

PLANT HAPPENINGS MAY 2018

As the season is starting up, please watch for updates on the Plant Happenings facebook page at www.facebook.com/planthappenings.

UPCOMING COURSES, WORKSHOPS and EVENTS

Botany Alberta 2018

Date: July 6th- July 7th

This year Botany Alberta will be held in Whitehorse Wildland. There will be 3 main hikes planned, and many options for others if you would like to explore. Watson Creek, Cardinal Divide Ridge, and Whitehorse Creek will be the main hikes over the weekend, with a meet and greet on Friday as well as a gathering Saturday evening. If you are interested in coming or need more information please email. As it is still being planned, please look out for additional updates as they come. If you would like to lead a hike or have any suggestions please email Anna at amozolik@gmail.com or anpc.botanyab@gmail.com

ALBERTA PLANT STUDY GROUPS

Are not currently running and will be starting back up in the fall.

WEBSITES AND PUBLICATIONS

More Illustrated Keys!

Thanks to a rather lengthy winter (and a broken shoulder) we were able to complete the illustrated keys to the Gymnosperms, Pteridophytes and Monocots in time for the 2018 field season. These are now posted on the ANPC website at http://anpc.ab.ca/?page_id=3089. We hope that you will use the keys over the summer, and let us know if you find any errors, omissions or ways to improve the text and/or illustrations. Please send your comments to linda.kershaw1@gmail.com and/or lornaj.allen@gmail.com. Thanks to those who have sent us feedback on earlier keys. We really appreciate your help.

Linda Kershaw and Lorna Allen

The second edition of Rare Vascular Plants of Alberta book is currently being prepared. If you have any quality photos of rare plants species currently being tracked ACIMS, please check out www.anpc.ab.ca They have the list of species still requiring photos, instructions and release forms on the website.

LINKS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Land Footprint and Recreation Management Plans have been approved.

The plans for the two areas can be found on the Environment and Parks website at <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=559635746E487-E7C0-4E4F-56BAA61A78EDA86D>

The plans represent a big step forward in science-based planning to protect watershed, sustain biodiversity and encourage responsible use of public lands by all users. Disturbance footprint will be reduced substantially as defined by zoning and limits on motorized access, new footprint will be subject to siting criteria to avoid valued features, and a restoration strategy to re-establish native plant communities will be implemented. All of this is good for native plants and plant communities. Hopefully this approach will be applied on public land elsewhere in the Eastern Slopes and the province generally.

The last day to register for the **SALMTEC** online **ABWRET-A** training course is July 10, 2018. This course is designed for professionals intending to conduct wetland assessments or requiring a solid understanding of the government's Alberta Wetland Rapid Evaluation Tool – Actual (ABWRET-A). This course consists of 8 on-line modules, 1-2 hours in duration, and a one-day field training component. The field day will be held July 17th (YYC) and July 19th (YEG). For more information on registration, course dissemination schedule and course structure, visit <https://www.salmtec.com/courses/abwret-course>.

Lichens of Alberta LICHENS ARE FASCINATING, DIVERSE AND

UNDER-APPRECIATED. Lichen diversity can equal or surpass that of other flora in terrestrial ecosystems, yet there are few opportunities to learn about them. Take this course if to remedy that! What you will gain:

- the skills to identify ~100 lichen species and 60 genera as well as species not covered in the course through microscopy, chemical testing, and learning how to 'read' morphology
- knowledge of lichen diversity, distributions and habitat associations as well as lichen taxonomy, ecology, physiology and survey methods
- 2 citeable publications (species accounts) using real data from real collections
- experience with GIS mapping, macrophotography & writing

This course will take you out of the classroom and off-campus, and give you an opportunity to make a contribution towards understanding Alberta's natural history. INTERESTED? Email Dr. Diane Haughland, Royal Alberta Museum, for more information diane.haughland@gov.ab.ca