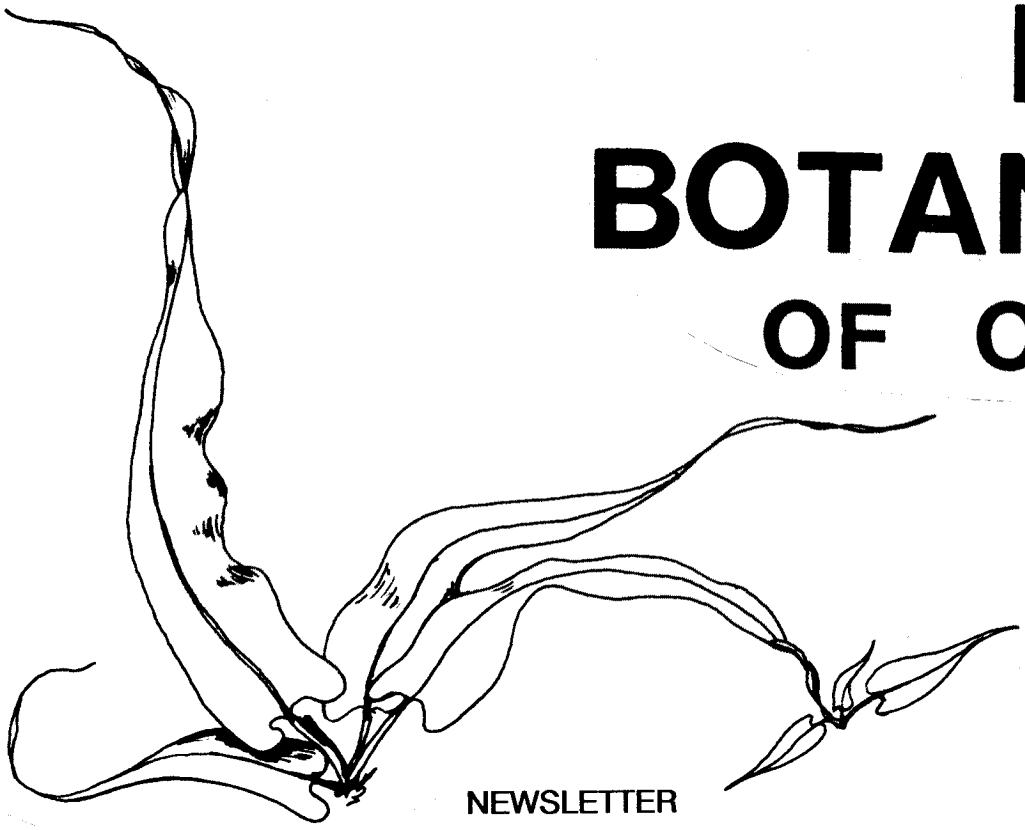


FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

ISSN: 1180-1417

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1991

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ATTENTION

!! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN !!

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO MEMBERSHIPS FALL DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CALANDER YEAR. PLEASE HELP US BY USING THE FORM ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

NEWSLETTER
Published quarterly by the FBO
ISSN: 1180-1417

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CALL FOR NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

This issue of the FBO Newsletter consists almost entirely of field trip reports. We are trying to get as many different people as we can to do these write-ups and the response, sometimes after some mild arm twisting, has been encouraging. We have some "regulars" who have done several articles each, but we have new contributors all the time.

WHY STOP AT TRIP REPORTS? Don't you have anything else to contribute?

MINUTES OF THE 1991 FBO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LITTLE RIVER INN, SIMCOE, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 14, 1991.

The meeting was called to order by the out-going president, Donald Kirk at 8:45 pm.

Approval of 1990 AGM Minutes: W. McShane moved, J. Tiedje seconded that the minutes of the 1990 AGM be approved; motion carried.

President's Report: D. Kirk distributed an annual report and presented some highlights: 245 current members; incorporation of FBO is pending (in addition to limited liability for the executive and agents of the organization this will allow us to obtain charitable organization status); 11 of 13 field events scheduled for 1991 were held. Stephen Gray was thanked for all his work in maintaining and computerizing membership records over the past three years.

Treasurer's Report: I. Talvila presented a summary of the FBO's financial state and distributed a financial statement. K. Glauser moved, M. Oldham seconded that the statement be approved; motion carried.

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

President: George Bryant **Membership:** Bill McIlveen
Past-President: Donald Kirk **Member:** Jane Bowles (Newsletter Editor)
Vice-President: Bob Bowles **Member:** Bill Draper
Treasurer: Ilmar Talvila **Member:** Deborah Metsger (Field Trip Coordinator)
Secretary: Don Cuddy

Moved by D. Tiedje, seconded by J. Wilson that the list of officers be approved; motion carried.

Announcements: G. Bryant confirmed that incorporation is imminent. The 1992 AGM is tentatively scheduled for August 30-31, in the Georgian Bay/Honey Harbour area. There is still one more field trip this fall (trees and shrubs of the Grimsby area, October 19th).

Other Business: P. McGaw of the Canadian Wildflower Society asked that anyone interested in joining the Society speak with him after the meeting.

Adjournment: Following a few housekeeping announcements concerning the Sunday field trips and hotel arrangements the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT 1990-1991

This past year has been one of our best ever for field events. Despite the frequent occurrence of inclement weather on field trip dates (i.e. rain) in a summer with relatively few rainy days, all trips were well attended. Keeping our registration prices down has contributed, however the variety of trips and offerings of new and generally unvisited botanical havens was most likely the star attraction. Two trips were cancelled: one for lack of registration (Pelee Island) and the other because of denial of access (developers of Altona Forest got cold feet at the last minute). Still, it was a good track record overall.

This year we have increased the number of regular trips from 8 in 1990 to 13 in 1991. This is in addition to special workshops and the Annual General Meeting. Under the direction of new Executive Member Deborah Metsger, the FBO has devised a new trip registration system, designed to both conserve paper and to allow for long range planning of field trips. Based on the registration figures this spring and summer the use of a single registration form for all field trips has proven to be a successful and workable alternative.

Of the 11 trips that have actually taken place in 1991, there was a total of 154 participants excluding trip leaders (who numbered 13). This involved a total of more than 60 individuals who averaged between 2 and 3 trips per person. Almost all trips filled to capacity with 2 trips reporting 20 or more attending. In addition a total of 35 people participated in the fern workshop held last March at the University of Guelph.

Our hard working executive has ensured that the FBO continues to offer high quality field trips and a quarterly newsletter. The *Crataegus* field workshop in the London area with Dr. Jim Phipps was considered by participants to be truly outstanding, proof that the FBO can offer something for the diehard specialist. It appears that our newsletter alone continues to attract memberships of those not able to make the field outings. The newsletter has been especially useful in providing current reviews on what appears to have been a bumper crop of new botanical and floristic publications in the last two years. A word from Jane Bowles, our very hard working editor: get your articles in by the copy deadline, please!

This past year saw a substantial improvement in the FBO's financial status. Under the organized direction of our treasure, Ilmar Tavilla, we were able to significantly increase our year end balance without raising membership fees. In addition we have held trip registration costs down (around 40-50% less than our closest competitor!).

The Field Botanists of Ontario may soon become incorporated as a non-profit organization. George Bryant, our incoming President, is undertaking the necessary procedures and expects the process to be completed in the next few weeks. Once this step has been taken the FBO may consider applying for charitable status in order that tax receipts for donations can be issued.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank our membership and Data base Chairman, Stephen Gray, for his dedicated work in handling all buisness pertaining to membership and for his self-motivated projects in compiling information on membership interests through questionnaires. Stephen was the FBO's "computer systems" person and his enthusiasm was much appreciated. Bill McIlveen will replace Stephen as Membership Committee Chairman. We also welcome Bill Draper onto the Board.

We welcome comments on the past year's trips and encourage suggestions on field trips and workshops for next year. A field trip suggestion form is included with the membership renewal forms for 1992.

Donald Kirk, President

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	June 1, 1990 to May 31, 1991		June 1, 1989 to May 31, 1990	
Bank balance June 1		3,337.38		991.22
Revenue				
Memberships	3,263.00		2,017.00	
Field Trips (*1)	5,013.25		2,596.50	
AGM (*1)	.00		4,158.18	
Donations	28.00		21.0	
U.S. Exchange	15.58		10.01	
Bank Interest	93.04	8,412.87	34.35	8,837.04
		11,750.25		9,828.26
Expenses				
Field Trips (*2)	4,00.46		2,435.10	
AGM	.00		2,656.69	
Newsletter	2,308.17		984.65	
President	147.63		269.11	
Vice President	47.47		.00	
Membership	106.00		108.92	
Treasurer	45.00		19.39	
Incorporation	82.22		.00	
F.O.N. Membership	25.00		.00	
Bank Charges	16.89	(6,779.84)	17.02	(6,490.88)
Bank Balnce May 31		$4,970.41		$3,337.38

*1 Registration fees, accommodations, meals
*2 Leaders' honoraria, expenses included

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1991 to August 31,1991

Bank balance May 31, 1991		4970.41
Revenue		
Memberships	195.00	
Field Trips	2,001.30	
AGM	2,196.00	
U.S. Exchange	28.01	4,420.31
		9,390.72
Expenses		
Field Trips (*1)	563.60	
AGM	200.00	
Newsletter	600.00	
President	83.4	
Vice President (*1)	273.25	
F.O.N. Membership	100.00	
F.O.N. Liability Ins.	315.00	
Bank Charges	5.25	(2,140.50)
Bank balance Sept. 11, 1991		7,250.22

*1 Includes $308.00 trip cancellations
*2 Includes some trip expenses

EXPEDITION TO OAKVILLE CREEK

A beautifully sunny May 11, 1991 found a dozen or so botanists exploring Oakville (or Sixteen Mile) Creek. Accompanied by the happy warbling of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, I tallied almost 100 plants (excluding trees).

Some notable finds in the rich bottomlands included numerous colonies of twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), several specimens of the native American gromwell (*Lithospermum latifolium*), horse gentian (*Triosteum perfoliatum*), bishop's cap (*Mitella diphylla*) growing tenuously over the wave-rippled, thin, limestone shelves of the creek bed, running strawberry bush (*Euonymus obovatus*), blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), and a splendid display of about half an acre of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginic*) in all their lush glory beside the river.

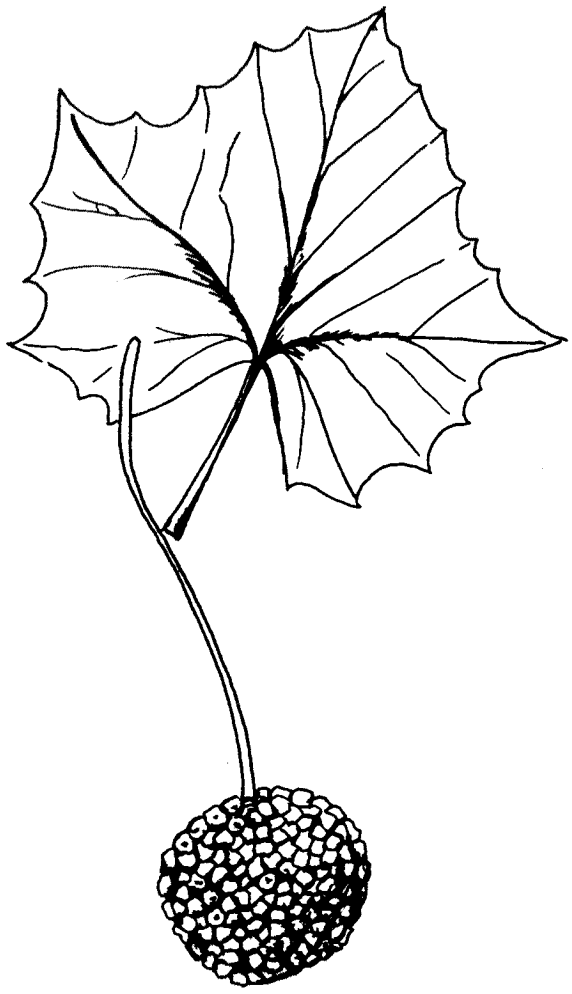
We encountered scattered specimens of sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*).

We saw one of the huge old "wolf" maples (as they are known colloquially), a giant 1.5 metres in diameter. As Dan Gregory, our leader, noted in his book "Toronto's Backyard", these maples "in all probability represent the seed sources for the surrounding younger maples". We also noted a raspberry or similar plant growing from one of the giant maple's knotholes!

In the herpetofaunal sphere we found a total of seven red backed salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*) keeping cool and moist under rotting logs, much to the delight of our 4-year old botanists, Laura!

There were colonies of wild garlic (*Allium canadense* and an area of creek bottomland covered by purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*).

The tablelands above the creek offered sites for lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginiensis*) and two uncommon plants which are close to their southern limits here, fringed polygala (*Polygala paucifolia*) and pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*). Yellow pimpernel (*Taenidia integerrima*) is also evident here as is bastard toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*).



Platanus occidentalis

We assembled back in Dan Gregory's house near the valley to inspect his great collection of shrubs, trees and other plants. The *Cacti* from Dan's garden are growing very happily in my front meadow in Scarborough!

Paul McGaw

MUSKOKA BOG, RIDGES AND LAKESHORES

On the morning of July 27, 1991, 16 FBO members gathered by the shore of Lake Muskoka at Gravenhurst for the first of two splendid daylong outings in the Muskoka-Haliburton area. George Bryant provided a brief introduction to the natural and altered habitats that we would be visiting and explained that Muskoka's native shrubs would be the underlying theme for the outing. A listing of 78 species of native shrubs (and 55 species of birds) was provided.

The first habitat we visited was a narrow gneiss ridge which we followed for some distance before entering a large open peatland. Under an open canopy of red and white pine, red oak and red maple we saw several species of shrubs including lowbush and velvet-leaved blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. myrtilloides*), the serviceberries *Amelanchier laevis* and *A. stolonifera*, black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), and trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). Characteristic non-woody plants included poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*), crinkled hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) and round-leaf shinleaf (*Pyrola americana*).

As we entered the peatland, we passed through a narrow zone of tall shrubs comprised of mountain-holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), wild-raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*), and speckled alder (*Alnus incana*). On reaching the large opening on the other side, we walked out onto a floating and grounded peat mat where we were shown white fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*), rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), and grass-pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*). Several shrubs were present including swamp dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*), small cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), bog- laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*), chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), and mountain-holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*).

The peatland was dominated by Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*) and several species of *Sphagnum*. Species collected at a later date, and provisionally identified, were *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *S. papillosum*, and *S. fallax*. Several indicators of minerotrophic conditions were present, including arrow-grass (*Scheuchzeria palustris*), beak-rush (*Rhyncospora alba*), yellow-eyed-grass (*Xyris montana*), *Carex rostrata*, tawny cotton-grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*), and the previously mentioned orchids. Given the abundance of these and other minerotrophic indicators, this portion of the peatland may best be characterized as a poor fen.

We then proceeded to George Bryant's cottage for lunch. Along the way we stopped briefly at a roadside thicket to see shining willow (*Salix lucida*), slender willow (*Salix petiolaris*), common elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), and virgin's-bower (*Clematis virginiana*). Aquatic species in an adjacent ditch included false loosestrife (*Ludwigia palustris*) and an unidentified species of water starwort (*Callitriche* sp.).

Following lunch, we followed a series of fresh trails through rocky upland forests of red oak/white pine/sugar maple and poplar/white pine/birch as well as through a lowland stand of poplar/ash/maple. Upland native shrubs and vines not observed at or reported for other locations included the serviceberries *Amelanchier arborea* and *A. sanguinea*, mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), downy arrow-wood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*), partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), upland willow (*Salix humilis*), and sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*). Lowland and shoreline shrubs observed included pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), sweetgale (*Myrica gale*), and leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*).

Selected aquatic and herbaceous shoreline plants which attracted attention included floating bur-reed (*Sparganium fluctuans*), and four Atlantic Coastal Plain disjunct species: floating heart (*Nymphoides cordata*), marsh St. John's-wort (*Triadenum virginicum*), meadow beauty (*Rhexia virginica*), and beak-rush (*Rhyncospora fusca*).

Late afternoon we emerged from the woods to find ourselves at a picturesque shoreline cove amply stocked with cool refreshments. Replenished by the offerings of our generous host, we returned to Gravenhurst where we walked a portion of an abandoned railbed which once brought other summer visitors to the shores of Lake Muskoka. There we saw many alien and native species of disturbed habitats, including carpetweed (*Mollugo verticillata*), clammy ground cherry (*Physalis heterophylla*), and a characteristic railbed species, little love grass (*Eragrostis minor*).

Several members of our group were butterfly and dragonfly enthusiasts who were a recurring source of pleasure and information throughout the day. Species seen included painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), american copper (*Lycaena phlaeas americana*), and the dragonfly, elisa spotted skimmer (*Celithemis elisa*).

As supper hour approached we reluctantly agreed to give George Bryant and his very able assistants, Bob Bowles and Jim Wilson, a well deserved rest and to bring a delightful summer day to a close.

Selected References:

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimburger 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum. Toronto.

McQueen, C.B. 1990. Field Guide to the Peat Mosses of Boreal North America. University Press of New England. Hanover.

Crum, H. 1991. A Focus on Peatlands and Peat Mosses. University of Michigan Press. Ann Arbor.

Crins, William J. 1991. Personal communication 1991/08/22.

Keddy, C.J. and M.J. Sharp 1989. Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Conservation in Ontario. Prepared for the Natural Heritage League and the World Wildlife Fund.

William B. Draper

HALIBURTON FORESTS AND TRAILS

On Sunday morning, July 28, 1991, nine FBO members and one visitor gathered at a roadside park at Dorset for the second of two splendid daylong outings in the Muskoka-Haliburton area. All nine FBO members had attended the previous day's outing originating at Gravenhurst and were looking forward to another rich day in the field.

Jim Wilson provided a brief introduction to some of the interesting plants and areas we would be visiting and then led us to a roadside location north of Dorset where we saw a large patch of giant cow parsnip (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). This species may be distinguished from large specimens of the native cow-parsnip (*H. lanatum*) by its larger size (up to 4.5 m at Dorset), dark reddish-purple blotched stem, leaf stalks bearing large pustulate bristles, and large elliptic fruits. The plant exudes a clear watery sap which can cause severe blistering and a very painful dermatitis.

During the morning we visited a series of roadside locations where we saw tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*) (a species not previously recorded in Haliburton), a large stand of New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), rock spikemoss (*Selaginella rupestris*), and low juneberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). The latter two species were seen near the county line on the Muskoka side of Highway 35 near Five Mile Bay, Raven Lake. In Haliburton County, rock spikemoss is considered rare and low juneberry has not been recorded.

During these stops we were also shown a dramatic outcrop of blue auggen gneiss that was brightly speckled with large eye-shaped crystals of white quartz, an outcrop of tourmaline, and several butterflies including an american painted lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), an american copper (*Lycaena phleas americana*), and an aphrodite (*Speyeria aphrodite*).

Following lunch at a roadside park at Little Wren Lake, we proceeded to the Dawson ponds where we saw five species of bladderwort (*Utricularia resupinata, U. intermedia, U. purpurea, U.*

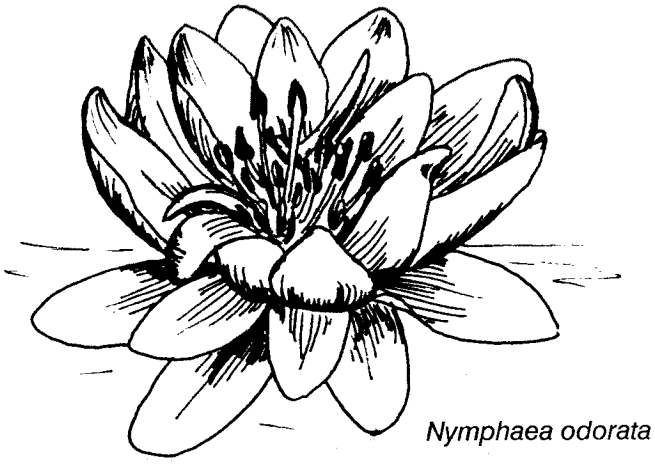
vulgaris and *U. cornuta*) and several Atlantic Coastal Plain species: spike-rush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*), beak-rush (*Rhyncospora fusca*), twig-rush (*Cladium mariscoides*), spatulate-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), marsh St. John's-wort (*Triadenum virginicum*), and yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris difformis*) which was blooming in contrast to the other species of yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris montana*) we had seen in large numbers in a poor fen the day before.

The shallow ponds were dominated by spike-rush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*) with bladderworts and fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) present in the deeper waters and duck-grass or pipewort (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*) and three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*) in the shallower water along the shore. Species seen in and along the peaty margins of the ponds included beak-rush (*Rhyncospora alba*), Michaux's sedge (*Carex michauxiana*), several species of St. John's-wort (*Hypericum mutilum, H. majus*, and *H. ellipticum*), water horehound (*Lycopus uniflorus*), bog aster (*Aster nemoralis*), and the Atlantic Coastal Plain species mentioned previously.

Native shrubs observed along the margins of the ponds included chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), bog-laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*), bog-rosemary (*Andromeda glaucophylla*), wild-raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*), mountain holly (*Nemopanthus mucronatus*), large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), swamp dewberry (*Rubus hispidus*), sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), and leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*).

During our stay at the ponds we were shown a number of dragonflies including elisa spotted skimmer (*Celithemis elisa*), little red skimmer (*Sympetrum vicinum*), interrupted blue darner (*Aeshna interrupta*), and a member of the green-eyed skimmer family (Cordulidae). We were also shown a freshwater sponge with upright branches resembling a clump of green fingers. Although unknown to our group, this sponge may have been *Spongilla lacustris* which has a fishy smell, becomes green when occupied by the alga *Chlorella*, and is apparently quite common.

As our day drew to a close, we proceeded to the Leslie Frost Natural Resources Centre where we were shown a rock outcrop containing allanite, a source of uranium, and were led to the beginning of one of the Centre's many woodland trails. But after clarifying the identity of the bur-reed observed in the bed of a small stream (*Sparganium emersum*), and a few other species at the end of the boardwalk, we all realized that we had run out of time and that the trails Jim Wilson had also wanted to show us would have to wait for another year.



Nymphaea odorata

It had been a delightful day spent with interesting people who were obviously curious about the world they lived in and wonderfully informed about many of its natural features.

Selected References

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Keddy, C.J. and **M.J. Sharp** 1989. Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Conservation in Ontario. Prepared for the Natural Heritage League and the World Wildlife Fund.

Klots, E. B. 1966. The New Field Book of Freshwater Life. G.P. Putnam's Sons. New York.

William B. Draper

PLANTS OF THE GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINE

Fifteen or so botanists gathered (under threatening skies) in the office of the Owen Sound District of the Ministry of Natural Resources to hear Bob Gray, the District Ecologist, give an introductory talk. He told us of the continuing problem of gaining access to private shoreline property for plant inventory purposes, and of convincing landowners to protect shoreline habitat.

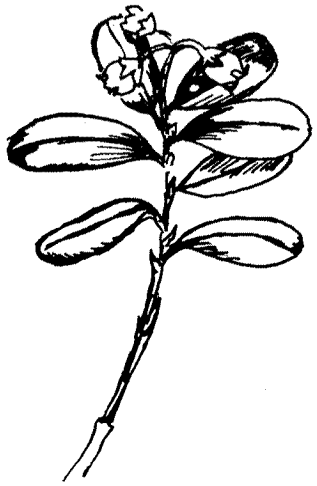
Under the expert guidance of Joe Johnson, who probably knows more about the plants of Grey and Bruce Counties than anyone, we headed off into the rain which continued most of the day.

We went to Hibou and Ainsley Woods Conservation Areas and several sites on public and private land.

Typical Georgian Bay "cobble beach" shorelines we visited had Ohio goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*), prairie loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadriflora*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrhinchium mucronatum*), nodding ladyies'-tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*), balsam ragwort (*Senecio pauperculus*, tall white aster (*Aster lanceolatus*), Kalm's lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*), willowherb (*Epilobium parviflorum*), garden burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) - a new find for me, Kalm's St. John's- Wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) and an interesting native plant I've never seen before, mermaid weed (*Proserpinaca palustris*) in the water milfoil family (Haloragaceae).

I couldn't find any reference to Proserpina (or Persephone) as a mermaid. In Greek mythology she was too busy in her role as fertility goddess

cedar-hemlock forest with swamp black current (*Ribes lacustre*) and red-backed salamaders (*Plethodon cinereus*).



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

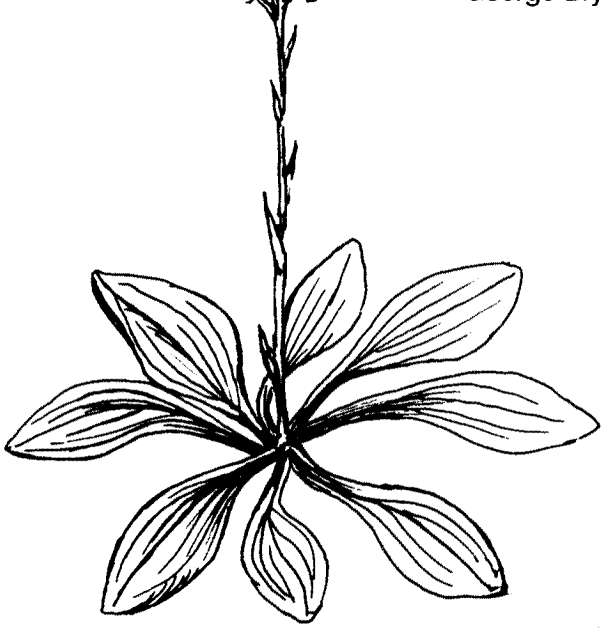
In the Silver Creek area near Thornbury we saw one of the last rare undeveloped Georgian Bay shorelines. Amongst the ubiquitous alien *Carex flacca* we saw Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), swamp candles (*Lysimachia terestris*), bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*), and one of my favourite native lettuces, rattlesnake-root (*Prenanthes racemosa*). It was good to encounter sticky tofieldia (*Tofieldia glutinosa*) again, a plant once common at Dorcas Bay on the Bruce, and some grass-of-Parnassus

PRAIRIE SAVANNAHS FIELD TRIP

On August 24, 1991 fifteen FBO members joined Steve Varga on an exploration of a relict prairie [illegible] observant member spotted a new grass for the area, Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) - another prairie specialty. By spreading out through the plantation, we hope we would uncover some more prairie relict species. A few members were distracted by the interesting arthropod life including short-winged blister beetle (*Meloe angusticollis*), several black and yellow *Argiope* spiders and a lovely walking stick (Phasmatidae). However we did see prairie cinquefoil (*Potentilla arguta*) and pinweed (*Lechea intermedia*) in some very dry clearings.

We were pleased to hear that the Central Region of the MNR has commenced a study of relict prairie and savannah habitats. Arguably, the prairie habitats in Ontario are the most threatened of any natural areas. They are also the most interesting and diverse botanically. Anything that can be done to protect or enhance these delightful areas is a step in the right direction.

George Bryant.



Antennaria parlinii

At the nearby Durham County Forest, where we hiked in the afternoon, our goal was to find any prairie remnants amongst the scots pine plantations. Almost as soon as we arrived, an [illegible] savannah in eastern Ontario located town of Pontypool, just on the south e Oak Ridges moraine, the savannah c only a few hectares of mixed black an (*Quercus velutina*, *Q. rubra*). A sava be defined as a natural area which has 10 and 70% tree cover. Anything with 10% tree cover would be a prairie and with over 70% would be a forest. M part of the country was cleared ar years ago, but some oak openings a for agriculture. Through the years pe have maintained the savannah condit

As we explored the area, we observe number of interesting plants. Prairi included arrow-leaved aster (*Aster u* and sky-blue aster (*A. oolentangien* Pontypool savannah is the farthest east that these asters occur in Ontar *aenea*, a rare sedge was noted am almost weedy *Carex pensylvanica*. Ste out that we should come in June to sedges in fruit as well as rough-leaved rice (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*), which sh broad basal leaves in late August. A want to see two buttercup specialities, prairie buttercup (*Ranunculus fasci rhomboideus*), visit the site in May.

Typical prairie flowers include beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*), y licorice (*Galium lanceolatum*), ti (*Desmodium canadense*), racemed (*Polygala polygama*), plantain-leaved e (*Antennaria parlinii*) and low (*Calystegia spithamaea*).

A special search was made for prairi Big blue-stem (*Andropogon gera* indicator species, as well as Kalm's Br (*Bromus kalmii*) and yellow par (*Panicum xanthophysum*) were note prairie relict was few-flowered pa (*Panicum oligosanthes* var *oligosanth* was several hundred kilometres from known site to the southwest.

STRANGE DOINGS AT SPARROW LAKE

Imagine the scene, sunshine after some early morning showers, a light wind and the promise of a fine day. Out on the water a huddle of small boats drifts gently across a shallow bay and into a patch of bulrushes. The crew in each vessel make no attempt at navigation, but hang perilously over the gunn'ls and stare fixedly into the water as if mesmerized. Suddenly there is movement, a thrust, a plunge and the flash of a wet arm. A fist, held triumphantly high, clutches a lump of limp and dripping weed. Excited cries fill the air and drift across the water, but are incomprehensible to the mildly curious fishermen nearby.

"No, that's *exelbescens*, this is *spicatum*, it has more than 12."

"See it's *zosteriformis*. In *Heteranthera* it would be fattish, but not really compressed."

"Oh good! I see you've found *Armoracia*."

"Morton and Venn call is *Megalodonta*."

This, of course, was 20 Field Botanists thoroughly enjoying the aquatics workshop held at, on and, in one case, in Sparrow Lake on September 11, 1991.

Bill Crins has a great talent for seeing and explaining the particular characters which distinguish similar plants. He also has something to say on the ecology and habitat preferences of each. Under his excellent guidance we were able to satisfyingly sort out at least some of the ten species of *Potamogeton* we found, as well as five types of *Myriophyllum*, several sedges and sedge relatives, and a good selection of other aquatics out of the 79 species recorded from the lake.

Much interest was shown in the bizarre tufted growth form and heterophyllous nature of lake cress (*Armoracia lacustris*), the extraordinary sex life of tape grass (*Vallisneria americana*), and a host of other water borne curiosities.

But we did not keep our focus solely on the aqueous medium. Some people actually leapt ashore to examine more closely such finds as cord grass (*Spartina pectina*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and *Carex vesicaria*. On returning to land at the ens of the day we strolled along the edge of the lake and puzzled ourselves with a robust and handsome knotweed (*Polygonum*) and identified a few more shoreline species.

Bob Bowles helped arrange and organized this workshop. Sparrow Lake was en excellent choice because it lies on the boarder of Muskoka and Simcoe where the Canadian shield meets the overlying limestone bedrock at the surface. As a result this schismatic geology the aquatic flora is extremely rich, including both acid tolerant plants and calciphiles in the same body of water.

Apart from arranging boat rentals and acting as guide, Bob also negotiated for the post-outing roast beef dinner at Torpitt Lodge where we were able to relax together and recap the day's highlights.

J.B.



Potamogeton natans

FIELD TRIP TO STOCO FEN

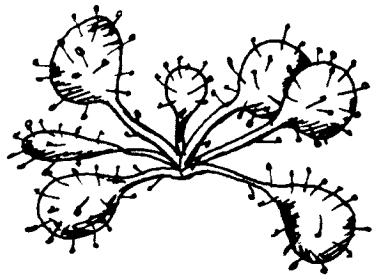
On June 8, 1991, nine eager FBO members set out in the hot sun for Stoco Fen. Our leader was Don Cuddy from Kemptville and members were present from Arnprior, Kingston, Ottawa and Toronto. The fen was lush and green with plants flowering from one to two weeks ahead of the average flowering date.

Although the small white lady-slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) had finished blooming in the open, a number of flowering individuals were still to be found in shaded areas. Yellow lady-slipper (*C. calceolus*) and showy lady-slipper (*C. reginae*) were also seen, and several specimens of dragon's-mouth (*Arethusa bulbosa*) were found in bloom. Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*), Labrador-tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), sheep-laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), bog buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), false asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*), bog bedstraw (*Galium labradoricum*), swamp valerian (*Valeriana sitchensis* ssp. *uliginosa*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis rostellata*) and both species of arrow-grass (*Triglochin maritimum* and *T. palustris*) were among plants identified in the fen.

We spent about two and a half hours in the fen and were lucky to avoid any accidents in the wet marl. The part of the fen under MNR management has been fenced along the roadside to help keep out casual intruders (especially those on ATVs!).

After lunch the convoy of cars wound its way across country to Roblin on Highway 41. The Roblin Hellholes are deep wide rock ravines shaded in rich hardwood forest. At the bottom was a jumbled limestone talus covered with lush vegetation. A big bank of slender cliff-break (*Cryptogramma stelleri*) and also walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) were found on the cliffs and rock ledges.

Winifred Smith



Drosera rotundifolia

FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

Membership in the Field Botanists of Ontario includes subscription to the FBO Newsletter and the privilege of attending field trips and workshops. Annual Membership Fees are $12.00 single and $15.00 family.

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