

## Northwest Invasive Plant Council

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) is proud to present our first monthly newsletter. The goal of this publication is to: inform everyone about our programs; inspire the fight against invasive plant species; and introduce seeds of knowledge into our communities. The NWIPC is a government-funded organization, involved with provincial and local groups to manage invasive plants.



Denise McLean\* & Amy Barnes\*\*

Every year a plan and profile is updated to guide us towards our goals. A list of strategically

targeted invasive species is created and a budget is approved. This provides the infrastructure needed to organize various weed removal operations in our region. Calls made to our Hotline dictate where we work. The NWIPC is here to work together with the public to deal with these priority weeds. If you know of any areas infested by Invasive Plants please call our Toll-free Hotline: 1-866-44WEEDS.

## Weed of the Month



Scentless Chamomile

The invasive weed, *Matricaria perforata* (Scentless chamomile) is an annual, or short lived perennial. Its often confused with *Leucanthemum vulgare* (oxeye daisy) however, it has smaller flowers 2-3 cm instead of 5 cm wide. Scentless when crushed, each plant can produce

10,000 to 200,000 seeds and grows 15 to 100 cm tall. If your patch of chamomile gets out of hand there are many chemical free ways to deal with it. It is sensitive to drought, so hand pulling and/or shallow tilling of the area prior to a hot afternoon is effective. Mowing is not

recommended when it is in seed because it will spread. Allowing grasses to out-compete it for a few years should get it under control too. Scentless chamomile's effective propagation has made it weed of the month. [www.weedsbc.ca/weed\\_desc/scentless.html](http://www.weedsbc.ca/weed_desc/scentless.html)

## Hoofin' it

The NWIPC attended the Vanderhoof Trade Fair May 11th to 13th. Luke W. represented the NWIPC along side the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association. This partnership was a win-win situation. A free draw for t-bone stakes and a "Got Weeds?" t-shirt drew people to the booth. Luke said, "It broke the ice and many people became interested and took pamphlets. Our Hotline should be a buzz from the 'Hoof'!"



\*Chairperson: Denise McLean

Program Manager: Andrea Eastham

Newsletter: Luke Wichrowski, Program Assistant

\*\*Editor: Amy Barnes, Program Assistant

Addendum: NWIPC apologies for the misspelling of Denise in pdf mail out

Bright Idea!  
Call the NWIPC  
Hotline about my  
spotted  
knapweed.  
1-866-44WEEDS

## Program Profile

## "its just a cool project to do"



Sarrin with Andrea Eastham  
NWIPC Program Manager

Sarrin Mueller is an 11 year old homeschool student living west of PG. Last summer at the Prince George Exhibition (PGX), she won a "Got Weeds?" t-shirt and a booklet "Field Guide to Noxious Weeds". Sarrin was inspired and offered to take care of the NWIPC's collection of invasive plants. Her mother Gaylene says, "she loves walking around with her little booklet and pointing out the weeds to us". Gay-

lene is using an Invasion Ecology home school course to teach Sarrin about invasive plants. As part of the course, Sarrin will be making an invasive plant display for the 2007 PGX. When asked if she would like to say anything to other kids reading this she said, "Well it's just a cool project to do".



## OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF NWIPC

Here are the NWIPC's eight principles of operation, as listed in the "2007 Plan and Profile":

1. Encourage the public to report invasive plant sightings.
2. Inform the public about invasive plant programs so they can provide relevant comments.
3. Develop and maintain a shared invasive plant inventory.
4. Assess problems and threats that various invasive plants present

to the environment and economy of the area. Categorize invasive plants and prioritize sites for control.

5. Prevent the establishment of invasive plants not currently in the region. Prevent or minimize the spread of the invasive plants present in the region.
6. Conduct invasive plant programs in the northwest and central BC using Integrated Pest Man-

agement principles as described in the 'Invasive Plant Strategy for BC'.

7. Encourage all landowners, agencies and organisations operating in northwest and central BC to develop and implement invasive plant management programs.
8. Manage and coordinate the activities and responsibilities of the various agencies and private landowners to ensure NWIPC goals are met.

## We'd Say

Farmer Jeb was the 1st farmer to bring knapweed into BC with his alpha-alpha seeds. When seeing this interesting plant back in the 1850s, he first called it "Field-broccoli".

But seriously, thirteen differ-



Jebidiah Centaurea and his pet knapweed.

ent species of knapweed exist in BC, none of them are native. Identifiable by their creeping root system, and bract covered flower heads. Roots can lay dormant in ground after being hand pulled. ID and management info posted on the following web sites.



Some websites assisting in identifying invasive weeds are:

<http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca>

<http://www.weedsbc.ca>

<http://www.plantsincanada.com/>

<http://pick4.pick.uga.edu/>

<http://www.wssa.net/Weeds/ID/index.htm>



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

