

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Native Plant News

Vol. 23, No. 2

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 @NPSS_SK Summer 2018

Prairies and Petroglyphs Tour



PHOTO BY JEREMY SIMES

St. Victor Petroglyphs Provincial Park.

The NPSS will be hosting an upcoming summer field tour to the St. Victor Petroglyphs on Sunday, August 12. Local David Munro from the Friends of the St. Victor Petroglyphs has offered to guide our group. We will explore over 10 acres of native prairie within the park boundaries and on adjacent private land, looking at the many midsummer wildflowers in bloom.

Continued on Page 3

2 Weed Warriors
Wanted

4 Native Prairie
Appreciation
Growing

5 Saskatoon Wild
for NatureCity
Festival

6 New Species
of Cinquefoil
Found

**President:**

Shelly Heidinger 306-634-9771

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Jacquie Bolton 306-778-6464

Directors:

Nadia Mori 306-946-3219

Wade Sumners 306-250-6659

Joanne Marchand 306-960-9313

Cheri Marchuk 306-924-8028

Executive Director:

Chet Neufeld 306-668-3940

NPSS Address:

Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

P.O. Box 21099, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9

Phone: (306) 668-3940 Fax: (306) 668-3940

E-mail: info@npss.sk.ca Website: www.npss.sk.caTwitter: @NPSS_SK www.facebook.com/npss.sk

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:

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 30)

Individual \$30	Non-profit organization \$100
Family \$45	Corporate \$200
Student \$15	Life \$500

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

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Contact the NPSS for more details.

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Weed Warriors Wanted!

Do you want to meet people, have fun, get some fresh air and help the environment?

Why not join us to help pull invasive Flowering Rush (*Butmoum umbellatus*) from a wetland. We will provide the tools - all you have to do is be willing to get your hands dirty. Also, please bring rubber boots or waders if you have them, sunscreen, a hat, plenty of water and a lunch.

The wetland is between Young and Watrous, SK and is the only wetland for hundreds of kilometers with flowering rush, so if we can eradicate it from here we will save much of the province from a potential disaster.

We will meet at the **AC Leslie Road turn-off** at 9 am and you are welcome to stay as long or as little as you like. To get there, drive on highway #2 approximately 10 km NW from Watrous. You will see a small green sign marking the AC Leslie Road turn-off. There will also be one or more cars parked at the turn-off.

We may be able to offer you a ride if you can't drive out yourself.

Please let us know if you will be attending by contacting us at (306) 668-3940 or info@npss.sk.ca

We need to be able to contact you in case of cancellations or changes to our schedule.

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Itinerary

3:00 pm – meet at the St. Victor Interpretive Centre in St. Victor

3:00 – 6:00 – explore the surrounding prairie of the St. Victor petroglyph site

6:00 – 6:30 – picnic supper out at the site (BYO food and drinks)

6:30 – 7:00 – view the petroglyph carvings

7:00 – return home or stay at the site on your own

The prairie around the St. Victor Petroglyphs is beautiful and diverse, and the views from the petroglyph site itself are amazing! The petroglyphs are the largest representation of precontact rock art in Saskatchewan, containing over 300 carvings on a sandstone outcrop. They are also nationally significant as they are one of only a few sites where the carving exist on a horizontal rock face.

Meet at the interpretive centre in St. Victor at 3 pm. Please bring a bag supper as well as beverages as we will eat supper out at the site. Please also dress accordingly (hats, long pants, sturdy footwear) and bring sunscreen and insect repellent. *

Website of the Week

Mosses and liverworts are fascinating little plants that most of us notice (and hopefully appreciate), but few can identify. Even the best botanists I know only recognize a few common species and tend to glaze over when faced with identifying one. To complicate matters, bryophytes can have their own specialized terms to describe them, and sometimes the physical features crucial to identification can be downright microscopic.

Fear not! While trolling the internet one day I came across a rare gem of useful information on mosses and liverworts. It's called the *Field Guide to Mosses and Liverworts of Alberta Peatlands*. This great pdf produced by the NAIT Boreal Research Institute has everything – clear, colour photos for each species (sometimes with inset photos), handy quick reference charts showing habitat types for each species, as well as a detailed description for each species including key features, species description, habitat and common associates. The guide also includes a dichotomous key, references, a glossary and an index.

Although it's for Alberta, much of it applies to Saskatchewan, and no similar resource exists in the province. Best of all, it's free! Download the document here:

<http://www.nait.ca/docs/BRI-Field-Guide-Mosses-Liverworts-Alberta-Peatlands.pdf> *

A Guide to Mosses and Liverworts of Alberta Peatlands



BOREAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Native Prairie Appreciation Week

Growing Each Year

In celebration of Saskatchewan's prairie places, the NPSS offered a series of joint field tours to Nature Conservancy of Canada properties during Native Prairie Appreciation Week.

The field tours began with a trip to Reed Lake on June 16. Reed Lake is a large (4,100 ha) saline wetland in the Missouri Coteau set amongst gently rolling topography. The complex consists of 2,329 acres (942 ha) of lake bottom, permanent and seasonal wetlands, tame forage, and modified native uplands. As the site is a significant area for migratory birds, many different species were seen. Many different native plants were also found, particularly those associated with wetland and saline habitats. The tour was well-attended.

On June 23, the NPSS visited the Dundurn Property. It is located directly adjacent to the large Dundurn military base and consists of a total of 120 acres (48.5 ha) of rolling stabilized sand dunes covered by 53 acres (21.4 ha) of hardwood forest, 13 acres (5.3 ha) of shrubs and wet meadows, and the remaining 54 acres (21.8 ha) is native prairie. Attendance was high, and participants were treated to a diverse native plant community. Over 60 native plant species were spotted,

including sand-specialists like Rocky Mountain Bee Plant (*Cleome serrulata*) and Hairy Umbrella-wort (*Mirabilis hirsuta*). A small group of die hard botanists spent some time in one of the more open dunes looking for national plant species at risk, such as Hairy Prairie-Clover (*Dalea villosa* var. *villosa*) or Smooth Goosefoot (*Chenopodium subglabrum*) but turned up nothing. However, Sand Dune Wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *psammophilus*), a provincially-rare grass (S2), was found. The same group of botanists then spent about 20 minutes on their hands and knees looking for Moonworts (*Botrychium* sp.) in a likely area, but again came up empty-handed.

The final tour of Native Prairie Appreciation Week occurred on June 24 at the Fairy Hill property, just north of Regina on the edge of the beautiful Qu'Appelle Valley. Totalling 1,642 acres (665 hectares), this expanse of native grasslands, woodlands, river and flood plains serve as a home for aquatic and terrestrial species and offer an exciting variety for visitors. Once



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Brittle Prickly Pear (*Opuntia fragilis*) in bloom on the Dundurn Property.



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Participants inspect a vegetated sand dune on the Dundurn Property.

again, the tour was well-attended, and participants were treated to sweeping views as well as beauty at their feet. Wildflowers in bloom included Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*), Three-flowered Avens (*Geum triflorum*), American Vetch (*Vicia americana*), Richardson's Alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*) and many species of milkvetches (*Astragalus* sp.).

Thanks to all who participated in the events, and to those who helped to organize and lead the tours. A special thank-you to our partners Nature Saskatchewan and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. *

Saskatoon Went Wild for NatureCity Festival

Every year the NatureCity Festival invites the whole community to get outdoors and grow a little wild, and this year was no different. Over six action-packed days, residents celebrated and explored Saskatoon's wild spaces through nature-oriented activities such as hikes, bike tours, canoe excursions, garden visits, workshops, lectures, school field trips and more – all to highlight the importance of wilderness in urban areas.

NatureCity Festival 2018 used the Cree concept *âniskopicikêwin* (pronounced an scope chi ke win) meaning, Things are Linked Together – to describe these vital connections.

This year, more than 50 organizations, including the NPSS, hosted events as part of the festival. With a total engagement of 3,000 and high approval-ratings from attendees, the festival touched a larger audience than ever before. Here are some of the other numbers:

- +50 hosts
- +60 events
- +400 volunteers
- +10 local menu items promoting the festival by local restaurants
- +400 students involved in field trips
- +100 students involved in other targeted learning events
- +10 sponsors

The 2018 NatureCity Festival keynote speaker was world renowned conservationist Harvey Locke, who had an urgent message – Nature Needs Half. The Nature Needs Half movement begins with the recognition that nature needs sufficient space to function properly for the benefit of all life on our planet. In most ecosystems, science demonstrates that at least half of the region must be protected to ensure the earth's resilience in the face of environmental change. Harvey gave an impassioned speech, followed by a panel discussion including writer Candace Savage, Cree Elder Joseph Naytowhow, Saskatoon City Counsellor Marin Loewen and Brenda Wallace, Director of Environmental and /Corporate Initiatives with the City of Saskatoon.

For our part, the NPSS lead a botany walk at Cranberry Flats, a conservation area just south of Saskatoon. It was the perfect day and attendance was high, with over 40 participants. We explored the hardy and beautiful plant communities that cling to life on the harsh and ever-changing sand dune landscape that makes up the area. People of all ages got up close and personal with many spring wildflowers such as Early Yellow Locoweed (*Oxytropis sericea*), Smooth Blue Beardtongue (*Penstemon nitidus*), Three-flowered avens



PHOTO BY CANDACE NEUFELD

Smooth Blue Beardtongue brightening up the dunes.



PHOTO BY CANDACE NEUFELD

Botanist-in-training Nate Neufeld stops to inspect Early Yellow Locoweed.

(*Geum triflorum*), Missouri Milkvetch (*Astragalus missouriensis*), Western Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*) and many others, including sand-specialists. Shrubs in bloom included Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), and Round-leaved Hawthorn (*Crataegus rotundifolia*). The walk ended at a beautiful lookout over the South Saskatchewan River valley and a series of open sand dunes to explore.

We can't wait to see how next year's festival will take shape! For a full final report on the festival, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/wildaboutxye/> 🌱

New Species of Cinquefoil Found in Saskatchewan

By SARAH VINGE-MAZER
Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre

A recently described Cinquefoil, *Potentilla hudsonii* Ertter, is a new addition to Saskatchewan's flora. The author of *Potentilla hudsonii*, Dr. Barbara Ertter (University of California at Berkeley), chose to name the plant after Saskatchewan botanist John Hudson, because of his significant contribution to the study of Saskatchewan flora, including several collections that he had made of this new species.

Potentilla hudsonii Ertter has only recently been minted as a new species in 2018, but has been known to Dr. Ertter for some time. Dr. Ertter was a co-author on the treatment of *Potentilla* for the Flora of North America North of Mexico, and during her work on the treatment she encountered several issues with plants that didn't fit into existing species descriptions. This led to some field work and study of plants found on the Canadian prairies and in Montana. Dr. Ertter hoped to study the plants in their habitat and arranged to revisit several Saskatchewan sites from which specimens had been collected previously. After two days of searching and failing to find the plants of interest in several of the historic locations, she and her crew were finally rewarded with finding a small patch of plants, thanks to some intuition, sleuthing, and help from a local landowner. This collection was added to the evidence supporting the description of a new species.



Close-up of the flowers of *Potentilla hudsonii*.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. BARBARA ERTTER

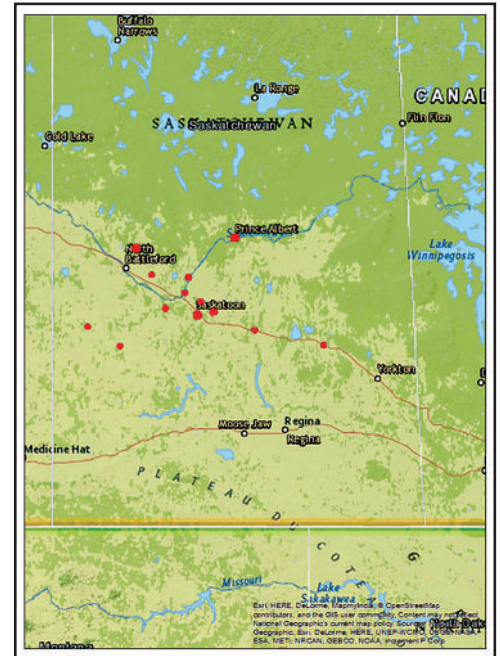


PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. BARBARA ERTTER

Figure 1 – Historical Saskatchewan distribution of *Potentilla hudsonii* Ertter.

This species is found in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Montana, in open spots in grasslands, generally in thin or sandy soils. It inhabits heavily grazed sites, gravelly slopes and roadsides as well. Dr. Ertter noted that the historical sites in which they did not locate the plants were losing diversity, lacking grazing and heavily invaded by Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*), and it may be that this plant has disappeared from many historical sites in Saskatchewan, making it potentially more rare than historical data would suggest. The map of historical sites is found in Figure 1. The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre has given it a conservation status of S2.

Photos and a full morphological description of the species can be found in Ertter, B. 2018. Two new North American *Potentilla* sect. *Rubricaulis* (Rosaceae). *Phytoneuron* 2018-2: 1-14.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

For all the knowledge already collected by Saskatchewan's botanists, and for which those who currently study it are grateful, our province still holds some secrets for us to discover. ✱



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. BARBARA ERTTER

Habitat in Saskatchewan where *Potentilla hudsonii* was located in 2015.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. BARBARA ERTTER

Dr. Ertter and travelling companion Lindsay Woodruff pose with Saskatchewan's floral emblem during searches for *Potentilla hudsonii* in 2015.

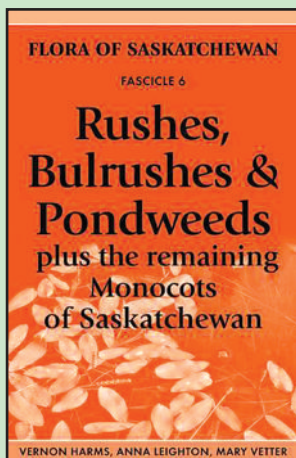


PHOTO PROVIDED BY DR. BARBARA ERTTER

***Potentilla hudsonii* in situ.**

The Flora of Saskatchewan

Association is excited to announce the release of its sixth fascicle "*Rushes, Bulrushes & Pondweeds plus the remaining Monocots of Saskatchewan*"! This publication will be indispensable to anyone who works with vegetation or wetlands. Visit the **Nature Saskatchewan** web store to order your copy.



The *Grasses of Saskatchewan* is also back in stock!

Plans Posted for Dwarf Woolly-heads and Hairy Prairie-clover

The final *Management Plan for the Dwarf Woolly-heads in Canada* was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry on June 20, 2018.

It is now available on the Species at Risk Public Registry here:

http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2857

The final *Management Plan for the Hairy Prairie-clover in Canada* was also posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry on June 20, 2018, and is now also available on the Species at Risk Public Registry here:

http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=3145

While responsibility for recovering wildlife in Canada lies with federal and provincial/territorial governments, all Canadians have a role to play in wildlife conservation. Success in the recovery of this species depends upon the commitment, collaboration and cooperation of many different groups that will be involved in implementing the management actions set out in this recovery document.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact us at 1-855-245-0331 (toll free) or email ec.leprpn-sarapnr.ec@canada.ca. ☘

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