



# Great Plains Lady's-tresses

The name of the Great Plains Lady's-tresses is derived from the latin words *magnus* meaning "large" and *campus* meaning "plain."

This orchid is very rare and bears endangered status in Manitoba. It has only recently been recognized as distinctly different from Hooded Lady's-tresses or *spiranthes romanzoffiana*. The differences are that the Great Plains Lady's-tresses has an unconstricted lip, an absence of basal leaves at flowering time, spreading lateral sepals, and that it usually blooms later than the Hooded Lady's-tresses (from late August to late September). This orchid is known to hybridize with Slender Lady's-tresses (*spiranthes lacera*).

In Manitoba, its favoured habitat is in the tall grass prairie region of southeastern Manitoba.

The stems of the Great Plains Lady's-tresses, including the inflorescence, are 15 to 42 cm long, with thick fleshy roots. There may be up to 5 stems per plant, with each stem featuring a series of overlapping bracts. The basal leaves, which are up to 14 cm long and 1.5 cm wide, frequently wither two weeks before flowers appear. The inflorescence consists of 15 to 45 tightly-spaced flowers in 2 or more columns. They may follow a slight spiral direction on the stem or favour a straight vertical line. Each 10 - 15 mm white flower reaches out from its own upward bract. Its lateral sepals are spread and curved, sometimes arching above the flower. The oblong lip is often pale yellow, and edged in a wavy transparent fringe.

Seeds may remain on the plant throughout the winter. Bumblebees are a known pollinator of this orchid species.



Great Plains Lady's-tresses  
*Spiranthes magnicamporum*  
Photo by Bud Ewacha

(C.N.P.S.) Conserve Native  
Plants Society Inc.

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**Please remember to renew  
your membership.**

# Plan to Attend the CNPS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Conserve Native Plants Society will take place on:

**Wednesday, March 28, 2007**

at the

**Dakota Lawn Bowling Centre**

**1212 Dakota Street**

**7:30 p.m.**

Note that elections will be held at that time for the positions of president and treasurer of CNPS. Nominations will be accepted until the end of February and can be forwarded to Bud Ewacha.

Our featured guest speaker will be **Shirley Froehlich** of **Prairie Originals**, growers of local wildflowers and grasses. She will give a presentation on how to attract Monarch Butterflies to your yard using native plants - a topic guaranteed to be of interest to CNPS members!

Prairie Originals offers an extensive variety of native flowers, grasses, vines, shrubs and trees - all grown from seed collected in Manitoba. Initially, seed used was derived from wild stock but now 85% is collected from Prairie Originals own stock beds, ensuring a better survival rate when transplanting.

Their well-organized catalogue can even assist you with planning for different garden conditions or preferences!

## CNPS Field Trips are in the Preparation Stage

Conserve Native Plants Society is in the process of preparing their field trip schedule for the coming spring and summer months. These excursions are usually centered around anticipated maximum bloom times for various orchid and native plant species throughout southern Manitoba. Last year, earlier-than-usual spring weather conditions, plus other in-climate factors, caused some of our forecasted dates to be revised. CNPS is confident, however, that 2007 will offer a number of enjoyable outings for plant enthusiasts. Please stay tuned for our field trip listings in the next CNPS newsletter.

### Upcoming CNPS Display Dates

Bring a friend and check out Conserve Native Plants Society's interesting and informative display at:

**Grant Park Plaza**  
**April 12 - 15, 2007**

&

**St. Vital Centre**  
**April 19-20, 2007**



## CNPS Membership/Renewal Form 2007

I wish to offer/continue my membership in Conserve Native Plants Society.

Number of memberships \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00/person Total \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a further donation towards the protection of threatened plants and habitat.

Enclosed is my cheque for the amount of

\$10.00  \$20.00  \$35.00  \$50.00  \$100.00  \$500.00  Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Make cheques out to Conserve Native Plants Society and send to the address given at the front of our newsletter.)

A receipt will be issued for amounts over \$10.00. Our tax number is **889256707RR0001**