Field Botanists Of Ontario

Newsletter

Fall 2000
Volume 13(3)

ISSN: 1180-1417

A patchwork of upland White Birch, Poplars, and Pines on an esker complex near Temagami, Ontario. Photo by Ed Morris.

FIELD BOTANISTS of ONTARIO

FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly by the FBO; ISSN: 1180-1417.

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

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The **deadline** for submissions for **Volume 13(4) - Winter 2000-2001** is **December 21st, 2000**.

Standard source for scientific names of vascular plants:

Newmaster, S.G., A. Lehela, P.W.C. Uhlig, S. McMurray and M.J. Oldham. 1998. Ontario Plant List. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Forest Research Institute, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Forest Research Information Paper No. 123, 550 pp + appendices.

Field Trip Reports:

Spring Flora of Spencer Gorge and Dundas Valley, Hamilton-Wentworth.

Saturday May 13th, 2000.

Twelve people participated on this first trip of the season, led by Anthony Goodban, which started out at Tews Falls along Spencer Creek. Tews Falls is the second highest drop along the escarpment, next to Niagara. With the intense rains of early May, the high flow and associated sediment made for a magnificent view of the falls. Spencer Creek has produced an incised gorge along the escarpment.

Historically, the area including Dundas Valley experienced frequent burning and was predominantly Chinquapin Oak-prairie-savanna. With remnant patches of oak and prairie-savanna species still remaining, the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA) has initiated a management program to restore the savanna ecosystem to portions of the gorge. In 1998, the HRCA began restoration of the savanna through removal of overstory trees, shrubs, and existing herb layer. Mature Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* L.) was removed due to its prolific seeding, while understory shrubs Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana* L.), Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.), and Round-leaved

Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa* Lam.) were removed to increase available light. Some early flowering savanna species still exist because of available light, but late flowering ones are eliminated because of lack of light from the tree and shrub layer. The tree and shrub layer were removed through cutting and stump treating with Round-up, or the shrubs were simply injected with EZ-ject© (Round-up) without cutting. Resprouting of the shrubs still occurred after treatment. The herb layer and persistent leaf litter from Red and White Oak (preventing germination) is controlled through periodic burning. To date there were only a few small (<1 ha) patches being restored.

Along with typical spring ephemerals, we saw the following savanna species of interest which are targeted for restoration:

Andropgon gerardii Vitman
Big Blue-stem

Asclepias tuberosa L.
Butterfly-weed - unfortunately not in flower.

Ceanothus americanus L.
New Jersey Tea - savanna shrub with three-veined leaves.

Helianthus divaricatus L.
Woodland Sunflower -not quite in flower.

Polygala senega L.
Seneca Snakeroot - just coming into flower.

Ranunculus hispidus Michx. var. *hispidus*
Hispid Buttercup

Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nees
Little Blue-stem

Symphoricarpos albus (L.) S.F. Blake
Snowberry

Taenidia integerrima (L.) Drude
Yellow Pimpernel - small delicate flower.

Thalictrum thalictroides (L.) A.J. Eames & B.Boivin
Rue Anemone - provincially rare, delicate flower.
[Most FBO members will be familiar with the synonym Anemonella thalictroides. *-Ed]*

Viburnum rafinesquianum Shultes
Downy Arrow-wood - prominent veins on leaves.

Tews Falls. Photo by Ron Reinholt.

After a quick pit stop in Dundas, we met for lunch at the Fairy Wall in Dundas Valley Conservation Authority, an extensive 1200 ha Carolinian forest tract. This area consists of complex undulating topography of dolostone rock and moraine covered escarpment. The area supports a rich deciduous forest and associated spring flora. While Anthony provided us with a historical snapshot of each site, both anthropogenic and geological, Richard Aaron amused us with the derivations of some common and Latin nomenclature. Sorry, I cannot recount any here!

Thalictrum thalictroides (L.) A.J. Eames & B.Boivin
Photo by Ron Reinholt.

With the proliferation of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata* (M.Bieb.) Cavara & Grande) here and any other place frequented by humans, the group came up with the culinary fancy of Garlic Mustard Pesto. I must admit that I had never smelled the delicate garlic fragrance of the crushed leaves. There's got to be a trendy market here! There was some discussion as to the effectiveness of pulling Garlic Mustard versus cutting for control, where pulling may stimulate

Hispid Buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus* Michx. var. *hispidus*). Photo by Ron Reinholt.

germination of the existing seed bank. Interestingly, while I was biking (and spreading more garlic mustard) with my family the next day in Dundas Valley, I saw HRCA staff pulling up masses of Garlic Mustard along the adjacent pathways!

On a much more botanically interesting note, the highlight for this person and many others, I'm sure, was to see Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida* L.) in flower. To escape the sight of these showy white flowers from a considerable distance is difficult. Other notables include the evergreen fronds of Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott) and Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum* L.). The 'walking' in the name Walking Fern comes from the fact that the tips of arching blades will root to form new plants. Other notables include:

- Large fronds of Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana* (Hook. ex Goldie) A.Gray);
- Long-spurred Violet (*Viola rostrata* Pursh);
- The provincially rare (S2) Green Violet (*Hybanthus concolor* (T. Forster) Sprengel); not a true violet (Genus *Viola*), but in the *Violaceae* family;
- The very ephemeral and rare (S4) False Mermaid (*Floerkea proserpinacoides* Willd.) which will wither in a month's time;
- A saprophytic - parasitic fungi, Dryad's saddle (*Polyporus squamosus* Fries), resembling a saddle growing out of trees and stumps.

A magnificent Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina* Ehrh.) with a diameter of 63.6 cm was verified with Bill's dbh tape. Despite the two foresters in the group, we'll leave the Black Cherry standing!

A very pleasant, informative day with no bugs! Thanks to Anthony for leading and Dale for coordinating.

Ron Reinholt

Owen Sound Ferns.

July 16th, 2000

Nelson (Nels) Maher, a life-long resident of Owen Sound, has made the study of fern species in Grey and Bruce Counties his special botanical interest. In cooperation with the Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Nels is a co-author of the recently published Ferns of Grey and Bruce (1999).

In his Fern Checklist (a useful guide to carry into the field), Nels has written:

> *Today a garden of ferns can be found in Grey & Bruce Counties between the Rocky Saugeen north of Durham and just south of Lion's Head. Here lies the best area for ferns in Ontario if not in all of North America. Over 40 varieties of ferns, some of them rare, grow in mostly heady profusion (unlike some other areas of Ontario, that usually have fewer than 25). The east side of the peninsula, where the white cliffs plunge deeply into Georgian Bay, has the greatest diversity and numbers of ferns because so many thrive on the limestone escarpment, both in the wooded areas on top and on the face and talus below. So if you'd like to delve a little deeper into the world of ferns, Grey-Bruce is the place to be.*

Bayview Escarpment Provincial Nature Reserve was the first area Nels had chosen for us to view fern species. It is located off Highway 26 in St. Vincent Township, Grey County, on the St. Vincent-Syndenham Townline, east of Woodford. The Nature Reserve is part of the Bayview Escarpment natural area, which is a major Niagara Escarpment promontory containing extensive escarpment plain, cliffs and slopes, as well as large moist forests and wetlands on a broad terrace of the Manitoulin Formation at the base of the slopes.

We entered a Sugar Maple dominated forest; the rich woodland floor a carpet of herbaceous plants, lush from spring and summer rains. Along the woodland road,

Nels showed us tall specimens of Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum* (L.) Swartz), then Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes* L.) and Northern Holly Fern (*Polystichum lonchitis* (L.) Roth) growing on the moss encrusted walls of a limestone sink hole. Nearby, Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana* (Hook ex Goldie) A. Gray), Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas* (L.) Schott), Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis* L.), and Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina* (L.) Roth ex Mert.) were viewed.

Beside an Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris* (L.) Todaro) Nels commented that this species always "looks good," as insects do not seem to care for it. This species is edible, unlike other species which are carcinogenic.

At another moss-covered limestone wall, we viewed Hart's-tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium* L.). Nels commented that Maidenhair Spleenwort had not yet colonized this wall, a process that might take hundreds of years. Clusters of delicate Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum* L.) grew nearby in the rich woodland, while the Evergreen Wood Fern (*Dryopteris intermedia* (Muhl. ex Willd.) A.Gray) resembled graceful green vases.

The prostate leaflet of Cut-leaved Grape Fern (*Botrychium dissectum* Spreng.) and both the typical and spring form *B. dissectum* and variety *obliquum* were discussed. Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis* (L.) Gray) was found by Nels near the edge of the escarpment, its preferred location. Nearby several patches of Narrow-leaved Glade Fern (*Diplazium pycnocarpon* (Spreng.) M.Brown) were identified. The graceful Bulblet Fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera* L. Bernh.) with tiny bulblets on the lower surface of the subleaflets was also found near the escarpment's edge.

On the escarpment's edge we found that portions of the escarpment had slipped down the slope, providing a series of walls and another habitat on which fern species had established. Huge chunks of limestone were entirely covered with green moss, on which Fragile Fern (*Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh.) and Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum* L.) were growing. Nels discussed the diagnostic features by which varieties of Fragile Fern may be identified. He commented that in some areas, Walking Ferns (the Bruce Trail's symbol) have entirely covered the rocks on which they grow.

The rich, moist woodland of the Bayview Escarpment Provincial Nature Reserve provides habitat for the Red-spotted Newt: at least 15 bright orange-red individuals were seen walking on leaf litter.

One of Nel's favourite spots to visit is Black's Park Conservation Area, off 6th Avenue West in Owen Sound. Nels has found twenty-nine species of ferns on this property, which was donated to the Conservation Authority. As we climbed the trail along the escarpment, Nels pointed out the site of the original cottage, now surrounded by Ostrich Fern. Nels drew our attention to Maidenhair Spleenwort and Northern Holly Fern growing on the limestone rock by the trail, with Rock Polypody (*Polypodium virginianum* L.) established on top of the rock. Then Nels led us to his "pet rock" on which Rock Polypody, Maidenhair Fern, Bulblet Fern, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Walking Fern, and Fragile Fern all grow. He commented that the Fragile Fern was luxuriant this year, one half again in size due to this season's abundant rainfall.

We scrambled up the trail over the West Rocks, pausing to admire Smooth Cliff-brake (*Pellaea glabella* Mett. ex Kuhn) in a fissure. Upon reaching the escarpment's upper level, we walked along the Bruce Trail as Nels showed us fine examples of various fern species including Christmas Fern, with several thousand individual plants found in this area.

Nels lead us to a viewing point over the former Butchard lime kiln site, which Nels knew as a youngster as an area devoid of trees where he and his friends played lacrosse on the open limestone. Fifty years later

Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes* L.). Photo by Ed Morris (Manitoulin Island).

Slender Cliff-brake (*Cryptogramma stelleri* (S.G.Gmel.) Prantl.). Photo by Ed Morris (Michipicoten Island Provincial Park, Lake Superior).

the area is transformed. Trees cover the site, as does Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn) in a dry open area near the lookout. In a nearby fissure, Nels showed us Slender Cliff-brake (*Cryptogramma stelleri* (S.G.Gmel.) Prantl.) and Green Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum* L.). Nels explained that this fissure would be packed with snow in winter. The fissure would remain cool and moist into June; conditions which the Green Spleenwort favours. Even on a summer's day, the fissure is likely ten degrees cooler than the surrounding air temperature. During our descent from the escarpment, Nels showed us Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Oakes ex Eaton), four plants growing on a crumbling surface.

We wish to thank Nels, his wife Jean, and Madeline Austen for a delightful day among the ferns of Grey County and we look forward to an opportunity to explore other sites around Owen Sound.

Betty Learmouth

Botany Excursions:

Massassauga Point and Point Petre Wildlife Area, Prince Edward County.

Free from work for the May long weekend, we escaped to Prince Edward County (PEC) for a little botanical exploration. To say that it was a hike would be a slight exaggeration; I suspect that a well-fed walking fern might have covered more territory than we did. Yet, as FBO field trip veterans know, slow walking means great plants! In this article we will describe the highlights of our trip, while also offering advice on avoiding some of our mistakes, our primary objective being to direct the interest of our fellow field botanists towards an endearing botanical destination.

The Locations:

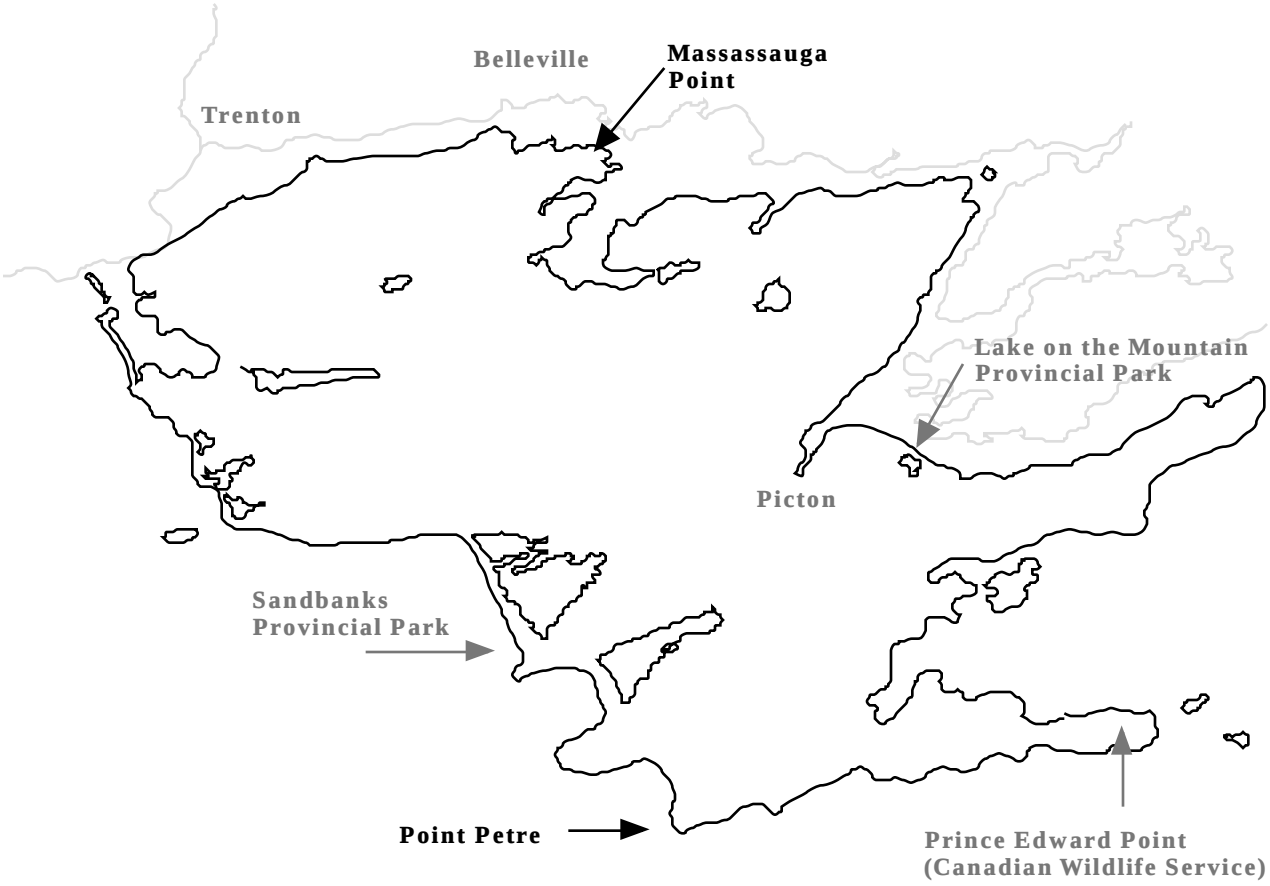
Prince Edward County is the pseudo-island spreading into Lake Ontario south of Belleville and east of Presqu'ile. It is an area of diverse habitat, including the most southerly outcrop of the Canadian Shield in Ontario, rich southern woodlots, vast Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum* L.) swamps, and alvars. From a botanist's perspective, PEC is exciting yet relatively under-explored (Oldham, pers. comm.) The County is a little large for a weekend trip, so we decided to visit two areas: Massassauga Point Conservation Area at the eastern edge of the County, and the Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area on the southern shore.

Massassauga Point is an alvar situated at the south-east corner of the Bay of Quinte. It is comprised of Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L.) forests dotted by the occasional Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa* Michx.) or Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata* (Miller) K.Koch). The stands of Red Cedars are broken by trails and a series of small fields where limestone pavement frequently reaches the surface.

Point Petre and the southern shore differ slightly from Massassauga Point. Point Petre contains a small Carolinian forest, and limestone pavement along the west shore. The southern shore most frequently has limestone gravel at the surface rather than pavement, and contains a wider variety of habitats. Red Cedar remains common, but not at the density found at Massassauga Point.

The Highlights:

We arrived at PEC around 6 on Friday evening, so after a quick dinner, decided that we would visit Massassauga Point Conservation Area to whet our appetites, so to speak. And whet our appetites it did! Long before we got out of the car, the exuberant Field



Map of Prince Edward County showing trip locations, some larger towns, and parks.

Chickweed (*Cerastium arvense* L.) was forcing its beautiful white flowers on us. It was difficult to believe that we were driving down a small back road rather than a major botanical garden as the lush blankets of *Cerastium* threatened to take over the road. This was our first introduction to the plant that was to become so ubiquitous throughout our travels, and which we never quite got used to. We couldn't shake the feeling that such a showy, orderly, prolific plant had to be some sort of garden escape,[1] and kept looking for the old cottage foundation from which it surely originated!

The Point itself continued to impress. The flora, in places, was spectacular -- bashful Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum* Pursh) extending their drooping purple heads above the grasses; delicate Blunt-leaved Sandwort (*Moehringia lateriflora* (L.) Fenzl) showing off a blanket of their ghostly flowers under the shade of the Red Cedars; and clumps of tenacious Fringed Houstonia (*Hedyotis canadensis* (Gaertn.) Hook.) stubbornly livening up the dry limestone. In other areas the flora, while no less interesting, exhibited the kind of subtlety that only people who have spent far too long looking at plants are likely to appreciate -- fresh leaves of Side-oats Gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula* (Michx.) Torr.) emerging beneath the dried stalks of last summer; a scattering of viscous Short-pedicelled Nodding Chickweed (*Cerastium brachypodum* (Engelm. ex A. Gray) B.L. Robins.)[2] proclaiming their individuality from the ever present Field Chickweed; stubby little Spring Forget-me-not (*Myosotis verna* Nutt.) plants which seemed as dry as the rock from which they sprang; and, by far our favourite -- a small patch of Hairy Whitlow-grass (*Draba reptans* (Lam.) Fern.). A visual symbol of character and fertility, it is hard to imagine how these plants, with their dime-sized leaves, are able to extract enough energy from the sun and nutrients from the dry rock to support the seed pods they so triumphantly extend towards the sun. Such attitude for a plant that is shorter than an average person's little finger!

Soon though, the advancing darkness prevented any

[1] C. arvense *ssp.* arvense *is alien [SE4], while ssp.* strictum *(Haenke) Gaudin [S4] is native. - Ed.*

[2] C. brachypodum *is rare [S1] in Ontario. - Ed.*

Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L.) Savanna. Photo by Ed Morris (Prince Edward County, between Point Petre and Prince Edward Point.

further explorations. The other secrets of Massassauga Point will have to wait for another trip. Botanists who find this area particularly interesting may also want to check out Point Anne across the bay. It is topographically and floristically similar to Massassauga Point (including a number of rarities), but it also has a large track of forest with many southern affinities. Unfortunately, access to Point Anne is difficult as it is largely privately owned.

The next morning came way too early, so it was a pair of grumpy and blurry-eyed naturalists who hauled themselves out of the car at Point Petre, at the western edge of the Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area. Petre has a rich woods and is a good migrant trap. Redstarts and Mourning Warblers sang above us as we looked down at the big patches of Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum* L.), scattered clumps of Twin-leaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla* (L.) Pers.), and Purple Cress (*Cardamine douglassii* Britton). Unfortunately, the spring was fairly early this year and the Twinleaf was finished flowering; but it still is a particularly striking plant with its bizarrely symmetrical leaves.

As we stepped out of the woods and east across the road, the world changed completely. Good-bye Mourning Warblers and Twinleaf, hello Field Sparrows and Poison Ivy (*Rhus vernix* L.). We spent approximately twenty minutes desperately trying to avoid all the Poison Ivy patches[3] before we accepted the inevitable and headed in. Most of the Wildlife Area is characterized by a complete flatness broken by the cylindrical Red Cedars, smooth, even patches of Gray Dogwood (*Cornus foemina* Miller ssp. *racemosa* (Lam.) J.S. Wilson) and the ever-preasant Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum* Miller). The slightly lower areas fill up with water in the spring, which, together with the Poison Ivy and Prickly Ash, form the triumvirate of obstacles for unfortunate backpackers. But don't get us wrong, the setting is striking and beautiful, especially for those of us who are relatively inexperienced in alvar settings.

As at Massassauga Point, Point Petre Wildlife Area was characterized by certain plants and settings that were particularly striking. Sometimes we would get lulled into the swing of the hike and take several minutes to realize that the white flowers all around us were no longer Field Chickweed, but were instead Blunt-leaved Sandwort, Field Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana* Miller), or Long-stalked Stichwort (*Stellaria longipes* Goldie). All three formed fairly dense patches, although the Stichwort was less common, and tended to be found in areas near the rocky beach, where we also found the glaucous spikes of Smooth Rock Cress (*Arabis laevigata* (Muhl. ex Willd.) Poir.). In the areas with only a fine dusting of soil between the limestone gravel grew an astounding abundance of Fringed Houstonia. It was breathtaking to step between two cedars and see thousands upon thousands of Houstonia plants stretching off into the distance. It was impossible to avoid trampling them, diligently though we tried. We were barely able to resist the temptation to lie down in the white cushion. Of course, the weight of our packs may have had something to do with that temptation too.

It occasionally seemed that no matter what we did, we couldn't escape the beds of white flowers. We even managed to get ourselves completely stuck in a border

[3] One of us, CJR, is particularly allergic, and is a little itchy at the time of writing.

marsh[4] only to find that there was a big patch of white flowers there too! White Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis* L.) flowers hovered evenly above the water like a flying carpet or an early morning mist. Occasionally, though, colour would break into the scene, as it did when the clumps of Yellow Lady-slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus* L.) flowers peeked their yellow heads out from the reddish haze of the Gray Dogwood patches.

Misc. Advice:

We timed the trip perfectly (and inadvertently) for the many flowering plants that we've mentioned so far. However, the area would also be stunning later in the summer when the warm season composites and graminoids are mature (and when many of the pools dry up, making walking less soggy). We were also lucky in our timing in that there were virtually no biting insects around at all.

We chose to backpack and stay overnight on the beach. This is a great way to see the area, and a great way to see plants. To put our pace in perspective, though, it took us around 18 hours to bushwhack through the Wildlife Area, and only two hours to walk back along the road to the car. We weren't exactly setting a blistering pace! One big drawback, in our opinion anyway, is that the National Sport of the Prince Edward Countonians seems to be riding trikes and 4-wheelers. The Wildlife Area is criss-crossed with 4-wheeler paths, and we only rarely escaped the sound of their engines. The upside of this fact is that the Wildlife Area can easily and pleasantly be explored by mountain bike as well as by backpack or day trip.

Anyone wanting more information on the location and status of any of the species reported in this article are encouraged to contact the authors for more information. Conversely, the authors are very interested in hearing about anyone else's adventures in Prince Edward County. Enjoy!

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[4] Note to other hikers: Along much of its length, at least the section west of Charowell Point, the beach is separated from the mainland by a marsh which can be rather, uh, deep. Do not go there unless you have an unhealthy desire to be wet and exhausted. Not that we'd know...

Appendix: A Smattering of Other Cool Species.

Native Plants:

Carex blanda Dewey
Woodland Sedge

Carex crawei Dewey
Crawe's Sedge

Carex flava L.
Yellow Sedge

Carex hitchcockiana Dewey
Hitchcock's Sedge

Carex leptonervia (Fern.) Fern.
Finely-nerved Sedge

Carex sartwellii Dewey
Sartwell's Sedge

Carex stricta Lam.
Tussock Sedge

Carex umbellata Schkuhr ex Willd.
Early Oak Sedge

Comandra umbellata (L.) Nutt.
Bastard Toad-flax

Hedeoma hispidum Pursh
Rough Pennyroyal

Lathyrus ochroleucus Hook.
Cream-coloured Vetchling

Lathyrus palustris L.
Marsh Vetchling

Potentilla arguta Pursh
Tall Cinquefoil

Ribes hirtellum Michx.
Smooth Gooseberry

Silene antirrhina L.
Sleepy Catch-fly

Triosteum aurantiacum E. P. Bicknell
Narrow-leaved Horse-gentian

Vicia americana Muhl. ex Willd.
American Vetch

Zizea aurea (L.) Koch
Golden Alexanders

Non-natives:

Acinos arvensis (Lam.) Dandy
Mother-of-thyme

Alyssum alyssoides (L.) L.
Yellow Alyssum

Camelina microcarpa Andrz. ex DC.
Small-fruited False Flax

Cynoglossum officinale L.
Hound's-tongue

Elaeagnus umbellata Thunb.
Russian Olive

Hyssopus officinalis L.
Hyssop

Non-plants:
Two Grasshopper Sparrows.
Two Clay-coloured Sparrows.
Fourteen species of butterflies.

Obituary:

In Memory of Paul McGaw (Nov. 1, 1936 – Aug. 31, 2000).

The FBO lost one of its most avid members with the passing of Paul McGaw earlier this year. According to Ilmar Talvila, long-time FBO treasurer, Paul probably attended more FBO outings over the years than anyone else.

But Paul was more than a botanist – he was an all-round naturalist. On FBO trips he always came equipped with binoculars and insect net. Many will have fond memories of Paul chasing across fields after a butterfly or day-flying moth. Returning triumphantly with his catch, he would pass it around in a "bug jar" for all to see.

Paul McGaw in Vancouver, Spring 2000.
Photo by Carolyn King.

As a naturalist, there were many sides to Paul. First, there was Paul the educator. During his 28 years as an elementary school teacher, he looked for every opportunity to introduce his pupils to nature, whether it be in the classroom, on nature walks, or through impromptu walkabouts at recess. In 1994, when Paul retired from teaching, he was presented with a bound collection of notes and artwork created by his students. Perusing these pages, one sees that Paul's efforts were not in vain. Many thanked him effusively for the "nature lessons", while others wished him "Happy Birding."

Paul's teaching extended to the public as well. He conducted moth nights in Toronto's High Park, led trips for the Toronto Field Naturalists, and assisted with the TFN's Junior Field Naturalist program. He was also a veteran of the slide show circuit, giving numerous presentations on plants and butterfly gardening to naturalist groups, school classes, and seniors' homes.

Then there was Paul the organizer. Behind the scenes, his involvement with the naturalist community ran deep. For ten years, he was active on the board of the Canadian Wildflower Society (now the North American Native Plant Society). For several of those years he also ran the CWS's immensely popular native plant sale, co-ordinated their seed exchange, and organized plant rescues. At the time of his death, Paul was a director/executive member of five organizations: the Toronto Entomologists' Association, Toronto Wildflower Society, Ontario Rock Garden Society and two camera clubs. In the case of the Toronto Wildflower Society, he served as president and events co-ordinator for eight years.

There was also Paul the promoter, who sat behind information tables at numerous fairs and festivals, while Paul the campaigner was involved with several local conservation groups, namely Friends of the Don East and Save the Rouge Valley System. He also lobbied on behalf of his local architectural conservancy group to save older buildings whose futures were far from certain.

As Paul the participant, he helped on bird, butterfly, moth and Odonata counts. He also did weeding at Toronto's Don Valley Brick Works and the nearby Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve. As well, he regularly attended field trips and meetings organized by

a myriad of groups, including the FBO, FON, Toronto Entomologists' Association, Toronto Field Naturalists and the Mycological Society of Toronto.

Meanwhile, there was Paul the photographer, who specialized in landscapes and nature subjects. Many was the evening he would invite friends over to show slides from a recent trip or photo excursion. He was an accredited photo competition judge, and in turn he too was judged, his photographic images garnering many awards over the years.

Finally, there was Paul the wildflower gardener. Over the course of a decade, he converted his front and back yards into a floral showpiece. His efforts even extended to the city-owned boulevard strip in front of his house, in the firm belief that all grassy lawn areas should be eradicated. Paul regularly made his garden available for public garden tours, naturalist clubs, and photography groups to visit. Judging by his enthusiasm, it was obvious he got at least as much pleasure from showing visitors around as they got from seeing his work-in-progress. Besides the admiration of others, Paul's garden won several awards. The most recent was first prize for best environmental garden in a Toronto city-wide competition, presented posthumously in a ceremony at Toronto City Hall on October 4, 2000. Take a bow, Paul.

Although nature played a major role in Paul's life, he had many other interests besides. Actually, Paul never had interests, he had passions. He was passionate about poetry, a big jazz fan, a baroque opera fanatic, and a devotee of historical architecture. I remember back to May, 1999 when we were in Kingston for the FON annual conference. Four of us were walking along a downtown street when Paul began pointing out, in absorbing detail, the stylistic features of the old buildings all around us. It was a wonderful experience – like having our own private tour guide. It was all the more special because I had never been aware of Paul's fascination with older architecture.

Somehow, despite his many interests, Paul still found time to travel. He did nature trips to such far-off places as Madagascar, South Africa, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, and England. He also visited many regions of the U.S., plus every Canadian province and the Northwest Territories. But Paul often said that some of his favourite trips were done right here in the province with the FBO. He waited expectantly each spring for the yearly schedule to arrive, so he could pencil dates on his calendar and work other trips around them.

On August 20, Paul developed a fever and chills. He had participated in an all-day insect outing and night-time moth survey the day before, so it could have been his body's reaction to all the exertion. But a series of tests soon revealed the true cause – he had acute leukaemia. Chemotherapy was set to begin on August 27. But on that very day, while Paul was taking other tests at the hospital, he suffered a brain haemorrhage and slipped into a coma. He died four days later, on August 31, a mere week after receiving the diagnosis.

Paul is survived by his daughter Jennifer, and long-time companion Carolyn King, an avid naturalist and photographer in her own right. Fittingly, Paul and Carolyn first met 17 years ago on an FON day trip led by former FBO president Bob Bowles. A number of years earlier, Paul's wife had passed away from cancer.

It is hard to believe that Paul packed so much into 63 short years. Without a doubt he lived a life of purpose and passion, and along the way he touched the lives of many. Naturalist, educator, gardener, photographer. He was all these things, but to me he was much more. Paul was a good friend, and I will miss him dearly.

Richard Aaron

Notices:

Executive Members Stepping Down.

After eleven years, Ilmar Talvila will be stepping down from the FBO executive. As treasurer, Ilmar has made great contributions to the FBO, especially as he has kept our financial records consistently up-to-date. Because of his contributions, other executive members were able to budget accurately, produce a quality newsletter, and organize field trips and annual general meetings. In fact, he has kept our spending so focused that the executive occasionally was able to donate surplus funds to the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Ilmar has been active in all activities of the FBO, and to a large extent has made the FBO the vibrant organization it is today. He will be missed from the

executive, but I'm sure he will be well met on future field trips. *Kiitos palgon Ilmar!*

Kellie Bonnici, the FBO's webmaster has requested to be 'down-graded' from a full executive member. She will continue to volunteer as webmaster. The website www.trentu.ca/FBO.

This leaves at least one, maybe two, executive positions for us to fill. If you are potentially interested in the treasurer's position, or perhaps another position on the FBO executive, please introduce yourself to Carole Ann Lacroix by email or phone (see contact information on page 2).

Members Show Interest in Bound Sets of FBO Newsletters.

A number of FBO members have expressed an interest in obtaining bound sets of Volumes 1-12 of FBO Newsletters. Therefore, this project will go ahead as I described in the previous issue. Jim Lane and Carol Brotman have volunteered to compile an index based on keywords in article titles. Once they have completed that particular task, we can offer complete sets or the index by itself to members and non-members of the FBO. I do not have a precise estimate of the total costs of each set. My ball-park estimate is in the $45-50 range. The final price will be set so that a small profit is made in order to off-set the cost of donating complete sets to Ontario's University Libraries. I am not yet in a position where I can start taking orders for these items, but letters of interest are always welcome as they help give me the sometimes necessary prodding to keep the project on schedule.

Field Trip Destinations for 2001.

The FBO executive is currently listing potential field trips for the upcoming 2001 season. Although we were able to assemble a good list of potential trips in our last meeting (October), now would be the best time to pass along your suggestions, particularly if it is a location we have not yet visited. You could also suggest a trip that focuses on a species group or community type. Pass along your suggestions to any FBO executive member (see page 2 for contact information). We carefully consider all suggestions we receive.

Newsletter Expenses Catching Up to Budget.

For the past few years the cost of producing the FBO newsletter has been consistently under the annual budget of $2200. Recently, printing expenses have increased, and postage is expected to increase once again in the New Year. The FBO is in good financial shape and these increases are not likely to affect any of our other activities or commitments. However, at Carole Ann's suggestion I will be making the FBO newsletter available electronically to FBO members. The total cost of delivering the newsletter would diminish significantly if even 10% of members chose to receive their newsletters this way, and it does not require any additional work on my part. Phew!

This year's membership renewal form will include a line for your email address, as I suspect the majority of FBO members are now 'online.' On the renewal form, you will be asked to indicate how you wish to receive your newsletter: by mail, email, or both. The FBO newsletter can be emailed directly to you as an Adobe Acrobat file. The Adobe Acrobat Reader software is available for free on the internet. It comes in both PC and Macintosh versions, and is most likely already installed on your computer if you currently browse the world wide web. An advantage of the 'eNewsletter' is that most photos will appear in their original colour. Those of you working with slower connection speeds take warning: the 'eNewsletter' can reach a considerable size (2 MB) and may take several minutes to download.