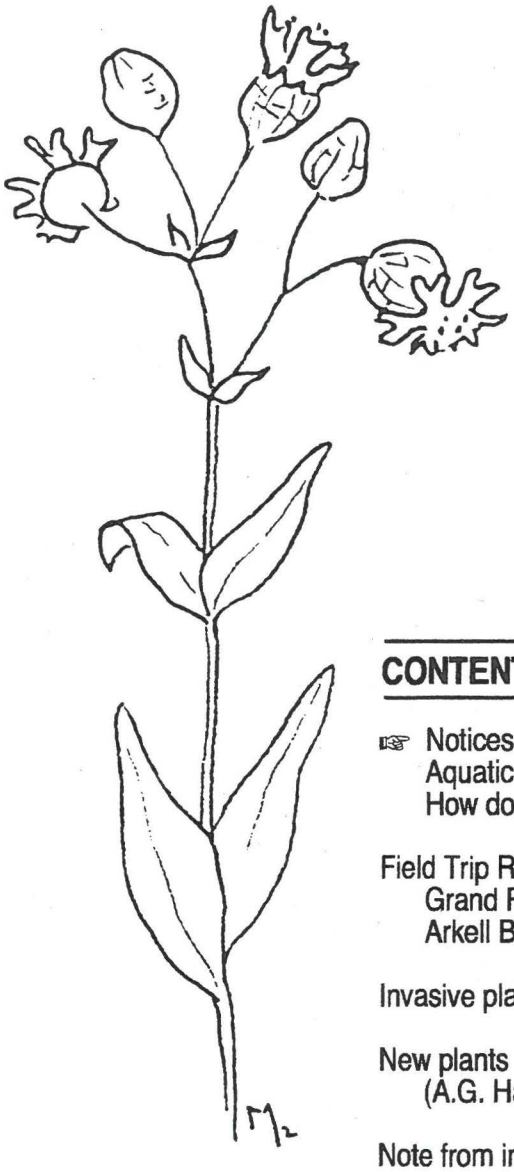


FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

ISSN: 1180-1417

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1996
Volume 9(2)

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(A.G. Harris and M.J. Oldham)

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Look for AGM information accompanying this issue.

Field Trips:

August 11: Hamilton-Wentworth Prairie Remnant and Dry Oak Woodland.

August 18: Hill Island Pitch Pine Ridge and Southern Leeds County.

August 24-25: Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Coastal Plain (*see Notices, pg 3.*)

Contact Wasyl Bakowsky (705) 740-2498

FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

NEWSLETTER
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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover Illustration of Bladder Campion (*Silene vulgaris* (Moench) Garcke) by Mary Anne Miller.

Apologies to Erich Haber for not including the picture of European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L.) with his article.

All photographs in this issue by Ed Morris.

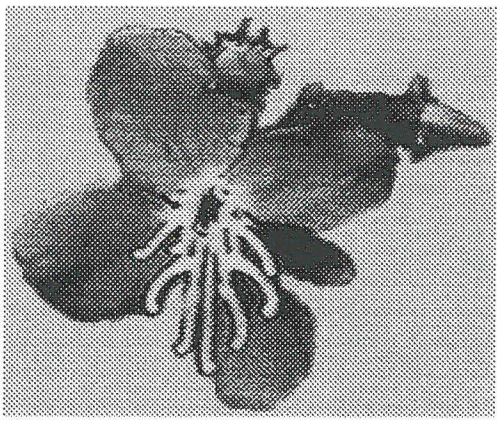
Thanks to Jim Pringle for helping to edit Harris & Oldham's article.

The deadline for submissions for Volume 9(3) - Fall 1996 is October 31, 1996.

Notices:

Aquatic Plant and Atlantic Coastal Plain Weekend Update.

The venue for the Aquatic Plant trip has been changed, and it will now be held at Sparrow Lake, an area which supports one of the most diverse aquatic plant assemblages in Ontario. The Atlantic Coastal Plain trip will remain at Dawson Ponds. Anyone who has sent in money for accommodations at the Frost Centre will be re-imbursed. Additional details will be sent soon to people who have registered for this weekend.



Virginia meadow-beauty (*Rhexia virginica* L.)

Question: How do you get more out of your FBO membership?

Answer: by putting something back into the FBO. Why not become part of the executive? We are expecting a few vacancies to appear in the FBO executive and we are looking for enthusiastic members to take over some of these positions. Remember that the FBO is an organization for anyone interested in field botany, and the executive positions can/should be filled by novice and experience field botanists. Call Claudia at (519) 837-8206.

Grand River Floodplains and Valley Rims

Trip Leader: Wasyl Bakowsky

The Sunday of May 19 proved to be uncomfortably hot and sticky, with a warm wind to boot. Nevertheless, some 23 stalwart souls didn't know any better, and accompanied me to explore some beautiful floodplain and valley rim habitats along the Grand River in Brant County.

Due to the unseasonably cold spring, flowering plants were about 2 weeks behind schedule, but the heat wave which began two days before was providing our green friends with the kick in the pants they needed.

Our first stop was an extensive, rich floodplain property owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority. Here we found a diversity of spring-flowering species, including White trilliums (*Trillium grandiflorum* (Michx.) Salisb.), violets (*Viola* spp.), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis* L.), and Toothworts. The most common was the Two-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine diphylla* (Michx.) A. Wood), but *Cardamine* x *maxima* A. Wood, a hybrid between Two-leaved toothwort and Cutleaved toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata* (Michx.) O. Schwaerz) was also present. One of the participants (I don't have the name handy, sorry) found Dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolium* L.), which was new to Brant County. We aslo found lots of Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla* (L.) Pers.), an indicator of rich floodplain habitat, and only known from this location in Brant County.

We also got a chance to review a number of sedge species, including the differences between Long-stalked sedge (*Carex pedunculata* Muhl.), Pennsylvania sedge (*C. pennsylvanica* Lam.) and Wood's Sedge (*C. woodii* Dewey).

After a brief rest where we were able to cool off and eat lunch, we headed further downstream to a wooded area along the east bank of the river just above Highway 403, where we walked along the valley slopes and then returned along the valley rim. Our first stop was a small opening beside the Grand River Hiking Trail, where four plants of Wood Violet (*Viola palmata* L.) were observed. This is a beautiful plant with leaves divided almost halfway to the petiole, making it one of the most distinctive violets.

When we headed further along the trail, and although the number of flowering plants was low due to the cold spring, we did get to see a number of interesting ones. My favourite was the White trout lily (*Erythronium albinum* Nutt.), which carpeted large areas of the valley and slope with their white beauty. Another plant in full bloom was Early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginiensis* Michx.), which likes calcareous habitats. Early buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis* Muhl.) was also seen. The provincially rare Pignut hickory (*Carya glabra* (Miller) Sweet) was also observed, growing in association with Black Oak (*Quercus velutina* Lam.), White Oak (*Q. alba* L.) and White pine (*Pinus strobus* L.).

I would like to commend the participants for the enthusiasm they showed during the trip, and managing to stick with it through the heat, humidity, and steep slopes some of the day!

Wasyl Bakowsky



Early Buttercup (*Ranunculus facicularis* Muhl.)
by Irene McIlveen.

Arkell Bog - near Guelph.

Trip Leader: Carole Ann Lacroix.
Assisted by: Paul Kron.

It was a hot breezy day (June 16th) when 20 of us car pooled to a rural corner just south of Guelph where we were greeted by the distinctive call of a grasshopper sparrow: a good beginning to our trip.

We trooped single file up and down the trail through plantations of conifers. Carole Ann explained that the Arkell hills were formed by glacial activity which left behind small hills of rubble known as glacial till. (*The feature is known among geologists as the Paris moraine -Ed*). Some species identified along the trail were *Carex spicata* Hudson (an introduced European species), Smooth brome (*Bromus inermis* Leysser) and Orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata* L.), Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis* L.), Yellow goatsbeard (*Trapogon pratensis* L.), and a large fleabane known as Robin's Plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus* Michx.). Carole Ann explained how *Carex* (the sedges) develop either in clumps (caespitose) or by underground stems (rhizomatous).

We met the natural woodland of Beech and Maple at the top of the ridge overlooking a beautiful pond (precursor to a bog?)



Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor* L.)

blooming with Yellow pond lilies (*Nuphar variegatum* Engelm. ex. Durand in Clinton) and Blue flag (*Iris versicolor* L). The woods showed us Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott), Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis* L.), Cinnamon fern (*Osmonda cinnamomea* L.) and, Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz). Also, Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense* L.), Canada anenome (*Anenome canadensis* L.), Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata* L.), Virginia waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum* L.), Running strawberry bush (*Euonymus obovata* Nutt.) and many other springtime plants were still in flower.

The trail took us downwards across a stream leading away from the moat of the bog. Paul helped us across the moat and onto the surprisingly cool, firm surface of the *Sphagnum* covered bog. This small kettle bog does not contain any ericaceous shrubs or pitcher plants (*Sarracenia purpurea* L.). Our *Sphagnum* expert identified 5 of 6 species known in southern Ontario. Because it was relatively cool and bug free (the biting kind), we were able to take our time examining our surroundings. Irene showed us a Pearl crescent butterfly and someone else found a small Ribbon snake. In the moat there were Calla lilies (*Calla palustris* L.) and *Carex lasiocarpa* Ehrh., *C. laevivaginata* (Kük.) Mack., and *C. pseudo-cyperus* L.. In the bog itself hummocks of *Polystichum* ferns, Tamaracks (*Larix laricina* (Duroi) Koch), Buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata* L.), Red maple (*Acer rubrum* L.), carpets of Marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustis* (Salisb.) Schott), Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum* sp.), Bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.), Tufted loosestrife (*Lysimachia thyrsiflora* L.), Round-leafed sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia* L.), Linear leafed sundew (*Drosera linearis* Goldie), and Intermediate sundew (*Drosera intermedia* Hayne), small pinkish catkins of Bog willow (*Salix pedicillaris* Pursh), last year's stems and pods of Little club-spur orchids (*Platanthera clavellata* (Michx.) Luer) and Bog bean (*Scheuchzeria palustris* L.).

After lunch we hiked up and down the drier trails, eventually making our way back around the bog, pausing to examine the Long-spurred violet (*Viola rostrata* Pursh). On arrival back at the cars, the grasshopper sparrow was still singing, a fitting end to a great trip. Thanks to all concerned.

C. Wenzler

Comments from the incoming editor:

Greetings! I would first like to thank Justus Benkhuysen for his excellent work as editor. His heart is pulling him back to western Canada, but we've all benefited from his time in Ontario. Good luck in your adventures!

When I mentioned to an acquaintance that I was taking over as editor of this newsletter, their response was something like "Oh, I've seen that before...it's the one with all those really good illustrations!" It is true that the artwork available to us is truly excellent, but Justus seemed to feel that the day may come when we will have to start "recycling" and I think I agree with him. I do believe that line drawings can illustrate plant form and characters much better than photographs. I would appreciate receiving new drawings, especially those appropriate for mid to late summer.

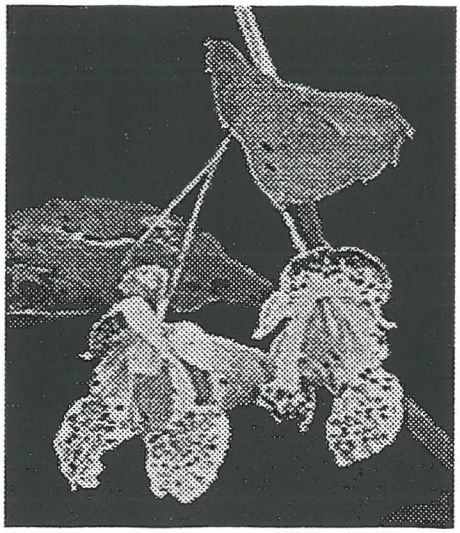
We are now getting the newsletter printed at Printing and Duplicating Services at Laurentian University. This print shop is more accommodating than a "Quickie-print" type of outfit, yet the price is very competitive. Please let me know how you feel about the quality of the photos included in this issue. If they are acceptable, then you may send photos, slides, or even images on video tape for use in future issues. Close-ups and high-contrast images work best.

Some of you prefer to send me your submissions on diskette. This is a good way to save me typing time, especially for those articles greater than 1 page (500 words) in length. Whether you use Mac or DOS/Windows, always include an ascii/text file in case I have trouble opening the regular file type of your word-processor. Also, always include a printed copy with your diskettes for our files. Print-outs also give me an idea how you wish the article to look.

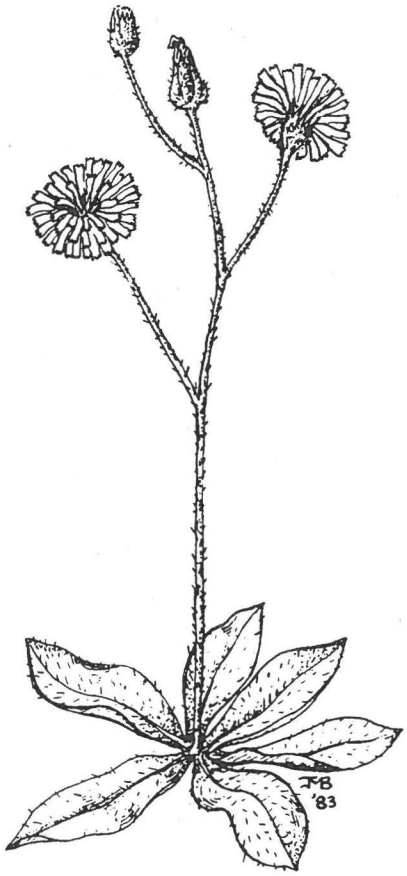
I will remind contributors and readers that we use Morton & Venn's checklist (1990; see Literature Cited from Harris & Oldham) as the standard for Latin names. If you can use this source as you write your material, then I don't have to spend as much time cross-referencing myself. Also, I prefer if you include the authority with the Latin name.

Finally, not only am I interested in receiving your articles, but also your suggestions for articles, including any questions you may have. I'll do my best to track down someone willing to write up an article based on your suggestion.

-Ed



Spotted Jewel-weed; Orange touch-me-not
(*Impatiens capensis* Meerb.)



Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
by Jane M. Bowles



by Irene McIlveen