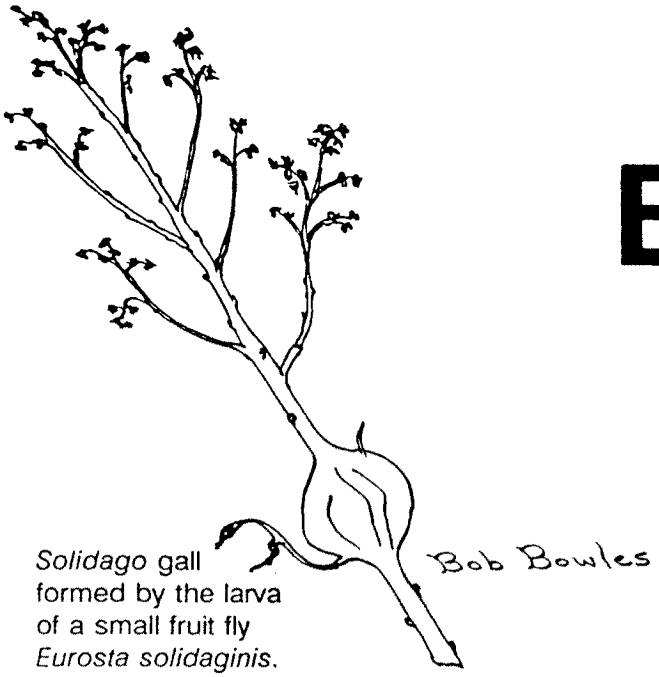


Solidago gall formed by the larva of a small fruit fly *Eurosta solidaginis*.

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

ISSN:1180-1417

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1991

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!! MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER !!

FBO MEMBERSHIPS FALL DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CALENDER YEAR.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RENEWED,
PLEASE USE THE FORM ENCLOSED WITH THE LAST NEWSLETTER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1992 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS:

We are starting the new year with two spring workshops, one on sedge identification and one on herbarium procedures at TRT. Numbers are limited at both these workshops so register early. Further details and applications for both workshops are enclosed with this newsletter.

A list of field trips for 1992 will be sent out with the Spring Newsletter.

FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

NEWSLETTER
Published quarterly by the FBO
ISSN: 1180-1417

The FBO is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 for those interested in botany and conservation in the province of Ontario.

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ERRATUM:
In the article on the Prairie Savannahs field trip which appeared in the Fall 1991 issue of the FBO Newsletter a reported sighting of *Carex aenea* should have been *Carex foenea*. Thanks to Bob Bowles for pointing this out.

BOTANIZING THE HURON SHORELINE: PINERY PROVINCIAL PARK

On the cloudy Saturday morning of June 22, 1991, about a dozen field botanists met at the Interpretive Centre parking lot at Pinery Provincial Park, south of Grand Bend on Lake Huron.

Keen, but a little uncertain of the rapidly darkening sky, we soon found that our "Accuweather" forecast of sunshine and 26^{O}C was not all that accurate after all: how about cool, and periods of rain mixed with drizzle?

We waited awhile, getting reacquainted and swapping tales of past botanical sightings, when we finally realized that our fearless leader - Wasyl Bakowski - was running a tad late. In fact, he never showed up. So our dynamic duo: Jane Bowles and Dorothy Tiedje, formed an impromptu leadership.

Armed with raingear and an excellent list of **"Vascular Plants of Pinery Provincial Park"** (based on Terry Crabe's 1988 listing, and rearranged by John and Dorothy Tiedje), we set off for the Carolinian Trail.

The "Pinery" is a great place to visit, and has a wide variety of habitats, supporting many provincially rare plants. Habitats visited included Carolinian forest, oak and cedar savannah, sand dunes, and calcareous wet meadows.

The Carolinian Trail was one of my favourites, and it offered us a refuge from the, by then, steady rain. We saw many interesting plants, including the saprophytic squawroot (*Conopholis americana*) - parasitic on oak roots - and Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*).

Massive tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and black cherries (*Prunus serotina*) vied for our attention, along with a particularly fine specimen of dwarf hackberry (*Celtis tenuifolia*). Other species noted were ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), carrion-flower (*Smilax herbacea*), wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), and various hybrid oaks and viburnums.

Ferns identified on the Carolinian Trail included marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), and oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*).

Impressively huge summer and riverine grapevines (*Vitis aestivalis, V. riparia*) twisted through the trees. Also seen were bottle-brush grass (*Hystrix patula*), and Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*).

From the Carolinian Trail we went through cedar savannah characterized by red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and common juniper (*Juniperus communis*). The various shrubs seen here included maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), and moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*).

Other highlights were *Carex eburnea*, a sedge characteristic of sandy, dry, cedar slopes, June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), and swamp candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*).

After a welcome lunch in our cars - and a brief respite from the elements - we ventured bravely forth into the Pinery's famous dunes. This area is one of the best examples of primary sand dune succession in Ontario, with three major ridges of dunes separated by valleys, followed by oak savannah further inland.

We saw provincially rare species such as porcupine grass (*Stipa spartea*), sand reed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*) and other grasses: beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), little bluestem (*Scizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerdardii*) and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*).

Jane told us about the sand dune stabilization experiments with hardy beach grass from non-native stock, which unfortunately appears to be

usurping large parts of the ridges from the provincially rare sand reed.

The valleys between the dune ridges were characterized by evergreen bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), tall wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* ssp. *caudata*), hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), and *Juniperus communis* and *J. virginiana*.

The increasing presence of oaks heralded our arrival in the oak savannah: white (Quercus alba), bur (Q. macrocarpa), and red (Q. rubra) oaks, plus hybrids. Some of the oaks had wounds, which had a delightfully yeasty fragrance, as Jane pointed out to us. As we all bent down to sniff an oak, I thought of how funny we must look!

The black cherries (*Prunus serotina*) here were covered in black knot fungus (*Dibotryon morbosum*). We also saw New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), a prime indicator species of wetlands, *Carex comosa*, wild yam (*Dioscoria villosa*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*), and a huge carpet of young spotted touch-me-not, or jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*).

As we neared the end of our interesting meander through "the Pinery" (approximately 4 p.m.) the sun came out (of course!). Non-botanical highlights of our day included sightings of white-tail deer, and various species of birds, including rufous-sided towhee, redheaded woodpecker, field sparrows, blue jays, cardinals, black-capped chickadees, and great-crested flycatchers, among others.

Thanks to our intrepid leaders, we had a most productive day of botanizing.

Sylvia van Walsum

SPONTANEOUS NOMENCLATURE: A REQUIEM

No more shall Kingcups grace the marsh,
Or Bath-flowers scent the wood.
No Farmer's Nightmare cloaks the fields
Folk names no more are good.

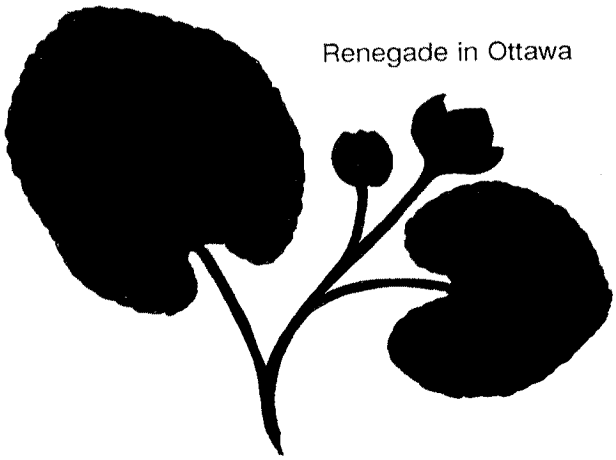
So farewell, Grandmother's Bonnet,
And farewell Whip-poor-will's Shoe.
Goodbye to Jack-in-trousers.
FBO tramps on you.

Alas for Emperor's Candlesticks.
Alas for Quaker's Rouge,
And Squirrel Cups, and Noah's Ark.
They too must be eschewed.

Red Betty's gone, Blue Sailors too.
Rockbells on deaf ears ring.
No longer may folk use folk names.
Conformity's the thing.

Should Chuckly Pears escape your lips
May we remind you, Madam,
That Riley (1989)
Has superseded Adam!

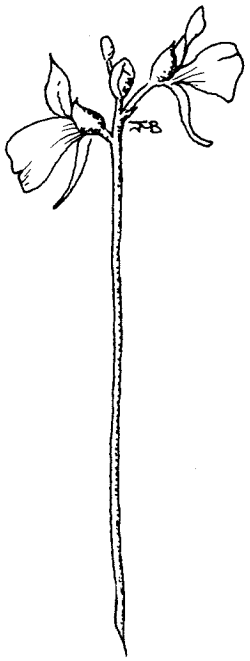
Renegade in Ottawa



LONG POINT BOAT TRIP

On Saturday, September 14, 1991, two charter fishing boat-loads of birders and botanists left Port Rowan harbour for the lighthouse near the tip of Long Point.

Fortunate to have a fair day for this outing we arrived at our destination one and a half hours later as the boat we were in pitched and rolled inducing feelings just short of mal-de-mer (eliminating the need for one to reflect and detest one's ancestors who sought their fortunes by going to sea). Soon we were taken ashore by motorboat thanks to Jon McCracken of the Long Point Bird Observatory. From the boat we found only cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) of varying heights towering above the grasses, forbs and low shrubs.



Utricularia cornuta

At the shore's edge, our leader, Mike Oldham, confessed to us that he hadn't been here for some time and that he might be a little rusty on some of the names; yet during our stay he was not at a loss to name any plant that we encountered. He pointed out several zebra mussels (*Dresseina polymorpha*), the recent threat to our environment, simultaneously informing us that the deer tick (*Ixodes dammini*), pin-head in size, the carrier of Lyme disease, was prevalent at the point, but less so near the tip. This latter matter aside, we saw sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*) and seaside spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*), then several prairie grasses: switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) in flower, cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and three-awn grass (*Aristida longespica*).

Plants in flower, as we found them, were: boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), beach pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), grey goldenrod (*S. nemoralis*), heath aster (*Aster ericoides*), Kalm's lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*), yellow flax (*Linum medium* var *texanum*), American water-horehound (*Lycopus americanus*), sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), nodding beggarticks (*Bidens cernua*), gerardia (*Agalinis paupercula*), water- horehound (*Lycopus uniflorus*), fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*), Kalm's St. John's-wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*) one flowering plant of cylindric blazing-star (*Liatris cylindracea*); the latter has come back , as well as other plants, since the deer have been culled. Near its southern limits, upland white aster (*Solidago ptarmicoides*), Ohio goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*), bushy aster (*Aster dumosus*), hairy puccoon (*Lythospermum caroliniense* subs. *croceum*), corn gromwell (*Buglossoides arvensis*), bugseed (*Corispermun hyssopifolium*), horned bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*), humped bladderwort (*U. gibba*), marsh bellflower (*Campanula uliginosa*), water smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*), round cushions of winged pigweed (*Cycloma atriplicifolium*), common skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), great lobelia (*Lobelia syphilitica*), lance-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*) and hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*).

On the lance-leaved goldenrod it was interesting to see each flowering plant had up to two dozen dark-sided cutworm moths (*Euxoa messsoria*) prevalent in Ontario and Quebec, but in southern Ontario this noctuid moth is an important pest of tobacco. The adult may be collected in September.

Leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*) were everywhere in the grass, and in all sizes. Several melanistic garter snakes were observed during the afternoon; Mike told us as a result of the "lake effect" on the peninsula, retarding spring, the black phase absorbs much more heat than the common brown one enabling the "black" to breed at the same time as the more familiar inland form.

Numerous Virginia Ctenuchid moths (*Ctenucha virginica*) with their metallic, blue bodies and orange-red heads flitted before us as we made our way through the high grasses. The larvae of these feed on marsh grasses.

Because of its extensive untreed areas, Long Point is noted for its species of grasses and sedges. Of the grasses, recorded were Canada wild-rye (*Elymus canadensis*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*), cut grass (*Leersia oryzoides*), fall rosettes of panic grass (*Panicum acuminatum*), beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) and Canada blue-joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*).

The Cyperaceae included: *Carex viridula*, twig-rush (*Cladium mariscoides*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis caribaea*) the only location for this species in Canada, *E. quinqueflora, E. olivacea,* slender beak-rush (*Rhyncospora capillacea*), three-square bulrush (*Scirpus pungens*), *S. smithii* and nut-rush (*Scleria verticillata*). Some of the rushes were jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*, *J. brachycephalus* and *J. torreyi*.

Hybrid cat-tails (*Typha* X *glauca*: *T. latifolia* X *T. glauca*) surrounded the ponds enclosed by the point. Variable-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton gramineus*), floating pondweed (*P. natans*), and one Myriophyllum, Euarsian water-milfoil (*M. spicatum*), were found on or in the ponds. This latter plant has invaded as far as British Columbia where large roadside signs warn boaters to wash down their boats between launchings to slow down its spread.

Gray plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) and killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) quietly watched our departure from the pond edge.

We enjoyed the calm water on the return trip to Port Rowan, a delightful way to end a perfect day. Special thanks go to our leader, Mike Oldham and the FBO committee for making our visit to this unusual botanical area possible.

References:

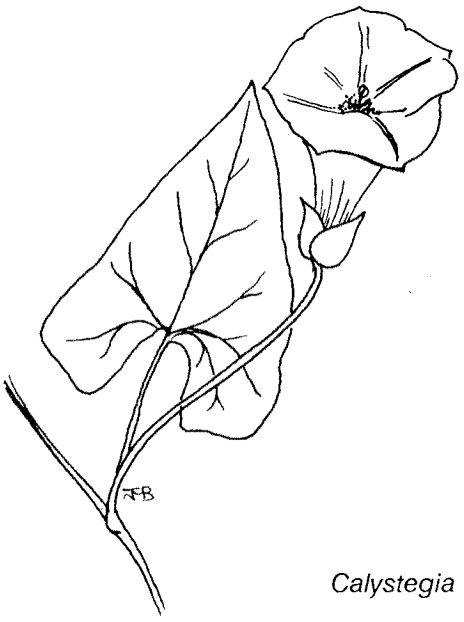
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James W. Wilson



Calystegia sepium

FIELD TRIP TO TURKEY POINT

On Sunday morning September 15, 1991, Ilmar Talvila joined Dolores and me as we followed our trip leader, Gary Allen, from the parking lot at the Little River Inn in Simcoe. The sunny, warm, humid weather was unseasonable, but not unwelcomed by the twenty four FBO members in our car pool.

This amazingly talented assemblage of botanists and naturalists were all very generous with their knowledge, but space permits me to mention only a few by name. I would like to thank Sheila McKay-Kuja, Robin Cunningham, and the eclectic Bob Bowles for their patient explanations. The newest FBO members in the group were Stephen and Connie Monet, a handsome, young couple who joined just days before attending our annual General Meeting and field trips. The youngest naturalist was little Scott Bowles (two years old), son of Bob Bowles and Connie Bolyea. (His mother calls him Scotty when he is good and Scott when he is bad. I only heard the name Scott used once or twice, by the way.)

The first stop on our tour was Turkey Point Provincial Park where Gary Allen gave us an interesting preamble on the ecology of the Norfolk sand plain and management efforts to bring back oak parkland and oak barrens flora. It has recently been estimated that less than one percent of the original oak savannah remains in North America. Black oak (*Quercus velutina*), in particular, needs fire to regenerate. A duff layer of leaves, if left on the ground unburned, prevents the germination of oaks. Hence, controlled burns are a must.

Turkey Point contains some of the purist stands of black oak in Ontario. In some areas of the park the canopy is virtually closed, creating unfavourable conditions for the native, sun-loving savannah forbs and grasses. Introduced bluegrass (*Poa*) species are becoming the dominate woodland grasses here, but the provincially rare side oats gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) was also found.

We next investigated an area along the roadside that contained the familiar prairie grass, little blue stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*). Among the forbs present were round-headed bush-clover (*Lespedeza capitata*), butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), cylindric blazing star (*Liatris cylindracea*), hairy puccoon (*Lithospermum caroliniense* ssp. *croceum*), long-headed thimbleweed (*Anemone cylindrica*), and the provincially rare hairy pinweed (*Lechea villosa*). In bloom were grey goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*), tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), heath aster (*Aster ericoides*), and slender knotweed (*Polygonum tenue*). The slender knotweed is found only in a "handful of sites in Ontario."

Near the end of this stretch we observed several green darner dragonflies. Bob Bowles said these fast flyers were probably gathering to move south. However, the females have left eggs in slits in the stems of submerged plants. The resultant naiads will crawl out of the water next year when fully grown to replenish the species. Bob's son Scotty pointed out the earth stars dotting the surface of the sandy soil.

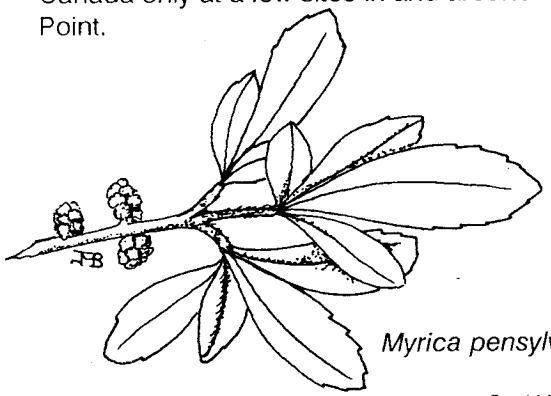
Under the clearing for a hydro line we explored the best of only two sites in Canada for birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*). Here an estimated 500 plants bloom profusely in May and again sparingly in September. We also found the arrow-leaved violet (*Viola sagittata*). Along with the violet species were Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), frostweed (*Helianthemum bicknellii*) in seed, azure aster (*Aster oolentangiensis*), the yellow-rayed hairy goldenrod (*Solidago hispida*), and the provincially rare moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*). One of the outstanding plants here is goat's-rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*) found throughout the park and immediate environs, but nowhere else in Canada.

To round out our nature walk, Steve added a bit of mammal study to the agenda with his find of the remains of a star-nosed mole. Dolores and I took time to show Scotty the reindeer moss (*Cladina spp.*) (a lichen), the British soldiers (*Cladonia cristatella*), and the

pixie cups (*Cladonia* spp.) among the mats of *Polytrichum* moss. Scotty showed us the ants, beetles, and spiders. He is going to be eclectic like his dad. Not far from the power lines we found the fern-leaved false foxglove (*Aureolaria pedicularia*) with both seeds and gorgeous yellow flowers showing. This plant is rare in Ontario, regionally rare, and rare in Canada. It was one of the many "lifers" for me.

Almost anticlimactic was the sighting of prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*). I am told the prickly-pear grows naturally in Ontario only at Pelee Island and at one of my favourite haunts, Point Pelee.

As an extra, added attraction, just before leaving the park, Gary proudly presented the bayberry shrub (*Myrica pensylvanica*). Bayberry is an Atlantic coastal plain species, with scattered representation west to Ohio, but found in Canada only at a few sites in and around Turkey Point.



Myrica pensylvanica

After lunch our caravan drove to the St. Williams Forestry Station, Turkey Point Tract. Here in an open, sandy area Gary showed us a stand of blue curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*). This and a few other stands scattered throughout the Forestry Station constitute the only known population of blue curls in Canada. In this small area alongside a dirt road, the plants seemed so vulnerable, delicate, and fragile that many concerned members of our group began to offer suggestions on how to insure the species' survival. A variety of opposing opinions and options were discussed, such as: a sign could be put up, but a sign might attract unwanted attention; a fence should be placed around the population for protection, but a fence would be unnatural and may also attract the wrong people; seeds should be collected and planted elsewhere, but that might threaten the original population. While the interesting, scholarly and sometimes emotional debate raged on, Scotty was calmly and very closely examining the sands of the Norfolk sand plain.

As if to underscore our recognition of the perilous plight of the small group of blue curls, an ironic incident occurred as we settled into our cars to continue on. Before the car pool began to move I noticed some kids approaching down the road on an all-terrain vehicle with four huge tires. To avoid our line-up of cars, the boys pulled off the road and ran directly over the area most heavily populated with blue curls!

We proceeded to a pine plantation in the St. Williams Tract of the St, Williams Forestry Station. Here under Scots pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) and red pines (*Pinus resinosa*), we observed one of only two populations in Ontario of spotted wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*). Amongst the pine needles we also found pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*) and shinleaf (*Pyrola elliptica*). Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*) was present with red berries still attached. In a little clearing was another rarity for Ontario, the sprawling prostrate tick-trefoil (*Desmodium rotundifolium*). Bob Bowles caught a tree frog and showed it to all, while his son carried off the best two pine cones in the whole plantation.

Our last stop was the west side of the St. Williams Forestry Station to observe one of only three populations in Ontario of the dwarf chinquapin oak (*Quercus prinoides*). As our party began to break-up and depart, Scotty gave Dolores a big hug and kiss and gave me a high five. Gary was appropriately praised and thanked for an exciting and informative tour. Judging by all the pledges to faithfully attend more field trips in the future, everyone must have thoroughly enjoyed the day. Scotty had the most fun of all of us.

Kent Glauser

THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF THE FBO

At a recent F.B.O. executive meeting, a fascinating debate developed on the role of the FBO in the naturalist community. Initially the discussion centred on whether we should strengthen our links with the various gardening and natural heritage organizations. However, facilitated by a most pliable chairman, the discussion ranged over a variety of practical and philosophical questions. You might be interested in some of them:

- should the FBO be involved in wildflower gardens?

- should railway prairies be protected, given that some of the prairie plants were introduced by artificial means only a century ago?

- should protected areas contain footpaths which might encourage humans to trample the protected plants?

- should FBO policy of permitting collecting on field trips only for recognized herbaria be reviewed?

- should wildflowers be planted along roadsides when this involves the introduction of diverse and non-native genetic material?

- are alien plants really alien when they are only responding to environments previously altered by man?

- should native plants be transplanted in order to prevent their being bulldozed, when this only gives further legitimacy to the continuing destruction of natural areas?

- and finally, is there any real virtue to the growth, just growth's sake, of F.B.O. membership?

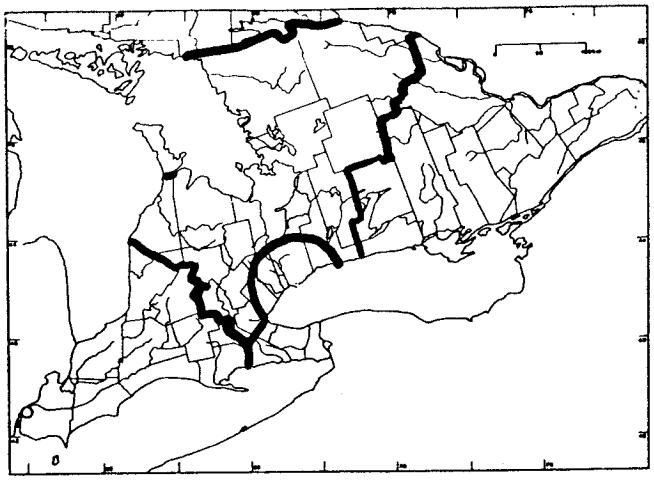
As with many philosophical questions, there may not necessarily be a correct answer. However, the discussion served both to enlighten us and to direct our thoughts toward some of these concepts which we might otherwise have ignored.

The F.B.O. Newsletter and the executive would be delighted to receive your questions or observations on any of these or other items.

G.B.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FBO MEMBERSHIP

William Draper recently did a breakdown of FBO membership by area. You may be interested in

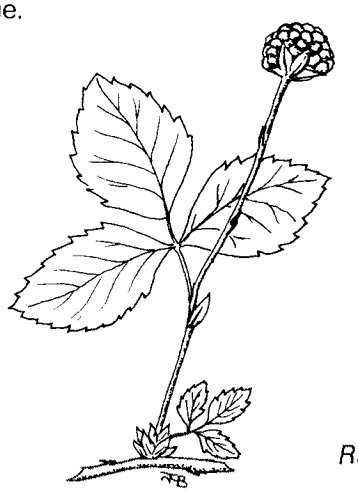


Area Represented	#Members
1. Toronto Area	79 (35%)
2. Central Ontario	47 (21%)
3. Eastern Ontario	36 (16%)
4. Southwestern Ontario	35 (16%)
5. United States	7 (<1%)
6. Northern Ontario	6 (<1%)
7. Niagara Peninsula	5 (<1%)
8. Other Provinces	5 (<1%)
9. Bruce Peninsula	4 (<1%)
10. Asia	1 (<l%)
11. Unassigned	1 (<l%)
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (SEPTEMBER 1991)	124

FALL OUTING TO NIAGARA

Eleven or so FBO members started out on the crisp morning of Saturday October 19, 1991 in the Shaw Festival parking lot. When George Meyres pulled out samples of just-ripe (delicious) paw paw (*Asimina triloba*) fruits from his yard in Grimsby for us to try I knew we were in for something a little different, a taste of some very "southern" things!

Our first stop was Paradise Grove, an oak woodland south of Fort George, near Niagara-on-the-Lake. We were immediately struck by the rich fall colouring. There quickly began a set of lessons increasing our "Oak Awareness", which developed over the course of the day. One uses bark characteristics, branching pattern, leaf shape and colour, terminal buds, acorn cup morphology, timing of germination and even which acorns have better taste and higher food value.



Rubus flagellaris

We compared black oak (*Quercus velutina*), red oak (*Q. rubra*) and white oak (*Q. alba*) in a bit of "prairie savannah" with sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*), northern dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*) and gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*). Shrubs recorded along the banks of the Niagara River were common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) (only shin-high here in its wild state), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), grey dogwood (*Cornus foemina*) in fruit, round-leaved dogwood (*C. rugosa*), Canada plum (*Prunus nigra*) and possible scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) right on the bank.

Across the road we found a slight shift to predominantly pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) a more shallow-rooted tree, here in slightly moister soil. We observed multiple, very large, specimens of cockspur hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-gali*) with superb stout trunks and long branches that droop to the ground. Opinions were expressed: "This would make a good front yard tree" - " Yes, the whole front yard!". We also saw sycamore maple (*Acer pseudo-platanus*), a big cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and the exotic shrubs wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*), Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and white mulberry (*Morus alba*).

Moving south into a slightly wetter area we found black willow (*Salix nigra*) near its northern limit in Ontario and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). A discussion arose over traits distinguishing the two Ontario dewberries swamp dewberry (*Rubus hispidus)* and northern dewberry (*R. flagellaris*). There was still a lot of pin oak in an apparently healthy population.

With a slight elevational gain we were in a grove of white oaks with lots of sweet cherry, and common speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) in the herb layer. Slightly higher ground, and we were in black oak country again with a few tulepo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and black cherry (*Prunus serotna*). Finding *Mitchella repens* in the herb layer prompted comments on the regional variations of its common name of "partridgeberry" and reinforced why the use of Latin names is helpful! We also found round-leaved hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) and tick-trefoil (*Desmodium*).

After a lunch stop and a brief tour into Niagara-on-the-Lake, one Kilometre to the west, the group stopped to admire a large open grown tulepo. Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) was its immediate neighbour and the introduced spindle-tree (*Euonymus europeus*) grew nearby. We then drove south through grape, peach and nursery county to 1 Km. west of Queenston and had a look at a characteristic Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) representing a small disjunct population in Niagara.

Nearer St. David's we went into a small, but nevertheless exciting deciduous forest remnant. Plunging into a paw paw grove, with the trees bearing fruit, and finding sassafras, shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) and saplings of Shumard oak I really knew I was in "another world". The south part of this woodlot also has pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthos*), blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) with its aromatic leaves and fruit.

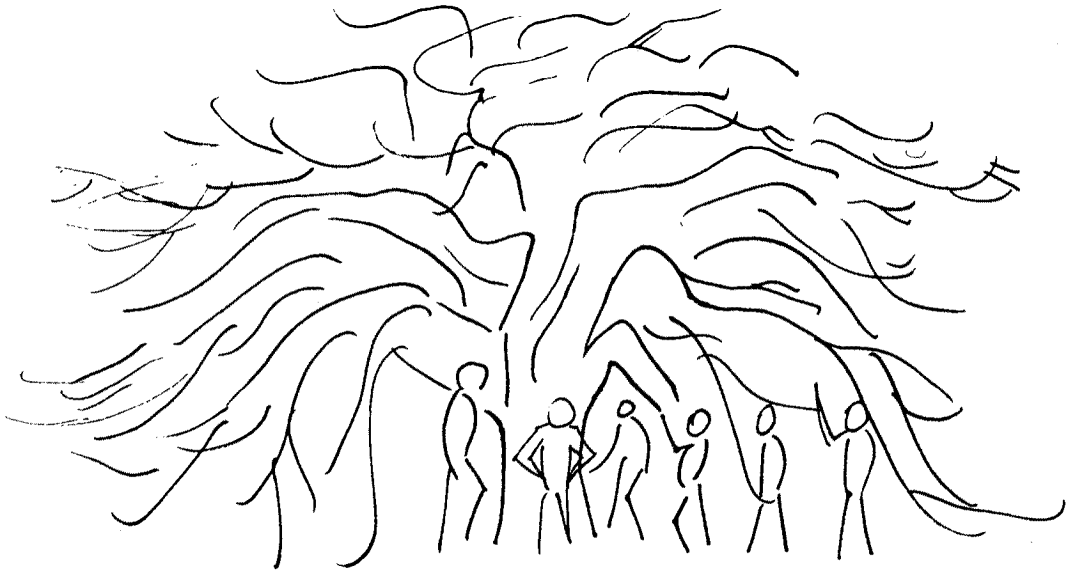
It is George Meyers' view that this is "this is one of the most diverse woodlots for such a small area" based on the variety and size of the oaks (pin, Shumard, red, white and burr) and other deciduous trees. We also saw sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) and, in a drier section, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) with beech-drops (*Epifagus virginiana*). Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) with its strange, spidery, yellow flowers (in October!) was another treat for the "northern folks". A similar response (with, granted, a little less delight) was shown when we learned that all three forms of poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) grow in the "Carolinian Zone": low herbaceous plants, breast-high shrubs and climbing vines.

At the northern end of the woodlot we found bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), a hugh sassafras, burr oak, Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) and red baneberry (*Actea rubra*). A tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) with silver leaved summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) twining on it pleased me - the last of these I had seen was in Kentucky.

"So much variety" said George Bryant, and all participants appeared to agree it was a special place. I learned by reading later that only 7% of this type of forest in Ontario remains, the rest is now farmland and settlement. Maybe we should return in spring and see some southern springtime wildflowers?

For our last stop we drove south of St. David's, Highway 405 and the CNR tracks on a hunt for a single, lone specimen of deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) along a section of the Bruce Trail. Success! Also in the vicinity were black oak, shagbark hickory and wild plum (*Prunus americana*). A Great Blue Heron taking off from the adjacent sewage pond was a further bonus.

Katherine J. Miller



Crataegus crus-galli gets a closer look by F.B.O.

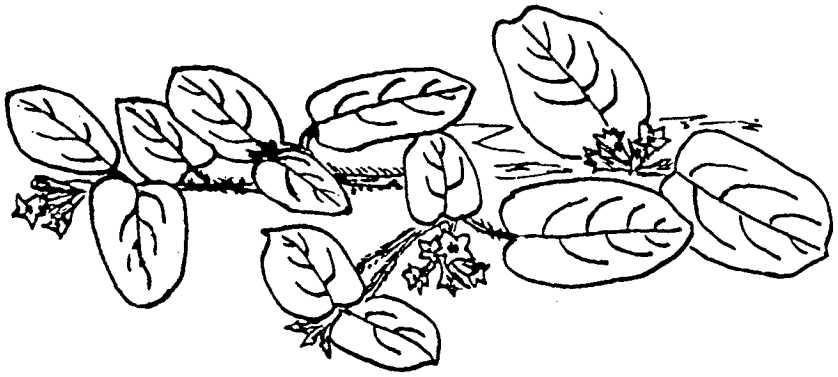
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