

## **Plant Happenings – April 21, 2017**

### **UPCOMING COURSES, WORKSHOPS and EVENTS**

Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7pm Agnes Lynn

#### **Local Wildflowers at Your Feet**

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7pm

This talk by NPSG member Agnes Lynn, will focus on Vancouver Island wild flowers, starting with the earliest ones such as Satin Flowers in late March through to the ones on Mount Washington in late July. It will be held at UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Room D-110.

Contact NPSG for more information.

#### **Earth Day April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

A global march for science is being held on Earth day this year. For more information visit [www.marchforscience.com](http://www.marchforscience.com)

#### **ANPC Workshop and AGM**

April 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2017

Ponoka Community Center

Biodiversity in Alberta's Changing Landscape

**Registration is now open at [www.anpc.ab.ca](http://www.anpc.ab.ca)**

#### **NPSG Agnes' Open Garden**

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm

This talk will be followed up by an open house in Agnes' garden Sunday May 7 from 1-4 pm. Agnes has a ¾ acre garden of about 100 native plants interspersed with plants from all over the world. Also loves to grow things in pots. Contact NPSG for more information.

#### **Restoration of Uplands Park: A Biodiversity Oasis in an Urban Setting**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Uplands Park is an incredible place, 31 hectares with one of the highest concentrations of rare plants in the country. It also has one of the richest collections of invasive species in the region. Since 2014, Wylie Thomas has been managing a project supported by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) to restore the park's rare ecosystem and protect its 23 endangered species. In this talk, Wylie will be discussing the work done to date, as well as the challenges of managing recreational use in a way that allows people to continue enjoying the park while also protecting it. Please Contact NPSG for more information.

## **May Plant Count May 25-31, 2017**

The May Plant Count (MPC) is an annual event where volunteers survey their favorite natural area to provide valuable information on the distribution and phenology of flowering plants in Alberta during the last week of May (May 25-31). MPC is a Nature Alberta citizen science initiative supported by the ANPC. It's a great opportunity to shake off the rust from our plant identification skills that has accumulated over the winter and conduct a fun "trek and check" through your favorite natural space. Expertise in wildflower identification is valuable, but not mandatory. Kim MacKenzie will be once again coordinating the MPC so please contact Kim at [kim.mack@goldpaw.ca](mailto:kim.mack@goldpaw.ca) to sign up and to receive the 2017 MPC information package. Returning volunteers, thank you for your participation! Please send Kim your species lists from last year if you have not done so already and confirm your participation in this year's Count.

## **Botany Alberta June 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>**

Castle Crown Area

Botany Alberta is an annual weekend field trip that includes hikes and camping in a specific area and a hunt for rare plants in the area. This year they will be joining with the Castle Crown Wilderness Coalition to bring 4 options for hikes for the weekend. Hikes will include Antelope Butte, Big Sage Area as well as 2 others. For more information or to register email [anpcbotanyab@gmail.com](mailto:anpcbotanyab@gmail.com).

## **Isle Royal & Keweenaw Parks Association (IKRAA) Sponsored workshops.**

1. Isle Royale National Park, June 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>
2. Keweenaw Peninsula, July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

Registration is now open for these 2017 Plant Identification workshops, both of which will be held in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula near the shores of scenic Lake Superior. Both workshop locations feature rugged bedrock shorelines, ridges, forests and wetlands. More information can be found [here](#).

## **Forest Genetics 2017**

June 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Forest genetics practitioners and researchers are invited to attend the Forest Genetics 2017 conference at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, June 26th-29th, 2017. This year's conference theme is "Forest Health and Productivity in Changing Environments." The hosting organizations for this conference are [CFGA](#) and [WFGA](#), which represent academics, researchers, tree breeders, seed biologists, students and forestry practitioners involved in genetics and tree breeding in Canada and western North America. Their joint, biennial conference series provides a forum for sharing research results, technology transfer, and broadening the scope of their activities to cater for emerging economic and environmental challenges.

## **ALBERTA PLANT STUDY GROUPS**

### **Peace River Native Plant Study Group (PRPSG)**

Location: NAIT Boreal Research Institute , 8102 – 99 Avenue, Peace River, AB (beside Northern Lakes College)

Date: April 5, 2017

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

RSVP: Space is limited! Please sign up by contacting Melanie Bird ([mbird@nait.ca](mailto:mbird@nait.ca))

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### **Medicine Hat Rare Plant Study Group**

Location: Medicine Hat College Herbarium (L155)

Date: FOURTH Saturday of the month (except December and February)

Time: noon to 3:00 PM

For more details: [Clinowski@mhc.ab.ca](mailto:Clinowski@mhc.ab.ca)

### **Southern Alberta Plant Study Group (Calgary)**

Is not hosting anymore sessions until October, due to summer and field season.

Location: University of Calgary Herbarium, Biological Sciences Basement

Date: FIRST Saturday of the month; October to April inclusive

Time: noon to 4:00 PM

Facilitator: Leslie Monteleone [lesliemonteleone@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliemonteleone@hotmail.com)

### **Central Alberta Rare Plant Study Group**

Where: University of Alberta Herbarium

Date: Last Wednesday of every month, with the exception of February (Held on the 15<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Facilitator: Varina [vcrisfield@gmail.com](mailto:vcrisfield@gmail.com)

## **WEBSITES AND PUBLICATIONS**

A draft of the [Plant and Animal Health Strategy](#) is now available online for consultation, and you are invited to take part. Given the increasingly complex and constantly changing risks to Canada's plant and animal resources, the goal of the Strategy is to ensure their ongoing protection, thereby contributing to economic growth and the protection of human health and the environment. This will be accomplished by increasing collaboration and coordination among all those who play a role in plant and animal health, as well as by making prevention a priority. To read the draft Strategy and take part in the consultation, and for more information, visit [our webpage](#). The consultation will be open until April 30, 2017. Please contact [PAHS-SSVA@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:PAHS-SSVA@inspection.gc.ca) if you have any questions about the consultation or if you would like to request the consultation documents in an alternative format.

The Alberta Native Plant Council needs your help, they are looking for photos of rare plants for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta. The blooming season is just around the corner and they are looking for high quality photographs for all the rare vascular plant species tracked by Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS). The list of species needing photographs, instructions and a release form is on the ANPC website. [www.anpc.ab.ca](http://www.anpc.ab.ca)

Flora of AB Vol. 1 has been released and also has a free pdf version available as well. The pdf version can be found here: [http://dSPACE.ucalgary.ca/bitstream/1880/51799/1/9781552386835\\_web.pdf](http://dSPACE.ucalgary.ca/bitstream/1880/51799/1/9781552386835_web.pdf)

Alberta Environment and Parks has a new brochure aimed at the Prairie Plants at Risk in Southern Alberta. The brochure and information can be found [here](#).

Native Orchid Conservation Inc (NOCI) has just published the second edition of their book, Orchids of Manitoba. Their emphasis is on conservation and protection of Manitoba's native orchids. If you are interested in the book please contact Peggy at [NOCIpresident@gmail.com](mailto:NOCIpresident@gmail.com) or [www.nativeorchid.org](http://www.nativeorchid.org)

[Nature Saskatchewan](#) has released its fifth book, *Conifers and Catkin-Bearing Trees and Shrubs of Saskatchewan*. The book is now available for purchase through their website and should be available in stores.

## **LINKS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

"Recovery Strategies for Industrial Development in Native Prairie for the Northern Fescue Natural Subregion of Alberta" is now available on the Foothills Restoration Forum (FRF) website, where you can also order a hard copy. This is the third document in a multi-year project to develop best practices handbooks to promote restoration outcomes for disturbances, linked to each Natural Subregion that supports native grasslands. More information [here](#).

A new report in the Alberta Wildlife Status Report Series has been initiated. Status of the McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*) in Alberta. Alberta Wildlife Status Reports are published and distributed jointly by Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment and Parks. The first draft of this report is expected in early May 2017, if you have information on this species or data that are not accessible through FWMIS, please contact Dorothy Hill ([dphill@mtroyal.ca](mailto:dphill@mtroyal.ca) and CC [sue.peters@ab-converstation.com](mailto:sue.peters@ab-converstation.com)) by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. This is the link for the reports: <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/species-at-risk/species-at-risk-publications-web-resources/default.aspx>

A new nonprofit organization has come out with Flora ID, an app which is available on the Google play store. It will have native and naturalized vascular plants for BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Just search "Flora ID" on the Google Play store.

### "Forget-me-not, Métis Rose"

Though the eyes of their Métis ancestor Suzette Swift, Lisa Sheperd and Kristi Bridgeman will interpret the endemic flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains. Show runs Apr 12<sup>th</sup>- May 22, 2017 in the Jasper –Yellowhead Museum and Archives for more information call 780-852-3013.

Edmonton Life Long Learners Association Spring Session – Native Plants of Alberta  
Instructors Elisabeth Beaubien with Carole Dodd- Do you enjoy wildflowers? And would like to learn more? ELLA is hosting a Native Plants of Alberta session May 1<sup>st</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, with discussions on different types of plants and plant habitats as well as a trip to the UofA plant collection in the Bio Sciences Building.

More information at [www.my-ella.com](http://www.my-ella.com)

Alberta Conservation and Information Management Systems (ACIMS) Data Base App:  
An ACIMS app has been made and is now available for free on android play store. Here is the link to the [app](#). A special thanks goes out to Cam Johnston for his work on this.

Alberta Native Plant Council Volunteer Opportunities - Nisku Prairie is a remnant of aspen parkland protected as a municipal reserve. ANPC is a steward of this area and each summer there are a variety of activities including monitoring of sample plots and pulling weeds. Contact [info@anpc.com](mailto:info@anpc.com) with the subject of ANPC Volunteers for more information.

American Penstemon Society applications for 2017 special grants are now being accepted and reviewed. The Society is looking for projects that promote knowledge and appreciation of Penstemons. More information can be found [here](#).

Impacts and adaption to climate changes: A website that has news, projects, workbooks and information about climate change and the effects it has on different focuses, such as crops, forests and agriculture.

<http://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>

2017 Organic Master Gardener Program is being offered through the Stony Plain Heritage Agricultural Society. The program is offered in cooperation with Gaia College and the Society of Organic Urban Landcare. There will also be a native plant ID class held at the George Pegg Botanic Garden. More information can be found [here](#).