



the Bluestem Banner

Winter 2004

Tallgrass Ontario

Volume 5, No. 1

To achieve the identification, conservation, management and restoration of tallgrass prairie, savanna and related ecological communities in Ontario

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3rd Tallgrass Prairie & Savanna Forum

Over 100 people participated in Forum 2003 in Peterborough, Ontario. Special thanks to Duncan Armstrong, Leora Berman, Will Wilson, Cathy Quinlan and all the prairie enthusiasts who helped organize the two-day extravaganza. Cathy Quinlan reports on page 2. Great people, great food, great place. Thanks to everyone who came and to Peterborough County Stewardship and the Ministry of Natural Resources for their generous support.

Grasses: the quiet majority

Below is a lovely photograph by Allen Woodliffe of Kalm's Brome Grass (*Bromus kalmii*). This issue of the Bluestem Banner contains a four page article written by Allen about warm season grasses. Please turn to page 5 to read about the quiet majority.



Peterborough Area Showcased in Tallgrass Forum 2003

by Cathy Quinlan, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and Chair, Tallgrass Ontario

Peterborough was the place to be in September 2003, if prairies and savannas are your thing! About 100 tallgrass enthusiasts from across Ontario attended the 3rd Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna Forum held at the Government Building in downtown Peterborough on September 5th. The Forum was co-hosted by Tallgrass Ontario, Peterborough County Stewardship and the Ministry of Natural Resources (Ontario's Living Legacy).



Government Building, Peterborough photo by Ken Nentwig

The forum had a casual, personal atmosphere where delegates mingled and exchanged information between sessions, over coffee, and around exhibits. The plenary and concurrent sessions were varied, interesting and informative.

Lindsay Rodger, author of the Tallgrass Recovery Plan, kicked off the forum with a very visual and broad view of grassland conservation at different scales – globally, nationally, provincially and locally. While the global situation for prairie preservation is not terribly optimistic, it was heartening to hear about many local success stories. Rick Beaver of the Alderville First Nation, for example, discussed the success his community has achieved in designating the Alderville Black Oak Savanna/Tallgrass Prairie as a heritage preserve and the restoration efforts that have followed.

Specialists and generalists alike were treated to an interesting presentation by Michael Peterman of Trent University on the pioneer diaries of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill both whom hailed from the Rice Lake Plains. Prairie roots run deep indeed!

Friday night – great fun, great food photo by Ken Nentwig



The presentations were both scientific and general in nature. Sessions on species research (e.g. prickly pear cactus, loggerhead shrike, karner blue butterfly) were interspersed with sessions on Geographical Information Systems, landowner contact, invasive species, prescribed burns and community restoration projects.

Will Wilson of Lakehead University wrapped-up the forum by redirecting our focus to the savannas of Mongolia. In this harsh environment, a culture of people have learned to live sustainably with the land by valuing community cooperation, tradition and autonomy.

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Forum 2003 *continued from page 2*

Two bus tours capped off the forum the following day, to give delegates an up-close look at some of the gems of the Rice Lake Plains. One bus went to the Carden Plains/Kirkfield Alvar where Bob Bowles and Nathalie Rothwell gave an excellent life science tour of this newly secured site. A second bus traveled to several sites including the Alderville First Nation Prairie and Oak Savanna, Rainbow Tallgrass Prairie, Carmel and Ganaraska prairie sites.



Above left, **Rick Beaver leads the tour at Alderville**; above right, **the view from Rainbow** photos by Duncan Armstrong

I think everyone left the forum with a deeper understanding of prairies and savannas and the people who are behind it all. Proceedings will be available soon. There are rumours the 4th Tallgrass Forum will be held in the Brantford area in the summer of 2005, so keep your calendars open!

Green Legacy: Canada's Endangered Native Plants

This is an exciting new traveling exhibition about Canada's native plants and produced jointly by the Canadian Museum of Nature and Royal Botanical Gardens. Native plants play a dynamic role in defining Canadian landscapes and our sense of place. This exhibition explores the beauty, diversity and vulnerability of Canada's native plants and plantscapes. You can see the exhibition in Southern Ontario at the Woodstock Museum, Woodstock ON from June 4th to August 29th, 2004 and at the Western Fair, London, ON, September 10th – 19th, 2004.

<http://www.rbg.ca/greenlegacy/pages/exhibit.html>

The Savanna Sentinel

Published annually by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the Savanna Sentinel is a new newsletter outlining the activities of the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. Five organizations have teamed up with the NCC to spearhead the program – County of Northumberland, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, Lower Trent Conservation, Ontario Parks and Wildlife Habitat Canada/Wetland Habitat Fund. Many key grassland sites are found within properties included in the project, such as Burnley-Carmel, Alderville Woods and the Northumberland County Forest. Check <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/> for future newsletters and more info on Rice Lake Plains.

Volunteer for Prairie

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, with the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, sponsors a program called “**Volunteer for Nature**” that provides opportunities for volunteers to participate in hands-on conservation projects in Ontario. Below is a sampling for 2004. For more information (and many more projects) check out www.ontarionature.org.

Ultra Violet Restoration – Targeting Turkey Point Invasives (May 14, 2004) – Removal of invasives is a crucial step in reclaiming this rare Black Oak Savanna. Near Normandale.

Sunrise Surprise – Sand Ridge Restoration. (May 15, 2004) - Camp for free at Pterophylla Native Plant Nursery so you can participate in a guided birding tour. Near Walsingham

Creek Appeal - Coldwater Stream Stewardship. (June 7, 2004) – This coldwater stream flows through the center of the Brant Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna. Near Paris.

A Wildflower Affair – Alderville Seed Collection. (July 18-20). Join Rick Beaver while collecting wildflower seeds on the remnants of a unique Rice Lake Plains prairie and and Black Oak savanna. Near Cobourg.

Brush Away! – Oak Savanna Restoration. (September 25, 2004). Thinning saplings and clearing out brush help mimic the effects of wildfire that would historically keep the tree canopy open, allowing sunlight to regenerate the Black Oak Savanna’s understorey. Near Port Franks.

In the Wake of Visitors – Resource Management (October 8 – 10, 2004). Plant and transplant native grasses to help restore Pinery Provincial Park’s Oak Savanna. Near Grand Bend.

*Tell us about...**

Naturalization At The Kerr Street Waterworks Park

On September 13, 2003 from 9 am to 11:30 am at the Kerr Street Waterworks Park (Oakville) about 40 volunteers planted 720 plugs of New Jersey Tea and half dozen common prairie forbs. Paul O’Hara reports that “we planted right into the turf grasses. We hope to do a volunteer spring planting for prairie grasses. We basically planted this south-facing, hazard-to-mow slope along the Lake Ontario waterfront on the west side of the Sixteen Mile Creek.” Paul notes that “records of historical vegetation indicate that a mosaic of prairie, oak savannah and oak woodland was present along the Iroquois Sand Plain throughout the Oakville area. Therefore, this site is very suitable to such a garden. The soils are sandy and the aspect is south-facing. The presence of the Black Oak at the site indicates that this area once supported prairie and savannah ground vegetation.” The Town of Oakville, Parks and Recreation assisted in the advance preparation of the site and donated peat moss, wood chips, a watering truck and tools.

**Many of you have responded to our “Tell us About Your Projects” on our membership card. We plan to profile many of the great projects that our members are working on to support prairie and savanna restoration in Ontario.*



This edition of the Bluestem Banner has been made possible by a donation in memory of Hala and Ivan Fedun

Grasses: the quiet majority *by Allen Woodliffe*

In a healthy prairie, grasses can make up 70% of the vegetation. Yet they are almost considered a backdrop for the more vivid and constantly changing yellows, purples, oranges, blues and even whites of the numerous wildflowers. But without the presence and abundance of the tall grasses, a tallgrass prairie just wouldn't be a tallgrass prairie!

Even though as much as 70% of the vegetation are warm season grasses, there are relatively few species involved. More than 35 grass species are typical of prairies and savannas across southern Ontario. At least 95% of the grass biomass present in any one prairie would be one or more of 5 main species. These include Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) and Prairie Cord Grass (*Spartina pectinata*). The remaining 5% or less of grass cover includes minor components such as Kalm's Brome Grass (*Bromus kalmii*), Schrieber's Panic Grass (*Panicum oligoanthos*) as well as some very rare species such as Arrow Feather Three-awn (*Aristida purpurascens*), Side-oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*), June Grass (*Koeleria macrantha*) and Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*).

Prairie Cord Grass *photo by Allen Woodliffe*

In the lowest, and therefore wettest, prairie soils can be found **Prairie Cord Grass**. Generally it is the tallest grass on the prairies, occasionally reaching heights of 3 metres. The leaves are long and tapered, with needle-like tips. Probably the most distinctive feature of this species, useful at all stages of development, is the very rough edges of the leaves, from which the other common name, 'Ripgut', is derived. The flowers are arranged in a comb-like manner which, upon maturing, become disheveled in appearance. The roots and rhizomes are very dense. This was the species of choice for making sod bricks for sod houses by pioneers when wood material was unavailable. In addition, the stout stems of this species was often used for roof thatch. Early in the season it could be used for grazing or hay, but later it became too tough for forage.

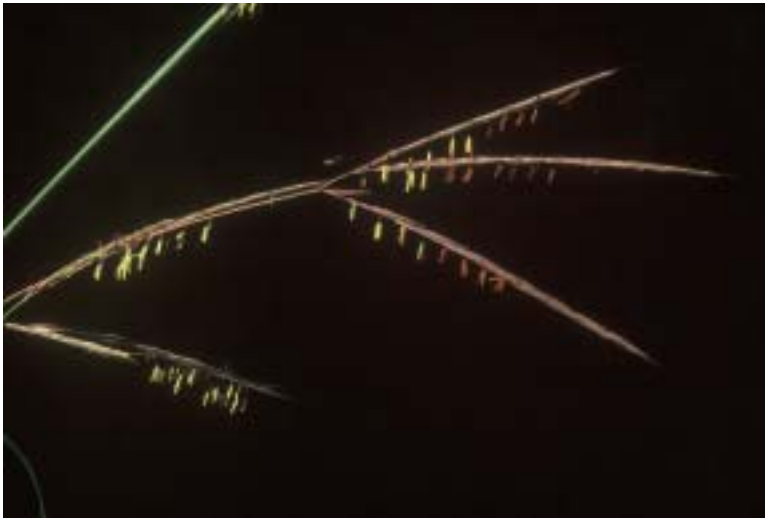
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In areas somewhat drier than Prairie Cord Grass habitat, one will find **Switch Grass**. It is much more delicate and is quite obviously a bunch grass, meaning it will start as one or two stems and become a larger and larger clump or 'bunch' over time. It is not one of the tallest grasses, but its delicate flowering and spreading branches can sometimes reach almost 2 metres in height. Although it is often found in the wetter areas, on occasion one will find it in what appears to be quite dry sites, especially in sand barrens such as Great Lake shorelines. However the root systems have no difficulty in reaching ground water. In its vegetative state, this species is most easily identified by its round stem and a dense nest of silvery hairs where the leaf blade joins the sheath.

The most abundant and widespread of the warm season prairie grasses is **Big Bluestem**. It prefers mesic conditions, meaning not too wet or not too dry, and the most abundant moisture type found in most tallgrass prairies. Anywhere in the tallgrass prairie region you find corn grown, chances are it was predominantly Big Bluestem prior to cultivation. It gets its most common name from the bluish-purple bloom of the main stem, although it is also called Turkeyfoot, because of its 3 or 4 pronged flower/seed heads at the top of the stem. Even amongst the main 5 grasses, Big Bluestem is probably the species most indicative of tallgrass prairie, and part of the reason it was selected as the name of our newsletter. It is consistently one



of the tallest grass species, often reaching 2-2.5 metres in height. Its dense sod forming capabilities makes it one of the most dominant plants on the prairie, out competing most other grass or non-grass vegetation. The coarse rootstocks made this species another favourite for the construction of sod houses. In its vegetative state, it is recognized by its slightly flattened lower stem and usually hairy lower leaves.

Big Bluestem photo by Allen Woodliffe.

Indian Grass also does best in mesic prairie, but is nowhere near as abundant as Big Bluestem. Indian Grass does not have the ability to tiller and form underground rhizomes like Big Bluestem, so under difficult competition the former does not do as well. Nonetheless given the opportunity, Indian Grass can form fairly dense stands and is quite spectacular in doing so. It can be every bit as tall as Big Bluestem, and has showy chestnut brown plumes with contrasting yellow stamens, turning a golden colour when ripe. In its vegetative state this species is identifiable by a distinct claw-like ligule on the upper surface of the leaf blade where it joins the sheath.

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The driest tallgrass prairie habitats are home to **Little Bluestem**. This too is a bunchgrass, and grows to about 1.2 metres. The single flower clusters are borne at the tip of the side stalks that are nearly parallel to the main stem. The whitish flowers are delicate and feathery, and are especially attractive when backlit. Little Bluestem is a major forage species, particularly in areas of the tallgrass region where there is greater topographic relief providing good drainage. In its vegetative state, this species is easily identified by its flattened lower stem and leaf sheaths, with the leaves somewhat folded along the midrib.

A close and similar looking relative is Broom-sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*). It differs from Little Bluestem in that it often has two flower clusters at the tip of the side stalks, and they appear to be less exerted (meaning they don't appear to project as far out). However Broom-sedge is not nearly as good a forage species as Little Bluestem and does better on more sterile and disturbed sites. More than one prospective rancher has been fooled by what appears to be excellent Little Bluestem prairie only to find that it is Broom-sedge instead, as a result of poor management such as over grazing by previous owners.

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Little Bluestem *photo by Allen Woodliffe*

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Another grass that could be mentioned, although technically it is a cool –season grass, is **Canada Wild Rye** (*Elymus canadensis*). However it is fairly tall (up to 1.7 metres) and easily identified by its bushy, nodding head of bristly awned seeds. It never dominates, although is commonly found in a wide variety of prairie settings.

Most of the grass species discussed were valuable to the native North Americans and early pioneers in various ways. For example, the abundant grass seeds were harvested and ground for flour. The Ojibway boiled Big Bluestem root to make a tea for stomachache and indigestion. Broom-sedge produced dyes of yellow-green to gold for use in wool. If firewood was scarce, one could twist the coarse stems of Prairie Cord Grass tightly, double it over and tie it in tight bundles for fuel.

Grasses are really the essence of tallgrass prairie. There is so much to discuss regarding the role they play and how they survive. Consider the preceding as just a brief introduction to these major players on the prairie landscape. More details regarding their adaptations and ecological processes will be discussed in a future issue of *Bluestem Banner*.



Canada Wild Rye photo by Allen Woodliffe

Introducing SARA

The long awaited Species at Risk Act (SARA) was proclaimed into law by the Government of Canada on June 5th, 2003. The purpose of SARA is to recover extirpated, endangered and threatened species, and to prevent species of special concern from becoming further at risk. There are three “pillars” identified by federal strategy for species at risk – the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk “Accord” (established in 1996), the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk “HSP”(introduced in 2000) and now, SARA. SARA is the legislative tool developed by the federal government to implement the Accord.

SARA meets COSEWIC

In order to implement SARA, the conservation status of a species must be identified. This is undertaken by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), which makes recommendations to the Minister of the Environment and the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council. The council is responsible for coordinating national species at risk activities and providing general direction to COSEWIC. The Minister of the Environment must indicate in the “Public Registry”, within 90 days after receiving a status recommendation from COSEWIC, a response to the recommendation. Further, the government must act within nine months to either add the species to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk (“List”), decline to do so, or ask for more information.

Getting on SARA’s X (or E or T) List

Once a species is included in the List of Wildlife Species at Risk, a recovery strategy must be prepared. Those on the List when the Act was proclaimed must have a recovery strategy produced within three years for endangered and within four years for extirpated and threatened species. Newly added species must have a strategy prepared within one or two years depending on their status. At present, the process of developing recovery strategies, action plans, actual implementation and reporting is lengthy. However, where a species requires immediate assistance, the government may impose an “emergency order” to protect a species and habitat if necessary for survival or recovery.

SARA shows her teeth

In June, 2004, SARA will prohibit a wide range of activities threatening species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened on the List on federal lands and waters, aquatic species covered by the *Fisheries Act*, and birds covered by the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. For species not covered by these specific acts – provincial/territorial – options exist to either apply existing, or develop new legislation to protect the species appropriately.

SARA meets Burnie

Please turn to page 10 to learn about the status of tallgrass, savanna and related species. Burnie the Badger, Tallgrass Ontario’s mascot is pictured at right.

Habitat Stewardship Program

HSP’s mandate is to contribute to the recovery and protection of species designated as endangered, threatened or of special concern by COSEWIC. HSP received \$9 million and supported 164 projects across Canada. For further information go online to www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih

Websites

Check out the SARA public registry at www.sararegistry.gc.ca COSEWIC’s website is www.cosewic.gc.ca.

Recovery newsletter will no longer be published in its current format. Check out species at risk recovery activities at www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

Conference

March 2-6, 2004:
Species at Risk 2004: Pathways to Recovery conference in Victoria, BC
www.speciesatrisk2004.ca



**Tallgrass in Ontario:
Endangered, Threatened or Extirpated – pick one**

The Ontario Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna Association – Tallgrass Ontario – was established in 1999 to implement the Recovery Plan for Tallgrass Communities of Southern Ontario. The Recovery plan lists literally hundreds of tallgrass and savanna species, many of which are identified as threatened, endangered or extirpated. The sidebar to the right lists tallgrass related species from the Prospectus of the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk for Ontario (2004-5) and their COSEWIC/SARA status. As of January, 2004 fifty-one tallgrass species/taxa are on the COSEWIC candidate list, and an additional thirteen may be added.

Ontario – Southern Ontario in particular – is in the unenviable position of being home to the majority of species at risk. Here, the impacts of urban, industrial and agricultural development as well as forestry and aggregate extraction have wrecked havoc on tallgrass and savanna communities. This is the most densely populated area of Canada, with one of the most active industrial and agricultural sectors. Many of existing tallgrass and prairie remnants are in private landowners’ hands. Tallgrass Ontario’s SOS (Save Ontario Savannas) program is squarely aimed at this issue.

Tallgrass Ontario is managing a “communities” based plan. Initially, most recovery approaches were species specific – addressing a single plant or animal – rather than a similar group or, in our case, an ecosystem. Now, there are at least twelve ecosystem recovery programs under way, including the Walpole Island Ecosystem and Lake Erie Sand Spit Savannas Ecosystem- all related to tallgrass and savanna in Ontario. For more information about these activities nation-wide, obtain a copy of the RENEW Annual Report (RENEW 2003, Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife in Canada, Annual Report No. 13, Ottawa) or check out www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/recovery/.

And now a little good news. Tallgrass and savanna in Ontario has benefited from a well thought out and implemented recovery plan. Many private and public groups have supported our efforts at landowner contact, policy development, education and research. We are now in the process, in fact, of planning an update for the next five years. In addition, Tallgrass Ontario, with the help of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources hopes to develop recovery strategies for a suite of vascular plants on the COSEWIC list and currently without strategies/plans in place.

Less than 3% of the presettlement extent of tallgrass prairie remains in Ontario. Please join us in saving these special places and supporting the work of Tallgrass Ontario. You can download a copy of Tallgrass Ontario’s Recovery Plan at www.tallgrassontario.org. If you are interested in helping with our recovery plan update (Tallgrass Communities) or multi-species strategies, please contact us at info@tallgrassontario.org. An individual or family membership is only \$30 and a charitable receipt is issued by Tallgrass Ontario. Please turn to page 9 for a discussion of SARA, COSEWIC and species at risk legislation.

Species	SARA/ COSEWIC
American Badger	Endangered
Barn Owl	Endangered
Eastern Loggerhead Shrike	Endangered
Henslow’s Sparrow	Endangered
Northern Bobwhite	Endangered
Piping Plover	Endangered
Pitcher’s Thistle	Endangered
Bird’s Foot Violet	Endangered
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid	Endangered
Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus	Endangered
Gattinger’s Agalinis	Endangered
Goat’s Rue	Endangered
Hoary Mountain Mint	Endangered
Juniper Sedge	Endangered
Pink Milkwort	Endangered
Purple Twayblade	Endangered
Showy Goldenrod	Endangered
Skinner’s Agalinis	Endangered
Slender Bush Clover	Endangered
Small White Lady’s Slipper	Endangered
White Prairie Gentian	Endangered
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake	Threatened
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake	Threatened
Colic-root	Threatened
Dense Blazing Star	Threatened
Lakeside Daisy	Threatened
Willowleaf Aster	Threatened
Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat	Special Concern
Dwarf Hackberry	Special Concern
Climbing Prairie Rose	Special Concern
Riddell’s Goldenrod	Special Concern
Greater Prairie Chicken	Extirpated
Frosted Elfyn	Extirpated
Karner Blue	Extirpated
Mottled Duskywing	Non-listed
Hill’s Thistle	Non-listed
Houghton’s Goldenrod	Non-listed

Noted

The Wood Duck, the journal of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, notes that a restoration project will take place at Spooky Hollow, the purpose of which is to restore sections of a White Pine plantation to oak savanna. Spooky Hollow Sanctuary is located near Normandale. Check out www.hamiltonnature.org for more info.

Duncan Armstrong, of the **Peterborough County Stewardship Council** has a full schedule of prairie and savanna projects on tap, including a prescribed burn at the Rainbow Prairie site, a reprint of [Landowners Guide to Restoring the Rice Lake Plains Tallgrass](#), tours and presentations. For more information contact duncan.armstrong@mnr.gov.on.ca

Carolinian Canada presented a conservation award to the **Natvik Family** of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. They have restored extensive portions of their farms to native species and operate a native plant nursery, Orford Ridges Native Plants, offering workshops and consultation for habitat restoration work. Contact Mathis Natvik at mnatvik@hotmail.com for more information about prairie species availability.

Niagara College Centre for Environmental Training is offering an internship opportunity to Ecosystem Restoration postgraduate students and employers. The 3-week unpaid internship begins May 3, 2004. Contact Nancy McDonald nmcdonald@niagarac.on.ca for more information about the Ecosystem Restoration Program and other opportunities at Niagara College.

In Print/Download

The Society for Ecological Restoration – Ontario Chapter has announced that the **2004-2005 Native Plant Resource Guide** is now in production. The fourth edition of the guide will include a comprehensive list of native plant material suppliers for Ontario. For more information contact ser@sympatico.ca or by phone at (416) 686-4704.

Check out the **Ontario Environmental Directory**: <http://www.oen.ca/dir/>
The new edition of the "Environmental Resource Book", a print version of the directory, will be published as well. Order from <http://www.oen.ca/public.html>

Your Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario. A map published by Conservation Ontario that provides a detailed road maps to over 245 conservation areas with location directions, facilities, natural features, and contact information. www.conservation-ontario.com

Check out the **Guide to Plant Collecting and Identification.** An earlier version can be found at http://www.botany.utoronto.ca/courses/BOT307/B_How/janerefs.html and it should soon be available at the UWO Herbarium website at <http://www.uwo.ca/biology/herbarium.html>.

Planting the Seed (A Guide to Establishing Prairie and Meadow Communities in Southern Ontario) The popular guide to prairie and meadow habitat establishment or enhancement is now available on-line at <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/docs/doc-planting-prairie-e.html>

On the Move

Paul O’Hara is establishing a consulting practice for native landscapes. You can contact Paul at blueoak@sympatico.ca

Pam Charleton has joined Brant Stewardship and is working on a prairie and savanna mapping project for the Guelph Region.

Mark Emery, a director of Tallgrass Ontario, has accepted the stewardship coordinator position for Elgin/Oxford, starting on January 19th, 2004.

Jane Bowles is Curator of the UWO Herbarium, as of December 15, 2003. She hopes to turn the herbarium into a much more accessible regional resource for anybody working with the flora of southwestern Ontario. For more information contact Jane at (519)-661-2111-80084

Michelle Kanter has joined Carolinian Canada as Executive Director. You can reach Michelle at 519 433-7077 or 276-0226 mkanter@carolinian.org
1017 Western Rd.,
London ON N6G 1G5

Special Notice to Tallgrass Ontario members

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of Tallgrass Ontario will be held at 659 Exeter Road, London, Ontario at 1:00 p.m. Bernie Solymar will present on “Barn Owls and Badgers”. A light lunch will be served just prior to the meeting. Please RSVP to info@tallgrassontario.org



Contact Us:

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info@tallgrassontario.org**

Halton Eco Festival. April 3, 2004 at the Glen Abbey Recreation Centre in Oakville. Check out www.haltonecofest.ca.

Conferences and Meetings

Backyard Biodiversity. February 17, 2004. Near Hamilton. Dan Kraus of the Nature Conservancy of Canada will provide an overview of Ontario habitats as models for naturalization. Contact: garden@greenventure.ca

The 19th North American Prairie Conference will be held in Madison, WI, august 8-12, 2004. For more information, check out www.napc2004.org.

31st Natural Areas Conference - Emerging Issues: Possibilities and Perils. October 13-16, 2004 Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, Chicago, Illinois. Go to <http://64.92.126.53/03conference/2004conf.htm> for more information.

Gardening with Native Plants. March 29, 2004. Sarnia. Marjorie Rogers-Carswell and Angelo Persichilli, Thames Valley Native Plant Society. Lambton Wildlife Inc. www.lambtonwildlife.com

7th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference - Calgary February 26 – 29, 2004. Keeping the Wild in the West. For more info go to pesc.albertawilderness.ca/