



Native Plant News

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www.npss.sk.ca

Spring 2014

Executive Director Report

**Chet Neufeld**

I think it's safe to say that spring is finally here. Maybe. Well after the long, cold winter it's time to come out and celebrate the warm weather!

We've got an exciting line-up

of field tours throughout the summer and we hope that you can join us as we visit some of the most scenic places in the province. For more information on our field tours, see the article included in this issue.

Besides the warm weather, we have plenty more to celebrate. As our cover story announced, we are now officially a registered charity. This is the result of a lot of hard work and time, and will vault the society to the next level. Not one to rest on our laurels, we will continue to move forward with our projects and programming for 2014.

Speaking of our projects, I am happy to announce that all of our grant proposals were successful and will be fully funded. That means that I will extremely busy over the coming months delivering programming and conducting field work across the province. This is a nice problem to have though, and we're grateful to our funding partners and collaborating agencies. Most of my time will be spent working on two of

the larger projects for 2014. The first is Rare Plants and Ranchers, a project that develops site specific beneficial management plans for species at risk and funded by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's Fish and Wildlife Development Program. The other large project is Healthy Habitats, a multi-component initiative funded by Environment Canada's EcoAction. Both projects will require volunteers to be successful, so if you're interested, please contact me.

As always, if you have any questions about the NPSS or native plants, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope to see you at one of our summer events. ✨

NPSS Gets Charitable Status

After almost two years of planning, consulting and applying, the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan officially became a Canadian registered charity on March 12, 2014! The NPSS has been a non-profit organization for 20 years, but with our registered charity status, we will be able to increase our capacity for carrying out our mission for native plant conservation and education. Specifically, we will have access to more grant money that was previously unavailable to us as a non-profit organization. This means that we will be able to have more

and better quality projects and programming. An added bonus for our private and corporate donors is that we can now issue tax deductible receipts for donations to the NPSS which might increase the number and value of donations - a win-win situation! Being a registered charity also means that we have tighter guidelines to follow (with enforceable penalties) that are set out by the Canada Revenue Agency and enhanced financial transparency in the form our required audits and reporting. This ensures that the NPSS continues to be a trusted and

solid environmental organization, and that our members and donors are getting the most out of their time and money.

Just because our journey to become a registered charity is complete doesn't mean that the work stops. We have many things planned to help continue this momentum and further increase our capacity. For example, we are a registered recipient organization with 1% For the Planet and Aeroplan Beyond Miles, and we are in the process of becoming a registered recipient with Canada Helps.

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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 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.

NPSS Partners With 1% For the Planet

The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan is a new nonprofit partner of 1% for the Planet, an alliance of over 1,200 member companies in 48 countries that give one percent of revenues to environmental causes.



The NPSS is now eligible to receive donations from 1% for the Planet member companies, placing them among a diverse, global network of environmental organizations. 1% member businesses fuel this non-profit network through their annual contributions, which totaled over \$20 million in 2013. Partnership with 1% greatly expands the potential pool of funding to which the NPSS can look to for support.

As a new nonprofit partner, the NPSS contributes to a healthier planet through education about Saskatchewan's native plants and habitats, and through conservation of rare spaces and species.

Over 3,600 nonprofits worldwide are included in the 1% for the Planet network, and over \$100 million has been funneled to its nonprofit partners to date. "The intent of 1% for the Planet is to help fund these diverse environmental organizations so that collectively they can be a more powerful force in solving the world's problems," says John Tashiro, Interim CEO of 1% for the Planet.

"The NPSS has always strived to achieve beneficial environmental change through our many projects and programs, and this partnership will only strengthen what we do" says NPSS Executive Director Chet Neufeld. "Increased access to funding from responsible companies increases our capacity to do more."

The NPSS is happy to announce that its first corporate partner through 1% for the Planet is Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures Ltd. The company and its owner, Jori Kirk, have been long-time members of the NPSS, and have recently made the move to include the NPSS as one of its 1% recipients. Thank-you Jori! ✨

NPSS Now Accepts Aeroplan Miles!



**AEROPLAN
BEYOND MILES**

aeroplan

Do you have some Aeroplan miles sitting in your account and don't know what to do with them? Why not donate them to the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan. As a member of Air Canada's Beyond Miles charitable funding program, your donated Aeroplan miles will go towards travel costs associated with our conservation and education projects across Saskatchewan. Donate today at <http://beyondmiles.aeroplan.com/eng/charity/642> ✨

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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.

Found a Rare Plant? Send Us Your Observations!

By SARAH VINGE-MAZER
Saskatchewan Conservation
Data Centre



PHOTO BY CANDACE NEUFELD

Hairy Prairie Clover (*Dalea villosa* var. *villosa*)

collect information such as the observer, date, location (GPS coordinates preferred), directions to the site, habitat, and number of individuals and submit it to us (at a minimum, the location information, date, observer and species are required). Photos are also a great addition to any observation in order to help verify the sighting. Sensitive species information that we receive is restricted and not available to the general public. Further information on how we use the observations, who else has access to the information, and submission guidelines can be found on our website at www.biodiversity.sk.ca. Join the Citizen Science movement and make your contribution to conservation! *

You can aid the conservation of Saskatchewan species by sending your rare plant observations to the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (SK CDC). The SK CDC is dependent on accurate location and distribution data for the province's plant (and animal) species in order to properly rank and conserve them.

If you see a rare species,

RCE Recognition for NatureCity Festival



Wild About Saskatoon, of which the NPSS is a member, has been awarded by the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Saskatchewan (RCE Saskatchewan) for its NatureCity Festival. The festival, first held in 2013 and this year held on May 25-31, 2014 has been wildly successful in the short time that it has been around. In 2013, it drew over 1,000 people to over 50 events and

had participation by over 70 organizations. This year nearly 80 organizations were involved with almost 60 events. The festival has also received national media attention and has now inspired a similar event in Vancouver.

The RCE Saskatchewan Recognition Program provides recognition to innovative projects, research, and other activities promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the prairie region. This year was the sixth annual ESD Recognition Event.

The awards ceremony took place on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Government House in Regina, SK.

For more information on the upcoming NatureCity Festival in Saskatoon, go to www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org *

Upcoming Events

2014

Workshop - Start Your Own Targeted Grazing Business

May 29-31, 2014

Edgerton, AB

Registration \$350 before May 9th,

\$400 after May 9th

For more info, contact Lee and Lynn

Sexton: (306) 544-2660 or

[sextongrazingandconsulting@](mailto:sextongrazingandconsulting@xplornet.ca)

xplornet.ca

Saskatchewan Stock Growers 101st

Annual General Meeting

June 8-10, 2014

Moose Jaw, SK

www.skstockgrowers.com

"From Roots to Shoots": 16th Annual Society for Range Management - Prairie Parkland Chapter Annual Tour

June 19-20, 2014

Val Marie, SK

For more information, contact Nadia

Mori at (306) 946-3219 or

nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca

www.pcap-sk.org

Conservation Volunteer Events

Various Locations and dates

For more information, contact

Kirsten Jensen at

(306) 347-0447 ext. 223 or

[kirsten.jensen@natureconservancy.](mailto:kirsten.jensen@natureconservancy.com)

com

*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.*

Summer Field Tour Schedule

For more information, go to www.npss.sk.ca



PHOTO BY CHRIS MELOCHE WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Dragon's Mouth Orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*)

Orchids, Carnivorous Plants, Bogs and More!

June 14-15

Hudson Bay, SK

This tour will be the highlight of the season and is not to be missed! We will visit the boreal forest of the Hudson Bay, SK region. This is a very diverse ecosystem, home to many plants found nowhere else in Saskatchewan! We will explore jack pine forests, bogs and look for rare and beautiful wildflowers such as the dragon's mouth orchid. If you can only attend one tour this year, make it this one. Yes, it's far but you won't be disappointed!



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Grasslands National Park East Block.

Hunt for the Lost Treasure of the Southwest

July 19-20

Frontier, SK

Help us search for the few-flowered evening primrose (*Camissonia breviflora*), a striking little wildflower that hasn't been seen in Saskatchewan in over 40 years! We'd like to change that by revisiting the places it was last seen and collecting as much information about it if we do find it. Along the way, we'll visit many beautiful landscapes including the badlands of Grasslands National Park. Even if we don't find what we're looking for, there will be plenty to see.



PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Big Valley Property.

Big Valley, Big Views

August 9

Lumsden, SK

The Big Valley Property belongs to the Nature Conservancy of Canada and we have exclusive access! Better yet, we will have one of their staff to guide us and interpret the site's natural history. As this is a late summer walk, we will see the prairie explode with its last blossoms of the season - sunflowers, goldenrods, blazingstars and more!

Native Plant and Seed Sources

With warmer weather around the corner, our thoughts turn to all things green and growing. If you're looking to buy or sell native plant materials, the NPSS should be your first stop. One of our most popular resources is our annually updated Native Plant Material and Services Supplier List. This has all of the native seed and plant providers in Western Canada, as well as those who supply related services such as seed cleaning and testing. It also has a species appendix at the back in case you're looking for something in particular. You can find this document here: <http://www.npss.sk.ca/?s=6>

You can also find this document by visiting our website (www.npss.sk.ca) and clicking on the "Info Resources" tab at the top of the page.

Secondly, we have our online Native Plant Sources Listing Service. This works like an online classified ad, where users can post ads looking for native plants or seeds and providers can post ads selling native plants and seeds. People providing or looking for native plant-related services are also welcome to post ads. Best of all, it's free for members and you can post as many ads as you'd like! To view the listing service, visit the following link: <http://www.npss.sk.ca/?s=4>

You can also find it on our website by clicking on the tab marked "Native Plant Sources" at the top of the page. *

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All of these affiliations will help funnel revenue to the NPSS and help to fulfill our mission. For further information on 1% For the Planet and Aeroplan Beyond Miles, please see the articles in this issue.

Thank-you to everyone who helped make this a reality!

To make a tax deductible donation to the NPSS, please click on the "Donate" button on our store page at <http://www.npss.sk.ca/?s=8> or mail a cheque to the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Box 21099, Saskatoon, SK, S7H 5N9.

The NPSS also accepts other tax deductible donations, such as services, cultural or ecological gifts, stocks, property or other items of monetary value. For more information on this or to discuss eligible donations, please contact Chet Neufeld at (306) 668-3940 or info@npss.sk.ca

We are also looking for volunteers, so if you'd rather donate your time, that's great too. It might not be tax

deductible, but it will give you a warm, fuzzy feeling knowing you're doing something good! *



Project volunteers.

PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Government Announces New Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy

RELEASED ON MAY 12, 2014
WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION
ACT AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
ACT PROCLAIMED



Today, Environment Minister Ken Cheveldayoff and Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart announced a new land management initiative that balances economic growth

with responsible land management. The Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy will offer agricultural lessees the opportunity to purchase eligible parcels of Crown land previously designated under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA).

Amendments to both WHPA and The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2010 were proclaimed today. Along with new regulations, these two Acts will provide the legal framework for the strategy.

“The new strategy accommodates both public and private ownership, using modern conservation tools to make sure that ecological values are maintained, regardless of ownership,” Cheveldayoff said. “I want to acknowledge the important role that conservation and agricultural stakeholders have played in the development of the strategy. We look forward to continuing to work with them as it is implemented.”

All WHPA-designated land in southern Saskatchewan has been evaluated using a science-based ecological assessment tool and has been classified into three categories:

- Approximately 1.7 million acres with high ecological value will be retained under Crown ownership and WHPA protection;

- Approximately 1.3 million acres with moderate ecological value may be eligible for sale with the protection of a new Crown conservation easement; and
- Approximately 525,000 acres with lower ecological value may be eligible for sale, without restrictions.

“Farmers and ranchers are our best environmental stewards and have been effectively managing this land for generations,” Stewart said. “I am pleased they will now have the opportunity to gain equity in some of this land and I am confident they will continue managing it in a sustainable way for the benefit of all Saskatchewan residents.”

Not all land classified as low or moderate will be available for sale. An additional review will occur to assess other factors that may influence land eligible for sale. Land with high ecological value will not be considered for sale.

In addition, vacant Crown land in the south with high ecological value will be

considered for protection under WHPA.

The Conservation Easements Act was amended to create a new Crown conservation easement, which can be applied to Crown lands prior to sale. The amendments include new compliance tools, including stop-work orders, equipment seizures, and injunctions. In addition, maximum fines for contravention have been increased from \$2,000 to \$100,000 for individuals and from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for corporations. Additional fines may be charged for continuing offences.

Seven per cent of the proceeds from the sale of WHPA lands will be directed to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund to support conservation and habitat protection projects.

“I am pleased to support the amended refinements to WHPA, which provide real and enforceable transparency in identifying saleable lands from within WHPA while also affording the conservation community the opportunity to identify other suitable Crown lands for inclusion under WHPA protection,”



Cattle on Crown pasture.

PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation President David Pezderic said. "The co-operative approach by the ministries of Environment and Agriculture through Minister Cheveldayoff and Minister Stewart along with their respective staff is noteworthy and provides a sound example of how government can work with its stakeholders when it comes to protecting our natural resources."

"It is due to the responsible management of producers that the remaining native prairie and ecologically valuable lands in Saskatchewan have been preserved," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Harold Martens said. "We commend the provincial government for this initiative which will provide farm and ranch families with the stability and long-term security that comes with ownership as well as equity for financing their operations."

Letters will be sent to current lessees in the coming days to notify them of their land classifications, purchase options and sale process. If lessees choose not to purchase the land, they may continue leasing it. Lessees can also find out if their land has been classified as potentially available for sale by searching their land location at www.saskatchewan.ca/crownlands. If lessees have questions about their land, they can contact the Ministry of Agriculture at 1-844-416-9160 or moalandsbranch@gov.sk.ca. *

For more information, contact:

Val Nicholson

Environment

Prince Albert

Phone: 306-953-2459

Tiffany Stephenson

Agriculture

Regina

Phone: 306-787-4031



2014 Native Prairie Appreciation Week

Attention PRAIRIE PEOPLE!

Native Prairie Appreciation Week - June 15-21, 2014

Jointly proclaimed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment, Native Prairie Appreciation Week (or NPAW, as we call it!) is a week dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness of this valuable natural resource all across Saskatchewan. SK PCAP and its partners have a great week of informative, fun-filled activities planned during NPAW. Follow tag #NPAW14 to catch highlights and updates on Twitter and Facebook.

An annual highlight of Native Prairie Appreciation Week is the Annual Society for Range Management Tour. This year's tour will take place June 19 and 20, 2014 in Val Marie, SK!

SK PCAP will be engaging youth across Saskatchewan in a Prairie Poster Contest! Kids ages 5-16 are invited to submit a poster to our contest and the winners for each category will win an amazing prize!

SK PCAP will be celebrating prairie across the province at a variety of venues including the Regina Farmer's Market, the Saskatoon Farmer's Market and National Aboriginal Days Celebration in Regina on June 21.

Every five years, the SK PCAP partnership renews our goals and commits to a framework for action. SK PCAP will be releasing its 2014-19 Framework for Action this year as well as engaging our partners and volunteers at a signing ceremony on Monday, June 16, 2014.

For more details on any of these events, go to www.pcap-sk.org *



Participants of the NPSS 2013 NPAW tour.

PHOTO BY CHET NEUFELD

Dale Gross - Board Member Profile

By DALE GROSS



Dale Gross

In my role as Director of Conservation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, I am responsible for all of the conservation operations staff, planning, coordination, program management of all land securement, stewardship and science activities for the Saskatchewan region.

Prior to this I was working in government, with a focus on agriculture and land use programs in BC and Saskatchewan. I was most recently employed

as manager with the Saskatchewan Pastures Program within the Ministry of Agriculture. I am a Professional Agrologist and hold a Master of Science in Rangeland Ecology and Management from the University of Saskatchewan.

I was born and raised in the Moose Jaw area and spend most of my spare time at my family farm near Bayard, Saskatchewan. *

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Rates: \$50 for 1 issue, \$175 for 4 issues

Contact the NPSS for more details.

Ph: (306) 668-3940 E-mail: info@npss.sk.ca

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