

THE PLANT PRESS

FIELD BOTANISTS
OF ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

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Front page illustration: *Lobelia siphilitica* (great lobelia) by Diana Banville

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENT ON THE PLANT PRESS

"Just a quick note to let you know how impressed I was by the second number of THE PLANT PRESS. Keep it up!"

John McNeill, Ottawa

COUNTY VS. REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

"Most previous publications have cited distributions by county, and to change to the newer units would result in lack of continuity with these - or chaos. If we tried to convert previous citations to the new divisions, e.g. 4 townships of the original Durham County have been reassigned (1974) to 3 counties and one regional municipality. It is not essential to have lot and concession for a locality, but by all means keep the county divisions for historical continuity and to avoid the chaos attendant in trying to convert old records to the new divisions. (The British Bryological Society, and perhaps other groups, still use the vice-county divisions drawn up in 1883.)

"I guess I was lucky in getting mostly first editions of the National Topographic System maps. These show concessions and lots; the newer ones don't, but it's easy to add these, since the road grid remains. One possible source is "Perley's detailed Atlas of Ontario" (Toronto). This gives the locations of many hamlets, etc., not marked on modern maps. Sometimes this helps in locating the sites of old collections...of course I also favour citing [UTM] grid references whenever possible."

Harry Williams, Millbrook

"For my part I would use the older political boundary (which is obviously much more accurate from the point of view of collecting) and let the geographers quarrel about it if they wish. The tremendous amount of information that Em Whiting has collected should be made available to botanists as soon as possible and very few of them will worry about the above problem."

William G. Stewart, St. Thomas

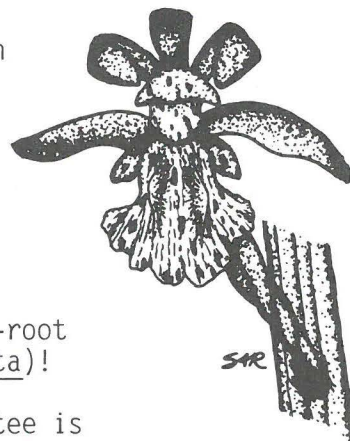
THE ILLUSTRATION OF Corallorhiza maculata

"What is the 'white lipped form' of Corallorhiza maculata? This orchid always has a white lip. If the lip were immaculate, it could be forma flavida, but THE PLANT PRESS version seems to have spots."

Joyce Reddoch, Ottawa

"The caption under the illustration on the front of the June number must have been mistyped. It should have been 'wide-lipped form'. I was going to write earlier, but thought, 'who's going to notice but me?'. I was a bit disappointed by the quality of reproduction, so I will try to give you a less detailed illustration next time! For your information, John Freudenstein, a student at the University of Michigan, is working on the wide-lipped form of this Corallorhiza."

Susan Reznicek,
Ann Arbor, Michigan



Justice to the
'wide-lipped form'
of the spotted coral-root
(Corallorhiza maculata)!

The editorial committee is
still learning the ropes!

THE LIST OF HERBARIA AND ACRONYMS

"I noticed that HAM (Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton) was omitted from the list of Ontario herbaria in the second number. This was an inadvertent omission I assume! Other herbaria to add to the list are APM (Algonquin Park Museum) and PFES (Petawawa Forest Experiment Station, Chalk River)."

Mike Oldham, Essex

PAUL CATLING'S LETTER

"I think Paul Catling is over-reacting in his objection to what he thinks is undesirable association with collecting. All field botanists know that we collect only because the

The second last sentence of the first paragraph on page 35, Vol. 1, No. 2 should read:

"Field notes should include anther or fruit colour."

The colour of anthers and fruits of Crataegus may change with drying. It is important that this information be recorded by the collector.

NOTES AND ARTICLES

A REPORT ON THE WORK OF COSEWIC

by Erich Haber, Chairman, Subcommittee for Plants (COSEWIC), Botany Division, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8

Origin of COSEWIC

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) was founded in 1977 by the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference, to which it reports yearly. The present organization of COSEWIC includes an executive committee consisting of a chairman, secretary and the sub-committee chairmen (birds, mammals, fish and marine mammals, reptiles and amphibians, plants and public-ity). All provinces and territories, as well as four federal agencies and three nationally based private conservation groups (Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Wildlife Federation and World Wildlife Fund Canada) have voting members represented on COSEWIC.

Mandate

The mandate of COSEWIC is to prepare status reports and to assign status to species of animals and plants whose existence in their natural habitat is in jeopardy. By bringing these species to the attention of the responsible government agencies, protection may be afforded them under provincial or federal legislation or through active management programmes. The Committee has, however, no legislative power to take remedial action once a species has been designated as threatened or endangered.

Public enlightenment and concern for those species receiving status designations is also

fostered through the general availability of the status reports and the distribution of popularized summary sheets for each species designated as threatened or endangered.

Status Reports

Status reports are prepared by specialists or knowledgeable individuals working either for government agencies or under contract with them or COSEWIC. They are detailed reviews of all relevant information on a species, given the constraints of time and money available to search out these data.

For the purposes of COSEWIC, a "species" means any species, subspecies or geographically separate population. Of all the different kinds of information conceivably available for plants, certain topics have been identified as essential components that should be included in a report if the Committee is to reach a consensus on the status of the species. These topics are as follows: classification and nomenclature, description, distribution, environment and habitat, population biology, land ownership, evidence of threats to survival and legal or other status of species. On the basis of this and other information, the author of the report recommends a status for the species and makes a judgement on the critical habitat minimally required by the species. The author is also encouraged to make conservation recommendations that are forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction and to publish the results in professional journals. Any information that may be publicity-sensitive, such as precise locality data, may be kept confidential if its disclosure would jeopardize the extant populations of a threatened or endangered species.

Status reports that are submitted to COSEWIC become the property of the Committee and are used as working documents to determine the status of the species in Canada. The reports are reviewed and revised as necessary by members of the appropriate sub-committee in preparation for a status vote at the annual meeting. The COSEWIC criteria for assigning status to a species of wildlife are as follows:

Rare Species: Any indigenous species of fauna or flora that, because of its biological characteristics, or because it occurs at the fringe of its range, or for some other reason, exists in low numbers or in very restricted

Limnanthes macounii (B.C.)
Opuntia compressa (Ont.)
Potamogeton hillii (Ont.)
Rosa setigera (Ont.)
Sabatia kennedyana (N.S.)
Yucca glauca (Alta., Sask.)

Anyone interested in more information on candidate species and the report format should contact the author at the National Herbarium (613-995-9252). I would encourage, in particular, those having institutional funds available and an interest in the subject of rare and endangered plant species to consider preparing a status report for COSEWIC.

Small white lady's slipper

Cypripedium candidum

Description

The small white lady's slipper is a dainty and very beautiful terrestrial orchid, usually 20-36 cm tall. It grows singly or in compact clumps of 3-60 stems from a much-branched underground rhizome. The plant was named because its inflated central flowering part resembles a slipper; this part is sometimes finely spotted and veined with purple. The surrounding yellowish-green petals are slightly twisted. A solitary flower with a foliaceous floral bract is produced during the last week of May.

The small white lady's slipper and both varieties of the yellow lady's slipper sometimes inhabit swamps, where they may hybridize. All three known hybrids (Andrew's, Faville's, and Landon's) occur in Canada. The attractive and unusual hybrids exhibit a wide range of colouration and morphology.

Distribution

Historically the small white lady's slipper has been known to occur in 15 states and 3 provinces. By 1980 its distribution was restricted to 11 states and 2 provinces. The species' former centre of distribution appears to have been in the prairie states of Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska.

In Canada, the small white lady's slipper was formerly known from Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, but has now probably disappeared from the last province. Recent information indicates that the species is restricted to four sites in southern Manitoba and two in Ontario.

ENDANGERED CANADIAN WILDLIFE

Population size and trends

This orchid was formerly abundant on the low prairies of the central Midwest. It is now considered one of the rarest species of lady's slipper orchids in eastern North America and is rapidly declining throughout all of its range. In less than a century there has been a 66% decrease in the number of counties in the U.S. in which the plant is still found. Moreover, in those counties that do have extant stands, many individual populations have disappeared and in many cases reductions in stand size have occurred.

In Canada, the plant has always been scarce. The loss of many former populations, however, has placed the species in danger of extirpation. Three of the four known sites in southern Manitoba contain only 8-10 clumps of plants. In Ontario, the two extant populations in Lambton and Hastings counties are quite vigorous and are made up of several thousand and about 200 plants respectively.

Habitat

In the western part of its range, the small white lady's slipper once flourished on extensive tracts of tall-grass prairie. Fen habitats and small isolated patches of unplowed prairies have recently become important refuges for this species in the west because much of the grassland has been converted to farmland, or urbanized. In the eastern parts of its range, where it occurs in isolated populations, the orchid grows in fens, swampy calcareous meadows, remnant prairie habitats, and on the edge of thickets.

General biology

The plants reproduce vegetatively and by seed. Seed production is a fascinating process involving highly specialized flower structure and complex pollination mechanisms. Only small bees can achieve pollination, and their presence in the area depends on a local diversity and abundance of wildflowers. The bees are attracted to the small white lady's slipper by an appealing fragrance, the purple spots, and a false promise of nectar. The percentage of successful pollination and germination is often low. It takes about 13 years for the orchid to develop to the flowering stage.

Vegetative reproduction is frequent, with many stems being produced from a single rhizome. For this reason it is often difficult to estimate the true number of plants in a colony.




AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO AUTUMN LADIES'-TRESSES (*Spiranthes* spp.) ORCHIDS OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO

by J. Ross Brown, Tupperville, Ontario NOP 2M0

Over the last decade, three recently recognized orchids of the genus *Spiranthes* have been added to our flora: *S. casei*, *S. magnicamporum* and *S. ochroleuca*. All three species, as well as *S. cernua*, *S. lacera* var. *gracilis* and *S. romanzoffiana*, may be found flowering in southern Ontario in August and September. Since some are superficially quite similar, this guide is written primarily as a field guide to the amateur botanist or orchid enthusiast. The key characters given for each orchid, in conjunction with colour, habitat and flowering time, should lead to easy identification.

1. Entirely white or whitish flowers.

A. *Spiranthes cernua* var. *cernua*

Autumn or nodding ladies'-tresses occurs in sandy meadows, sand pits, lakeshores, ditches, fens and even cottage lawns across most of southern Ontario. Sites are dry to damp, and acidic to calcareous. Flowering extends from mid-August to October, peaking in late August and early September.

Large flowers, averaging 10-11 mm long, are all white. In spite of the common name, the flowers are usually more or less horizontal, with somewhat elongated, triangular lip aprons. Flowers are generally "thick-waisted" in profile; often they have a pleasant fragrance. Floral bracts, with pale green to whitish, dilated basal margins, have elongated tips which flare outward in the upper part of the raceme.

B. *Spiranthes cernua* (*pulchella* race)

Locally referred to as round-lipped ladies'-tresses, this taxon is rare in Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Norfolk and Welland Counties. It occurs in dry to moist acidic sands and flowers throughout September, peaking in mid-month.

Flowers are about 10 mm long, are usually strongly nodding, and are not quite as white as in *S. cernua* var. *cernua*. The shorter lip aprons are quite round, with delicately lacerated margins. Lateral sepals are ascending and flowers are strongly dorsally and ventrally

Figure 1. Facsimile of a summary sheet.
 For copies, write to:
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,
 Wildlife Branch, Room 2320,
 Whitney Block,
 99 Wellesley St. W.,
 Toronto, Ontario
 M7A 1W3

ascending lateral sepals may either flare outward, or curve inward to touch above the rest of the flower. These orchids are always leafless at flowering time.

Hopefully this article may lead to more field work by many Ontario field botanists. Notification of range extensions of our rarer *Spiranthes* would be greatly appreciated by the author. New localities for *S. casei*, *S. lacera* var. *gracilis*, *S. magnicamporum*, *S. ochroleuca* or *S. cernua* (*pulchella* race) would be of particular interest.

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COLLECTING AQUATIC VASCULAR PLANTS

by Stephen Darbyshire, Biosystematics Research Institute, Wm. Saunders Bldg., Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6

When collecting aquatic vascular plants for the herbarium, all the guidelines and rules that apply to terrestrial plant collections should be followed. The collection must be properly labelled and carefully prepared to provide significant information for future workers. Well prepared aquatic plant specimens are among the most aesthetically pleasing specimens in the herbarium and contrast sharply with poor specimens which

are extremely difficult to work with.

As much of each plant as possible should be represented in each collection. For some aquatics, particularly pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.), mature fruits provide diagnostic characters and these plants are best collected in late summer and early autumn. In the spring and early autumn, it is important to collect the root system which will indicate overwintering habit.

Specimens should be washed, several times if necessary, to remove debris. They should be kept in a plastic bag, with enough moisture to prevent drying until they can be pressed. If the plant accidentally dries out, it may be soaked in water to revive it as much as possible before pressing. When you are ready to press, float the specimen out in clear water and slide a sheet of herbarium paper underneath. Ease the sheet towards the surface slowly so that the specimen is stranded on the sheet with the vegetative parts spread out and not matted together. Place the sheet flat and complete the arrangement by disentangling parts of the specimen with a fine paint brush and extra water applied locally. Drain surplus water by tilting the sheet at a slight angle. Lay a sheet of waxed paper on top of the specimen with the waxed surface towards the plant. Lay the sheet on newsprint for a few minutes to remove excess water. The sheet, with the waxed paper, can then be placed between newsprint and inserted in the press.

Most aquatic plants have thin tissues and dry quickly even though the herbarium sheet they are on has been completely under water. It is wise to check the drying process 2 or 3 days after the plants have been put in the press to judge whether the degree of dampness warrants changing the newsprint and blotters to speed drying and prevent fungal growth.

Before preparing aquatic plant collections, consider the agony of a future botanist faced with a matted, muddy fragment. Quality, rather than quantity, is the key to preparing significant specimens of aquatic plants. For a complete account of plant collection techniques see Savile, D.B.O. 1962. Collection and care of botanical specimens. Agriculture Canada Research Branch Publication #A53-1113. This publication is available for \$ 5.00 from: Supply and Services Canada, Publishing Centre, Mail Order Services, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

8. Upper stem leaves sessile
 9. Upper stem leaves sessile, becoming linear; inflorescence branches ascending; rays deep blue A. azureus Lindl.
 9. Upper stem leaves puberulent, clasping stem, margins not flat; very rare, central Carolinian Zone A. undulatus L.
7. Stem leaves not densely short pubescent on upper surface; mid vein of lower surface glabrous to pubescent
 10. Heads small; rays 3-7 mm long, white-pink; upper branches of inflorescence ascending; heads subsessile, phyllaries long, drawn out; southern Ontario A. sagittifolius Wedem.
 10. Heads large; rays 7-12 mm long; upper branches of the inflorescence spreading; peduncles long to short, heads not subsessile; central and northern Ontario A. ciliolatus Lindl.
3. Plants without cordate basal leaves, but sometimes spatulate; upper leaves various
 11. Upper stem leaves distinctly auriculate clasping
 12. Upper stem leaves densely short hairy; phyllaries densely glandular, subequal, linear drawn out; southern and central Ontario A. (Virgulus) novae-angliae L.
 12. Upper stem leaves sparsely stiff-hairy to smooth; phyllaries glandular
 13. Leaves smooth, waxy-bluish; green zone of phyllaries small, diamond-shaped, confined to tip A. laevis L.
 13. Leaves not waxy, usually with stiff hairs; phyllaries subequal, outer ones often leafy, green zone extensive
 14. Mid stem leaves constricted toward base; stem sharply bent at nodes; rare, Tillsonburg area A. prenanthoides Muhl.
 14. Mid stem leaves not strongly constricted toward base; stems somewhat bent at nodes, to 1 m plus tall; common throughout in usually moister habitats A. puniceus L.
 11. Upper stem leaves not distinctly auriculate clasping, sometimes somewhat clasping, but not auriculate (lobed)
 15. Heads large, solitary; involucre broader than high, densely woolly; phyllaries subequal; tundra of Hudson Bay region, rare A. alpinus L.
 15. Heads not solitary or phyllaries not subequal and woolly
16. Inflorescence flat-topped; heads sometimes solitary in A. nemoralis; phyllaries narrow, acute, green zone darkest in narrow bands along mid-vein, sometimes glandular
 17. Phyllaries densely glandular, subequal, linear, drawn out; achenes with many dark ridges; northern Ontario A. modestus Lindl.
 17. Phyllaries with few or no glands, unequal, merely pointed; achenes with a few pale to dark ridges, sometimes glandular beaded (subg. Doellingeria)
 18. Stem leaves, many, linear, less than 7 mm wide, margins inrolled; heads solitary or few, rays pink to violet; acidic bogs of north central Ontario A. nemoralis Ait.

27. Heads on short peduncles; disc florets pale yellow-pink, becoming dark red, deeply lobed; Carolinian and Great Lakes Zones [included are many variants; further study is needed to determine what names are correct for the complex] A. lat. var. lateriflorus
27. Heads on longer peduncles; disc florets yellow, becoming brown; northeastern Ontario by lakes and rivers [this variety intergrades with A. tradescantii L. further east in Canada and New England] A. lat. var. tenuipes Wieg.
26. Lobes of disc corolla 10-45% of limb
28. Stems faintly bluish, waxy; rays blue-violet; leaves stiff, veins of lower surfaces forming pronounced reticulate pattern mostly of isodiametric alveolae; rare in southwestern Ontario . A. praealtus Poir.
28. Stems not as above; rays white to blue-violet; alveolae not mostly isodiametric; leaves various
29. Under surface of upper stem leaves and branch leaves densely short-hairy; rare in Carolinian Zone, common in St. Lawrence Zone, often in wet woods A. ontarionis Wieg.
29. Under surface of leaves not densely pubescent, sometimes hairy along the main veins
30. Leaves of ascending inflorescence branches and peduncles greatly reduced; stems smooth, less than 8 dm tall; marshes of Lake St. Clair, Detroit River and Lake Erie . . . A. dumosus L. var. strictior T. & G.
30. Leaves of inflorescence not greatly reduced; stems nearly hairless to hairy, often greater than 8 dm tall

[The remaining species are difficult to distinguish and often intergrade in one or more diagnostic traits. The phyllaries range from very much unequal to subequal within each species. The leaves may be subclasping. All these species are currently under study by JCS.]

31. Lower stem entirely spreading pubescent; usually 6-12 dm tall; glacial deposits of southern Ontario and along the eastern shore of Lake Superior A. lanceolatus Willd.
(the tetraploid race)
31. Lower stem smooth or hairy in lines
32. Stems slender, 2-8 dm tall; rhizomes thin; leaf margins often somewhat inrolled; heads small, few to many; bogs, fens, wet shorelines A. borealis Prov.
32. Plants usually stout, usually 4-12 dm tall; fields, ditches, wet meadows, stream and lake margins
33. Mid stem leaves 15-20 cm long, narrow, rays blue-violet; inflorescence few headed, stems often sharply bent at nodes; involucre 5-8 mm high; outer phyllaries sometimes leafy; northern wetlands [this species intergrades further east with A. novae-belgii L. and perhaps with A. subspicatus Nees to the northwest] A. longifolius Lam.
33. Mid stem leaves usually less than 15 cm long, linear to lanceolate; rays white to blue-violet; inflorescence many headed except in small plants; involucre 3-8 mm high; throughout [Included here are those plants with subequal but not leafy phyllaries treated in western floras as A. hesperius Gray. The species is highly variable in leaf width and head size and has been divided into a number of weakly defined races.] A. lanceolatus Willd.
(hexaploids and octoploids)

unknown, the open landscape and scarcity of small trees and shrubs in several prairie stands indicate that fires were commonplace and sufficient for prairie maintenance. This situation changed over the last twelve years. Without regular burning, large areas of prairie and oak savannah, particularly wetter phase sites, have been rapidly invaded by woody growth. This seriously altered the structure and composition of the vegetation.

Fire benefits prairie in several ways. Cool season weedy species, actively growing at the time of the burn, can be retarded or killed, while the warm season prairie species are dormant and unaffected. Shrubs and thin-barked trees can be eliminated by a regular burning schedule. Burning removes the thick surface litter layer, which results in warmer soil temperatures. The reduction of competition from cool season species, woody species and warmer soil conditions, allows the warm season prairie plants to initiate their growth earlier in the season, grow more rapidly and produce more biomass. Often an increase in flower production and seed set is observed after a spring burn.

At the Ojibway Prairie, a large increase in the flowering of several species has been observed since the 1983 burn. With the peak of the flowering season occurring in August, and a fine showing of autumn species expected in September, there is no better time to arrange a trip to the Ojibway Prairie. Tours and information can be obtained by contacting the author.

NEWS OF BOTANISTS

In addition to some special news items, this column includes the names, addresses and interests of subscribers who indicated that the information on their subscription form may be included in THE PLANT PRESS. We still have a backlog of information on subscribers which will appear in future numbers. Not all subscribers received a subscription form. A combination questionnaire/subscription renewal form will be included in the next number of the newsletter.

Bob Bowles

Box 816, Gravenhurst, Ontario POC 1G0
(705-687-3200)

Interests: Photography and identification.
Range: Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

Dan Brunton and Karen McIntosh

2704 Marie St., Ottawa, Ontario K2B 7E4
Best wishes to Dan and Karen, who were married on 6 August. We wish you both happiness and success in your personal and professional lives! [Dan and Karen's new address (above) is effective 1 October.]

Dennis P. Clarke

340 Dixon Rd., Apt. 405, Weston, Ontario
M9R 1T1 (416-247-3364)

Interests: Amateur interest in the vascular flora of Ontario.

Range: Kitchener/Waterloo area and Toronto.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority

Meadowvale, Ontario L0J 1K0 (416-451-1615)

Interests: Environmentally significant areas in the Credit River watershed.

J.D. Harris

16 Bell Royal Ct., Islington, Ontario
M9A 4G6 (416-231-8147)

Interests: Amateur botany

Range: Toronto area and Muskoka.

Ron D. Hepworth

259 Euston Rd., Burlington, Ontario
L7L 4V8 (416-632-7694)

Interests: Phenology of plant growth, orchids, photography.

Range: Halton and Wentworth.

Stewart Hilts

20 Bellvue St., Guelph, Ontario N1G 1E8
(519-836-7657)

Interests: Ferns and uses of botanical information in planning.

Range: Southern Ontario.

Margo Holt

Box D514, R.R. 4, Coldwater, Ontario
L0K 1E0 (705-835-5741)

Interests: Ferns, orchids, shrubs, grasses and bog ecology.

Range: Central Ontario.

Joseph W. Johnson

Box #556, Wiarton, Ontario NOH 2T0
(519-534-2736)

Interests: Plant distribution, identification and phenology.

Range: Bruce Peninsula (also central and southern Ontario).

Norm Kenkel

Department of Plant Sciences, University of
Western Ontario, London, Ontario N6L 5B7
(519-679-2496)

Interests: Statistical ecology, synecology and boreal ecosystems.

....cont'd

Living conditions at these cabins were primitive, but the company was superb. In addition to members of the Rattlesnake Syndicate, many other visitors were invited up for weekends. Botanists who came were generally there to look for certain plants, rather than to collect extensively. As there was no electricity, specimens were pressed at supper time or the next morning. Menus were particularly strange and consisted of foods which did not have to be cooked.

Jim Simon was most active as a vascular plant collector until the late 1940's. His personal herbarium, which consists of many hundreds of specimens, contains collections from localities in the Toronto area which have been subsequently lost to urban expansion. Jim regretted that these specimens were not labelled, however most do have date and locality written on the newspapers. Herbarium labels will be made for those collections which have locality data and the specimens will be deposited in the Erindale College herbarium (TRTE). About 100 specimens from Northumberland County were deposited in TRT in 1982.

One of Jim's prized possessions was an original copy of an unpublished manuscript entitled "Mosses of the Toronto Region, Ontario" by E.A. Moxley (1939). In addition to written material, this manuscript included a reference section with moss specimens glued to the pages. Jim had helped to collect and identify many of these specimens. More than one copy of this fascinating manuscript does exist - the National Herbarium has one of them.

In 1941 Jim married Clarice Johnson and they had two children, Jim (Jr.) and Janice. At this time Jim continued his interest in botany by leading outings for the FON, Toronto Field Naturalists and the South Peel Naturalists' Club. He led FON trips to Billie Bear (near Algonquin Park) and at Red Bay, on the Bruce Peninsula. He particularly enjoyed teaching children about plants, and was active in the Juniors' Club of the Toronto Field Naturalists as well as the Girl Guides and Brownies. In May 1968 Jim joined the part-time staff of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Here he specialized in nature interpretation studies for school children, teachers and adult groups. Much of the latter period of his employment was spent at Kortwright Conservation Centre. He retired in 1978 and was presented with a silver bar.

Jocelyn Webber, Mississauga

"Jim Simon was one of the leaders of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club, and it was on one of their trips about the year 1950 that I met him. He later told me about the South Peel Naturalists' Club and invited me to join a special group he was organizing for those interested in botany. That was the beginning of many hours of devoted teaching. We met at the members' homes every week during the winter and continued the weekly outing during the spring for several years.

"Jim led groups in the Pickering area around the Bunker home where the Toronto Field Naturalists gathered many times. I went on outings to Wilket Creek and Edwards Gardens, James Gardens and south along the Humber River and High Park. We visited many woodlots near Cooksville and along the Credit Valley where we found the white trout lily. We went to Crawford Lake, Rattlesnake Point, the Bruce Peninsula, Glendon Hall before it was given to York University, the woods around Erindale and Woodbridge. I'm sure I have missed many places - he knew all the good areas to find plants.

"Jim Simon knew every plant and remembered both the common names and the Latin. He pointed out special features of the plants to help us remember, such as 'sedges have edges', and explained why plants like the pitcher plant preferred special habitats. He was always willing to help anyone who was interested in plants. Jim was very patient and was delighted when we remembered special plants which we had not seen for some time. The times I spent with him were thrilling. He helped me realize the beauty of nature in a way I could never have without his help and encouragement."

Kate Wishart, Weston

"I am sorry to hear of Jim Simon's death; one more of the old-timers gone. I met him in the early 1960's at an FON gathering at Willow Beach, and then later at the FON camps at Red Bay Lodge in the Bruce, where we were both leaders. He was a good general botanist, but also had an eye for the mosses."

Harry Williams, Millbrook

"Yes I knew Jim Simon quite well. We had numerous trips together. A kindly man, an excellent botanist and a good companion - I miss him very much."

Frank Brown, Georgetown

"Jim Simon contributed enormously to the cause. His recent death is indeed sad."

Mike Singleton, FON, Toronto

"Mosses of the Great Lakes Forest" by H. Crum. 1983. 3rd edition. The University of Michigan Herbarium.

This considerably altered edition is now available for \$ 15.00 (U.S. funds) plus \$ 1.75 postage. Copies may be ordered from The University of Michigan Herbarium, North University Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.

"The Algonquin Park Bibliography" compiled by R.G. Tozer. 1983. 3rd edition. Algonquin Park Museum.

This publication of about 40 pages of references to research projects carried out in Algonquin Park has recently gone to press. It is available free upon request from The Algonquin Park Museum, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 219, Whitney, Ontario K0J 2M0

TWO RECENT SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO ONTARIO FIELD BOTANISTS

by Michael J. Oldham, Essex Region Conservation Authority, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

The New York State Museum is publishing a flora of New York State as a series by family. Part I, which covers the family Polygonaceae, was published in 1978. Part II, covering Magnoliaceae, Annonaceae, Calycanthaceae, Lauraceae, Saururaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Nymphaeaceae, Nelumbonaceae, Cabombaceae and Ceratophyllaceae, was published in 1979. Part III deals with the Sphagnaceae (Peat Moss Family) and Part IV covers Ranunculaceae. Each treatment includes descriptions of family, genus and species, keys to genera and species, synonymy, habitats, flowering and fruiting dates, infraspecific variation, importance, line drawings and a county dot distribution map for each species in New York State. Fungal and insect associates are listed in appendices. A comprehensive bibliography and index of Latin names is included with each treatment.

This flora will be very useful to Ontario field botanists, particularly those working in areas adjacent to New York State. Each

soft-cover section is 8½" X 11". Unfortunately the series may seem expensive; for example, Part IV (Ranunculaceae) costs \$ 7.00 (U.S. funds) for 100 pages. However, the series is recent, well-illustrated and, in my opinion, well-worth the price. To purchase copies, write to: Gift and Exchange Section, New York State Library, Albany, New York 12230. When writing, ask for a free publications list. This museum has other publications of potential interest to Ontario field botanists (e.g. "A botanical survey of Tug Hill Plateau", "Vegetational survey of Alleghany State Park" and "Potamogeton in New York").

A second useful series of botanical publications is available from the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station (University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire 03824). This series, by C.B. Hellquist and G.E. Crow, covers the aquatic vascular plants of New England. Keys to families, genera and species, notes on abundance, distribution, habitat (including pH requirements), comments on rarity in the U.S., line drawings, dot distribution maps for New England species and selected references. Part 1 (Station Bulletin 515) was published in 1980 and covers the Zosteraceae, Potamogetonaceae, Zannichelliaceae and Najadaceae. Part 2 (Bulletin 517) covers Typhaceae and Sparganiaceae; Part 3 (Bulletin 518) covers Alismataceae; Part 4 (Bulletin 520) covers Juncaginaceae, Scheuchzeriaceae, Butomaceae and Hydrocharitaceae; and Part 5 (Bulletin 523) covers Araceae, Lemnaceae, Xyridaceae, Eriocaulaceae and Pontederiaceae. Since virtually all of southern Ontario's aquatic vascular plants also occur in New England, these publications are extremely useful.

Readers of THE PLANT PRESS may also find the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 512 of interest. This is Part 1 of "The Grasses of New Hampshire", covering the tribes Poeae (Festuceae) and Triticae (Hordeae). The style and content are very similar to the series on aquatic vascular plants.

With the rising cost of books and other publications, it is gratifying to see that some useful publications, such as these, can still be obtained free of charge. These booklets are well-worth writing for!

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