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The Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter

Winter 2021 Volume 33 (4)



Saugeen Bruce
Peninsula

Fall botany in
Driftwood Provincial
Park

Waterloo Region
flora additions:
from A to F

Vintage, typewritten
FBO correspondence
from years past

First winner of the
Bill Crowley
Memorial Award
for Photography:
you are looking
at it!

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President's Message

Season's Greetings to our esteemed membership! Like the Ontario flora we all love so much, I hope you are all using this winter to rest and recharge in preparation for the spring to come.

I have enjoyed my last three years as part of the Field Trip Coordination team, and I am looking forward to my new responsibilities as President. Other Board changes include Dan Westerhof's term as Past President coming to an end, and Troy McMullin stepping into this role. We are very grateful for Dan's many years of service and wish him the best for the future. The role of Vice President is now filled by Pat Deacon, as Tristan Knight continues as Webmaster. Finally, we welcome Carl-Adam Wegenschimmel, Kasia Zgurzynski, and Corey Burt as Directors-at-Large.

At the recent AGM, we presented several awards. The inaugural Bill Crowley Memorial Award went to Don Campbell for his beautifully lit photo of a seedling of Eastern White Pine, Ontario's provincial tree. Tyler Miller, this year's Student Award winner, gave a fascinating presentation on the study of alvar flora on the Bruce Peninsula. Finally, the Goldie Award, recognizing lifetime contribution to bettering the knowledge and education of field botany was awarded to Anton Reznicek. We are very fortunate not only for Tony's many publications and herbaria curations, but also for the many trips he has lead for the FBO over the years.

Thank you to all our members for their continued support of the FBO; I look forward to sharing the trails with you all.

Happy Botanizing,

Gwyneth

On the cover: The Bill Crowley Memorial Award for Photography contest: White Pine seedling, the winning pic by Don Campbell. Congratulations, Don!

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

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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

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From the Editor

Copious amount of botanical information is contained in this last issue of our newsletter, enough to absorb and digest during winter months so that you remain taxonomically fit for that the first excursion next year! Judith Pelley neatly details all the plants observed on the Bruce Peninsula trip back in August, when the weather was warm, while Paul Sokoloff's account from a personal trip to Driftwood Park is from when things were definitely winding down in September of last year. But the truly heavy-caliber stuff is in the form of Pat Deacon's annotated additions to the Waterloo Region vascular flora; this is part one of his extensive list, with species from *Acer* to *Festuca*. For history buffs we are reprinting an old letter from Jocelyn Webber to Larry Lamb, from 1983, when the idea of an FBO newsletter was just taking shape. As Pat noticed, when he rediscovered this correspondence in his old files, the second paragraph will make you smile... Merry Christmass everyone!

Botanical discoveries on Saugeen Bruce Peninsula

21 August 2021

Judith Pelley



I am a new member with FBO, and had the pleasure of doing my first field trip with the organization to the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula (Mid Bruce) on August 21, 2021. Our field trip leader was Walter Muma, who has been going up to the Saugeen Peninsula for 47 years. Walter has a reputation for being well versed on the area, plus more! Walter is also responsible for the website Ontario Wildflowers (<https://www.ontariowildflowers.com/>) which I have used on more than one occasion for flower identification and it just so happened that Walter helped me identify some flowers on a recent post I posted on the FBO Facebook page with images from the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula. The group was also lucky to have Leanne Wallis join us, Leanne is the FBO's Treasurer and a very talented botanist in her own right, for me learning more about fungi too was such a bonus!

Covid 19 has been a weird blessing as it has forced me to stay in Ontario and see literally what is in my own backyard. My exposure to the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula is new and I have only visited it in the spring these past three years. 2021 has allowed me to visit five times so far, and as you can imagine the opportunity to explore yet another new area with an experienced leader was too good to pass up.

There were 16 people in total, it was interesting to see the group was divided almost equally into young and mature. All were impressive with their knowledge of plants and the area. We had a quick briefing in the parking lot to discuss what we would see, how the day would play out and finally how to manage the trail in the new Covid age. Walter had visited the trail the day before to scope it out and we were warned about the "guardians of forest" as we entered but, as Walter correctly predicted, we were left alone by the mosquitos 100 yards into the trail.

Half of the dozen plants we first encountered were either asters or goldenrods, which meant that in 15 minutes my head was spinning. It is easy to get overwhelmed but I figure if once a day you can learn a new plant and remember its name, you're having a good day, most importantly you're learning and I love to learn.

It took only 20 minutes into the walk and we came across our first orchid; we had travelled the path in single file, each person spaced apart. As Walter came down telling us why we were stopped and what we were about to see, the person next to me (Joan) and myself took a step back to give Walter more space to pass. It was then I heard a noise (I actually said "what is that noise?" in my head) and I was just about to say it out loud when Walter stopped and, too his delight and mine, informed us that behind us was a Massasauga. I am not a snake person, but this rare and threatened rattlesnake was stunning and I feel very lucky to have seen one.

The field trip did not disappoint in the botany department by any means, we saw so much. I am getting a greater appreciation how a subtle difference can mean a different species in the same family, so I must learn not



Northern Green Orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis*).
Photo: J. Pelley.



Smaller Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis virgata*).
Photo: J. Pelley.

to assume. It is easy to appreciate the red brilliance of a Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), but each time I go out I am so grateful I stopped to look at the little ones, you know the little ones you need to get on your knee to see. Such magic! Again, thank you Walter for showing me more!

I was delighted to have the opportunity to see and learn about new plants. A few I had never seen before: Eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp.), Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*), Pinesap (*Monotropa hypopitys*), and Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*), and of course one cannot go the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula and not



The always beautiful Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Photo: J. Pelley.

find an orchid. Saw my first green one, the Northern Green Orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis*), and the beautiful Hooded Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) which I found to have the smell of almonds. Some in the group thought Cat Pee, ha-ha. One new flower in particular took my breath away, the Smaller Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis virgata*). I thought there was something wrong with my camera when I went to take a photograph, the centre is square, wait what? Such magic! Thank you, Emma who found it, one of the young talents in the group from Alberta. We did not travel a great distance during our field trip just over 8,000 steps, but our adventure into the Mid Saugeen Bruce Peninsula took us 4 hours. Walter made one last stop on route back to our cars – he showed us where Mistassini Primroses (*Primula mistassinica*) will flower next Spring. Personally, I have started the countdown.

I am so grateful to have joined this group with the opportunity to learn and meet people who get excited over a plant like I do, not just the plants but the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula area. I must be honest, when we were back at our cars getting ready to leave, I just wanted to push Walter into my trunk and have him take me on another adventure.

To the wonderful flowers I saw that day, have a good sleep this winter, I look forward to saying hello to you again next year! ❄️

Title box digital painting of White Camas (*Anticlea elegans*) based on original photo by J. Pelley.

List of Plants on Walk:

PARKING LOT

Bladder Campion (*Silene vulgaris*)
Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
Shrubby Cinquefoil – (*Dasiphora fruticosa*)
Smooth Aster – (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)
Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus albus*)
Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*)

FOREST TRAIL

Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*)
Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
Canadian Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Common Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)
Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*)
Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*)
Dwarf Canadian Primrose (*Primula mistassinica*)
Eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp.)
Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*)
Flat-topped White Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*)
Fringed Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum ciliolatum*)
Ghost Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)
Glaucous White Rattlesnake-root (*Nabalus racemosus*)
Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*)
Green-leaved Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)
Hairy Goldenrod (*Solidago hispida*)
Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) (an introduced orchid)
Hooded Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*)
Kalm's Lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*)
Large-leaved Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
Northern Green Orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis*)
Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
Pinesap (*Monotropa hypopitys*)
Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*)
Purple Stem Aster (*Symphyotrichum puniceum*)
Roundleaf Ragwort (*Packera obovata*)
Round-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*)

Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila*)
Scouring Rush (*Equisetum hyemale*)
Shining Flatsedge (*Cyperus bipartitus*)
Smaller Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis virgata*)
Spurred Gentian (*Halenia deflexa*)
Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*)
Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
White Camas (*Anticlea elegans*)
Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*)
Witch's Hat (*Hygrocybe conica*) (a mushroom)
Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

DAMP LAND

Black Bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)
Marsh Vetchling (*Lathyrus palustris*)
Purple-stemmed Aster (*Symphyotrichum puniceum*)
Green-leaved Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*)
Slender Gerardia (*Agalinis tenuifolia*)
Star Gentian (*Swertia perennis*)
Starflower *Lysimachia borealis*)
Sticky Tofieldia (*Triantha glutinosa*)
Stiff Yellow Flax (*Linum medium*)
Sweet Grass (*Anthoxanthum hirtum*)
Tall Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*)
Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
Water Speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*)
White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

A fast fall foray through Driftwood Provincial Park

Paul Sokoloff

Though I have driven past it many times before, often on the way into North Bay or Algonquin Park, I had never actually stopped by Driftwood Provincial Park until last fall. Along the southern shore of the Ottawa River, and a bit north of Deep River along Highway 17, my husband and I made the drive up in September 2020 for an overnight getaway. We both needed a quick city escape, and I was keen to find some dark skies for a bit of astrophotography. Once we had checked in and set up camp, there were a few hours of daylight left, which gave us just enough time for a quick botanical loop along the park's trail system.

Just west of the park campground, the "Chevrier's Creek" loop took us a vegetated relict dune that runs parallel to the river, which forms a backdrop for the campground and gently slopes towards the namesake creek to the

west. The forest along the top of the ridges is primarily White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Jack Pine (*P. banksiana*), though I could spot lots of yellowing Largetooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*) leaves littering the forest floor. The regular spacing and even height of the conifers here indicate that much of this forest was planted – this park was set aside for reforestation after a fire tore through the area in the 1930s (Government of Ontario, 2000).

As we sped along the trail (well, when has a botanist ever sped through a hike), we encountered many familiar boreal plants: Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), Cucumber Root Root (*Medeola virginiana*), Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), and the ericaceous usual suspects of Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), and Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*).



Silvery reindeer lichens (*Cladonia*) on the forest floor and shield lichens (*Parmelia*) on tree trunks stood out in the muted greens and yellows of a fruiting Stemless Ladyslipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) and a few rosettes of Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera tessellata*).



Gaultheria procumbens. Photo: P. Sokoloff.

branched Tree-Clubmosses (*Dendrolycopodium dendroideum*). Though it's hard to botanize at night, fortunately the clear, moonless night was perfect for stargazing, including photographing the constellation Cygnus before it set for another winter.



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi. Photo: P. Sokoloff.

We broke camp early the next morning to head home, but I can't wait for my next trip to Driftwood. The quiet trails and easy access make it a great place for a quick botanical wander through a regenerating boreal forest.

Reference

Government of Ontario, 2000. Driftwood Provincial Park Management Plan. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/driftwood-provincial-park-management-plan> [accessed February 22, 2021].

Recent Additions to the Vascular Flora of Waterloo Region

Part 1

Pat Deacon

The most current vascular plant list for Waterloo Region is presented in the *Distribution and Status of the Vascular Plants of Central Region* (Riley 1989).

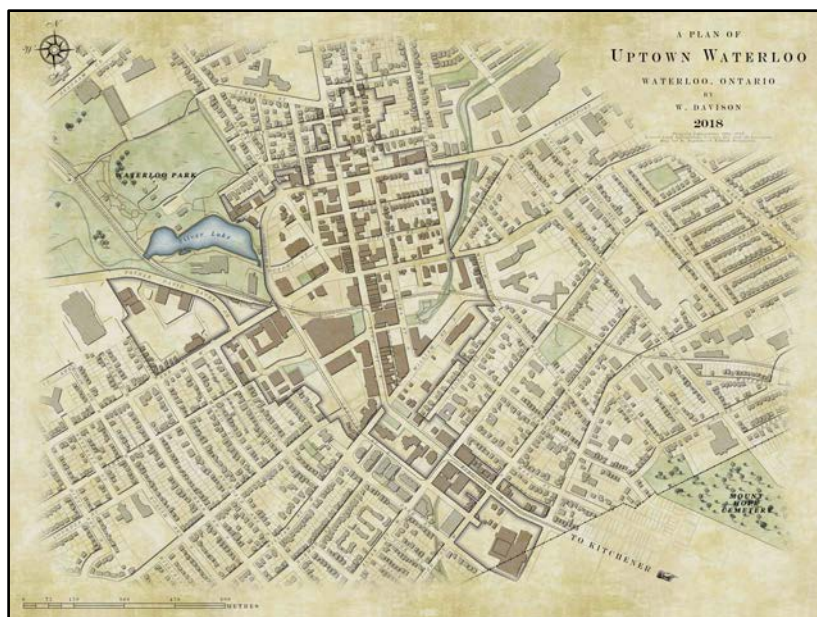
The 1989 list built upon *A Preliminary Annotated List of the Plants of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Region* (Campbell & Lamb 1984) and also referenced collection notes from Donald Sutherland as a major source. The 1989 list includes 1,358 “ticks” for species, varieties, and hybrids. Draft county lists were prepared by Mike Oldham in June 1997 and March 1999 during the review of the Region’s significant vascular plant list, but these lists were used for discussion purposes only and were not published.

The 1984 list had incorporated information compiled by Fred Montgomery, namely his thesis *A Botanical Survey of Waterloo County* (Montgomery 1944) and subsequent publications in the *Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute* (Montgomery 1945) and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (Montgomery 1948). Montgomery refers extensively to collections made by William Herriot who botanized Galt and North Dumfries Township throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s. Herriot authored a number of articles in the *Ontario Natural Science Bulletin* that summarized groups such as Cyperaceae, Poaceae and Orchidaceae in the vicinity of Galt. In addition to these sources, the 1984 list drew from information compiled in *Pteridophytes of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Ontario* (Campbell & Britton 1977).

In 1986, the Region of Waterloo adopted a list of significant native vascular plant species which was updated in the late 1990s through a review of more than 1000 native plant species conducted by local and provincial experts. This list was finalized in 1999 (Richardson & Martin 1999). The 1999 list did result in the addition of species not identified in the 1989 list (e.g., *Dryopteris filix-mas*). As such, many botanists today rely on an aggregation of the 1989 and 1999 lists to form our current understanding of the Region’s flora. During discussions leading up to the finalization to the 1999 significant species list, a few species included in the 1989 list were flagged with questions pertaining to the basis for their inclusion.

With the encouragement of Larry Lamb, Graham Buck and Charles Cecile, I have started to keep track of new species for the Region. I maintain a spreadsheet that includes columns for both the 1989 and 1999 lists as well as other information sources. The Waterloo Region Archives now houses numerous boxes of notebooks donated by Craig Campbell which I started reviewing in 2018 (there are a lot to go through!).

The following list of species has been compiled from a few resources including a review of collections from Royal Botanical Gardens (HAM), collection and sight records provided by Mike Oldham, correspondence with local naturalists including Will Van Hemessen, Graham Buck and Charles Cecile, and review of the current iNaturalist data set. In addition to HAM, the collections referred to in this list are deposited at other herbaria including BABY, CAN, DAO, MICH, NHIC, OAC, TRT, TRTE and WAT (many WAT collections were transferred to MT).



A Plan of Uptown Waterloo, Ontario (2018). Courtesy Warren Davison.

After joining iNaturalist in 2016, I began to wonder how to glean data from the thousands of local plant observations made by the many skilled naturalists that submit observations. I started by exporting a spreadsheet of all vascular plant observations, up to December 31, 2020, within Waterloo Region. As of the end of 2020, a total of 31,663 observations of vascular plants, comprising more than 1,000 species had been uploaded. This spreadsheet was then compared with the existing 1989 and 1999 lists to remove duplicates (species already known to occur in the Region). With the species that remained in the spreadsheet, I manually reviewed each one, checking one or more observations for a given species. Observations that were cultivated or lacked photographs of distinguishing features were omitted. Observations that I felt could be verified with some degree of certainty were included. For a small number of observations I felt that the identification was likely correct, but I could not be certain and have made notes to follow up on these. Revisions to taxonomy presented a challenge in comparing the iNaturalist data set with the master list which is ever-changing to keep it up-to-date.

For the sake of brevity, observers who have contributed numerous observations have been listed by initials: Paul Abell (PA), Graham Buck (GB), Pat Deacon (PD), Andrew Dean (AD), Gwyn Govers (GG), Virgil Martin (VM), Andrew Minielly (AM), Mike Oldham (MJO), Will Van Hemessen (WDV). Others are identified by their full name or their iNaturalist username (e.g., "veenita"). Where an observation is posted on iNaturalist, the observer's name is underlined. Where a collection was made, the collector and collection number are listed as is the herbarium where the specimen is deposited. The remainder are sight records and are not denoted in any way.

One source of information that has not been fully explored is the catalogue of voucher specimens available at herbaria. It is possible that some of the species I list below have been previously documented in the Region and I hope to cross-reference with these collections in time.

It appears that many recent observations are not documented with a voucher specimen. As these play an important role in legitimizing a county flora, I hope to improve on collecting and visiting some of the publicly accessible sites. I would like to organize a winter meeting on a regular basis, to share knowledge in person and perhaps do a "show and tell" for observations made in the Region that year (including showing off vouchers!). Where no voucher is indicated in the list below, I am assuming one has not been collected as of yet.

The list presented here includes 94 species (including 4 sub-species) and 12 hybrids. Of this total, 41 are considered native to Ontario and 65 are considered introduced. Three provincially rare species, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (S3), *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (S3?) and *Muhlenbergia sylvatica* (S2?) are included in the list; these species are indicated in **bold font**. Species considered exotic or introduced and non-native to Ontario, as per the plant list maintained by the Natural Heritage Information Centre (MNR 2021), are indicated in **blue font**. A number of species that are common garden weeds or escapes have been summarized in Table 1 at the end of the list. Any comments on the list presented here are most welcome (please send them to: pat.deacon@gmail.com).

A number of the newly documented native species, many of which are reported from a single location, warrant consideration as being significant in Waterloo Region. As of March 2021, Region staff are in the early stages of updating the 1999 Significant Vascular Plant List.

I would like to thank both Larry Lamb and Graham Buck for sparking my interest in the flora of Waterloo Region and to Mike Oldham and Will Van Hemessen for their review of a draft version of this list.

- *Acer x freemanii* – Freeman's Maple
Common and widespread in lowland areas. The hybrid of *A. rubrum* and *A. saccharinum*.
- *Actaea x ludovici* – Hybrid Baneberry
First reported in 2017 in Steckle Woods, near Bleams Road, in rolling *Acer saccharum*-*Fagus grandifolia* forest (PD) but likely overlooked or unreported prior to that. Doon Pinnacle Hill (Wayne Buck). Sudden Tract (GG) (WDV). The hybrid of *A. pachypoda* and *A. rubra*.

- *Agrostis stolonifera* – Creeping Bentgrass
Bank of Speed River at Highway 401 (WDV). Rare Charitable Research Reserve (Rare CRR), Cliffs and Alvars Trail, meadow behind slit barn (WDV). Sandy prairie openings north of Brant-Waterloo Road (WDV). This species had been penciled in on two hard copy lists kept by Larry Lamb and is likely widespread and overlooked in the Region. Dore & McNeill (1980) map this species from the northern extent of Brant County and the City of Hamilton, adjacent to the southern extent of Waterloo Region.
- *Alopecurus pratensis* – Meadow Foxtail
Along the Nith River in Ayr in 1997; disturbed floodplain (Mike Oldham 19772 - DAO). Dore & McNeill (1980) map this species from several locations in the vicinity of Hamilton including Flamborough, to the southeast of Waterloo Region.
- *Angelica sylvestris* – Woodland Angelica
Along the banks of the Speed River (including Riverbank Park) between Highway 401 and the Grand River in Preston and near the border of Brant County along the Grand. A recent and still relatively uncommon introduction found in southern and eastern Ontario; all iNaturalist observations within Waterloo Region are 2018 or later. It can be confused with *A. atropurpurea*, especially vegetative plants.
- *Anthriscus sylvestris* – Wild Chervil
Dense stands along Highway 8 right of way, south of Petersburg (WDV) (AM) suggest that the species was present for a number of years prior to the first observation in 2017. Waterloo Park, along Laurel Creek in western portion of park (Hashveenah Manoharan) (Siobhan Mullaly) (Payton Landsborough).
- *Antennaria howellii* ssp. *canadensis* – Canada Pussytoes
First observed in 2020 near Baden, Gibney Tract Regional Forest, road cut embankment on Sandhills Road (WDV).
- *Antennaria howellii* ssp. *neodioica* – Northern Pussytoes
Observed in 2020 at Sudden Tract, Beke Road trailhead on well-drained slope (WDV). Cedar Creek Cemetery, vegetative plants growing in dry mowed area (PD).
- *Arabidopsis thaliana* – Mouse-ear Cress
Highway 401, west-bound, 1.5km E of Highway 97 exit, disturbed weedy dry slope on north side of highway (Mike Oldham 19791 - WAT, TRTE). First observed in 1997 but likely present along other roadsides or disturbed areas.
- *Brachyelytrum aristosum* – Northern Shorthusk
Townline Regional Forest in 2019, rolling upland forest (PD). Sudden Tract, Sandy oak-pine woodland (WDV). Dore & McNeill (1980) include *B. erectum* var. *erectum* and *B. erectum* var. *glabratum*, the latter of which is currently known as *B. aristosum* and is shown from the vicinity of Paris. Saarela et al. (2003) identify *B. aristosum* from the vicinity of Paris (potentially the same collection as referenced in Dore & McNeill).
- *Bromus erectus* – Upright Brome
Along the Nith River in Ayr in 1997. About 10 clumps in disturbed old field area on floodplain (Mike Oldham 19771 - WAT, DAO, NHIC). Dore & McNeill (1980) noted only four records in Ontario, two of which were from Wellington County.
- *Carex crinita* – Fringed Sedge
Sudden Tract in an organic deciduous swamp (PD) (WDV). Rare CRR, open area in *Betula alleghaniensis* organic deciduous swamp (Meagan Rowcliffe). Kossuth Bog (GB). Petersburg Crown land (AM). Spongy Lake (GG). Baden, wet area beneath powerline near Spongy Lake (PD). Widespread and usually present in good numbers in the marshes and swamps where it occurs, this species has been overlooked to date.

- *Carex laxiculmis* var. *copulata* – Bright-green Spreading Sedge
Along the Nith River south of Haysville in 1997, "F.H. Montgomery Nature Reserve", rich floodplain woods (Mike Oldham 19778 - MICH, TRTE, WAT, OAC) ([Pat Deacon 33 - OAC](#)). *C. laxiculmis* var. *laxiculmis*, a species of dry slopes as opposed to rich floodplains, is considered rare in the Region (Riley 1989, Richardson & Martin 1999).
- *Carex muricata* – Lesser Prickly Sedge
Collected in 1987 along west side of Grand River, City of Cambridge, edge of disturbed woods, rare (Mike Oldham 7447 - MICH, NHIC). An introduced species that resembles *Carex spicata*.
- *Carex pallescens* – Pale Sedge
Breslau, a few plants in rolling *Acer saccharum* forest ([PD](#)). Galt, east edge of town, beside trail in conifer plantation ([PD](#)) ([AD](#)). Although both stations were documented in 2019, this species was likely overlooked due to its rarity in the Region.
- *Carex pellita* – Woolly Sedge
First reported at Schneider's Bush in 2018 ([Ross Dickson](#)). Bridgeport, moist riverbank & gravelly soil at edge of floodplain wetland. ([Pat Deacon 66 - OAC](#)) ([AM](#)). Woolwich Reservoir ([AM](#)).
- *Carex sylvatica* – European Woodland Sedge
Observed at Bridgeport in 2020, growing in a cultural habitat (roadside, in a tiny swale in between two wooded sandy slopes) ([Corey Burt](#)). An introduced and somewhat uncommon species in southern Ontario and likely a recent arrival to the Region.
- *Carex tenera* – Tender Sedge
Observed in a disturbed floodplain along the Nith River in Ayr in 1997 (MJO). F.W.R. Dickson Wilderness Area ([WDV](#)). Belonging to the Ovaes section, this species is not easily identified and may be overlooked.
- *Carex vesicaria* – Inflated Sedge
Only two iNaturalist observations, the first in 2019 in Cambridge at the edge of a marsh ([Jenn Dyson](#)) and Bridgeport in 2020 in a swamp adjacent to trails near Shirley Avenue and River Road ([AM](#)).
- *Centaurea x moncktonii* – Hybrid Knapweed
Occasional in dry disturbed areas including old fields and along rail lines. Some reported observations of other knapweed species are likely this hybrid. The hybrid of *C. jacea* and *C. nigra*.
- *Centaureum pulchellum* – Branching Centaury
University of Waterloo campus in 1989, south parking lot, edges of lawn around parking lot, rare and local (Mike Oldham 10271b - DAO, MICH, WAT); observed nearby in 2019 ([Xiaoyi Jiang](#)). Freeport, shoulder of Riverbank Road ([PD](#)). Huron Natural Area ([Jeremy Bannon](#)). This species is spreading in southern Ontario and prefers saline sites (MNR 2021).
- *Cerastium pumilum* – Dwarf Mouse-ear Chickweed
Cambridge in 2011, Highway 24, south of Highway 401, weedy roadside at Tim Hortons (Mike Oldham & Sam Brinker 38608 - CAN, TRT).
- *Cerastium semidecandrum* – Five-stamen Chickweed
Highway 401 in 1997, 1.5km east of Highway 97 exit, disturbed weedy dry slope on north side of highway (Mike Oldham 19789 - TRTE).
- *Chenopodium berlandieri* - Goosefoot
Collected at Woolwich Reservoir Conservation Area in 1998 on exposed mud of reservoir at low water

(Mike Oldham & Virgil Martin 21434 - MICH, SDSU). This collection was not identified to variety but is likely var. *zschackei* which is apparently native to intact Bur Oak savanna communities in northwestern Ontario, but grows in disturbed sites in southern Ontario (Oldham pers. comm. 2021). As this occurrence was likely introduced by migratory waterfowl, it has been treated as a native species here.

- *Cyperus fuscus* – Brown Flatsedge

Hespeler Mill Pond in 2019, growing on periodically inundated concrete step below dam ([Pat Deacon 52 - OAC](#)). This species was first observed in Ontario in Niagara in 1970 and is becoming more widespread through the Golden Horseshoe and eastern Ontario (MNRF 2021).

- *Danthonia compressa* – Flattened Oatgrass

F.W.R. Dickson Wilderness Area in 2019, oak woods ([WDV](#)). Breithaupt Park, deciduous forest ([Payton Landsborough](#)). Dore & McNeill (1980) noted records for this species in Niagara and eastern Ontario. It is also known from Haldimand-Norfolk (Oldham 2017) but is seemingly still rare in southern Ontario despite additional recent records.

- *Draba verna* – Spring Draba

Highway 401, ca. 1.5km NE of Waterloo Road 97 interchange (#268), dense patch on roadside bank on N side of Highway 401 (Mike Oldham 18407 - MICH, TRTE, WAT). Abandoned GWR rail line on sandy soil, Galt, near Churchill Park ([PD](#)). Rare CRR, edge of rail trail ([PD](#)). Roadside, near intersection of Alps Road and Shouldice Side Road ([WDV](#)).

- *Dryopteris intermedia* x *D. marginalis* – Hybrid Wood-fern

Waterloo, Schneider's Woods, single plant observed in sandy plantation (MO & VM).

- *Dyssodia papposa* – Fetid Dogweed

Has only been documented once in 2011 along Highway 401 near Roseville ([MQ](#)). Likely occurs along other sections of highway in Waterloo Region.

- *Elaeagnus umbellata* – Autumn Olive

Occasional from Wellesley to Branchton, usually on well-drained sites. Soper and Heimbürger (1982) do not include *E. umbellata* but do make mention of *E. angustifolia* as being planted and hardy in Ontario. While the latter species is present on some MTO properties (Highway 85 off ramp at University Avenue), it has not spread beyond these areas. Presumably this species arrived in Waterloo Region by wildlife dispersal of seeds from stock that was planted further south in the 1960s and 1970s (Catling et al. 1997).

- *Eragrostis frankii* – Sandbar Lovegrass

New Hamburg, along railway tracks in 1993 (Mike Oldham & Jane Bowles 15682 - WAT, DAO). Dore & McNeill (1980) considered the species introduced and somewhat rare, the nearest occurrences to Waterloo being in Elgin County and the City of Hamilton. In recent years additional records have been identified, including in natural habitats, and the species is now known to be more widespread and considered native to Ontario (MNRF 2021).

- *Erodium cicutarium* ssp. *cuticularium* – Common Storksbill

Collected in Ayr in a parking lot along the Nith River in 1997 (Mike Oldham MJO 19766 - TRTE). Wellesley, edge of sidewalk ([PA](#)), Galt, edge of Cedar Street in disturbed lawn ([WDV](#)), Hespeler, edge of Sheldon Drive ([Luke Owens](#)). Riverside Park ([Julie Reid](#)). This species was penciled-in on a hard copy of the 1984 list but a location was not specified (Larry Lamb).

- *Festuca saximontana* – Rocky Mountain Fescue

Rare CRR on bank of Grand River near Cliffs and Alvars Trail in 2016 ([WDV](#)). Dore & McNeill (1980) noted the species from the Lake Huron shoreline and Wasaga Beach where it inhabits dunes and shores, but state that it does occur inland "in dry, open forests, rock outcrops, and open sandy sites".

... TO BE CONTINUED AS PART 2 IN A FUTURE ISSUE

3120 Kivrin Ave., # 408,
Mississauga, Ontario
L5A 3R2
Feb. 10, 1983

Update on the Jan. 21 letter to botanists:

There has been overwhelming response to the idea of some form of communication between field botanists. Those who have had input to date have been very concerned with the great difficulty in establishing "qualifying criteria" (a conference on certification of biologists was held at the University of Guelph on Feb. 5, 1983); some were concerned that alienation could result. Not everyone planted considers themselves a "qualified field botanist" in the area of vascular plant identification. It was pointed out that some botanists who might be interested in subscribing to a newsletter may be highly qualified in areas other than plant identification. It was also noted that an "inventory" without comment about the regional significance or sensitivity to an planning considerations is less valuable for environmental assessment than "just a list". Within any list of those capable of doing thorough inventories there is a broad spectrum of expertise, with comparatively few experts capable of making statements of significance over a broad geographic area. It would be undesirable to have hearing boards consider all those interested in field botany as equal in expertise. To date, all to whom I have spoken have agreed that we want to avoid having every environmental consultant in Ontario hoping to add another membership to his or her resume for credibility - we want to circulate a newsletter to those interested in field botany.

A notable feature of botanists in Ontario is, aside from some healthy competition, a lack of rivalry compared to other disciplines. In order to avoid alienation and be an effective force for all the right reasons, I propose that we get the ball rolling by offering a quarterly newsletter to all botanists who are primarily interested in the plant identification/ecological interpretation side of field botany. A quarterly newsletter - March, June, September and December will be available. A committee of those interested at Erindale College (for convenience) will be established to organize the production and circulation of this letter until any other arrangements are made. Hopefully we can get some regional contacts from Southwestern Ontario (Rose Klittenberg?), Central Ontario (K. Lindsay?), Eastern Ontario (D. Cuddy and/or D. Brunton?), northern Ontario (J. Jeglum and/or S. Walshe?). Please volunteer.

The format of the newsletter will be informal. Personal notes on adventures, achievements, botanical discoveries (items which may not be worth a short note in journals like the Ontario Field Biologist) etc. will be included when submitted. The newsletter will include an annual directory with the names, addresses and phone numbers of all who subscribe (please add your special interests - such as certain taxonomic groups, photography, taxonomic and/or ecological research interests, geographic area of familiarity, etc., so that a couple of lines about this can be included). This will enable fast communication for conservation issues which may be brought to our attention by the Canadian Botanical Association (C.B.A.), the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (F.O.N.), University of Toronto Conservation Group, or other groups.

The newsletter could notify botanists who do not receive the C.B.A. bulletin of C.B.A. policies and submissions of interest to field botanists. Diane Fahselt has kindly agreed to be our advisor on activities of the C.B.A. Titles of articles in the recent literature could be listed if they are of particular interest to Ontario field botanists. Titles of botanical inventories and surveys done for the government and consulting firms could be included in the newsletter before they get buried or forgotten. Individuals could write short notes on their progress on floristic work in certain counties, districts, parks, etc. Those doing taxonomic or floristic research could advertise that they are interested in obtaining specimens of certain taxa from specific areas of Ontario. Hopefully all would benefit from obtaining useful information. Brief lists of changes in species names could be included so that inventories and reports use the 'correct names'.

The following is a list of topics from individuals which would be particularly welcome for the first newsletter:

- D. Fahselt - comments on the role of the C.B.A. w.r.t. conservation of botanical resources in Ontario
- G.W. Argus and/or C. Keady - update on the progress of the Atlas of Rare Plants of Ontario, including a list of which specialists are doing maps for which families or genera.
- R. Hanna - news of environmental assessments of wetlands
- D. Hoy - the Ajax prairie project
- J. Riley - progress on the checklist of plants of northern Ontario
 - a note on what the "peat expert" is doing with the Geological Survey
- R. Klittenberg - progress in the inventory programme of M.N.R. Southwestern Region
- K. Lindsay and/or Don Cuddy - progress of M.N.R. work w.r.t. plants
- P. Catling - nomenclatural update for species lists
- D. and J. Gunn - news of photography of lilies and/or adventures in Ontario
- V. Brownell - progress of Parks Canada programme - what is going on?
- E. & E. Skelton - interesting botanical finds in Haliburton
- S. Yarga - comments on contravertial environmental issues
- T. Beechey - update on ANSI's
- A.A. Reznicek - progress on the Simcoe County flora (we'll take anything from Tony)
- S. Reznicek - where can we see more of your botanical illustrations?
- R. Bobette - progress on the Simcoe County flora - what else have you been up to?
- D. McLeod - what have you found recently?
- E. Whiting - when will the Orchids of Ontario be available?
- P. Keady - where can we find useful articles about the transplanting controversy and island biogeography?
- Wm. Catley - new discoveries in the Orillia area
- P. Maycock - report from Poland
- Particular thanks to the following individuals who have contributed ideas to date: P.W. Ball, W. Botham, T. Beechey, C. Campbell, P. Catling, Wm. Catley, to Wm. Crins, J. Dougan, D. Fahselt, S. Gray, D. Gregory, R. Hanna, J. Katsner, R. & B. Klittenberg, K. Lindsay, J. Riley, M. Sharp, Wm. Stewart and E. Whiting. One very interesting suggestion is that we consider forming a botanical club similar to the Michigan Botanical Club. This, and the prospect of an annual gathering, could be further discussed when we eventually get rolling. Another interesting suggestion is that we begin a network of county recorders, like Great Britain. County recorders could be responsible for getting new plant records verified by experts and, hopefully, be consulted about environmental assessments in their areas.
- Any ideas for a name for this newsletter would be most welcome. A number of individuals feel that it should include the words "Ontario" and "field botanist". Please send suggestions or comments. As a bank account for cheques received for the newsletter should be established, I've democratically come up with the name "Ontario Field Botanists' Newsletter". Cheques for \$10.00 (an amount discussed by several individuals) for a year's subscription (those in pairs save a bit here), address, interests (to be included in a forthcoming newsletter), plus any further ideas or comments (confidential only if indicated - we need some information for the newsletter), should be sent to the address at the top of this letter (cheques payable to "Ontario Field Botanists' Newsletter" - receipts will be issued to all).
- A financial statement will be included in the December newsletter.

Hope to hear from you

Jocelyn Webber

Additional names (accumulated since the Jan. 21 letter): J. Ambrose, A. Anderson, G.W. Argus, I.J. Bassett, Z.D. Bezdek, J.R. Brown, J. Carne, C.W. Crompton, H.L. Dickson, M.E. Dyer, J. Goltz, J. Gould, D. & J. Gunn, R. Hainault, J. Hodgins, D. Langendoen, I. Liefins, J. McNeill, G. Michener, M. Moore, B. Morsink, G.A. Mulligan, P. Peach, W. Petrie, D. Ropke, D.B.O. Saville, J. Semple, J. Sparling, G. Waldron, F. Westman, G. Yaki.

From FBO antiquities treasure trove: the founders' correspondence from 1983,
between Jocelyn Webber and Larry Lamb.