



Thank You to Some Devoted People

This newsletter is being written by a different author this month. My name is Veronica Walsh and I have been a member of CNPS for about 3 years.

The first thing I want to do is to thank Bud for all of his hard work over the years to keep CNPS going as an organization. He has been the one taking care of much of the paper work to obtain grants, keeping the membership list updated, coordinating the newsletter, sending out reminders, receipts, and other administrative responsibilities.

Also, thank you very much Bud for all that you have been doing for the plants and educating the community about the organization and plants. Most of us are probably unaware of how many hours you spent on your knees pollinating plants, sitting in malls to promote the organization, or standing at the conservatory answering questions and talking about orchids.

We only have to refer to previous newsletters to know that he is a man who puts his beliefs into action when it comes to plants, especially the orchids.

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Searching For Flat-petaled Yellow Lady's Slippers

In the CNPS March 2009 newsletter, the Flat-petaled Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*, var. *planipetalum*) was profiled. CNPS is seeking information from members on sightings of this plant. If you know the location of one of these orchids (please check the description from the newsletter, available on our website), please contact Bud Ewacha.



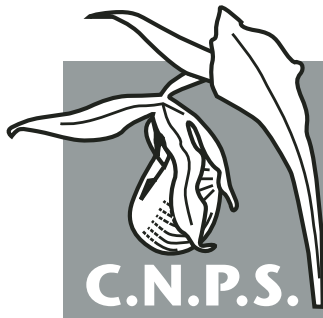
Photo by Bud Ewacha

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**Please remember to renew
your membership.**



Where Are the Butterflies?

Have you noticed the absence of butterflies the past 2 years? I have seen only 3 or 4 of them total this summer and last.

I am wondering whether it is because it's too cold and wet, too many poisons in our environment or other reasons.

I would be glad to hear what you know or think about this situation.



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I enjoyed many trips to various areas with Bud when we ventured out to work on his White Fringed Orchid project, or to monitor progress of all the other projects. Despite the setback and difficulties, Bud is not one who gives up easily.

What could be better than to enjoy a summer day looking at the flora, seeing deer and other wildlife, looking up at the blue sky with patches of fluffy white clouds while someone else is doing the driving – with a few stops along the way to learn the identity of a few more plants, save a few of them from a construction site or to have lunch or get an ice-cream.

I will also take this opportunity to say thank-you to Connie, Henry and Margaret for their roles as secretary, treasurer, supporters and helpers.

Survey Response

Remember the survey that was attached to the previous newsletter? Well, the response was not that good. I am sure that the reason for that is that it was sent out in the spring just as people were getting out into their gardens and the fields to work or enjoy the wildflowers we all love. And I am confident that if you looked about 3/4 of the way down in your to-do pile it is still there.

We are asking that you take a few minutes this fall, dig it out, answer the few questions and send it back with your membership fees. If you do it now and put the address and stamp on the envelope it will be one less thing to do during the Christmas rush. If you need another copy – either on paper or by email, let myself or Bud know.

My home phone number is 1-204-785-8829.

Some Good News

Sometimes these days it seems the news is all bad when it comes to the environment, the plants, the animals, birds and butterflies. But that is not the case from my perspective. What I see is that all the talk and bad news has led to more people being concerned and more action being taken. For example, there are many schools that are developing outdoor, natural classrooms and including nature and the environment in their curricula. That means that children are becoming more aware and educated about the beauty of nature and how their activity can determine outcomes that affects all living creatures. I believe this can only lead to positive results.

Another example: The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation is only one of many organizations that is working to preserve land for nature and to reverse some of the damage that has been done to habitat. This corporation contracts with private landowners who have large tracts of land not suitable for agriculture or being used for agriculture, in order to preserve these for wildlife, both plants and animals.

Some Observations

I recently visited New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Besides all the fun I had at our family reunion, which was the highlight and main purpose of the trip, two things stand out in my mind.

One was the absence of birds. Following the reunion, my husband and I drove some of the back roads of both provinces. Being bird watchers, we had our eyes open for flying creatures and stopped at a few board walks and sanctuaries. The absence of such creatures was sad and surprising, no robins on the lawns, no black birds in the cattails, no swallows in the farm yards, no goldfinches in the thistle, very few of anything else on the wires, in the water or the trees.

My plan is to contact the Natural Resources officials in those provinces to see what they have to say. I'll let you know in the next newsletter.

The other thing that stands out in my memory is the wildflowers in the ditches and along the roadside. There were long stretches of cattails, goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace and a multitude of other mauve, purple, yellow and white flowers. The beauty of this mix and match garden kept me mesmerized and I am thankful that the traffic moved as slow as I did on those roads. I came back with a renewed commitment to add more wildflowers to my collection and to encourage more patches of weeds in my back yard.

I would love to obtain some Queen Anne's lace and wonder whether any of you can provide me with some or direct me to a plentiful source. I live in the Selkirk/Beausejour area.

Future Newsletters

As you know from the previous newsletter, CNPS is looking for someone to write our newsletter.

I agreed to do this one because we have not yet found another writer.

I have not committed to write future newsletters because I may not have time or I may not have enough material. We are again asking whether anyone is available to do this or if you know someone who may be interested.

In the meantime, let's make this newsletter a co-operative effort so that, if necessary, the workload on any one member is lessened.

- Please send short articles to myself or Bud for inclusion in the newsletter.
- Send your hints, pictures, interesting information you found out, suggestions, do's and don't's, advice.
- Send your questions and perhaps another member has the answers.
- Send recipes or ideas of how you make use of natural materials.

What do you want to know about or would like other members to know?

For example: This is not about plants but plant lovers usually love the other natural wonders, so a bit of advice.

Please do not put string, rope, yarn, Christmas tinsel or other such items out for birds to make nests unless they are cut very short (less than 2 inches). I have seen too many birds (dead and alive, young and adult) with their feet tangled in such material. And please encourage the farmers in your area to be mindful of their twine.

Please pass this on to others and perhaps put up a notice on local bulletin boards. Encourage the local 4H Club or community school to organize a string and twine round-up from pastures and ditches, etc. It may be a great fundraiser, even at 10 cents per meter from each sponsor.

Looking forward to getting your news, articles or comments.

Again, I can be reached at 1-204-785-8829. Bud can be reached at 253-4741.

