



## Funding for corrections program

On October 3rd Shirley Bond, MLA, presented a cheque from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to the NWIPC. This funding was provided for administering and overseeing the work of the Prince George Correctional Center in the control of regional priority invasive plants during the 2008/2009 fiscal year. This \$5000 grant shows the province's continued support of invasive plants management across jurisdictional boundaries and the single agency delivery model. Accepting on behalf of the NWIPC was Ron Anthony, a long-

standing NWIPC director and member of the District "C" Cattleman's Association, an NWIPC partner. Amy Barnes, NWIPC program assistant, sealed the deal. In appreciation for the funding, Ron Anthony presented Shirley Bond with a highly coveted "Got Weeds?" hat. This will match the t-shirt we gave her last year. In an attached letter Stan Hagen, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, wrote "Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the management of invasive plants, and I wish you a successful season."



Shirley Bond delivering cheque to NWIPC

## Weed of the Month



As adapted from BC Parks and NWIPC brochures; Scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius*, is a dark-green, deciduous shrub with many yellow pea-like flowers. Leaves are singular at top of stem and tri-lobed at the base. Its taproot is large and deep-growing. Broom crowds out existing plants by forming a dense thicket. It can invade disturbed areas and is drought and cold tolerant. An average of 18,000 seeds pop out of one plant. These seeds are encased in a tough coat, making them viable for up to 30 years. Pullout entire

plant with roots and take to landfill or a very shady spot. Best to do this in the spring before it flowers. Cut off stems below ground level if removal not an option. Please replace your broom plant with a native alternative. Red flowering currant and Tall oregon grape will bring color and attract wildlife. Sterile broom is also an alternative if you are partial to broom. Broom is of special interest in the sand dunes of Naikoon provincial park. To learn more about Scotch broom please click the picture or go to [www.nwipc.org](http://www.nwipc.org)

## NWIPC Events in October, and November

October	29th-30th	-Invasive Plant Research in BC forum Richmond, BC -Register soon at <a href="http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca">www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca</a>
November	4th 25th	-Deadline for Photo Contest, see next page... - <b>NWIPC Fall General Meeting</b> , Fort Fraser BC -10:00am at the Community Hall next to petro-can -lunch provided, bring any issues or solutions -RSVP its free to participate and learn

Program Manager: Andrea Eastham  
Newsletter: Luke Wichrowski, P.A.  
Editor: Ian Hayes, Director

Thanks to everyone for your hard work this year!

## Sybillie Haeussler – Bulkley Valley Local Hero

by Shirley Hamblin

Most folks appreciate the rich colours of fall in a forest landscape, but few take time to notice the individual detail each plant or tree contributes to a forest ecosystem like Sybillie Haeussler. Thanks to Sybillie's reports over the past two years, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council has been able to locate and treat three different Spotted Knapweed sites in the Bulkley Valley in the continuing battle to prevent such invasive plants from invading our native ecosystems. Sybillie has turned a childhood interest in plants into a career in Forest Ecology that has taken her to many project sites

throughout northern BC. She is currently a Research Associate with UBC; working on various projects involving native grasslands, ecological resilience in forest and range ecosystems, and other subjects. Sybillie notes that her interest in plants is "totally genetic" because both her mother and daughter share her abilities in plant identification. We have to agree because, many years ago, it was Sybillie's mother who found & reported twelve Spotted Knapweed plants at Tintina Creek, near Meziadin, while on a trip away from her hometown of Kitwanga! With the assistance of people



*Local Hero - Sybillie Haeussler*  
such as Sybillie Haeussler it is possible to find these small patches of invasive plants and take action to control or eradicate them before they displace native plant species.

### We'd Say

**Double, double, toil and trouble. When evil spirits and magic play a dirty trick, just light the end of a Mullein and behold a witch's-stick. Above the ground the mullein grows tall, the yellow flowers grow around the stalk, not far the seeds will fall, on dirt where black cats walk. On Ides of March the mullein leaves grow very hairy, then a stalk 2 meters tall is really very scary.** But seriously, even the field guide says "dipped in tallow, mature stalks made good torches in ancient times; called 'witch's-stick'" Mullein has a deep tap root and it grows on sandy to very course rocky soils. They produce many tiny brown seeds that rattle out of seed capsules. Nearly all the seeds fall within 2 meters of the plant, it is dependant on



*Witch's-sticks are made from mullein*

animals or strong winds for further distribution. This is a category four plant that we should all be aware of this Halloween.

### INVASIVE PLANT

#### PHOTO CONTEST

Dig out your summer snapshots and your camera, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council is holding an invasive plant photo contest! Photos will be judged on subject matter (the weeds!), quality and clarity of the photo and artistic style. Photos may be used by invasive plant groups for educational or promotional publications. Please send your best photo to [projects@nwipc.org](mailto:projects@nwipc.org) or to 1595 5th Ave. Prince George, BC V2L 3L9, Attention: Photo Contest. Only one entry per person please. Top prize: a cool weed prize pack and a \$50 gift certificate. Two Secondary prizes : a cool weed prize pack and a \$25 gift certificate. Full contest details at [www.nwipc.org](http://www.nwipc.org)

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council  
Report Invasive Plants  
1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)  
[www.nwipc.org](http://www.nwipc.org) email: [info@nwipc.org](mailto:info@nwipc.org)

Thanks again  
Hope to see  
you next year!