FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

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NEWSLETTER

April 1988

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS:

If you have not already paid your annual dues of only $8.00, please complete the membership form attached to this newsletter and mail it with your cheque to-day. You may not remember whether you have already renewed or not, in which case have a look at your December newsletter. If the yellow renewal form is still attached the chances are you inadvertently overlooked the original notice.

In order to ensure that you get further newsletters and qualify for our field trips, if you have not already done so, please send in your memebersip renewal as soon as possible.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:

Information and applications forms for some of this year's outings are attached to this newsletter. Make a note of the dates:

	Frontenac Provincial Park Field Trip.....	May 14 - 15
	Oak Ridges Moraine Field Trip.....	June 5 (Sunday)
*	Annual General Meeting.....	June 17 - 19
	Northern Ontario Field Trip.....	July 30 & August 1
	Manitoulin Island Field Trip.....	August 4 - 7

*** Information about the AGM will be sent out in a separate mailing.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Presidents Report? We never had one of those before. That was because, in the past, the whole FBO newsletter was the Presidents Report. The result was inconsistent newsletters -- both the timing and the size (and probably the quality) were inconsistent

I was determined to bring order to my disorder. I believed that we could produce a much better newsletter if we had a Newsletter Committee. This would not only share the work load (you see method in my madness), but also allow those within our membership, with special talents, to produce an FBO Newsletter that we could be proud of. Such a newsletter could also become a marketing tool and the epitome of the FBO. This Newsletter is the first for our new Newsletter Committee and considering the Committee assembled for the first time only a few weeks before, I think they have done a great job. The Newsletter will be published 4 times annually --January, March, June and September and will consist of 8 pages, not including trip notices and inserts. See, consistency already. The envelope please! Thank you.

The Newsletter Committee is: George Bryant, Jane Bowles, Bob Hawker and Ed Gillan. A few others, who could not attend this first meeting, have offered to help out as well. I would like to offer a special thanks to the Newsletter Committee members for offering their time to serve on this important FBO committee. Watch for future editions. We have some surprises for you. If you have any material for the Newsletter, such as the announcement of events, interesting finds, news about a member or a field trip report, please send it to George Bryant, 58 Fairmeadow Ave., Willowdale, Ont., M2P 1W7 (416-223-6284).

He was unanimously volunteered as Chairman.

What happened to the Herbarium Workshop mentioned in the last newsletter? To make a long lie short, I couldn't get it arranged, prior to mailing the last newsletter. Therefore, to ensure better luck next time, I have again delegated (actually she volunteered). Judy Hernandez, the delegatee, is currently making arrangements for this workshop to run late fall or early winter.

You will hear more about Her barium outing in the September Newsletter.

The June 5, 1988 trip to the Leslie Street Spit has been postponed because of birds. Large areas of the Spit will be closed off at this time because of the nesting Terns, Gulls and Herons and in fact the fall is the botanical peak for this area. Therefore, we have replaced this trip with a visit to the Oak Ridges Moraine, just north of the Toronto. See attached registration form for more info.

Last but not least, we recently heard from Ian Macdonald, who was went west. He advises that in mid-May he will went east, for awhile, & may attend our Annual General Meeting. I am sure his many friends here look forward to seeing him again.

Doug Geddes

PARRY SOUND FERNS

On Saturday July 25, 1987, about 25 FBO members were fortunate to be led by Dr. Don Britton on a fern and fern-ally trip around Dr. Britton's summer stomping grounds in the southern Parry Sound District.

At the assembly point Dr. Britton provided us with a Checklist of Pteridophytes for the field trip, with a total of 41 species plus one variety and one form, and a list (including grid references) of the seven locations we were to visit.

Most, if not all, of the listed species revealed themselves at the appropriate point, although I am not certain that all four of the *Botrychium* species were obliging. Also, discrimination between the two *Isoetes* species (*I. echinospora* and *I. macrospora*) may depend upon fine distinctions which cannot readily be made during the course of a group outing. Even so, it was most satisfying to be held by the hand and finally shown *Isoetes* (glassworts) after only thirty years of reading about them: (" No, no, the plant next to it -that's just a Pipewort").

At times the new species were coming so quickly that it was a challenge to remember all their distinguishing features.

Although there were many trip highlights, particularly memorable were the masses of rusty woodsia (*Woodsia ilvensis*) growing on a huge granite outcrop near Haines Lake, and the descent into the Seguin River marble gorge for limestone and waterfall specialties. The eight species of *Lycopodium* were an added bonus.

The grand finale of the day was an exploration of an old field covered in bracken fern. This species had been recorded earlier in the day and the actual targets were a variety of grape-ferns (*Botrychium* spp.). Since many of these grovelers grow only a few centimeters high, it was necessary to search for them on one's hands and knees. At times it seemed the whole group had disappeared - swallowed under the canopy of bracken!

Our thanks to Dr. Britton for leading us through the complexities of fern identification and bringing us face to face with so many types.

George Bryant

NATURAL HERITAGE CHALLENGE

The Ontario Heritage foundation has recently established the guidelines for submissions for financial assistance from their "Natural Heritage Challenge Fund". The fund is to "stimulate and encourage private sector and municipal funding support; assist and enable non-profit incorporated organisations to carry out worthwhile projects and to foster and encourage local interest". Projects must contribute to the identification, awareness, appreciation, protection and management of Ontario's Natural Heritage in one or more of the following areas: Land Stewardship and Protection, Research (applied field research seems to be favoured) and Public Education and Communications. For more information contact Bryan Howard, Ontario Heritage Foundation, 77 Bloor St. W., 2nd Floor, TORONTO, Ontario, M7A 2R9, (416)-965-8819.

MADAWASKA HIGHLANDS REGIONAL TRUST:

The Madawaska Committee of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has recently published an exciting proposal for the establishment of the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust. This proposal is being circulated for study, review and feedback to municipalities, government agencies and private organizations throughout the region of the proposed trust.

The Regional Trust concept is new to Ontario and Canada. The proposal was prepared in order to find a better, workable way to use, manage and protect the natural environment of a large, beautiful and relatively unspoiled region of eastern Ontario that still contains extensive forests, diverse wildlife, glaciated hills, cliffs, wild areas, clean streams and spectacular scenic lakes. The proposal is an alternative to Crown land planning processes currently followed by MNR District Offices in the region.

The proposed Trust is the area which has the Madawaska Highlands as its centre. It lies east of Highway 62 (Madoc to Bancroft) and includes the headwaters and upper reaches of the Mississippi River in the south. The spectacular escarpment of the Opeongo Mountains and Mount St. Patrick, which overlook the Ottawa Valley, forms a natural ecological boundary along the northeast border.

Although about one quarter of the region is privately owned, most is Crown land whose ecological integrity is being degraded or threatened by intensively focussed timber exploitation practices. Virtually no Crown land is being protected or allocated for uses other than logging.

The recent (November'87) draft "Timber Management Plan for Crown Lands in Lanark County" (MNR Carleton District) contains virtually no protection for natural environment Crown lands from an overt timber exploitation philosophy. This Timber Management Plan is designed to tie up Crown lands permanently into a logging process with no provision for protecting natural beauty, nature reserves, outdoor recreation areas, scientifically important areas, significant species habitats, parklands, conservation areas or wilderness.

The Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust would recognize the region as a special Ontario landscape. Its creation would promote most traditional land use by people now living in the region (including hunting, fishing and limited logging by existing local companies), while at the same time protecting natural ecosystems. With the Regional Trust approach, all Crown lands within the proposed boundaries would be designated Trust lands. Private owners of ecologically important areas would have the right to manage their own properties with the aim of caring for these lands in a manner which would make them functionally a part of the ecosystem of the Trust. Quality natural environments would have a zero tax base in perpetuity.

The 20th Century phenomenon of over exploitation and vanishing natural ecosystems is at last becoming recognized as a world-wide crisis for all life on this planet. The Madawaska Committee feels that the goal of establishing the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust is attainable, but requires a clear understanding by governments and individuals that

survival of the integrity of natural ecosystems is critical. The current exploitation ethic must be replaced by a healthier trustee ethic before it is too late.

The Regional Trust may be a reasonable compromise between the highly restrictive Provincial Park or Nature Reserve concept and the completely uncontrolled exploitation of Crown land and therefore might be acceptable to all parties interested in the region.

For more information on the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust, or copies of the proposal ($5.00 production and mailing charge), write to: The Madawaska Committee, CPAWS, Box 648, PERTH, Ont., K7H 3K4.

NEW LOOK FOR CPAWS MAGAZINE:

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (C-PAWS) was formed in 1962 and has been in the forefront of efforts to win protection for natural environments across Canada through the establishment and good management of parks, wilderness areas and natural lands in all provinces and territories. There are two Chapters of the society in Ontario.

In August 1988 the quarterly magazine **PARK NEWS** will be replaced by a "dramatically different", quality, popular, parks and wilderness magazine called **BOREALIS**.

Memebership of CPAWS costs $23.00. For information write to:

CPAWS
Suite 1150
160 Bloor Street
TORONTO, Ontario, M4W 1B9

RARE PLANT ATLAS:

The fourth and last part of the Atlas of Rare Plants of Ontario is now being type-set and should be in the mail this April. Everybody who is on the mailing list and already has parts 1, 2 and 3 should receive a copy. Parts 1, 2, and 3 were published in 1982, 1983 and 1984 respectively, so we are delighted that the final section is out at last. If you are not certain whether you received all three volumes, check the year of publication at the bottom of each page.

With the publication of this last part, the atlas is now completed and the older version of 1977 has been superseded.

Back copies of the atlas may be obtained by writing to the Botany Division, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8.

Of particular interest for the future will be the Rare Plants of Canada which has an projected date of publication sometime in 1989.

PRAIRIE BUTTERCUPS IN BLOOM:

The area south of Rice Lake is home to the largest population of the prairie buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*) east of the prairies. The sight of large numbers of the plants in bloom is one of the floral shows of the season - late April to early May, depending on the weather. If you missed the outings last year, Harry Williams will again guide short trips to the best spots this year. Possible dates are 23 April, 30 April, or 7 May. Phone (705)-932-2672 after 15 April for further information.

LIFE SCIENCE ANSIs:

In 1983 the Ministry of Natural Resources land use guidelines created a new provincial policy for Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs). ANSIs are areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having values related to protection, natural heritage appreciation, scientific study or education.

The conceptual framework of the ANSI program is to identify ecological areas which comprise the spectrum of natural landscapes and environmental and biotic communities in each of Ontario's 13 Site Regions (see Map on page 7) and protect those not found in Provincial Parks.

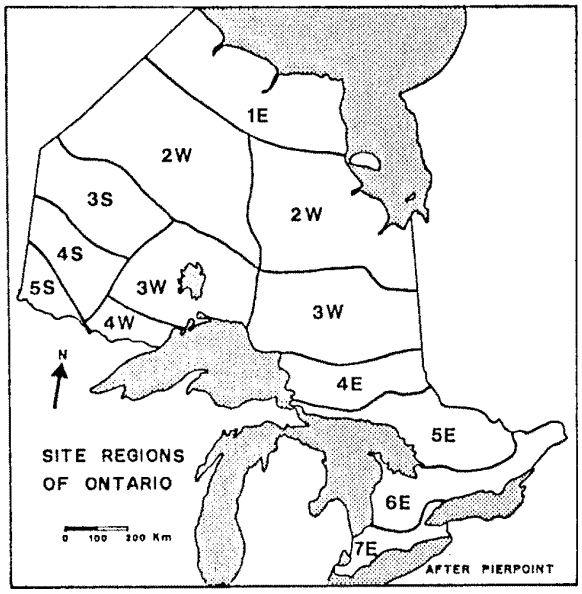
Within Site Districts (subunits of the Site Regions), reconnaissance surveys have been conducted. Areas designated as ANSIs are listed, assessed and ranked using standard criteria. A series of Life Science ANSI Site District reports give maps showing location and proposed boundaries of each ANSI, and a brief description of the salient features.

By their nature, each of these reports covers a variety of quite different sites. The scope of the reports is such that they make interesting reading, particularly if one is familiar with the Site District. Even the names of the ANSIs sound exciting. You may want to read about Carden Alvar, Stoco Fen, Harrowsmith Bog, Moira Karst and Crowe Lake Ridges.

Because the boundaries of each Site District are based on natural landform and vegetation considerations and not on political divisions, it may be necessary for you to study the reports and refer to the maps in the back pockets to find out which area is of most interest to you.

Many of the top ranking ANSIs now also have much more detailed descriptions in the form of Preliminary Life Science Inventories. These follow a standard format and contain descriptions of community types, checklists of animals and plants, significant species records, evaluations and reccomendations. These may be particularly valuable to anyone planning a visit or a field trip to a specific area. Be aware, however, that many ANSIs are on privately owned land and access can only be attained with permission of the landowners.

Life Science ANSI Site District reports and individual ANSI Inventories are available from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Public Information Centre, Room 1646, Whitney Block, Queens Park, Toronto, Ontario N74 1W3 and at the relevant OMNR Regional Offices. Reference copies of Site District reports are available at the Natural Resources Library, 4th Floor, Whitney Block, Room 4540, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto and at university libraries. If you are interest in finding out more about the ANSI program, a 1987 publication by the OMNR Parks and Recreational Areas Branch, Outdoor Recreation Group, entitled "Implementation Strategy: Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest" is also available through the Public Information Centre.



THE PLANT PRESS:

For those of you who subscribed to this superb publication you should now have received the December 1986 issue. The delay had something to do with an editorial maternity, but Jocelyn Webber advises us that **THE PLANT PRESS** will now return to schedule with the goal of continuing to be a quarterly publication. The March 1988 issue will be Vol. 5, Number 1 so 1987 can be considered a sabbatical (all subscriptions have been automatically carried over for the one year).

The editors have draft materials for future issues but are hoping to receive new submissions from some of their many supporters. The acquisition of a computer should reduce production time and improve scheduling. At a subscription rate of $15.00, **THE PLANT PRESS** remains a bargain. The mailing address remains the same:

The Plant Press
Box 537
Streetsville Postal Stn.
Mississauga, Ontario
L5M 2C1

We wish **THE PLANT PRESS** all good health and look forward to receiving it for many years to come.

..... CUT HERE .....

FBO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS:

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

SPHERE OF INTEREST: _____

Annual membership at $8.00 enclosed ___.

Please make cheques payable to: **FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO**
and mail your renewal to:

FBO
45 Massey St.
Bramalea, Ontario
L6S 2V8

CAVAN SWAMP PURCHASE:

The Otonabee Region Conservation Authority have written to The Nature Conservancy of Canada thanking them for their contribution towards the acquisition of their latest Cavan Swamp property. At the same time they asked the Conservancy to pass on their thanks to the Field Botanists of Ontario for our contribution to this project.

Next time you are mucking about in Cavan Swamp, there can be some satisfaction in recognizing the small contribution made by the our organization towards the acquisition of this very important natural area.

Cavan Swamp first entered the lexicon of the field botanists with the publication of the "Our Wild Orchids" by Morris and Eames in 1929. Their lyrical descriptions of the natural areas and their expressions of delight in the discovery of a new orchid location have made the book a classic and a much sought after collector's item.

Members will recall from the last Newsletter that the directors have decided in future to dedicate our limited financial resources toward membership services, including the Newsletter and leadership compensation for outings and field trips. The view is that an increased membership awareness of conservation needs can best contribute toward preservation of natural areas.

WHAT TYPE OF SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE THE FBO TO PROVIDE?:

_____

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO LEAD A FIELD TRIP?:_____

WHERE?:_____

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DISTRIBUTE A FEW COPIES OF THE FBO PROMOTIONAL PAMPHLET TO FRIENDS, NATURALIST CLUBS, LIBRARIES, CONSERVATION AREAS, ETC.?:_____

HOW MANY COPIES?;_____

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER? _____

IF "YES", IN WHAT CAPACITY? _____

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:_____