

# Native Plant News

Vol. 20, No. 4

[www.npss.sk.ca](http://www.npss.sk.ca)

Winter 2015

## NPSS Pulls Together Another Successful AGM

On January 30 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina, the NPSS held their annual general meeting and conference. This year's theme was "Pulling Together Against Invasive Species" and featured a range of fascinating speakers with great presentations. It may have seemed odd to some that an organization focused on native plants would choose to have invasive species as a theme for their AGM. However, invasive species are the second biggest threat to our native plants and ecosystems (after human development), and the NPSS has long been a leader in the fight against invasive species in Saskatchewan.

Following breakfast and the business portion of the meeting, Executive Director Chet Neufeld gave an update on the society's projects, with particular emphasis on the two focused on invasive species: the Flowering Rush Eradication project and the Salt Cedar Early Detection and Rapid Response project.

The rest of the morning featured speakers talking about invasive species initiatives in Saskatchewan. Jared Epp spoke about goat grazing to control Caragana (*Caragana arborescens*) in Wascana Park, Regina while Renny Grilz of the Meewasin Valley Authority also focused on invasive plants in urban areas by talking about some of the recent finds of horticultural

plants invading Saskatoon's natural areas, and of the massive effort to control European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*).

During lunch, the Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Rhonda O'Grady for her generosity in letting us reprint two of her children's books, Bobby Bluestem and Cathy Cattail.

Following lunch, Ahdia Hassan gave a great presentation on the province's online database and mapping system, iMapInvasives, and led the audience through a short demonstration. For the rest of the afternoon, participants were treated to insightful presentations from Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba. It was important to highlight what our neighbours are doing, as invasive species know no boundaries and we often share similar

problems that provide us with opportunities to collaborate.

First, Dr. Shauna-Lee Chai from Alberta Innovates talked about her work on predicting which invasive species are likely to move northward and become problematic as a result of climate change. The concept of her research was fascinating and her results stressed the importance of a proactive approach to invasive species management. Following Dr. Chai's talk, Jennie McCaffrey from the Invasive



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

The crowd listens to Jennie McCaffrey talking about community-based social marketing.

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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:**

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

**Submission****Publication****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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Species Council of British Columbia spoke about how her organization uses social marketing and a collaborative approach in order to promote behavioural changes that result in more effective invasive species management. The day wrapped up with a presentation from Fred Paulson on how Manitoba managed Red Bartsia (*Odontites serotina*) following its introduction into their province through an early detection, rapid response strategy, what lessons were learned and what Saskatchewan can do to prevent it from becoming established.



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

**Dr. Shauna-Lee Chai talks about the impacts of climate change on invasive species expansion.**

The threat from invasive species will continue to increase, which will in turn put more pressure on our native plant communities. However, the NPSS will continue to face this threat through our projects and events such as our AGM where we arm others with the knowledge to fight invasive species.

To see more photos of our AGM, visit our Facebook page. Thank you to Dow AgroSciences for sponsoring our event and to the great presenters for taking the time to come and share their knowledge. Thanks also to the NPSS AGM planning committee, the Interlake Weed District for contributing to Fred Paulson's travel expenses, and to the Meewasin Valley Authority for providing the audio equipment. \*

## Advertising In Native Plant News

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# Saskatchewan Botanist Remembered

*Joan Wilson, NPSS Member*

Well known naturalist Jim Jowsey passed away November 17, 2015. After the passing of his wife Shirley in 2014, Jim moved to Aspen Bluffs Care Home in Yorkton, where he passed away after suffering a stroke.



**Jim Jowsey.**

PHOTO BY CHRISTIE'S FUNERAL HOME

I came to know Jim when he retired to his home town of Saltcoats in 1985. Just after the third edition of his co-authored book "Wildflowers Across the Prairies" was published, with my autographed copy in hand, I set out to find as many of the plants as I could. I often talked with Jim and Shirley about the wildflowers I had found.

Jim was a kind and generous man and very giving to our community. There was usually a hint of seriousness and careful consideration in his responses. His colleagues described him as tenacious and persistent in his work. These attributes no doubt contributed to the success of "Wildflowers Across the Prairies". Jim was

the biologist and Shirley documented and catalogued information for the book with work contributed by F.R. Vance, J.S. McLean and Frank Switzer. The book is a tremendous companion to many naturalists. Jim will be remembered for his work and dedication as we go in search of that elusive wildflower. \*

## Weed Seeds Order Open for Comments

Proposed amendments to the Weed Seeds Order were published in the Canada Gazette Part I on January 30th, 2016, with a seventy-five (75) day comment period. Please visit the following website for more information:

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2016/2016-01-30/html/reg1-eng.php> \*

## Upcoming Events

### *Public Pastures Public Interest Annual General Meeting*

March 19, 2015, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
United Way Building,  
1440 Scarth St., Regina, SK  
[public4pastures@gmail.com](mailto:public4pastures@gmail.com)  
or call (306) 515-0460

### *PCAP Speaker Series - Stewards of Saskatchewan: Habitat Conservation for Species at Risk*

March 21, 2016, 7:30pm  
Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Regina, SK  
[www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)

### *Paving Paradise - The Fate of Saskatoon's Northeast Swale*

April 18, 2016, 7 pm  
Frances Morrison Public Library,  
Saskatoon, SK  
Admission is free

### *19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species*

April 10-14, 2016  
Winnipeg, MB  
[www.icaais.org](http://www.icaais.org)

### *Alberta Native Plant Council Workshop & AGM 2016*

April 30, 2016  
Stettler Recreation Centre, Stettler, AB  
[www.anpc.ca](http://www.anpc.ca)

### *Society for Ecological Restoration - Western Canada Chapter Rebuilding Resilience: Restoration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

May 12-15, 2016  
Victoria, BC  
<http://chapter.ser.org/westerncanada/>

### *NPAW 2016 TOUR - "Blues, Bats & Blue Grama"*

June 16 & 17, 2016 (Native Prairie Appreciation Week, June 12-18, 2016)  
Maple Creek, SK  
[nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca](mailto:nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca)  
or call (306) 946-3219

### *2016 International Rangeland Congress*

July 17-22, 2016  
Saskatoon, SK  
<http://2016canada.rangelandcongress.org/>

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](mailto:info@npss.sk.ca).



# NPSS Has a New Face

*Chet Neufeld, Executive Director*



**Danielle Levesque.**

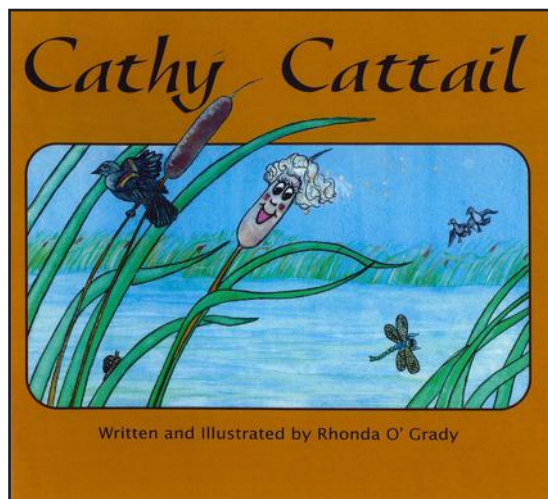
PHOTO SUPPLIED

For those that didn't attend the NPSS' annual general meeting and conference, you would have missed the announcement that I'm drastically reducing my hours with the NPSS in order to care for my one year old botanist in training, Nate. I'll still oversee all of the projects and keep the society moving forward, but the bulk of the project work will be carried out by an incredibly capable and knowledgeable contractor. Her name is Danielle Levesque, and she will be working for the NPSS for at least the next year if not longer. If you didn't meet her at the AGM, she will be representing the NPSS at other events. I encourage you to stop and say hi.

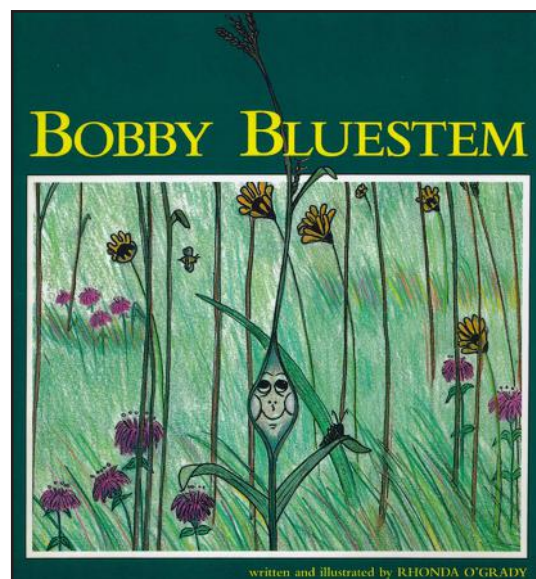
Now for a little introduction from Danielle:

I was born in Saskatoon and raised on an acreage in the Prince Albert area. From childhood I have always had an interest in science, nature, and the outdoors. I studied and worked as a registered massage therapist until my growing interest in plants inspired me to return to school to study botany. I completed my BSc. in biology at the U of S in 2013 with a focus on grassland plant taxonomy & ecology. During this time I gained fieldwork experience assisting with cereal & flax pathology trials, studying *Vaccinium* pollination, performing plant species at risk surveys, and collecting and working with GIS data. My MSc. thesis explores the use of rangeland and riparian health assessments to evaluate cumulative anthropogenic impacts on prairie pothole wetlands. Some of my recreational interests include gardening, camping, nature photography, cooking & baking, and crafts. 🌱

## Introducing Bobby Bluestem and Cathy Cattail



Do you have or know of a child who you'd like to introduce to nature but you just can't find anything that's locally relevant? Look no further! The NPSS has recently reprinted two old favourites: Bobby Bluestem and Cathy Cattail. Author/illustrator Rhonda O'Grady has done a wonderful job of telling the story of the prairie and its inhabitants in a kid friendly format, and also highlights First Nations culture. In Bobby Bluestem, Bobby (a big bluestem plant) lives on the prairie with the other plants and animals, but starts to see changes when European settlers move in. All is not lost though, as a group of concerned citizens step in to help Bobby and his friends. Cathy Cattail has a similar storyline, but is set in a wetland. The books are for sale for \$15 each on the NPSS online store at <http://www.npss.sk.ca/?s=8> 🌱



# Botanical Assessment Working Group Update - Changes to Plant S-ranks

By SARAH VINGE-MAZER  
Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre

The Botanical Assessment Working Group (BAWG) recently reassessed the ranks of six species: *Achnatherum nelsonii* ssp. *dorei*, *Polygala senega*, *Osmorhiza depauperata*, *Antennaria howellii* ssp. *canadensis*, *Antennaria howellii* ssp. *neodioica*, and *Myriophyllum verticillatum*. A summary of the changes made to these species can be found in the table below.

In addition, *Amelanchier sanguinea* has been added to Saskatchewan's flora list as an S1. Thus far it is known only from the Moose Mountain area. See the following for a key to the *Amelanchier* species found in Saskatchewan (this article can be found online):

Catling PM and G Mitrow. 2006. Regional variation in *Amelanchier* in the Whitewood area of southeastern Saskatchewan and the first Saskatchewan records of *Amelanchier sanguinea*. Canadian Field-Naturalist 120(4): 428-432.

*Sisyrinchium mucronatum* and *S. septentrionale* are awaiting reassessment pending additional information. Both species continue to be tracked at this time.

Please note that every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate; however, the lists provided on our lists page are the final authority for this type of information. For the convenience of our users, we have added the rank reassessment and rank change dates into the excel files of our species lists. This will allow users to sort the data and view the most recently assessed taxa.

For more information on the ranking process, please see our ranking page. If you have a plant taxon that you believe should be a priority for a rank reassessment, please contact the SKCDC botanist.

For more information, visit: [www.biodiversity.sk.ca](http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca)

## Taxa with S-ranks Recently Reassessed or Tracking Statuses Changed

| Scientific Name                                   | Common Name                | New (or current) S-rank | Old S-rank | Notes                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Achnatherum nelsonii</i> ssp. <i>dorei</i>     | Columbia Needlegrass       | S3                      | SNR        | Added to tracking list                                |
| <i>Polygala senega</i>                            | Seneca Snakeroot           | S4                      | S3S4       | Previously removed from tracking list in 2014         |
| <i>Osmorhiza depauperata</i>                      | Blunt-fruited Sweet-cicely | S4                      | S3S4       | Previously removed from tracking list in 2014         |
| <i>Antennaria howellii</i> ssp. <i>canadensis</i> | Canada Pussytoes           | S4                      | SNR        | Not tracked                                           |
| <i>Antennaria howellii</i> ssp. <i>neodioica</i>  | Tomentose Pussytoes        | S4                      | S2         | Removed from tracking list                            |
| <i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>                 | Whorled Water-milfoil      | S4                      | S3         | Removed from tracking list                            |
| <i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>                      | Round-leaved Serviceberry  | S1                      | none       | Newly added to the Sask. flora list and tracking list |

# Prairie Conservation Award Winners from Across Western Canada are Announced at the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) hosted the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Saskatoon. Given the diverse stakeholders, impacts, challenges and successes that take place on the prairie landscape, the theme of the conference was “Prairie - It’s a Happening Place!”

The Honourable Herb Cox, Saskatchewan’s Minister of Environment opened the conference, highlighting key examples of the province’s commitment to species at risk conservation. Minister Cox also described the Ministry’s efforts at working with on-the-ground land managers and organizations to achieve common goals. Several concurrent and plenary sessions followed that addressed existing and ongoing challenges and threats to grassland and species at risk ecology.

In addition to exploring challenges, the conference also celebrated the many achievements that are taking place on the landscape, with the Prairie Conservation Awards. The awards, which are granted to recipients from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba once every three years, are awarded to individuals who have made significant long-term contributions to native prairie habitat or species at risk conservation.

Those honoured at the awards banquet included the Ross Ranch, representing Alberta; Peggy Westhorpe, from Manitoba, and Luc Delanoy, of Saskatchewan. “It was a heck of a good career,” said Delanoy, who recently retired from the Meewasin Valley Authority. Delanoy became well known for his effective invasive weed control and prescribed burning practises,



PHOTO SUPPLIED

**Luc Delanoy and Renny Grilz.**

as well as his dedication to field work. “Keep up the good work,” Delanoy said to his conservation colleagues. “I’m one hundred per cent behind you.”

Also awarded were the Young Professional Stewardship Grants. These grants are provided to aspiring conservation professionals age 18-30 who live and work in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Those who were awarded the Young Professional Stewardship Grants were Laura Griffin from Alberta; Aaron Bell from Saskatchewan and Jordan Becker from Manitoba.

The Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference series is held every three years and rotates among each of the Prairie Provinces.

This event, which has been running since 1986, brought approximately 325 prairie professionals from across the Northern Great Plains together in Saskatoon to learn about status, trends and issues that impact prairie and species at risk as well as methods of protection and conservation of species and spaces. The program included presentations on the restoration and recovery of species and landscapes as well as gaining an understanding of what motivates people to wonder, care and take action for conservation.

The next Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference will take place in Manitoba in 2019. 🌱

# Cleaning and Storing Seeds

By CHERRY DODD

(Reprinted with permission from the *Wildflower News*)

*Editor's note: this article is a follow-up to Harvesting Seeds by Cherry Dodd that appeared in our last issue.*

If you are collecting seeds just for home use, you don't need to remove every last little bit of chaff or do a perfect cleaning job. The main reason for cleaning seeds is so that they will fit better into a storage bag or envelope, and also so you can tell the seeds from the chaff more easily when it comes time to plant them. Seeds are usually black, brown or grey specks that are uniform in size. Chaff is usually beige, papery and of different sizes. Different types of seeds call for different cleaning methods:

**Fluffy Seeds** - e.g. Asters, Goldenrods, Fleabanes, Meadow Blazingstar, Golden-aster, Flodmans Thistle, Groundsels, Pussytoes.

Fluffy seeds are easy to see because they usually have the fluff still attached. This is a good type of seed to practice with before you go on to the more difficult ones. Spread some newspapers on the table. Take the flower stems out of the bag and gently run your fingers through the seeds to loosen them so they fall onto the newspapers or just pluck them off. Spread the seeds out on newspaper and pick out the leaves, stems and other debris. You don't need to take the fluff off the seeds. Once you have picked out the main leaves and pieces of stem, put the seeds back into a clean paper bag, or envelope and close and label it. The bag, or envelope can be stored in any cool dry place, such as a fridge, cold storage room, cool basement etc. I usually put all my bags together in a plastic storage box to protect them from mice. For long term storage you can store your seeds in the freezer. Put the seeds in a plastic freezer bag and squeeze out as much air as possible before sealing it. Label before placing it in the freezer. The seeds will keep for several years. Some people prefer to store their seeds in paper or envelopes and then place in a plastic freezer bag.

**Grasses and Sedges** - Treat these the same as the fluffy seeds. Hold the stem and run your fingers along the seed heads to dislodge the seeds. Sometimes, as in the case of June Grass, it's very hard to tell the chaff from the seeds. In this case just package everything. In the case of grasses with obvious seeds such as Canada Wild Rye, just take out the debris. You do not have to take off the awns, the bristle-like hairs attached to each seed. Store as for fluffy seeds.

**Seeds in Capsules** - eg. Harebell, *Penstemons* (Beardtongues), Alum Root, Wild Blue Flax, Sunflowers, Giant Hyssop, and Wild Bergamot.

Put the seed heads in an old cookie tin, close the lid and give it a good shake. Then take out the stems and spread the remaining seeds and chaff out onto newspaper and proceed using the same method as you did for the fluffy seeds. Sometimes it helps to see the seeds better if you use a plain white paper plate instead of newspapers. If you find you

have a lot of chaff, try running the seeds through an ordinary kitchen mesh sieve. The seeds fall out of the sieve and most of the chaff is left behind. Another method of separating the chaff is to pile up the seeds and just skim the debris off the top of the pile using a gentle sweeping motion. If you have only a few seed heads, and you want to get more of the seeds out, crush the seed heads with a rolling pin to free all the seeds.



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

**Long-fruited Anemone seed (*Anemone cylindrica*).**

**Other types of seeds** - a lot of species have seeds that require a unique method:

Gumweed - break open the seed head and pull it apart to loosen the seeds. Your fingers will become very sticky - have soap and water handy!

Blue-eyed Grass and Nodding onion - use a rolling pin on the capsules to dislodge the seeds.

Violets - the seeds and capsules will already have separated. Just pick out the empty capsules.

Milkweed - clean by detaching the large seeds from the fluff, but do it outdoors on a windy day. Use a large paper bag and separate the seeds right in the bag so they are not blown away by the wind. Allow the fluff to escape with the breeze. The fluff is so light that if you attempt to clean the seeds inside, it will escape and float all over your house.

Gaillardia - Gaillardia seed heads can be prickly so use gloves. Rub the seed head to take off the seeds.

Heart-leaved Alexanders - the seed head looks a little bit like Dill. The seeds stand up on the seed head and look as though they are easy to pull off. They are easy, but they seem to fly off in every direction during the process, so wear some eye protection with these seeds!

Have you found a different or better way to clean a certain type of seed? Let us know and we'll share it in an upcoming newsletter. \*

# Recovery Strategy Posted

The final Recovery Strategy for Smooth Goosefoot (*Chenopodium subglabrum*) in Canada was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry on December 30, 2015.

Success in the recovery of this species depends on the commitment, collaboration, and cooperation of many different groups that will be involved in implementing the management actions set out in this plan. The responsibility for the conservation of wildlife in Canada is shared between the federal and provincial/territorial governments.

The final Recovery Strategy for Smooth Goosefoot is now available at: [http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default\\_e.cfm?documentID=893](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=893)



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

**Smooth Goosefoot.**

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