

Top End



Native Plant Society

September 2009 Newsletter

General Meeting Times

President:

Russell Dempster 8983 2131

Vice President:

position vacant

Secretary:

Felicity Middleton 8988 1840

Treasurer:

position vacant

Publicity:

Brigid Oulsnam 8985 6497

Publications:

Cherie Gellert 0409 845 099

Public Officer:

Dave Liddle

Librarian:

Ray Hempel

General Committee Members:

Alex Bakunowicz

Lorraine Forgie

PO Box 135

Palmerston NT 0831

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Following the TENPS general meeting, the speaker will commence at 8pm. Tea & coffee is available during the meeting. The venue for the meeting is Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson Avenue and McMillans Road. All are welcome. Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

Field trips are usually conducted on the weekend following the General Meeting, with details provided either in the newsletter or at the meeting.

Committee Meetings are held on the Tuesday following the general meeting, at 7.30. In Sept the venue will be Gerry Wood's electorate office at Howard Springs Shopping Centre. Members are very welcome to attend committee meetings if they wish so to do.



Milkwood - Alstonia actinophylla

Natives mean more!

www.topendnativeplants.org.au

Upcoming Speakers

For the September meeting (on the 17th) Denise Goodfellow will be giving a talk on her recent trip to the United States.

Report from the August Meeting

Unfortunately the Lord Mayor, Graeme Sawyer, was unable to attend the August meeting as advertised. We apologize to anyone who was disappointed and hope that the Mayor will be able to join us on another occasion.

AGM to be held November 26th

The next TENPS Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday November the 26th. This will include the election of the Committee for 2010. Having people who are willing to serve in the committee is vital if we are to keep TENPS running. Therefore please consider if you would be able to volunteer some of your time and fill any of the committee positions. Nomination forms will be provided closer to the date.

Draft Gamba Management Plan

The Territory Government declared Gamba Grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) as a weed in late 2008. Now it has released its draft gamba grass management plan, which is available for public feedback.

The draft management plan was developed with extensive stakeholder consultation and forms part of a strategic approach to gamba grass management in the Territory. Environment Minister Karl Hampton says "gamba grass does have its benefits for the pastoral industry but we want it managed in a way that doesn't threaten the natural environment, property and infrastructure and public health."

Gamba grass was introduced into the Territory as a pasture species in 1931, and was planted widely in pastoral and agricultural areas of the Top End. However gamba grass can fuel extremely destructive grass fires during the dry season which are up to eight times the intensity of native grass fires.

When the Territory Government declared gamba grass as a weed under the Weeds Management Act in late 2008, there were two declaration zones- a Management Zone and an Eradication Zone. Landholders in the "Management Zone", taking in the area between Darwin and Katherine, must use their best endeavours to manage and control the spread of gamba grass. Landholders in the "Eradication Zone", covering the rest of the Territory, must eradicate gamba on their properties, unless they apply for a permit to continue using it. New plantings of gamba and importation of its seed is prohibited throughout the Territory.

The draft management plan for gamba establishes the objectives and outcomes to be achieved by land managers and the minimum actions to be taken to achieve these outcomes. As this is the first plan to be prepared for gamba grass, the outcomes and options identified are a first step towards reducing the impacts and threats of this weed, with the plan to be reviewed after three years. During the first three years of the plan, the Territory Government will monitor the effectiveness of the plan to determine the most appropriate mix of on-going management obligations of landholders for future planning and control.

The draft gamba grass management plan is available at www.nt.gov.au/gamba with people invited to comment until 2 October 2009.

Field Naturalists Diary

The Field Naturalists meeting is held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:45 PM. The venue is building Blue 1.03 (Business building) at Charles Darwin University. Anyone is welcome to attend.

October 14th: Arturo Izurieta: Galapagos - The Enchanted Islands: management issues, successes and challenges to preserve them for future generations.

November 11th: Clive McMahon: Buffalo management.

December 9th: Peter Phillips: Wildlife management issues in the NT.

November Plant Sale - Calling all Propagators

The committee has planned a Plant Sale to be held at the Coolalinga Markets at the end of November. Members are welcome to grow some plants to sell. The TENPS Guidelines for Preparation and Sale of Propagated Plants can be found on our website

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

In 2002 the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). The GSPC ultimate and long-term objective is to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity, though it also considers issues of sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and aims to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It provides a framework to facilitate harmony between existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, to identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and to promote mobilization of the necessary resources. The GSPC originally included 16 outcome-oriented global targets set for 2010.

Now a revised and updated GSPC is being developed, going beyond 2010, taking into account current and emerging environmental challenges on plant diversity. A first draft of the revised GSPC, including an update of the current targets for the period 2010-2020, is now available on the CBD website for peer review, and can be accessed at: www.cbd.int/gspc/gspcpreview. Anyone can submit comments on this draft, up until the 1st of October.

Newsletter Contributions

We are seeking photographs of flowers, plants, and vegetation for the "What's in Flower" section of the newsletter. Also welcome are any news stories, articles, announcements, jokes or anything else that you think would be of interest to TENPS members. Please send contributions to the Publications Officer at c.gellert@hotmail.com

What's in Flower?



Jacksonia dilatata



Verticordia cunninghamii

It looks like *Jacksonia dilatata* has flowers growing out of the ends of its leaves, but these are actually cladodes, which are flattened modified stems acting as leaves. The cladodes are greyish green with toothed margins and the flowers are small, yellow and pea-shaped. *Verticordia cunninghamii* has leaves which are small, smooth and narrow with a pointed tip, and which are crowded around the stems. The flowers are white, numerous, small, scented and have feathery lobes. Both of these species were photographed in Kakadu.



More What's in Flower?

Helgi Stone has sent us this photo of a *Crotalaria novae-hollandiae* in her garden. She bought the seeds from a TENPS stall at the very first open garden at Dale Dixon's place, and they still sprouted this year. She says that she is hoping to save lots of seeds from these plants if anyone else wants some.

TO:

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