

Community weed pull: The Glenannan Weed Warriors By: Amy B.

The NWIPC's first Community Weed Pull event was held July 13th on Telegraph Rd. in Fort Fraser. Ten participants from the Glenannan Community Association of Francois Lake braved the extreme heat (33°!) to pull Field scabious in an herbicide sensitive area. The pull site was a roadway and forest next to an infested field (NWIPC will treat this season) which is completely covered with Field scabious. The event started with a short invasive



The Glenannan Weed Warriors are \$250 richer. plant identification and management talk. The volunteers pulled for about two hours under the guid-

ance of the NWIPC coordinators and Vanderhoof IPMA contractor Mathew Harder and his crew. The whole event lasted about 2.5 hours and resulted in about 1 km of area cleared. Prizes were awarded for the largest weed (approximately 6 ft tall!), the largest root, the most species of invasive plants found and the most flower heads collected. The Glenannan Community Association received a \$250 honorarium on behalf of the NWIPC.

Weed of the Month



Bee on a Common Tansy

Tanacetum vulgare (common or wild tansy) the Spanish call it tanaceto, which means "Death-plant". Though used in many herbal remedies, this plant is deathly toxic to humans in large quantities. Yellow, button-shaped flowers crown long, tall stems (0.4-1.5m). Tansy's leaves look like ferns, and it blooms in mid-summer, producing many seeds in early fall. These plants love growing in sunny pas-

tures. Tansy releases a pungent aroma that is traditionally used to repel insects, and it is also known to have caused cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver in cattle. It is a truly noxious plant. Mowing tansy will stop seed production, but hand pulling is most effective. If not removed, the roots may sprout new growth. Report this or any other noxious weeds to our Hotline: 1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)

Weed pull Sponsors

Thanks to our weed pull sponsors for providing the missing ingredients to our success. *The Home Depot* for gloves and garbage bags. *Jolly Market Foods*, *PGI Foods 5th Ave*, and *Canadian Springs* for food and drink.

NWIPC Events in August:

5th:	-Tlell Fair-Queen Charlotte Island
9th-12th:	-PGX-Prince George
11th:	-Pioneer Days-Hazelton
14th:	-Wren Community Pastures-Vanderhoof
18th:	-Terrace Farmers' Market -Reid Lake Fair-Prince George
	-Cattlemen's Ball-McBride. -Nechako Ex.-Vanderhoof
23rd-26th:	-Bulkley Valley Ex.-Smithers. -Terrace Farmers' Market
24th:	-McBride Community Market
25th:	-Valemont Farmers' Market

Program Manager: Andrea Eastham
Newsletter: Luke Wichrowski, P.A.
Editors: Paul Glover, Director; Amy Barnes, P.A.



Program Profile Saik'uz First Nation is keeping it *Natural*



Darlene Hand Pulling Field Scabious

The NWIPC and the Saik'uz first nation are working together to protect native vegetation from invasives. Fabian Sparvier (Saik'uz Band member) is spearheading this program with an all-natural approach. No chemicals, just good old elbow grease and persistence has yielded some great results. A big thanks to Harold Alexis and his workers Wesley Quaw and Darlene Barfoot. Harold says, "The Elders insist on keeping their delicious strawberry bushes free of weeds and

chemicals." He also says, "It will be important to act on these plants sooner next year, and to try using some grazing animals on them. Field Scabious is the main problem weed in our area. Once it starts to grow, it takes only two weeks until it flowers and seeds". A formidable weed, it grows very fast in the recently flooded areas around Vanderhoof. It would have easily taken over if it weren't for the NWIPC and the Saik'uz. Call 1-866-44WEEDS if your group would like to do this too.

No Longer Blue about Blueberries

By: Andrea Eastham

NWIPC's program manager Andrea Eastham and Robson Valley contractor Gary McFarland met with Valemount citizens in July. Some had expressed concerns about the use of herbicides along the highway where locals and visitors regularly go to pick blueberries. Gary explained when herbicides are needed, how and when he sprays, how to read the herbicide signs, and the NWIPC

emphasized that he will never use herbicides in identified sensitive areas. In the NWIPC's seven Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMAs), manual treatment of invasive plants is more common than chemical. Meeting with partners is an important part of any successful invasive plant management program. The discussions between managers and partners develop an under-

standing of the local concerns and issues. It provides partners an opportunity to ask and answer questions to better understand the program, treatment options, and NWIPC's strategy of using a matrix to treat invasive plants regardless of jurisdiction. In order to successfully manage invasive plants across the central and northwest part of our province, we must all work together.

We'd Say

Donald just remembered it was his Girlfriend's birthday. Donald went and picked some flowers out of a ditch. He proceeded to skip along the country side waiving the seeds to and fro. Donald was



A Carefully Picked European Bouquet

really in the dog-house now. But seriously, you can pick invasive flowers, if you use gloves and transport them in a sealed bag. Wow pulling weeds and making your house look/smell nice, *what-a-combo!* Once dead, put into a sealed bag and toss into trash. Hi honey here's a European bouquet. *Score!*

WANTED: COMMUNITY GROUPS

■ REWARD: \$250.00 ■

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) is looking for active community groups to participate in Community Weed Pull events. Your community group will learn about invasive plant management, weed ID and improve the environment of your community all while earning \$250.00! All the NWIPC needs is three hours of your group's time and a minimum of 10 adult volunteers. Children with adult supervision are always welcome. For more information or to register please contact:

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council
www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca
 Report Invasive Plants
 1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)

