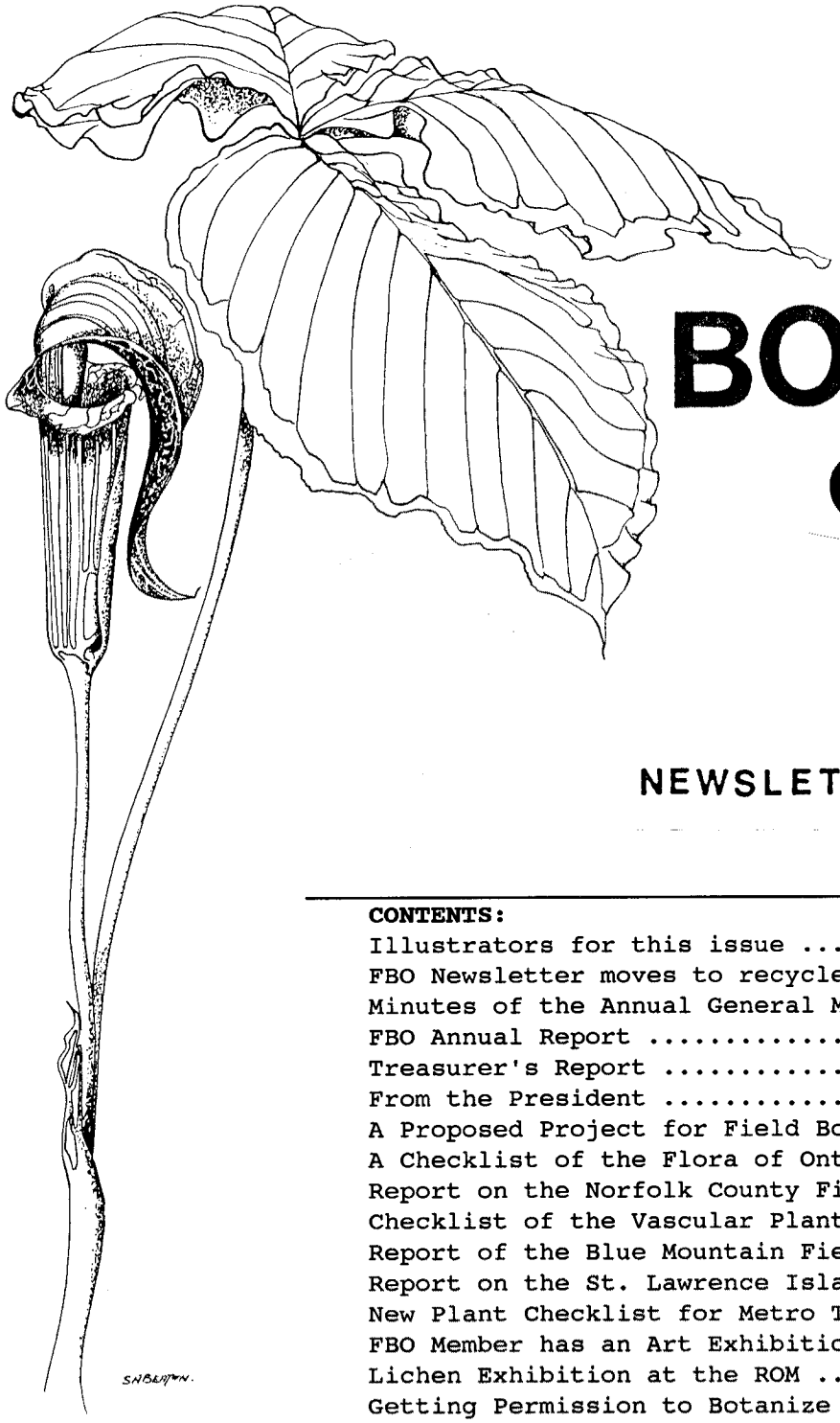
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# FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

## NEWSLETTER

**Spring 1990**

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**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS:**

The following list includes FBO field excursions remaining in 1990. Please note that the Saratoga Swamp trip is on **SUNDAY** August 12. More details of the Niagara Trees and Brantford Prairie trips are given on attached flyers.

This is your last chance to benefit from FBO field excursions in 1990!

| | |
|---|---|
| August 12: | Ecology & Botany at Saratoga Swamp, Huron County. |
| August 25: | Railway Prairies and Oak Savannahs of Brantford. |
| September 7 or 8: | Early fall at Long Point. |
| October 14: | Shrubs and Trees of the Niagara Peninsula. |

FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

**NEWSLETTER**

Published quarterly by the FBO.

The FBO is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 for those interested in botany and conservation in the province of Ontario.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

The cover illustration and most of the other drawings for this issue are by FBO member Sarah Beaton. The Norfolk County field trip report is illustrated by Irene McIlveen. Drawings by Wilgard Schiffers appear on page 13 along with an invitation to her art show.

Other members who have pen and ink illustrations they would be willing to send to the FBO Newsletter should send the originals or clean photocopies along with a note releasing the drawings for publication to the Editor, Jane Bowles.

## FBO NEWSLETTER NOW ON RECYCLED PAPER

At last recycled paper is becoming available outside the Toronto area. This is the first issue of the FBO Newsletter to be printed on recycled paper.

We hope to be able to continue this trend in the future and eventually have FBO letterheads, envelops and all other publications of recycled paper and environmentally friendly products.

## MINUTES OF THE FBO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CHAFFEYS LOCKS, JUNE 16, 1990

The meeting was called to order by the President, Donald Kirk shortly after 8:00 pm. S. Thomson moved, P. Beckett seconded that the minutes of the 1989 AGM be accepted; carried. D. Kirk updated the item in the minutes regarding the Denison plant keys. Several experts were consulted about the keys, and the conclusion reached that they could not be perfected. Accordingly, no further action has been taken, other than to facilitate their transfer to the ROM where they will be archived and available in the future.

**President's Report:** D. Kirk distributed an annual report and presented some of the highlights: new financial system set up by the Treasurer; popularity of plant identification workshops; results of membership survey; approximately 225 current members. Outgoing board members Dorothy Tiedje and Judy Hernandez were thanked for their years of service.

**Treasurer's Report:** I. Talvila presented a summary of the FBO's financial state and distributed a treasurer's report. E. Syrett moved, A. Vogg seconded that the report be approved; carried.

**Election of Officers:** D. Kirk presented the list of officers recommended by the nominating committee:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President: | Donald Kirk | Database/Membership Committee | |
| Past-President: | Doug Geddes | Chairman: | Stephen Gray |
| Vice-President: | George Bryant | Members: | Jane Bowles (Editor) |
| Treasurer: | Ilmar Talvila | | Deborah Metsger |
| Secretary: | Don Cuddy | | Bob Bowles |

Moved by H. Thomson, seconded by E. Syrett that the list be approved; carried.

**Announcements:** D. Kirk announced that there would be an additional field trip this summer to relict prairies along abandoned railway lines in the Brantford area. He indicated with regret that the Branchton line right-of-way, which Larry Lamb has fought so hard to protect, has been breached by severances. D. Kirk also indicated that another trip to Feversham Gorge may be organized if feasible. Formal notice for these trips should appear in the summer issue of the newsletter.

**Newsletter:** D. Kirk reviewed the status of the newsletter. It continues to be produced under the capable editorship of Jane Bowles. However over the past year Jane has struggled to find material, has relied on George Bryant for many of the articles and has been forced to write an increasing amount of material herself. If the newsletter is going to contain more than announcements of upcoming events the editor must get more material. Members are urged to submit articles, notes or whatever may be of general interest to our members. They need not be in a polished state, the editor will take care of that.

A proposal for a section in the newsletter on botanical hotspots was discussed. It was felt to be an excellent idea, provided it not be used to disclose the location of rare plants. It was suggested that space on the form being used should be given for the name of a resource person who could provide more information about the site (including directions to the more sensitive or privately owned sites). The value of this project as a way of communicating with landowners and others about the significance of areas was also noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## FBO ANNUAL REPORT 1989-1990

Over the past year the FBO has had an outstanding series of field trips. With the guidance of Ontario's finest experts, members have been given the opportunity to visit some of our rarest and most unusual botanical habitats. Among many such habitats were included the eastern coastal plain flora along lakeshores in Muskoka, tall grass prairie at Walpole Island, arctic disjuncts at the Barren River Canyon, and Niagara Escarpment ferns in the pristine Feversham Gorge. Despite the lateness of some Newsletter mailings, most trips have been well attended.

In March this year the FBO held the first ever plant identification workshop at the University of Toronto Department of Botany. Over 30 keen individuals learned the basics of grass and sedge identification. The legendary taxonomic difficulties of these groups did not appear to intimidate our members. The interest shown at this workshop has demonstrated that a real demand exists among amateur botanists to learn the more difficult plant groups and that the FBO can fill this gap.

During the past year the FBO has centralized its finances in Toronto and has set up a computerized accounting system. This has enabled more efficient processing of cheques and expense claims. We thank Ilmar Talvilla, our computer specialist, for taking the initiative to get our books in good working order.

Similarly our Data Base and Membership Committee Chairperson, Stephen Gray has computerized our membership lists. An FBO member survey was conducted in 1989 to identify members' interests and capabilities in information exchange. 79% of the membership responded to the questionnaire. Of note it was discovered that 42% of our memebers were interested in attending workshops, 66% in going on field trips and 8% in leading field trips. With respect to habitat interests and preferences 48% chose wetlands, 27% alvars, 21% aquatic and 3% other habitats. In plant groups of interest orchids clearly were the most popular with 48% of members interested followed by ferns (39%), trees (34%), shrubs (31%) and sedges and grasses (20%). A respectable degree of interest was shown in fungi (23%), mosses (21%) and lichens (17%). Data exchange was also of interest to many members. The survey showed about 46% of members owned, or had access to personal computers. The possibilities of electronic data and Newsletter material exchange is potentially very high. A number of our members indicated an interest in writing articles (7%) or doing drawings (5%) for the Newsletter.

The excellent quality of the Newsletter continues under the dedicated efforts of our editor, Jane Bowles. However, we are in continuous need of articles and news items of interest to the botanical community. The FBO hopes to expand the Newsletter to include more technical, but accessible articles (such as on particular species or habitat, locations of interesting plants and current botanical work).

We would like to thank the outstanding efforts of two outgoing board members, Judy Hernandez and Dorothy Tiedje. Over the past four years Judy has worked behind the scenes organizing field trips and workshops as well as handling registrations for many events. Dorothy has organized several highly successful trips to Walpole Island, one of the highlights of FBO outings. Her contacts and determination have been of great benefit to our trip program.

Donald A. Kirk
President

**FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO**
**STATEMENT OF EXPENSES**
**JUNE 1, 1989 TO JUNE 1, 1990**

REVENUE:

| | |
|---|---|
| Accommodations ..... | $4,281.68 |
| Registrations ..... | 2,473.00 |
| Memberships ..... | 2,017.00 |
| Donations ..... | 21.00 |
| U.S. Exchange ..... | 10.01 |
| Bank Interest ..... | 34.35 |
| | $8,837.04 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Accommodations ..... | $3,406.39 |
| Trip expenses ..... | 1,292.30 |
| Leaders ..... | 393.10 |
| Newsletter ..... | 984.65 |
| Bank Charges ..... | 17.02 |
| President ..... | 296.11 |
| Membership Directory ... | 108.92 |
| Treasurer ..... | 19.39 |
| | $6,490.88 |
| NET INCOME FOR PERIOD | $2,346.16 |
| BANK BALANCE (31 July 89) | 991.22 |
| NEW BALANCE (01 June 90) | $3,337.38 |

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

After the past couple of years many of you may finally welcome a summer with lots of moisture and reasonable temperatures. This makes for lush vegetation and pleasant botanizing. Our beloved prairies and alvars are finally recovering from the devastating drought of 1988, a testament to the resilience of these plant communities.

The FBO has over 200 members, however most of you are not attending field trips. Our treasurer has discovered that approximately 40% of the members attended at least one event in the past year. Where are the other 60%? True, we are a spread out organization with many of our trips in rather distant locations. However the trips cover some of the most unique botanical habitats to be found in Ontario and are lead by some of the most knowledgeable individuals in the botanical community. Furthermore we are an organization which appeals to all level of expertise. Many of you who are novice can learn a great deal from more seasoned members, without feeling intimidated either!

Our Board is looking into the feasibility of incorporation thereby giving the FBO registered charitable status. This would enable the FBO to write receipts for donations and be exempt from sales tax and municipal property tax.

We are fortunate in having Bob Bowles and Deborah Metsger as new Board members. Bob is an outstanding naturalist from Muskoka in high demand as a field trip leader. His all round knowledge will be a welcome asset to the FBO trip program. Deborah Metsger is Curatorial Assistant at the ROM Herbarium (known to many as TRT).

Take note that another herbarium workshop may take place this fall. Based on the response to the grass and sedge workshop last March there appears to be a real demand for formal instruction. More details will be announced in the Fall Newsletter.

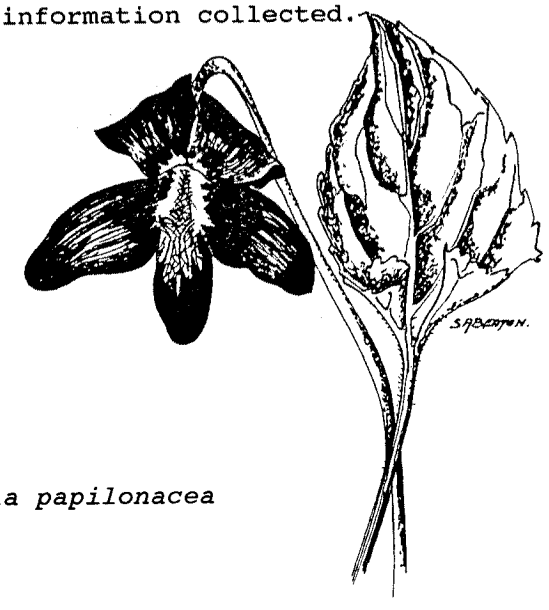
Donald Kirk

## NEW FBO PROJECT: SITES OF SPECIAL BOTANICAL INTEREST

As mentioned in the Minutes, the Field Botanists of Ontario are proposing a new project whereby members can share and exchange information about botanical hotspots. The project is directed at highlighting areas with particular diversity, spectacular displays of flowers, good representation of special groups such as ferns or trees, or populations of unusual plants. Note that the emphasis is on botanically attractive locations, not on rarities. Information on the locations of rare plant populations will not be published.

Members are asked to fill out the special forms attached to this newsletter about their favourite botanizing areas. Photocopy the form to return as many as you wish. The information received will be summarized and appear in the FBO Newsletter from time to time. Please note that for private land, information about access and where and how to obtain permission from the landowner should be given.

The success of this project depends on a good response by FBO members. If membership response is good, eventually it may be possible to publish a "botanical guide to Ontario" based on the information collected.




*Viola papilonacea*




*Taraxacum officinale*

## CHECKLIST FOR THE FLORA OF ONTARIO

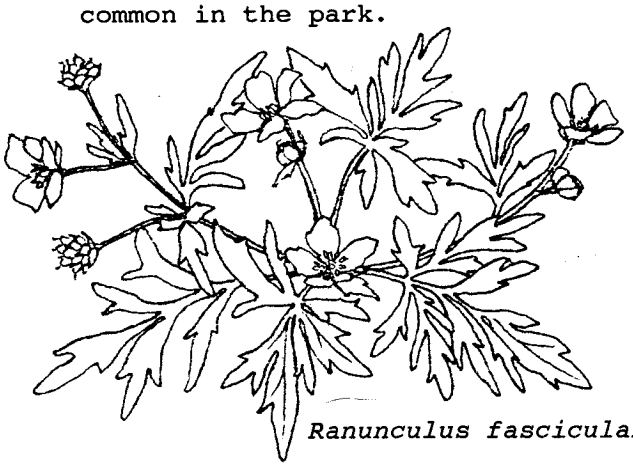
The keenly awaited "**Checklist for the Flora of Ontario: Vascular Plants**" by Dr. John Morton is at last in print. Copies at a cost of $20.00 + $2.00 shipping and handling can be obtained from:

Department of Biology
University of Waterloo
WATERLOO, Ontario
N2L 3G1

We will tell you more about this new publication in the Fall Newsletter.

## SPRING IN NORFOLK COUNTY

Twelve members of the FBO met at Turkey Point Provincial Park on Saturday May 12, 1990 for a field trip led by Don Kirk to examine some Carolinian spring flowers. The first part of the trip was in the park itself where we looked at a number of plants growing on the sandy soil there. The plants included early buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis*), moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) and, best of all, birdsfoot violet (*Viola pedata*). At least two colour forms of the latter including a bicoloured variety were seen. Small black larvae of the gypsy moth were noted on the fresh young foliage of black oak (*Quercus velutina*) which is common in the park.



*Ranunculus fascicularis*

The group then moved across the road to the west to the Wilderness Area which contains a sandy ridge and wet boggy woods. There was a good variety of common woodland spring flowers in bloom here. Less common species were spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and wood rush (*Luzula multiflora*). In the wet areas we saw skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), three-leaved false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina trifolia*), velvet blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) and bayberry (*Myrca pensylvanica*). Towering above these were large straight tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*).



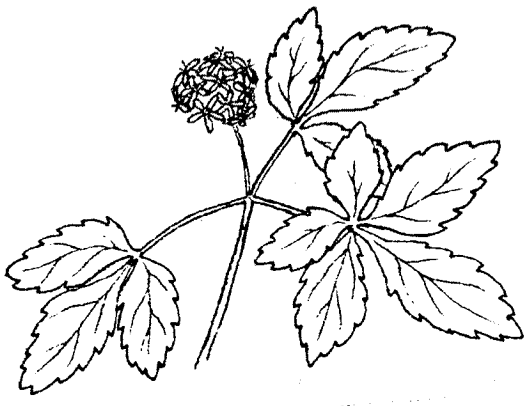
*Viola pedata*

We then travelled to south Walsingham Sand Ridges, stopping on the way to admire the good show of flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) in the woods in the area. Just south of the Wilson Tract we were shown shining sumac (*Rhus copallina*) and wild crabapple (*Malus coronaria*) in an open site. We were regaled with a story of how the local foxes relish the green apples, standing on their hind legs to reach them, and the consequences of this on an unprepared digestive system!

At the nearby Armstrong Tract we again saw many familiar spring flowers. The area is a series of sandy ridges with damp areas between. There were shoots of richweed or horsebalm (*Colinsonia canadensis*) off the side of the road way. In addition to plants such as dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*) and wood betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) we noted several less showy members of the local flora. These included plantain-leaved sedge (*Carex plantaginea*), woodland poa (*Poa alsodes*), mountain rice (*Oryzopsis racemosa*) and broadleaf panic grass (*Panicum latifolium*).

Despite the slight rain that had started by this time, the group pressed on to the St. Williams Forest

Reserve. The main objective of this last stop was to locate a large patch of moccasin flower (*Cypripedium acaule*). We did eventually find some of these orchids (not yet in flower), but they may not be discovered again in the near future if everyone has to follow the route Don took to get there!



*Panax trifolius*

Many thanks to Don Kirk for leading the trip and sharing his knowledge of the flora of the area. I look forward to returning to Turkey Point at other times of the year to look for other species in their particular flowering seasons.

Bill McIlveen



*Viola rostrata*

**PLANT CHECKLIST FOR CENTRAL REGION**

**Riley, J. L. (1990) Distribution and Status of the Vascular Plants of Central Region. O.M.N.R., Parks and Recreation Section, Central Region,** Richmond Hill.

The Central Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources contains part of seventeen counties and regional municipalities and extends from Kitchener to Bellville and Fort Erie to Severn River. The flora of this extensive area is extremely diverse. There are 1360 species of native vascular plants known to occur at present or in the past. Of these 222 are considered provincially rare although 35 are known only from historic records. An additional 707 species of introduced and naturalized species also occur.

The introduction to the checklist includes lists of plants representing different phytogeographic areas in Central Region including the Carolinian Zone (102 species), the Niagara Escarpment (8 species), the Great Lakes shorelines (37 species) and the Canadian Shield (53 species). Other lists give plants with bog/fen and prairie/savannah affinities.

The checklist itself is ordered by families and gives the scientific and common names and an indication of status and distribution in each of 9 geographic areas within the Central Region.

This is a very useful addition to the growing botanical literature of Ontario. It provides a high standard for future checklists in other Ministry Regions.

Copies of this publication cost $5.00 and can be obtained from:

Public Information Centre
Whitney Block, Queen's Park
TORONTO
M7A 1W3

## BLUE MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

Saturday June 16, 1990:
The trail to Blue Mountain, east of Charleston Lake starts along a deeply rutted cart track between old farm fields. On this steamy hot summer morning I strode steadily along to the shade of a laneside tree before stopping to wait for the true botanists who ignored the blazing sun while they pondered the identification of sedges, grasses and obscure meadow plants. By the time they reached my shade tree they were discussing a common wildflower, orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*). Dorothy offered an old folk name from Schuyler Matthews for it - "Grim the Collier" - which I later discovered refers to the sooty brown hairs which decorate the stem and involucre of this colourful immigrant. Further along the lane, where grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), lined the embankment a swampy stretch of thicket offered welcome patches of shade. Maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) was in flower here and I checked its perfume: not fragrant, in fact rather disagreeable, "musty, but with a salty tang", I recorded.

At last the long hot lane took a jog across a fence line, through a patch of Elecampane (*Inula helenium*) and we began to climb away from the farm fields. On an outcrop of bedrock a clump of pale corydalis or rock harlequin (*Corydalis sempervirens*) was in pink and gold flower and we got a brief Latin lesson on the epithet 'sempervirens'. Nearby a lone shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) told me that we were well outside my home terrain. Soon we were moving in single file to the throaty music of a scarlet tanager singing deep in the woods. The path dropped down into the shade of a rocky wood where the first few plants of Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) appeared with the more common marginal woodfern *Dryopteris marginalis*).

At the end of the trail we found our way blocked by an extensive beaver-flooded pond. Tall dead tree trunks still stood where they had grown in the valley bottom before the beaver created this wetland. Ruined habitat for some species creates ideal habitat for others and the surface of the pond was patterned with the oval leaves of water shield (*Brasenia screberi*). We collected a leaf of two to demonstrate the hand-lotion properties of the thick jelly that coats the lower surface. Wild calla (*Calla palustris*) and blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) were in flower at the edge of the pond.

Animals as well as plants had moved into this altered habitat. A green frog was twanging from floating vegetation and two great blue herons had flown up from the pond at our approach. Now a series of strident whistles drew our attention to an osprey, perched on the edge of its big stick nest in a dead tree top and protesting our intrusion.

The flora of the woods began to look more familiar to me as the plants of the Canadian Shield became more evident: moccasin flower (*Cypripedium acaule*) the only orchid found on our hike, partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*) which taxonomists insist is in the same unlikely family as button bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) of the catapult anthers, and sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) known to my grandmother as "sar-*sass*-parilla" and once used as a spring tonic in the Ottawa Valley.

The creek at the outlet of our pond was blocked by a long beaver dam freshly mudded and in good working order so that the water was almost at the top of the dam. We crossed on a short dam further downstream. Our route to the top of Blue Mountain now had us climbing over a series of bedrock ridges and dropping down through the intervening valleys. Tree-

less ridges of bedrock were bone dry in the hot sun. Patches of lichen (*Cladina uncialis*) crunched like cornflakes under foot. For some reason the more common *Cladina* lichens were missing here. Later, on the north slopes, we did find reindeer lichen (*Cladina rangiferina*), but not as the predominant shrubby lichen it is further north. Here we found bristly aralia (*Aralia hispida*) and clumps of delicate hair grass (*Deshampsia flexuosa*). Colonies of black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) were growing on the dry rocky ridges. It was hard to reconcile this habitat with the lakeshores and bogs where I am accustomed to seeing it. In the cooler treed valleys between the ridges was an entirely different flora, with patches of whorled wood aster (*Aster acuminatus*), woodland horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*) and New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*).

When the final steep rock ridge rose suddenly up in front of us we voted to eat before climbing into the hot sun of the open mountain top. We ate while enjoying the shade of tall beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) trees in a pleasant pocket of forest. A hermit thrush and rufous-sided towhee provided background to our botanical chatter. The forest floor was green with masses of New York fern, its fronds facing untidily in every direction as is its habit. It was here that another botanical goal was reached when leader Don Cuddy pointed out witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) which is missing from my own back woods.

As we tackled the final ascent to Blue Mountain the rock cliff seemed at first to have no obvious route up its steep sides. I found myself, wheezing for breath, scrambling up a very steep slope over loose scree and big blocks of fallen rock. Rock climbing is not my forte. (Other participants scaled the big rock easily and nonchalantly.) At last we rounded the shoulder of the ridge, the slope eased off a bit and the bare rock mountaintop was reached. Our reward was a grand panoramic view over green hills and valleys stretching clear to the horizon in every direction. Big expanses of Charleston Lake were visible to the north and west of us and there were extensive beaver floodings to the south. Above, in the shimmering heat, seven turkey vultures soared. "Waiting for the first victim" one botanist suggested.

The bare bedrock of the mountaintop is rounded and smoothly polished with impressive big glacial grooves at one end of the ridge. Scattered pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) grow on the ridge, outliers, stunted and contorted like bonsai. I would have passsed by rare shining sumac (*Rhus copallina*) as common staghorn sumac, but it lacked the velvety stacks of the latter. There were patches of bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) on the hill top and more clumps of hairgrass, its delicate flowering stalks waving in the slightest air movement. Shouts of delight greeted the discovery of flaming orange wood lilies (*Lilium philadelphicum*) along with harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), neither plant looking at all stressed by the heat and dryness. As we started down the sloping bedrock at the northeast end of the ridge a monarch butterfly posed before us on a wood lily, the perfect photo if only cameras had been at the ready!

A trail led us down into the forest again. There was some rough scrambling here as we slithered on the seat of our pants, clambered over logs and struggled to keep up with our energetic leader. A cluster of freshly emerging pinesap (*Monotropa hypopithys*) provided scope for a crafty ruse. I called out the discovery to the lead botanists who were disappearing through the underbrush ahead. Then I sat on a boulder in the shade while the expedition stopped to examine, photograph and discuss the strange flowers of the saprophyte (which is fairly common in my home woods in the Ottawa Valley).

Further on we stopped to look at wood rush (*Luzula acuminata*) and here we also discovered a colony of daisy-leaved grape fern (*Botrychium matricariaefolium*). Now our route began to drop steeply down a creek bed through hardwoods. Familiar plants of Shield country again appeared, round-leaved hepatica (*Hepatica americana*), gold-thread (*Coptis trifolia*) and barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*). Foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) had gone to seed, its springboard seed capsules spread ready for action in the first heavy rainfall. Our descent came to a halt at the edge of a long pond filling the valley in front of us and we started to circle back towards our staring point, but first we rested for a few minutes above the pond listening to the summer afternoon music of a bullfrog chorus.

As the day progressed our leader, Don Cuddy, seemed to develop more and more speed and energy. We had long since left any sign of a trail, but Don kept up a brisk pace, striding effortlessly over logs, boulders and other obstructions. We passed close beneath the base of a damp cliff where, in permanent shade, grew my favourite of all ferns, maidenhair spleenwort (*Adiantum pedatum*). I could have enjoyed some time here looking at the bryophytes, but the afternoon was wearing on and we had barely begun the homeward loop.

Soon we found ourselves clambering up a wooded hillside beside a tiny creek. Here were stands of spring wildflowers, bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) and doll's eyes (*Actium pachypoda*), all well past flowering now. I found it strange that we found no trilliums. The stream lead eventually up into a beautiful open beech wood where lush colonies of Christmas fern were growing. As the terrain flattened out our pace quickened, but soon we were halted and forced to make a hard decision. Either we could make a side trip to a bog to look at *Sphagnum* mosses and whatever orchids might be there, or we could continue to circle back to our morning trail. The bog beckoned temptingly, and we hesitated. Finally Brigitte and Peter, the moss experts, headed off to the bog with Don who directed the rest of us to follow the north shore of the next beaver flooding and on no account to push on if we started to feel lost. But I had already caught the sound of the osprey scolding and knew exactly where we were. We pushed on round the beaver lake snatching brief stops to look at woodland plants. When we came to the beaver dam John, in the lead, struck out across it, headless of slippery footing on wet black muck. The rest of us followed with varying degrees of success at keeping our balance. Back on our morning's trail we headed out of the hills with that familiar sense of satisfied exhaustion after a thoroughly enjoyable day exploring wild country. Let us hope that much of it remains permanent wild habitat for the native plants of this part of Ontario.

Postscript: From Brigitte I learned that the water level was so high that only the hardiest botanist could have got out onto the bog that day. Don and Peter, both tall men, had to wade the moat that surrounds the bog well over their waists in cold water to get to the *Sphagnum* mat. Peter found seven or eight species and Don reported a great find - *Triadenum virginicum* the provincially rare species of marsh St. Johnswort!

Sheila C. Thomson

**ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS FIELD TRIP - MALLORYTOWN LANDING & HILL ISLAND**

At 9 a.m. Saturday morning June 16, 1990 nine people lead by Jean Gagnon left the Opinicon Lodge in Chaffey's Locks. We headed south in two vehicles to St. Lawrence Island National Park. At 9.45 the St. Lawrence River and Islands appeared to our right. This signalled our approach to Mallorytown Landing and we learned about the successful struggle to save some of the surrounding wetlands from conversion into marinas.

We gathered together at Mallorytown Landing and started at 10:30 with three park guides for a walk through sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) woods containing black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) and ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*). Along the trail was downy arrow-wood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) and moccasin flower (*Cypripedium acaule*). On the way back to the campground the ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*) was very attractive, and a first for many was rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*).

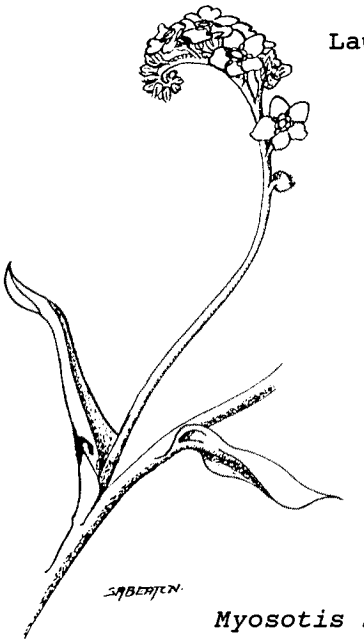
Lunch was eaten under the trees of the campground where we identified several of the lawn and gravel drive weeds.

After lunch we headed for Hill Island and at 1:30 parked and headed along the trail in search of rarities of the park. Through a field and up into the woods we passed slender vetch (*Vicia tetrosperma*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) and bastard toadflax (*Commandra umbellata*). We reached the ridge of the Frontenac Axis where the rare pitch pine was very plentiful. Evidence of porcupines was also prevalent in the damage to the pitch pine. The porcupine's natural predator, the fisher, does not live on the island. The underbush of low sweet blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) was interspersed with granite, abundant tufts of moss (*Leucbryum glaucum*) and *Cladina* lichens.

At 2:30 we proceeded to the other side of a gravel pit. Those of us going around the pit encountered a 1.25 m black rat snake, a reward for clambering up and down steep slopes and becoming covered in cleavers (*Galium aparine*). Meeting those who had traversed the pit (an equally gruelling journey) we examined an interesting patch of plants including the provincially rare round-leaved tick-trefoil (*Desmodium rotundifolium*) and New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*). At 5:00 we arrived back at our "base camp" maple tree to retrieve our packs and obtain some shade. The intense heat and high humidity had drained even the hardiest of us.

Back at Chaffey's Locks we went for a swim (some of us in the pool, but others of us preferring more natural waters). We then proceeded to the banquet!

Laurie Consaul



*Myosotis scorpiodes*



QUEBEC

## VASCULAR PLANTS OF METRO TORONTO

**Banville, Diana (1990) Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto. Toronto Field Naturalists. pp. 108.**

This new publication includes a list of 1,148 species of vascular plants growing in Metro Toronto. Plants are listed with locations according to watershed and scientific names and synonyms, common names and status are given. The publication includes a map, index and bibliography.

Copies can be obtained for $5.00 + $1.00 postage and handling from:

Toronto Field Naturalists
20 College Street, Unit 4,
TORONTO
M5G 1K2

## FBO MEMBER HAS ART SHOW

Wilgard Schiffers will exhibit her work at the Royal Botanical Gardens Centre during October 1990, and all interested FBO Members are cordially invited to attend the Preview Night on October 4 at 7.30 pm.

"Willie" Schiffers specializes in botanical art, watercolour paintings and drawings, mostly of the native flora of North America. Born in Berlin, Germany, she has a Masters degree in porcelain art/ceram paintings, and seven of her watercolours were reproduced on collectors' plates featuring the Floral Emblems of Canada. Through years of working as a graphic designer Willie also enjoys pure abstract art and graphic interpretations of nature.

R.B.G. CENTRE LIBRARY
Plains Rd. West, Burlington.
Telephone:
(416) 527-1158 or
1-800-668-9449
Weekdays 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - noon.

The exhibition continues through to October 26, 1990.



ONTARIO

## BOTANIZING ON WALPOLE ISLAND

The Walpole Island prairies have a well deserved reputation for some of the best botanizing areas in Ontario. Botanists are welcome on the island, but should remember that it is private land.

Before visiting the Walpole Island you should obtain permission by phoning the Heritage Centre (519) 627-1475 and speaking to Majorie Williams. There is a nominal fee which goes towards the Heritage Centre and conservation of the island's unique environment.

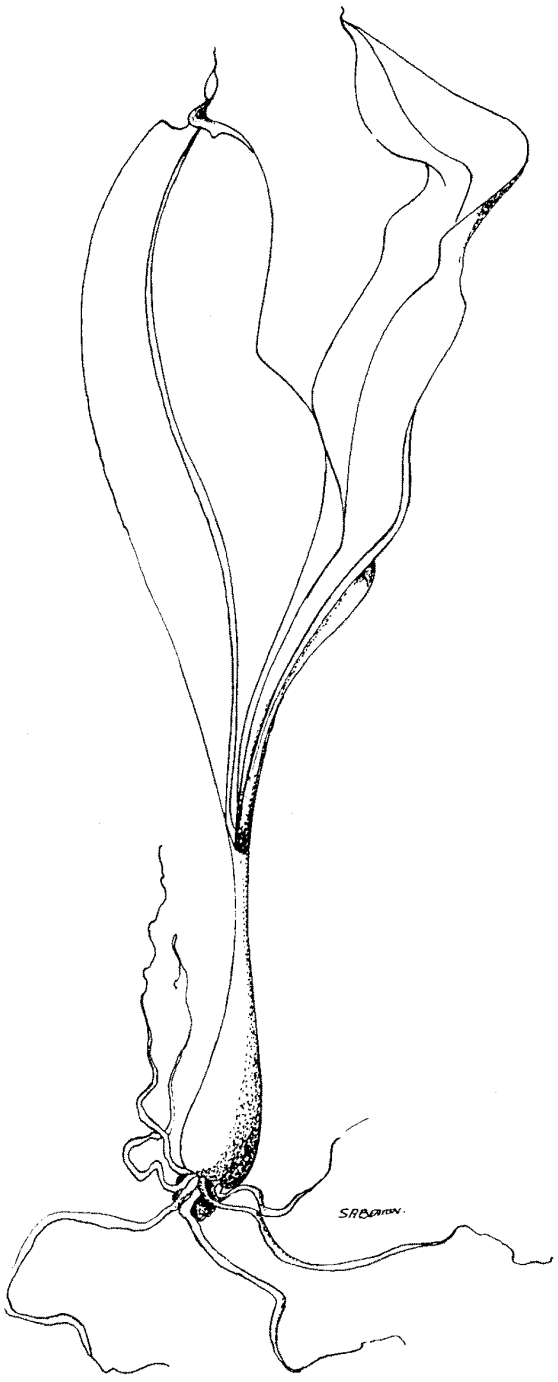
## LICHEN EXHIBITION AT THE ROM

An exhibition of photographs and informative text entitled "**Lichens: Fine Details of the Natural Landscape**" will be shown at the Royal Ontario Museum from September 15 to December 2, 1990.

The exhibition, organized and circulated by the Oakland Museum, explores lichens as the unique relationship between fungi and algae and examines the function of lichens in soil development, their role as air pollution indicators, their use in dyes, perfume and brandy, and their medicinal properties.

Entrance to the lichen exhibition is included with admission to the ROM. For more information call:

(416) 586-5549.



*Alium tricoccum*