WILDFLOWER NEWS

'Growing Nature's Garden'

FEBRUARY 2021

Populus tremuloides, aspen poplar, trembling aspen.

From your Publisher:

Welcome to the Wildflower News for February. This is the month to think about starting some seeds of your desired native plants. Planting even a few native plants in your yard will greatly increase its usefulness for native insects, birds and other wildlife.

In This Issue:

LETTERS:

Wow, Cherry, Patsy and Judith, you have outdone your selves with this newsletter. Amazing. So much great information. One thought - the excellent article on pollinator beds by Cherry - perhaps a note on how one can obtain the seeds or plants to add to ones garden would be helpful. I will forward this to a few concerned citizens/gardeners.

Thank you thank you

Liz Reid

WN:You are most welcome. We have acted on your suggestion and include some sources in this issue. Thank you!

Native Plants in Local Gardens

Keep sending us pics of your "natural" flower beds and yards that include some or a lot of local Edmonton native wildflowers. We love 'em! Overviews of the beds, and close-ups of the flowers would be lovely, as would some info on whether the plants are in full sun, early morning sun, dappled sun, or full shade. Your general location in the city (i.e. SE, NW, Central, etc.) would be appreciated, as would letting us have permission to use the photos in future publications, slide presentations, our social media, etc. ENPs always indicates photographer, if known, for any photo we use.

Send your photos to engedmonton@gmail.com

EVENTS - if you would like to post an event that involves native flowers, please email us at engedmonton@gmail.com

30 Apr - 3 May - City Nature Challenge 2021 See **Upcoming Bioblitz** in the NEWS below.

NEWS... If you have a news item involving native plants that you would like posted, please email us at engedmonton@gmail.com

Farming as Though the Earth Matters Submitted by Luke Wonneck, Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES), consultant on the project.

The article linked below was written by Trina Moyles, on behalf of *Rural Routes to Climate Solutions*. It tells a beautiful story of how a grain farmer became passionate about wetlands, wildlife, regenerative agriculture, and native plants. Brenda Bohmer farms 1.5 hours southeast of Edmonton and in the last few years has undertaken significant efforts to create wildlife habitat and restore ecological processes on her land. This coming year, she will be working with the ENPS to increase native plant diversity in and around her newly restored wetlands and perhaps also along her field margins. We will be experimenting with techniques of establishing native plants in cropland, so keep an eye on Wildflower News for updates!
https://rr2cs.ca/farming-as-though-the-earth-matters-brenda-bohmer/
If you are interested in the process AWES used to plant around the wetlands, check out this 3 part video series they made!
Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w510BKGcVpk&t=2s
Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGffCArxieo&t=19s
Part 3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj6z9zJqlNA&t=152s

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Upcoming bioblitz in the greater Edmonton region - *City Nature Challenge 2021*, 30 Apr - 3 May Submitted by Greg Pohl, a local biologist, involved with the Alberta Lepidopterists' Guild.

I've set up an Edmonton-area node for **City Nature Challenge 2021**, an international bioblitz event where cities take part in some friendly competition to see who can observe the most species, and get the most participants, all over the world. The timing isn't great for a northern city - **30 April to 3 May**; it was set up by people in southern California. But it's still a great opportunity to encourage people to get out and enjoy nature, and compile some valuable data at the same time.
Participation is via iNaturalist - all people need to do is take a photo of any organism with their digital camera or cell phone, and upload it to the iNaturalist site. Anyone with an account on the site can upload observations, and participate in identifying their own and others' observations. If you're familiar with iNaturalist, the Edmonton-area City Nature Challenge 2021 "project" is here: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-edmonton-metro-area
Any observation in the **greater Edmonton area (including St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, Sherwood Park, Nisku, Leduc, Beaumont, and Devon)** that is uploaded between 30 April and 3 May 2021 will automatically be included in the tally of results.
If you're not familiar with iNaturalist, you can find more info about it here: https://www.inaturalist.org
It's a fantastic free resource that turns naturalists' observations into valuable data for researchers, and keeps track of your own checklists. Note I also set up a more general iNaturalist "project" covering all observations in the metro Edmonton area, for all dates, not just for that weekend. So far there have been almost 16,000 observations of 2227 species, by 1445 different people, captured by that project: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/metro-edmonton-biodiversity
If you'd like more general information about the worldwide City Nature Challenge, you can find it here:
https://citynaturechallenge.org/
Please help spread the word about City Nature Challenge 2021 to your naturalists' group, and consider participating as individuals or as an organisation. It may not be possible to plan large public events during the bioblitz, but it's still a great way for individuals to get out and enjoy nature safely and contribute biodiversity information.
Note there is a second more locally-driven bioblitz later in the summer, the **Edmonton BiodiverCity Challenge**, tentatively set for **June 10-13, 2021**. Watch for information about that event as it develops.

Different methods for stratifying native seeds by Liz Deleeuw

Native plant seeds have different requirements for achieving germination. The Edmonton Native Plant Society has learned through experience and research about which seeds will grow without stratification. Success in germination depends on things such as the age and viability of the seed, the stratification, if needed, the planting methods, the amount of moisture, the amount of available light, the temperature, and likely many more factors.
Many native forbs, sedges, and some grasses, require stratification for germination.

Stratification alerts the seed that it is time to germinate through changes in conditions. In the Edmonton area the spring brings gradual thawing of the soil, and the presence of moisture lets the seeds know it is time to germinate. This typically is a Cold/Moist stratification. A few species like Blue-eyed Grass are more particular and may need a warm moist period as well.

Stratification can also be achieved indoors as described below.

Methods of stratification:

Fall Dormant Seeding - Sow seeds directly into the garden in the fall. The seeds will naturally be stratified as the spring comes. If you do plant directly into the garden be sure to mark the planting area well. Also be sure to know what the seedlings will look like, and be ready to protect the seedlings from weeds. This is not the method we usually recommend.

Fall/Winter Dormant Seeding - We recommend that you sow your seeds into pots filled with potting soil or mix in the fall. Alternatively, you can do the sowing in around February. In either case make sure the pots are outside covered by snow in the winter, and are in a spot that will thaw evenly in the spring (no excessive sunlight). Make sure the pots are kept moist after the snow is gone. The seedlings will not have to compete with garden weeds. and can grow in the pot until they are ready to be put into the garden. Many native plants spend the first season developing their root structure so the plants generally do not get that large very quickly.

Cold Dry Stratification - You can put the seeds into the fridge for six weeks before planting them into pots indoors. This is a simple cold stratification and we have found this is a technique that works for many native plants. With this method you can plant seeds directly into their own pots. Growing tips are included in the description of the next method.

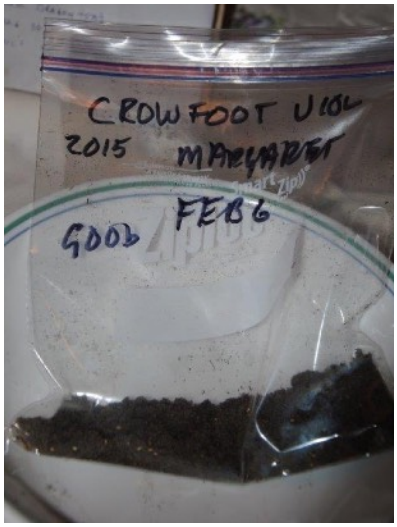
Cold Moist Stratification - To optimize results, and to mimic natural conditions more closely, use a mix of potting soil, sand, and/or peat moss with added moisture. My method is to mix equal portions of sand and peat moss.
Use five parts of that mixture to approximately 1 part of seed. Mix the seed in well and place in a baggie. Add just enough water to dampen the mix. Do not over moisten it. You can use more of the sand/peat moss mix if you would like more spacing between the seedlings when they come up. Place the baggie in the fridge for six weeks. Check it every few days to make sure that the mix does not dry out. Also, if the seeds start sprouting it is time to pot them up. When the 6 weeks are up spread the mixture on top of pots filled with a growing medium (seedling mix) that does not have soil in it. This helps prevent the seedlings “damping off” which is a fungal disease that causes the stem and the roots of the seedlings to rot. Cover them lightly according to seed size if necessary.

Place the pot where it gets light either from a window or grow light. Keep it moist, but not wet until the seeds germinate. Some growers run a fan occasionally to create a breeze which helps to strengthen the stems and help to prevent rot. I run a fan with a timer.

With this method you will get a pot with a lot of seedlings in it. Once the seedlings are developed they can be “pricked out” into pots to grow on. This simply means carefully separating the individual plants to be planted into their own pot filled with soil or growing medium. The plants can then be grown on either inside or outside if the weather is suitable and the risk of frost is gone. Tender plants started inside should be “hardened off” which allows the plant to gradually get used to the outside conditions. This involves putting the plants outside during the day in dappled shade but bringing them in for the colder nights. Gradually move them into more sun, and when night temperatures allow, leave totally outside for a few days in full sun. They will then be ready to plant in your chosen location.

Happy Stratifying!

Mix the seeds into a small amount of damp potting soil or peat moss and sand; put the mix into a plastic bag and slightly moisten; label and place in the fridge for 6 weeks. Check every few days to make sure they don't dry out or haven't started sprouting. (If the seeds do start to sprout, take them out and plant them right away.)



Planting Your Pollinator Bed Part 3 - Plants For Shade - by Cherry Dodd. Photos by author unless otherwise noted.

Last month I focused on plants that would do well in semi-shade and one of these, Canada Violet, will also grow well in shade. Here are a few more species that don't mind a lot of shade.

Veiny Meadowrue, *Thalictrum venulosum*. This medium height ground cover, 40 to 70 cm tall, is useful for filling in gaps in a shady area or around the base of a small tree. It is an attractive plant with an open form and small lacy leaves. It is closely related to Tall Meadowrue, and the flowers are borne on male or female plants. Male flowers are small and greenish-white with a yellow fringe hanging down. The female flowers are tiny star-like specks ranging from green to pink or purple. Bloom time is June and July. Veiny Meadowrue only self-seeds a little and spreads mostly by short underground rhizomes. It is an easy care species that you can plant and forget about. The robust root system makes it easy to transplant.We will have plants and seeds for sale this spring.

Tall Meadowrue, *Thalictrum dasycarpum*, is one of my favourites. It is not a ground cover like Veiny Meadowrue, it is quite different - a large specimen plant that can sometimes reach a height of 2 metres. The leaves are similar to Veiny Meadowrue, but are larger. Tall Meadowrue will grow in deep shade, but it can also be planted in a sunny spot if there is enough moisture. There are male and female plants, but it is impossible to tell from seeds or seedlings what you have until they flower in June and July. The male plant produces a cloud of small, whitish, yellow-fringed flowers, and the female plant has fewer flowers - tiny, white and star-like. Tall Meadowrue prefers a damp spot and good soil, but doesn't need any other care. It won't reach its full height until its third year, but by its second year it is already taller than a mature Veiny Meadowrue. This species self-seeds a little. Take out unwanted plants in the first year as they develop a large root system to support the top growth.
We will have seeds for sale this spring.

©Patrick Kyle

Dewberry, *Rubus pubescens*, is useful if you have a wild shady area and you would like more diversity. This short plant, 10 to 20 cm tall, has very slender vines that ramble across the ground in all directions. It has small red berries that are edible and taste good, but they are not plentiful. Flowers are small and white and appear in June and July. Dewberry needs no care and it is easy to take out surplus vines. I haven't tried growing it from seed but it transplants well.
We will have plants for sale this spring.

Wild Sarsaparilla, *Aralia nudicaulis*, is an interesting plant. There is only one leaf per plant, but it is a compound leaf with 3 divisions, each with 3 to 5 leaflets, so it appears to be 3 leaves forming an umbrella above the ground. The flowers, which appear in June and July, usually consist of 3 globe-shaped flower clusters hidden under the leafy umbrella. The tiny flowers are greenish-white and are occasionally followed by green berries which turn a dark purple when mature. They look tempting but are not edible. They have a low germination rate, so it is hard to grow Wild Sarsaparilla from seed. This species is a lovely ground cover, 30 to 50 cm tall. The plants are spaced out and appear to be individuals but they are all connected under the soil. Wild Sarsaparilla may seem slow to get established and your new plants might just sit there for several years. However they are building a large network of rhizomes underground and when they are ready new plants will pop up all over the place. Under the right conditions Wild Sarsaparilla can be quite invasive. We will have plants for sale this spring.

©Judith Golub

Sweet Cicely, *Osmorhiza longistylis*. Our local species of Sweet Cicely is rare in Alberta, but fairly common in the Edmonton area. It can often be seen on steep ravine slopes, usually close to evergreen trees. In the garden it prefers a damp area, but it will grow well with regular soil moisture conditions. It is a tall, bushy plant with attractive finely-cut leaves and small white flowers which appear in June and July. The seed heads are large and multi branched, with each terminal twig holding a cluster of large, black, bristly seeds. Sweet Cicely has some very good points and some very bad points. Good points first - the leaves are tender and edible and have a great anise taste. I believe the roots are edible as well, but I haven't tried them. However, the young green seeds are as sweet as candy and have the same anise flavour. They quickly become fibrous and should be gathered and eaten as soon as they appear. Sweet Cicely is a fast grower and goes through all its growth stages at super speed. It is a tough plant that needs absolutely no care. Bad points - Sweet Cicely self-seeds abundantly and will quickly take over all your shade and semi-shade areas if you let it. The black seeds stay on the plant through fall, winter and spring, and they travel to new areas by sticking tenaciously to your clothes and your pets. To stop this species from self-seeding, be sure to eat all the seeds while they are at the edible stage. Seedlings establish early and have a strong root system in place before you even notice the top growth, so they can be a pain to weed out. We will have plants and seeds for sale this spring.

Up until now I have not included rambunctious, aggressive species in these articles, simply because there is not enough space in most gardens for them. Sweet Cicely and Wild Sarsaparilla are the first. However, these "take over the world" species have a lot of redeeming features and all of them will do well with more space on an acreage or rural property. So next month I will introduce you to some more of my rambunctious favourites. Plants such as Tall Lungwort, Rhombic-leaved Sunflowers, Fringed Loosestrife and more.

Buying seeds this spring.
Our seeds are locally sourced and organically grown. We presently sell them through Apache Seeds, Salisbury Greenhouse, Birds Unlimited and the Wildbird General Store. We hope to have new 2021 stock in place by mid-February or the beginning of March at the latest. Some stores might still have some stock from last year. Larger orders, or those seed varieties not carried by the stores, can be also be placed through Mary-Jo (email her at mjgurba@telus.net) and be picked up or mailed out (at cost).

Lois Hole Community Garden - raised beds with a native plant pollinator strip by Dale Ford

The first year that Lois Hole School was opened (2017-2018 school year), the students raised butterflies as part of their nature-based curriculum. The students excitedly raised Red Admirals until the insects were ready to be released. The students happily went outside and released the butterflies only to witness the birds immediately swoop in from all directions and consume all the butterflies. The school and the whole area, is new construction, a sterile area with lots of new lawn and little else. There are few insects for the birds to eat and no place for the butterflies to shelter, let alone

survive. It was a massacre but at least the birds were fed.

The school wanted to change this expanse of sterile lawns and honour the legacy of Lois Hole. In spring 2019, a large community-focused garden replaced a stretch of grass at the very front of the school. The garden consists of ten large cedar raised beds for teaching the students how to grow food organically. The Integrated Pest Management plan for the community garden was to build a massive four foot wide pollinator strip running the full length of the plot. The pollinator strip is filled native wildflowers and grasses providing shelter, host, and nectar sources for pollinators. The pollinator strip is supplemented with annual sunflowers, poppies, borage and marigolds which were a favourite plant of Lois Hole. Some of these native plants were transplants from the Edmonton Native Plant Society's (ENPS) now defunct plot at Old Man Creek Nursery, others, like the milkweed, were grown from seed collected by ENPS. I can report they are happily growing in St. Albert saving butterflies from immediate doom. And yes, the native bees, dragonflies, butterflies, damselflies and other creatures have all been observed happily living in the garden by the science classes.

Left: Robert Ford volunteering to construct the pollinator strip.

Right: Construction of Lois Hole community garden raised beds with pollinator strip.

Then Covid hit and, since the students were at home, the school acquired seeds and gave these seeds to the Kindergarten students living in these new homes. Teachers and grandparents also became involved. Plans for gardens were shared, and the kids went to work destroying the never-ending lawns. In total, thirty-five pollinator gardens were planted in the area with the intent to re-creating habitat for local insects and to create a flight way for migrating butterflies. Of course, native pollinators have evolved with native plants, and native plants need to form the backbone of any pollinator garden. The school is registered as a Pollinator Garden, and is part of the butterfly rangers project: https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway/

2021 will be a new outdoor classroom, so more to follow. Lois would be happy.

Current winter photo.

No plants in the strip are cut down for winter.

Lois Hole School is located at 20 Everitt Drive, St Albert.

WN is in awe of this project. What an enlightened decision made by the school, city, parents, kids and everyone else involved in the creation of this exciting garden. What a wonderful opportunity for the community, both environmentally and aesthetically. We're very much looking forward to more news on the garden.

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard.

Tallamy, Douglas W. 2019. Portland, Oregon. Timber Press.
Review by Patsy Cotterill. Photos by author unless otherwise noted.
(Other books by the same author: Bringing Nature Home, 2008 and The Living Landscape, with Rick Darke, 2014)

"Ninety-five percent of the country has been logged, tilled, drained, grazed, paved, or otherwise developed…… only 5% of the US in the lower 48 states is in a pristine, self-sustaining state."
These are some of the compelling statistics that author Douglas Tallamy quotes to build the case for what has now become his mission: to bring about a cultural transformation (i.e., a change in human practices) that in turn supports a physical transformation that will put our life-sustaining natural ecosystems back together. He envisions converting our gardens and yards, the open spaces that exist in our public, commercial, educational and industrial areas, into natural communities that support diverse species in functional, self-sustaining food webs. He dubs the resulting expansion of nature, "Homegrown National Park."

Canada's situation, with its vast boreal forests, is not as overwhelmed by the human footprint as that of the US; nevertheless, even its remotest areas are contaminated by pollution and/or affected by global warming, and there are over 800 species at risk in Canada. The majority of us living in the settled areas are well aware of ongoing urban/suburban and industrial development. Needless to say, Tallamy is passionately anti-lawn, regarding lawns as sterile spaces without ecosystem function, and an anachronistic status symbol emanating from the time when having a park-like landscape meant you were rich enough not to have to plant crops. He notes that in the US "turfgrass has replaced diverse plant communities on more than 40 million acres." In contrast, native plants have no status value.

Tallamy is an entomologist, and professor of wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. He gets much of the evidence for his worldview from his research on the interactions of plants and insects and their consequences for other forms of life. His thesis is that insects are basic to the food chain, and native insects do better on native plants because they have evolved to live together. He proposes that to counter the incredible decline in insect populations (45% globally since 1974), priority should be given to restoring Lepidopterans – moths, butterflies and sawflies – as well as bees. Bees are the main pollinators; butterflies, despite their penchant for nectaring on flowers, are not. However, the caterpillars of Lepidopterans are full of the fat, protein and carotenoids that birds need to nourish their young and get them quickly to fledging and away from the predator-prone nest.

Plants that best support the nutrition of Lepidoptera he calls keystone species and gives as examples oaks, cherries (*Prunus* species) and willows. We don't have oaks here, of course, but they are abundant and diverse in Tallamy's Atlantic America and, further, their slowly decomposing tannin-rich leaves provide plenty of litter in which insects and other arthropods can complete their life cycles. We do have willows here and perhaps we should consider incorporating them more into landscape plantings. I assume poplars are equally useful. Willows, asters and goldenrods are also important for bees in search of nectar and pollen. Tallamy provides a number of tips on how to make a garden habitable for a variety of bees throughout their lives.

Male beaked willow (*Salix bebbiana*) in flower at Wagner Natural Area, May 24, 2010.

On the subject of invasive species, which get a free ride compared to the natives by virtue of having few predators, Tallamy has plenty to say. I was pleased to note the following statement:
"….natural succession from one type of plant community to another is essentially dead when invasive plants enter the scene. Disturbances these days more often than not do not progress from grassland to meadow to scrub to forest; instead, the land becomes frozen in a perpetual tangle of invasive vines and shrubs." City of Edmonton Parks staff need

to pay attention to this!

Another quote that resonated and would encourage the work that ENPS is doing: “Most young people don’t know that the earth now needs constant stewardship – or what stewardship even looks like. Even fewer know that a hands-off approach to good stewardship is not the best option, because there are few places where nature is still able to take its course without human management. Many kids don’t know these things because we have not taught them and they have been deprived of the chance to learn about the natural world on their own.” Encountering nature in their (our) own yard is an obvious way to rectify this.

Photo: Manna Parseyan

A bumblebee collecting pollen from wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), summer 2018.

Like me, he is not sympathetic to the ideas of the “new conservationists” who find invasive species tolerable, suggest that they will become useful members of the ecosystem in time, and deny the need for restoration. He quotes as an example of an invasive species common reed (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*) which has displaced native vegetation from the Atlantic Coast to the shores of Lake Michigan. In its native Europe it hosts 170 species of insects, in North America only 5! It would be interesting to research equivalent metrics for our invasive reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

Nature’s Best Hope succeeds in being both entertainingly written for the general public and scientifically robust: the author’s statements are backed up by references to the scientific literature and there is an extensive bibliography at the end of the book. Many of us will find the ecological tenets familiar and Tallamy’s conclusions much to our taste. But is he preaching to the converted? He has an obvious following among academics and students. With respect to adoption of his vision by the general public, he is, however, a realist, well aware of the obstacles that exist. He emphasizes that he is not trying “to restore nature to some mythical pristine state” or even a pre-settlement condition, but rather to re-create functional ecosystems. He is aware of the problem known as shifting baseline syndrome, where each new generation accepts the continuously impoverished environment they inherit because they have never known anything better. Readers should not skip the excellent Q and A chapter in which Tallamy provides answers and counter-arguments to the questioners and doubters.

If I have one criticism of this book it is that, although the author aptly characterizes invasive plants, he accedes to the common convention of equating wildflowers to weeds. He should have given a clear definition of a weed: (usually) a non-native plant growing in disturbed ground, with a high capacity for reproduction and spread. What I took most from the book – apart from being enlightened on a number of topics (see ‘Interesting fact’ on monarch butterflies, for example) – was inspiration: an incentive to get back to work. I am also encouraged to pay more attention to the relations between insects and plants in future.

Newly hatched Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) in Old Man Creek Nursery, 28 July 2012.

Interesting fact: Monarch butterflies specialize on milkweeds because their caterpillars are able to detoxify the cardiac glycosides these plants produce. But the caterpillars have also learnt how to avoid the sticky white latex in the leaves that deter other insects by clogging up their mouthparts. They nip and break open the main leaf vein carrying the latex to the smaller veins
so they can eat the leaves with impunity!

Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary, Fall 2020 A Pictorial Essay by Patsy Cotterill. Photos by author.

Because of the unusual amount of precipitation we had last season, areas of Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary that had been dry for years suddenly became flooded, making for some interesting photogenic opportunities. Many trees and shrubs have died, but several of the more aquatic species flourished. The sanctuary will look a lot different next year as forest gives way to marsh; only the sandy uplands will not change. The following pictures were taken on September 4, 2020.



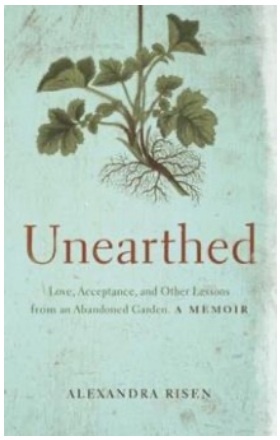
Left: View along the boardwalk. Note the dying trees.
Centre:Young coots found the water situation very much to their liking and got close to visitors on the boardwalk.
Right: Sprangletop or common rivergrass (*Scolochloa festucacea*) flowered abundantly this year.

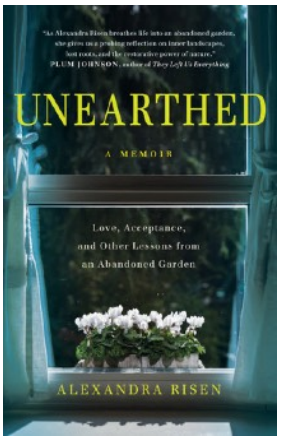


Left: Water smartweed (*Persicaria amphibia* var. *stipulacea*) was very prominent in the newly flooded areas.
Centre: Autumn willow (*Salix serissima*) is the latest of our willows to flower (in June). Fruit catkins stay on the shrub until late winter.
Right: Common bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris* subsp. *macrorhiza*) was visible again from the boardwalk after being absent for many years. The buds at the top of the stems will fall to the mud at the bottom to overwinter.

Recommended Reading:

Unearthed: Love, Acceptance, and other Lessons from an Abandoned Garden by Alexandra Risen
Book review by Kate Wilson





While this memoir doesn't point directly to working with native plants, it does explore the value of getting in touch with the essential by attending to plants and earth, and the value of simple labour for opening up the heart.

In her own heart opening, author Alexandra Risen, whose parents emigrated from the Ukraine to Edmonton in the mid 20th century, "unearths acceptance, love and other lessons" simultaneous to beating back the weeds, invasives and crumbling stonework of an abandoned garden in her new home in Toronto. While dealing with the practical and the magical of restoring her acre-sized back yard – itself on the edge of one of Toronto's untamed ravines – her mother has a stroke and develops dementia. Alexandra finds an envelope of yellowed documents that holds clues to her parents' mysterious past, at the same time uncovering the primroses, lily-of-the-valley, sugar maples, and more, hidden in her new garden. What she rediscovers is the love that was there at her own beginnings, as a child exploring the creeks, ravines and wild places of Edmonton.

Just writing this review has made me want to pick up this delightful and poignant memoir once again. Published in 2016, it's available from the library and from any bookstore. The author has also created a website with photos, maps and even recipes from her wild Toronto garden.

Lifetime ENPS Membership
You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are $20 and can be purchased by emailing enpgmembership@gmail.com or visit one of our booths at plant events in your area.

Aims of the Edmonton Native Plant Society:

- ✤ Promote knowledge of the Edmonton area native plants.
- ✤ Conserve our native plant species and their habitats.
- ✤ Preserve native plant species and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- ✤ Educate individuals, business and local governments about native plants.

Please send compliments, concerns and complaints to engedmonton@gmail.com.
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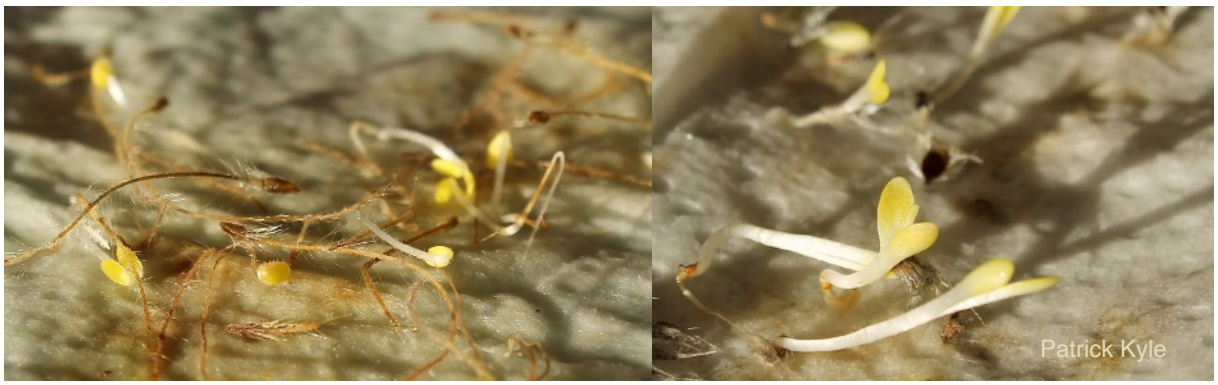
Cherry Dodd, editor
Judith Golub, publisher
www.edmontonnativeplantgroup.org



Cold, wet germination test on seeds collected in the fall.
Three-flowered avens, (*Geum triflorum*) — 48%. Gaillardia (*Gaillardia aristata*) - 33%.