

Field Botanists Of Ontario

Newsletter

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Large Round-leaved Orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata* (Pursh) Lindley). Photo by Rob Routledge.



FIELD BOTANISTS *of* ONTARIO

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

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

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The **deadline** for submissions for **Volume 11(3) - Fall 1998** is **October 15th, 1998**.

Standard source for scientific names of vascular plants:

Morton, J.K. and J.M Venn. 1990. A Checklist of the Flora of Ontario: Vascular Plants. University of Waterloo Biology Series Number 34. 218 pp.

Field Trip Reports:

Toronto Islands

October 5th, 1997, was a beautiful, warm sunny day to be on Toronto Island. A great day to participate in one of my favourite outdoor activities—an FBO outing. Our trip was jointly led by Jenny Bull, an island resident and Dr. Tim Dickinson, curator of botany at the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum).

After disembarking from the 10 am Ward's Island ferry, we marched south for a study of a Great Lakes shoreline beach. Here Jenny discussed the geomorphology and history of the Toronto Island. Originally a sandspit, it was created by wave action that eroded the Scarborough Bluffs and deposited the sand to the west. The island was created in 1858 when

a severe storm separated the spit from the mainland.

At the south-eastern corner of Ward's Island there is a ten-hectare patch of beach strand and wet meadow. Until recently Metro Parks personnel assiduously mowed this patch on a weekly basis. When mowing stopped, cottonwoods, alders, willows and many herbaceous plants colonized the new habitat.

Over the past twenty-five years, the construction of the five-kilometre Leslie Street spit has drastically altered the island shoreline. Before the spit existed, deposition of beach sand approximately equalled erosion on the island. Now Scarborough Bluff sand is deposited on the spit. Although the Ward's Island beach strand is still expanding, the rest of the island shore is being eroded. Metro Parks are now reinforcing the south shoreline with rip-rap and dumping concrete at Gibraltar Point, the south-western point. Nevertheless,

erosion is very active at Gibraltar and many huge Cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) have been uprooted. Their huge stumps discourage any passage along the narrow shoreline.

From the water's edge, we observed some of the colonizing vegetation, in particular, an extensive monoculture of Sandbar Willow (*Salix exigua* Nutt.). Jenny pointed out the bleached skeletons of cottonwoods on the Leslie Street spit about one kilometre to the south. The trees, recently arrived on the spit, had already been killed by a burgeoning colony of cormorants. Even at this distance in the spring, the din from 100,000 pairs of nesting Ring-billed Gulls was deafening.

Tim Dickinson commented on the growth pattern of Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina* L.). With a rhizomatous habit, this plant is ideally suited for these wet beach strands. The stems root from the nodes of each stolon. This habit is also adopted by Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus* Willd.). Moving inland we crashed through a barrier of Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera* Michx.) and Heart-leaved Willow (*Salix eriocephala* Michx.) with its large persistent stipules. A great Lakes area specialty and unique to this willow species are the beautiful Pine Cone Willow Gall, caused by a midge.

In the wet meadow behind the beach we observed Purple Gerardia (*Agalinus paupercula* (A. Gray) Britton), Nodding Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes cernua* (L.) Rich.), and Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima* L.). A good field mark for the latter is the presence of the goldenrod gall, which apparently has not been observed on *Solidago canadensis* L. Also noted were Slender Gerardia (*Agalinis tenuifolia* (Vahl) Raf.), with a larger pedestal than *A. purpurea*, White Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* L.), some of which was purple, and Tick-trefoil "Vegetable Velcro" (*Desmodium canadense* (L.) DC.). Canada Rush (*Juncus canadensis* La Harpe) was here observed to be very variable, some stems with small flower heads, others quite large.

Following the footpath along the Eastern Gap wall we came across a lovely display of the regionally rare Fringed Gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita* (Froelich) Ma). Formerly called Lake Ward, the area used to flood every spring. A patch of Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus* (Torr.) Gray) drew Tim Dickinson's

attention. He pointed out that this arenophile is in the same group as the panic grasses. After anthesis, the entire spikelet dehisces. An adjacent Canada Blue-joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis* (Michx.) Beauv.) provided a comparison. With this grass, only the fruit dehisces while the floral leaves remain.

We followed a small mammal (Red Fox?) trail through a sward of Nelson's Horsetail (*Equisetum x nelsonii* (A.A. Eaton) J. Schnaffner). Tim pointed out that horsetail spores are green and thin-walled, quite different from the brown and thick-walled fern spores. Under high magnification the horsetail spores are quite attractive.

A forced march then took us along the wooden boardwalk from Ward's Island to Centre Island and lunch. Some stragglers noted the persisting Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum* L.) and Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb.). Unlike our native Bittersweet (*C. scandens* L.) which has narrowly pointed leaves and fruit in axillary clusters, Oriental Bittersweet has round leaves and fruit in terminal clusters.

After lunch we explored the wet meadow and woodland behind the filtration plant. Now past its peak, Jenny described this meadow in mid-summer as an incredible wildflower garden that attracts many butterflies. Along the edges of the meadow were:

Andropogon gerardii Vitm.

Big Bluestem

Campanula aparinoides Pursh

Marsh-bellflower

Panicum virgatum L.

Switch Grass

Phystogia virginiana (L.) Benth.

False Dragonhead

Pycnanthemum virginicum (L.) Dur. & Jackson

Virginia Mountain-mint

Teucrium canadense L.

Wood Sage

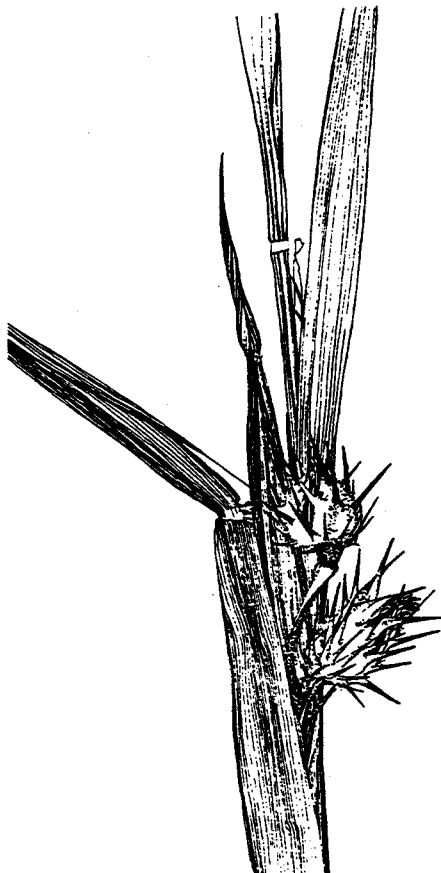
Several of these plants are not known to occur elsewhere in the region. Regrettably, Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) has moved into the area in the past five years.

Directly behind the filtration plant was a spoil heap of rich topsoil. Amongst the profusion of opportunistic

vegetation and cultivated vegetables were: Small-flowered Galinsoga (*Galinsoga parviflora* Cav.), and Hairy Galinsoga (*Galinsoga ciliata* (Raf.) Blake), Spiderflower (*Cleome hassleriana* Chodat) and Bur Cucumber (*Sicyos angulatus* L.)

We entered the Island Nature Reserve, a swampy wooded area containing clumps of invasive European White Birch (*Betula pendula* Roth.) and Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica* L.). Flocks of migrating Coots pattered off the waters of the adjacent Donut Island lagoon. Somebody then made a fortuitous comment about Red-eared Sliders becoming established in many Great Lakes marshes. Shortly thereafter we noted a large black turtle basking on a willow branch (doubtless, *Salix x rubens* Shrank). Binoculars revealed the diagnostic red ear patch -- a new Ontario herp for me!

At the beach by Gibraltar Point, Tim Dickinson pointed out many of the typical strand species. These included: Long-spine Sandbur (*Cenchrus longispinus* (Hack.) Fern.), Winged Pigweed (*Cycloloma atriplicifolium* (Spreng.) Coult.), and Toad Rush (*Juncus*



Long-spined Sandbur (*Cenchrus longispinus* (Hackel) Fern.). By Irene McIlveen.

bufonius L.).

Because of erosion, much of the beach has disappeared in recent years. The dunes have moved inland burying plants, shrubs and a lone fire hydrant. Covering the dunes was Beach Grass (*Ammophila brevigulata* Fern.), a noted sand stabiliser. At a patch of wet dune slack sand here we noted: Marsh Pea (*Lathyrus palustris* L.), American Water-horehound (*Lycopus americanus* Muhl.) Kalm's Lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii* L.).

Thanks to Jenny Bull and Tim Dickinson for providing great October weather and new insights into familiar territory to some and a remote island to others.

George Bryant

FBO invades Manitoulin.

A veritable horde of plant enthusiasts congregated in Little Current on Saturday, June 13th. We were there to hear John Morton describe the physiographical and legendary history of Manitoulin Island. He then went on to explain how this has affected the assemblage of plants which now inhabit the world's largest freshwater island.

Keith Winterhalder then arrived just in time to distribute small booklets which were quickly snapped-up. John finished his last few sentences before we all drove north to Great Cloche Island. Great Cloche Island is named for the distinctive fields of glacial erratic boulders which dot the alvars. *Cloche* is the french word for bell, and it was said that when these stones would ring like a bell when struck. The largest and most important of these stones were destroyed long ago by the Jesuits, since they were sacred objects to the local first nations people. More recently, some of these stones have been sold to landscapers, but many boulders remain.

The horde of botanists dived into two smaller herds, led by John and Keith. After an hour we would switch leaders. There are small groves of Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lam.) on the island, as well as Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.). Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis* L.) and Creeping Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* Moench) are more common in the open areas and alvars.

The principal grasses on this and other alvars we

would visit were as follows:

Agrostis scabra Willd.

Tickle Grass

Bromus kalmii A.Gray

Kalm's Brome

Danthonia spicata (L.) P.Beauv. ex Roemer & Schultes

Poverty Grass

Deschampsia caespitosa (L.) P.Beauv.

Tufted Hair-grass

Poa compressa L.

Canada Bluegrass

Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash

Little Bluestem

Northern Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis* (A.Gray) A.Gray) also occurs in these areas, although no individuals were advanced enough that they could be easily distinguished from the other grasses.

Common alvar sedges included:

Carex crawei Dewey

Crawe's Sedge

Carex lasiocarpa Ehrh.

Slender Sedge

Carex scirpoidea Michx.

Scirpus-like Sedge

Eleocharis compressa Sulliv.

Flat-stemmed Spike-rush

Although it occurs on many of Manitoulin's alvars, the plant that leaps to mind when I think of Great Cloche Island is Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa* L.). It's yellow flowers can be easily spotted from the roadside amongst the boulders. There are other shrubs which are found in small clusters on fractures in the limestone or slightly deeper 'soils.' Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica* Ait.) is common, as are Bear-berry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (L.) Spreng.) and Soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis* (L.) Nutt.). Sand Cherries (*Prunus pumila* L.) were present at the Great Cloche Island alvar, but they only seem to be an occasional species in that type of habitat.

The herbaceous species present were mainly native to the alvars. I was impressed to learn that Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum* L.) appear to be native to the damp pockets of alvar. I had wrongly assumed that these were garden escapes. Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisifolia* L.) is another plant which we associated

with human-induced disturbance, but John believes that the alvars would be a native habitat for them.

Few showy species were in bloom, since the spring flowers had finished due to the hot, dry weather of May, and the summer flowers were delayed due to the cold, damp weather of early June. Balsam Ragwort (*Senecio pauperculus* Michx.) and Harebells (*Campanula rotundifolia* L.) were in bloom, and were the major source of colour. What was even more striking was the smell of Low Calamint (*Calamintha arkansana* (Nutt.) Shinners) as we trod across the alvars. We found the leaves of several more species including:

Aster laevis L.

Smooth Aster

Commandra umbellata (L.) Nutt.

Bastard Toad-flax

Liatris cylindracea Michx.

Blazing-star

Solidago ptarmicoides (Nees) Boivin

White Goldenrod

Zigadenus elegans Pursh

White Camas



Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana* Lam.). Photo by Ed Morris.

After lunch at Mindemoya, we convoyed to Carter Bay. Along the way we stopped briefly at the Mindemoya Bog, which is really a fen, to see Dwarf Birch (*Betula pumila* L. var. *glandulifera* Regel), and at another Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.) swamp to see Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae* Walt.) and impressive patches of Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor* L.).

When we arrived at Carter Bay, we split again into two groups. The first plant to cause great excitement was One-flowered Cancer-root (*Orobanche uniflora* L.). Both Keith and John did their best to stress the importance of the Sand Cherry, Wheat Grass (*Agropyron psammophilum* Gillett & Senn), and Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata* Fern.) to the stabilization of the dunes. Another important pair of dune species were Broad Heartleaf Willow (*Salix cordata* Michx.), which hybridizes with Blue-leaved Willow (*Salix myricoides* Muhl.).

In the slacks behind the dunes (which are known as pannes in other parts of the province), we found:

Carex garberi Fern.
Garber's Sedge

Juncus alpinus Vill.
Alpine Rush

Juncus balticus Willd.
Baltic Rush

Tofieldia glutinosa (Michx.) Pers.
False Asphodel

Triglochin maritima L.
Arrow-grass

Jen Line handed Keith some crushed leaves of the arrow-grass, causing him to exclaim, "Wow, that's a new smell I've learned!" We all took turns learning the new smell from the, by now, mangled bits of Arrow-grass.

Species which could be found on the sides of dunes were Bugseed (*Corispermum hyssopifolium* L.), Pitcher's Thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri* (Torr. ex Eat.) T.&G.), and Sage Wormwood (*Artemisia campestris* L. ssp. *caudata* (Michx.) Hall & Clem.). The latter appeared on most of the alvars we visited as well.

We walked east along the beach to meet up with John so that the leaders could exchange herds. We stopped briefly to examine a small, succulent Sea-rocket (*Cakile edentula* (Bigel.) Hook.).

John led us back behind the dunes to a small stream where we saw:

Carex aquatilis Wahlenb.
Water Sedge

Carex sterilis Willd.
Sterile Sedge

Eleocharis quinqueflora (Hartm.) Schwarz)
Few-flowered Spike-rush

Equisetum variegatum Schleich.
Variegated Horsetail

Scirpus americanus Pers.
American Bulrush

Sisyrinchium mucronatum Michx.
Slender-stemmed Blue-eyed Grass

Every so often we would encounter Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea* Ait.) and Hairy Goldenrod (*S. hispida* Muhl.). In the shallow pools beside the stream we saw Small Bladderwort (*Utricularia minor* L.), a few of which were in bloom. Further behind the stream we entered a



Low Bindweed (*Calystegia spithamea* (L.) Pursh).
Photo by Ed Morris.

forested area where we encountered a small slack containing Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea* L.) and Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum viridi-carinatum* L.). Ken Ursic spotted a Bird's-eye Primrose (*Primula mistassinica* Michx.), and not far away John showed us the moss *Funaria hygrometrica*, growing near an old fire-pit. By that time it was about 6 pm, and by now most of us were starving. About 16 of us went up to Gordon's Lodge in Gore Bay for dinner.

The next morning we met at Gore Bay and proceeded to an area known as Foxey Prairie near Wolsey Lake. We were joined by John's spouse Doreen, and well-known colleague Joan Venn. John warned us that the Foxey Prairie alvar is not particularly rich, but it was an interesting habitat nonetheless. Because of the many Bur Oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa* Michx.), I found it very reminiscent of alvars I have seen along Long Point peninsula in Prince Edward County. However, one would have to mentally swap Eastern Red Cedar (*Juiperus virginiana* L.) for the Jack Pines of Foxey Prairie. Surrounding us was a carpet of Prairie-smoke (*Geum triflorum* Pursh), which was in seed. Other species which we had not seen earlier were:

Amelanchier humilis Wieg.

Low Juneberry

Antennaria neodioica Greene

ssp. *canadensis* (Greene) Beyer & Stebbins

Pussy-toes

Carex merritt-fernaldii Mack.

Fernald's Sedge

Cerastium arvense L.

Field Chickweed

Juncus dudleyi Wieg.

Dudley's Rush

Acinos arvensis (Lam.) Dandy

Mother-of-thyme

Saxafraga virginianensis Michx.

Early Saxifrage

Solidago nemoralis Ait.

Gray Goldenrod

Taraxacum erythrospermum Andrz.

Red-seeded Dandelion

Viburnum rafinequianum Shultes

Downy Arrow-wood

Vicia americana Muhl.

American Vetch

We didn't stay long before heading out to the Burnt

Island Harbour alvar. Along the way we saw Wood Lilies (*Lilium philadelphicum* L.) spaced more or less evenly for every 10 m of roadside. When we arrived, we saw many Manitoulin Gold (*Hymenoxys herbacea* (Greene) Cusick) and Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata* L.) in bloom. We also saw a lot of Mossy Stonecrop (*Sedum acre* L.), which is introduced. John was not too concerned by this, as he does not feel the plant is threatening the persistence of any native plants. Most of the plants we saw here were also seen in Foxey Prairie and/or Great Cloche Island. We did see a few grasses here which we had not spotted earlier: the main grasses on the alvar appeared to be Alpine Bluegrass (*Poa alpina* L.) and Small Rice-grass (*Oryzopsis pungens* (Torr. ex Sprengel) Hitch.). We also saw Bluets (*Hedyotis canadensis* (Willd.) Fosb.) here, in full bloom, as well as Seneca Snakeroot (*Polygala senega* L.) and Spotted Coral-root (*Corallorhiza maculata* (Raf.) Raf.)

John then walked us to Christina Bay. As we walked across the alvar we came across a pink Cut-leaf Anemone (*Anemone multifida* Poir.). We also saw Rocky Mountain Fescue (*Festuca saximontana* Rydb.), False Melic (*Schizachne purpurascens* (Torr.) Swallen), and Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus* L.). When we reached the shore, we explored the fennish wetland and saw more White Goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*), and John explained that hybrids of *S. ptarmicoides* and Bog Goldenrod (*S. uliginosa* Nutt.) have been found here. Ohio Goldenrod (*S. ohioensis* Riddell) also occurs in the area in fennish wetlands such as this.

The highlight of this site, however, were the two species of Spike-moss: Meadow Spikemoss (*Selaginella apoda* (L.) Fern.)¹ and Northern Spikemoss (*S. selaginoides* (L.) Link).

At this time, those FBO members wished to catch the ferry to Tobermory had to leave us. After a leisurely lunch, we set out for the Fire-tower Hill near Silver Water, not far from the Airport. *En route* to the Hill, we stopped briefly to examine Roundleaf Ragwort (*Senecio obovatus* Muhl.), and later Golden Ragwort (*Senecio aureus* L.) near a stream which flowed into Silver Water Lake. In the stream we saw the showy Water Speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica* L.), and

¹ Ontario's plants would be *S. eclipses* Buck, if you're a splitter.

Pennsylvania Bitter-cress (*Cardamine pensylvanica* Muhl.). Along the roadside, we saw several Northern Green Orchids (*Platanthera hyperborea* (L.) Lindl.).

Soon we were back on the road, travelling to Fire Tower Hill. At the top of the hill, we noted the deep fissures in the bed-rock and the resulting change in species composition. Although the area was quite open, there were many more shrubs and trees here. John mentioned that the openness was probably the result of periodic fires. There were a few exciting species here. As Bruce Falls bent over to photograph the very showy Low Bindweed (*Calystegia spithamea* (L.) Pursh), I noticed he had also inadvertently found the Purple Cliff-brake (*Pellea atropurpurea* (L.) Link). Another interesting species which occurred here was Prairie Red-root, (*Ceanothus herbacea* Raf.), which was in flower.

We walked down the hill a short distance and encountered an area without the deep fissures in the bedrock. Here we found a very small group of



Purple-stemmed Cliff-brake (*Pellea atropurpurea* (L.) Link). Photo by Ed Morris.

Manitoulin Gold, and John explained that at one time this hill was one of the few places of the present Manitoulin Island, which would not have been flooded after the retreat of the glaciers. Peter Beckett pointed out an uncommon lichen (*Cetraria arenaria* Brodo), which is closely related to an arctic *Cetraria* species.

The last alvar we visited that day was on Mason Lane, on the way to Cook's Docks. Here we saw some very short Northern Willow-herb (*Epilobium glandulosum* Lehm.) behind a very colourful sward of Balsam Ragwort. We also encountered a Mouse-ear Chickweed (*Cerastrium vulgatum* L.), Catch-fly (*Silene antirrhina* L.), and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.). The entomologists among the group were satisfied to observe the dragonflies, clear-wings, and humming-bird moths which were abundant in the area.

Before long, we were back in the cars again, heading towards Cook's Docks. We stopped briefly to admire and photograph a dense patch of Thimble-berry (*Rubus parviflorus* Nutt.), which were in bloom. These look very much like Flowering Raspberry (*Rubus odoratus* L.), but the flowers are white, not pink.

Finally we arrived at Cook's Docks and said one last "Good-bye" to our excellent leaders. The tag-team approach used by John and Keith worked extremely well, but this approach undoubtedly requires that leaders are familiar with one-another, and that they must have done a fair amount of planning before the trip. They patiently repeated themselves while we made notes, and yet their enthusiasm for the Manitoulin Flora never diminished. It was an excellent trip, and was certainly well attended.

Ed Morris

Pukaskwa National Park.

You may remember seeing a short notice on the back page of the last newsletter, inviting FBO members to Pukaskwa National Park. At one time, we had as many as 14 people approach us about the trip, but when the time came, only 5 Sudburians were able to make the trip. Thus, it was more of a Laurentian University trip than an FBO outing.

Pukaskwa is a fair distance from the bulk of the FBO membership. It took Adam Ekler and I over 8

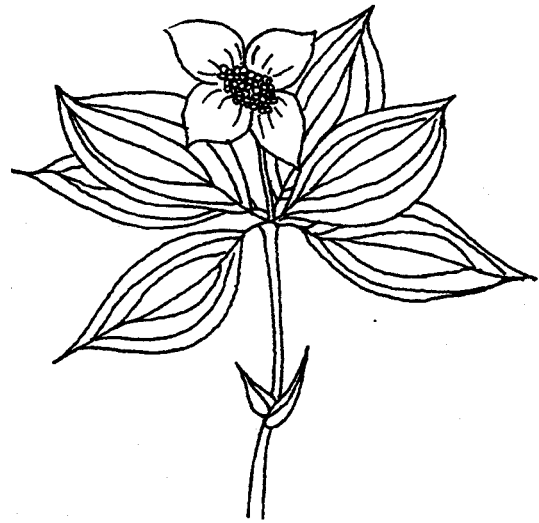
hours to make the trip from Subury on Friday, June 22nd: it's no small wonder the cancellation rate was so high. Consequently, we would not be able to afford to charter a fish-tug to Oiseau Bay, but we still looked forward to botanizing near the main campground.

The campground is built in behind a smallish dune system. The main tree in the area was Black Spruce (*Picea mariana* (Miller) B.S.P.), but there were many shrubs near by as well. One ubiquitous shrub was Green Alder (*Alnus viridis* (Chaix) DC). There were three species of dogwoods handy at all times: Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis* L.), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* L.) and Round-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa* Lam.) all grow in the area. It is possible that the hybrid *C. x salvinii* Rehder (*C. sericea* x *C. rugosa*) occurs in the area as well. There was a time when Adam and I couldn't decide which of the two species we were observing. If the plant were a hybrid, it would explain our dilemma.

In some of the more sensitive areas, a system of board-walks have been made to keep people from wandering throughout the back dunes. Here, there were many Soapberry bushes (*Shepherdia canadensis* (L.) Nutt.), and a few Creeping Junipers (*Juniperus horizontalis* Moench). What was most striking was the extensive patches of Bear-berry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (L.) Sprengel) growing where a southerner, myself included for once, would expect to see a greater abundance of Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila* L.) and Sage Wormseed (*Artemisia campestris* L.). Conspicuously absent was Heart-leaf Willow (*Salix cordata* Michx.).

The system of boardwalks seemed to be quite effective: these back dunes are much more overgrown than those I have seen in Sandbanks Provincial Park, and in Carter Bay, Manitoulin.

On Saturday morning we met our leader, Robin Heron Promaine. Peter Beckett and two of his students were a little late arriving, so Robin, Adam, and I started out as a trio. Within a few metres of the visitor centre, we encountered Mountain White Potentilla (*Potentilla tridentata* Sol ex Aiton). This plant is not listed on the Park's arctic-alpine checklist, although Gleason & Cronquist (1991) describe its habitat as rocky areas, often at high elevation. I had never encountered it before today, but less than a week later, I encountered



Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis* L.) by Natalie Lefebvre.

the plant again on top of Maple Mountain in Lady Evelyn Smoothwater Provincial Park, near Temagami. It may not be a strict alpine plant, but in my limited experience it seems to persist in highly exposed areas on top of rock out-crops.

Robin didn't want to stifle our enthusiasm, but she may have felt that we hadn't gotten to the good stuff yet. Up we hiked on to a rock outcrop and quickly encountered a few patches of Mountain Bilberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum* Douglas). The berries were not quite ripe yet, so we could not really compare them to the more common Low-bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton). Apparently, Mountain Bilberry grows in depressions in the bedrock along a thin coastal section of Lake Superior. I couldn't help but think back to the oases of Leather-leaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata* (L.) Moench) I saw growing in depressions on the top of the ranges in Killarney Provincial Park.

We then walked out closer to the lake. There were no waves that day, only a barely detectable swell. We stood high above the lake on the rock outcrop. Robin said that it is nearly impossible to stand in the area when the November gales begin to blow. "Lake Superior" is quite a misnomer. It is really an inland sea.

We encountered the white-flowered Encrusted Saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoon* Jacq.) which has leaves in rosettes much like the ornamental Hens and Chickens (*Sempervivum tectorum* L.). Robin pointed out small Butterworts (*Pinguicula vulgaris* L.) on the margins of

the pools which form in depressions of the rock outcrop. We then saw False Asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa* (Michx.) Pers.) and sought to find its cousin Least Asphodel (*Tofieldia pusilla* (Michx.) Pers.). Eventually we found some which were just about to flower.

Every so often I'd see a tuft of Glaucous Bluegrass (*Poa glauca* M.Vahl) out the corner of my eye. I didn't immediately recognize it at the time, but afterwards Peter Beckett mentioned it was there, and I quickly made the mental connection.

Robin then took us away from the exposed headlands into Black Spruce forest. We walked through some crevices in the bedrock and saw the tiny fronds of *Woodsia ilvensis* (L.) R.Br. and the arctic-alpine *Woodsia glabella* R.Br. The former is common on rock outcrops throughout the campsite area, but the latter does not seem to stray from cooler, protected places. Finally, we headed back to the visitor centre, but made a brief detour off the main path to see Black Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum* L. ssp. *hermaphroditum* (Lange ex Hagerup) Böcher), growing within 100 m of the visitor centre, on a very steep rock outcrop above Hettie Cove.

By this time the temperature had climbed into the high 20's, and I was ready to shed my jeans for some shorts. I also wanted to find out if the others had actually arrived, so we left Robin for a time and headed back for lunch, and a change of clothing. We soon found each other, as Beckett *et al.* had just come from the same area that Robin, Adam, and I had just been exploring. They had seen most of the same plants as we, but they had also seen Pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa* (L.) Frenzl ssp. *borealis* Crow), Tufted Clubrush (*Scirpus cespitosus* L.), Mountain Clubmoss (*Lycopodium selago* L.), and Spiked Wild Oat (*Trisetum spicatum* (L.) K.Richter). While the others set up camp, Adam and I ate lunch, and he was even brave enough to try swimming in Lake Superior! Seven degrees Celsius is still a bit cold for me. I waded in up to my knees before they began to ache.

After lunch, we drove out of the Park and across the Pic River to a series of dunes. Robin took us to see Franklin's Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium passerinum* Richardson), which was just about finished. Nonetheless, we were thrilled to see it. Robin knew of one other station within the park which is off-limits to

visitors and most park staff. She has also heard rumours about another possible station near Manitouwadge, which is much further inland. Beyond that, one would apparently have to travel to the Hudson Bay Lowlands to see this plant.

We soon left the Franklin's to explore the dunes. Although I'm no expert in dunes, these seemed unlike any that I have seen in Sandbanks Provincial Park, Carter Bay, or Presqu'île Provincial Park. First, there are no swales, pannes, or slacks: all of the dune area is above the water table. Second, the species composition is very different than I have seen in the south. Instead of extensive swards of Wheat Grass (*Agropyron psammophilum* Gillett & Senn) or Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata* Fern.), which were present in limited quantities, the dominant vegetation was a Scouring Rush, (*Equisetum hyemale* L.) which extended from the bottom of the depressions right up to the top of the dune peaks. Also, at the peaks of the dunes, where one might expect to see Sand Cherry, we found Red Osier Dogwood! Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus* Willd.) was very abundant, as was Sea Lyme-grass (*Leymus mollis* (Trin.) Pilger). It was clear from the ATV trails and broken beer bottles that the dunes are subject to a fair amount of human-induced disturbance, but the system is so large and otherwise remarkable that we did not dwell on this unfortunate problem.

Smooth Rose (*Rosa blanda* Aiton) grew throughout the sand dunes; the perfume of the flowers was quite strong. Soon we reached a 'grove' of Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera* L.) which Robin had mentioned to us earlier. These Poplar were well wind-trained and stunted. However, below them Adam spotted a few Moonworts (*Botrychium lunaria* (L.) Sw.) amongst the Scouring Rushes. We then headed for the cool wind of the beach. A continuous dune ran almost the entire length of the system, with Beach Grass down its front edge. Between the dune and the beach were great piles of logs which the lake had thrown up as a reminder of the log drives which still occurred in the area until the early 1980's. There was no evidence of ATV traffic on this 'barrier dune.' If there had been, I expect the blow-outs would be much more severe than they were.

Eventually we reached the far end of the system and took a short break before returning to the parking lot

and taking a swim in the Pic River, which was much much warmer than the big Lake. Along the roadside on the way back to the Park, Adam spotted a plant which Peter identified as Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus crista-galli* L.), a plant which Gleason and Cronquist (1991) describe as circumboreal; the low-land plants are introduced from Europe, while the alpine plants are native.

While I made dinner, the rest of the group all took a second swim in Lake Superior. Brrrr! After supper, I noticed an odd shrub in Peter's campsite. We identified it as Bracted Honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata* (Richardson) Banks), as species with a range which seems to more or less follow the arctic watershed in Ontario, as well as occurring along the northern fringe of Lake Superior. Michipicoten Island is the southernmost point of its range (see Soper & Heimbürger 1982). So it's a northern species, right? "Hold On!" says Mike Oldham. Outside of Ontario this species ranges as far south as California and Mexico! A map of the distribution of the plant within Ontario led me to make an incorrect assumption about its actual environmental requirements. If I had read more carefully, I wouldn't have made the mistake.

We picked up our field guides and explored a trail system in the park which was directly across the mouth of the Pic River from the dunes we had explored earlier in the day. The beach was not much different from the other side of the river. The sun so bright as it set over the water that we spent little time on the beach anyway. Once we got into the woods, we began to add more species to our lists. We encountered Twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius* (L.) DC.), and Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia paniculata* (Aiton) G. Don)¹, as well as Fancy Wood-fern (*Dryopteris intermedia* (Muhl.) A. Gray) as we descended into a wet area dominated by Balsam Poplar. These trees were tall, not stunted by wind as the dune trees had been. Peter froze and gaped at a rare lichen, Lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*), which was growing on the bark of the Balsam Poplar. Because of its appearance, he said, it had been used at one time to treat respiratory diseases.

¹ In the last issue, I had wrongly mentioned that Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica* (L.) Pers.) would occur North of Lake Superior. Virginia Bluebells is a Carolinian species.

It was getting dark, but we had just enough time to admire some Pink Shinleaf (*Pyrola asarifolia* Michx.) growing near the road-side. Then it was back off to bed after a long, hot day. Thanks to Robin for suggesting we visit, and leading us through the artic-alpine species. If there is enough interest from the FBO membership, we may try and organize an official FBO outing to Oiseau Bay of Pukaskwa National Park for next season. In order to see many of the artic-alpine species at their best, the trip would most likely be held in mid-June.

Ed Morris

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. (2nd ed.) New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. lxxv+910 pp.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimbürger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. xxxi+495 pp.

Notes & Letters:

Some Potential Names for our Newsletter.

February 10, 1998

Dear Ed:

I was looking forward to Bill Draper's trip report of Dr. Barrett & Brendon Larson's trip to Matchedash Lake. Whatever happened to it? Anyway, that's not the reason I am writing. You asked for possible names for the newsletter, so here goes:

1. Trillium Times (coupled with FBO's trillium logo)
2. Ontario Flora
3. The Carex Quarterly
4. World of BOTany
5. In the Field
6. Vascular Views
7. Plant World
8. Botanews
9. The Botanizer
10. The Vasculum (an alternative to Plant Press)

Okay, so they're not all award-winning, but I think a few aren't too bad and perhaps the list will spur you on to think of others. Good luck with choosing a name, and keep up the good work on the newsletter, whatever it's called.

Richard Aaron

P.S. How come Bob Bowles is still listed as (immediate) past-president, when it should be Claudia?

So many questions! First, I have no way of knowing who has volunteered to write trip reports, so I don't really know what happened to reports from a few of the trips which were held last year. Reports are written on a voluntary basis, and I can't really expect to receive reports from all field trips. Since I currently get reports for about 80% of the trips we hold, I don't lean on people to finish them unless I really need the content.

Thanks so much for the list of possible names for the newsletter. I hope it boosts others to get creative and send me some submissions as well.

Bob Bowles is listed as Past-President because he is a member of the executive, and the position obviously requires that one has served as President in the past. Claudia and Jeff moved to B.C., therefore she could not have filled the position. We are all thankful to Bob for staying on in that position.

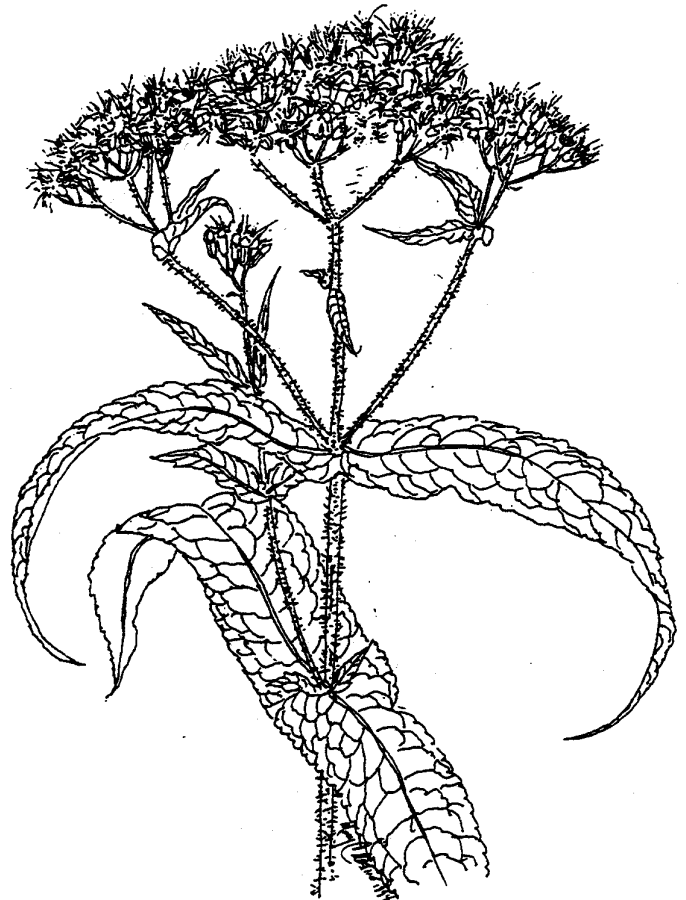
Ed

New Ontario Plant List Published

The Ontario Forest Research Institute, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, in Sault Ste. Marie has recently published Forest Research Information Paper No. 123 which will be of interest to many Ontario field botanists. The "Ontario Plant List", about 800 pages in length, is the culmination of several years work by Steve Newmaster and collaborators. It is a complete listing of all vascular plants, bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), and lichens known from the province. The vascular plant portion updates the 1990 Ontario checklist by Morton & Venn by including species found in the province since 1990, and by bringing the taxonomy and nomenclature in line with volumes 2 and 3 of the Flora of North America project. Additional features not included in Morton and Venn's checklist include French and English common names, global (G-ranks) and provincial (S-rank) ranks for all species (provided by the Natural Heritage Information Centre), and inclusion of some varieties. All mosses in the publication also have global and provincial ranks provided. The liverwort and lichen lists are the first published for the province.

The Ontario Plant List is available from the OMNR's Natural Resources Information Centre in Peterborough (P.O. Box 7000, 300 Water Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5; (705) 755-2000; fax (705) 755-1677) for \$32.26 (\$30.00 + GST). It can be purchased by credit card by phoning 1-800-667-1940. If ordered by phone or fax, \$2.34 will be added for shipping bringing the total to \$34.60.

M.J. Oldham



Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* L.) by Mary Celestino.