal wood frogs that I don't want to mulch with the lawn mower. Deep in the back forest, white-tailed deer drop and hide their tiny fawns, and then they come in to eat the weeds around the well cover. They also chomp down the red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) I have been attempting to grow for several years, along with my vegetable garden (if they can).

Red foxes come in, steal the dogs' bones, and tease the dogs unmercifully. So do black bears. They steal the half-buried dog bones from the lawn (sparing yet more lawn mowers) and also graze on the unwanted dandelion flower heads.

Lynx pass stealthily through. Wild hares and grouse snooze in the shadows of our big spruce to stay cool in the summer, and they eat seeds, which helps propagate more birch and spruce trees. And numerous birds of every species breed, nest and feed on native plants on the property. They happily

See **Pollinator Garden**, page 5

Pollinator Garden, from page 4

spread new seeds everywhere and fill the air with their beautiful songs.

In fact, there is only a very tiny difference between the forest and the tamed part of our landscape here. And that is a property line, which the wild things do NOT respect. In this semi-tamed space, we have come to live with the weather, the wildlife and the vegetation that we must routinely beat back from becoming highly overgrown. And I simply love it!

The Unwanted

Back to the prospective native plant pollinator garden. Having given up on developing an esthetically pleasing garden near the water well in the past, I came to the sudden realization that I have accidentally begun an actual native plant pollinator garden! It has just happened as I left the garden to its own devices, and surprisingly, many new native plant species are slowly coming in. After my failure to make this little-used back corner of my property “a little happier looking,” and to cut down on the constant influx of weeds in the low and moist area, I had already introduced several native shrubs and trees with the hope that they will choke out the “unwanted.”

The unwanted include several categories of plants. TRUE Alberta born-and-bred weeds, mistakes in horticulture, and what I politely call “injection of species through Alberta-born anthropocentric plant- and non-plant-related activities.” These preventable occurrences (in my opinion) include the planting of non-native grasses. The original owner of this property bought what they called “playground grass” and heavily seeded as much of the level areas of my acreage as they could with the horrible stuff. Kentucky blue grass? Quack grass? These non-native grasses know NO bounds and will grow anywhere. They have attempted to overtake (somewhat successfully I might add) this small corner of my yard with their underground rhizomes 2-10 ft. (0.6-3 m) long. I have been fighting these grasses



Western mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*) shrubs (left and right)

back for years by diligently sneaking in plantings of native fescues from a reclamation company and a cover crop of clover (Home Hardware variety), as it is a cheaper, fast-growing short-lived annual, which will overtake the unwanted until the fescue can take hold.

The second unwanted that I need to mention is another invasive grass. This time the invader is a common native species called *Calamagrostis canadensis* (otherwise known as bluejoint), which has killed more than a few of my lawn mowers. It all began when a local quad rally got rerouted by mistake, and some 700 quads ripped apart the entire riparian area of our local creek. This resulted in seasonal floodwater seeping slowly across four acreages (including a corner my own). The overly high water table in turn killed all the mature tamarack and black spruce across three of the properties, by drowning their roots, resulting in conditions advantageous to the tall boreal grass.

From there, the invasive boreal grass (I call this “more of the boreal factor”) worked its way into a corner of my property along with perennial sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), Canada

thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) (some would not call this species a weed). These non-natives are slowly invading our properties. Every year, perennial sow thistle and Canada thistle go to seed in the area adjacent to my property unless I hand pull as much as I can BEFORE it spreads into the neighbourhood. And so, this is the entry of the anthropocentric (human) factor to my garden area.

Digging Into the Dirt

Although my original garden idea was a bust, the native plant pollinator garden has merit. It has merit because I came to the important realization that I had a secret weapon. And it is a natural one.

Beginning in the winter of 2021, with the careful scraping of 68 in. (173 cm) of deep snow off the entire area with a skid steer (we had record snowfalls in this region that winter), the replacement of an old tarp covering the waterline to the house, and the removal of some of the old boards and junk from the previous year’s garden attempts

See **Pollinator Garden**, page 6

Pollinator Garden, from page 5



Recent, thick colonization of common fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) to the site (above and right)

(including a few buried dog bones), I began to see some promise of a future.

So, it was not pretty. But it had promise.

As a result of many years of gardening and native plant research, I have come to realize that native plants are tougher than the hothouse annuals and so-called tough hybridized perennials that have long since been overcome by weeds and native plants at this site.

The answer was right in front of me.

The failed garden plot could not get any uglier than it was—so what did I have to lose?

Thus, a closer examination of the overgrown, weed-filled mess around the well casing began. I realized that I



Drone fly on flower of black oil sunflower that is growing from seed left over from winter bird feeding

had overlooked more than just a few treasures fighting their way to freedom above the tangled mass below. And the fact that these native plants were STILL alive and thriving was a miracle. I had my pollinator garden!

Much to my delight and also hidden amongst the chaotic muddle, were a beautiful group of tall, very healthy prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), one plant of common wild rose (*Rosa woodsia*) that thrives in the moist, fertile soil located there, some wild red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), one saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) shrub starting to come in, a pink or white willowherb (possibly *Epilobium ciliatum*, which I forgot to document while in bloom), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), wild vetch (*Vicia americana*), cream-coloured vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*), several tall lungwort (*Mertensia paniculata*), northern valerian (*Valeriana dioica*), some common pliantain (*Plantago major*), and lower down—hidden amongst the thick grass—are what I think may be long-leaved chickweed (*Stellaria longifolia*), along with a few wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*).

But the true gem of this site is a prolific colony of the beautiful common fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) that has expanded in this environment. These opportunistic native plants are not only edible but contribute to the



natural soils and attract pollinators like few species do! So, in fact, new native plants have managed to come into the site along with the weeds and tall, invasive and highly choking grasses. And much to my chagrin, I had barely noticed this transition.

During my first garden attempt in this space, I had also rescued a nice western mountain-ash (*Sorbus scopulina*) sapling, which I found growing in the nearby forest (adjacent Crown land). This I had dug up and planted at the site. My thoughts at the time were that this would help stabilize the soil and provide shade for the back part of the house. Three years later, it is now a skinny 10-foot tree, which is growing at least a foot per year.

A few years before this, I had discovered what I assumed was a pot plant (this is NOT a joke) growing in the gravelly driveway of the deserted old house trailer on the neighbouring acreage. As a joke, I dug it up and planted it on the other side of the well casing and showed it to close family and friends. Having never seen a pot plant growing, I was surprised to see this transplant develop into a much

See **Pollinator Garden**, page 7

Pollinator Garden, from page 6

larger and bushier shrub called red elderberry. My elderberry will grow, and in a few years it will produce fruit, and I will be able to re-seed it on my location.

And along with this shrub, I still treasure the real goldmine of my garden, which is the spotted Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)! My 77-year-old mother and I dug this marvelous plant out of a riverbank in northern Saskatchewan when she explained it was a beautiful garden species she had seen often as a kid growing up in southern Ontario. We discovered that this plant is rare in Alberta (oops!), and during the late 1990s when we brought it home, the native herbaceous perennial was still an S1 on the Alberta Species and Tracking List. It is now sold by native plant nurseries here in Alberta (see the Native Plant Source List on our website).

Two other plant groups are worth mentioning for the purposes of pollination for this exposé. One is a healthy population of the native stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) that has colonized beside my back porch and painfully attacks me every time I add and remove clothes from my backyard clothesline. Not many pollinators hang out on the nettles, but my Polish neighbours come and hack them off at certain points during the summer to eat as potherbs. I am NOT brave enough to try this, but they claim they are delicious, and every herb book I have read expounds on their great nutritious and healing merits.

The other plant that accidentally appeared one year is the non-native black oil sunflower. I raked the seeds into a pile from beneath the feeders a few springs ago and did not have time to clean them up. They grew into beautiful sunflowers, which the bumblebees (*Bombus* spp.) go simply crazy over! So, I have continued to rake my leftover, expensive black oil sunflower seeds into a big pile and add water every spring. Instant sunflowers! These I transplant to the boundary of my big vegetable garden. The



Natural infilling of (left) common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) mixed with a possible bentgrass species (*Agrostis* sp.) (left), and a young saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) shrub (right)



sunflowers are irresistible to the deer who love to lean over the yellow nylon rope I have tied around the perimeter and devour these INSTEAD of eating the rest of the garden.

Other native beauties I have carefully added to my garden for the ANPC Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge in the summer of 2022 are several giant hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) (after observing a healthy population simply covered with pollinators along an old homestead road back in the forest), along with what I think are Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), which I purchased from Bedford Seeds in the Old Strathcona Market in Edmonton, along with some showy aster (now separated into *Eurybia conspicua*), and a transplant of ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) from a low area in my own forest.

Other than this, the nasty grunt work of carefully pulling out the extremely invasive grasses and weeds has ensued. This necessary task will enable the native plants to continue to take over whilst I beat back the unwanted.

And finally. On to my BIG secret.

And that is simply that the wild plants are attracting dozens and dozens of distinct species of native pollinators, which NO cultivated garden variety can ever host, nor hope to utilize to enable the flowers to thrive and reproduce. I have captured just a few with my camera and spent hours and hours trying to separate the *Bombus* species!



Above: Possible burrowing bee on common fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*)

Below: Possible egleis fritillary on giant hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)



Along with the pollinators (namely bees, butterflies, beetles, mosquitos, spiders), there are also the small mammals (mice, voles, my annoying squirrels) and of course the wild ungulates. Mrs. Moose happily chases

See **Pollinator Garden**, page 8

Pollinator Garden, from page 7



Red-sided garter snakes (above) and wood frogs (below) love the native pollinator garden area



everything out of the yard when she comes in, including the mallard ducks who fly in to feed on the lush lawn grass when it becomes saturated with rainwater after a big storm and to push the wood frogs around.

Eventually, my hope is that my careful introduction of native plants that pollinating insects love, and the insistent digging out of the invasive grasses and weeds, will result in a wonderful garden. In truth, the numerous insects, bird species and other wildlife ALL contribute to the pollination process here.

And the wild bees and butterflies, particularly, are well programmed to



Other visitors include a cow moose (above) who calves out somewhere close by and is quite aggressive about my lush back lawn, red squirrels (right) who make a nuisance of themselves, and black-capped chickadees (below)



feed on certain species at specific times. They go hand-in-hand with each other and help provide a glorious show.

Life in the country can be very frustrating, with a lot of hard work, but few things can beat the rewards that nature gives back to all who enter your native plant pollinator garden. ♦



My home in the country

Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta, 2nd Edition: A Review

Dorothy Fabijan

Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta, second edition

By Gina Fryer, Jane Lancaster, Kimberly Ottenbreit, Christina Metke, Donna Cherniawsky, Amy Griffiths, Kristen Foreman, and Jenalee Mischkolz

Produced by the Alberta Native Plant Council

If success can be measured, the necessity of a second edition of *Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta* is that measure. The second edition includes 470 taxa (species, subspecies or varieties) representing a significant portion of Alberta's vascular plant flora, about 22%. There have been changes of rarity status for some taxa, with the addition of some (*Pinus albicaulis* and *P. flexilis*) and deletion of others (e.g., *Populus angustifolia*). Some rare taxa with only a mention in the first edition are given full treatment in the second (e.g., *Elodea canadensis*). Scientific studies over the past 21 years have recognized new species such as the nine newly recognized species of *Crataegus*).

Each treatment includes common, scientific and plant family names with synonymy. The text gives a detailed description, in non-technical language, of the plant, leaves, reproductive structures, habitat preferences and notes, as in the first edition. Updated Alberta distribution maps are included along with a colour-coded North American map of rarity status. The slightly enlarged format of this edition improves readability, making room for many new photographs and line drawings. Professionals and amateurs alike will appreciate this updated edition of *Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta* for its utility and readability.

Advancements made as a result of *The Flora of North America* project certainly necessitated updating taxonomy at all ranks. It is therefore also nice to see the

taxa in this edition organized systematically along family lines rather than growth form.

Unfortunately, there is no list of taxa dropped or added, or a summary of rarity status as in the first edition. What necessitated the changes? Have more populations been discovered? Have some species been extirpated? Which taxa or populations are in decline or increasing? Are we achieving the goal of protecting or conserving our natural environment?

Awareness of rarity in the scientific, professional and amateur communities resulted in more occurrence data submitted to the Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS). Without a doubt, the first edition helped to improve our knowledge of Alberta's rare native plant species. Let's all continue to observe and report occurrences knowing that our contributions are adding to the understanding of the flora of Alberta. ♦



ALBERTA
Native Plant
COUNCIL

THE RARE VASCULAR PLANTS OF ALBERTA

SECOND EDITION



GINA FRYER, JANE LANCASTER, KIMBERLY OTTENBREIT,
CHRISTINA METKE, DONNA CHERNIAWSKY, AMY GRIFFITHS,
KRISTEN FOREMAN, AND JENALEE MISCHKOLZ

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

News and Events

2023 Botany Alberta—Getting to Know the Amazing Wildflowers of the Hinton Area and Cardinal Divide

This year Botany Alberta will be a wildflower identification course taught by Ashley Hillman from the University of Alberta on Friday, June 23 through Sunday, June 25, 2023.

The event will start with an introduction Friday evening in Hinton, feature an exploration of wildflowers in the Hinton area on Saturday, and be followed by a field trip to the Cardinal Divide in the Whitehorse Wildland Provincial Park on Sunday.

Registration is \$55, which includes instructor fees and a bus ride from Hinton to the Cardinal Divide (accommodation and food not included).

Limited spaces are available for ANPC members, so register now by emailing treasurer@anpc.ab.ca.

Special thanks to organizers Elisabeth Beaubien and Beth MacCallum and to our supporters the Whisky-jack Club and Rotary Club of Hinton for making this event possible. ♦

8th Annual Kainai Ecosystem Protection Agency Summit

Date: June 19-21, 2023
Location: Stand Off, AB

The Kainai Ecosystem Protection Association will be hosting three days of events where guests will be invited to learn on the land from Elders, to learn about their various conservation efforts and new partnerships, and to witness the reclaiming of a mountain in their traditional lands in Waterton National Park.

More information provided on the [registration page](#). ♦

Traditional Plant Walks

The Métis Nation of Alberta's Environment and Climate Change Department is pleased to offer our Traditional Plant Walks once again.

Embark on a beginner-friendly guided walk with Métis cultural educator Natalie Pepin to learn about traditionally utilized plants. Gain a deeper understanding of the plants around us, their cultural significance, and how they can help us.

Space is limited and offered on a first-come, first-serve basis; we ask that you only register if you know you can attend.

The Traditional Plant Walks are a family-friendly event, and any children under 12 years old who attend do not require registration or tickets to join. Information on dates and locations provided on the [registration page](#). ♦

2023 Prairie Conservation Forum

Date: June 14, 2023
Location: Milk River, AB

This is an opportunity to find out what the PCF has planned for the upcoming year as well as get outside for a tour of the local surrounding area.

Come and join us for a day of great conversation, presentations and opportunities for collaboration. Tour locations for the day include ferruginous hawk nesting poles southeast of Milk River, SOL Beer Solar Farm, Milk River Watershed Council Canada Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program project site, a bat condo project, Lancaster Reclamation Site, and Writing on Stone Provincial Park.

Beverages, snacks and lunch are provided. See the [registration page](#). ♦



2023 ANPC Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge

The Challenge runs from March to November 2023.

Current ANPC members can sign up for the challenge on the ANPC members page. Access the [members page here](#).

New ANPC members can register to join the challenge after completion of the membership form. Join ANPC online or by cheque and mail (pdf form) or (downloadable doc) file.

Participants receive:

- a Toolkit with information on creating and maintaining a native plant pollinator garden
- access to a private Facebook group
- opportunities to share and meet up virtually
- printable signs for display in your garden
- help and advice if needed

Schedule:

March: Registration opens

March to May: Plan and prepare

May Long Weekend: Start planting

First of Each Month: Share your yard

September to November: Collect your seeds/Seed share events/Plant more seeds

Winter Wrap-Up: Stories/Share events posted on social media ♦

Peace River Plant Study Group

Peace River Plant Study Group is back! You can join us at NAIT Centre for Boreal Research, 8102 – 99 Avenue, Peace River, AB (beside Northern Lakes College). Parking is free in front of the building.

Regularly scheduled meetings take place year round on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with indoor meetings during the winter months and outdoor plant walks in the summer months.

Please contact Melanie (mbird@nait.ca) to attend or for more information. ♦