



# Native Plant News

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan Inc.

Vol. 12, No. 1

Spring 2007

## **Saskatchewan Invasive Alien Plant Program – SIAPP - Stewardship Program**

The NPSS, with financial assistance from the Province’s Green Strategy and advisory support from Saskatchewan Environment, is developing and rolling out a new provincial program to address the increasing threats and impacts that invasive alien plants (IAP) are imposing on the province’s wildlife, natural habitats and numerous industries. This program will provide educational materials, technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of reimbursement. The long-term role of SIAPP is to coordinate and provide leadership in regards to the initiatives and activities of numerous groups and individuals trying to fight this battle to prevent, detect, respond to and manage IAPs. The only way we can be successful in the battle against IAPs is for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated effort towards common goals and objectives. The program will also work to leverage funding to provide to groups implementing IAP initiatives that meet the common goals of the program.



end of May or early June. The guidelines for application are currently under development, but the overall program has five key indicators. They include:

- Invasive Alien Plant Management (education, prevention, detection and control).
- People Involved (communities, aboriginal groups and youth)
- Partnerships
- Project Promotion/Coordination (communication of activities be-

### Contents

Saskatchewan Invasive Alien Plant Program SIAPP ....	1
NPSS President’s Update .....	2
New NPSS Project Consultant .....	4
Financial Summary March 2007 .....	5
Secretary’s Report .....	5
Flora Fun .....	6
New Forage Selection Tool .....	6
Announcements & Events .....	7

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

### Submission Deadlines:

Winter Issue: November 15

Spring Issue: March 1

Summer Issue: June 1

Fall Issue: September 1

### Membership Dues (Year End November 30<sup>th</sup>)

Individual \$30

Family \$45

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Corporate \$200

Life \$500

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

tween partners and to the public)

Native Habitat Conservation (protected, conserved, restored or created)

The program has two years (2007 and 2008) secured for project support. If you have more questions regarding SIAPP please contact the NPSS office.

## NPSS President Update – “The NPSS Spreading its Branches”

*Submitted by Michael Champion*

Greetings NPSS members, I hope that you all have had a good winter and are now eagerly awaiting the first blooms of spring. I am certain that by the time many of you read this, many of our plants will be in full bloom. While we move forward with our delivery of ‘standard’ projects, there have been significant changes to the Society since our annual general meeting in February. Most notably, the NPSS will take a coordinator-leadership role in delivering a provincial invasive alien plant program called, “Saskatchewan’s Invasive Alien Plant Program” (SIAPP). Through the support of Saskatchewan Environment, a contribution of \$500,000 from the provincial government has been made to the NPSS to administer and develop a provincial IAP program that will coordinate and fund IAP initiatives throughout the province. This money will be delivered to community groups delivery on the ground initiatives addressing IAP issues throughout Saskatchewan. This program will foster communication between groups and facilitate the development of partnerships. Federal funding has been applied for under SIAPP to develop a Provincial Invasive Plant Council. The council is envisioned as a group of stakeholders forming a partnership to develop a provincial IAP plan that will guide and direct activities to prevent, detect, respond to and manage

The NPSS is proud to be a partner of the:

See the PCAP website at:  
[www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)



IAPs for Saskatchewan. It is hoped to use the successful Saskatchewan PCAP model for the IAP council function and plan development. This means a whole new dynamic to NPSS operations and, of course, increased workloads. Attached with this funding, a project consultant position was created and was contracted out to help NPSS Executive Director, Garth Wruck deliver our programming.

A selection committee composed of Garth, myself and a member at large, Anna Leighton, selected Chet Neufeld for the contract. Thanks to Anna for her help in the selection process. Chet comes to the Society with a lot of experience working with government, private non-profit charities and the University of Saskatchewan. Some of you will know Chet from his work on the board of directors, but he will be leaving his post as board member and will now be attending the board meetings to provide updates on the work he is doing. We wish Chet the best as he takes on this new role for the Society.

We would like to take this time to formally introduce and welcome two new members to our board this year, Robert Wright (Saskatchewan Environment) and Malin Hansen (Saskatchewan Watershed Authority). Our current slate of board members is excited to deliver our programming this year. We have secured funding from the federal government (Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program) to develop and deliver IAP training workshops and have contracted Angela Salzl and Debbie Nordstrom to co-coordinate this project. Angela and Debbie come from the Saskatchewan Purple Loosestrife and Invasive Species Project and will be delivering workshops to educate and build the capacity of three target groups: urban landscapers and vegetation maintenance personnel, the horticultural industry, and community based environmental stewardship groups of Saskatchewan. We have our upcoming weekend tour

## The W.P. Fraser Herbarium

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Open 9:00 to 5:00 weekdays  
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in the Nipawin area at the Narrow Hills Provincial Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of July. I hope that many of you are able to attend – we had a lot of fun last year at Douglas Provincial Park.

The future of the Society has never looked so bright. I welcome any of our members to contact myself, or Garth at your leisure if you have any suggestions about what the Society could be doing, or if you have any questions. Enjoy the sounds and smells of spring.

## NPSS 2007 Rare Plant Workshops

*We apologize for the delay this year.  
Workshops are still going ahead!*

**Workshop 1 - Regina (July 5 & 6)**  
**Workshop 2 - Saskatoon (Fall)**  
**Workshop 3 - North Battleford (Fall)**

*Please email [info@npss.sk.ca](mailto:info@npss.sk.ca) or phone  
668-3940 to register or get more infor-  
mation.*

## **New NPSS Project Consultant Chet Neufeld**



Hi, my name is Chet Neufeld and I am the new NPSS project consultant for 2007. My contract began on April 16, 2007 and will continue for a year. During that time, I will be involved with projects such as the Saskatchewan Highways Revegetation Guideline Manual, Saskatchewan Invasive Alien Plant Program, and the Rare Plant Workshops, to name a few. I joined the NPSS back in 2004 and have been on the board of directors since 2006. I recently finished a contract for the biology department at the University of Saskatchewan, but have worked for many different agencies over the past few years because of the nature of contract work. Some of the other agencies I have worked for include Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada, the Saskatchewan Research Council, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. I have a diploma in Renewable Resource Management from Lethbridge Community College, and a Bachelor of Science in Environ-

mental Science from the University of Lethbridge. When I'm not out in the field working, I'm out in the field having fun! I try to get out hiking, camping and fishing every chance I get (which is never often enough!) I recently got married to another NPSS board member, Candace Neufeld (nee Elchuk). Actually, we met at the NPSS AGM in Swift Current. We spent our honeymoon looking at the native plants in Belize and Guatemala. As it turns out, a lot of the house plants that we struggle to keep alive do just fine out in the wild down there! I joined the NPSS for many reasons; obviously, it allowed me to make contacts with like-minded people and professionals in the field. I also like the work that the NPSS does, as it facilitates the exchange of information and tackles areas of prairie ecology that other similar organizations don't necessarily cover. The NPSS has never had more projects than this year and I'm happy to be a part of it. If you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact myself or one of the other board members. My number is 384-7603 (Saskatoon office) or 668-3940 (Vonda office), or you can e-mail me at: [chet.neufeld@npss.sk.ca](mailto:chet.neufeld@npss.sk.ca).

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### ***Native Prairie Appreciation Week***

Saskatchewan's 9<sup>th</sup> annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) runs from June 17-23. The highlight will be the SRM workshop and tour "Discovering the Cypress Hills" on June 20-21. See the brochure, attached, for the itinerary and be sure to register and book your accommodation early as participation will be limited. We will also be doing some hands-on native plant ID in addition to riparian and forest health assessments. For a registration brochure <http://www.pcap-sk.org/pdfs/npawbrochure2007.pdf>

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### **Advertising In Native Plant News**

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

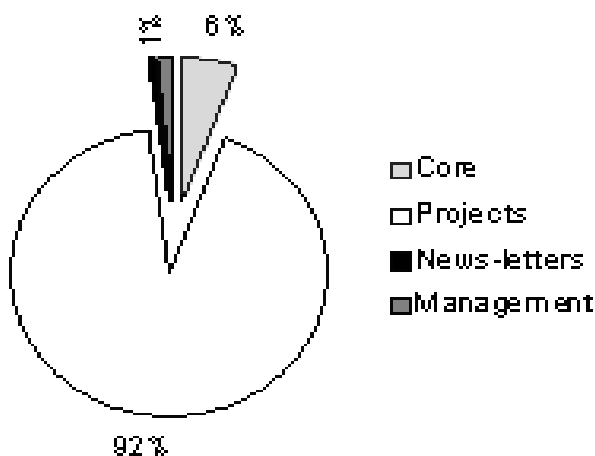
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## Financial Summary – March 2007

Submitted by Cheri Sykes

During the FY2006, Native Plant Society had operating income of \$79,684, and operating expenses of \$122,697. This indicates a deficit of \$43,013 for the year. There was a carry over from FY2005, which was \$37,825. This leaves us at a deficit of \$5,188. This loss primarily reflects the costs of the art contest with minimal returns on sales.

The fiscal year of 2007 will be a year to remember for the Native Plant Society! This year one project will over quadruple the budget with the announcement from Provincial Green Strategy for \$500,000 to NPSS to provide assistance to urban and rural communities to address the management of invasive alien species to conserve biodiversity and protect species at risk. Nine other projects will contribute to this year's budget. Making 92% of the budget funding from project funds, 6% from core funds (memberships) covering cost for the development and printing of the newsletter. Management costs for publications and a portion of the directors travel. The majority of the operating expenses, FY 2007 will be covered by the projects. I am pleased to say this year is an exceptional year for the Native Plant Society and I am excited to see the organization growing!



## Secretary's Quarterly Report

Submitted by Candace Neufeld

Our first board meeting after the AGM with our new board of directors was held on March 12 in Saskatoon. As there are always a lot of topics to discuss at the first meeting of the new fiscal year, it proved to be a full day. After introducing our new board members, Rob Wright and Malin Hansen, who were ratified at the AGM in Regina, the executive was installed. Michael Champion will stay on as president, I resigned as vice-president but will stay on as secretary, Tara Sample resigned as treasurer but took on the vice-president position, and Cheri Sykes will be the treasurer. The board agreed to contract an accountant to handle the accounting and audits as this has become too complicated and onerous a task for a volunteer board position. Our finances will be moving from a cash-operated system to an accrual account. Chairs and members of the subcommittees (AGM, Newsletter, Volunteer/Membership, Projects) were appointed; if there are any members that would like to participate in these subcommittees, please contact Garth or myself to volunteer. There was discussion over the new project consultant position; the contractor will assist Garth with the increased project load this year. Details about ongoing projects were discussed including: a delay in the start date for the Rare Plant Workshops; continuation of the Regina Plains Restoration Project this year; the start of a literature review for Saskatchewan Environment - Saskatchewan Ecologically Sensitive Seed Initiative on topics related to native plants; a review of the invasive species session and workshop that the NPSS co-chaired at PCESC; an update on funding for the invasive alien plant program; an announcement of additional funding from Saskatchewan Environment to the NPSS for invasive species work; funding being received to start writing the highways revegetation guidelines; funding received to overhaul the NPSS website and listing service. A date and proposed loca-

tion for next year's AGM was decided as well as a summer tour location. The next board meeting was set for May.

## **Flora Fun**

### **The Identification of Grasses**

*by Harold Harrington.*

A grass can be "glumey" in more ways than one,  
When its classification remains to be done;  
You pull off the parts, and soon feel your age  
Chasing them over the microscope stage!

You peer through the lenses at all of the bracts  
And hope your decisions agree with the facts;  
While your oculist chortles with avid delight  
As you strain both your eyes in the dim table light

You are left at the horns of quite a dilemma  
When you count the nerves on the back of the lemma;  
Then you really get snooty and turn each one turtle  
To see if the flower is sterile or fertile

And then the compression, no problem is meaner -  
Is it flat like you wallet or round like a wiener?  
"How simple," you think, "for a mind that is keen" -  
But, what do you do when its half-way between?

You probe and you guess how the florets will shatter,  
For you know later on it is certain to matter;  
You long for the calmness of labor that's manual  
When the question arises - "perennial", or "annual"?

And that terrible texture, the meanest of all,  
Is one of the pitfalls in which you can fall;  
"Cartilaginous", maybe - or is it "chartaceous?"  
Has the even the experts exclaiming "Good gracious!"

Then you wail as you wade through the long tribal key,  
"Oh, why must this awful thing happen to me?"  
"Grasses are easy," our teacher declares,  
As he mops off a brow that is crowned with gray hairs!

- Harrington, H.D. 1977. *How to Identify Grasses & Grasslike Plants*. Swallow Press and Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio.

## **New Forage Selection Tool Available**

An excellent new forage selection tool is now available through the Sask Forage Council. The interactive CD is designed to allow land managers to investigate a variety of potential forage species. Ideal species can be selected based on soil texture and soil environment, longevity of the stand, and purpose of the forage. Forty-five species, both tame and native, are included on the CD. Each species includes photos and a detailed description including yields, recommended stocking rates, and other management information. Seeding rates and seed cost calculators are also included.



For more information, or to receive copies of the CD, please contact Janice Bruynooghe at the Sask. Forage Council at (306) 966-2148 or [jbruynooghe@saskforage.ca](mailto:jbruynooghe@saskforage.ca). An online version of this information is also available on the Sask. Forage Council website at [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca).

Funding for this project was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program. Project partners included Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance.

## **Announcements & Events**

The most recent updated version (to November, 2006) of the ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF SASKATCHEWAN VASCULAR PLANTS, by Vernon L. Harms (Emeritus Professor of Botany, Departments of Biology and Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada), is now accessible on the internet at the following address: [http://www.parc.ca/saskflora/info/ANNOTATED\\_CATALOGUE\\_OF\\_SASKATCHEWAN\\_VASCULAR\\_PLANTS20112006.pdf](http://www.parc.ca/saskflora/info/ANNOTATED_CATALOGUE_OF_SASKATCHEWAN_VASCULAR_PLANTS20112006.pdf)

### **NPSS Summer Field Tour, July 27 & 28, 2007**

Join us for a spectacular tour of the forests, wetlands, and plants of Narrow Hills Provincial Park. The park is located on Highway 106 (the Hanson Lake Road) about 70 km north of Smeaton. The campground at Lower Fishing Lake is first come, first served. The Society will be reserving the group campground. For all the info on the park, visit <http://www.se.gov.sk.ca/saskparks/ParkInfo/parks/park.asp?park=Narrow%20Hills> or call Rob Wright at 787-2914. The Park also has two resorts, listed on the website (Caribou Creek Lodge - (306) 426-2067 and Pine Ridge Resort (306) 426-2123 ). We begin the tour at 12 noon on Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.



**Afternoon of Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> (Day 1).** We will gather at 12 noon at the group camping area at Lower Fishing Lake for our afternoon adventure along the Narrow Hills (really a large push moraine). The esker road is rugged so low-clearance vehicles must proceed with caution. The views are spectacular and the forest is multi-aged

and gorgeous. We'll stop at black spruce bogs to see the wetland flora, in some young jack pine to take in the flora of sandy pinelands and then up along the esker. The esker offers a real buffet of plant communities from rich, moist white spruce riparian woodlands, to mixed forests of white birch, trembling aspen, balsam fire, jack pine, and white spruce. Because the esker has not burned for well over 100 years, the forest is relatively old and very diverse. The esker also supports some remnant prairie grassland openings on its west slope and we'll stop and see them. At the end of our drive down the esker we will visit the lush white spruce riparian forest at Crabtree Lake. We'll make our way back to the campground for supper between 6 and 7 p.m.



**Morning of Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> (Day 2).** We'll make our way up the Hansen Lake Road to the turn-off heading west to the Gem Lakes. The Gem Lakes are an exquisite string of small lakes nestled in the northwest corner of the park. These are spring-fed lakes maintained by flows from the water table of the surrounding sandy uplands. We'll hike east along the lakes, taking in the diversity of the pine and other forests and visiting a calcareous fen with its distinctive flora and marly peat soils. We'll return to the west end of the lakes in time for lunch. The official tour will end at this point, but those looking for a challenging hike and amazing sites are free to stay for the afternoon. Those interested in seeing more of the Narrow Hills are welcome to stay and spend more time in the park, but our group will relinquish the group camping area on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Afternoon of Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> (Day 2).** After lunch we'll drive back towards Lower Fishing Lake. Along the way, we will stop at the Summit Lake Valley Lookout and get a view down the Summit Lake meltwater channel. For the more intrepid and fit, one group will take a very steep hike down through a forested catena to a wetland in the bottom of the valley. First we move through trembling aspen and jack pine forest at the dry end of the catena. Then we forge into a white spruce-aspen mixedwood and next a black spruce stand at the toe of the slope. Moving into the wetland, we'll be in a tamarack stand that grades into a willow-bog birch shrubland and then a sedge fen, next to the stream. This is a rugged, steep hike, with some wetland action at the bottom, so you will need to be fit and wearing rubber boots or be willing to get your feet wet.

Your tour leaders will be Dr. Rob Wright, Parks Service Plant Ecologist, and Deb Eisenhut, Park Interpreter. For over 30 years, Dr. Rob has been working in the boreal forests of SK, studying the ecology and botany of this delightful realm. Deb has also spent decades honing her knowledge of the boreal forest and its plants and animals. Both of your tour hosts are looking forward to visiting with NPSS members and interested botanists on this hike in the dramatic and diverse landscapes of the Narrow Hills.

Those choosing not to go on the Saturday afternoon hike, but plan to stay in the park are free to entertain themselves, but there may be a group fly fishing opportunity so bring your gear!

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