



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Native Plant News

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Winter 2009

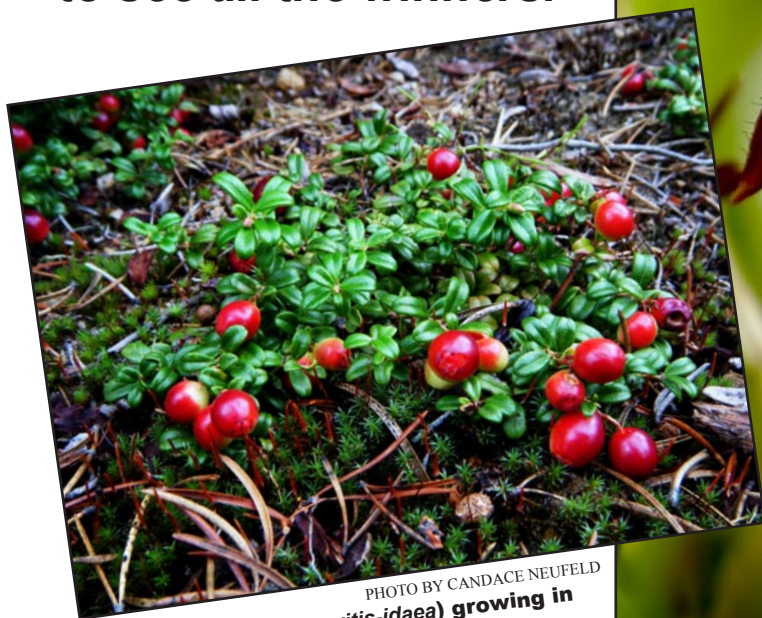
NPSS Photo Contest

Go to Pages 4, 5, 6 and 7
to see all the winners.



A stemless lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) in LaRonge Provincial Park.

PHOTO BY PAULE HJERTAAS



Cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) growing in
Narrow Hills Provincial Park.

PHOTO BY CANDACE NEUFELD

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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.

Board Member Profile

Sarah Vinge works for Nature Saskatchewan and has been Program Coordinator for Rare Plant Rescue since 2008.

Her educational background is in environmental biology, as well as wildlife and fisheries conservation.



Despite being trained mostly in wildlife conservation, Sarah has been fascinated with plants since conducting biodiversity surveys in the boreal forest. The majority of her experience outside of post-secondary education has consisted of working with plants.

Since graduating, she has worked throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan, conducting various types of plant searches and surveys, with experience in the grassland, aspen parkland and boreal ecoregions. She also worked on a publication about landscaping using native prairie plants and is dedicated to furthering this cause by educating others and growing native species in her own yard.

Sarah's personal values have helped to shape her dedication to stewardship and conservation. This spring, the board will be saying good bye to Sarah as she turns her attention back to her educational goals. Although her time with the board has been short, it was not without contribution.

Thank you, Sarah! ❁

Monarch workshop in Regina

The Monarch Teacher Network (MTN) is coming to Regina – for the first time ever – on July 26 and 27, 2010.

The workshop is designed for teachers to learn about the Monarch butterfly's



PHOTO BY DAVID FREEMAN

Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

life stages, its fascinating and long-range journey and also about the importance of pollinators and their food sources. Since the migratory journey of the Monarch butterfly passes through three countries – Canada, the United States and Mexico – Monarchs have become a symbol that connects learning about the past, present and future of North America, its people and the land that sustains us all.

All interested adults, teachers or otherwise, are encouraged to register for the workshop and get up close and personal with the beautiful Monarch butterfly. Visit www.monarchteacher-network-westerncanada.com for more information. The cost is \$95 and space is limited so register early. ❁

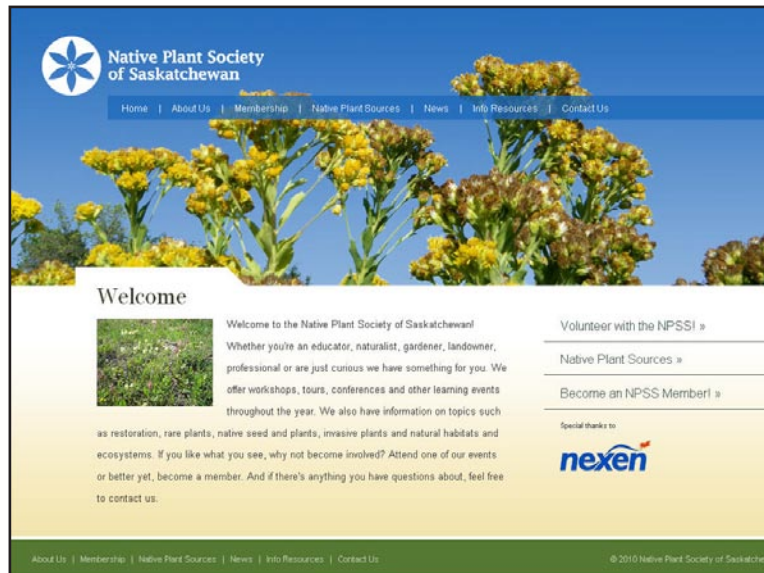
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NPSS website gets long overdue overhaul



*By CHET NEUFELD,
NPSS Executive Director*

The NPSS is pleased to announce the official launch of its new website.

What does our new website have that the old one didn't? In a nutshell, everything! In addition to a fresh, more user-friendly look, our website is filled with more than five times the content of our old website. On every page, a fact and photo related to native plants in Saskatchewan is displayed, so that even those who visit our site for only a short time will come away having learned something.

The "About Us" tab lets visitors know who we are, who we're involved with and what we have achieved.

Our native plant and seed listing service has been modified to provide a more user-friendly interface, both for sellers listing product and for those searching to buy. The new format looks and functions more like an online classified listing service and allows users to update their ads at any time. In addition to the searchable database of native plant and seed sources, there's a brochure of native plant and seed sellers on our "Info Resources" page.

On the "Info Resources" page, we have also posted more downloadable material so that you don't have to wait for it in the mail and you can forward it

to anyone you like. We also have back issues of the *Native Plant News*, just in case you missed an issue.

There are also many links to various topics and we'll be working hard to add more, so check back often!

The "News" page is where all of our official announcements will be posted – like field tours, workshops and our annual general meeting. We will also announce events at which the NPSS will be speaking on this page. If you want to learn more about the projects that we're currently involved with, you can also find these on our "News" page. And finally, anyone searching for, or posting, employment opportunities in biology can click on "Volunteer and Employment Opportunities" section on the "News" page.

The best part about our website is that we have the ability to update the site ourselves at any time, so if you'd like something added, just let me know.

Be sure to visit the new website often as we are constantly updating content. Better yet, make it your homepage! Our address as always is: www.npss.sk.ca.

Also coming soon, our online store will be up and running in about a month. When it's complete, you'll not only be able to purchase NPSS merchandise but you'll also be able to renew your membership and pay for NPSS events with your credit card via a secure line. *

Upcoming Events

March 2010

***Reclamation and Restoration
of Boreal Peatland and
Forest Ecosystems:
Toward a Sustainable Future***

March 25 to 27
Matrix Hotel,
Edmonton, Alta.

This conference brings together the leading research in the boreal terrestrial and wetland ecosystems related to reclamation and restoration.

For more information visit
www.PEATNET.siu.edu.

May 2009

***Alberta Native Plant Council
Workshop and AGM:
Fragments of the Foothills***

May 1

Walking Eagle Inn,

Rocky Mountain House, Alta.

Please join us to discuss, "What is the current state of Alberta's Foothills?"

www.anpc.ab.ca

***Biodiversity in south western
Saskatchewan Ecosystems:
A National Biodiversity Education
Field Workshop***

May 10 to 14

Regina and Cypress Hills
Interprovincial Park, Sask.

Participants will experience biodiversity in Saskatchewan's southwest – at the landscape, species and in some cases, the genetic level – through field study opportunities.

[http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/educate/
updates-network/conferences/
cypress-hills/](http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/educate/updates-network/conferences/cypress-hills/)

June 2009

***"Bison on the Edge" Conference:
"Sturgeon River Plains Bison –
Successes and Challenges"***

June 8 to 10

Big River, Sask.

Learn about Canada's only free-ranging plains bison population on its historic range.

www.bisonstewards.ca/events.html

***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.***

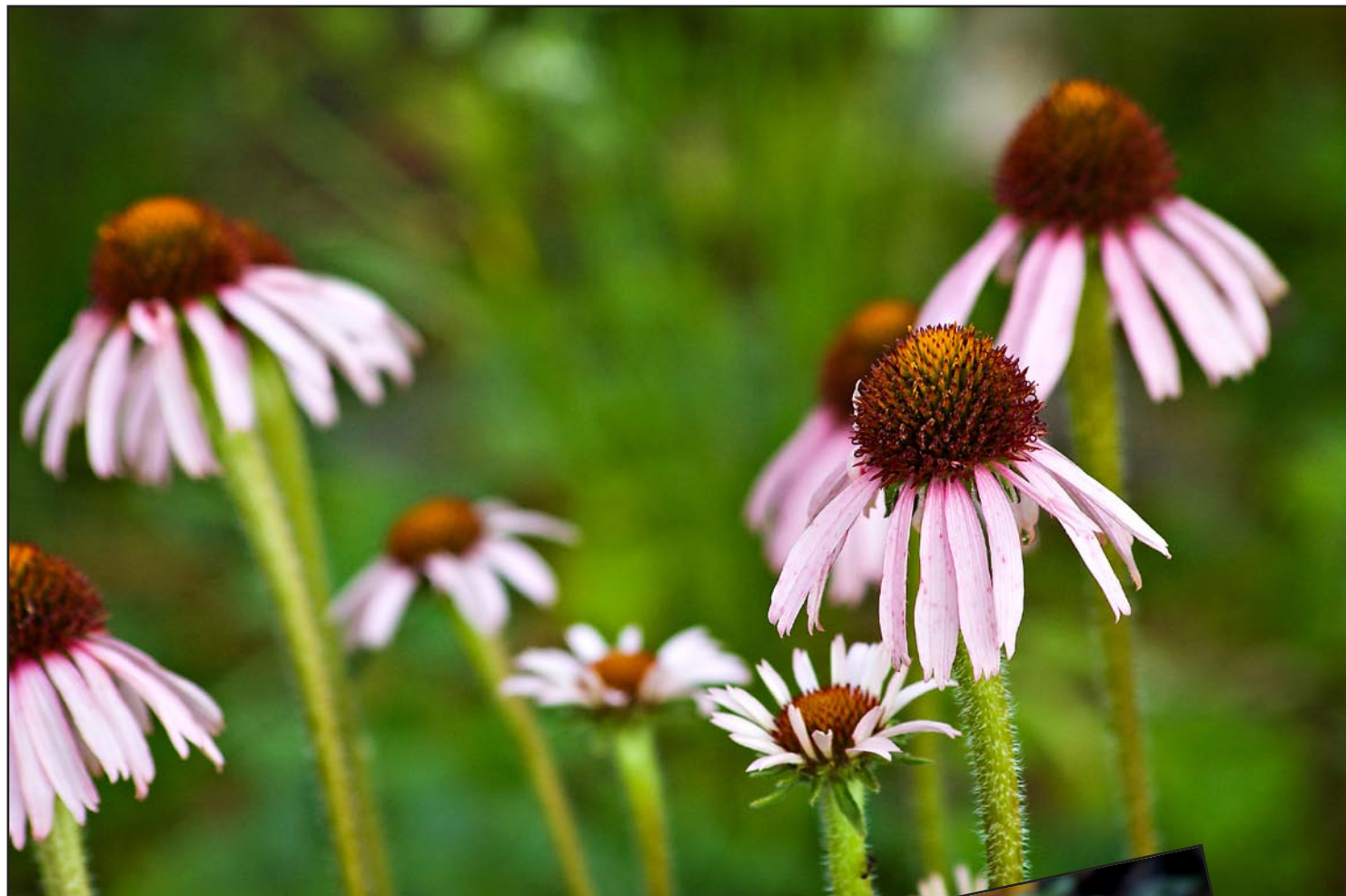


PHOTO BY PAULE HJERTAAS

This family of purple coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*) stand tall in the summer sun.



PHOTO BY SARAH JAMES

This mushroom was a mirror image of itself growing amongst the bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) near Lake Athabasca.

Plants



A stemless lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) near Jan Lake.

PHOTO BY CANDACE NEUFELD



PHOTO BY FAWNE INKSTER

This photo of a crocus (*Anemone patens*) was taken near Watrous, Sask.



A lesser yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*).

PHOTO BY CANDACE NEUFELD

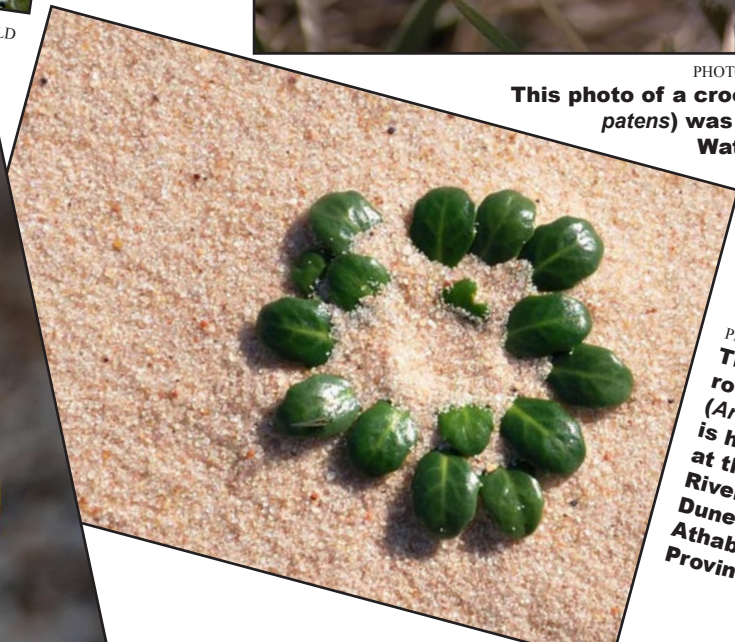


PHOTO BY ROB WRIGHT

This arctic rock-cress (*Arabis arenicola*) is half buried at the William River Sand Dunes in Athabasca Provincial Park.

PHOTO BY CHRISSY SINCLAIR (Right) Lesser yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) taken on the Onion Lake First Nation.



Landscapes



PHOTOS BY ROB WRIGHT

Not that there aren't beautiful landscapes in the southern part of the province, but a trip to the Athabasca Sand Dunes afforded Rob Wright the opportunity to capture on film a variety of amazing images along the dunes and along the shore of Lake Athabasca. (Above) starwort (*Stellaria arenicola*) and floccose tansy (*Tanacetum huronense* var. *floccosum*) cling to the slope of a sand dune. (Left) Iron rich sands along the east side of William River Point along Lake Athabasca contrast the green riparian plant life and the clear blue sky. (Bottom left) The Big Dune among the William River sand dunes stands tall above the rest of the sandy landscape. (Below) Endemic blanket-leaf willow (*Salix silvicola*) growing near the shore of Lake Athabasca is silouetted in the setting northern sun.



Close-ups

PHOTO BY
PAULE HJERTAAS

**(Right) Eyes
wide open: This
lone purple
coneflower
(*Echinacea
angustifolia*)
looks straight up
toward the sky.**



PHOTO BY SARAH JAMES

**(Left) This tiger beetle
burrows into the sand
in the Athabasca Sand
Dunes.**



PHOTO BY PAULE HJERTAAS

**A closeup view of a lesser
yellow lady's slipper
(*Cypripedium parviflorum*).**

PHOTO BY
CANDACE NEUFELD

**(Right) This
moss and
lichen
thrive in the
understorey
of the forest
near Jan Lake.**



President's Message

Greetings and a belated happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members.

As a society we share an appreciation of Saskatchewan's native plants and a common goal to expand our knowledge of them. By coming together and combining our skills in communication, research and education we can achieve this vision by promoting the study and conservation of native



plants and their ecosystems.

This is your society. Every member has the right to contribute his or her time and expertise to further the purpose and objectives of the society. And I encourage everyone to exercise this right by getting involved. Volunteers are needed to help with our many programs and various organizing committees. Articles, photographs and other contributions are always

needed for the society's newsletter. There is much to be done and many hands make light work!

One NPSS initiative that would benefit immensely from more membership involvement is our Regina Plains Nursery. The nursery, which is located within the City of Regina, has been the seed source for many restoration projects throughout the Regina Plains landscape area.

The upkeep of the nursery is a labour intensive undertaking, but without such maintenance, this valuable resource will be lost. This summer will be the first year a summer student **will not** be available to care for the nursery. If you can spare a few hours to weed or otherwise help, please contact Chet or myself.

The examination of roles of native plants in urban settings proved to be a very popular topic at the NPSS's 15th Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Regina in early February. It was one of the best attended AGMs and demonstrates that the desire to connect with nature, even in our backyards and urban spaces is still strong.

And as can be seen by the photographs submitted to our inaugural photo contest, interest in native plants and landscapes continues to inspire. Have a great 2010.

— Tara Sample*

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