

2011 President's Report-NOCI AGM Feb. 17, 2012

By Doris Ames, President

Announcements:

**MOS Orchid Show March 23-25 Theme "Orchids Forever"**- be sure to attend the show. It's wonderful and so cheerful to see lovely flowers at this time of the year. If you can volunteer to sit with our display for a few hours, the sign-up sheet is at the back of the room.

Thank you all for coming out this evening. 2011 was a memorable year for many reasons with a lot of ups and downs. We mourned the passing of my husband Al Ames on June 1<sup>st</sup> and of Eugene Reimer long-time board member on November 5th. It seems so strange to be looking out at the audience and not seeing one or both of them here. It was also the year when our Brokenhead Interpretive trails and boardwalk project received one million dollars in funding from the Province of Manitoba and an endowment fund in the amount of \$600, 000 was set up with the Winnipeg Foundation to be known as the Eugene Reimer Environment Fund (donated by Eugene) for the repair and maintenance of the trail and boardwalk in perpetuity.

We have formed a fund raising committee to purchase a plaque to be put up near the new Brokenhead Wetland Trail as a memorial to Eugene. (Editor's note: the plaque was placed as a memorial on a bench in Birds Hill PP in 2014). To this end we plan to have a fundraising auction in October of this year. It will also be a nice way to celebrate the start of work on the project. We are also planning a field day near the end of June at Brokenhead and Mike James is in charge of this.

I would like to thank all the board members and members who worked so hard throughout the year to keep NOCI running and our projects going on. This last summer I did very little to help with field trips etc. and I am very grateful to all the others who did my part as well as theirs. John Dyck worked harder than usual if that is possible. John had a severe accident at work this year and is home recovering. I wish him a speedy recovery and hope he can be back with us soon. And thanks to Peggy and everyone else for putting on this wonderful evening for us. We will be having elections to the NOCI board this evening, six positions remain open, and I urge you all to renew your membership and let us know if you would like to run for the board as nominations from the floor are permitted as well as those people who have already agreed to let their names be on the slate for election. John Neufeld has kindly agreed to be nomination chair.

Review of NOCI Activities Mar 3/2011-Jan 23/12

Mar3/11 - University of Manitoba Herbarium tour arranged by Derrick KoHeinrichs.

Mar 25-27 - MOS Orchid Show- we won first prize in educational display category for our display on native orchid seeds - Doris and Will.

April 2/11- Manitoba Forest Alliance- PowerPoint on native orchids Pinawa - Richard and Doris

May 7/11- East Braintree field trip-Peg, Derrick and John

May 18/11- Debwendon meeting -Libau

May 19/11- Bird's Hill survey trip - Richard and John

May 21/11- Birds Hill field trip - Richard and John

May 25/11- Scouting trip Hadashville

May 28/11- Field trip - Hadashville ski trails and Manitoba Forestry Museum trails

June 1/11- Al Ames passed away.

June 5/11- survey trip - 5 Corners - Peggy and John

June 11/11- field trip cancelled - Al's funeral.

June 15/11- scouting trip - Woodridge- John Neufeld, Derrick KH, John Dyck

June 18/11- Woodridge field trip - John N, John D, Derrick KH

- Scouting trip - Pumpkin Creek Ski Trails- Eugene and Doris

June 25/11- field trip - Brokenhead

- survey trip Deerwood WMA - Doris and Eugene

June 28/11- Contour survey trip - Eugene and Doris

July 2/11- Contour and Lewis Road survey trip - Eugene and Doris

July 9/11- 5 Corners field trip

Aug 3/11- Eugene and Doris met Reiner Stark from RM of St. Clements re. marking limits of parking lot - Brokenhead new site.

Aug 15/11- Tall Grass Prairie Day - Eugene and Doris.

Sept 18/11- PowerPoint - Orchids beauty and diversity - South Interlake Garden Club Warren, MB - Richard and Doris

Sept 28/11- Debwendon meeting - Libau

Oct 21/11- Members Night

Oct 24/11- Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trails Funding announcement- MB Legislative Bldg. - Iris Reimer, Debwendon, BON and NOCI members attended. We went to see Eugene afterwards at Jocelyn House and Kelly-Anne Richmond gave him a video of the press conference and chocolate cupcakes.

Nov 3/11- Debwendon members tour Brokenhead Trail with Rick Hurst, new project manager Manitoba Conservation.

Nov 5/11- Eugene passed away.

Nov 21/11- sent last of orchid seeds to the Gene Bank in Saskatoon. Project is now completed. Since 2006 we collected seeds from 30 of Manitoba's 37 orchid species for long term storage in the gene bank. These seeds were collected from many different locations and habitat. We didn't manage to get viable seeds from ragged fringed orchid, Northern twayblade, Early coralroot, Auricled twayblade, and all three Malaxis species.

Dec 29/11- survey trip to Contour Fen and Spruce Siding area to check snow levels - levels very low maybe 5" of snow in the bush at the most- Doris, Will and John.

Jan 23/12- Fundraising committee meeting re Eugene's plaque.

The board has planned an exciting evening for us tonight with raffles, elections, a wonderful presentation by Chris Friesen, project botanist from CDC that we work closely with when doing rare plant surveys. All this to be followed by refreshments and catching up with the news from our friends so have fun and talk to you later.