

Wascana Freewheelers 2009 Greenspace Project Report
Wascana Freewheelers AGM, February 7, 2010
<http://wheelersgreenspace.shutterfly.com>

2009 Greenspace Program

- In 2009 the Wascana Freewheelers participated in the City of Regina Adopt a Greenspace Program (<http://www.regina.ca/Page485.aspx>). The 2009 project involved acquiring 80 Wood's Rose seedlings from the SaskPower Shand Greenhouse Native Plant Program (<http://shand.saskpower.com/shand/programs/doc2.shtml>) and planting them in a designated area in Al Pickard Park.
- On May 9, 2009 Freewheelers participated in planting the Wood's Rose seedlings in Al Pickard Park. Freewheelers weeded the seedlings throughout the cycling season. The seedlings thrived and by fall were well established
- On September 22 the Wascana Freewheelers were recognized by the City of Regina for their participation in the Greenspace Program.
- See pictures and notes about the Greenspace project posted on the website, <http://wheelersgreenspace.shutterfly.com/>.

2010 Greenspace Proposed Program

- In 2009, many of the Wood's Rose seedlings that the Freewheelers planted in Les Sherman Park (2008 Greenspace Project) were inadvertently destroyed when the City was carrying out weed control spraying in the bed where the seedlings were planted. The coordinator of the City's Greenspace program has asked if the Freewheelers would consider replacing the Wood's Rose seedlings at the Les Sherman site as a Greenspace project for 2010. I have had a preliminary discussion with some Freewheeler members who indicated their interest in the project. Accordingly I checked with the Shand Green House made a request for the replacement seedlings.
- The proposed project for 2010 would include a club ride to plant the seedlings and weeding throughout the cycling season to help the seedlings get established in the bed.

Background

- The City of Regina provides an opportunity for volunteers to contribute to and enhance city parks and green spaces through the *Adopt a Greenspace Program*. (<http://www.regina.ca/Page485.aspx>). The program is open to groups and individuals.
- The City recognizes volunteer contributions through the Adopt a Greenspace Program in a variety of ways, including notice in the newspaper; signage at the Greenspace site.
- Kathy Stedwill (Tel: 585-1854; email: kathystedwill@accesscomm.ca) serves as the sponsor for the project, including making arrangements with the Shand Greenhouse to acquire the Wood's Rose seedlings, coordinating the preparation of the planting area with the City and scheduling/leading the club ride to plant the seedlings.

Please see Appendix A for more information about the Wood's Rose

Appendix A

Rosa woodsii Lindl. Wood's Rose¹

(Named for Joseph Woods (1776-1864), an early English student of roses)

General Characteristics

Rose family (Rosaceae). Native subshrubs or shrubs growing 0.2-2(-3) m high, rhizomatous, with shallow, frequently branching fibrous roots, sometimes forming nearly impenetrable thickets; stems reddish-brown to gray, with straight or slightly curved prickles. Leaves are deciduous, alternate, odd-pinnately compound, leaflets 5-7(-11), obovate to ovate or elliptic, ca. 1.5-3(-4) cm long, finely toothed toward the tip. Flowers occur on branches lateral from the old wood, 10-20 cm long, few in a cluster at the stem tip, less commonly solitary; petals 5, (10-)15-25 mm long, pink to lilac-pink, or lavender; sepals lanceolate, 1-2 cm long, erect and usually persistent, tomentose on the margins and inner surface. Fruit is a fleshy, red, globose to ellipsoid "hip" 5-12 mm wide, derived from the base of the sepals and petals; nutlets 15-35, 3-4 mm long. Widely distributed over western North America, from Ontario and Manitoba, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, south to Texas and northern Mexico, west to California and Alaska through every other western state and province. Flowering June-August; fruiting August and into the fall, the hips remaining on the plant through the winter.

Cultivation and Care

Wood's rose produces flowers and fruits at about 2-5 years of age. Good crops are usually produced every 2 years. Birds and mammals eat the fruits and disperse the seeds in droppings. The seeds remain viable for 2-5 years, and after warm or cold stratification, they germinate within 30 to 40 days. Wood's rose also reproduces through rhizomes, root crown sprouts, and layering. Establishment for ornament or rehabilitation is from transplants, hardwood cuttings, and direct seeding.

Uses

Wildlife: Fruits of Wood's rose are a good source of energy and protein and are eaten by many animals, including squirrels, deer, coyotes, and bears. Many birds and mammals are sustained by the persistent dry hips when the ground is covered with snow. The plants are browsed by livestock and big game from spring through fall, but the young spring leaves are especially palatable. Porcupines and beavers also browse the leaves. Thickets formed by Wood's rose provide nesting and escape cover for many birds and small mammals.

Ethnobotanic

Native Americans used the roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits of Wood's rose for foods and therapeutic materials. The hips are a source of vitamin C and are dried for use in flavoring teas, jellies, fruitcakes, and puddings. The inner bark and roots were boiled to treat diarrhea and stomach ailments and a tea was made from the bark to treat muscles.

¹ Source: USDA, NRCS, PLANTS Database, plants.usda.gov.
National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA
<http://www.gardenguides.com/plants/plantguides/flowers/plantguide.asp?symbol=ROWO>