Last April, like many of you, I took the opportunity to attend the National Native Seed Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was my first time to meet with the core group of people responsible for native plant conservation and restoration on a national level. My personal area of research emphasis is more closely aligned with the horticulture world, so I am more likely to spend my paucity of travel funds attending the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science. I thoroughly enjoyed the Native Plant Conference. I found myself feeling at home with a group of people who blend dedication for conservation of ecological systems with down-home attitudes. I also learned a few things at the meeting. I increased my knowledge about issues with monarch butterflies and the research efforts being expended to improve their habitat—information that helped me understand why schools in my area contacted me to help create monarch way-stations. I had the opportunity to update my opinions about strategies for managing climate change issues in native habitats. I was educated more fully on the topic of provisional seed zones and the current thinking on source-identified seed. I was intrigued by research reports on native species with which I am unfamiliar. All in all, it was a very enjoyable and educational experience.

But for me, there was more to the meeting than a venue for learning. My main purpose for attending was to promote the Native Plants Journal and to interface with potential authors. In my conversations, I discovered that NPJ is held in high regard by those who use it to acquire and disseminate native plant information. During the process, I gained an even greater appreciation for the journal and its goals. Native Plants Journal is one of a kind. Rather than being just another publication serving as an outlet for structured research, it seeks to serve a community by publishing practical and useful information that we can use every day. This approach creates some unique issues with quality assurance, but I believe the final results speak for themselves. So, keep sending in your articles. Let’s work together on publishing your research.
Have a great idea for an article but don’t have time or need help writing? Please e-mail. We can help.

Two types of manuscripts are welcome:

General technical articles are not research per se (lack strict experimental design and statistical analysis), but have important information for growers and planters of North American native plants. Articles could include new planting techniques, useful equipment, cultural techniques, habitat restoration, propagation techniques, production trends, technical information, descriptions of new species or cultivars entering nursery production, and so on. Propagation protocols are short, concise general articles detailing the specific methods used to propagate a particular plant. Germplasm releases are short articles that follow a standard format (see past issues) and announce the release of new plant materials for conservation use.

Refereed research articles (and scientific reviews or commentary) must have sound application of scientific method, appropriate statistical analysis, and state how the research is important to growers and planters of North American native plants. Accepted papers will be published with a “Refereed Research Article” designation.

All submitted manuscripts will be peer-reviewed by 2 referees to ensure the objective of Native Plants Journal is met.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Include a cover letter indicating what type of manuscript is being submitted (refereed or general). Refrain from special formatting. Use of active voice is encouraged. All text, except tables and figure captions should be double-spaced. The first page should have title and author information (include full names of authors, their professional titles and affiliations, mailing and electronic addresses, and specify corresponding author to whom all pre-publishing correspondence should be sent).

The second page should contain the title, abstract, and key words. Abstracts should be double-spaced and brief and emphasize results, usefulness, and practicality to growers and planters of North American (Canada, Mexico, and US) native plants. Authors are strongly encouraged to make the first sentence of their abstract describe the most important finding of their work. Include 3 to 7 key words not in the title. Use the PLANTS database as the source for nomenclature (see below). Print an abbreviated title and page number in the upper right corner of this and all subsequent pages. Use line numbering. Construct tables using the table feature of word processing programs.

Follow the second page with the “Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, References,” or some other logical system as headings, followed by figure captions and tables. For matters of style, we generally follow Scientific Style and Format, The Council of Biology Editors Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers, 6th edition (ISBN 0-521-47154-0).

Use metric (SI) units with US units in parentheses and abbreviate all units, except those without numerical value (for example, “we measured parts per million and found 250 ppm nitrogen”). Use numerals for any countable amount (for example, 3 replicates, 2 populations).

REFERENCES

In the text, please list citations by date, and then alphabetically by author (for example, Smith 1986, 1997; Jones and Smith 1992; Smith and Jones 1992; Doe and others 1998). In the reference section, list references alphabetically by author(s) and please do not abbreviate the name of the referenced journal. Examples:


NOMENCLATURE

Use common names with scientific names (including authorities and family names) in parentheses the first time used in the abstract and body of the manuscript (if scientific names with authorities and families are summarized in a table, they need not be repeated in the body of the manuscript). All subsequent use can be either the common or scientific name. Example with common name: whitetop pine (Pinus albicaulis Engelm. [Pinaceae]). Example without common name: Phacelia rattanii Gray. (Hydrophyllaceae).

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should be submitted via the Internet at mnpj@msubmit.net. Files will be converted to PDF when uploaded. Text and tables should be saved as one file. Graphics (graphs, drawings) should be in black and white and saved as individual jpg, tif, eps (preferred), SigmaPlot (preferred), or Adobe Photoshop files. Excel files embedded in manuscripts are acceptable for manuscript review but unacceptable for publication. Color slides or photographs are fine and can be sent directly to the Editor; digital images must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at a minimum width of 10 cm (4 in), although larger-sized images are preferred. Include photo credits.

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Before accepted manuscripts can be published, authors must complete a consent to publish form.

Photo credits opposite page: (top) rough prairie blazing star (Liatris aspera Michx. [Asteraceae]) seeds, photo by Robin Carlson, Chicago Botanic Garden; (middle) Piper’s daisy (Enaggeron pipermanus Cronquist [Asteraceae]) by Steven O Link; (bottom) a midwestern prairie ecosystem at the Chicago Botanic Garden, photo by Robin Carlson.
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