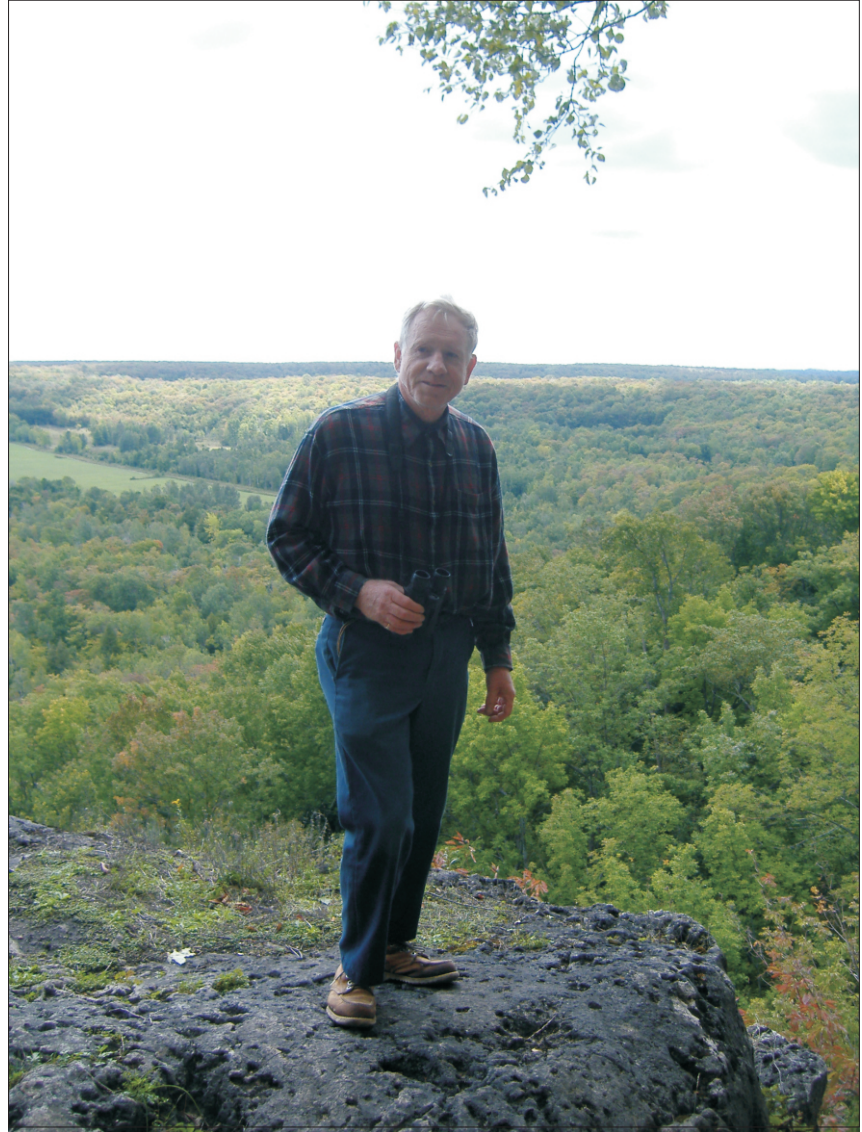




FIELD
BOTANISTS of
ONTARIO

Newsletter

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Joe Johnson on the Cape Croker field trip, Credit: Cheryl Hendrickson

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President's Message

It is always difficult to figure out what to do when winter shows some evidence of coming to an end, botanically speaking. The growing season, and especially the season when some of the more difficult groups such as sedges and grasses are most identifiable, is actually still quite far away. You feel rusty.

You can prepare for the field season by searching the internet and the primary literature for new keys to difficult groups, or look at our website where there are lots of links to useful botanical sites. You can read up on the new classification of the Three-seeded Sedge (*Carex trisperma*) group, for example (would I be able to identify the newest identified species of that group: *Carex billingsii*?). Or catch up on the multitude of changes in the club-rushes: five-syllabled names like Soft Bulrush (*Scirpus validus*) have morphed into ten-syllabled and rather less pronounceable names like *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*. Study the new genera that have split away from *Aster*. Peruse Voss's *Michigan Flora*, an entertaining and informative read even if you are not looking for tips on identification.

With even a little intensification of spring sunshine, you can start to find willow catkins (sometimes easier to get to in wetlands if ice is still thick enough) and improve identification skills for this difficult group. As soon as the ground begins to show, you can look for some of the very early rare plants, sometimes overlooked because they are visible when snow is still patchy on the ground and few botanists are out: Harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) and False Rue-anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) for example, if you are far enough south.

Take time to look at the flowers of the red-based upland sedges - Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), Dark Green Sedge (*C. tonsa* var. *tonsa*), Umbel-like Sedge (*C. umbellata*) and Peduncled Sedge (*C. pedunculata*), in bloom even when they are surrounded by snow. The red base is thought to be an adaptation to absorb heat and reduce metabolic costs of reproduction.

Sign up for upcoming trips with the FBO, and sigh for spring. 🌱

Sarah Mainguy, President

Standard source for most scientific names and authorities 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.

Membership forms can be found on the FBO website www.trentu.ca/org/fbo. Annual memberships are \$15.00 for individuals and \$18.00 for families.

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Field Trip Reports

Mushroom Trip to Dufferin County Forest, October 6, 2007

On an unusually warm fall Saturday, a group of ten FBO members met in a parking lot at the Dufferin County Forest north of Orangeville. Our leader was Richard Aaron, who is a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable amateur mycologist. I had met Richard several years earlier on one of my first FBO outings. His enthusiasm was infectious and I have been trying to identify mushrooms ever since.

Dufferin County Forest consists of twelve tracts totaling 2500 acres. Our trip centred on the 1500 acre Main Tract, a favourite spot for mushroom hunters. As we arrived we saw people who had just returned from the woods loading their cars with full bags of mushrooms. I was concerned that there would not be any left for us, but these folks were

looking only for the edible Honey Mushroom* (*Armillaria mellea*). It turns out that most mushroom hunters are only interested in the edible varieties and true to form these people were not interested in our finds.

Before venturing into the woods, Richard first showed us his set-up for collecting specimens. We had each been asked to bring a collecting basket and various implements. Richard's basket contained wax paper bags as well as two plastic boxes with partitions for storing tiny specimens, tweezers, a 10x hand lens, compass, tape measure, and a whistle to summon help. We were told that

** Unlike some other languages, English has few accepted common names for fungi. As a result, names can vary widely between field guides. All names used in this article were taken from George Barron's book, *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada* (Lone Pine Publishing, 1999).*



Honey Mushroom (*Armillaria mellea*) Credit: M. Marsh



Earthstar (*Geastrum quadrifidum*)

Credit: M. Marsh



Horsehair Mushroom (*Marasmius rotula*)

Credit: M. Marsh

placing mushrooms in plastic bags hastens their decomposition, since fungi hold lots of moisture and plastic bags don't breathe. Richard also carried two knives – a large one he carried in a sheath on his belt for most jobs, and a pocket knife with a saw attachment for cleanly cutting branches.

Richard pointed out that a “mushroom” is the fruiting body of a fungus, so that gathering specimens is like collecting apples off a tree. Nonetheless, he asked us to exercise moderation when collecting so as not to unduly disturb the environment. To aid identification, Richard recommended that aspiring mycologists start with two field guides: the National Audubon Society's *Field Guide to North American Mushrooms* and George Barron's *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada*.

Despite the drought-like conditions, ten pairs of sharp eyes made for many discoveries. We encountered a

variety of tiny fungi such as the delightful Horsehair Mushroom (*Marasmius rotula*), Split Gill (*Schizophyllum commune*), and the even tinier Lemon Drops (*Bisporella citrina*). We were told that *Marasmius* species wither in dry weather and revive again when it rains. In the case of *M. rotula* and several other species in this genus, there is a structure at the top of the stem that resembles a tiny wheel, called a collarium. The Split Gills do not have stalks and the closely-pressed pairs of gills spread apart in the middle when wet.

A number of really large fungi were also seen, such as a huge Artist's Conk (*Ganoderma applanatum*). This perennial adds a new layer of tubes each year. Richard informed us that if the fruiting body were cut in cross-section, the layers could be counted to determine its age. We also found *Phellinus ignarius* growing on the trunk of an old tree, with a large mass of brown spores on the ground underneath it. A few of the other bracket fungi we



Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor*)
Credit: M. Marsh



Tinder Polypore (*Fomes fomentarius*)
Credit: M. Marsh

saw included Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor*) with its many-coloured bands, *Trametes pubescens* with its all-white zonation, Tinder Polypore (*Fomes fomentarius*) which can be used for fire starter, and fruiting bodies of *Cerrena unicolor* covered with green algal growth.

The find of the day for me was the Four-Armed Earthstar (*Geastrum quadrifidum*). I had long admired the Earthstars shown in mushroom books but had never seen one. Another group that fascinates me is the cup fungi so I was glad to see the Blue-Stain Fungus (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*) and a species of *Peziza*. Although we did not find any fruiting bodies of *C. aeruginascens*, we did see a small log stained blue-green with its mycelium.

The largest group found this day was the gilled fungi. Richard identified three species in the genus *Amanita*. *Amanita muscaria* is the mushroom made famous in *Alice in Wonderland*, although the variety found in our

area is yellow or orange-yellow, but not red. *A. citrina* had a lemon-coloured cap, a flaring ring on the stalk, and had a slight smell of raw potatoes, while *A. ceciliae* had a darker cap with a striate margin and lacked a ring. We also saw species in the genera *Clitopilus*, *Collybia*, *Coprinus*, *Cortinarius*, *Crepidotus*, *Entoloma*, *Galerina*, *Gomphidius*, *Hebeloma*, *Lactarius*, *Panellus*, *Phlebia*, *Pleurotus*, *Plicaturopsis*, *Pluteus* and *Russula*.

After the identification had concluded, Richard showed us a number of additional field guides to consider purchasing plus several etymological dictionaries which would come in handy when trying to decipher the meanings of the scientific names.

This was an excellent outing and much enjoyed by us all. Many thanks again to Richard for sharing his enthusiasm and expertise with us. 🍄

Mary Marsh

Inglis Falls, Owen Sound

September 15, 2007

On the morning of Saturday September 15th, 2007, FBO members gathered for the Inglis Falls field trip. With an area of 200 hectares, Inglis Falls Conservation Area



Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) Credit: Prachi Patel

represents a nodal site of the glorious Niagara Escarpment. There is a remnant mill site at the entrance of the Conservation Area, which is supposed to be 150 years old. We all were gathered to learn more about the ferns of Owen Sound and enjoy anything new along the way. Our field trip was led by Chris Hachey who located the sites for some wonderful ferns; and Allan Anderson who identified the ferns giving their distinguishing characteristics.

The trail began with a brief introduction from each FBO member.

As we started on our expedition to learn our ferns, we noticed the Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) was quite widespread near the trail. We marched our way towards the Glacial Pothole Trail. Along the trail were Holly Ferns (*Polystichum lonchitis*), growing with Hart's Tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *americanum*) and Bulblet Ferns (*Cystopteris bulbifera*). Some Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *trichomanes*) also popped out from the rocks of the escarpment. Chris led us to a site with glacial potholes with Maidenhair Spleenwort growing from the crevices. It sure posed itself for a perfect picture! As we continued along the main Fern Trail, Allan talked about the spleenworts expected along the trail.

As we stopped at various spots to look for any new ferns we saw some Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) and Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) on top of boulders. The trail ran parallel to the Sydenham River and we enjoyed walking through the forest with the huge American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) trees beside us and

the sun rays reaching the ground through the dense canopy.

At one of the sites, the forest floor had some nice Indian Cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*) with berries, the top leaves with a red tinge that looked like Poinsettia leaves. We then sneaked into the forest behind Chris to see the Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) growing on the mossy rocks. This definitely was another spectacular sight with everyone's camera shooting. As we waited for the rest of the group along the trail, we saw a pileated woodpecker fly over. Later, we walked back along the trail and crossed the Sydenham River to return back to the Nature Centre where we had our lunch at picnic tables in the shade.

After lunch, we drove to Black's Park. Here again we saw the Periwinkle invading the ground at the bottom of the escarpment. As we followed some wet spots, we saw Dwarf Scouring-rush (*Equisetum scirpoides*) which in



Smooth Cliff-brake (*Pellaea glabella*) Credit: W.D. McIlveen



Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes* ssp. *trichomanes*) Credit: W.D. McIlveen.



Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*) Credit: C. Hendrickson

the past was used to scour pans. Chris then led us to a spot with Smooth Cliff-brake (*Pellaea glabella*) emerging from the cliffs with Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*) trees growing beside the cliff.

We then entered another trail at Black's Park. We saw Rock Polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*), as the name suggests, on top of the rocks. And we saw Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*) which is erect as opposed to the other two Spleenworts. We passed an old limestone quarry site. The Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* ssp. *saccharum*) forest on top of the escarpment had beautiful intermingling of ferns, some of them breaking out from the rocks.

Allan then showed us the Male Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*). This fern looks much like the Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), but the frond of the Ostrich Fern is even all along, while that of the Male Fern tapers down. Also the sori are not marginal, as in the Marginal Wood Fern. We were still in search of the Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*), so we proceeded ahead.

On our way, we saw Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) with the delicate, tapered tip of the fronds. The spore-bearing tip of the frond was narrow and

shriveled, distinguishing it from the Northern Holly Fern (*Polystichum lonchitis*). So the Goldie's search continued and we saw a Northern Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) which is similar to the Male Fern except more delicate. And yes, we finally found the Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*)! The leaflets (pinnules) of the pinnae of this fern are so close together and it's just a huge gorgeous fern that cannot go unnoticed.

Other ferns we found that day were: Intermediate Woodfern (*Dryopteris intermedia*); Spinulose Woodfern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*); Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*); Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*); Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*); and Green Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum*).

In the end I would just add that this trip was a very successful and enjoyable hike to the escarpment. Thanks to Chris and Allan I have learned many different ferns. I would like to thank the FBO for its endeavors to make all the field trips worthwhile. It was my first time at Owen Sound and I look forward to visiting it again. I would recommend to anybody who has not been to Owen Sound to explore the escarpment and enjoy the biodiversity. And if you already have been here, just enjoy it again. 🍄

Prachi Patel

Cape Croker - Neyaashiinigming September 16, 2007

Those of us who gathered at the Cape Croker Indian Campground for the 9 km hike with Lenore Keeshig-Tobias were given a glimpse of how the land, and the plants and animals on it, are seen by those whose ancestors have been here for thousands of years. Here there are tools, fabrics, medicines, legends and teachings.

The traditional Ojibway name for Cape Croker is Neyaashiinigming, which means “this beautiful point of land partially surrounded by water”, but Saukiing Neyashiing is the name for the Peninsula proper. Our host and guide, Lenore Keeshig-Tobias is a Senior Interpreter of the Aboriginal Programming Office at Bruce Peninsula and Fathom Five National Parks. Lenore is a Chippewa of Nawash, of the Wolf Clan.

Lenore explains that the whole of the Bruce Peninsula is part of the homeland of the Saugeen Ojibway Nations, an alliance of Chippewas of Nawash and the Saugeen First Nation as part of their traditional homeland. Both reserves are “unceded” – never given up by treaty. Originally no one ever lived in Cape Croker but it was used for ceremony and a place for gathering medicines. Hope Bay is a healing area.

Our first teaching through plants was when Lenore offered each of us a pinch of Tobacco (*Nicotiana tobaccum*) – one of four sacred plants – which we held in our left hands and offered with a request in prayer to Spirit. The other sacred plants are Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) which cleans; Sage (*Artemisia* spp.)

for clearing bad things; and Sweet Grass (*Hierochloa odorata* ssp. *odorata*) for communication. Tobacco is placed on the ground after prayer. Eastern White Cedar, Sage and Sweet Grass are the other medicine and are burned to release their aromatic smoke.



Lenore Keeshig-Tobias (foreground) demonstrating fibres of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Sarah Mainguy looks on. Credit: W.D McIlveen

The field trip followed an old logging road - the Hart's Tongue Trail - and the Bruce trail around the Sydney Bay Bluff. Pale Touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*) was common on the trail, and Lenore pointed out that both this and the Spotted Touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*) are good for treating Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans* ssp. *rydbergii* ssp. *negundo*) rash.

Lenore introduced us to Nanabojo or Nanabush, the mythical figure whose deeds explain many of the ways things are between humans, plants and animals. Raised by his grandmother Nokomis, Nanabush is the son of a human mother and a spirit father, the West Wind. In First Nations' worldview, all life is sentient, all life has Spirit.

It is Nanabush's pranks that explain why lightning doesn't hit the birch tree.

Nanabush was teasing the Thunderbirds, and they in turn chased and slung arrows at him. Nanabush hid in birch tree, but the Thunderbirds refused to attack it. Today we see the legacy of his mischief in the replicas of Thunderbirds on birch bark.

We learned that the outer bark of Basswood (*Tilia americana*) loosens and leaves long strands to weave into rope. It is harvested in mid-summer, then either boiled for

12 hours or soaked for 6 weeks, although boiling makes a stronger product. Stripping the bark off of branches provides fine fibers for delicate sewing. Basswood bark also makes excellent flexible hinges and smoky fires.

As we proceeded at a leisurely pace through the woods, Lenore pointed out the medicinal uses of plants as she saw them: Wood Nettle (*Laportea canadensis*) is good for rheumatism and arthritis; Indian-pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) is an eyewash medicine; mosses were handy for women's "moon times", for baby diapers, and wound dressing; Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) treats eczema, while Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*) roots soothe a colicky baby. Canada Wood-betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) is a love potion when the root is eaten.

I imagine that when most of us were introduced for the first time to Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*), we were invited to smell or taste its edible root. We share the experience of this obvious attribute of the plant with Lenore's ancestors, who gathered the roots in ten inch lengths about finger thickness, and dried it into sticks to be used later as a condiment. It works quickly – about 15 minutes – when drunk as a soothing tea for stomach flu, diarrhea, or gas. She said hat to be able to eat as much as possible at a feast or dinner, drink ginger tea before! The roots must be washed in running water in a spring or stream so it keeps its potency. Ginger root may also be boiled for syrup.

We came across a Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) patch beside the path, uncharacteristically under canopy, that Lenore maintains has been there for years. Milkweed is edible as spring shoots, flower buds and seed pods, although these must have three changes of water or otherwise cooked with vinegar. Its latex is a good adhesive for attaching semiprecious stones on ceremonial items; also for getting rid of warts. If the outside bark is harvested in winter, it makes a good thread.

A large diameter American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) showed scars on its bark that had nothing to do with Thunderbirds, but with bears who left the marks while scaling the trunk. Known as "bear trees" they are the chosen sleeping and dining places of bears who pull over branches to dine on the nut mast.

It is a new idea to us that Bear is a healer who taught medicine to human beings. Bear also looked after the first human children, as Wolf kept them from harm. Other animals were playmates for children, so that children

mimicked animals. Nanabush said "These children don't know that they are human beings!" So he picked up a handful of pebbles and threw them into the air. The pebbles transformed into butterflies and when the children played with them they were also transformed into people of imagination and spirit.



Claw marks on a bear tree (American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*).

Credit: C. Hendrickson

We stopped for lunch at a high lookout on the escarpment. Lenore had prepared Wild Ginger tea that she served us from a thermos. While we discovered that the tea was as delicious as described, Lenore handed out The Great Anishnabe Food Test, a pamphlet that had quizzes and more information about First Nations' plants – for example, the confection "Cracker Jacks" originates with Aboriginal peoples, and that the way of planting the three sisters (the native food plants Corn (*Zea mays*), Beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), and Squash (Cucurbitaceae) is a model for how society should work: that everyone has their part. Corn provides a pole for the beans, while squash controls the weeds.

We were challenged to name ten products produced from Corn – in the end we named well over ten, from corn syrup to ethanol. Clearly Corn has benefited equally with humanity from its association with us. From its humble beginnings in Central America as Teosinte (*Zea spp.*) it is now a species that commands millions of acres, billions of dollars and has harnessed the ingenuity of humans to plant, harvest, breed and protect it from its natural enemies. This is probably one of the greatest contributions of the Native peoples of this area to the contemporary North American economy.

Moving on from lunch, Lenore related that according to legend, maple syrup once came directly out of the trees. But then the people drank syrup and did nothing else, neglecting their responsibilities. Nanabush talked to Nokomis, who caused rain to water down the sap so humans once again had to work for their syrup, although people also need sweetness in their lives.

Between Lenore's plant stops on the trail, trip members lapsed into their familiar botanical observations and discussions on identification, geographic range, nomenclature, and rarity status of the dozens of other species along the path. The sun coming through the canopy had that beautiful autumn quality of whiteness, and someone remarked that the White-throated Sparrows were migrating. We were grateful to Lenore, and to the plants we know in common, who helped us understand the culture that was here before us. ❁

Cheryl Hendrickson

Botanical Roots

The Muir Maple

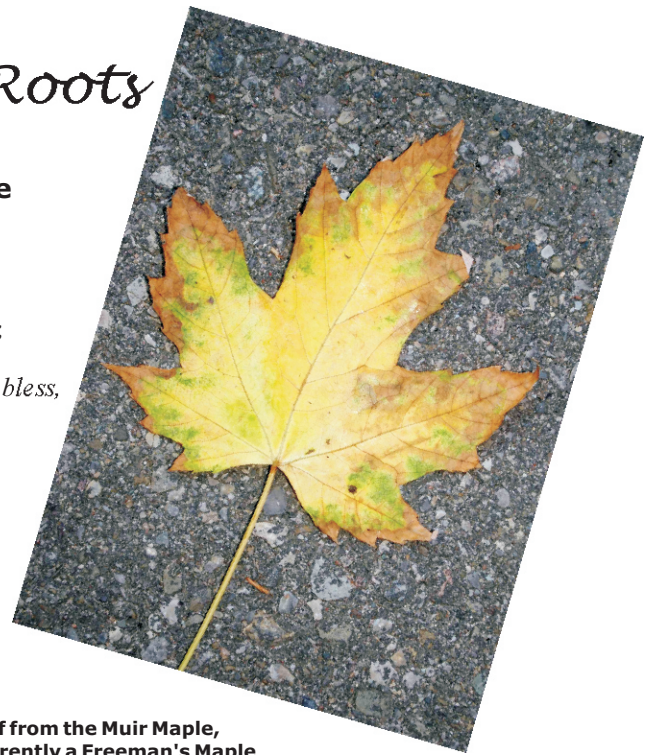
W.D. McIlveen

*The Maple Leaf, our emblem dear,
The Maple Leaf for ever.
God save our Queen, and Heaven bless,
The Maple Leaf for ever.*

The Maple Leaf Forever is a poem that was penned one day in October, 1867 by Alexander Muir, the principal of the Leslieville Public School. The poem was supposedly inspired by a Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) tree located in the Leslieville section of Toronto. The tree is located at 62 Laing Street, Toronto, right beside the appropriately named Memory Lane. There are a number of versions of the story and questions exist about whether this tree is in fact the one that is central to the story. Even if the recognized tree is not the exact tree that inspired the story, its own known history is developing and it is becoming a valid historical tree in its own right, despite the controversy.

The story goes that Muir was searching for inspiration for a poem to be submitted to a competition that celebrated Confederation, and he was drawing a poet's blank at the time. Supposedly he was walking along what became Laing Street with his friend George Leslie (after whom the area of Leslieville and Leslie Street are named). Apparently, a leaf from a maple tree landed on one or the other of the two men and clung to his jacket. Versions vary as to whose jacket the leaf landed on. Most stories seem to suggest that it was Leslie who remarked that the maple leaf should be the subject of the poem. In any case, the poem was hastily scribbled down and submitted to the contest where it won second prize.

Accounts vary on the next part of the song's history. Supposedly a thousand copies were printed at the author's expense (\$30) but the original edition appears to have had neither date nor copyright notice. The first copyrighted edition (by Nordheimer) which appeared in 1871 claimed that it had already been used by J.F. Hardy esq. during "his popular entertainments" to great applause. It was also claimed that the first public performance of *The Maple Leaf Forever* was by a group of school children directed by Muir himself on July 24, 1874 in a ceremonial laying of



A leaf from the Muir Maple, apparently a Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii*). Credit: W.D. McIlveen

the foundation stone of a church in Newmarket in the presence of the Earl of Dufferin.

A plaque was reportedly placed on the site in 1930 (or possibly 1937) to celebrate the event by members of the Orange Lodge. This was no doubt an attempt by that group to claim Muir, a staunch Presbyterian, nationalist, and Orangeman, as one of their own. The tree, when it was originally recognized, may simply have been the last one remaining of suitable age to match the year of Confederation. In 1958, a new plaque was placed on the site by the Grand Orange Lodge of British America, presumably to reassert their claim and association with a patriotic symbol of Canada.

For some people of non-British descent, the words of the song have provoked resentment. In particular, the song did not sit well with French Canadians. Attempts to make it more palatable have seen various revisions to the lyrics. In the end, any hopes to make *The Maple Leaf Forever* the national anthem for the country were dashed when "Oh Canada" (with its own dubious musical merits) was selected as the official national anthem in 1980.

The area and the tree were saved from a development plan to build a five-story 102 unit apartment building on the site in 1992. The adjacent small house on the property,



The Muir Maple at the corner of Laing Street and Memory Lane, Toronto. October 8, 2007. Credit: W. McIlveen

now known as Maple Leaf Cottage, was eventually renovated as a community centre by the City of Toronto. For some time, the idea was promoted that the cottage was once owned by Alexander Muir. There is no evidence at all to back up that claim. It seems more probable that if the tree located there is the inspirational tree, then Muir was simply passing by that location when the leaf fell. Despite many weaknesses in the evidence to support the designation, in 1991 the Toronto Conservation Review Board recommended that the property be designated as a "Property of Historical Value or Interest", mainly on the basis of the placement of the various plaques over the years. A small municipal park, "Maple Leaf Forever Park" has been created on the land located immediately to the west of Maple Leaf Cottage.

The tree species itself is usually mentioned as a Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*). To me, the leaves look more like the hybrid Freeman's Maple (*Acer x freemanii* AKA *Acer rubrum x saccharinum*). Although there are questions, and discrepancies exist about different parts of the story, *The Maple Leaf Forever* still represents an interesting part of the botanical history of Ontario. 🍁

The Plant Press and the Field Botanists of Ontario

In late 1982 there was considerable discussion among friends across Ontario of how to maintain and improve communications among Ontario's field botanists. Interested parties met on March 29, 1983, organized by Jocelyn Webber and Jeff Kaiser, in "the wilds of Mississauga to hammer out the shape and form of *The Plant Press*." ¹ Attendees included Rick Bobbette, Dan Brunton, Bill Crins, Joyce Gould, Jim Hodgins, Jeff Kaiser, Brian Klinkenberg, Rose Klinkenberg, Kathy Lindsay, Karen McIntosh, Mike Oldham, John Riley, Don Sutherland, Steve Varga, and the organizers. This was a collegial meeting. Goals were set and editors welcomed. The goals were to promote open communications, knowledge of plants, and the development and enhancement of botanical skills and interests. Seventy individuals soon sent membership dues to the new group, and the first issue of *The Plant Press* hit the mail in March 1983. All accolades to its editor and founder, Jocelyn Webber, ably assisted by Jeff Kaiser, its business manager and production assistants Steve Varga, Joyce Gould and Kate Wishart. Associate editors were Rose Klinkenberg, Kathy Lindsay, Rick Bobbette, Dan Brunton, Bruce Thacker, Richard Sims, Bill Stewart, Bill Crins, Steve Varga and Mike Oldham.

By the third issue, subscribers had increased to 215. By the fourth issue of its first year, it had grown to 276. Jocelyn Webber and Jeff Kaiser invited a number of interested supporters of *The Plant Press* to discuss the formation of a club based on *The Plant Press* membership. This was its organizing meeting, at which Doug Geddes put forward the motion to form the *FBO*. Its first coordinating chairman was Bob Hounsell and its first treasurer Harry Williams. By this time there was strong interest in a gathering of the clan of *The Plant Press*, to take place in June 1984, at which time "the formation of the *Field Botanists of Ontario* will be discussed."²


The next issue of *The Plant Press*, now with more than 300 subscribers, reported that "Dan Brunton, John Riley and Rick Bobbette recently presented a draft constitution for the *Field Botanists of Ontario*", a copy of which was sent for comment to each subscriber. Notice was given of the "Bruce Peninsula Botany Weekend", 8-10 June 1984, which was to be held at the cabins of the Red Bay Lodge; "Field trips and socializing will be featured," a good sign of the eventual direction of the *FBO*.³

The gathering on the Bruce was a great success. Volume 2(3) of *The Plant Press* includes Jeff Kaiser's wonderful photograph of attendees, a photo with many good memories embedded in it. On the left stands Bernard Boivin, one of Merrit L. Fernald's students, and a direct connection for this group to the great tradition of North

American botany. I recall his fascination with the enthusiasm of the youth at the gathering, and his insistence that the rose at the Dyer Bay alvar was the western prairie *Rosa alcea*.⁴

This was indeed the inaugural launch of the *Field Botanists of Ontario*. People came from Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Ann Arbor and everywhere in between. Vince Elliott and Joe Johnson headed up general field trips around the Bruce, and Joyce Reddoch, Allan Reddoch and I led an outing to the Sucker Creek fen. Don Cuddy led a trip to Cabot Head, and Harry Williams offered a moss and liverwort foray. More field trips followed the next day, and Tony Reznicek served up a workshop on sedge identification.

The two organizations decided on friendly co-existence as separate incorporated groups. The *FBO* started from the subscriber base of *The Plant Press*, and it was a direct and friendly evolution of the interests of their interests, with the added focus on their field interests, workshops interests, and social interests.

On 20 October 1984, an organizing meeting for the *Field Botanists of Ontario* took place at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo. Forty memberships had been received by that date. Present were Rick Bobbette, Adele Crowder, Doug Geddes, Jim Hodgins, Bob Hounsell, Jeff Kaiser, Larry Lamb, John Morton, Mirek Sharp, Isabel Smaller, Jocelyn Webber and Harry Williams. Of special note from that meeting; "A unanimous decision...was that the *FBO* seek a close relationship with *The Plant Press*." 

John Riley, November 2007

¹ Kaiser, J. 1983. Germination of an Idea. *The Plant Press* 1(1): 3.

²*The Plant Press* 1(4):62.

³*The Plant Press* 2(1): 2,17.

⁴*The Plant Press* 2(3), and see Boivin's article in volume 2(4).

New Name for the Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter?

For approximately 20 years, the FBO has used the name *Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter* for the primary organ of sharing information among members. From time to time, there has been a call for the newsletter to be given a specific or catchier name. Some people have asked for the name of the original publication and botanical organization that spawned FBO to be utilized. In light of the impending 25th anniversary celebration of FBO, the executive has decided to seek input from the membership on a name for the newsletter to determine what name members would like to see applied.

Candidate names include: *Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter* (current name); *Ontario Plant Press* (slight modification from original name) *Arvensis: The Field Botanists of Ontario Newsletter* (meaning 'field'); or other. Please provide comments or suggestions to Editor Cheryl Hendrickson (hendrickson@landsaga.com).

Editor's Corner

Keen readers may have noticed that in the course of the *Newsletter* redesign, our inception date under the logo in the inside front cover changed from 1984, to 1983 and back again. This was my rash move. Even in spite of having read John Riley's piece above, I was never clear that the *Newsletter* you have in your hands was not just a renaming of the mythical and cherished *Plant Press* fondly remembered by long-time FBO members. It wasn't until I queried Bill McIlveen about the need for so many associate editors and production types (15!) that the differences between the two organizations crystallized: with each issue at 30 plus pages, it was indeed quite a different creature!

The cusp of our 25th year is an auspicious time to give this newsletter a fitting name. It is time to embrace and celebrate this publication of the FBO, a publication distinct from our prodigal and historic sibling. See what inspires you when the first green emerges and you rediscover all the reasons you love to be outside identifying plants.

Cheryl Hendrickson, Editor

2008 John Goldie Award

In 2007, the Field Botanists of Ontario initiated an award that recognizes the contribution of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of field botany in Ontario. That award is named the John Goldie Award for Field Botany in honor of his early pioneering surveys of vegetation in the province. In order to continue the recognition process, FBO is seeking suggestions for the names of suitable recipients to be given the award from the general membership. Nominations for the 2008 award should be submitted to FBO President Sarah Mainguy (mainrod@sympatico.ca) no later than July 1, 2008.

Critical information to be provided includes: name of recipient (and contact information); name of nominator (to be kept confidential) and contact information; statement by the nominator concerning the nominee's contributions to botany in Ontario; and supporting letters or other documentation whenever possible.

Further information and a nomination form are available from the FBO website www.trentu.ca/org/fbo