



NORTH AMERICAN  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**AGM chat room 1** (moderator Janice Keil, notes by Dilys Bowman)

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Issue: what are the major issues facing native plants in your local area?

Muskoka: a **lack of good education about native plants, and about invasives**

- very few people know about either

Also: **native plant nurseries often sell “native plants” that aren’t, or are just cultivars**

Edmonton (enjoys the Blazing Star!): **insufficient supply** of native plants

Also: it’s **hard to grow them from seed**: high mortality, poor germination

- could they get volunteers to grow plants?

- used to run workshops on growing NPs from seed

Some **invasives** outcompete natives: e.g. brome, Kentucky bluegrass

Knowledge is increasing locally though.

Same political issues as in Ontario.

Also need funding, space to grow NPs on larger scale (e.g. greenhouse)

Toronto: **plants competing with each other** (invasives vs. natives)

Niagara Falls: locally, a **vast amount of native-plant-covered land has been lost**

How to reclaim the land and the native plant landscape? - though there is momentum for change

**Naming of native plants is terrible** – X-weed, Y-weed, Z-weed...

Peterborough: **a lack of wetland native plant stock** for restoration projects

**Invasives** a huge problem in rural Ontario, incl. *reed canary grass* in wetlands

Also, Ministry of Natural Resources considers reed canary grass an invasive

But...Min. of Agriculture & Food Affairs encourages it as forage crop!

Also: weeds can be seen as flowers that are in the wrong place; some NPs are more well behaved and “front-garden-suitable” than others

Montreal: we want to inspire others by setting a good example. A lot of people you’d not expect are on board with the idea of native plants.

*Examples of helpful initiatives:*

Mississauga: a good report about Mississauga’s Blooming Boulevards program

- join BB for \$10/year (normally \$52 to garden on blvd.), get 50 NPs free!

- this year a board member raised 6000 NPs from seed

- BB membership is at 120 in only their 2<sup>nd</sup> year; has 50 or 60 gardens

Toronto: signs that say “Pollinator Garden” or “Native Plants Make the World a Better Place” are a form of advertising for NPs. They help.

Places with native plants: Bracebridge: Home Depot is selling In the Zone plants

Muskoka: Hidden Habitat sells native plants

**AGM chat room 2** (moderator Ryan Godfrey, notes by Adam Mohamed)

Date: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (2pm to 2:45pm)

**Issue:** what are the major issues facing native plants in your local area?

Toronto: Municipal bylaws when it comes to natural gardens

- Hope for change
- Grassroots campaigns seem to work to get change

Durham Region: Invasive Plants

- Bylaws not being enforced
- Trampling of native plants
- Native plant rustling
- Extension of backyards into conservation land (not being enforced by Conservation Authorities)

Richmond Hill: Community Gardens

- Public doesn't know enough about native plants require more knowledge and education

Lambton County: Obtaining true native plants

- No native plant nursery open to the public

Toronto : Invasive Plants

- Developers buying empty lots for future properties
- Lots get left empty for so long that invasive species have time to establish

Scugog Township: Naturalizing and what it really means

- Many members of the public do not understand the concept of Naturalizing and believe that means leaving invasive species to grow

**AGM chat room 3** (moderator Atena Keshavarzian, notes by Alice Kong)

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Issue:** what are the major issues facing native plants in your location?

Milton ON:

- suggest to have articles about native plants in mainstream magazines, the paradigm has to change
- we need to see tons of pictures of alternative gardens

Guelph ON:

- plant sales and demo gardens educate the public; Pollination Guelph maintains a garden at a hospice in Guelph which is 80 – 90% native

Toronto ON:

- the gardening industry is strong and has a stranglehold on taste and aesthetics, city weed and grass bylaw needs fixing. There is concern about neighbours and what the city is going to do. Suggest sharing plants with neighbours

Oakville ON:

- refined to what is native to Halton
- suggest working with horticultural society to increase their native section
- HGTV- why are there not more shows about native gardening, we should advocate for such programming
- time is ripe to develop partnerships to promote native plants

North Middlesex, near Lake Huron:

- I'm a new member who moved from Toronto to 3 acres in a rural area. There are no native plant nurseries nearby. What is labelled native in mainstream nurseries may be native to elsewhere. What is the definition of native?

Guelph ON:

- Pollination Guelph has a list of native plant nurseries near Guelph on their website, as NANPS does for Canadian provinces and US states

Montreal PQ:

- native plants sometimes difficult to take hold

Mississauga ON:

- have been a member of Canadian Wildflower Society (NANPS name prior to 1999)
- want to be an advocate to change mindset from lawns, where is that soapbox?

Toronto ON:

- own a property near Lake Huron. Saw Ryan on a WWF webinar and renewed NANPS membership
- mentioned the importance of partnerships and talking to people about plants

THANKS TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS!