



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Native Plant News

Vol. 15, No. 2

Summer 2010

Cypress Hills deliver



PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

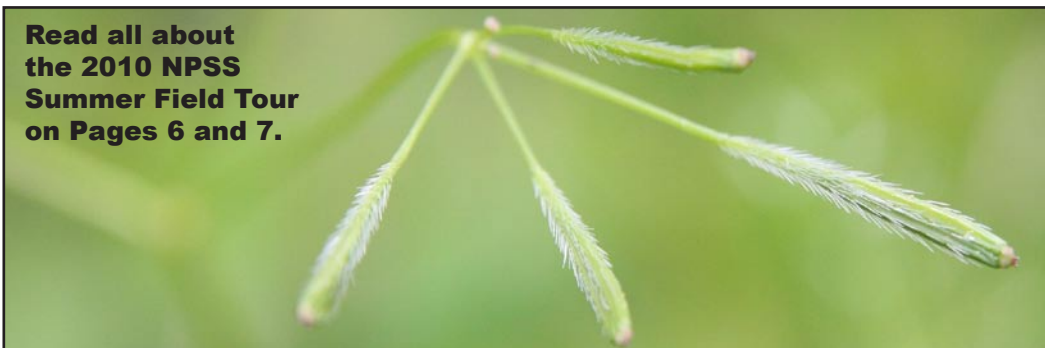
Low larkspur (*Delphinium bicolor*).



PHOTOS BY DAVID FREEMAN

(Above) Three-flowered avens (*Geum triflorum*) in bloom and in seed. (Below) A close up of sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza* spp.) in fruit.

Read all about
the 2010 NPSS
Summer Field Tour
on Pages 6 and 7.



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Facebook, come
be our friend

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native seed with
Nora Stewart

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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 comments. Views expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the NPSS.

Deadlines:

	Submission	Publication
Winter Issue:	November 1	December 15
Spring Issue:	February 1	March 15
Summer Issue:	May 1	June 15
Fall Issue:	August 1	September 15

Membership Dues (Year End November 30th)

Individual \$30

Family \$45

Student/Low Income \$15

Corporate \$200

Life \$500

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

Native seed industry market assessment



PHOTO BY SHERI HAGWOOD, USDA-NRCS PLANTS DATABASE

Western wheat-grass (*Pascopyrum smithii*)

It's not too late to participate!

Do you buy, sell or are you in some other way involved with native plants and/or seeds? If so, then the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan encourages you to participate in our survey to evaluate the native plant industry.

This project, funded by the Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program (Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan) is designed to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the native plant industry in order to set long-term goals. The assessment will build on the initial assessment conducted by the NPSS 10 years ago, and will provide some insight into trends in the market.

We have posted the surveys on our website, www.npss.sk.ca, and can also mail or email them out to anyone who hasn't already received them.

Everyone who completes the short survey will be entered for a chance to win \$200 cash! So get involved – your odds of winning are good and your help will make a difference.

We need all surveys in by the end of September so that we can begin to generate a report based on the results. If you have any questions, please call Chet Neufeld at 306-668-3940 or send an email to info@npss.sk.ca. *

NPSS gets a *Face* lift

As part of our continuing commitment to get people involved with the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, we have launched a Facebook page!

Now anyone with a Facebook account will be able to look at our page. If you're on Facebook, visit our page and connect



with other native plant enthusiasts, start discussions, look at, comment on or post photos – the possibilities are endless.

Just like our website, we'll be continually updating our Facebook page with fresh content. If you like what you see, share it with others and be sure to make us a friend.

To visit our Facebook page type "Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan" in the search bar once you've logged into Facebook. *

Advertise in the *Native Plant News*



Contact the NPSS for rates at info@npss.sk.ca or visit www.npss.sk.ca to view our rate card.

Grow your business, plant the seeds of success here.

Learn how to collect native seed from Nora

Join the NPSS on Saturday, Sept. 11, from noon until 3 p.m. for a native seed collecting workshop.

Nora Stewart, NPSS member, retired native seed producer and author of *Cultivating Our Roots: Growing Authentic Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses*, has generously offered to tour us through the land around her farm near Arcola, Sask.

Nora and her husband Don ran a native seed growing operation on their farm for more than a decade and grew 64 species of wildflowers and 22 species of native grass on five acres. She will talk about what to look for, when to look for it, how to harvest it when it's ripe and what to do to help it germinate.

Nora is a veritable fountain of knowledge when it comes to collecting and growing native seed, so if you're interested in doing it at home there will be no better opportunity to learn from a pro.

All NPSS members are invited and the tour is geared for anyone, from the professional to the backyard enthusiast. There is no cost to attend, but please register with Chet Neufeld by calling 306-668-3940 or emailing info@npss.sk.ca so that we can plan accordingly.

Be sure to have lunch before the workshop starts as it is not included.



Nora Stewart

PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

Directions to Don and Nora Stewart's farm:

From Arcola, drive a half mile west on highway 13 to the junction of Range Road 2044 and turn north. Drive north 4.1 miles (6.9 km) on Range Road 2044. At this point you will see a narrow trail to the west starting at a Texas gate and leading to their farm. Turn west onto this trail and drive over the Texas gate, following the trail for approximately a quarter of a mile to their farm. *

We(ed) still need your help

Although good progress has been made in our Regina native seed nursery, we still need your help.

Don't worry if you don't have a green thumb because you'll be intentionally killing plants – weeds!

These weeds are a constant menace in our nursery and without a summer student due to lack of funding, we rely solely on you, our volunteers. Once you've been to one of our work bees and have learned the ropes, you're encouraged to drop by anytime you have a

chance.

In addition to helping out the nursery, you'll meet new people and learn more about native plants. If you'd like to help out, please call either Chet at 306-668-3940 or Jennifer at 306-787-8707 or send us an email at info@npss.sk.ca.

We have a nursery work bee schedule, which was posted in the last issue of the *Native Plant News*, but an updated one is now available on our website at www.npss.sk.ca

Hope to see you out there! *

Upcoming Events

September 2010

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Wednesday, September 22
Royal Saskatchewan Museum
Auditorium
Regina, Sask.

Speaker to be announced.
www.pcap-sk.org

Nature Saskatchewan Fall Meet

September 24 and 25

Friday: 4 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Indian Head, Sask.

The meet will start with a tour of the historic Bell Barn and a social evening. Day two begins with an early morning birding hike and finishes with an all-day exploration of Trevor Herriot's Cherry Lake property. Please note that the meet is a week earlier than previously announced. Because they're trying to make this event affordable for everyone, they'll be car-pooling for the field trip rather than renting buses. Space is limited so reserve your spot early.

<http://www.naturesask.ca>

October 2010

Regina Wildlife Federation Habitat Fundraising Dinner

Saturday, October 30
Regina Wildlife Federation Clubhouse
Regina, Sask.

This annual event raises money for the Habitat Trust Fund and features dinner, auction.

Contact Maureen Horrocks at
maureenh.swf@sasktel.net
www.swf.sk.ca

December 2010

Foraging Into the Future VI: The Business Side of Ranching

December 8 and 9

Credit Union I-Plex

Swift Current, Sask.

Registration is \$80.00

To register, or for a complete agenda, contact the Ministry of Agriculture Office in Swift Current at 306-778-8294 or email trevor.lennox@gov.sk.ca

To submit your native plant related event to our events list, send your information (including date, contact, phone number and location) to info@npss.sk.ca.

Remembering a great botanist

By VERNON L. HARMS
Former U. of S.
Professor of Botany

With the passing of John Howard Hudson, we have lost a dedicated, highly knowledgeable, and prolific floristic botanist. While formally educated, John's extensive botanical knowledge and plant identification expertise were almost entirely self-learned and his many botanical contributions came via his hobby rather than through paid professional work.

John was born on July 27, 1923, to Allan and Dorothy Hudson, and raised on the family farm between Mortlach and Parkbeg, Sask. After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with a master's degree in Chemistry, John worked for many years at the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon as a ceramics engineer.

John had an especially great love and enthusiasm for botany and Saskatchewan plants. This became an overwhelming life-time endeavour. During summers, he made numerous botanizing trips throughout the province. He collected in excess of 5,000 specimens of native and naturalized plants.

John was a selective collector, searching especially for the new, rare and unusual plants ("novelties" he called



them). Besides keen vision, John appeared to have an encyclopedic mind and a photographic memory that seemingly allowing him to 'scroll' through identification keys in his mind while examining plants in the field. John's neat, well collected specimens, were accompanied by hand-scripted labels giving meticulous collecting data. John's plant collections are especially valuable in containing so many meaningful contributions to the known flora of Saskatchewan.

Over the course of more than a half-century John almost annually published botanical articles or notes, reporting

and describing the new, rare or unusual, native and naturalized plants that he had found during preceding field seasons. Literally dozens of newly discovered plant species in the natural flora of Saskatchewan were collected and reported by John and the known ranges of many other species were significantly amplified. A singularly important contribution to our knowledge of Saskatchewan's flora was his *Carex in Saskatchewan*, published in 1977. John Hudson certainly left his mark with his many contributions to our knowledge of the Saskatchewan flora.

But the foregoing hardly begins to adequately describe the impact John made on many botanically interested persons in Saskatchewan. Over the years he identified or verified plant collections for numerous individuals. He accompanied many on field trips, sharing his considerable knowledge. He was our resident Saskatchewan expert on sedges (*Carex* spp.) and was frequently contacted in this capacity.

John Hudson was a highly intelligent and knowledgeable person. Personally, I appreciated him as a colleague and friend, and have fond memories of hours spent working together, both in the herbarium and in the field. During the non-field season, John would spend almost every noon hour, and often evenings and weekends, working with the plant collections in the University of Saskatchewan's W.P. Fraser Herbarium. We had numerous deliberations about various plants. Questions were often passed to him for comment. John was not an overly verbal man but he would deliver his words and comments deliberately and precisely. One can remember well his delightful, though subtle, sense of humour.

Recently John donated his fine plant collections to the W. P. Fraser Herbarium. These excellent collections themselves represent a valuable continuing legacy for him.

John was a special person who contributed much to Saskatchewan floristic botany. As a person, he meant much to many of us, and he will be greatly missed. ✱



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA CARLSON-O'KEEFE

John Hudson leading a nature walk in Prince Albert National Park.

Bring biodiversity to your own . . .

Get a free native plant for your yard

You heard right – we're giving away free native plants and seeds!

Since 2010 is the International Year for Biodiversity, we thought we'd help people create a little biodiversity right here at home, literally. With generous funding from EcoAction, a program of Environment Canada, we have launched Project Backyard Habitat.

We want people to increase the diversity of plants in their yards to provide habitat for bees, birds and other beneficial critters.

Native plants provide excellent sources of food and shelter and they look beautiful too, so whether this is your first try with native plants or you're adding to your collection, contact us and we'll send you a native plant or a packet of native seeds. Please call, write or email me and provide the following:

Name, address, phone number, email address, whether you want a plant or a seed packet and if this is the first time you've used native plants.

Please send your request to Chet Neufeld at info@npss.sk.ca or call 306-668-3940 or mail it to Box 21099, Saskatoon, Sask., S7H 5N9.

The first 500 people requesting plants will get one. All others will get a seed packet.

Plants will be shipped out once the demand warrants a shipment, so it may be a few weeks before you receive your



Gaillardia (*Gaillardia aristata*) after a summer rain storm.

PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

By CHET NEUFELD
NPSS Executive
Director

plant. The species will vary but it will be a beautiful, easy to grow native flower. It is our goal to distribute enough native plants and seeds to create a kilometre of new native habitat.

Why stop at planting just one native plant? There are many knowledgeable native plant and seed sellers out there who would be happy to fill your order for more, and you can find them on our list in the "Info Resources" tab on our website

(www.npss.sk.ca) or by calling the NPSS office at 306-668-3940.

In addition to the giveaway, the NPSS will be hosting workshops on how to create backyard habitat, whether you live in a house or on an acreage or



Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

farm. Details about the workshops will be announced in the near future.

This just in! Project Backyard Habitat is getting a lot of press. It was recently featured in the Regina *Leader-Post* and can be found on Environment Canada's website by going to www.ec.gc.ca then finding the July 22, 2010, news release.✳





PHOTOS BY DAVID FREEMAN



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Tour participants enjoy the fescue grasslands of the Native Prairie Trail. Sparrow's egg lady's slipper (*Cypripedium passerinum*)

Bioblitz in the Hills a blast

By CHET NEUFELD
NPSS Executive Director

Despite the wet, windy weather, 49 people took part in the NPSS's Botany Blitz in the Hills on July 3 in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

As the location is interprovincial in scope, it was decided in conjunction with Adopt-a-Plant Alberta, the Alberta Native Plant Council and the Nature Conservancy of Canada that a series of events should be held on both sides of the border to celebrate our sharing of this unique place.

During the Botany Blitz, we hiked the Native Prairie Trail located on the open butte of the hills and were treated to some of the finest fescue grassland in the province, if not the country. We also hiked the Whispering Pines Trail located near the Loch Leven in the Central Block of the park and experienced an excellent sample of the only lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forest in Saskatchewan.

Highlights included a visit to a patch of sparrow's egg lady's slipper (*Cypripedium passerinum*), a special visit to the site of one of only a handful of mountain lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*) in the province, late-blooming western spring-beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*) and fantastic views of the surrounding landscape.

The Cypress Hills are a place of incredible diversity, scenery and history. There's little doubt that there are few other places in Saskatchewan where you can visit so many different habitats in such a small area. Parts of the Cypress Hills can boast being the only places in southern Saskatchewan that were spared the scouring effects of the glaciers during the last ice age, that created at the time islands in the ice or "nunataks." These parts are now the highest point in Canada between the Rockies and Labrador.



PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

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(Above) Striped coralroot (*Corallorhiza striata*).



PHOTOS BY DAVID FREEMAN

(Left) Lance-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum lanceolatum*).
(Top) Early blue violet (*Viola adunca*).
(Right) Mountain lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*).





PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

**Hikers enjoy the jaw-dropping vista from atop the Cypress Hills along the Native Prairie Trail.
Continued from Page 6**

In fact, some places in the Cypress Hills are at roughly the same elevation as the town site of Banff! It is this unique situation that allows the area to support plant life not found anywhere else in Saskatchewan.

As 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, it was decided to catalogue as many different plant species as we could find during the blitz.

In total, the participants recorded an incredible 220 confirmed species, with a few more that still need verification. The data was sent to park staff for use in their management plan.

Thanks to everyone who helped organize the event, and to all who attended. To see a list of the plants found during the tour, please go to the NPSS website (www.npss.sk.ca). More photos of the trip can be found on our Facebook page by searching for the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan in the search box once you're logged in to your Facebook account.*



PHOTOS BY DAVID FREEMAN

(Top left) One-flowered wintergreen (*Moneses uniflora*). (Top right) Richardson's alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*).



PHOTOS BY DAVID FREEMAN

(Left) Rosy everlasting (*Antennaria rosea*). (Right) A participant uses a hand lens to help identify a tricky fern.



Time to get snapping!

Time is running out. You only have until Sept. 30 to enter your photos in our contest!

This year's grand prize winner will have their photo put on a real Canada Post stamp. The winner will receive a sheet of 20 stamps with their photo on them, along with an enlarged keepsake stamp bearing their photo.

All other winners will get their photo published in an upcoming edition of the *Native Plant News*.

The Categories are:

1. **Flora** (a photo of a whole plant)
2. **Close up** (a photo of any plant part such as a flower, leaf or fruit)
3. **Scenery** (photo of native landscapes)
4. **People and Plants** (photos illustrating relationships between people and Saskatchewan's native plants)

The rules are simple:

1. Entries must be received by Sept. 30, 2010.
2. All photos must be taken in Saskatchewan.
3. There is no limit to the number of entries per person.

However each photo can only be entered in one category.

Only the photographer has the right to submit a photograph.

4. Digital photos must be of high quality (at least 300 dpi, jpeg files are preferred). Printed photos and slides will also be accepted but you must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want them returned.

5. By entering the contest, the contestant grants the NPSS the one time right to publish the photograph(s) and his or her name in an issue of *Native Plant News*.

6. The NPSS Photo Contest is open to members of the society only.

Mail your photo entries to the address on Page 2 of the newsletter or email them to info@npss.sk.ca. *

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.
P.O. Box 21099
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9

TO:

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