

# Native Orchid News:

The Newsletter of Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

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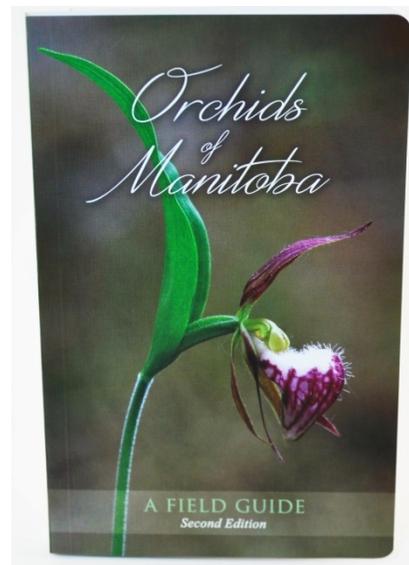
Book Launch Friday, September 30

Open House Friday, October 28

Plant of the Month  
Prairie Sage  
(*Artemisia ludoviciana*)



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**Book Launch**  
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**Open House**  
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# President's Report

By Peggy Bainard Acheson

What a busy spring and summer we have had! On June 20<sup>th</sup> the second edition of our book, *Orchids of Manitoba, a field guide* was released, and on June 22<sup>nd</sup> the official opening of the Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail was celebrated. Both events were monumental for NOCI and Debwendon! The trail opening ceremony was moving and the speakers inspirational. If you weren't able to attend, please visit [www.debwendon.org](http://www.debwendon.org) where you can enjoy a summary of the day's events and lots of pictures by Will Milne. The book will be available at our upcoming book launch at McNally-Robinson on September 30<sup>th</sup> and at our Open House on October 28<sup>th</sup> (see details below). It is also available for \$25.00 from any board member, and will be on our new website very soon.

For two days in July Richard Reeves and I were pleased to host Marilyn Light, a friend and orchid lover from Gatineau, Quebec who helped us with some technical items for our book. Marilyn is a passionate orchid researcher, and is the editor of *Orchid Conservation News*, the newsletter of the Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN[1] Species Survival Commission. One of her current projects is the study of a moth (*Paralobesia cypripediana*) that only lays its eggs on the Showy Lady's-slipper. Once the egg hatches the larva bores a hole in the ovary (seed pod) of the plant and consumes the seeds inside. She showed Richard and I how to find the larval damage on the ovary and then find the egg cases on the back of the dorsal sepal -- fascinating! Marilyn was thrilled to walk the Brokenhead Trail and is writing an article for the IUCN Orchid Newsletter.

To promote the book and the trail I attended the Victoria Beach Country Market on July 30<sup>th</sup> along with Karen Paul who was promoting the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and the Bergman prints in support of both LWF and Debwendon Inc.

Dave Toop, John Perry and I attended Prairie Day on August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve where I promoted our organization and Dave spoke on the native orchids of the southeast area of the province.

We had a great mix of field trips over the spring and summer and visited many interesting sites and ecosystems with a variety of orchids and other wildflowers. The growing season seemed to be about one week early and with all the rain and warm temperatures everything was wonderfully green and lush. I think the highlight may have been the trip to Buffalo Point where we saw over a hundred of the rare small purple fringed-orchids (*Platanthera psycodes*) in one ditch. It was magnificent! Thanks to all our fearless trip leaders!

I hope you had a chance to visit the trail this summer. It's wonderful at any time of year and is open during daylight hours until October 31<sup>st</sup>. If the gate should happen to be closed, please feel free to park outside and walk in. Please remember for aesthetic and safety reasons that no dogs, ATVs or bicycles are allowed on the trail or boardwalk. For more information and a map, please check out the Debwendon website at [www.debwendon.org](http://www.debwendon.org).

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

**Book Launch** at McNally Robinson Booksellers: Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Atrium of the Grant Park store. We hope to see you there!

[1] International Union for Conservation of Nature

**NOCI Open House:** Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dakota Lawn Bowls Club, 1212 Dakota Street at 7:15 pm. Bring a guest and come early to socialize with members you haven't seen over the summer, and browse the sale tables and raffle prizes. We very much look forward to our guest speakers, Dr. Richard Staniforth, who will speak on *Fine fronds and fiddleheads - stories of Manitoba ferns*, and Ryan Wakshinski, who will speak about the evolution of the trail. For further details see the notice elsewhere in the newsletter.

**We need pictures!** The NOCI website is nearing completion and should be online very soon. In the meantime if the photographers out there have any fabulous orchid pictures, we would love to put them up on the website. We are looking for any really great pictures that you have, but would also appreciate some that show the specific characteristics of the orchid (such as the leaves, stem, close-ups of the inflorescence and ovary, seed pods, buds, and habitat). Credit will be given for any pictures that are put up on the website. They will be kept for that purpose only and will not be used or distributed elsewhere without your permission. Please send your digital, web sized pictures to Rose at [nocifieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:nocifieldtrips@gmail.com).

Like us on Facebook!

Don't forget to use the Air Miles card that was included in your February newsletter. It helps us earn prizes for the raffle at the AGM and Members' Night. If you didn't get one, please contact Heather at [Heather.Miltenburg@gmail.com](mailto:Heather.Miltenburg@gmail.com).

**Book Launch for Orchids of Manitoba, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**  
**September 30, 2016 7:00 pm**  
**McNally-Robinson Booksellers in Atrium at Grant Park**

Native Orchid Conservation Inc. (NOCI) is pleased to announce that the second edition of their book, *Orchids of Manitoba*, is now available. A book launch will be held at McNally Robinson Booksellers on September 30, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Atrium of the Grant Park store. With the addition of 20 more pages of content and 12 new colour photos, the new edition contains updates to previous sections and the addition of the 37<sup>th</sup> orchid known in Manitoba. Supplementary material includes a section about NOCI, a quick reference guide, and a write-up on the newly-opened Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail. The emphasis on conservation and protection of our native orchids is preserved while their unique beauty can still be enjoyed. Please join us to celebrate another achievement for this small non-profit charity that is so passionate about the amazing wild orchids that grow here in our province!

# Plant of the Month

Prairie Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana* Nuttall)

By Doris Ames

The genus name *Artemisia* is likely inspired by Artemis, Greek goddess of hunting, the moon and chastity, but also possibly more directly by Queen Artemis of Caria, a botanist who lived c. 440BC. The species name *ludoviciana* is based on Latin for Louis (Ludovicus) either referring to Saint Louis near which the prolific English naturalist Thomas Nuttall collected the type specimen on the banks of the Mississippi, or in reference to Louisiana, the State.

Prairie Sage is an aromatic, rhizomatous, herbaceous perennial member of the Asteraceae (Aster) Family usually found growing in sunny locations with dry soil on the Prairies or on the edge of the forest in the Parklands of southern Manitoba. It dies back to the ground each winter.

The 30-50cm tall plant is white, woolly and much branched with much variability in form and size. The leaves are alternate with the upper ones being lance-shaped, entire and silvery, woolly on both sides but more so on the upper sides. The lower leaves are oblanceolate, usually entire but sometimes lobed.

The inflorescence is made of many nodding heads. Each head is a cup of hairy phyllaries (involucral bracts) with a centre made of tiny yellowish discoid flowers.

The plant flowers July to October. Each flower has both male and female parts and is wind pollinated. Very tiny, dry achenes appear September to October.

The plant is the host of the Painted Lady Butterfly and its leaves are used as nesting material by native bees.

Prairie Sage has great ceremonial importance to indigenous people. It is used for smudging in the sweat lodge and for the sun dance. It has important medicinal uses and is one of the four sacred herbs given to First Nation people as a means of communicating with the Creator.

The leaves are very aromatic when crushed or burned. Collect plants just before they come into bloom, tie them up into a bundle and dry them upside down in a cool, dark place. Sometimes a second harvest can be made before they go to seed.

Prairie Sage is hardy, spreads rapidly by root propagation, and has attractive silvery leaves and a nice scent. Try it in your garden.

## Open House: Friday, October 28

The 2016 Open House will feature two presentations. Dr. Richard Staniforth, University of Winnipeg Professor Emeritus, will speak on the topic *Fine fronds and fiddleheads - stories of Manitoba ferns*. Mr. Ryan Wakshinski, Landscape Architect for Manitoba Sustainable Development will provide a retrospective view of the development of the Brokenhead Wetlands Interpretive Trail.

NOCI continues its tradition of providing nature displays, product sales, door prizes, a raffle, and refreshments. Donations of items for the raffle that have a modest dollar value are welcome. Nature oriented product sales tables are available for rent at \$5.00 per table. Please contact Denny Smith [dennyboy@mymts.net](mailto:dennyboy@mymts.net) or 204 269-4984 regarding raffle donations or sales table rentals.

The NOCI Open House evening offers our annual opportunity for non-members to experience the delights of the organization. Please invite those about you to join us.

Date: Friday, October 28th  
Time: 7:15 p.m.  
Place: Dakota Lawn Bowling Club  
1212 Dakota Street, Winnipeg