



Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed, *Eutrochium maculatum*, in seed in the Twin Creeks area of Wagner Natural Area. Apparently the variety in Alberta is var. *bruneri*, so technically the plant should be called Bruner's spotted Joe-Pye-weed. This may explain why the leaves lack spots! 2025-09-10. Photo: P. Cotterill.

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Editorial

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun...

John Keats, Ode to Autumn

As fall approaches, our deciduous trees are slowly turning yellow and the leaves of some, for example, our town trees (Manitoba maple, elm, ash and northwest poplar) are drifting gently down. Some good rain fell in July, keeping our gardens, green spaces and natural areas green; this long Second Summer of hot, dry days should ensure good seed ripening for our later-flowering plants as well as crops. All too soon, though, the landscape will have assumed its lovely winter clarity, bare-boned trees and shorn fields in simple monochromes.

In the last issue of WN, Aaron Vansevenandt's volunteer profile, with its thoughtful insights and ideas, was rated the most widely read feature. In this issue, volunteer Adam Bailey provides an entertaining and eclectic narrative of his mid-life romance with native plants.

Perhaps he can inspire others, as he wishes, to commandeer and convert to nature not only their own yards but also a small portion of Edmonton real estate. Adam's bemused neighbours tell of the need for proselytism: most people are simply not used to seeing wild plants in floriferous abundance, at least, not in an urban setting.

In this issue we also pay tribute to a super-volunteer, the late Judith Golub. On the third anniversary of her death, we on the ENPS board are still missing her!

And Kate Wilson's in-depth profile of wild bergamot will tell you all you ever needed to know about this popular and useful plant for native gardens.

Events

World Migratory Bird Day at the Edmonton Valley Zoo

ENPS will be part of this one-day extravaganza celebrating all things migratory bird-related! Join us for a series of events with the Edmonton Valley Zoo and their partners (including WILD North, ERVCC, Wild Birds Unlimited, EALT, CWF) to celebrate these amazing feathered friends.

Time & Location:

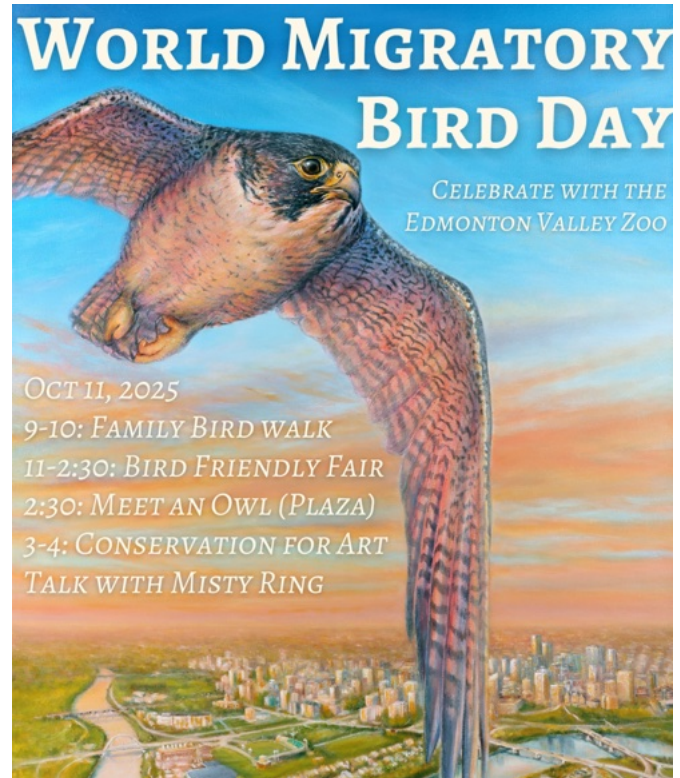
Saturday, October 11

11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Edmonton Valley Zoo

13315 Buena Vista Rd NW, Edmonton

[Read more...](#)



This free event is all about sustainability, bringing you local vendors and educators who are passionate about repurposing, reusing, and giving things a new life. ENPS will be hosting an information table, and will be selling seeds, brochures, books and memberships.

Time & Location:

Sunday, October 19

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Woodcroft Community League

13915 115 Ave NW, Edmonton

[Read more...](#)

Conservation Weekend at Muttart Conservatory

Join the Muttart Conservatory and the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation for their Third Annual Conservation Weekend. ENPS will be in attendance.

Time & Location:

Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Muttart Conservatory

[Read more...](#)



**Conservation
Weekend**
November 1 - November 2

West Meadowlark Seed Swap & Garden Talk



ENPS will have an information table at the West Meadowlark Community Garden's second annual seed swap, in addition to selling seeds, books, brochures and memberships.

Time & Location:

Sunday, November 23

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

West Meadowlark Community Hall
9311 165 St NW

[Read more...](#)

Bring your extra seeds, gardening books & magazines to swap with other gardeners.

We will have seed vendors, gardening businesses, and community organizations.

News

Dawson Park Restoration Project

On the morning of August 16th, ENPS Board member Daniella Liknes took part in a restoration event in Dawson Park, organized by the Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition (ERVCC).

[Read more...](#)



ENPS Guided Field Trip to Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Area



Alaska paper birch, *Betula pendula* subsp. *mandshurica*, in Bunchberry Meadows Conservation Area, 2022-08-17.
Photo: P. Cotterill.

On August 31, 2025, ENPS Board members Kristina Haagsma and Daniella Liknes guided this field trip, which attracted a total of 13 participants, for about half of whom it was a first visit. All signed a health and safety waiver, in accordance with ENPS' new practice for field trips. [Read more...](#)

Clean & Green Riverfest

ENPS had a display table at the Clean & Green Riverfest in St. Albert on September 20, 2025.

We sold seeds, brochures and talked to interested people about wildflowers. We found that people are definitely interested in planting wildflower gardens but do not necessarily know how to start them.

A big thank you to Patrick Kyle, Dale Ford and Laurie (a new volunteer) for coming out to help.

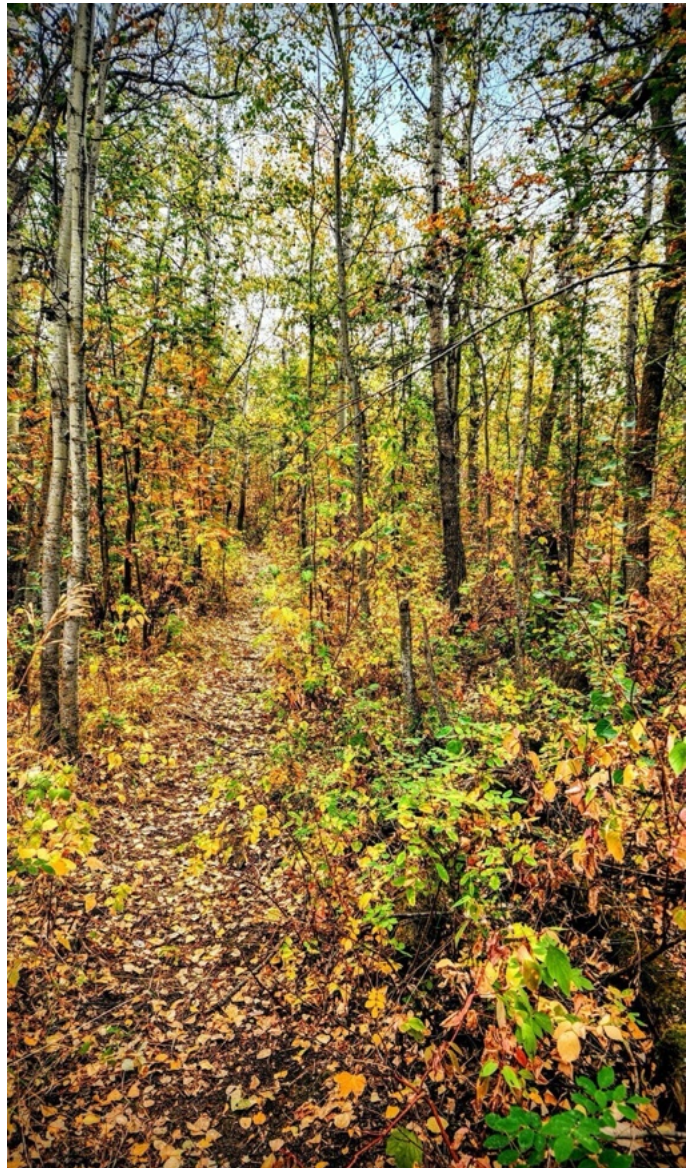
Love the Dunluce Treestand Day

The Friends of the Dunluce Treestand, ENPS, the Dunluce Community League, and the Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition (ERVCC) hosted a “Love the Dunluce Treestand Day” on September 27 at the Dunluce Treestand (15807 121 St in northwest Edmonton).

Our aim is to bring awareness and appreciation to the Dunluce Treestand, one of the largest (14.7 acres) patches of natural forest within Edmonton.

[Read more...](#)

Dunluce treestand, 2025-09-27. Photo: K. Mpulubusi.





Youth Climate Summit

On October 3, ENPS was invited to participate in a Youth Climate Summit at the Bennett Centre operated by the Edmonton Public School Board. Sixty to seventy students and teachers took part. Part of the Summit was to have the students come up with projects they could do at their schools or in the community.

[Read more...](#)

ENPS board member Mary-Jo Gurba-Flanagan at the Bennett Centre, 2025-10-03. Photo: K. Mpulubusi.

Articles

Plant Profile: Polygonaceae; the Buckwheat / Knotweed / Smartweed / Dock Family

By Patsy Cotterill

My guess is that the buckwheat family (I prefer to call it the dock family) doesn't score high in popularity stakes. There are a number of reasons for this: the flowers are small and although densely clustered are not particularly showy; several species are inconspicuous weeds of fields and gardens, and a few are plants confined to mountains, often at high altitudes.

[Read more...](#)



Field dock, *Rumex pseudonatronatus*, showing developing fruits and wavy-curly leaves, in moist, disturbed hollow in Nisku Prairie, 2025-07-26. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Plant Talk: Learning to Love *Monarda fistulosa*

By Kate Wilson



You're considering what to add to your pollinator bed and remember seeing a photo of *Monarda fistulosa*, or bee-balm. Turns out this striking beauty is hardy, easy to grow and, perhaps best of all, native to Alberta's aspen parkland. Though the *Monarda* genus is endemic to North America, bee-balm is also known as wild bergamot due to its fragrance resembling the bergamot orange of Bergamo, Italy.

[Read more...](#)

Close up of flower head (inflorescence) of wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*, Rio Terrace garden, 2025-07-17. Photo: P. Cotterill.

ENPS Profiles



Volunteer Profile:

Adam Bailey

By Adam Bailey

In this issue, we continue with our series of profiles on ENPS board members and volunteers. Meet Adam Bailey, a recent but zealous convert to both native plant growing and gardening.

[Read more...](#)

Volunteer Memorial: Remembering Judith...

By Patsy Cotterill

Judith Golub (June 14, 1949–October 28, 2022), a life-long Edmontonian, was an active and deeply committed member of and volunteer in the Edmonton Native Plant Society. However, the scope of her interests and activities in nature and conservation went much farther than that.

[Read more...](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Growers Wanted for Seed Viability Testing

Every year we collect more seeds (especially from species having a good harvest that year) than we have the capacity to grow or sell. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to grow out some of these – let's call them 'superannuated' – seeds in order to get a better handle on their viability.

[Read more...](#)

Aims of the Edmonton Native Plant Society

- Promote knowledge of Edmonton area native plants
- Conserve our native plant species and their habitat
- Preserve native plant species and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations
- Educate individuals, businesses, and local governments about native plants

Lifetime ENPS Membership

You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are \$20. Purchase by email: membership@enps.ca, through our website: <https://www.enps.ca/become-a-member> or visit one of our booths at plant events in your area. ENPS members are also eligible for a free Lifetime Membership with Nature Alberta.

Please send compliments, concerns and questions to: info@enps.ca

To unsubscribe or subscribe, email: info@enps.ca

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