



WILDFLOWER NEWS

Growing Nature's Garden

October 2024

Winter trees in the Edmonton River Valley, 2024-10-17. Photo: P. Cotterill.

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Editorial:

As we publish, the last of the yellow and red leaves cling to the branches of trees and shrubs, revealing a bare, clean, winter landscape that has its own beauty. With excellent fall weather, we have been able to continue gardening and field trips well into October.

With work on projects such as the Muttart and Bunchberry Meadows native beds ended for the season, ENPS is looking to catch up with some indoor work, including seed cleaning and processing and making plans for the coming year.

The next two newsletters will be published on a bimonthly schedule: respectively in late November (November–December issue), and in February (January–February). In the interim, any time-sensitive events will be communicated by email. (And don't forget to check the website.)

We will also be emailing out a survey to our members and volunteers. Our aim is to get to know our members better, with the objective of providing appropriate, sustainable services and encouraging active participation in ENPS, further to achieving the Society's vision and mission. There will be prizes for completed surveys, so don't forget to keep your eye on your email!



Planting Native Trees and Shrubs

Don't miss this upcoming workshop, with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society, to learn about how native trees and shrubs are a critical factor in supporting biodiversity and overall landscape ecology, how to select appropriate species to plant, how to naturalize a riparian area and more

Time & Location

Nov 05, 2024,
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Brookville Community Hall,
53203 Range Rd 212,
Ardrossan, AB

[Read more...](#)

Grassland Restoration Forum Fall Information Session

This one-day event gathers a variety of industry and grassland stakeholders to exchange current information on grassland restoration and conservation through a variety of presentations and mini-updates.

Time & Location

Nov 14, 2024,

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Claresholm Community Centre, 5920 8 St W,
Claresholm, AB

[Read more...](#)

Environmental Conservation: A Local Perspective

The Muttart Conservatory and the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation present their second annual event showcasing environmental organizations working in the greater Edmonton area.

Time & Location

Nov 16, 2024 and Nov 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Muttart Conservatory

9626 96a St NW, Edmonton, AB

[Read more...](#)



ENPS Goes to the Zoo – Again!

In 2023, staff at the Edmonton Valley Zoo and ENPS board members discussed the possibility of transforming two areas of the Zoo grounds into native plant habitats. In mid-September this year, preparation and planting of the two areas in the Zoo, planned as native habitat, took place in earnest. [Read more...](#)



Planting at the ground squirrel exhibit, 2024-09-13. *Photo: P. Cotterill.*

World Migratory Bird Day at the Edmonton Valley Zoo

On October 12, ENPS helped the Edmonton Valley Zoo celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.

[Read more...](#)



ENPS volunteers Kate Spencer, Liz Deleeuw and Manna Parseyan at the information table, 2024-10-12. *Photo: S. Wiezenbach.*

Clean and Green Riverfest – St Albert

ENPS had an information table at this family-friendly event in St. Albert on September 21.

[Read more...](#)



ENPS volunteers Mary-Jo Gurba-Flanagan and Aaron Vansevendt at the information table, 2024-09-21. Photo: P. Kyle.

ENPS at the Sinkunia Harvest Festival

ENPS shared information at this community event in the Balwin neighbourhood on September 21.

[Read more...](#)



ENPS volunteer Natasha Stairs speaks at the festival, 2024-09-21. *Photo: courtesy of the Sinkunia Community Development Organization.*

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas Survey

The Alberta Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas is seeking input from the public to help inform a made-in-Alberta strategy that will guide how the province will maintain, conserve and sustainably manage our nature for years to come.

"Nature includes the plants, animals and landscapes, their interaction and ecological processes, and the benefits, or 'ecosystem services' that people receive from nature. Ecosystem services are essential to people living in Alberta to sustain a healthy and prosperous way of life, such as abundant clean air and water, fertile soil for farming, flood and erosion control, wildlife habitat, carbon dioxide absorption, and supplying the natural resources that are the foundation of our economy.

Provide your input through the online survey by November 7, 2024, to ensure that the strategy reflects Albertans' diverse perspectives, values and priorities for nature."

<https://www.alberta.ca/nature-strategy-engagement>

You can find the survey here:

<https://your.alberta.ca/nature-strategy/surveys/albertas-nature-strategy>

Editor's note: It is very IMPORTANT that those interested in CONSERVING our natural areas speak up, lest our voices be drowned out by those only interested in preserving economic opportunities.



Dunluce Treestand: Natural Area or Not?

by Kathleen Mpulubusi



The Dunluce Treestand, located on 121 Street and 158 Avenue, is one of the largest remaining patches of natural forest located within the developed areas of Edmonton. It is 5.7 hectares (14.5 acres) in area. It is one of many natural areas dotted throughout the city. These areas are vital islands of nature in an increasingly more dense, populated and sprawling urban environment.

[Read more...](#)

View of a trail in Dunluce Treestand, 2024-09-14. Photo: K. Mpulubusi.

Articles

Getting Your Wildflower Bed Ready For Winter

By Kate Wilson

Originally published in the [2020 November Issue of the WildFlower News](#)

Fall maintenance

Most of the wildflowers and grasses in our Edmonton native beds are perennials. They've evolved to survive harsh conditions by developing strong root systems. Grasses and many forbs also retain nutrients above ground through the winter, giving them value as forage for over-wintering grazers such as deer if you happen to live near a creek or ravine. Dead stalks are also important for native bees and other insects to burrow into, until spring

[Read more...](#)



Green needle grass is one of several bunch grasses that offer wildlife a food source over winter. *Photo: Kate Wilson*

Getting a Headstart on Seeds



For those of you interested in starting your seed sowing now, or later in the season, **Apache Seeds** (10136 - 149 Street) will be open all winter and will be selling a selection of ENPS' seed packages. We expect that other garden stores, who normally sell our seeds, will resume selling them in the spring.

[Read more...](#)

Seed display at Apache Seeds, 2023-09-21. Photo: M-J. Gurba-Flanagan.

What is iNaturalist and How to Use It

By Susan Neuman

As a native plant enthusiast, you may be interested in using iNaturalist when you need help identifying a plant, or if you wish to share your plant discoveries with the wider community. This article will discuss how to accomplish these steps, in some detail.

[Read more...](#)



Plant Profile: Buttercups, Part 1

By Patsy Cotterill

The genus *Ranunculus* – the buttercups, spearworts and water crowfoots

This genus in the crowfoot family (Ranunculaceae) contains about 700 species distributed world-wide in temperate and montane regions. Its members are easy to recognize because the flowers have a similar simple structure, and most are yellow, with a lesser number of species having white flowers. Even the leaves have similarities of design, often with simple, round basal leaves with three-part divisions and deeply divided stem leaves, all with palmate venation.

[Read more...](#)



Left: A typical buttercup flower. Photo: M. Parseyan.



Right: Spectacular Mount Cook Lily or Mount Cook buttercup (*Ranunculus lyallii*), the largest buttercup in the world. Mount Cook National Park, New Zealand, 2016-11-19. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Photo Essay

Fruits Of October

The flowering season is finally coming to an end but the fruits of plants' seasonal labours are now in full evidence, as many species ripen their fruits in October.

[Read more...](#)



Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Whitemud Park North, 2024-09-27. Photo: P. Cotterill.



Agrimony (*Agrimonia striata*), Whitemud Park North, 2024-09-27. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Lifetime ENPS Membership

You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are \$20. Purchase by email: membership@enps.ca, through our website: <https://www.enps.ca/become-a-member> or visit one of our booths at plant events in your area. ENPS members are also eligible for a free Lifetime Membership with Nature Alberta.



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

Please send compliments, concerns and questions to info@enps.ca
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