



NORTH AMERICAN  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*Dedicated to the study,  
conservation, cultivation,  
and restoration  
of North America's  
native flora*

## **Annual Report October 20, 2013 – November 15, 2014**

### **President's Address**

Dear NANPS Members and Supporters,

In 2014, NANPS continued to support the study, conservation, cultivation, and restoration of North American's Native Flora. Throughout the pages of this report, you will see many excellent examples of this work. NANPS is an organization that is almost entirely operated by dedicated volunteers. It has been a privilege to join the board and to fill a leadership position. NANPS board members continually demonstrate their commitment to our mission. Over the past year I have also had the opportunity to meet and work with many committee and event volunteers. Any contribution to a volunteer-run organization is greatly appreciated. This year the board of directors was also able to hire an executive director. I would like to thank Pete Kelly for taking on this role. He produced excellent work, such as this report, was generous with his knowledge and time, and has overcome many challenges of working with an up and coming organization.

Next year is the 30th anniversary of NANPS and I am excited to see what this organization will accomplish.

Sincerely, Cass Stabler, President

### **Board of Directors**

The following individuals served on our volunteer board of directors between October 20, 2013 and November 1, 2014: Bronwen Fitzsimons, Miriam Henriques (secretary), Janice Keil (treasurer), Mukib Khan, Alice Kong, Gillian Leitch, LeeAnne MacGregor, Howard Meadd, Adam Mohamed (vice-president), John Oyston, Harold Smith and Cass Stabler (president).

Board meetings were held on the following dates and in the following locations: November 5, 2013, December 3, 2013, January 7, 2014 and February 4, 2014 at the Markham Civic Centre, March 11, April 1, August 26 and September 22 at Harold Smith's residence in Toronto, May 20 and October 20 at The Big Carrot, Danforth Avenue, Toronto and our annual board retreat and planning session was held July 20 at Montgomery's Inn, Toronto. Our annual general meeting was held at the Markham Civic Centre, October 19, 2013.

### New Honorary Director

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Douglas Tallamy as a new honorary director for the North American Native Plant Society. Dr. Tallamy is a professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. His 2007 book "Bringing Home Nature: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens" (Timber Press, 2007) is a landmark publication that encourages us to think of our gardens as wildlife preserves and habitat for local diversity.

### Executive Director

For the first time in its history NANPS hired an executive director for 2013-14. Peter Kelly was hired to help with planning, fund-raising and outreach and to complete many of the administrative tasks that were difficult to manage with a volunteer-run organization. Peter's one-year contract is now complete but he has agreed to continue serving in that capacity as a volunteer.

### A Quick Snapshot of NANPS via our Web-site, Social Media and Membership

Web-site	Nov. 1, 2012 to Oct. 31, 2013	Nov. 1, 2013 to Oct. 31, 2014	Change
Web Visitors (unique visitors)	23,306	34,513	+48.1%
Web Visits (total # of visits)	31,043	41,962	+35.2%
% New Visitors	74.1	81.2	+7.1%
Social Media	On Dec. 1, 2013	On Nov. 1, 2014	
Facebook Page Likes	674	1174	+74.2%
Twitter followers	562	929	+65.3%
Membership	On Jan. 1, 2014	On Nov. 1, 2014	
Active Members	477	538	+12.8%

In the past year, NANPS has shown considerable growth in key parameters including the number of visits and visitors to browse our web-site. Depending on the month, there was between 36% and 153% increase in the number of monthly visitors to our web-site in 2014. We have also seen significant increases in membership (up 12.8%) and in the number of likes on Facebook (up 74.2%) and Twitter (up 65.3%).

### Plant Sales

On top of our traditional annual native plant sale at the Markham Civic Centre on Saturday, May 10, this past spring saw NANPS expand into Toronto and add two new plant sales to its agenda: Sunday, May 11 at Artisans at Work on Danforth Avenue and Sunday, May 25 in Christie Pits Park. Both new plant sales were a tremendous success with the Christie Pits Park sale being held in collaboration with the David Suzuki Foundation. The David Suzuki Foundation handed out milkweed plants as part of their Got Milkweed! campaign to raise awareness on the decline of our native pollinator populations.

### Plant Sales (continued)

The Markham plant sale (including the small sale at Artisans at Work) brought in approximately \$32,000 in revenue with a profit of close to \$11,000. The Christie Pits Park plant sale generated approximately \$8,100 in revenue with a profit of \$5,000. Our eight-person plant sale committee put in well over 300 person hours of volunteer time making these events happen. Almost 500 person hours were put in by volunteers setting up and working at tables during the events with 65 volunteers contributing to the success of the Markham plant sale alone!

We were delighted to welcome the Society for Conservation Biology – Toronto Chapter, Pollination Guelph, and the TRCA Healthy Yards program to our Markham plant sale. Forest Books brought a wide selection of books related to natural history, gardening and the environment and NANPS volunteers put together informative displays on topics such as Trees, Butterflies and Pollinators, Controlling Invasive Species and Collecting and Cultivating from Seeds.



### Seed Exchange and Seedy Saturday Events

Fifteen generous donors collected and contributed seeds from their gardens to our annual SEEDEX, or seed exchange, which were then made available to NANPS members through our web-site. Seeds from 118 native plant species were part of our seed exchange collection this year. NANPS volunteers also sold seed collected as part of the seed exchange at the following Seedy Saturday events across the Greater Toronto Area:

- Vaughan City Hall, Vaughan, Ontario, Saturday, March 1, 2014
- Evergreen Brick Works, Toronto, Ontario, Saturday, March 8, 2014
- Century Gardens Recreation Centre, Brampton, Saturday, March 8, 2014
- Scadding Court Community Centre, Toronto, Saturday, March 15, 2014
- Blessed Cardinal Newman High School, Scarborough, Saturday, March 22, 2014
- Lawrence Heights Community Centre, North York, Saturday, March 30, 2014

### The Barbara Fallis Memorial Lecture Series

The following talks were held as part our speaker series in 2013-14:

- Promoting Biodiversity in the Urban Landscape** with Scott Torrance  
Wednesday, January 22, 2014, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto, Ontario

### The Barbara Fallis Memorial Lecture Series (continued)

#### **Native Plants for a Sustainable Built Environment** a panel discussion

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto, Ontario

#### **Implications for Native Plants; the Latest Garlic Mustard Research** with Dr. Dawn Bazely

Tuesday, March 4, 2014, Lassonde Building, York University, Toronto

#### **A Meeting of Minds; Conserving the Rich Flora of Eastern North America** with Dr. Elizabeth Farnsworth

Thursday, October 2, 2014, Vari Hall, York University, Toronto, Ontario

### Other Speaker Events

#### **Creating a Prairie Garden** with John Oyston

Tuesday, October 22, 2013, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto, Ontario

#### **Native Plants: Beautiful, Important, Threatened** with John Oyston

Wednesday, March 19, 2014, Canada Blooms, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto

#### **Native Plants: Beautiful, Important, Threatened** with John Oyston

Sunday, May 11, 2014, Artisans at Work, 2071 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario

#### **Native Plants: Beautiful, Important, Threatened** with John Oyston

Thursday, July 3, 2014, Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto, Ontario

### Garden Tours

Two NANPS members opened their properties to other NANPS members and the general public this past year. On Sunday, June 8, John Oyston welcomed everyone to his Oak Hills Farm Prairie & Arboretum near Bewdley, Ontario for either self-guided tours or scheduled tours of the property as part of Trails Open/Doors Open, Northumberland County.

On Sunday, September 7, Darcie McKelvey opened her native plant garden on Albion Trail in Caledon, Ontario to NANPS members and other native plant enthusiasts. Darcie welcomed visitors from across southern Ontario and even ended up giving some of her plants away to visitors.



## Community Events

Almost 270 volunteer hours were contributed by NANPS volunteers at the following community events to promote the society, to educate the public and to promote the use of native plants:

### **Guelph Organic Conference**

Saturday, February 1 to Sunday, February 2, 2014  
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario

### **Get the Jump on Spring**

Saturday, February 22, 2014  
Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto, Ontario

### **Canada Blooms**

Thursday, March 13 to Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
Direct Energy Centre, Toronto, Ontario

### **Trails Open, Northumberland County**

Sunday, June 8, 2014  
Oak Hills Farm, Bewdley, Ontario

### **On Common Ground**

Sunday, September 21, 2014  
Fort York, Toronto, Ontario

### **David Suzuki Homegrown Park**

**Crawl**  
Sunday, October 5, 2014  
Christie Pits Park, Toronto, Ontario

## Conservation Properties

### Shining Tree Woods

Shining Tree Woods is located in Norfolk County, Ontario and is an outstanding example of relatively undisturbed Carolinian forest. On Sunday, June 1, 2014 NANPS hosted a field trip for 20 members of the Field Botanists of Ontario, who spent the day botanizing and producing a flora and fauna species list for the property. On May 18 and September 20, a small group of mycologists also visited the property to identify spring and fall mushrooms and fungi growing there. NANPS is also currently working on a management strategy for the property to help protect and expand the existing population of endangered cucumber trees.



### Zinkan Island Cove

Zinkan Island Cove in Bruce County is an outstanding example of undisturbed Lake Huron shoreline underlain by dolomite and limestone. On June 25 five volunteers from the Owen Sound Field Naturalists helped NANPS conduct a mini-bioblitz of the property to identify as many species of plants, birds, butterflies, dragonflies etc. as possible. A late season blitz is tentatively planned for mid-August, 2015. One interesting conclusion from this day is that the forest is, in effect, a boreal

**Conservation Properties (continued)**

forest such as you would find north of Thunder Bay. While there are a few exceptions in the under-storey species, the trees are characteristic and so are the carpets of bunchberry and twinflower which are not nearly so common in this area.



During preparations for this event, however NANPS located a section of forest that had been cleared and planted with marijuana. Subsequent investigations by the OPP led to the arrest of one individual and an arrest warrant for another. Unfortunately, cleanup is required and this section of forest will need a considerable amount of time to recover.

**Collaborations and Partnerships**

The David Suzuki Foundation

NANPS established a successful collaborative relationship with the David Suzuki Foundation and their Homegrown National Park Project in 2014. NANPS volunteers attended their meeting on February 20 and then NANPS volunteers helped with their Homegrown National Park Ranger Workshop March 2.



On Sunday, May 25, NANPS initiated a new native plant sale in Toronto’s Christie Pits Park and had an information tent alongside that of the David Suzuki Foundation’s Homegrown National Park Project. The juxtaposition of the two organizations was beneficial to both. NANPS was able to attract people into purchasing native plants as they arrived to pick up their milkweed plants reserved in advance in support of the David Suzuki Foundation’s Got Milkweed!

campaign.

NANPS also has been working in conjunction with the David Suzuki Foundation’s Homegrown National Park Community Canoe Project which repurposes old canoes into pollinator-friendly native plant gardens. These have been planted in a number of parks, schoolyards etc. in Toronto. NANPS volunteers committed nearly 100 person hours helping with the community canoe project including planting a canoe at Dewson Street Junior Public School on May 26, installing a drip line and irrigation system



**Collaborations and Partnerships (continued)**

for a community canoe previously supported by NANPS at Fort York on June 14, and the preparation of the site and subsequent planting of a canoe in Stanley Park between July 11 and 19.

Ontario Nature

This year, Ontario Nature was slated to lose a section of their Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve due to construction associated with the widening of Bathurst Street northwest of Newmarket, Ontario. NANPS teamed with Ontario Nature and local naturalists to rescue plants in the affected area. On May 3 and July 30, NANPS volunteers contributed almost 50 person hours on the reserve, removing native species from the property and placing them in pots. Ontario Nature generously allowed volunteers to take some plants home for their own gardens and allowed plants rescued by NANPS volunteers on May 3 to be sold at our annual native plant sale on May 10 to raise money for NANPS.



NANPS is also a member of Ontario Nature’s Nature Network and for the first time, NANPS was represented at the two Ontario Nature Network Lake Ontario North regional meetings held in 2014:

1. Saturday, May 3 at Sheppard’s Bush, Aurora, Ontario, hosted by STORM, and
2. Saturday, November 8 at Hillside Outdoor Recreation Centre, Scarborough, Ontario, hosted by Friends of the Rouge Watershed.

The Big Carrot Green Roof and Workshops

NANPS began a partnership with The Big Carrot Natural Food Market on Danforth Avenue in Toronto which has both a community room and an impressive green roof and community space. This dialogue began at the Guelph Organic Conference but continued at The Big Carrot in an April 1 meeting with workshop coordinator Peter Mitchell.



As part of these discussions, NANPS volunteers planted a native plant garden on the green roof of The Big Carrot and, on July 17, NANPS member Marco Pagliarulo gave a workshop on “How to Share your Container Garden with Native Plants.” On July 20, Gillian Leitch and Ashley Vickress presented a workshop and plant sale called, “A Bee’s Eye View of Gardening” which taught participants how to attract birds, bees and butterflies to their

gardens.

As part of the partnership, NANPS has been able to use The Big Carrot’s community room free of charge for some of its board meetings. NANPS also hosted two social evenings on the Green Roof

### **Collaborations and Partnerships (continued)**

for its members July 8 and August 14. The latter event was held in conjunction with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Stewardship and featured the film *Vanishing of the Bees*.

#### Wild Plant ID App

Brian Gilbert of Cleveland, Ohio is developing a smartphone app for identifying native plants found in his region of Ohio, the Euclid Creek Watershed. The app is based on taxonomic keys and guides the user through basic identifiers such as leaf shape or flower colour.

NANPS has agreed to collaborate on this venture and host the app on its web-site once it has been completed. NANPS will also publicize the app through its networks and members. Creating apps for new watersheds in eastern North America (other than Euclid Creek) will involve adding or deleting plants to or from the list. This task will be taken on by volunteers living in the new watersheds. As the number of watershed apps grows, the geographical area covered by the apps will also expand.

#### Artisans at Work

Artisans at Work is a community arts hub on Danforth Avenue in Toronto where artisans can connect with the community and visitors to share their works. They also hold classes, workshops and events. Artisans at Work held a native plant-themed week starting May 11 with a NANPS native plant sale, held in conjunction with a talk by NANPS member John Oyston and a collection of his native plant photographs.

### **NANPS Awards**

At our annual general meeting on October 19, 2013, NANPS presented awards to the following individuals and organizations to recognize their contributions to the conservation, cultivation, restoration and study of native plants and native plant habitat:

NANPS Founders Conservation Award: To Carole Sevilla Browne for her educational role in promoting the stewardship and wildscaping of residential properties, and to Bill and Louise Ford for natural heritage protection and their efforts in restoring an open wetland where endangered flora and fauna now flourish.

NANPS Garden Award: To the Peterborough GreenUP Ecology Park, Peterborough, Ontario for their five-acre showcase of sustainable landscape ideas and resources that include a host of display gardens and naturalized areas.

Volunteer of the Year Award: To Irene Fedun for her excellent job as editor of The Blazing Star as well as being a long-time contributor and asset to NANPS.

### NANPS Awards (continued)

A new award, the Richard Woolger Cultivation Award was created to recognize growers who demonstrate a passion and devotion to the growing, restoration and promotion of native plants.

### Advocacy

NANPS and its members responded to a call from the provincial government for feedback on proposals prepared by two firms on the proposed Ontario Place Park & Trail which will occupy the southeast corner of the Ontario Place site in Toronto (now occupied by a parking lot). NANPS Founder Jim French lobbied for the entire site to be a native plant reserve although it became clear during the consultation process that this was not being considered as an option. Representatives from NANPS attended all three public consultations on this project (December 4, 2013, January 22, 2014 and March 19, 2014) and we lobbied for the inclusion of native plants before, during and after each consultation. We also promoted the idea to our membership and through social media.



This lobbying proved successful with the inclusion of native plants as a significant portion of the gardens and restored areas as presented at the third public consultation. It was clear that our membership responded in force and that our social media campaign worked as 63% of the persons who filled out the survey after the second public consultation requested native plant habitat! Unfortunately, the spring provincial election has put this project on indefinite hold but

NANPS will continue to monitor its progress.

### Funding Applications

NANPS submitted four grant applications this past year to support both new and existing activities. To date the following applications have been successful:

1. The McLean Foundation awarded \$5,000 to NANPS to support a video speaker series in 2015. This money will be used to video two native plant talks and the videos will be made available to all native plant societies and enthusiasts via sites such as YouTube and our web-site.
2. The Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation at The Toronto Foundation awarded \$8,000 to NANPS to purchase a community native plant restoration and rescue trailer. This trailer will be stocked with all of the items necessary for plantings and rescues including shovels, wheelbarrows etc. It will be available for NANPS activities but it will also be made available on loan to other community groups doing similar activities in the Greater Toronto Area.



**Finances**

NANPS is pleased to announce that Milgram & Milgram will be their new accountants. They will prepare yearly audited financial statements, which are needed to ensure transparency in the organization and are a requirement for many funding applications. Profit Line Inc. will continue to act as bookkeepers for the organization.

Financial Summary

Assets at Year End (in Dollars)

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Cash	51,576	62,001
Term Deposit	12,031	12,000
Land	75,325	75,325
Receivables (Gov't Rebate)	4,242	2,443
Prepaid Expenses	1,811	0
Accured Liabilities	<u>-5,922</u>	<u>-1,800</u>
TOTAL	139,063	149,069

Income and Expenses

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Balance at Start of Year	149,969	155,581
Revenue	24,977	31,192
Expenses	35,883	36,804
Profit	-10,906	-5,612
Balance at Year End	139,063	149,969

**Certificate of Continuance**

NANPS received its Certificate of Continuance on Dec. 13, 2013, after voting for the new Articles of Transition and By-law 2 at the October 19, 2013 annual general meeting.

**Thank You**

NANPS would like to thank the many volunteers who dedicate their free time to serve on committees and support us at our plant sales, projects and events, and thank you also to our members who keep these initiatives going with their memberships and donations. It wouldn't be possible without you!

Photo Credits: Peter Kelly except Jacqueline Quan (page 7, top) and Jode Roberts (page 6, bottom)

