

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.
Annual Report 2014
To NOCI AGM 06MAR2015
by Peggy Bainard Acheson, President

I am so glad to see so many out to the meeting tonight. Tonight looks like we have a great evening planned. We are having elections to the board and nominations are of course welcome from the floor. You can also nominate yourself and we would welcome your new ideas. There are five spots open and we have four names on the slate and could really use one more.

At this time I would especially like to thank the board members for all their hard work through my first year as President and for arranging for this evening's events. I would also like to recognize and thank some of the people and organizations that have helped us through the year.

Manitoba Conservation staff who have worked so diligently 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,

Chris Law, chartered accountant for doing our audit for such a reasonable price,

UFCW who rent us a room for our board meeting at such a reasonable price

Manitoba Bowls for renting us this hall for the AGM and our annual Members' Night

NOCI Volunteers who helped at the 2014 MOS Show, donated raffle and door-prize items to our member meetings, and made monetary donations to our organization in support of our work.

There are many other generous donors and people I have no doubt missed and I thank them as well.

Last year we were so excited to be able to use the Brokenhead boardwalk and trail even though it wasn't officially open. However, this year the washrooms are being completed and we are waiting to hear from the Province regarding an official opening date. Debwendon has been working hard over the winter to complete the interpretation signage, the trailhead structure and the highway sign. I would like to thank West Kildonan Horticultural Society for their generous donation of \$300 for the purchase of a picnic table.

I will now give the annual report of our activities since the last AGM on February 28, 2014. It has been a very eventful year what with Doris stepping down and me as a new-baked president attempting to step in to fill her very large boots. However, here goes:

In March Dave Toop and I prepared the display for MOS orchid show.

Rose Kuzina prepared the proposed 2013 field trip list to hand out at the orchid show and for the April newsletter. We had six field trips with 123 people participating. The field trips were: Bird's Hill PP, Marble Ridge, Amaranth/Alonsa, Brokenhead Wetlands Interpretive Trail, Falcon Lake and Whiteshell Fish Hatchery, and Tiger Hills.

Mar 10 - NOCI board meeting – 2014 field trip locations were selected, planning for the MOS Show.

Mar 21-23- NOCI display -MOS orchid show- won First prize for the display "A Rainbow of Colours"- many volunteers helped out at our display

Apr. 9 – NOCI board meeting –agreed to buy binoculars for field trips at Brokenhead (to be kept at Mike James' place near Beconia), agreed to upload NOCI and Debwendon videos to YouTube.

April 19 – Heather launched the NOCI Facebook page

Apr 23- Peggy wrote article on the Brokenhead Trail for NOCI newsletter and EcoJournal.

Apr. 29 – Richard, Doris, Peggy sent out May newsletter

Apr. 29 – Air Miles Fundraiser cards were sent with May newsletter

May 1 Debwendon board meeting in Winnipeg - Peggy, Mike, Richard

May 4 Garage Sale set-up - Rose, Mike, Dave & Peggy –

May 7 – NOCI board meeting – agreed to buy three GICs with reserve funds, confirmed field trips and leaders, planned for Garage Sale (May 10) and ER Memorial Bench dedication (May 31 FT).

May 8 – Debwendon Steering Committee meeting.

May 9 – Rose, Heather, Sean & Peggy – last minute prep for Garage Sale

May 10 – NOCI Garage Sale – Rose, Heather, Sean, Peggy, Dave, Mike (PBA's granddaughter Grace), \$407. 53 sales (not including those sold on Kijiji by Peggy later).

May 24 – Ryan Wakshinski, Project Manager for Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail presented at MOS meeting; Peggy presented "Beauty in Diversity" to MOS Novice Class.

May 26 – PBA and Richard – Scouting Trip for Bird's Hill FT (White-tail Deer trail).

May 31 – Eugene Reimer Memorial Bench Dedication (John MC, Doris and Bill Reid spoke), field trip (John & Richard), & BBQ at Bird's Hill PP.

June 2 – Rose, Dave, & Peggy – scouting trip for Marble Ridge FT.

June 4 – NOCI board meeting – John discussed orchid protection at the bog near Hadashville being affected by logging near PTH 503.

June 7 – Marble Ridge FT – Rose, Dave, Peggy leading

June 8 – Scouting trip for Holland, Tiger Hills – Rose, Heather

June 9–13 – MB Parks Branch Interpreter Training – Peggy

June 20 - Scouting trip for Amaranth/Alonsa – Dave, Peggy

June 21 - Field trip to Amaranth/Alonsa – Dave, Peggy

June 26 - Debwendon AGM – Peggy, Doris, Mike, Richard

June/14 - Article on Brokenhead Trail published in Ecojournal

June 26 - Scouting trip to Brokenhead Trail – Doris, Richard, Peggy

June 28 - Field trip to Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail – Richard, Peggy, Mike, Heather and Rose

June 30 - Scouting trip for Falcon Lake/Westhawk Lake/Fish hatchery – Peggy, Mike, Richard.

July 5 - Field trip to Falcon Lake/Westhawk Lake/Fish hatchery

July 5 - Article on Brokenhead Trail published in Winnipeg Free Press

July 9 - NOCI board meeting – at Peggy's house; FT to Tiger Hills was re-scheduled to Aug. 23, discussion of anti-spam legislation, NOCI voted to help promote Bergman print fundraiser for Debwendon.

July 15 - Debwendon board meeting in Winnipeg – Peggy, Doris, Mike, Richard.

July 18 - Peggy met with Judy Owen, publisher of The Cottager, at the trail for an article for their September issue.

July 22 - John Neufeld wrote a letter to MB Infrastructure and MB Conservation and Water Stewardship re protection of Small White Lady's-slipper on Hwy 6 near Woodlands during road construction.

Aug 6 - Debwendon Bidder's Meeting at Brokenhead Trail for Phase II Interpretation Project – Peggy, Richard, Mike.

Aug. 8 - Mike put up temporary sign at Trailhead.

Aug. 12 - Debwendon launches Bergman Print Sale Fundraiser on NOCI and Debwendon websites.

Aug. 23 - East Braintree 100 year Celebration: NOCI wildflower trip and Bergman print display – Peggy and Doris

Aug. 31 - Article on the Brokenhead Trail comes out in The Cottager.

Sept. 10 - NOCI board meeting, UFCW, passed motion for Peggy to convene a book committee for a 2nd edition of our book, board passed motion to invite Peter Klassen to join NOCI board (interim basis).

Sept. 16 - Site visit to Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail for HTFC – Richard, Peggy

Sept. 17 - Debwendon board meeting, Winnipeg – Peggy, Doris, Richard

Oct.1 - October newsletter is mailed – Richard, Doris

Oct. 1 - NOCI board meeting – Standard Android app is available for \$10, Province put up a gate at the access to the Brokenhead Trail, Members' Night planning.

Oct. 15 - Debwendon Steering Committee meeting at HTFC office, Wpg – Peggy, Richard, Mike.

Oct. 20 - Debwendon board meeting at Brokenhead and review of 1st draft of Interpretation sign text – Peggy, Mike, Richard.

Oct. 24 - NOCI Members' Night, Chris Friesen speaker (Conservation Data Centre), John Neufeld speaker (Native Orchid Conference), David Toop speaker (History of NOCI), Heather Miltenburg (orchid app update). Tables: Natural Fragments (Dawn Kitching), Recycling Rampage (Yvonne Ebro), Bergman woodcut prints.

Nov. 5 - NOCI board meeting – discussed orchid pin order, conservation project at Wagner Bog – Peggy to write letter of support.

Nov. 20 - Book meeting –Doris, Richard, Dave, Peggy

Nov. 24 - Debwendon Steering Committee, Brokenhead band office – Peggy, Mike, Richard. Peggy and Richard walked the Trail before the meeting.

Nov. 28 - Writing and editing December newsletter – Doris, Richard, Peggy

Dec. 1 - December newsletter mailed out – Peggy, Doris, Richard

Dec. 2 - NOCI board meeting –Selected Mike James as Nomination Chair for 2015 BOD Election at AGM in March 2015, discussion of potential membership increase.

Dec. 6 - Christmas Party at the Legislature – Peggy and Doris: Saw Gord Mackintosh (Conservation Minister), Greg Selinger (Premier), Greg Dewar (Finance Minister).

Dec. 8 - Book meeting – Doris, Richard, Dave, Peggy

Jan. 7 - NOCI board meeting – AGM planning, Dave to confirm with Diana Sawatzky for speaker, Mike to contact potential nominees to the board, MOS show theme is “Orchid Reflections” (Mar. 20-22), liability insurance.

Jan. 12/15 - Book meeting – Doris, Richard, Peggy

Jan. 29 - Writing and editing February newsletter – Doris, Richard, Peggy

Feb. 3 - NOCI board meeting: AGM planning, MOS show display planning, Heather to handle advanced book order sales.

Feb. 3 - February newsletter mailed out – assembled at board meeting

Feb. 9 - Book meeting – Doris, Richard, Dave, Peggy

Feb.- Denny sent financial accounts for audit; sent out tax receipts (end of February).

Mar. 4 - NOCI board meeting – AGM planning, MOS sign up sheet, field trip discussion.

Mar. 6 - NOCI AGM - BoD Elections, Diana Sawatzky, UM Herbarium (speaker). Unfortunately, Diana had to cancel at the last minute, but Dave T quickly put together a presentation on Wagner Bog.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Manitoba Orchid Society is holding its orchid show-March 20-22 at Assiniboine Park Conservatory. NOCI is planning to have a display there as usual with the theme "Orchid Reflections". We would really appreciate if any members could volunteer for a couple hours some time during show. We will especially need people during the Friday.

There is a sign up sheet at the membership table. And I hope you also plan to attend. It is always a fabulous show every year and is uplifting as one of the first signs of spring.

We are very excited to announce that we are working on the 2nd edition of the "Orchids of Manitoba". This book will have many updates plus more information on the Manitoba orchids we are so fond of. We will in due course need a few pictures and once we have decided which pictures we will need, we would like to invite anyone in the membership to submit photos. The photos will be chosen anonymously by an independent judge who is an expert photographer. Look for details of which pictures we will require and instructions on submitting photos in our next newsletter and on our website. I hope many of you will send in your best digital photos.

If you want to order a book there are advanced book order forms at the membership table. If you order by May 31st you get a bit of a break. We will be sending the order forms with the next newsletter.

Now I would like to recognize two outgoing board members. First, I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the Board to John Neufeld, who is stepping down after coming back for the second time to fill a vacancy for us. Although John is away tonight, I would just like to thank him for his work over the past year. John is an enthusiastic NOCI member and has agreed to continue to help us with field trips, occasionally as MC, and as our adhoc lawyer.

Next, I would like to thank Florence McCoy for her service since 2012 as a valued board member and membership chair. Florence is a delight to have on the board and we are sorry to see her go, but I know she is very busy now working on other projects. Florence, thank you so much for all your help -- please come up and accept this little gift on behalf of NOCI.