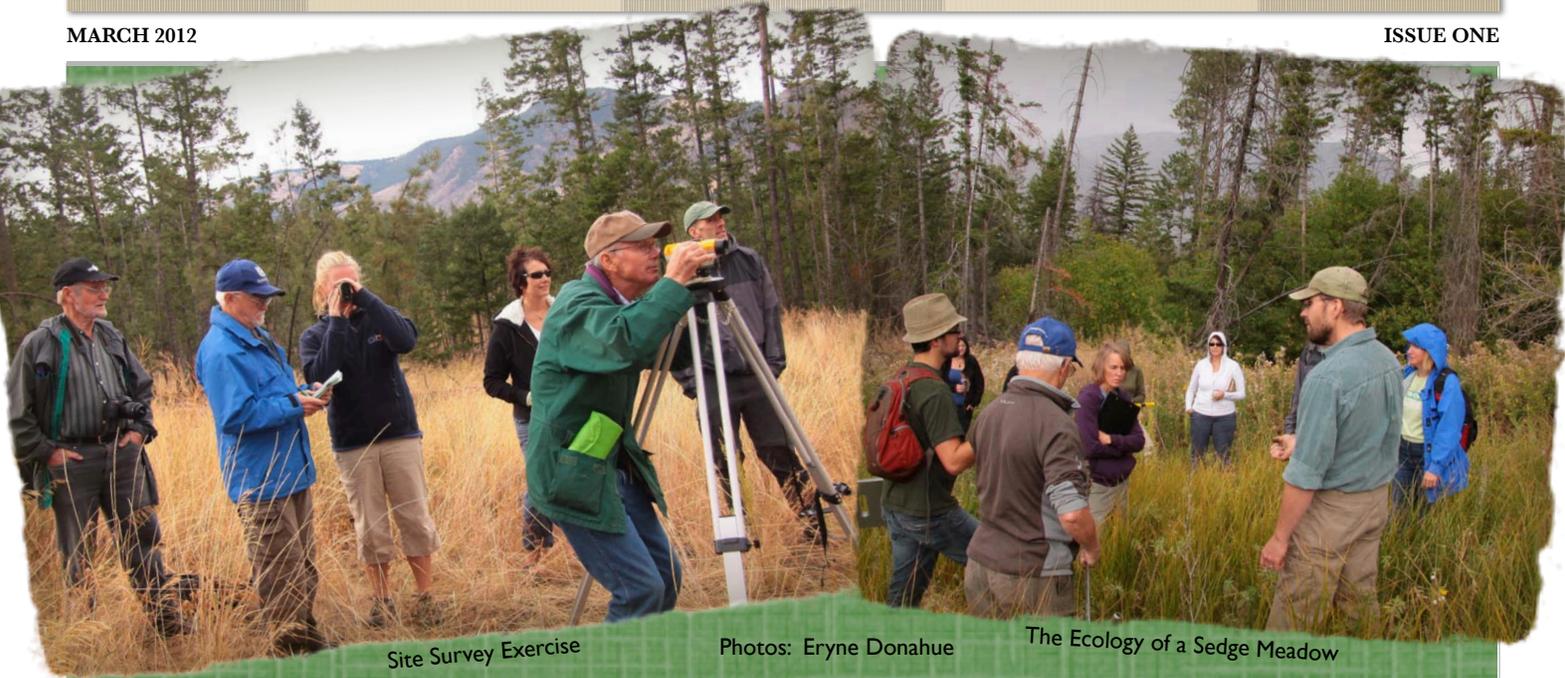


# Friends of Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park

*A group dedicated to the continued well-being of a valued community resource.*

MARCH 2012

ISSUE ONE



Site Survey Exercise

Photos: Eryne Donahue

The Ecology of a Sedge Meadow

## Park Host to Kamloops Wetlands Workshop 2011

**The BC Wildlife Federation's** Wetlands Education Program (WEP) conducted a five-day workshop in Kamloops focussing on Wetland Restoration late last Summer.

**Participants, all stewards of** some form, were guided through a series of activities related to assessment, restoration and management of damaged wetland sites.

Then they put their skills to work in the restoration of three wetlands on the T'kemlups IB lands North of Kamloops.

For the complete story on this workshop, visit the **BCWF Bog Blog** entry "[Three Wetlands in Five Days.](#)"



Neil Fletcher, Wetlands Education Program Coordinator, packed the workshop with experienced volunteers, concerned

citizens, plant ecologists, wetland restoration experts and TIB members, all eager to learn more about the ecological value of wetland habitats, and ready to work amazingly hard in their restoration efforts.

As part of the first day's activities, participants visited three damaged wetland sites in the **Dallas-Barnhartvale Nature Park**, near the Barnhartvale entrance.

These wet areas show evidence of extensive human intervention, such as drainage tile and ditching for irrigation, and have been further degraded by the more recent invasion of non-native plant species.

Workshop members examined the sites, determined the feasibility for restoration, catalogued plants, assessed the threat of invasive plants such as Manitoba Maple, Burdock, Sow Thistle, Canada Thistle, and Hound's Tongue, among

others. **Jo Ann Fox** of the Southern Interior Weed Management Committee was on hand to help with plant identification and discuss weed management strategies.

Participants also took soil samples to test for ground water in a number of areas, and to determine if soils show sufficient clay layering to hold ground water in a shallow basin wetland.

One outcome of this assessment was the discovery of an ecologically significant sedge meadow in the vicinity. Participants were treated to a short lecture on the value of sedge meadows in a wetland complex. The consensus was that this meadow, under siege from an encroaching Canada Thistle infestation, is well worth saving.

Finally participants engaged in a site survey exercise, using a survey level and clinometer tools to measure gradient and an electronic range finder to help map these potential restoration sites in the Park.

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