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NDWCA NEWSLETTER

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ND WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to all who attended the 2010 annual weed conference. Your interest and participation in each of the presentations helped make a successful conference. It was great to gather and visit with everyone. My accolades go to the Conference committee for their work in developing the topics and bringing in the speakers. The NDDA staff also needs to be thanked for their cooperation and timely presentations.

Our thanks to Representative Dennis Johnson, Senators Jerry Klein and Terry Wanzek for willing to be on the 'hot seat' at our Legislative Panel discussion. It was a lively and informative discussion on the numerous topics you brought forward to the panel. Several topics were addressed regarding the Noxious Weed Law that will be followed up upon with possible legislation for the next session.

Upon reflection on the topics presented, it appears that the underlying central theme is that we need to be open to change; new invasive infestations (weeds and/or bugs) can move in, new products and control techniques become available, new methods to connect with the public regarding are developed. We need to be able to adapt to these new issues and ideas to stay on the cutting edge.

I consider those of us in noxious weed control as professionals, in the same league as crop consultants, farm managers, extension agents and others. We develop weed managements plans on hundreds to thousands of acres; we use the latest techniques, equipment and products, not just to control invasive weeds, but in the long run to protect the environment. The public looks to us for the latest information and management techniques for their weed problems. Attending conferences and training seminars are crucial to learning and keeping

oneself on the cutting edge. Your interest and questions to the session speakers shows that you consider yourselves as professionals, wanting to stay on the cutting edge. Keep up the good work and take pride in our profession!

Stan Wolf
2010 NDWCA President

EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS NEW CHAIRPERSON AGAIN

Spring has sprung and the education committee has been preparing for the upcoming year. As many of you may or may not know, **Ron Manson** has stepped down from the chair position, and the Education Committee will once again be directed by **Derrill Fick**.

The upcoming events that are on the Education Committees agenda include setting up a display booth and handing out weed control literature at the Earth Day celebration in Bismarck on April 22nd. Theodore Thistle, Spencer Spurge and Lucy Loosestrife will definitely be making an appearance at this event.

Also, in the works are the **spring sprayer schools**. **May 25th** Minot will host the first school; Jamestown will host the second school **May 26th**. It was suggested at a meeting that a possible third school be held out west. Updates on that will be out on list serve soon.

Kadie Herseth-Benson will continue her work with the ever popular poster contest in the elementary schools.

Dan Dew has been working on getting a calendar printed up for us; if anyone has great pictures for Dan, please contact him so a North Dakota weed calendar can be finished up this year.

Thank you,
Ron Manson, Education Committee Member

AUCTION THANK-YOU!

The Education Committee would like to say a BIG thank you to all those who helped make the auction held Tuesday night after the Social prior to the NDWCA Annual Meeting. The auction netted **\$2,959.00**; all proceeds are used towards furthering weed education efforts. So, thank you to those who came, bought, organized and provided items to sell.

The following were amongst those who donated auction items: Barnes County, Becker Underwood, Billings County, Bowman County, Burleigh County, Cass County, Cavalier County, City of Dickinson, City of Fargo, CPS, Dan Probst of Van Diest Supply Company, Dickey County, Dunn County, Dupont, Emmons County, Jack Doolittle of MidDakota Vegetation Management, Jerry Saude, Kidder County, LaMoure County, Logan County, McHenry County, McKenzie County, Mercer County, Morton County, Nelson County, NuFarm, Pembina County, Pierce County, Ramsey County, Renville County, Richland County, Right of Way Applicators, Sargent County, Sheridan County, Slope County, Steele County, Stutsman County, USDA APHIS PPQ, Walsh County and Ward County.

CONVENTION SUMMARIZED

The NDWCA Annual Meeting/Convention was well attended with 37 counties and three cities represented.

Award winners were James D. Anderson of Richland as the Senior Career Award Winner and Joel Anderson of Grand Forks was the recipient of the Early Career Award.

We are thankful for the work done by the 2010 Planning Committee; the end result was a successful convention according to those attending. The planning committee consisted of Roger Wickstrom, Diane Almendinger, Rick Schmidt, Rachel Seifert and Becky Schroeder; thanks also to those who provided input. We couldn't do without the help of all those willing volunteers, who assisted during the convention. Thank you!

Many (42) attendees filled out the evaluation forms. I understand that's a record! We are grateful for your suggestions and opinions. Eighty-one percent gave the convention an overall rating as "Excellent"; nineteen percent rated it "Good". The majority liked the legislative panel and have asked to continue having them and another safety presentation. Some of the suggested topics included Pipeline & Oil Company weed control, research on internal plant mechanisms, biological control, reps from DOT, railroad and Corps of Engineers Weed Management Plan; aquatic weed control and new weed control technology.

Bear in mind that the speaker has to be found and agree to come. Sometimes they back out and the search is started again. We are limited in our funds too, so this affects who is asked, too. We were most fortunate to engage Carla Hoopes as our luncheon speaker as she was already here for the NDDA Weed Forum, so there weren't any extra expenses for us to pay! Thank you NDDA!

The old adage that "you can't please all the people all the time" is certainly proved true, but we will do our best. The 2011 Convention will be January 11-13th at the Seven Seas Inn, Mandan, ND.

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Help Support Weed Education!

YELLOW TOADFLAX IS STATE'S NEWEST NOXIOUS WEED

By North Dakota Department of Agriculture

BISMARCK – Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring has declared yellow toadflax as North Dakota's newest noxious weed.

"Yellow toadflax infestations are increasing in North Dakota," Goehring said. "The plant's ability to spread, together with the threat it poses to rangeland has made it a candidate for the noxious weed list."

Goehring also removed field bindweed and yellow starthistle from the noxious weed list.

"Yellow starthistle has virtually disappeared from North Dakota, and although field bindweed is quite common, it is really more of a nuisance than a noxious weed," Goehring said.

Goehring made the changes to the noxious weed list after consulting with North Dakota State University, members of the North Dakota Weed Control Association and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) weed control staff. He also conducted an online public survey and a public hearing on the new weed list.

A member of the snapdragon family, yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) is native to southeastern Europe and southwestern Asia. Brought to this country in the 1880s as an ornamental, it was found in North Dakota as early as 1891.

Also known as butter-and-eggs, wild snapdragon, common toadflax, ramsted, flaxweed and Jacob's ladder, it closely resembles Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* spp. *dalmatica*), also a North Dakota noxious weed. Both species are easily recognized by their bright and showy yellow flowers. Yellow toadflax has narrow lance-

shaped leaves, while Dalmatian toadflax has broad, heart-shaped leaves.

Yellow toadflax is aggressive, forming large colonies that crowd out other vegetation. It is found in a wide variety of habitats – roadsides, fields, railroad yards, rangeland, pastures, cultivated fields, meadows, forest edges and gardens.

Mature plants can produce up to 500,000 seeds annually. The roots can spread out more than 10 feet annually and give rise to daughter plants every few inches. The plant contains compounds that may be moderately toxic to livestock.

Yellow toadflax can be controlled with herbicides. Several weevils and moths are used for biological control of toadflax in parts of the U.S. and Canada. Eradication is difficult.

The state reported 1,668 acres infested with yellow toadflax in 2008.

Noxious weeds are determined by the agriculture commissioner as harmful to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property.

In addition to yellow toadflax, North Dakota's noxious weeds now include absinth wormwood, Canada thistle, musk thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, diffuse knapweed, Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and saltcedar.

"The noxious weed designation is important because noxious weeds get the greatest share of state funds for weed control through the Department of Agriculture and because failure to control noxious weeds is a class B misdemeanor," Goehring said.

CHOOSE YOUR SERVICE

All counties are reminded that any service work done to your laptop is now done at your county's expense. Our service contract has expired with NRG. You may choose to continue service at NRG or someplace else. Remember, it's now your county's expense!

Weeds are like people: We may be different
But you gotta dig us!

Lindsay (From the Garden of Weedom)

Give a weed an inch and it will take a yard!

Author unknown

Do you want to continue receiving the NDWCA Newsletter?

In order to keep receiving the newsletter, recipients must respond by **August 1, 2010** with their name and correct mailing address by your choice of communication via e-mail to schroeder.becky@yahoo.com or phone @ 701-570-3545 or by letter to NDWCA, 3196 119th Ave SE, Valley City, ND 58072.

WHY?

The board decided that this would be the most efficient way to update our mailing list. We send out over 500 newsletters. If these are not reaching the intended parties or are being thrown in file 13, we need to adjust our mailing list.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Board of Directors Meetings: June 22nd @ 9am Seven Seas Inn, Mandan; **Sept. 23rd @ 9am** Doublewood Inn, Interchange Ave, Bismarck; **Jan. 10th @ 7pm** Seven Seas Inn, Mandan