

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

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NEWSLETTER

Winter 1995
Volume 8(4)

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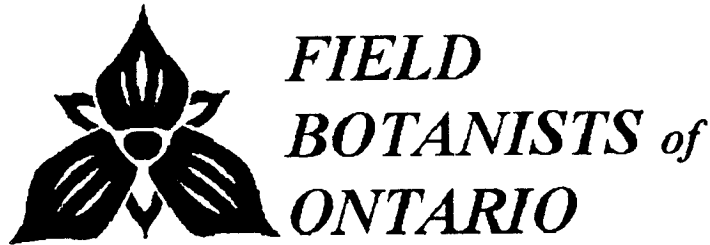
FIELD TRIP TO GRAND RIVER FLOODPLAINS AND VALLEY RIMS

The first FBO field trip for 1996 will be on Sunday, May 19. A registration form is in this issue.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE
A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER**

Ontario Tree Atlas Project

The Ontario Tree Atlas Project needs your help !! There are many vacancies in the position of Regional Co-ordinator. For more information about being a volunteer phone (519) 824-4120 x3615 or email - rguthrie@uoguelph.ca or awatson@uoguelph.ca



NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly by the Field Botanists of Ontario
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.

President:	Claudia Schaefer 16 James St. W., Apt. 202, GUELPH, Ontario N1G 1E2 Telephone: (519)-837-8206
Treasurer:	Ilmar Talvila 12 Cranleigh Crt., ETOBICOKE, Ontario M9A 3Y3 Telephone: (416)-231-1752
Vice-President:	Carole Ann Lacroix (519)-824-3807
Secretary:	Heather Mackey (416)-465-1324
Past President:	Bob Bowles (705)-325-3149
Membership:	Bill and Irene McIveen (519)-853-3948
Field Trips:	Wasył Bakowsky (705)-745-3680
Editor:	Justus Benckhuysen 16 Tecumseh St. # 21, HAMILTON, Ontario L8R 2J4 Telephone: (905)-524-0130
Co-Editor	Madeline Austen (519)-856-2089
Associate Editors:	Michael Oldham (705)-741-3236 Jeff Warren (416)-267-4803

ILLUSTRATIONS:The illustrations in this issue are by Bob Bowles, Irene McIveen, and Jane Bowles. The cover drawing is Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and was drawn by Bob Bowles.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (1994-1995)

The biggest changes in the FBO this year were related to the members of the Board of Directors. There are 10 members on the Board, including the immediate Past-president and the four officers of the club. Claudia Schaefer and Heather Mackey replaced Bill Crins and Mary Gartshore as new board members at the beginning of the year. Claudia Schaefer replaced Vicki Young as secretary and Vicki was appointed Vice-president. Jane Bowles asked to be replaced as newsletter editor, a position she had held for six years, but agreed to remain until a replacement could be found. Jane did an excellent job as newsletter editor and we owe her a great deal of gratitude for a job well done.

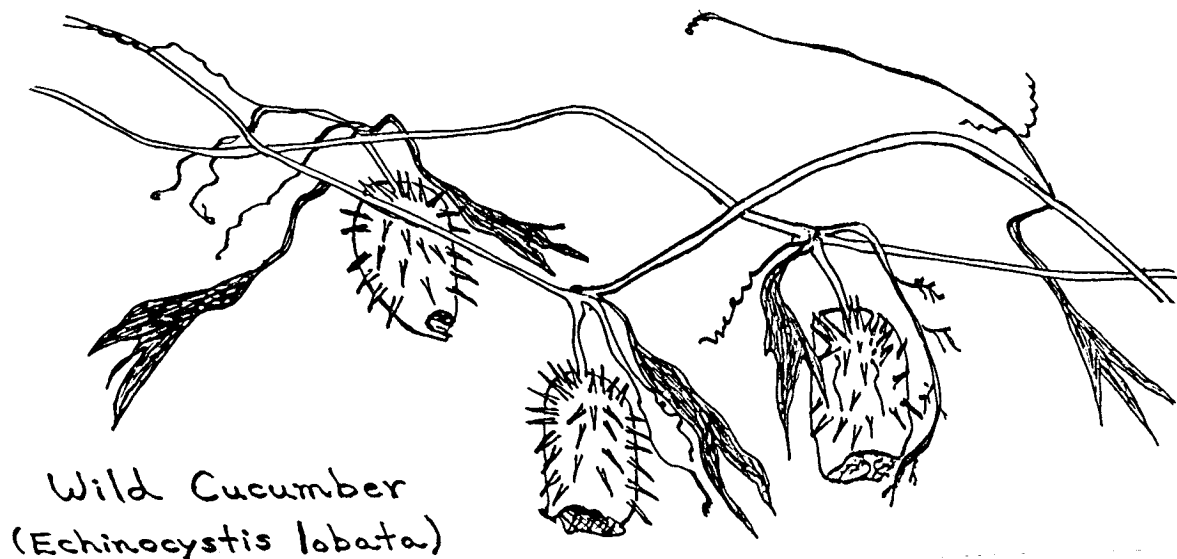
It seemed that we were off to a great start but by October we had two more vacancies on the Board. Vicki Young decided to move out west with her family, so she resigned from the Board. Dale Hoy felt that with career changes and other commitments she should step down as a director. Claudia Schaefer replaced Vicki Young as Vice-president and agreed to organize the 1995 A.G.M. at Pinery Provincial Park.

We now had 3 vacancies on the Board, but with the excellent assistance of George Bryant, these positions were filled before the board meeting on January 15, 1995. Justus Benckhuysen replaced Jane Bowles as newsletter editor. Heather Mackey replaced Claudia as secretary, and Carole Ann Lacroix and Madeline Austen filled the remaining vacancies. Carole Ann and Madeline agreed to assist Justus with the newsletter. There were no further changes to the Board of Directors in 1995.

Once again, Irene McIlveen did an excellent job with the field events and Bill McIlveen completed another year doing splendid work as membership chairman. Ilmar Talvila looked after our finances again this year in a most professional manner.

I would like to thank everyone for their help this year. After 5 years on the Board, I am looking forward to a vacation. I would like to congratulate Claudia on becoming President of our organization. Of all the organizations and clubs that I am involved with, I think that the FBO is one of the best.

Bob Bowles



FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

Revenue and Expense Statement

January 1 to December 31, 1995

	1995	1994
Bank Balance Beginning	4,854.39	4,908.79
REVENUE		
Memberships	1,948.00	2,111.50
Field trips	3,101.00	2,309.00
A.G.M.	226.00	541.00
Donations	75.00	381.00
Bank Interest	11.02	12.13
U.S. exchange	48.98	27.77
	<u>5,410.00</u>	<u>5,382.40</u>
	10,264.39	10,291.19
EXPENSE		
Field Trips	832.15	816.45
Honorariums	1,475.00	1,050.00
A.G.M.	231.39	525.00
Newsletter	1,343.39	2,200.00
Publications	-----	13.34
President	172.86	191.14
Past president	-----	121.81
Membership	46.99	23.22
Treasurer	-----	31.24
Secretary	6.90	-----
F.O.N. membership	100.00	100.00
C.N.F. membership	35.00	-----
Filing Fees	25.00	50.00
Trip Insurance	340.00	308.00
Bank charges	10.90	6.60
	<u>4,619.58</u>	<u>5,436.80</u>
Bank Balance End	5,644.81	4,854.39

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PINERY PROVINCIAL PARK, GRAND BEND, ONTARIO

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Bowles; 25 members were in attendance.

Approval of the minutes of the 1994 Annual General Meeting. Moved by John Tiedje and seconded by Dorothy Edwards. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Carole Ann Lacroix presented the statement of Revenue and Expenses prepared by Ilmar Talvila. An increase of \$2,250 was forecasted for the end of 1995; thus, the finances are in good condition.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Bill McIlveen reported that the membership numbers are similar to 1994, with a net reduction of 7 members. The total membership is 261 consisting of 201 individual, 52 family, 3 life and 5 complimentary memberships.

Field Trips: Irene McIlveen reported that the 1995 field trips were well attended. Room was still available on the Nottawasaga and Winter Tree Identification field trips. Irene encouraged members to contact her with suggestions for field trips in 1996.

President's Report: Bob Bowles presented his annual report highlighting the changes that had occurred on the Board of Directors in 1994/1995 (see page 3).

Changes in the Executive:

Bob Bowles announced that Claudia Schaefer will be the President of F.B.O. in 1995/1996. Claudia introduced the 1995-1996 Board of Directors as follows:

President:	Claudia Schaefer
Past President:	Bob Bowles
Vice President:	Carole Ann Lacroix
Treasurer:	Ilmar Talvila
Secretary:	Heather Mackey
Membership:	Irene and Bill McIlveen
Field Trips:	Wasył Bakowsky
Editor:	Justus Benckhuysen
Co-Editor:	Madeline Austen

Annual Meeting for 1996: The next AGM will be held in Peterborough in September; details will be announced later in 1996.

Bob Bowles opened the floor for comments or questions from the general membership. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

GRASS WORKSHOP - BRACEBRIDGE

Our workshop opened in a light drizzle at the Bracebridge Natural Resources Management Centre parking lot examining *Polygonum douglasii*, a knotweed confined to the Canadian Shield. Next we discussed sedges: Bill Crins is working on the *rubisperma/tonsa* complex for the Flora America project (Voss' discussion is good), *Carex adusta* was growing in our parking lot, and Ron had a bag of *Carex novae-angliae* which is currently listed as rare to uncommon, but which appears to be showing up south of the Algonquin dome with some frequency. Put a bunch of botanists together and its darn near impossible to focus on a single family of plants!

Getting back to the topic at hand, Dr. William Crins, in whose care we were trusted, introduced the Bracebridge centre as having a range of habitats: plantations, forests, deep ravines with the Muskoka River winding through it all, whose trails are open to the public for hiking or skiing as the season permits.

The expertise in the group ranged from novice to professional. And as you would expect, the discussion wandered from the basics: how to tell a grass from a sedge from a rush, to detailed discussions on differentiating among the Bluestems. Bob Bowles contributed:

Sedges have edges
Rushes are round
Grasses have lashes
Wherever they're found.

Grass "lashes" refer to the ligule, a small hairy or membranaceous extension on the leaf blade where it joins the leaf sheath at the stem that is a characteristic of the grass family, Poaceae. The structure of the greatly reduced "honey, I shrunk the" flowers was briefly described. A character to notice in grasses is whether the flowers break off above or below the bracts (called glumes) that subtend the spikelet.

The trail started off in mixed forest, but in the fire-induced openings among the lichens grew Poverty Grass (*Danthonia spicata*). The curly basal leaves are distinctive, and this grass is often found in dry, nutrient-poor conditions whether it be sandy openings in Northumberland or bedrock whalebacks in Sudbury. Growing next to it was a distinctive shield species, Hairgrass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*, characterized by its tufted, very fine leaves.

We found Slender Wheat Grass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), which is pretty much confined to the shield. It also triggered a discussion of the variability of this section of genera whose members have been bounced around among *Agropyron*, *Elymus*, *Hystrix* and now *Elytrigia*. Always something!

Fringed Brome Grass (*Bromus ciliatus*) was found by the path, one of our few native bromes. It flowers later in the season than its ubiquitous weedy cousins, and is distinguished by the ciliate margins on the lemma.

Bearded Shorthusk (*Brachyelytrum erectum*), otherwise known as Long-awned Wood Grass (which underlines the importance of Latin names - quit fighting it and learn them!), looks like miniature bamboo with its broad leaves widely angled from the stem. Nearby grew Mountain-rice Grass (*Dryzopsis racemosa*) in tufts of dark green leaves which are light green below and taper almost to a petiole at the base.

Other highlights included Drooping Woodreed (*Cinna latifolia*), up to a metre tall with drooping panicle branches and Wood Millet (*Milium effusum*), tall like *Cinna*, but with erect, *Panicum*-like inflorescence and big, broad, glaucous leaves.

(Various discussions on *Carex* species were going on intermittently, which only reflects on the weak-minded lack of ability of our party to restrict

themselves to grasses! It also reflected the unique opportunity to pepper one of Canada's premiere sedge experts with questions...how could anyone resist?)

But back to grass: Northeastern Mannagrass (*Glyceria melicaria*), with its wand-like inflorescence was found growing in moist depressions. It has the distinctive ridged lemmas of the genus and the ladder-like leaf arrangement.

(An aside to look at a Hemlock Looper Moth [thanks Paul] and a discussion between Bob and Dale about dragonflies in Ontario. We tried not to look at the Painted Bolete, but it was hopeless. Goshawk nest? Where? No discipline!)

Then it was off to the Huntsville Sewage Lagoon en convoy. Here there were conditions that the grass family has really adapted to in a myriad of ways: hot, dry and very sunny. The cell chemistry of grasses is tailored to being exposed in these situations, and the success of the family is reflected in the huge numbers of species that have found niches under these severe conditions.

Having first checked out the shorebirds (!); disappointingly very few and as it was trying to rain the dragonflies were all roosted, we were forced - I mean anxious - to return to the study at hand.

Love grasses, both the introduced *Eragrostis minor* and the native *E. pectinacea* were here. Named for the God of Love, Eros, they must once have been used as love potions. Two species of Barnyard Grass turned up: the native Western Barnyard Grass (*Echinochloa microstachya*) and the introduced *E. crusgalli*. We had flat-stemmed Canada Blue Grass (*Poa compressa*) and daintily flowered Redtop (*Agrostis gigantea*), which has long ligules. The ever-present Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) was everywhere. It seems to come in two cultivars: a native wetland-preferring stock and an introduced drought tolerant, invasive variety, similar to Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*).

Ensheathed Dropseed (*Sporobolus vaginiflorus*) was growing by the path. It's fellow Sand Dropseed (*S. cryptandrus*), is normally quite rare in natural situations, but it has been following road construction along the sandy shoulders. It's a good example of a rare plant taking advantage of anthropogenic landscapes. Nearby was the ubiquitous Witch Grass (*Panicum capillare*), sometimes also called Tumbleweed Grass as the whole inflorescence sometimes breaks off and rolls away, spreading seed as it goes.

Rice Cut Grass (*Leersia oryzoides*) was growing on the damp lagoon edges. It is characterized by its pale, yellow-green foliage and cutting blades. I was scarred for most of a summer by an impromptu stroll through Oshawa Second Marsh in shorts.

In the gathering drizzly gloom we frantically traded last minute checklists, phone numbers and promises to meet again soon. (You still owe me, Bob!) Although the event wasn't really a workshop - more a follow-up field trip to the earlier workshop, it was a day well-spent with a complement of very knowledgeable people. Thanks, Bill!

Glossary: from Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, 2nd Edition. The New York Botanical Garden.

glaucous: covered in a fine, waxy, removable powder that imparts a whitish or bluish cast to the surface, as a prune or a cabbage-leaf.

inflorescence: flower-cluster of a plant; the arrangement of the flowers on the axis

panicle: a branching inflorescence, usually broadest near the base and tapering upwards.

panicum: Genus of panic grasses with erect, stiff paniculate inflorescence.

Dale Hoy

SUGGESTIONS ??

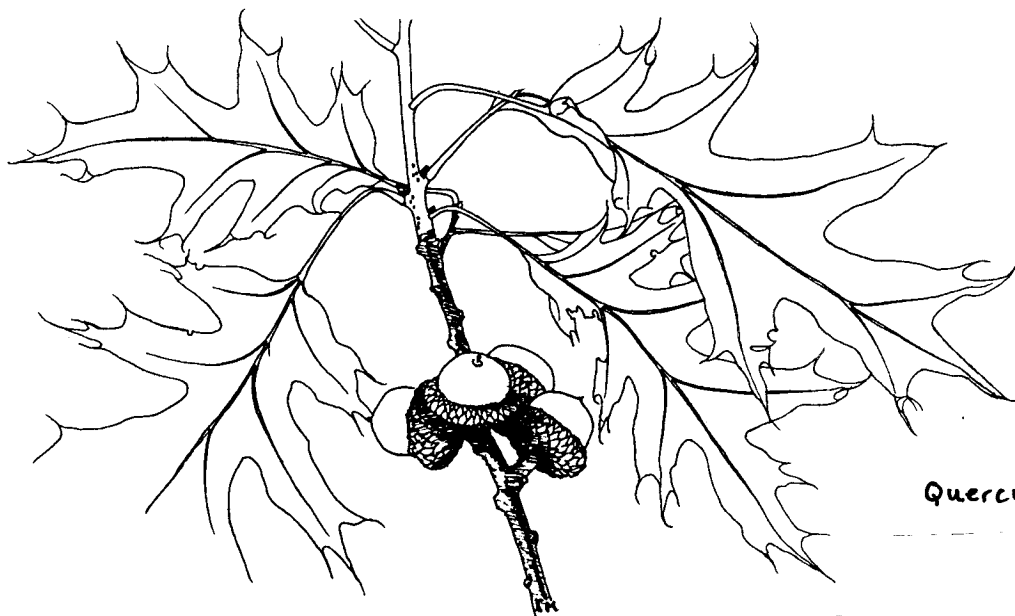
If you have any suggestions for field events or workshops please include them on your membership renewal form. A list of events held over the past four years is included in this issue. If you would like to see some of these events offered again in the future, or you can suggest new places we might visit, please let us know.

CONTRIBUTIONS !!

We welcome any articles and **DRAWINGS** of a botanical nature for the FBO newsletter. You can submit material at any time to the editors.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE AGM WEEKEND

Yet again, the FBO Annual General Meeting was a great success. Set at Pinery Provincial Park on the sandy beaches of Lake Huron, the weekend began for most people on Friday night in the Grand Bend area. Some of us camped in the park, on the coldest and windiest night of the fall, but did not complain, since the heavy winds brought down the many varieties of oak leaves for closer inspection; others slept cosily in bed & breakfasts or local motels, with visions of Wild Plum fairies dancing in their heads.



Quercus rubra

Two trips began at 9:30 Saturday morning. Wasyl Bakowsky led his group to several examples of oak savanna and wet meadows within the park. He helped us differentiate between the many species of oak present (some of them hybridize, wouldn't you know it), and showed us some unusual species and places. Other FBO members visited Lambton County Forest, led by Sara Rupert, and saw many of the rare plants associated with this corner of the province. An afternoon trip was offered this year: Dorothy Tiedje took people along the Howard Watson Trail, showing them the interesting plants growing along the railway lines.

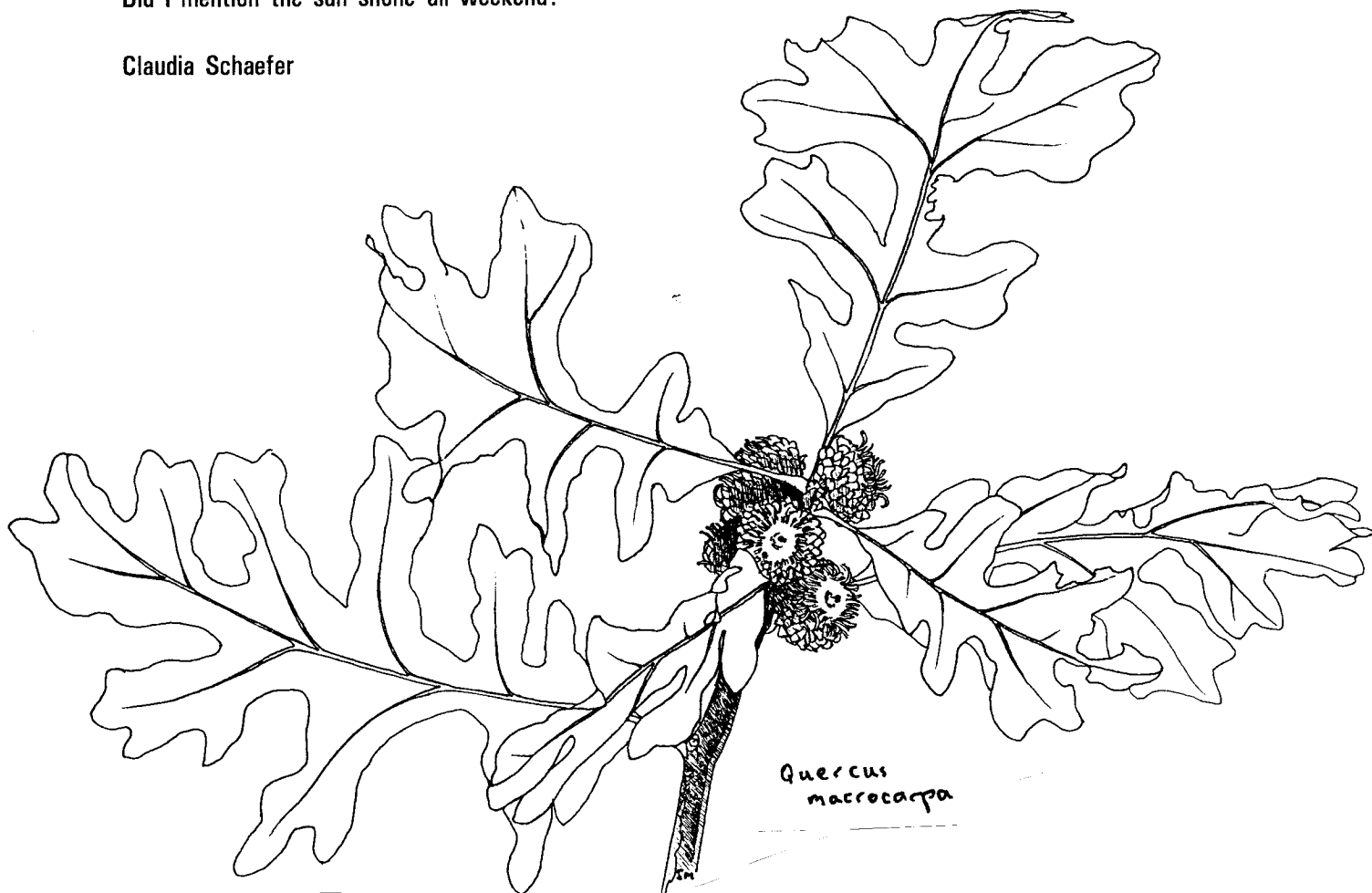
When the trips ended, there was time for cocktails or a nap before meeting up again at the Lakeview Cafe restaurant for a sumptuous dinner (our menus were personalized -- "Welcome Field Botanists of Ontario"). Some members cut out quickly after the meal - yes, we paid our bills - for the Executive Meeting. All members convened at 7:30 for the evening program. Bob Bowles, our fearless, multiple-year President, welcomed the sated group. Next was my slide show, with quiz sheets for those who wanted to put names to pictures, but don't ever let the plant quiz event stop you from coming to the AGM -- it's all in fun, and no one's lost an eye yet. The business portion of the meeting lasted about an hour, and included a moving speech from Bob, asking people who enjoy being members of the FBO to contribute to its continued well-being; Carole-Ann Lacroix presented him with a gift and thanked him on behalf of all members for his valued leadership over the past two years. Bob, thank-you again for your many years of dedication to the FBO. Lastly, the 1995-1996 Board of Directors was introduced and questions/comments were taken from the general membership.

The Keynote Speaker was Tom Purdy of Pinery Provincial Park. He described the controversial deer management issue faced by the park. The large population of deer within the park has degraded many plant communities through over-grazing, and other as yet untouched areas are vulnerable. Tom was a dynamic speaker and gave an excellent talk. He was thanked for speaking to our group, and a donation was given from the FBO to the Friends of the Pinery.

Many members stayed for Sunday's trip on the Riverside Trail in the park. We were in the expert hands of Casey van den Bygaart, a retired park naturalist with unwavering enthusiasm even after decades of leading trips through the Pinery.

Did I mention the sun shone all weekend?

Claudia Schaefer



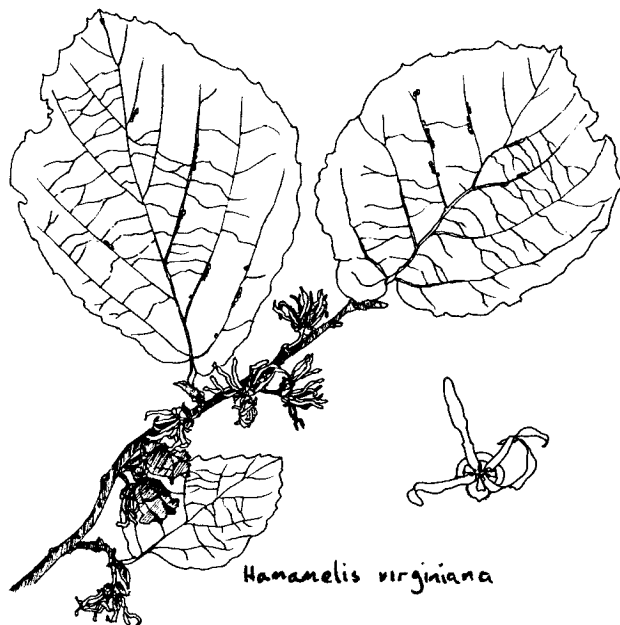
LAMBTON COUNTY HERITAGE FOREST

The Annual General Meeting weekend provided an opportunity to tour the Lambton County Heritage Forest on Saturday Sept 23, 1995. Who better to lead this field trip than someone who knows it well and wrote its management plan, Sara Rupert. Sara is a fine all-round naturalist and environmental consultant.

From Pinery Provincial Park it was a short drive to the parking lot of the Port Franks-Bosanquet Community Recreational Complex where we left our cars and started on the Tulip Tree Trail.

A map shows that this trail follows the course of the Mud River, then joins up with the Savannah Trail creating a V-shape. The apex of the V takes us toward the boundary road for the Ipperwash Military Camp occupied at the time by the First Nations.

Nothing disturbed the peace on this cool, bright day ... EXCEPT ... near the beginning of the Tulip Trail, the ruins of a deer hunter's blind surrounding a six foot tree stump. The rubble masked spray-painted obscenities. Sara expressed outrage that a chain-saw was dragged into the forest to cut down this beautiful old tree.



The trails were an easy stroll and a general discussion and list follows.

The Tulip Tree Trail is, of course, named for the many large Tulip Trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in the area. The trunks of many of these Carolinian species had distortions caused by winter and canopy conditions.

We also see Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*), Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Maple Leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), a dogwood with leaves infested with leaf-roller, Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) also known as Blue-beech or Ironwood which Sara refers to as the Arnold Schwarzenegger or muscle tree. We also observe oaks which create identification problems because of interbreeding.

Running Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus obovata*), a Carolinian species, and Woodland Strawberry (*Rubus spp.*) capture our attention. A stand of Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) prompts Bob Bowles to display his choice of logo for his business card -- the Maiden Hair Fern of course. We also see berries of the Carrion Flower (*Smilax herbacea*) and Feverwort or Horse Gentian (*Triosteum*).

The new trail has sandy soil now, and grows pine (*Pinus*) and Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*). Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*) and Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) grow in close proximity. We look unsuccessfully for the nationally rare Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) in a prairie opening. Perhaps we are close, but in the wrong site.

The trail ended at the road, we botanized until we reached the Recreation Complex and our cars. After lunch on the grounds, our trip was nicely rounded off when we connected with Wasył Bakowsky's wet meadow tour.

Elaine McShane

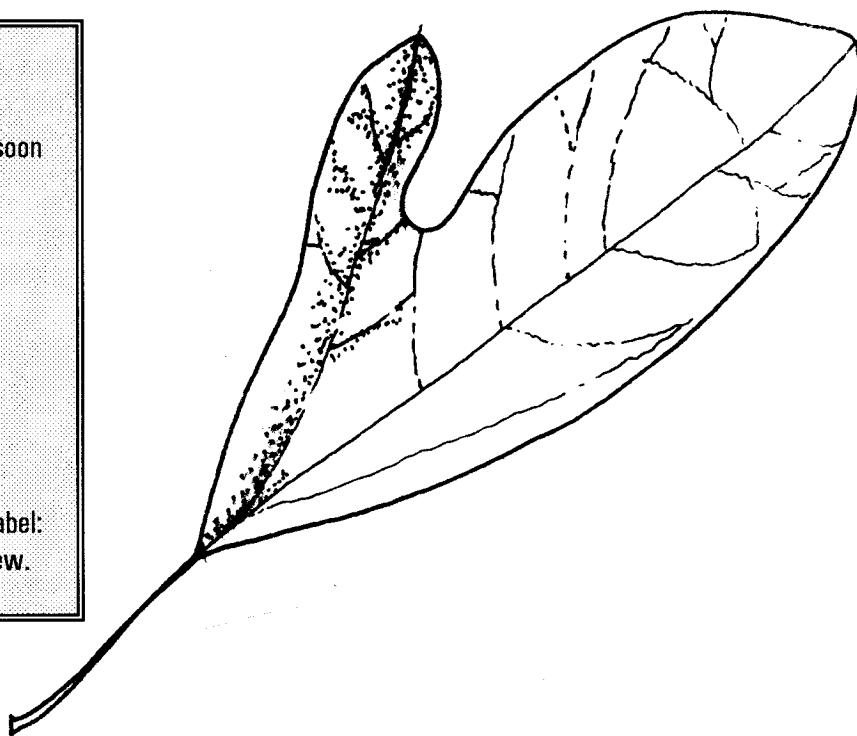
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Please renew your memberships as soon as possible. Mail cheques to:

W.D. McIlveen
RR #1, Acton
Ontario, L7J-2L7

Fees are: \$12.00 single
 \$15.00 family

Check the number on your address label:
if the number is 95 you need to renew.



RIVERSIDE TRAIL, PINERY PROVINCIAL PARK

On Sept 24, 1995 as part of the Annual General Meeting of the FBO, Casey van den Bygaart led a morning field trip on the Riverside Trail of Pinery Provincial Park. There was a wealth of plant species along the east bank of the Ausable River, many of which were Carolinian. We could see that the other side was completely barren, due to overgrazing by deer. For the first part of the trail there was an overstorey of Black, Red, and White Oak (*Quercus velutina*, *Q. rubra*, *Q. alba*), White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*), Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), and Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). Shrubs included Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Grey Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), and two viburnums - Downy Arrowwood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*) and Maple-leaved Viburnum (*V. acerifolium*). Running Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus obovata*) and Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) were also abundant. We discussed the abundance of squirrels, especially flying squirrels of two species.

Beside the river, in a small enclosure which Casey had fenced against oblivious hikers and grazing deer, we were privileged to see the purple flowers of the very rare Stiff Gentian (*Gentianella quinquefolia*).

This is the only known site in Canada for this species. Bottle Gentians (*Gentiana andrewsii*) flowered nearby. Different tree species occurred in the floodplain - White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), Silver Maple (*Acer sacharinum*), and Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) with its beautiful mottled bark were seen. The Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) was a first for me and much appreciated. I was also pleased to have the vines Wild Yamroot (*Dioscorea quaternata*) and Moonseed (*Menespermum canadense*) with their distinctive fruits pointed out. The shrubs by the river included more dogwoods - Red-osier (*Cornus stolonifera*) and Round-leaved (*C. rugosa*), and more viburnums. We also saw Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) and Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*). Some wildflowers were still making quite a show by the water's edge, especially the brilliant yellow Large Bur Marigold (*Bidens laevis*) and the white flowers of Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*). The delicate flowers of Slender Gerardia (*Agalinus tenuifolia*) bloomed on a log in the water. Migrating redstart and yellow-rumped warblers flitted through the shrubs. Casey's enthusiasm combined with his intimate knowledge of the park (based on 27 years of experience) made for a memorable trip.

THE HOWARD WATSON RAILWAY TRAIL, SARNIA

A railway holds a special fascination for naturalists. Railway lines always go *somewhere*. Moreover, railway lines provide easy access to places that are otherwise inaccessible (either because they are impenetrable or because they are posted with unfriendly signs). The Howard Watson Trail has the added allure of being not only the access route for a journey through some beautiful countryside, but the object of the journey: it supports an assemblage of plants not found in many other places in Ontario. Dorothy Tiedje has walked the line for many years and on September 23rd, 1995, gave a knowledgeable tour of the tallgrass prairie community found along the trail.

The erstwhile railway followed by the Howard Watson Trail used to take passengers from Sarnia to Toronto. It fell into disuse in the 1930s when the car became the popular mode of transport. As is so often the case, a group of people who had grown to love the area through walking there managed to obtain political support for its conversion to a public trail: otherwise it would have been offered for sale.

The trail's fascination for botanists is evident anywhere you walk. Instead of the predominantly European collection of forage grasses so familiar in open landscapes (Smooth Brome Grass *Bromus inermis*, Kentucky Bluegrass *Poa pratensis*, and the like) the dominant plants are the two-metre tall grasses which, because of the way they waved in the wind, reminded early prairie colonists of the swell of the sea. Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*) is the best known of these: its tall three-pronged inflorescence and purple hue should alert a botanist to the potential for a prairie. The shaggy, rich chestnut head of Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and the bottle brush of Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*) often share dominance with bluestem. Stiff, upright stems of Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) are practically weedy, reminding us that not only European species are capable of invading. Smaller grasses, such as the curling spikelets and purple-and-tan stems of Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and the pointed leaves of the Panic Grass (*Panicum oligosanthos*) (both prairie indicator species) fill in spaces between tall grasses. There remain many patches of bare earth where forbs grip the dry, shifting soils with spreading rosettes and creeping rhizomes.

Other prairie indicator species, whose rareness reminds us that almost all tallgrass prairie has been lost in Ontario, occur within a few metres of the road. Dorothy points out the provincially rare Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*) which, though not flowering, could be distinguished from the more common prairie species, Butterfly Weed (*A. tuberosa*), by the shape of its leaves and the colour of its juice. Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), a prairie indicator, grows in patches of bare soil. Rare Stiff-leaved Goldenrod's (*Solidago rigida*) thick tufts of yellow flowers are easy to spot along the trail. In one place, the species of blazing-star which inhabit sandy soil, *Liatris aspera* (which is provincially rare) and *L. cylindracea*, grow together, making the stem and inflorescence characters which separate them easy to see. The gromwell *Lithospermum incisum* grows sporadically among the other species. It can be distinguished from similar, more common species of gromwell by its hard nutlets, which appear to be inscribed with strange runes.

Even the hedgerows support species exotic to those who live far from the warm sand plains of southwestern Ontario. Wild Yam (*Dioscorea quaternata*) and Summer Grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) entwine hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.), Chokecherries (*Prunus virginiana*) and Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*). A native crabapple (*Malus coronaria*) drops its waxy golden apples among the haw-fruits.

Why do prairie species grow on the railway bed? Its sandy, well-drained soils may long ago have invited colonization by surrounding dry-prairie adapted species. The early successional plants thrived when the only subsequent disturbance was periodic fire which kept competing woody vegetation in check; while the surrounding natural vegetation vanished under the plough.

We had time to hit two more spots. Behind the Lambton Mall, in a small patch of what looks like a damp old field, is a stand of Riddell's Goldenrod (*Solidago ridellii*), rare in Canada and Ontario. Scattered among the goldenrod's characteristic flat-topped flower clusters and folded leaves is the mesic prairie indicator Shining Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*), a small orchid with spiralling white flowers. The vanilla-and-almonds smell of this diminutive plant has everybody behaving as if it were a minute icon. Rare plants in these situations (outside officially protected areas) lack

the hubris we are used to: we have rare objects pointed out to us with flags, signs, access roads, interpreters. The location behind this consumer juggernaut seems painfully vulnerable. Another quick stop and we saw the rare white variety of Closed Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), growing in an equally unprotected ditch beside the road.

Our last stop was Dorothy's property, which sits on the shore of Lake Huron and boasts rarities of its own. We saw Dune Grass (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), and two tiny, sprawling forbs characteristic of shifting sand dune habitat; Seaside Spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*) and Sea Rocket (*Cakile edentula*). They perform the ecological task to which they are so well adapted without benefit of management plans or protective fences.

Not all rare plants have the benefit of being protected by national or provincial legislation. It is through the efforts of enthusiasts like Dorothy that unprotected rare plants have the chance of receiving the recognition they may need to survive.

Sarah Mainguy

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next FBO newsletter will contain a calendar of events and registration form for the 1996 field season.

* * * * *

Botanizing Your Yard

An article on the concept of naturalizing your yard. Your next field trip could be closer to home.

* * * * *

Reviews of books or research papers that have been recently published are welcome contributions.

PUBLICATIONS: The Canadian Field-Naturalist Volume 109 Number 3, July-September 1995

The History of the Exploration of the Vascular Flora of Canada
 The History of the Exploration of the Vascular Flora of Saint Pierre et Miquelon
 The History of the Exploration of the Vascular Flora of Greenland

By James S. Pringle, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario. Published in Cooperation with the Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri. These benchmark reference papers cover major floristic studies from the late eighteenth to the end of the twentieth centuries for Canada, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon and Greenland. The major depositories of all key botanists are discussed for each area. This Special Issue will be available from the Business Manager, The Canadian Field-Naturalist, Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ont., Canada K1Z 1A2 at a cost of \$10.00 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

A Checklist of Vascular Plants for Bruce and Grey Counties, Ontario

Most of the information relating to species, distribution, and local rarity was assembled by Joe Johnson for the Ministry of Natural Resources. Some information was also obtained from inventory reports of Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, and from herbaria at Lakehead, Waterloo, and Guelph Universities. Names of species conform, in general, to A Checklist of the Flora of Ontario by Morton & Venn (1990). Other sources were used for some taxa. The list includes 1420 species, subspecies and hybrids (59 provincially rare taxa) in 134 families. For the most part hybrids are not included. The price for the checklist is \$5.00 plus \$1.00 postage and can be obtained from:

Owen Sound Field Naturalists
 Box 401, Owen Sound
 Ontario, N4K 5P7

Saugeen Field Naturalists
 Box 20156, Hanover
 Ontario, N4N 3T1

Here is a list of the field trips the FBO has organized over the past four years. If there are particular events (trips or workshops) you would like us to organize for the 1997 field season please indicate them on your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM. If you have any suggestions for field trips to areas we have not visited please forward these as well.

Past Field Trips

		1994	
1992			
May 16	Ausable River	May 14-15	Lichen workshop
May 23	Ajax/Whitby Lake Ontario Shoreline	May 28	Peter's Woods Nature Reserve/oak
June 6-7	Salix I.D. workshop		ridges moraine
June 14	Halton Co. woodland sedges	June 5	Orchids in Simcoe County
June 26-28	Bon Echo Provincial Park	June 25-26	Manitoulin Island: shore and alvar
July 5	Minesing Swamp	July 9	Stony Swamp (Ottawa)
July 18	Ferns etc. of Mono Cliffs	July 23	Algonquin Provincial Park
July 25	Niagara Esc. in Jordan Valley	August 6-7	AGM Wye Marsh
August 15	Weeds at St. Thomas railway yard	August 13	Rice Lake Prairies
August 29	Altberg Southern Shield Nature Resr.	August 21	Grass Workshop
Sept 11-13	Georgian Bay Islands National Park	Sept 10	Torrence Barrens and Muskoka shore
Nov 29	Winter Botany, Mt. Pleasant cemetery	Sept 24	Rondeau Provincial Park
		Oct 15	Urban weeds in Hamilton
1993			
		1995	
May 29	Sydenham River Corridor (Floodplain)	May 14	Springwater Forest
June 12	Carden Plain Alvar	June 4	Stoco Fen
July 3-10	Lake Superior East Shoreline	June 17	Caledon Lake
July 24	Windsor Prairies	June 24	Bruce Peninsula ferns
July 25	Essex County A.N.S.I. sites	June 25	Bruce Peninsula alvars
August 21	Lake Opinicon Aquatics	July 15-16	Pelee Island
August 22	Ferns at Lake Opinicon	August 12	Liverworts workshop
Sept 11-12	Aster-Goldenrod workshop	August 26	Grasses, Bracebridge
Sept 25-26	Royal Botanical Gardens (Escarpment)	Sept 9	High Park, Toronto
Oct 2	Leslie Street Spit	Sept 23-24	AGM, Pinery Provincial Park
		Oct 15	Nottawasaga Lookout
		Nov 12	Tree I.D. workshop

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

Send applications for membership to: W.D. McIlveen
Membership Chairman
R.R. #1, Acton, Ontario L7J 2L7