

*BOD Meetings  
Seven Seas Inn, Mandan, ND  
September 27, 2011 @ 9am  
January 9, 2012 @ 7pm*

2011 President: Dan Folske 701-377-2927  
2011 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Gary Hartman 701-222-6763  
2011 2nd VP: Stan Wolf 701-298-2388  
Exec. Secretary: Becky Schroeder 701-570-3545

## NDWCA NEWSLETTER

VOL. 20 NO.2

www.ndweeds.homestead.com

JULY 2011

### ND WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a challenging season! Rain and flooded roads, water in the ditches and cattails coming everywhere.

The NPDES permit requirements have been delayed but remain a big concern for weed boards and any non Ag pesticide uses. A bill, which would remove FIFRA labeled pesticides from the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, has passed the House of Representatives and has passed out of committee in the US Senate. Senator Hoeven has signed on as a co-sponsor and Senator Conrad is also supporting the legislation.

A big thank you to Stan Wolf for continuing to follow this process and keeping us up to date.

The new DuPont product, *Perspective*, has received full registration and is being used by a few weed boards this year. I plan to try some in Burke County, too. **I caution that treated acreage may not be hayed or grazed this year. The current restriction is one year and one week. Dupont has submitted a research package to EPA to get that portion of the label changed to allow haying and grazing,** but this will probably not happen until next season. So, make sure any area you treat this year will not be hayed or grazed.

Even though the NPDES permit requirements have been delayed, remember, that if you are making applications of Rodeo for cattail control in water, you will need to contact the ND State Health Department with a notice of intent to apply **prior** to the application.

LAP and TAG cost share money continues to be left unspent. As of last week over \$400,000 of these funds remained unspent through the ND Dept of Ag. Hopefully, many of you have actually spent the dollars and submitted your vouchers for payment this past week. These unspent funds are a big problem. When the legislature is in session and looking at budgets,

they start asking why these funds are not being used; if they are not being used, why should the programs be funded? There are always other groups looking for money and we are always at risk of losing these dollars.

**If** you are not taking advantage of these funds, then please let the Ag Department know and release the dollars so that they can be used by other counties. These have been very simple programs to use but, **if** we do not use them, they will disappear and **if** the money remains available, it will be much harder to get.

Have a great season and may all your spurge disappear!

Respectfully yours,  
Dan Folske  
President NDWCA

### NDDA OFFERS FIELD DAY HELP

Interested in hosting a field day this year? The Ag Department would love to help! When we co-host, we can:

- Advertise on our website and in local newspapers
- Bring extra equipment – sorters, sweep nets, etc.
- Line up speakers – weed ID, biological control, integrated weed management plans, etc.
- Aid in collection
- Help with refreshments

Rachel Seifert  
NDDA Noxious Weed Specialist

# EPA NPDES UPDATE

By Stan Wolf

**Good news!** Legislation is moving forward to eliminate needless redundant and overbearing rules and permits for applying pesticides in and around water, the EPA NPDES permit.

On March 31, the US House overwhelmingly passed HR 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011 on a bipartisan vote of 292-130. HR 872 was then passed over to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. On June 21, the Senate Committee unanimously voted to pass the bill out of Committee onto the Senate calendar. Following the vote, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, R-OK, issued a statement commending the Senate panel's action and urged Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to quickly send the bill to the Senate floor for a vote.

We are not out of the woods yet as most anything can still happen, including another Committee requesting to review the legislation.

Even though Senators Conrad and Hoeven both support the bill, we need to continue to let our Senator's know that we support this legislation, not just for our noxious weed control issues but for all of production agriculture.

## ARRIVAL OF LIL' WEED WARRIORS

The NDWCA offers congratulations to the proud parents of the newest lil' weed warriors!

**Genevieve Louise Spilde** was born May 11, 2011 and weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces with a full head of hair. This little "specialist" is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Spilde; Rachel Seifert Spilde is a NDDA Noxious Weed Specialist.

The newest addition to McKenzie County's Weed fighting team is **Ashlynn Rose Rolla** who was born May 16, 2011 in Bismarck ND. She was 7 lbs 4 oz. Her parents are Cherri and Conrad Rolla. Cherri will be working this summer but have some fairly limited hours.



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE SAYS THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT

The Education Committee had a very good turnout this year at the sprayer schools with 91 participants. I would like to thank the Morton County Weed Board and the Ramsey County Weed Board for hosting the location for the schools.

Thank you to the NDSU Pesticide Department for holding a R-O-W recertification class and allowing the rest of the participants to sit in on the meeting so that we can also be up to date with the newest label requirements.

I would also like to thank the ND Department of Agriculture for their updates on Pesticide Inspections, Data Logger use and on any new laws that we need to be following.

Thank you to the NDSU Extension/Research Department for doing a very good job on the Weed ID portion of our school. Again, Bill Walker from CPS did the Calibration portion of the school. Thank you to Bill for his continued efforts in keeping our equipment correctly adjusted and the correct way to apply these chemicals.

Most of all, I would like to thank DuPont and their representative, Scott Ohnoutka, for their support of the Sprayer Schools and for sponsoring the meals.

We will continue holding these sprayer schools but, we would still like to see more participants. These schools are designed for the new hire/ summer hired people and also a partial refresher for the sprayers that have been doing this type of a job for many years.

Again, thank you to all of the participants and presenters.

*Derrill Fick*

*Education Committee Chairman*

## PROJECT SAFE SEND DATES

Friday, July 15 @ Towner

Monday, July 18 @ Devils Lake

Tuesday, July 19 @ Towner

Wednesday, July 20 @ Grand Forks

Thursday, July 21 @ Casselton

Friday, July 22 @ Lidgerwood

Sites are open 9am to 3pm and held at NDDOT  
For information contact Jessica Johnson, NDDA  
at 1-800-242-7535 or [injohnson@nd.gov](mailto:injohnson@nd.gov).

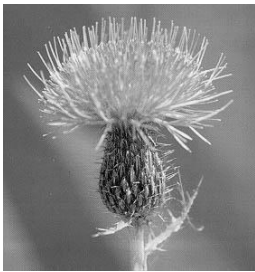
## NAWMA CONFERENCE SET

The 2011 North American Weed Management Association is holding its' 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada at Canad Inns Fort Garry.

Information packets are available online at [www.NAWMA.org](http://www.NAWMA.org) and to obtain registration information call 620-873-8730.

Both hotel and convention early registrations are due August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**REMEMBER YOUR PASSPORT!**



**Floodman Thistle**

## THISTLES, BLESSED OR NOT

*W-1120, October 1996 Rodney G. Lym, Professor, Department of Plant Sciences*

*Katheryn M. Christianson, Research Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences*

*Italicized words are those taken from Thistles of North Dakota*

After pulling those “blessed” thistles from my flower beds, I needed to find an article. I had chosen a headline, Blessed Thistles, before I found the NDSU website. Imagine my surprise when I found a **Blessed Thistle** there! *Cnicus benedictus L.* is cultivated in southern Europe and has the reputation of curing many ills, including the plague.

*Thistle is an old English name, essentially the same in all languages, for a large group of plants with a dubious reputation. In ancient history the thistle represented part of the primeval curse on the earth in general, and on man in particular. In Greek history Earth made the thistle in a moment of grief for the loss of Daphnis, shepherd and musician, poet and hunter. In Norse mythology Thor, the thunderer, protected the plant, known as the lightning plant, and all those that wore it from harm. The common cotton thistle or Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium L.*) has regal stature. During the reign of Malcolm I of Scotland,*

*Norsemen attempted to capture the Staines Castle by wading across the moat in their bare feet, only to find the moat dry and overgrown with thistle. The painful cries of the warriors roused the castle guards and the Norsemen were defeated. To commemorate this victory, the flower became the emblem of Scotland. In some translations, thistle is also the basis of Hans Christian Anderson's tale *The Wild Swans*, where eleven princes were freed from their entrapment as swans when their sister made shirts from thistle and placed them on their backs.*

*Nine species of thistle are found in North Dakota, of which five are native and one is considered rare. North Dakota has a relatively low population of native thistles compared to most western states, which commonly have 25 or more native thistle species. Some plants referred to as thistles such as perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis L.*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica Sennen*) are not true thistles, but rather are plants with poorly chosen common names. Most native thistle species go unnoticed. Only a few introduced thistles have become weedy pests.*

*There are approximately 160 native thistle species in North America, with at least 110 species north of Mexico and 50 in Latin America south of the Mexican border.*

*Of the five native thistle species in North Dakota, Floodman and wavyleaf thistle are perennials, while tall, field, and swamp thistle are biennials. Floodman thistle is the most common of these plants and is found in all North Dakota counties, while tall thistle is considered rare and is on the threatened/endangered species list in some regions*

*Floodman thistle is more competitive than most other native species, has the potential to infest large areas, and is found throughout North Dakota.*

*Floodman thistle is a deep-rooted perennial (sometimes biennial) and grows 2 to 3 feet tall. The flowers are deep purple to pink, tube shaped and approximately 1 inch long. The flower heads (involucre bracts) have a*

**Continued on page 4**

### **Thistles continued from page 3**

*strong yellow spine and a sticky secretion which attracts and catches insects. Floodman thistle usually flowers from mid-July through September. A white flowering form occasionally is found in North Dakota.*

*Floodman thistle is tolerant to high salt concentration in soil but grows best under moist conditions, as most thistles do. Floodman thistle can survive under drought conditions which gives it a competitive advantage on semi-arid rangeland.*

*The stems of Floodman thistle can be peeled and eaten and were part of the Native American diet.*

*Many native bird and insect utilize the various*

*thistle species as a food source and for various materials to build nests. Goldfinches feed on several thistle species, and bees utilize the plants to make an especially sweet honey. Many butterfly larvae, especially in the metalmark group, use thistle as their main or only food source. Wasps, flies, and beetles feed on the pollen of thistle flowers, which in turn provide a food source for other wildlife.*

As you have read, silver linings are found even amongst the thistles. Add exercise to the list! For the rest of the thistle stories look at [www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/weeds/w1120/w1120w.htm](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/weeds/w1120/w1120w.htm) or type in “The Thistles of North Dakota”.

Please let Becky know if your County Weed Board has changed and identify those being replaced, also. Mail to 3196 119<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Valley City, ND 58072 or e-mail to [schroeder.becky@yahoo.com](mailto:schroeder.becky@yahoo.com)

Thank you for helping us keep our mailing list current!

