

President's Message

The 2021 field season will soon be upon us and the FBO Board is planning for field trips to run. Group sizes are expected to be lower than usual and we will be distancing while in the field. The trip list will be circulated as soon as it is ready. We will be closely watching government regulations and if field trips are cancelled, notices will be sent out.

The AGM will be held in the fall as usual. We are planning for the possibility of an outdoor meeting in the Belleville area. Again, depending on the status of our collective situation and regulations, if it is not possible to meet outdoors, the AGM will be held virtually, like last year.

The Crowley Award will be offered for the first time this year. It is our newest award for the best photographs of Ontario's native flora. Keep an eye out for more details from our new Awards Co-ordinator, Will Van Hemessen.

The FBO has a new repository for past newsletters, meeting minutes, and other business. They will all be deposited in the Library and Archives at the Canadian Museum of Nature's Natural Heritage Campus. All past newsletters will be in the library, and all other records will be stored in the archives, both of which are publicly accessible.

We thank you for your on-going support during these unusual times. I am especially grateful to our members and board members that have written interesting articles for the newsletter while our typical content, trip reports, are in short supply. This has enabled us to continue to produce the newsletter almost on its regular schedule.

I hope to see you on the trails this summer.

Troy

On the cover: Historical cover pages - from The Plant Press to the Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter.

Erratum: In the printed copy of the Fall-Winter 2020 issue, the Latin name of Spring Avens in the title of the article on p. 3 was misspelled: the correct name is *Geum vernum*.

The suggested standard source for scientific and common names is the Database of Vascular Plants of Canada (VASCAN): <http://data.canadensys.net/vscan/search>.

Field Botanists of Ontario website: www.fieldbotanistsofontario.com

Join us on Facebook



Follow our Blog



See us on Instagram



Annual memberships are \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for families. Membership forms can be found on the FBO website above.

Trip location maps generated using NatGeo Mapmaker.

Field Botanists of Ontario

(FBO) is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 for those interested in botany and conservation in Ontario.

President: Troy McMullin
tmcmullin@nature.ca

Vice President: Tristan Knight
tristan@terrastoryenviro.com

Secretary: Jennifer Doubt
jdoubt@nature.ca

Treasurer: Leanne Wallis
treasurer.fbo@gmail.com

Past President: Dan Westerhof
dwesterhof@beaconenviro.com

Membership: Mary Anne Young
fbomembership@gmail.com

Field Trips: Jessica Consiglio,
Gwyneth Govers, Sarah Mainguy
fbo.trips@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Christopher Zoladeski
editor.fbo@gmail.com

Associate Editor:
Michael J. Oldham
michael.oldham@ontario.ca

Contributing Editor:
Bill McIlveen
wmcilveen@sympatico.ca

Awards Co-ordinator:
Will Van Hemessen
wvanhem@gmail.com

Website: Tristan Knight
tristan@terrastoryenviro.com

Directors: Bill McIlveen,
Pat Deacon, Paul Sokoloff

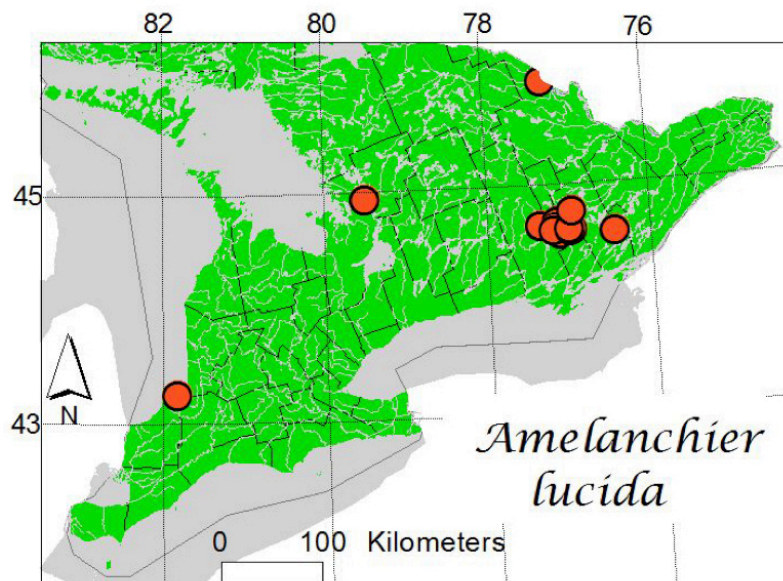


From the Editor

It is with great pleasure that we are introducing a new face of the Newsletter, rebranded to its (almost) original name. We have gone back to our roots, like everyone does sooner or later, only in our case it took us 38 years!... So much history, so many people, so many trips. Because most of the current members were too young to consider themselves botanists back in the 1980s and 1990s (many were not even yet born), we have a plan to reprint some of the best articles from the past issues, so you can re-live the experiences of your "forebearers". It will be interesting to witness not only the changing writing styles but also, for the places that we often go to (like the Bruce, Manitoulin, or Ojibway Prairie), see what kinds of plants the trippers of the day observed, and their use of old plant names (as per Gray's Manual of Botany)! History will come alive on our pages. Enjoy the past, the present and the future.

Shining Serviceberry (*Amelanchier lucida*) ... in Ontario or ... anywhere?

Paul M. Catling and Brenda Kostiuk



In May of 2021, we expect to travel through Prince Edward and the southern parts of Hastings and Lennox and Addington counties to clarify the occurrence of stoloniferous (patch-forming) species of *Amelanchier* in relation to landscapes and substrate types and, especially, to better understand Shining Serviceberry.

You might say that Shining Serviceberry (*Amelanchier lucida* Fernald) is just a synonym of Running Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spicata*), as treated in the Flora of North America (FNA, Campbell et al. 2015), but is it? This latter publication notes that: "Identification (of *Amelanchier* species) from herbarium specimens is often inconclusive. Identification is best undertaken in the field, with visits during flowering and fruiting seasons, and observations of habitat, habit, presence of congeners, and flowering time relative to sympatric congeners." This is a group of plants where field botany can play an important role in classification.

Shining Serviceberry does seem to deserve a second look as a potentially well-defined entity. The fact that it appears to have a distinctive habitat and distribution in Ontario supports its recognition. With a large area of variable terrain where the

stoloniferous plants can be compared, Ontario has much of what is needed to better understand this group.

Where does Shining Serviceberry fit?

Some recent keys are helpful, based on geography and current concepts. Using the key in FNA (Campbell et al. 2015), Shining Serviceberry ends up having to go both ways in the key. Using leaves on sterile shoots it tends more to the *A. alnifolia* – *A. sanguinea* group with 4-9 teeth in the distalmost (at the tip) cm of the leaf, but using leaves on fertile shoots it tends more toward the *A. laevis* – *A. arborea* – *A. spicata* group (see the difference between fruiting and sterile shoots in Figure 1). Going either way in the key it ends up at Running Serviceberry (*A. spicata* – see below) which appears twice in the key. Using the key in the excellent work of Cinq-Mars (1971), Shining Serviceberry ends up with Stoloniferous Serviceberry (*A. stolonifera*). It also ends up here using Soper and Heimburger's (1982) "Shrubs of Ontario".

How is Shining Serviceberry distinguished from the species it keys to? Glad you asked! Running Serviceberry is believed to be comprised of at least four elements? Firstly, the name *A. spicata* denotes

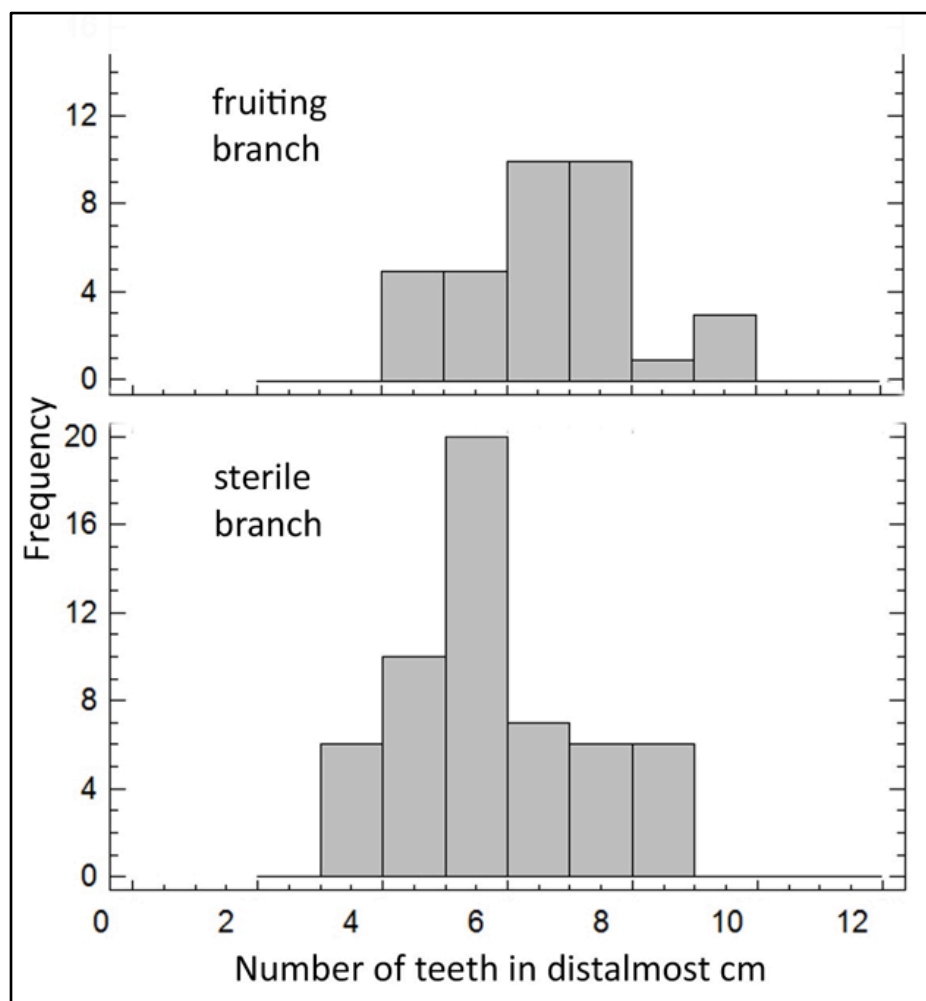


Figure 1. Number of teeth on fruiting (fertile) and sterile branches of Ontario *Amelanchier lucida*, based on a maximum of five leaves of each kind from 12 plants representing the geographic range shown in title box.

a tall, fastigate European shrub from "Jardin du Roi and dans les Jardins des Curieux" and "on prétend que cette arbrisseux se trouve au Canada", the latter meaning that "it is claimed that this shrub is in Canada" (Fernald 1946a). Next, the southeastern *A. austromontanae* requires more study and is based on a type from North Carolina (Jones 1946). That leaves *A. stolonifera* (Stoloniferous Serviceberry), described by Weigand (1912) from the railway tracks at Wellesley, Massachusetts in 1912. This is the important one to distinguish from Shining Serviceberry. I base my understanding of Stoloniferous Serviceberry on plants I found in 2003 along the railway at Wellesley (topotypes), on the type (holotype) specimen which I examined at the Gray Herbarium (GH, Harvard University), and on

Weigand's original description (Weigand 1921). Finally, for Shining Serviceberry, I have my field work in and around the type locality in Nova Scotia (Catling 2006), examination of the type specimens (GH), Fernald's and my later expanded description (Fernald 1921, 1948, Catling 2006), and my observations of additional plants considered referable to *A. lucida* from Ontario and Quebec.

Key to the more or less stoloniferous species of Serviceberries in southern Ontario

All species in the key are less than 2 m tall (rarely to several metres), have more rounded, obtuse or truncate leaves, at least on sterile shoots, are stoloniferous (forming large patches), or surculose (forming small compact clumps), and have dense inflorescences of relatively small, white flowers in inflorescences up to 50 mm long with petals to 14 mm long (Figure 2).

1a. Mature leaves lustrous above; leaves losing underside tomentum during flowering; basal pedicels of inflorescence 8-22 mm long; sepals erect or ascending in developing fruit. Young leaves, pedicels and sepals green or brown with a distinct persisting reddish tinge ... **Shining Serviceberry (*A. lucida*)**

1b. Mature leaves dull above; leaves retaining underside tomentum during flowering (or not in *A. alnifolia*); basal pedicels of inflorescence 7-15 mm long; sepals reflexed in developing fruit; Young leaves, pedicels and sepals green to brown, sometimes reddish, but without a distinct and persisting reddish tinge ... 2

2a. Leaves finely toothed with 6-8 teeth in the distalmost (at tip) cm of leaves on fertile stem; veins not prominent, all indistinct toward margin ... **Stoloniferous Serviceberry (*A. stolonifera*)**

2b. Leaves coarsely toothed with 2-6 teeth in the distalmost (at tip) cm of leaves on fertile stem; veins prominent and distinct to or near to margin ... **3**

3a. Leaves mostly truncate (flat) at the tip; petals 9-14 mm, oblong or obovate-elliptic; many leaves losing all hair before peak flowering ... **Saskatoon (*A. alnifolia*)**

3b. Leaves varying from acute to rounded or truncate at the tip; petals 7-10 mm, obovate-oblong or prominently obovate; many leaves retaining some hair, especially below, after peak flowering ... **Low Serviceberry (*A. humilis*)**

Additional Notes on identification

The leaves of Shining Serviceberry are similar to those of Stoloniferous Serviceberry in having less prominent veins that divide well below the margin. Vestiture (the surface covering (of hair in this case)) varies in different taxa of *Amelanchier* from absent to dense and persistent. Shining Serviceberry occupies a middle position on this scale with less arachnoid hair on the ovary summit except at the base of the style where it is very dense. On developing or mature fruit it may persist only at the base the style with scattered hairs elsewhere. The



Figure 2. Low Serviceberry (*Amelanchier humilis*). Post Office Alvar at Point Anne, Hastings County, May 2013. Photo: P.M. Catling.

dense hair is shedding from the undersurface of older leaves at flowering time whereas on at least some specimens of Stoloniferous Serviceberry it persists on lower leaf surfaces until after flowering. In Shining Serviceberry, the mature fruit pedicels are smooth but in Stoloniferous Serviceberry they appear to be hairy. Leaves on a flowering shoot of Shining Serviceberry are often folded at flowering time but some of those of Stoloniferous Serviceberry are unfolded, although not fully expanded.

What are the Groups?

The prediction here is that, in general, the four entities defined above will have different habitats and distributions. In Ontario, Shining Serviceberry (*A. lucida*) occurs on more or less open granite rock in acid substrate. It is frequent on the high outcrop

with Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) NNW of Kaladar in central Lennox and Addington County and is also frequent to the southeast in rocky barren areas north of Tamworth. It occurs on the Torrence Barren in Muskoka District. I recall seeing it in Parry Sound and on outcrops north of Mazinaw Lake but have no photos or specimens to check. Although it occurs on sand barrens in Nova Scotia, it appears not to be characteristic of sandy sites in Ontario with the exception of Pinery Park, where an otherwise hot and dry environment may be moderated by nearby water (as in Nova Scotia). The title box map shows distribution of Shining Serviceberry in Ontario, based on specimens noted by P.M. Catling.

Over much of southern Ontario, Stoloniferous Serviceberry (*A. stolonifera*) occurs in dry acid sand. In the upper Ottawa Valley, such as around Petawawa, it occurs on the acid sand in barrens with Sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), Blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) or in open Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), or Jack Pine woodlands. However, it is replaced by Shining Serviceberry on some of the open granite knobs in this region. Stoloniferous Serviceberry also occurs in some of the remnants of the Rice Lake Plains in Northumberland County and in sandy oak woods here and there throughout southwestern Ontario.

The Low Serviceberry (*A. humilis*) is most often found on calcareous, basic substrates and mostly on alvars where the limestone rock is at or very near the surface. Its distribution in Ontario mainly follows the distribution of alvars and limestone cliffs and shores. Saskatoon (*A. alnifolia*) is sporadically distributed in the province where it has persisted along trade routes used prior to the 20th century by indigenous people and voyageurs.

If these observations are confirmed with a larger sample and throughout a larger geographical area, and the key seems to work relatively well, we may be ready to accept Shining Serviceberry as a new shrub in the province. If not, we may have a better

understanding of what Shining Serviceberry is and how it originated or we may simply have learned more about variation in Stoloniferous Serviceberry.

References

- Campbell, C.S., M.B. Burgess, K.R. Cushman, E.T. Doucette, A.C. Dibble, and C.T. Frye. 2015. 67. *Amelanchier* Medikus. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico [Online]. 21+ vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 9. Accessed 23 October 2020. http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=101333
- Catling, P.M. 2006. Characteristics of *Amelanchier lucida* (Rosaceae) based on an examination of the holotype and plants from the type locality. *Rhodora* 108: 347-355. [https://doi.org/10.3119/0035-4902\(2006\)108\[347:COALRB\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.3119/0035-4902(2006)108[347:COALRB]2.0.CO;2) [PDF available from the author]
- Cinq-Mars, L. 1971. Le genre *Amelanchier* au Québec. *Naturaliste Can.* 98: 329-346. <https://www.herbier.ulaval.ca/fileadmin/documents/Ludoviciana/LU09.pdf>
- Fernald, M.L. 1921. The Gray Herbarium expedition to Nova Scotia, 1920. *Rhodora* 23: 257-300. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14493#page/286/mode/1up>
- Fernald, M.L. 1946a. *Amelanchier spicata* not an American species. *Rhodora* 48: 125-129. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14518#page/172/mode/1up>
- Fernald, M.L. 1946b. A monograph of *Amelanchier*. *Rhodora* 48: 129-134. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14518#page/180/mode/1up>
- Fernald, M.L. 1948. A Nova Scotian dwarf Shadbush. *Rhodora* 50: 49-51. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14520#page/59/mode/1up>
- Fernald, M.L. 1950. *Gray's Manual of Botany*. American Book Company, New York.
- Jones, G.N. 1946. American Species of *Amelanchier*. Illinois Biological Monographs (Urbana) 20(2): 1-126. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/105913#page/11/mode/1up>

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimburger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum. 495 pp.

Wiegand, K.M. 1912. The genus *Amelanchier* in eastern North America. *Rhodora* 14: 117–161. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14485#page/119/mode/1up>

Wiegand, K.M. 1920. Additional notes on *Amelanchier*. *Rhodora* 22: 146–151. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/14492#page/428/mode/1up>

frequently contain an endophytic fungus, *Neotyphodium*, that is toxic when consumed. Considering that the fungus is in the same fungal family as ergot, it is not surprising that the infected Darnel also contains quantities of ergot chemicals that are highly toxic or hallucinogenic. (Ergot is caused by the fungus *Claviceps purpurea* that naturally grows on rye and other grasses and was the original source of LSD.) In the early years of wheat cultivation, it was not clear where the Tares were coming from. It was conventional wisdom

Sources of weeds

Part 1: Taring around Ontario

W.D. McIlveen



As soon as humans attempted to cultivate plants as agricultural crops, weeds started to appear among those plants. The earliest crops started 10,000 years ago in southeast Turkey and consisted mainly of two wheat species - Emmer Wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and Einkorn (*T. monococcum*). An unwanted species then appeared in these crops. It is believed that the weed, known as Tares, was Darnel Ryegrass (*Lolium temulentum*). Darnel is deceptively similar to wheat when the plants are young but the grains are much smaller. Not only do the Tares compete with the crop plants for space and nutrient resources, they

that the unwanted Darnel was being sown by one's enemies. By biblical times, the enemies sowing the weeds had been transposed to be Satan. The association with Satan was illustrated a number of times by various classical artists (Figure in title box: painting *Parable of the Tares* by Abraham Bloemaert). Satan was frequently portrayed sowing Tares seeds in the background while humans were sleeping or indulging in some slothful activity.

In modern times, almost everyone recognizes that weeds exist. People may not be able to identify many species yet they know weeds are around. They might or

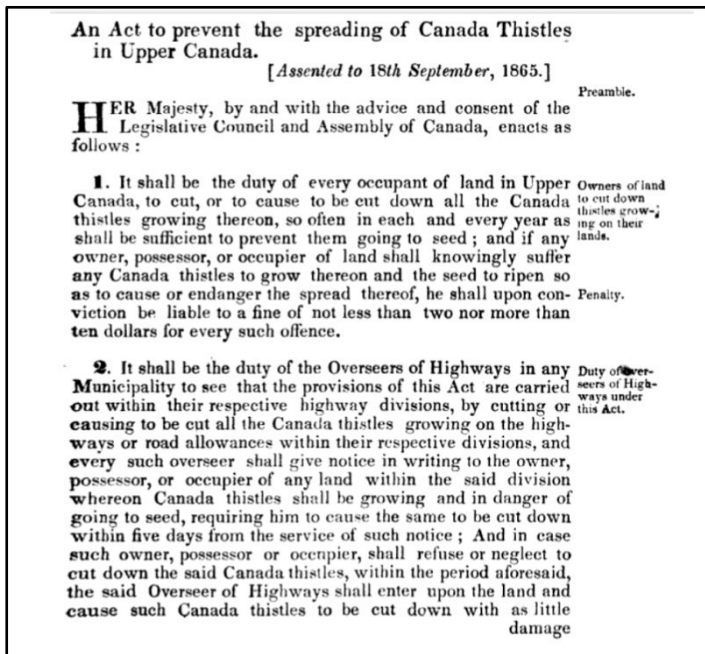


Figure 1. Canada Thistles Act 1865.

might not know which weeds might constitute sources of allergen, be toxic through touch or ingestion, or reduce agricultural productivity. The definition of a weed is fairly well established as “a plant growing in the wrong place” or words that reflect such characters. This is definitely a

human construct or value. The weedy plants simply follow the genetic code that they have inherited and respond to the conditions in which seeds or other plant propagules find themselves. If the conditions are suitable, the plants become established and proliferate.

Weeds may or may not be classed as ‘invasive’. Again ‘invasiveness’ is a human value

assessment. To be so defined, an invasive species has to be a “harmful alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health”. Also, by definition, any organism that is invasive, whether plant, animal, or microorganism, is one that is introduced by human activity from a location outside their natural past or present distribution. There is a general notion that species that were here prior to 1500 AD (shortly after Columbus first arrived followed by many Europeans that settled in North America) are native. Still, an examination of the details of European settlement will show that defining what is a native is not all that clear-cut and a subject for another time. A species that is native cannot be labelled as invasive, even if its behaviour exhibits comparable undesirable characteristics.

Although the term ‘invasive’ or ‘noxious’ had not been applied at the time, the first weed species that effectively fitted those descriptions and to be recognized as a menace in legislation was Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). In 1865, the existing government passed the 1865 Canada Thistle Act of Upper Canada (Figure 1) It



Figure 2. Common Dandelion, Milton, 2004. Photo: W.D. McIlveen.

required landholders and municipalities to cut Canada Thistle growing on their respective properties to prevent them from forming seeds. Mechanical cutting was the only means of dealing with the thistles at that time. Control via chemical herbicides or biological agents is a relatively recent measure. Over time, Canada Thistle has acquired what is



Figure 3. Common Reed. Photo: W.D. McIlveen.

perhaps the longest list of biological control agents of any problem weed. That list includes four insects and one fungus that were purposely introduced. An additional six insect species are adventive while the Painted Lady butterfly is native to Ontario. The Aster Yellows Phytoplasma may have the greatest impact on colonies of thistles turning many of the plants yellowish or white and preventing the plants from developing flowers or seeds.

One of the most successful weeds of all time is the Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*, Figure 2). It has made its way to all continents with the exception of Antarctica. Should global warming ever expose soil in areas of that continent, it is a good bet that Dandelion will be one of the earliest colonizers there as well. While the species is generally regarded as a weed, especially after it goes to seed in lawns, it is of some value when used as a green vegetable or in the preparation of Dandelion wine.

The majority of people who are familiar with weeds would likely agree that European Reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*, Figure 3) is the most invasive plant species in Ontario. There are also many non-native species that are totally innocuous. All other introduced species that are not actively cultivated fall at some point between these two extremes.

My list of vascular plants for Ontario, prepared in 2014, had 4585 species. (A more-recent list has more entries but includes various subspecies names that make summaries like the following more difficult.) The list includes 2348 native species, 1664 introduced species, and another 573 species that are cultivated or have

some other designation. Of the non-natives where most weeds would be expected, 156 are listed as extremely common and 48 are very common exotics. This means that 88% of the exotics are really not at all common. The weeds in Ontario mostly originated in other parts of the world, primarily Europe and in eastern Asia. Each species has its own story, sometimes arriving in North America at several different times. Some plants arrived as intentional introductions for agricultural or horticultural purposes, others were brought in accidentally by human intervention or by uncertain means.

Weeds in some form can be found in almost every habitat. This ranges from totally aquatic to wetlands to drier sites in woodlands, meadows and agricultural sites. For many weeds, their general characteristics make them well-adapted to be weeds in that they easily establish in disturbed habitats where they dominate in cultivated fields, gardens, and roadsides. Other species easily colonize sites with little or no disturbance. Many weeds are often highly prolific seed producers which makes it easy for them to develop high populations quite quickly.

Weeds rely on almost every imaginable means of dispersal. Wind and water movement are used by some species, others are dispersed by birds (e.g., fruits) and animals (e.g., burs). Humans and their equipment transfer seeds and plants or plant parts from place to

place. The plants stuck in the car door (Figure 4) are a Woodland Sunflower but they could easily have been European Swallow-wort. Trains can carry seeds or live plants over very long distances. Weed seeds could be mixed into the crop seed despite the best efforts to clean any individual seed batch.

As suggested in the case of the Canada Thistle, the original method for controlling unwanted weeds was to cut the plants before they went to seed. In the case of perennial plants this is about the only practical approach though it is certain the plants will return in succeeding seasons. Rogueing out such plants require a great physical effort. Other approaches for controlling plants, especially annuals, often included hoeing, cultivating, or other mechanical means. During the 1900s, some



Figure 4. Car with attached plants, Starkey Hills, 2015.
Photo: W.D. McIlveen.

inorganic chemicals were used but these chemicals had limitations and might not discriminate between the weeds and desirable species. After WWII, organic chemical herbicides became common with 2,4-D leading the way for a host of different chemicals. Biological control agents have been introduced to deal with specific troublesome plants. When such agents, primarily insects, were first introduced, there was only limited assessments done to ensure that these were indeed suitable (e.g., effective in controlling the target species without harming any other species). Fortunately, most of the

insect species released have not caused any great problem. Today, before any such biological control agents can be released, they must undergo very rigorous testing to ensure that non-target plants are not damaged. Sometimes fire is used to destroy weeds through open burns but occasionally weeds are destroyed with special burners.

In recent years weed control is achieved by genetically altering crop plants to make them resistant to a specific herbicide. Because the crop plant is resistant to a particular herbicide, the theory is that any weeds that might be encountered in that crop can be controlled through application of that herbicide leaving the crop untouched. So goes the idea of 'Round-up Ready' crops. That may have worked well enough for some time but the

weeds also developed resistance to the herbicide, especially when the same herbicide was applied in multiple years. Plants that escaped the killing herbicide, were able to reproduce new populations with the same herbicide resistance characteristics. In Ontario, at least 32 species have developed resistance to one or more types of herbicide. As might be expected, the resistance has mainly developed among common weeds. One species, Common Waterhemp (*Amaranthus rudis*), has emerged from obscurity to become a greater concern. It now occurs in seven counties in Ontario and shows resistance to four different classes of herbicide.

It would seem that weeds will always be with us.

The species that we choose to cultivate for our own purposes change over time. The plant species that come to be pests within the crops also change. It seems that sooner or later after one weed problem is brought into line by human standards, it will be supplanted with a different one. Much of the blame for new species rests with humans who bring a new species into the area but fail to manage it properly. As the comic strip character Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us". We can modify this a little to state: "We have met the sower of Tares and he is us". If we fail to manage newly-introduced plants, they can escape and multiply and

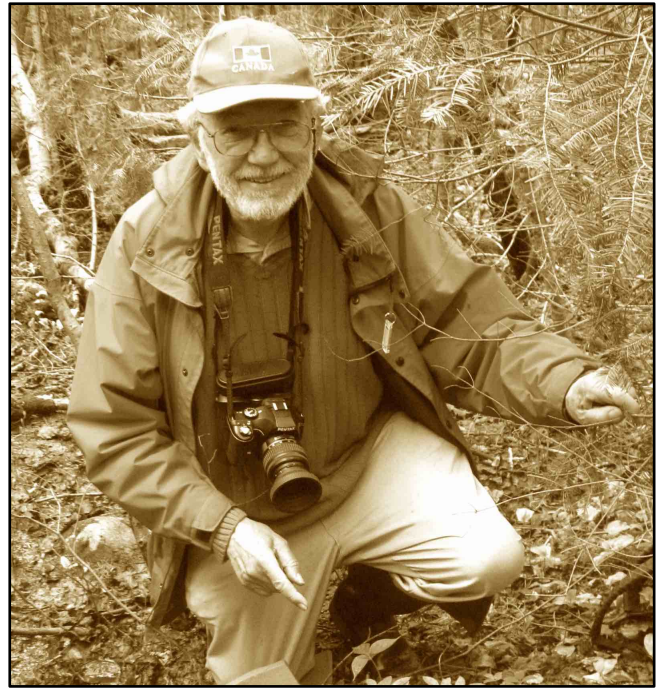
develop into a nuisance of various proportions. Sometimes, the species is introduced inadvertently. We can learn a bit of how to avoid new problems by reviewing the numerous mistakes made in the past. The articles

included in this series will aid in our understanding how various weedy species came to be problematic.

Memories of a keen scientist and friend: Dr. Donald A. Smith

Anne Barbour

Since 2009, Don gave outstanding assistance to the CKL Flora Project. He attended as many investigation outings as possible, sometimes being the only other person who could accompany me so I wouldn't be alone. He was excited to be able to explore parts of the former Victoria County, which he called "the Banana Belt of the North", and at the end of each outing, duly noted for me how many lifer plants, especially southern species, that he had been introduced to. He was responsible for finding, reporting and helping to collect the only location for One-flowered Broomrape (*Aphyllon uniflorum*) in the City of Kawartha Lakes.



One spring, Don announced at our Kawartha Field Naturalists' meeting that a new plant that wasn't listed in Skelton and Skelton's Haliburton Flora, had been found in Haliburton County. It was Dwarf Ginseng (*Panax trifolius*), a spring wildflower I had only ever seen in one location in Essex County. It didn't take much asking to have Don agree to lead a hike for us next spring at his beloved Snowdon Park. I have attached the photo I took of Don that day, smiling and pointing to the tiny spring ephemeral, which was photographed as well. This location was not in Kawartha Lakes, but it was certainly an exciting flora moment. Don collected a specimen which I later mounted for TRT, the Green Plant Herbarium at the Royal Ontario Museum.

I remember a great day of successful targeting and collecting that we had together. It was August 2012 and Don and I had driven first to Manvers Tp. to collect Round-headed Bush-clover (*Lespedeza capitata*), a first for CKL of this S4 prairie species. Collection bagged...species ticked off the list. Then we headed for a ditch in Emily Tp. where a local resident, whose property we had inventoried together, had told us that Bottled Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) and Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*) both grew nearby. Found them; collections bagged...two more ticks off the list. Then our last stop in Fenelon Tp. was on the northeast side of Cameron Lake. Down a long winding road to a wet trail through a narrow natural area bounded on one side by the Burnt River and the other side by Cranberry Marsh of Cameron Lake. American Groundnut (*Apios americana*) and Bristly Greenbrier (*Smilax tamnoides*) were found; collections bagged...our last targeted species were ticked off our list. How satisfied we were as we walked back to the car. But a surprise awaited us: the owners of the last cottage beside the trail had not mown their lawn for a few weeks and some stems with white flowers poked through the growing grass near the road. On closer inspection, we found they were spikes of an orchid: Sphinx Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes incurva*) (formerly known as Nodding Ladies-tresses.) We bagged this find too, since we knew the owner would have the lawnmower out in no time. What a great end to a fabulous day of botanizing.

Evolution of the FBO Newsletter

W.D. McIlveen

In 1983, people involved in botanical pursuits in Ontario realized that there were many like-minded individuals about and that some sort of an organization was needed to facilitate contacts and the exchange information. As a consequence, 15 people met in the 'wilds of Mississauga' on March 26, 1983 to discuss how to get the organization going (Kaiser 1983). No name was mentioned to identify the group but the objectives were set out. This was effectively the first formal meeting of what would be known as the Field Botanists of Ontario. Although the FBO as we know it continued to develop, it was the Newsletter that came to dominate the activities of the organization in the earliest years.

The new newsletter was named "*The Plant Press*" and was edited by Jocelyn Webber with assistance from a number of others. Jocelyn continued in that capacity until 1986 with at least 15 issues produced. The first two volumes (4 issues each) specifically state on the cover that *The Plant Press* was the Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter (cover of this issue). This is the first mention of the FBO as an organization. From 1985 onward, *The Plant Press* was issued without any reference to the FBO as the sponsoring organization. The first field trip under the FBO banner was a gathering at Red Bay Lodge on the Bruce Peninsula on June 8-10, 1984 (Anonymous 1984).

While *The Plant Press* continued to be produced at irregular intervals until 1986, more-timely communication with members was required. We have no copies of the earliest communications with members but it is likely that occasional letters were sent out by the President Bob Hounsell for the first year or two until Doug Geddes took on that responsibility. Although those early notes were not given an issue number, the letter to members from Doug in March 1987 could be considered as the first issue of the current FBO Newsletter before Jane Bowles took over as editor. Thereafter, the issues took on the present numbering sequence.

Editor	Period
Jocelyn Webber	1983-1986
Doug Geddes	1984-1988
George Bryant	1988
Jane Bowles	1989-1994
Justus Benckhuysen	1995
Ed Morris	1996-2003
Leslie Collins	2004-2005
Sarah Pielt	2006
Cheryl Hendrickson	2007-2011
Julia Marko Dunn	2011-2012
Chris Zoladeski	2012-present

Over time, there were eleven people who acted as editors for the Newsletter. The length of their tenure varied considerably, as indicated in the attached table. Over time, the mode of production of the newsletters has changed as well: early versions,

before availability of computers, were hand-typed on a typewriter and photocopied. The appearance of the publication has changed dramatically too. First illustrations were simply line drawings taped in place when the original was copied. As new technology and word processing became available, the editors had the option of adding black and white photographs while most of the recent issues include colour photos.

On the occasion of the present inaugural issue, one additional topic merits mention and that is the name of the publication. Originally, the FBO Newsletter was titled *The Plant Press*. That publication continued for a period of time and operated quite independently of FBO. Until the last issue of 2020, the name established itself as the *Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter*. Recently, however, at a couple of times during 2020 and even earlier, suggestions were made that the publication should be given a more distinctive name, possibly through reactivation (and a slight modification) of the original name. These attempts were left unresolved as more-pressing (no pun intended) issues occupied the mind of the FBO Board and the rest of the organization. But, finally, early in 2021, the FBO decided that a variation of the old name should be applied. Thus, *Ontario Plant Press* was (re)born.

References

- Anonymous 1984. The Bruce Botany Weekend: First Gathering of Ontario Field Botanists is a Success. *The Plant Press* 2 (3) pp. 58-60.
- Kaiser, J. 1983. Germination of an Idea. *The Plant Press* 1 (1) pp. 3-4