



Native Plant News

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.

Vol. 12, No. 3

Fall 2007



Photo by Chet Neufeld

NPSS members and guests explore the edge of one of the Gem Lakes during the '07 summer field tour in Narrow Hills Provincial Park. Read more on Pages 6 & 7.

Garth bids adieu

By GARTH WRUCK, outgoing NPSS executive director

Five-and-a-half years ago the NPSS board of directors needed to replace their outgoing coordinator and they took a chance on a young guy, fresh out of grad school at the University of Alberta, to become the new coordinator – and eventually the executive director – of the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan.

That guy was me!

Now, after 5 ½ wonderful years I am going to be leaving the NPSS and moving on. My family and I offer the NPSS and the board of the day our deepest gratitude for offering me this job. This position allowed us to move back to Saskatchewan and reside in our hometown with our families, which was a gift that I can't describe in words.

The position of executive director gave me the opportunity to grow professionally unlike any other job in this field could have. I was basically thrown into the deep end, headfirst – it's a good thing it wasn't actually water because I am not a very good swimmer and I would have probably drowned.

What a learning curve! Knowing what a sympetalous corolla looks like or what the species composition of a lacustrine clay soil in the moist mixed grassland would be did me no good when completing budget forecasts, G.S.T rebates and financial returns – and what the heck were "matching in-kind contributions" anyway.

Well I figured it out with the help of wonderfully patient and understanding people and eventually I got good at it.

Continued on Page 2

Contents

Spotlight on Buffalograss	3
Flora of Saskatchewan project update	3
Board Member Profile: Michael Champion	4
Weed-and-feed: From Compost to Salad	5
NPSS summer tour: The Narrow Hills	6-7
NPSS AGM program and registration form	8
NPSS membership renewal	9
President's Message	10

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Native Plant News is a quarterly publication of the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (NPSS) and is one of the benefits of membership. Members are invited to submit articles, news, views, photographs and comment. Views expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the NPSS.

Submission Deadlines:

Winter Issue: November 15

Spring Issue: March 1

Summer Issue: June 1

Fall Issue: September 1

Membership Dues (Year End November 30th)

Individual \$30

Family \$45

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Please contact the NPSS office for information about the lifetime membership installment payment option.

A farewell from Garth Wruck

Continued from Page 1

I've sat at meeting tables and was a representative on advisory councils and committees that with other organizations only after five years would I be asked to sit at those tables. I know a lot of people hate meetings, and so do I when they are not well organized and don't engage the participants, but my personal philosophy was to attend every meeting with the attitude that I cared and I was going to contribute – or even stir the pot now and then to get others thinking and engaged.

For that reason, some folks may be glad to hear I am leaving the field. As part of my own personal vision for the NPSS, being at as many tables as we could was very important to me because I know it is at these tables that an organization's reputation is made and communicated to other groups, partnerships are developed and it's where the NPSS gets to have a voice.

I am proud of the work that this organization has produced during my tenure, such as an array of technical workshops, resource publications and materials, implementation guidelines, numerous presentations, restoration and revegetation consulting and policy advisory to the native seed industry. The NPSS is a top notch organization, which I believe is well placed to continue making a difference in conservation in Saskatchewan as a leader in developing programs and partnerships to further the interest of native plants and their habitats and combating their biggest threat, invasive alien plants. Continue the great work everyone – after thirteen years we are just getting started!

It has been a pleasure getting to know all the great people who are, and have been, NPSS members over my term. I cannot thank all the board members and past executive members enough. You folks were awesome to work with. Not once during my five years did I have any conflict with any board member. You all made my job extremely enjoyable. Thank-you for your support.

One person I would like to thank in particular is current President Michael Champion. Mike you have backed me through everything, encouraged me when things got bad (you and I will never forget Black Friday) and celebrated my accomplishments when things went well. You were there for me the time when I came groveling back to the NPSS to get my job back after one extremely bad decision in a new employment venture.

As most of you know I am extremely passionate about conservation and native plants and their ecosystems, but what most of you don't know is I am a devout Roman Catholic and my faith is my ultimate passion. I am leaving the science field to go and work for the Church, a Church that I love to the depths of my very being. I have been offered a position as director of development at St. Therese Catholic College of Faith and Mission and although I have absolutely no formal training in Catholic theology or Church and biblical history, over the last five-plus years I have learned a lot about managing an organization, fundraising, promotions and marketing, which are all key components of my new job.

My family and I are extremely excited with opportunities and new challenges that come with this position.

All my best to everyone! I will remain an NPSS member and supporter (what's the policy on payments for a life membership again?). I hope to see many of you at an upcoming AGM or an NPSS event where I will finally get to kick back and enjoy!

From one plant geek to a bunch of others, farewell and thank-you! My gratitude and best wishes,
Garth

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Photo by Tara Sample

Buffalograss stolon (*Buchloe dactyloides*).

Spotlight on Buffalograss

By TARA SAMPLE and REBECCA WEST

Stewards of Saskatchewan staff, Nature Saskatchewan

Sometimes even the grass under your feet can be a rare species.

Buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*) has been designated as threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and is now listed under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). This is probably the most rare grass in Saskatchewan. In Canada, buffalograss is at the northernmost tip of its range and has only been found along the Souris River Valley in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In the United States, this grass is found in abundance and is a co-dominant grass of the dry short-grass steppes of the Great Plains.

Buffalograss is a low growing grass that forms colonies or patches by sending out runners or stolons similar to those found on strawberry plants. Early in the season, the curly leaved colonies have a greyish-green colour that dries to a golden-straw colour by mid-August. These straw-coloured patches stand out against the rest of the prairie grasses and can be easily spotted at a distance.

Buffalograss is dioecious, meaning there are separate male and female plants. Male plants have one to three short spikes measuring 1 cm long. When in bloom, the male flowers have bright orange anthers. Female plants have even shorter stemmed clusters of one-flowered spikelets that never grow taller than the leaves. The female flowers develop into tiny spiky and bur-like fruits.

Buffalograss is often confused with blue grama (*Buoteloua gracilis*), another low growing, mat-forming perennial grass. Blue grama has much larger flowering heads that resemble eyebrows or combs. Blue grama also lacks stolons and simply running your hands palms down with fingers spread apart along the ground is a good way to distinguish the two. If it is Buffalograss, your fingers will snag a stolon or two.

Buffalograss prefers shaley-clay soils and dry gumbo flats. This species is shade-intolerant and requires some cattle-trampling and grazing to reduce competition from other mixed grass prairie vegetation. Buffalograss is a drought tolerant, warm season, grass and can be a good food source for livestock. It is reported to be deer resistant. In the U.S., where it is more common, buffalograss has become a popular native grass for golf courses and lawns as it needs very little maintenance.

The major threat to populations of buffalograss in Canada is the destruction of its habitat for agricultural use, roads, dams, clay pit-mining and coal strip-mining. Fire-suppression might also be a limiting factor.

Nature Saskatchewan's Rare Plant Rescue (RPR) program is looking to increase awareness about plant species at risk, such as buffalograss, as well as monitor populations and conserve habitat. If you think you have found buffalograss please call our toll free line at: 1-800-667-4668 (Saskatchewan only). Your reports are used to help determine the abundance and distribution of rare plants throughout Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's Flora Needs Your Help

By GLEN LEE, *Flora of Saskatchewan project*

For those of you who are unaware, the Flora of Saskatchewan Association Inc. (FOSA) is an initiative by local botanists whose goal is to publish a book of the flora of Saskatchewan entitled *Flora of Saskatchewan*. Ultimately, we hope to make Saskatchewan botany accessible to a wider audience and make the process of studying plants easier and more productive. FOSA was registered as a non-profit organization in 2004, and as a non-profit organization we have a membership and a board of directors.

We are planning to deliver the flora in two forms: one will be the traditional book form, the other in electronic form. The book form will have a layout similar to *Flora of the Yukon Territory*. This layout has a taxonomic key for each genus, followed by species descriptions. There will be three species descriptions per page, and accompanying the text of each description will be a line drawing and a distribution dot map of Saskatchewan. We are planning to also produce the flora in an electronic form using the DELTA database

and INTKEY client software. We would then host a website containing the flora in the DELTA database, interested users could download the INTKEY client software (it's free). The database could then be queried to aid in plant identification – you enter as many characteristics as you know about the plant (e.g. leaf shape, flower colour, etc.), and the database will return a list of plants matching the characteristics entered in your query.

The project has received enough funding thus far to produce one section – “Ferns and Fern Allies (Pteridophytes).” The next section to be tackled will be “Lily, Orchid, and Iris families.” Work will begin on the section this fall. Work will also begin this fall to compile a list of species characteristics for the DELTA database.

The Flora of Saskatchewan project is in need of members and volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me via email: glenl@sasktel.net. Also, consider purchasing a membership (\$10 for 1 year) to support the project. Membership forms can be downloaded from the “How You Can Help Link” on our website: <http://www.parc.ca/saskflora/index.html>.

Board Member Profile

Your NPSS president, Michael Champion, is a Professional Agrologist, PAg, with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). He works out of the DUC's Regina office.



He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with a focus on Rangeland Ecology, from the University of Saskatchewan in 2000. Through work, he focuses on the conversion of annual crop land back to native grasses and forbes, a job that is both tiring and rewarding.

The area of the province where he works the most is the Missouri Coteau, which is essentially a set of hills that winds south east from Lake Diefenbaker, down through Mortlach and Avonlea towards Radville and Lake Alma.

When not re-grassing the landscape, he works with ranchers developing watering systems and grazing plans for their livestock. Putting his formal training to use working with ranchers is the most enjoyable part of his job. Michael is also responsible for the noxious weed control that DUC undertakes on the lands they own and he often helps producers who have questions regarding weed management in perennial grass stands.

Michael has served on the NPSS board of directors since 2002 and has been president of the board since 2004. He enjoys working with the NPSS and its board members to further the issues of conservation that effect our native prairie.

Membership fees are due

Well, it's that time of the year again. For those of you paying by the year, your NPSS membership fee is due (see renewal on Page 9).

We had hoped to have an online membership sign-up/renewal option on our website but, due to delays in launching our updated website, that will have to wait until 2008. When it is up and running members will have the option of paying their membership dues online using their credit card through a secure connection.

Until then, we'll just have to rely on good old fashioned snail mail. Thank-you to all who supported the NPSS in 2007 with their membership dues and donation of time and money!

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PlantWatch blooming

By DEANNA TROWSDALE-MUTAFOV
Saskatchewan PlantWatch Coordinator

It was a great plantwatching season!

Saskatchewan PlantWatch received blooming data sheets from 19 members over the course of the summer and fall. These members sent in over 165 blooming records, which have now been entered on the National PlantWatch website. These results will help scientists to understand how climate change is affecting plant life from year to year. So, a big thank you to the members who watched the flowers bloom and submitted their data!

A prize draw was made on Oct. 1 for those members who submitted blooming results this year. Congratulations go out to our top three winners – Blaine Hjertaas, who received three native plant prints courtesy of NPSS; Bruce Farrer, who received a copy of *The Great Sand Hills – a Prairie Oasis*; and Honor Kever, who received a Nature Saskatchewan T-shirt and water bottle!

Saskatchewan PlantWatch was successful this fall in receiving funding from the Government of Saskatchewan's Green Initiative Fund. We will use the funds to modify and present an updated version of a Saskatchewan PlantWatch/Climate Change PowerPoint presentation to be given to Guide/Scouts groups and to classrooms of students in Grades 6-8. Looks like a good year ahead.

If you would like to become a volunteer member of the PlantWatch program, please contact the Nature Saskatchewan office at 1-800-667-4668 or e-mail deanna.mutafov@accesscomm.ca.

Also, be sure to check out the websites www.plantwatch.ca or www.naturesask.ca (under "Education and Monitoring").

A Message from the Interim Executive Director Chet Neufeld

Many of you will remember my profile from the Spring 2007 issue of *Native Plant News*. At that time, I was a project consultant for the NPSS, working on projects such as revegetation guidelines for roadsides, rare plant workshops, and helping to administer the Invasive Alien Species in the Community funding project.

With the departure of Garth Wruck as the executive director, I will serve as interim executive director until the end of my contract in April – and hopefully as the permanent executive director if my contract is renewed by the board at that time.

I will work hard for our membership and deliver the programs on schedule as promised to our funding partners. Please don't hesitate to call me for anything the NPSS may be able to help with – our contact information has not changed and I am available Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Under Garth, the NPSS has grown from a small organization delivering just a few projects per year into a provincial authority responsible for nearly a dozen projects and that sits on many committees. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Garth for his five years of dedicated service and offer best wishes on behalf of myself and the board of directors.



Pull that weed and toss it in a salad

By DR. ROB WRIGHT

Sask. Parks Service plant ecologist and NPSS board member

Ah, it's true, weeds are the bane of gardeners. However, there are a few weeds that are good – to eat that is! So if you want to weed *and* feed at the same time, here is a suggestion for a fine summer salad that uses some vexing weeds for more than compost. Just be sure to pick them from a location that you know is pesticide-free, such as your own backyard.

Below are three weed species you can use in your summer salad, including how to harvest them:

Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) – Pull the whole plant and clip off the bottom centimeter or two of stem, with the root system, and discard; use the remaining stems, leaves, and flowers as salad material (Note: a bit tedious to harvest and wash but definitely the best salad weed going in terms of flavour – fresh and mild – and summer-long availability); (PFP). *Identification* – A sprawling, tender herb with distinctly pubescent leaves and stems and small, white, five-petaled flowers that are deeply divided.

Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*) – Harvest the whole plant, strip off and save the leaves and discard the stem and roots. Leaves add thickness and body to the salad and a denser flavour. Lamb's-quarters are available all summer long; (PFP). *Identification* – Nondescript green flower clusters comprised of small green flowers at stem tip and sometimes from axials of leaves. The leaves are somewhat diamond-shaped and scurfy underneath; can be very short (under 10 cm) or tall (over 50 cm).

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) – Harvest the whole plant and break stem and leaves into bite-sized bits. Leaves have a tangy taste and a slightly mucilaginous texture upon chewing that gives body to the salad. Also available throughout summer; (BF). *Identification* – Purslane is fleshy plant with succulent leaves and very thick reddish stems. Leaves are untoothed and wider toward the leaf tip. Flowers are five-petaled, yellow, and borne in leaf axials; stems are very prostrate (lying low and parallel to the ground) and plant is usually under 10 cm in height and often crawls along at only 1 to 3 cm above the ground.

To make the salad, wash all ingredients. Chickweed should make up two-thirds of the bulk of the salad. The other third should be evenly split between lamb's-quarters and purslane. It is possible to make the salad from chickweed alone, but the other species add variety. Do not eat a salad made from only lamb's-quarters as this plant, in high quantity, tends to disagree with many people.

Once the salad is tossed, all you need is a simple and tasty



Photo by John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University

Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

vinaigrette. To make it, place twenty fresh raspberries – or one level tablespoon of raspberry jam – in a small bowl. Add one tablespoon of balsamic vinegar and one tablespoon of red wine vinegar to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of olive oil in a bowl. To that add $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt, and if using fresh raspberries $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of brown sugar. Mix until a smooth suspension is achieved. Pour over salad and toss. Eat immediately.

Bon Appetit!

Note: this salad will not keep once the vinaigrette has been added because the oil in the dressing will very quickly saturate the chickweed leaves causing them to take on an unattractive dark green and wilted appearance.

The plant identification books referred to in the text are:

PFP – *Plants of the Western Boreal Forest and Aspen Parkland*; Johnson, Kershaw, McKinnon, and Pojar; 1995 (a wonderful book for botanical lore, plant use, and plant identification).

BF – *Budd's Flora*; Looman and Best; 1979 (an expansion of *Budd and Best's Wild plants of the Canadian Prairies*).



Photo by John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University

Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*).

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Native plants love the Narrow Hills . . .

By DR. ROB WRIGHT

Sask. Parks Service plant ecologist and NPSS board member

If you're looking for a gem in Saskatchewan's northern Boreal forest, look no further than Narrow Hills Provincial Park.

The biodiversity of flora and the variety of habitat (from forest to bog to prairie) made the Narrow Hills a perfect setting for the NPSS summer '07 field tour in July.

Eleven participants accompanied myself and Deb Eisenhut (naturalist and interpreter) on the first afternoon of our field tour. We both work for the Parks Service of Saskatchewan Environment and organized and led this year's event.

We started with a drive out towards the Narrow Hills Esker. Deb explained that it's not really an esker but rather a large push moraine built by a brief resurgence of the glacier during recession of the continental ice sheet about 10,000 years ago. Nonetheless, everyone calls it the esker.

Our first stop was a tamarack-black spruce peatland just south of the Narrow Hills Trail (that leads to the esker). Here we found an

array of typical poor fen and bog plants – cotton grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*, also called *polystanchion*), round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), bog cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), bog birch (*Betula glandulosa*), bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*), and bog-laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*). Particularly striking were the large numbers of lady's tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*). The presence of tamarack indicated that the wetland was influenced by mineral-rich groundwater and was not a true ombrotrophic bog.

Climbing back into the vehicles, we ascended a steep slope onto the summit

of the esker and wound our way south, getting great views westward over the forested panorama of the park.

Our next jaunt was a bit more rigorous, with a bushwhack through some very tall and old white spruce (*Picea glauca*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) mixedwood. We followed game paths or just made our way through the understorey towards the base of the east side of the esker, adjacent to the west side of Crabtree Lake.

Club mosses were common and we saw three species – stiff club-moss (*Lycopodium annotinum*), ground cedar (*Diphasiastrum* or *Lycopodium complanatum*), and ground pine (*Lycopodium dendroideum* or *obscurum*).

We also saw lots of orchids at the base of the esker slope, includ-



Photo by David Freeman

Indian-pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*).

ing: lesser rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera repens*), spotted coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata*) and blunt-leaved orchid (*Platanthera obtusata*). Deb and I had also seen yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) and northern twayblade (*Listeria borealis*) the day before, but we didn't see them on the tour.

The forest is rich and moist near the lake, very shady with small pools appearing here and there. Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) and one-flowered wintergreen (*Monesis uniflora*) were common and very photogenic.

One splendid little pool was over two meters wide and perhaps half a meter deep and appeared to be spring fed. We eventually ended up at a small trapper's cabin tucked into the big shady spruces near the lake. Several horsetail species, including common horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), woodland horsetail (*E. sylvaticum*) and the tiny dwarf scouring-rush (*E. scirpoides*) populated the lush and mossy understorey of the big spruces.

The walk out was easier, following the trapper's working trail, and we saw several specimens of columbine (*Aquilegia* sp.) in the fruiting stage on the way out. Back on the top of the esker we stopped for a few blueberries and then clambered back into the transport.

A brief stop at the small prairie openings at Grace and Mackie Lakes gave us a chance to appreciate the terrific views across the carpet of park forest running west to the horizon, ac-

cented by the lovely tarn-like lakes nestled up against the base of the esker. The porcupine grass (*Stipa spartea*) and lilac-flowered beardtongue (*Penstemon*



Photo by David Freeman

Cotton grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*, also called *polystanchion*).



Photo by David Freeman

Bishop's cap (*Mitella nuda*).

... And so do we!

gracilis) gave us pause to wonder just how the prairie plants of these island grasslands got there in the first place.

We ended the day back at the group camping site on Lower Fishing Lake. Some returned to their own camping sites, while others went swimming in the clear waters of the nearby lake, and we all agreed to meet the next morning.

On Saturday morning we drove north on the Hanson Lake Road (Hwy #106) and then west on Highway #913 to the Gem Lakes.

Deb explained that these beautiful little lakes were formed as kettles – large masses of ice buried in the moraine gradually melted and the deep depressions left by the melting of the ice filled with water and became the Gem Lakes.



Photo by Chet Neufeld
Northern green bog-orchid

We began by climbing the high ridge to the north of Jade Lake. The view was absolutely superb. These lakes have a high content of dissolved calcium, derived from groundwater percolating through the surrounding till and flowing, via springs, into the lakes. The waters are very clear and deep (up to 80 feet deep!) and take on colours ranging from jade green, through sky blue, to turquoise blue. Their appearance is very reminiscent of alpine lakes in the Rockies.

We walked along the shores of the small lakes in a meandering loop. The shores of these lakes are calcareous (calcium-rich) and the plant community reflects this fact. Kalm's lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*) was common, along with sporadic occurrences of mealy primrose (*Primula incana*). Greater bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris* or *macrorhiza*) was in flower, with its unexpectedly pretty yellow blossoms held gracefully above the water's surface on leafless peduncles. Mint (*Mentha arvensis*), several rush (*Juncus spp.*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and several reed-grass (*Calamagrotis*) and manna grass (*Glyceria*) species were in evidence.

The very dry plant community of the adjacent pine forests, with blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*), dry-ground cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*), and lichens (mostly *Cladonia* and *Cladonia* species) was a stark contrast to the moist diversity of the shoreline marshes.

The best of the plants located that morning was the discovery by Tara Sample of least moonwort or grape-fern (*Botrychium simplex*) in the shrubby riparian fringe of Diamond Lake.

The morning walk ended at the trailhead at Jade Lake. We ate lunch, several people went swimming or fishing in the crystal clear waters of the lake, and then we said our goodbyes.

The diversity of viewscapes, forests, and plant species will live on in our memories of this fine tour of boreal Saskatchewan. Our thanks go out to the Park staff for accommodating our campers and to Deb for helping in organizing and leading the tour. If you get a chance to visit Narrow Hills Provincial Park, snap it up. The magical little lakes and lovely boreal forests of this park gem will not disappoint.



Photo courtesy of Chet Neufeld

NPSS summer field tour participants in front of the trapper's cabin at Crabtree Lake, Narrow Hills Provincial Park. Tour leaders were Rob Wright (second from right) and Deb Eisenhut (third from right, seated in foreground).



Photos by David Freeman

Bog cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*) and bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*).



Photo by David Freeman

Round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*).



The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Inc.

is pleased to present its 13th Annual General Meeting and Conference

March 7-8, 2008
University of Regina, University Club
215 College West Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Friday, March 7th

7:00 p.m. Keynote Address: "Invasives as Threats to Plant Species at Risk in Saskatchewan", Dr. Darcy Henderson, Environment Canada

8:00 p.m. Wine and Cheese Reception
Slide Show (open to all, bring your slides)

9:00 p.m. Resolution Meeting (if needed)

Saturday, March 8th

7:30-8:30 a.m. Registration & Breakfast

8:00 -9:45 a.m. Opening Remarks and Annual General Meeting (during breakfast)

9:45-10:00 a.m. Coffee break

10:00 a.m. Panel Discussion: "Impacts of Climate Change: Changes in Weather, Water Supplies and Plant Communities" (Dr. Michael Schellenberg, Semi-arid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre; Dr. Dave Sauchyn and Dr. Norman Henderson, Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative)

12:00 p.m. Lunch and Closing Remarks

Keynote Address: "Invasives as Threats to Plant Species at Risk in Saskatchewan" *The causes for plant rarity in Saskatchewan include natural limitations, artificial boundaries, detectability problems, and anthropogenic threats. Invasive plant species form part of the latter, and may be the final 'nail in the coffin' for some plant species at risk. Dr. Darcy Henderson, a grassland ecologist at Environment Canada, and current chair of the Plant Species at Risk Recovery Team in the Prairie Provinces, will review the causes for plant rarity, the plant species at risk in Saskatchewan, and case studies of invasive species that are now, or could be in the future, significant threats to the conservation and recovery of plant species at risk. Dr. Henderson will also discuss some ideas about how we can apply the National Invasive Alien Species strategy in these cases.*

Panel Discussion: "Impacts of Climate Change: Changes in Weather, Water Supplies and Plant Communities" *What will a change in climate mean to Saskatchewan? Panel members will present research on climatic variability in Saskatchewan and consequences for precipitation patterns, water supplies and plant communities. In order to address questions on the impacts of changes in climate, scientists are collaborating across disciplines. Panel members will address emerging questions such as: Will plant species currently considered native to Saskatchewan be able to adapt to changes in temperature and water availability? Will we be required to introduce plant species that perform better under new climate conditions? What implications will this have for conservation efforts, resource management, agriculture and forestry?*

What is the NPSS?

The NPSS is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 with a mission to increase awareness about native plants by facilitating education, communication, and research. By doing so we hope to increase interest in native plants, their sustainable use, and conservation of their habitats.

Registration Form

Registration deadline is Feb. 15, 2008.

Mail or fax this form & mail payment by cheque to:
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The 13th Annual NPSS AGM is quickly approaching. It is being held this year March 7-8 at the University Club, University of Regina, Regina, Sask. The board decided to have a different format for the AGM this year. There will be a keynote address and reception on Friday night open to the public and the AGM will be held during breakfast on Saturday morning followed by a panel discussion and lunch. Saturday events will require registration. If you only wish to attend the annual general meeting portion of the weekend without breakfast, there is no charge. We hope to see all of you there, and are interested to know your feelings on this new format and reduced cost to members.

As a reminder, the board decided at a meeting in spring 2006, that resolutions that are sensitive and pertaining to complex issues, including any directive not strictly that of the NPSS or pertaining to its activities, must be submitted in writing to the NPSS Board of Directors a minimum of two weeks prior to the AGM. The resolution must include adequate background information for Board review and a clear indication of why the proposed resolution should come from the NPSS.



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President's Message

By MICHAEL CHAMPION, NPSS president

Greetings NPSS members, I hope that you have all had a good summer, enjoyed the last days of fall and are now set to work through a Saskatchewan winter. There have been two significant changes to the Society in the past two months and they are the resignation of Garth Wruck as executive director and the subsequent hiring of Chet Neufeld as interim executive director. Garth has taken a position in the town of Bruno with a Catholic College and we wish him and his family the best as they begin this new job. I have spoken with Garth and he sounds very excited and happy to be starting with the college. He will be missed as will his hard work and dedication to the Society.

His replacement is no stranger to the Society. Chet has worked with Garth for the past year working on almost every project that the Society was delivering. Chet also had board experience before starting as a consultant with the Society. We wish Chet the best as he starts his new position with the Society and I have every confidence that he will do us proud.

With Chet taking over the executive director's position, Candace Neufeld has stepped down from the board of directors due to potential conflict of interest. We know that Candace will still be around to help out with the board and help out on field tours in the future. We wish her the best and thank her for her time spent directing the Society to where it is today.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March in Regina at which time Sarah James and Margaret Put will be seeking the membership's approval for election to the board of directors. They are looking to replace a vacant board position and Candace's position on the board. As always, if you are interested in serving on the board of directors please forward your name to any member of the current board of directors.

The future of the Society has never looked so bright. I welcome any of our members to contact myself or Chet at your leisure if you have any suggestions about what the Society could be doing, or if you have any questions. I wish you all the best and I will see you in 2008

Native Plant News has a new editor

The *Native Plant News* has been running for a few months without an editor, which has been very difficult to say the least. However, we are happy to announce that we have managed to find someone up to the task.

David Freeman is our new editor. He is a journalist and has experience in publishing, including a job as a copy editor and page paginator for the *Regina Leader Post*. He is really keen and has a lot of great ideas for the *Native Plant News*. Watch future editions for an updated format and engaging articles.

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