

## 2012 NOCI President's Report 01 March 2013 AGM

By

Doris Ames, President

Welcome members and guests. It's great to see all of you out this evening. I will now review some of our activities in the past year and our plans for the upcoming year and the future.

### NOCI Activities March 2012- March 2013

Mar 12/12- Debwendon board meeting

Mar 22/12- Set up orchid show

Mar 23-Mar 25- Manitoba Orchid Show: NOCI first prize educational display "Orchids of Birds Hill Park and Challenges to their Conservation"

March newsletter

Mar 28- slideshow - Friends of Birds Hill Park

April 4- NOCI board meeting

Apr 14- First field trip to see Arden. MB crocuses

Apr 20- Debwendon board meeting

May 2- NOCI board meeting

May 24-Debwendon AGM

May 26- Birds Hill Park field trip - Pine Ridge Trail

May 30- Scouting trip - Marchand

June 2 - Field trip - Marchand and Woodridge

June 5 - Transit of Venus

June 7 -NOCI board meeting

June 9 - Pumpkin Creek Field Trip: Carman, Stephenfield, Roseisle - orchids and many other rare flowers, spectacular scenery.

June 16 - Senkiw field trip - beautiful Showy lady's-slippers, suspension bridge, etc.

June 20 - Slideshow orchid conservation- CARP - Will and Doris

June 22- Field Day at NOCI board member Mike James' woodlot, walks in Brokenhead wetland and Jack Pine forest, Minister Gord McIntosh made Announcement to double size of Brokenhead E.R., displays, cake. A grand day.

June 24 - Field trip - Camp Morton - walk on trails in that beautiful park, lunch overlooking Lake Winnipeg, rare Ram's-head lady's-slippers, wonderful butterflies and forget-me-nots.

July 11 - NOCI board meeting

July 26 - Debwendon board meeting

Aug8 - NOCI board meeting

Aug 11 - Tall Grass Prairie Da:- displays, BBQ picnic, tall grass prairie at its late summer best, lecture by NOCI member David Toop "Orchids of the Tall Grass Prairie - Hydrogeology and Native Orchids"

Aug 26 - Salvage operation - John D, David T, and Doris move Showy LS from ditch in Camp Morton area to Ft. Whyte.

Sept 12- NOCI board meeting

Sept 16 - Richard and Doris checked out Birds Hill Park for site for Eugene memorial bench - members donated generously and we purchased a bench to be installed this fall.

Sept 24 - Debwendon board meeting

Oct 1 - Native Orchid News: newsletter  
Oct 19 - Members' Night  
Nov 7 - NOCI board meeting  
Dec 3 - Doris met with Lesley-Anne Fuga- Friends of BHP, Cheryl Hemming from Invasive Species of Manitoba and Jonathon re a joint Public Awareness campaign to combat invasive species.  
Dec 5 - December Native Orchid News: newsletter  
Jan 9/13 - NOCI board meeting  
Jan 15 - Debwendon board meeting  
Jan 20 - attended Marilyn Light lecture on herbivory in native orchids-at Manitoba Orchid Society meeting - Doris, Peggy, Dave T.  
Feb 4 - February Native Orchid News: newsletter  
Feb 6 - NOCI board meeting - donated \$500.00 to FofBHP re assist with public awareness campaign for invasive species, BHP and surrounding municipalities.  
Feb 27 - NOCI members attended Fof BHP AGM - Dr. Ryan Brook spoke on living with wildlife.

### Remarks on Activities related to our Mission

#### To protect native orchids and other rare plants and their habitat:

#### Projects

This past year was particularly busy because the Province started work on the Brokenhead Interpretive Trail and Boardwalk project. Peggy Bainard Acheson, Richard Reeves and Mike James worked particularly hard with the Debwendon board and the Province to get the project underway. I went on a couple of long walks with Richard late in the late fall to identify species of interest on the new trail. There is heavy snow at that site this winter but work is ongoing.

NOCI joined with Friends of Birds Hill Park and the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba in a new project. We want to combat invasive species affecting BHPP and surrounding protected areas including Brokenhead and Libau Ecological Reserves by sponsoring a public education campaign about invasive species such as spotted knapweed and leafy spurge. NOCI donated \$500.00 to this project to get it started and will participate later as we can. Friends of Birds Hill Park is a registered charity so if you would like to personally donate to this public awareness campaign on invasive species please feel free to contact Lesley-Anne Fuga at 204-444-7888 or online at their website.  
We will keep you posted.

We continued to look for rare plants and sent in a report on a few to the CDC as usual.

We responded to requests for comments on harvesting peat moss in Hecla/Grindstone Park along with others. Result was announced this week - no more peat moss mining in parks in Manitoba. The Province and the peat moss companies are to be congratulated for achieving such a good result for the wetland environment.

Last week we sent in our comments to Conservation and Water Stewardship on the proposed new act to replace the old Sustainable Development Act. I thought the draft of the new act contained many progressive ideas for recognizing the value of a healthy environment and for sustaining it through the challenges of climate change.

We sent in photos of insect-damaged orchids to Marilyn Light for study and identification of the insects. Will Milne had some particularly good close-ups of chewed up leaves on a Showy.

### Public Education

We took out Directors and Officers Insurance for NOCI this year and as well developed a written policy for field trip leaders to follow when leading our trips. The insurance companies advised that we do that for our own protection as well as having both directors insurance and general liability insurance in effect and requiring field trip participants to sign a liability waiver as usual.

We ran seven field trips for our members this year. Our hard working field trip coordinator John Dyck will give you a report and slideshow about them later this evening.

We gave PowerPoint presentations on orchids to various groups.

David Toop gave a lecture and display on at the Tall Grass Prairie Day on Orchids of the southeast and their relationship to hydrogeology.

### Salvage of native orchids

We moved some Showy lady's-slippers from a ditch near Camp Morton (where they were being dug up and removed) to Ft. Whyte Alive.

### Plans for the Upcoming Year

Continue work on Interpretive Trail Project - first section of trail to be completed this year.

Field trips for our members (schedule will be up on the website by April 1<sup>st</sup>.)

Field trips for other groups eg, field trip on Cedar Bog Trail for Friends of Birds Hill Park on June 9<sup>th</sup> led by Richard Reeves and Doris Ames.

Richard and I are teaching a course on wildflower identification entitled "Wildflowers of Manitoba" at McNally Robinson Bookstore on March 7 and 14<sup>th</sup>. There were a couple of openings last time we checked so feel free to call them and sign up. I left some of their brochures at the back of the room. We know just where to tell those people to go for a great fieldtrip experience.

We will have other public displays on orchids e.g. (MOS orchid show Mar22-24, 2013, theme “A Symphony of Orchids”). Please sign up to work our display and take a poster and put it up somewhere.

Did educational slideshows and presentations, and work with other groups, government and business on other environmental projects as time permits.

Worked with Friends of BHP and ISCM to combat invasive species

Worked with CDC to identify new locations of orchids and other rare plants

### The Future- Long term plans

Last week I was contacted by Dennis Whigam plant ecologist and senior botanist at the Smithsonian Research Centre. They have recently formed an organization called the North American Orchid Conservation, which wants to conserve native orchids throughout North America by preservation, propagation and public education and would like to partner with us and other orchid lovers in this work. We had a nice chat and Dennis promises to get back to us when, in his words, “they have got to the level of financial support needed to reach our mutual objectives.” This may turn out to be a wonderful opportunity for NOCI in the future.

### Volunteer Appreciation and Special Presentation to Matthew McBurney

Matthew McBurney, NOCI board member and treasurer will be stepping down from the board as his family and work duties don’t leave him enough time for much else. I can remember those busy times in my life with a young family and I would like to thank him for all the good work, great ideas and time he generously gave to NOCI. Matthew would you please come up and accept this little token of our appreciation?

I would like to thank all the NOCI board members and the membership at large who did so much high quality volunteer work throughout the year to get all these things done and who donated so generously to our conservation work. You are modelling the kind of behaviour that all of us need to do to help conserve rare plants and their ecosystems so we can leave future generations a better world. The refreshments, entertainment and raffles etc that we have at our annual general meetings is another way of thanking you for all your support and of informing our guests and potential new members of the work that we do. I hope you enjoy it.

I will now ask Mike James to come up and tell you about his plans for a winter field trip rescheduled to March 16<sup>th</sup>.