

2013 President's Report to NOCI AGM 28 FEB 2014
by Doris Ames, President

It's so nice to see all of you out to the meeting tonight. As you know we are having elections to the board and we welcome nominations from the floor. If you have a bit of time please don't hesitate to nominate yourself from the floor as we need help and we welcome new ideas. We are actually short of candidates so please don't hold back!

At this time I would like to thank the board members for all their hard work through the year and for arranging this evening's events. I would also like to thank some others like Manitoba Conservation whose staff works closely with us on the Brokenhead Trail project and in many other ways throughout the year, Biostatic Printing for making it possible for us to print our newsletter in colour, to Chris Law, chartered accountant for doing our audit for such a reasonable price, to the UFCW for allowing us to use their board room to hold our meetings for such a reasonable price and to Manitoba Bowls for always allowing us to rent the hall on the Friday of our choice. Special thanks to Heather and Jon for developing our first android orchid app. There are many other generous donors and people I have no doubt missed and I thank them as well.

I have a brief update on the Brokenhead Trail project courtesy of Richard. He walked in with Ryan recently and work is proceeding well. They are placing the boardwalks components now using a snowmobile to pull them in because of the heavy snow. It will be fantastic to see it completed and usable this summer.

I will now briefly run over our activities since the last AGM on March 1, 2013 (I might have missed some because I was not able to attend many of the field trips this summer. John handled so much of the work as a result and his field trip report appeared in the October newsletter. I thank him very much and will miss working with him). I thought he was not able to attend this evening as his shifts have changed at work so we sent him a card and a little gift to thank him for all his service. But anyway he is here after all so I want to thank him again in person for doing all his work on the field trips last summer plus most of mine.

In March I prepared the display for MOS orchid show and John Dyck and I prepared the proposed 2013 field trip list to hand out at the orchid show and for the April newsletter.

Mar 6 - NOCI board meeting

Mar 7th and 14th - Richard and Doris taught course in Wildflower Identification at McNally Booksellers Community Classroom.

Mar 10 - Doris met with Invasive species people re Birds Hill Park project.

Mar 16 - winter field trip at Mike James' woodlot.

Mar 22-24 - NOCI display - MOS orchid show - won First prize for the display "A Symphony in Pink"- thanks to the many volunteers at our display.

Apr 3 - NOCI board meeting - approved field trip schedule.

Apr 6 - Doris wrote article on invasive species BHP area for Community newspaper.

Apr10 - Doris, Peg, Richard, Mike - Debwendon board meeting.

April - Doris wrote plant of the month article for newsletter.

April 25 - Richard, Doris, Peggy sent April newsletter.

May1 - Doris put up poster with list of 2013 field trips at Travel Manitoba Tourist location at The Forks- Johnson Terminal
- NOCI board meeting

May 5 - scouting trip for East Braintree Field trip - John, Doris, Derrick, Peg

May 11 - NOCI field trip East Braintree and Hadashville - John, Doris, Peggy.

May 15 - Scouting trip Portage Sandhills- John, Richard

May 18 - Portage Sandhills Field Trip- Richard and John

May 22 - Debwendon AGM - Brokenhead Cultural Centre - slideshow of trail construction by Ryan - Doris, Peg, Mike, Richard, John D.

May 31 - Bruno Bergman and fiancé Rose (orchid enthusiasts from Belgium) - fieldtrip with them to Belair and Brokenhead- Peg, Richard, Doris

June 5 - NOCI board meeting

June 7 - Doris and Richard - scouting trip BHP - Cedar Bog Trail

June 8 - Bittersweet Trail field trip- John, David, Peggy, Rose

June 9 - Field trip for nearby residents, Friends of BHP - BHP Cedar Bog Trail- Doris. Richard

June 15 - Mt. Nebo field trip- Rose, John, David

June 17 - meeting re invasive species BHP.

June 22 - Brokenhead Wetlands field trip on new trail- John, Peg, Rose, Mike, Denny

July 3 - NOCI board meeting

July 16 - survey trip to Shoal Lake, Ontario re reports of small purple fringed-orchid. Found large population of blooming *P. hyperborea*, large white pines - David and Doris

July 24 - Ryan W, MB Conservation project manager Brokenhead Trail gave slideshow on building of trail to Lake Winnipeg Foundation at Victoria Beach.

Aug 7 - NOCI board meeting

Aug 8 - Peggy and Doris visited James Bezan, MP Selkirk Interlake re progress Brokenhead Trail project and potential funding help.

Aug 17 - Scouting trip re Roseau River field trip- John, David, Doris

Aug 20 - Peggy and Doris visited RM of Alexander council re Brokenhead project progress and donation. They advised us to apply for a grant in November.

Aug 24 - field trip Roseau River- David, John

Sept 18 - NOCI board meeting

Oct 1 - Slideshow on orchids: West Kildonan Horticultural Society - Doris and John

Oct 8 - Peggy and Doris visited RM St. Clements council re progress report Brokenhead wetlands and donation. They gave us a grant equivalent to the land taxes on the trail We should re-apply for that every year.

Oct- Doris collected donations from some businesses for Members Night raffle.

Oct 25 - Members night: - raffle, intro to orchid app, presentation by Cathy Shaluk from the Nature Conservancy on Monarch butterflies, Peg and rest of board.

Oct 29 - Doris gave presentation to legislative committee re amendment to Endangered Species Act- more protection for rare species and their habitat. John came with me for moral support. Amendment was eventually passed and made into law (in wee hours of next day).

Nov 6 - NOCI board meeting

Doris wrote plant of the month article, NOCI newsletter. John's field trip report.

Nov 18 - mailed out newsletter- Richard, Doris, Peg

Dec 11 - NOCI board meeting

Jan 15/14 - NOCI board meeting- John Dyck resigned, John Neufeld appointed to fill gap for one year.

Jan 31 - Android orchid app released

Doris wrote plant of month article

Feb 4 - mail out newsletter- Richard, Peg, Doris

Feb 5 - NOCI board meeting

Denny prepared accounts for audit and prepared tax receipts

Feb 26 - Richard walked the Brokenhead trail on an inspection trip with Ryan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Manitoba Orchid Society is holding its orchid show-March 21-23 at Assiniboine Park Conservatory. NOCI is planning to have a display there as usual. Please sign up to volunteer for a couple of hours. There is a sign-up sheet at the back and also plan to attend. It is a wonderful show and always marks the start of spring for me.

Now I have one more little thing to do and that is to thank Derrick KoHeinrichs for his long service as a board member of NOCI. He has been a wonderful volunteer and has served as our treasurer and as our scientific advisor on botanical matters. He had the idea of developing a native orchid app and saw that project through to completion. He has encouraged many of his talented friends to join NOCI and no one can sell raffle tickets like he can. Derrick, please come up and accept this little gift on behalf of NOCI. Thank you.

It is strange to think that this is the last time I will address you as president of NOCI but let me say again how much I enjoyed my years on the board and in the field with many of you. Enjoy your evening.