

Sarracenia

Volume 10, Number 3

Summer 2001

Newsletter of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. c/o Botanical Garden, Memorial University, St John's, NF, A1C 5S7

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2001-02 Executive

Todd Boland	Editor	753-6027
Carmel Conway	Treasurer	722-0121
Maggie Piranian	Secretary	895-3904
Howard Clase	Past-President	753-6415
June Russell	Director	754-2996
Ron Payne	Director	576-6472
Leila Clase	Director	753-6415

At the AGM it was decided to continue without a President for the time being. The excecutive will accept collective responsibility for running the society. (One of the advantages of not having a formal constitution!)

Articles from members would be most welcome. and may be sent via email to tboland@nfld.com or via regular mail to

> Todd Boland 81 Stamp's Lane St. John's, NF A1B 3H7

Summer Program

Besides our more extensive summer field trip, to be held between July 21-27 (see p.27), we will once more have a specific location that we will visit on a monthly basis. This year we have chosen the section of the East Coast Trail between Blackhead and Cape Spear. This route is along a high bluff and contains varied habitats. We will meet at the lower parking lot of Cape Spear at 2:00 pm and the walk will be approximately 2 hours. The leaders will be Leila and Howard Clase. The dates of the walks are as follows:

> Sunday, June 10 Sunday, July 1 **Sunday August 5** Sunday Sept. 2 (tentative)

Subscriptions for 2001/2

Send \$10 to the Society at the above address giving your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address if you have one. Indicate if it is new or a renewal.

Deptford Pink (Dianthus armeria L.) in Western Newfoundland.

by Henry Mann

"There is a wilde creeping Pinke which groweth in our pastures neere about London and in other places, but especially in the great field next to Deptford, by the path side as you goe from Redriffe to Greenwich"

So reads Gerard's Herbal of 1633. Unfortunately the fields of Deptford are long gone, now a part of industrial London. Deptford Pink no longer grows there "by the path side". Not to worry. This European native grows in Stephenville and a thousand other places across North America and Europe. It has made its fortune by following the footsteps of man along other paths which have become highways, parking lots, airports, gravel pits, and many other human "improvements". Yes, for the "Pinke" man is continually creating and improving habitat where it can flourish; the dry gravely/sandy open fields and patches in the wake of "dozers" and graders. That awful four letter word of modern agriculture comes to mind. However, you will not find this Pink listed in any weed book. It is simply a pretty wildflower that prefers open, sunny, welldrained fields. We and it are not really competitors, but cooperators. It helps to heal the wounds we leave behind in nature's skin. and does so with a dash of class. After all, the old Greek Theophrastus coined the name "Dianthus" from dios (divine) and anthus (flower), an allusion to the beauty and fragrance of this group.

Stephenville is ideal habitat with its flat gravelly plains deposited by the last glaciation and whose surface has seen extensive reworking during the massive U.S. airbase development of the Second World War. Other species unusual to

Newfoundland have also followed humans to Stephenville including the Kidney Vetch (Anthyllis vulneraria L.), Field Chamomile (Anthemis arvensis L.), Dwarf Snapdragon (Chaenorrhinum minus (L.) Lange), and the giant Reed Grass (Phragmites australis (Cav.) Trin.). No doubt a thorough survey of disturbed areas around this center will turn up some yet unreported species.

Most people immediately associate the genus name Dianthus with carnations, the large showy flowers of gardens and the horticultural trade. In addition to carnations, Dianthus includes flowers commonly known as Pinks and Sweet Williams. In old English herbals the term Gilliflowers (Gillyflowers, Gillofloures, etc.) is often used. Deptford Pink is a true wild carnation. Together with other Dianthus species it is included in the Pink Family or Caryophyllaceae with the Sandworts (Arenaria spp.), the Chickweeds (Stellaria spp. and Cerastium spp.), the Campions (Lychnis spp.), Baby's-breath (Gypsophila spp.), Sand-spurreys (Spergularia spp.), and others. The family consists of annual or perennial herbs with opposite simple leaves arising from swollen stem nodes. Flowers usually have 5 petals and sepals, sometimes 4, or occasionally with no petals. Fruits are dry capsules with many seeds.

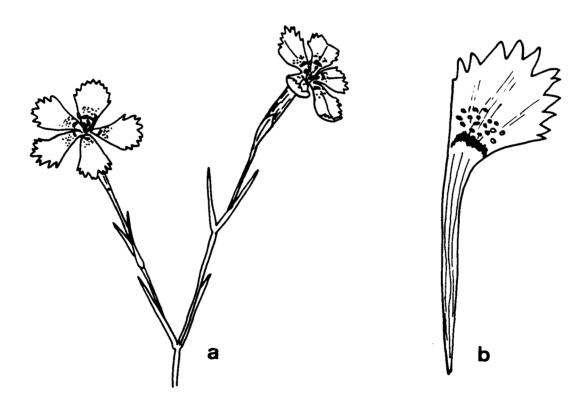
Deptford Pink has been observed at several locations in the Stephenville area along roadsides and airport margins. A few specimens have been collected and are now housed in the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College Herbarium. The stiff upright stems range from 20 to 53 cm tall although reports indicate that under favourable conditions it can grow taller. One or more stems may arise from the root. A 10X handlens will show that the narrow opposite leaves have short, stiff white hairs as do the upper stems and the inflorescence parts. Flowers are in clusters, usually only one or two of each cluster open at once. The open flower measures about one centimeter across its face. Each petal has a long

"claw" which extends down into the calyx tube and attaches beneath the ovary. The broad upper part of the petal that is visible (the limb) is slightly toothed and deep pink to rose in color with minute white spots. Every flower cluster contains many narrow pointed bracts and individual flowers have bracts immediately at the base of their calyx tubes. The seed capsule opens by 4 teeth at its apex releasing many roughened, dull black seeds.

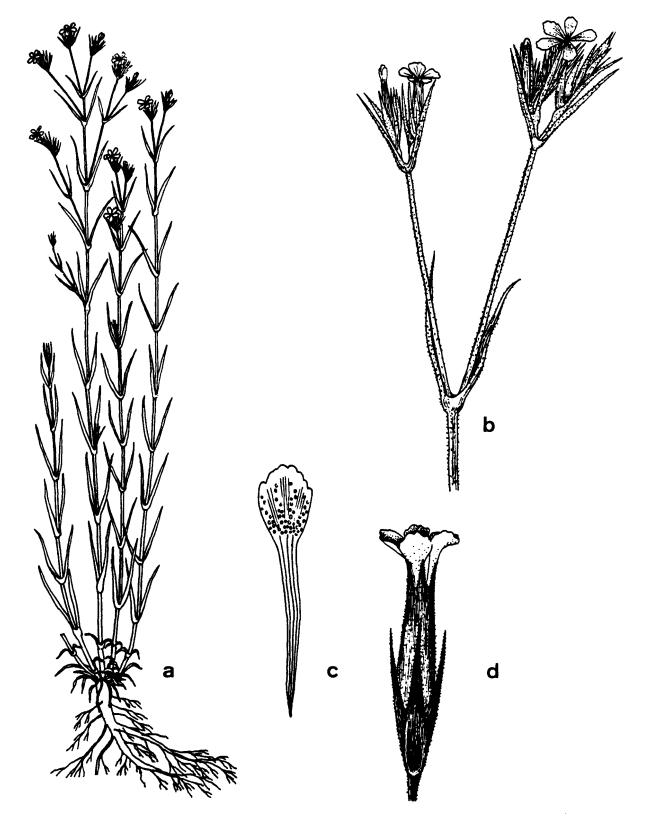
<u>Dianthus armeria</u> is an annual, or sometimes a biennial. Another smaller trailing perennial, <u>Dianthus deltoides</u> L., the Maiden Pink, is a very hardy species often grown in rock gardens and borders. It can also be found escaped in waste places across North America, but so far I have only seen its vigor in my back yard in Pasadena. Its flowers are slightly larger and more showy

than those of Deptford Pink, somewhat resembling Sweet William, except they are not borne in large tight clusters like Sweet William, but singly. Petals usually have a dark patch or strip at their visible bases. Pink and white flowering forms are available in addition to the common deep rose petals. Both species can be easily grown from seed and make interesting additions to wildflower gardens. Both are also included in our two common field guides, the Peterson/McKenny guide and Newcomb's Guide.

So next time you are in Stephenville in August, look for Deptford Pink and perhaps collect a few seeds to start your own little garden patch of this "Olde London" wildflower. Of course, don't overdo the collecting; it needs to reseed itself to survive. If anyone would like seeds (or plants) of the Maiden Pink, let me know.



Maiden Pink (<u>Dianthus deltoides</u> L.). a. Two terminal flowers. b. Single petal with dark patch at base of expanded portion (limb).



Deptford Pink (<u>Dianthus armeria</u> L.). a. Entire plant. b. Two terminal flower clusters. c. A single petal with the upper expanded visible part (limb) and long thin claw enclosed within the calyx tube in an intact flower. d. Individual flower showing bracts at the base of the calyx tube. (Illustrations by Warwick Hewitt).

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A winter's find, John Muir

by Carmel Conway

Winters are generally hard on people. For a nature lover, like myself, this past winter was especially hard. However, a nice surprise awaited me one winter's day as I rummaged through a second-hand bookstore. To my delight, I came upon an article about the remarkable life of John Muir.

Now, for many members of our society, I am sure he is a well-known figure. However, for me this was my first acquaintance. I was soon to discover why many consider him America's most eminent naturalist and environmentalist. To happen upon this article caused me to dig deeper into John Muir's life.

John Muir was born in 1838 in Dunbar, Scotland. At the age of eleven his family immigrated to the United States, settling on a farm in Wisconsin. John led a very disciplined rural life. His joy, however, was to roam the nearby fields and woods. Not one for idling, John was a very inquisitive child. At a young age he came to be a carver of wood and a maker of clocks. He also won awards for his inventions.

As a young man John entered the University of Wisconsin. While excelling academically, John decided to forgo his studies to pursue his new interest, botany. Doing odd jobs to help him survive, John traveled through the northern United States countryside and on into Canada.

Many historians feel that his visits to Canada had a tremendous impact upon his life. As John Muir himself would write,

I set off on the first of my long lonely excursions,

botanising in glorious freedom around the Great Lakes and wandering through innumerable tamarack and arbor-vitae swamp, and forests of maple, basswood, ash, elms, balsam, fir, pine spruce, helmlock, rejoicing in their flowers and fruit like bees in beds of goldenrods, glorying in the fresh cool beauty and charm of the bog and meadow heathworts, grasses, carices ferns, mosses, liverworts displayed in boundless profession.

John Muir "The Calypso

Borealis" 1864

Muir, we are told, like to travel light with no blanket and only a knapsack containing the basic essentials and including a single change of underwear, notepad and some pencils, a small bible and a book of Robert Burns's poetry. Lighting a small fire to keep off the chill, he would prepare for sleep by burying himself in the leaves. John would live largely on bread and the occasional home-cooked meals from friendly farmers. In 1864, while wandering the swamps in the Lake Simcoe area and looking for wildflowers and trees, he discovered the very much sought after orchid, the *Calypso borealis*.

As a relatively new wildflower enthusiast myself, I am taken by John Muir's enthusiasm for wildflowers. Flipping through my guides and glossy pictures of plants can be enjoyable, but there is nothing like experiencing the real thing! For me, it is simply a wonderful occurrence, especially when alone.

Menyanthes trifoliata, commonly known as the bogbean, has always been one of my favorite plants and I know it is not a rare one. I love its delicacy, its beautiful whiteness with that soft pink and I am always excited at its early summer bloom. A few years back Glenda Quinn directed me to a marsh in Donovan's Industrial Park. Since then, I have made regular trips over the highway

to capture their beauty on film.

Just this summer past, to my surprise, while wondering deep into the woods by my home in Pippy Park, I spotted a marsh with hundreds of bogbeans. At first, I thought it must be Rhododendron groenlandicum, our Labrador Tea. I could hardly believe my eyes! They looked absolutely magnificent, in full bloom, surrounded by patches of Kalmia polifolia, bog laurel. I spent several days photographing my find under different light.

Now, as I read the original words of John Muir describing, in such lovely language, his discovery of the Calypso, I truly understand his passion,

> But when the sun was getting low and everything seemed almost bewildering and discouraging, I found beautiful Calypso on the mossy bank of a stream, growing not in the ground but on a bed of yellow mosses in which its small while bulb had found a soft nest and from which it's one leaf and one flower sprung. The flower was white and made the impression of the utmost simple purity like a snowflower. No other bloom was near it, for the bog a short distance below the surface was still frozen, and the water was ice cold. It seemed the most spiritual of all the flower people I had ever met. I saw down beside it and fairly cried for joy....

It seems wonderful that so fair and lovely a plant has such power over human hearts. How long I sat beside Calypso I don't know. Hunger and weariness vanished and only after the sun was low in the west that I plashed on through the swamp, strong and exhilarated, as if never more to feel any mortal care!

Imagine these words, in 1864, were his first printed.

In 1867, John Muir suffered a blinding eye injury while working at a carriage parts shop in Indianapolis. Thankfully, he regained his sight, and vowed to spend the rest of his life exploring nature. He became an incredible wanderer, walking from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. He even traveled to South America. Later, he made his way back to California, the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite, which eventually became his home.

Many famous naturalists, philosophers and politicians including John Burroughs, Asa Gray, Theodore Roosevelt and Ralph Waldo Emerson made their way to his cabin door.

What is remarkable about John Muir is that in addition to his personal love and enjoyment of nature, he recognized the need to preserve wilderness. Muir understood fully that only through preservation would its survival be secure. In 1890, due in large part to Muir's efforts and those of his friends, Yosemite National Park was created. Muir was later involved in the creation of Sequoia, Mount Rainer, Petrified Forest and the Grand Canyon National Parks. John Muir has come to be known as the "Father of the U.S. National Park System". In 1892, John Muir helped found the Sierra Club and served as president until his death in 1914.

John Muir never did complete his degree at the University of

Wisconsin but that institution later presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. Yale, Harvard, and the University of California also

bestowed honorary degrees on John Muir. Harvard University even offered him a chair of Science.

Perhaps Dr. Jim Butler, conservation and wildlife biologist from the University of Alberta, captured the importance of John Muir best when he wrote, "While contemporaries like Henry David Thoreau recognized the value of wilderness, only Muir truly 'lived it." John Muir once commented that all he needed for an expedition to begin was to throw some tea and bread in an old sack and jump over the back fence.

Quite a remarkable man!

Information sources include:

- April 1989 National Geographic article entitled, "The John Muir Trail Along the High, Wild Sierra." By Galen Rowell.
- -John Muir's "The Calypso Borealis" found in www.sierraclub.org (click on inside sierra club and find the John Muir Exhibit and then click on books)
- -Dr. Jim Butler, "The First
 Environmentalist John Muir."

 www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/ (click on profiles and find Dr. Jim Butler)

For more information on John Muir you can visit www.johnmuir.org

Summer Field Trip 2001

- July 21 7.00 p.m. Welcoming dinner at "My Brother's Place" (Torbay Rd outside where K-Mart used to be.) *
- July 22 9.00 a.m. Orchid Sunday. Meet at car park opposite the entrance to the MUN Botanic Garden. First we will visit the dactylorchids on Nagle's Hill, then proceed to the Soldiers Pond site near Butterpot Park and the Hawk Hills area for alpines. Bring a packed lunch. Dinner to be decided.
- July 23 9.00 a.m. Southern Shore. Meet at MUN Botanic Garden. Lunch at Ferryland Cafe or bring your own. Overnight at the Trepassy Motel.
- July 24 9.00 a.m. Cape Race. Visit to precambrian fossil site. Packed lunch available from Motel. Overnight in Trepassy again.
- July 25 9.00 a.m. Drive to Cape St Mary's via Salmonier. Lunches as Tuesday. Overnight at Capeway Motel St Brides.
- July 26 9.00 a.m. Return to St John's via Cape Shore Rd. Dinner to be decided.
- July 27 9.00 a.m. Aquatic Plants leader John Maunder. Meet at MUN Botanic Garden. Whitburn, Seal Cove areas. Bring lunch, long rubbers, canoes etc. 8.00 p.m. Farewell dinner at India Gate Water St. *
- * Preliminary reservations have been made, please confirm with me (753-6415) that you intend to come by the previous day at the latest.

All members are welcome to attend all or any part of these events. Dinners on Sunday 22nd and Thursday 26th will be decided on the day. (Suggestions:- Red Pepper Mongolian Grill and China House or other similar cuisine.)

A Checklist of the More Common Plants of the Avalon Peninsula (continued).

by Howard Clase

First of all, thank you to the eagle-eyed members who spotted some typos in the list in the last issue. Some were already corrected in a second printing of the magazine. I will not list the minor typos, but there were a few more important errors. Three plants were not named as in the latest edition of "Sue's List" these were:-

New Name

Old Name

Ilex mucronata Littorella uniflora Ranunculus flammula Nemopanthus mucronata Littorella americana

var. reptans

Ranunculus reptans

The euphrasias appeared in Plantaginaceae instead of Orobanchaceae where they now belong, and the grass Puccinella distans "slipped" from the Poaceae to the Potamogetonaceae. I'm sorry about this, if anyone would like a corrected copy of the list please let me know.

When I was in the UK a few years ago I went on a field trip connected with the "Atlas 2000" project, an ambitious project to map all the plants in the British Isles on a 10 km square basis. (Would that we had the numbers of botanists to attempt a similar project.) To save time in the field each region had a one page checklist of the plants most likely to be found there and which could resonably reliably be identified in the field by a competent botanist. Collecting was actively discouraged! They used an abbreviated form of the Linnaean name based on the first five letters of the genus and the first three letters of the species with adjustments for the few cases where this was ambiguous and managed to get about 1000 names on one side of an A4 sheet. The other side was for information about the site etc. and for listing plants considered rare or too difficult to identify except by an expert. Listed plants should be located as precisely as possible so that they can be found again. I have adapted this system for the Avalon and a copy of my sheet is included in this issue of Sarracenia. Since we have only about 400 species, the print is larger than on the UK sheets! At this stage I am not sure what will be done with the completed sheets, but I will be happy to file any that are sent to me. Feel free to copy this sheet and use it. Further copies can be supplied if needed.

Most of the sheet is self explanatory, but the numbers need some explanation. The UK sheets had numbers from a recent full checklist which, I think, were used for keying in the data for computer analysis. Since our most recent list is not numbered I have used the map numbers from Rouleau's Atlas with letters added for plants that do not appear in this. I have kept the four main groupings separate, but within each the genera are in alphabetical order. There are a number of introduced plants which only occur in the St John's area, these are listed in italics, special note should be made of any of these found elsewhere on the Avalon. Once again I should appreciate comments and corrections.

Grid Reference	Locality	Wildflower Soc. Nfld. & Lab		
or Lat/long	Habitat	Avalon and St John's checklist. Version #3 July 2001		
Date	Recorders name(s)	Tel/e-mail		

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	Plants not listed on reverse. (Unusual species, subspecies or difficult taxa). Species printed on the back in italics and found OUTSIDE the St John's area should be recorded in detail here too.						
	Species	Locality	Grid ref	Date	Other details		
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Field Checklist of the more common plants of the Avalon Peninsula.

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Humber Natural History Society

RARE NEWFOUNDLAND WILDFLOWERS 21

In order to develop a better understanding of the distribution of our rare plants, especially those of the West Coast, a series of these sheets will be made available to interested naturalists. Each sheet will deal with a single species known only from a few localities on the Island. Please report any sightings of rare plants to Henry Mann, Biology Department, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, A2H 6P9, or call 637-6245 (work) or 686-2340 (home). Records will be kept in the S.W.G. College Herbarium

Plant Name:

Common -

Cut-leaved Daisy

Scientific -

Erigeron compositus Pursh

Characteristics:

Each tiny plant is composed of a cluster of basal leaves which are divided by threes into narrow segments. One or more flowering stalks about 6 to 10 centimeters high may arise from the leaf cluster. Each may have several small bract-like leaves and each has a single flowering head at its summit. Our plants lack the daisy-like "petals" around the edge of the head, exhibiting only a central yellow "button" of disk florets.

Habitat:

Dry calcareous rocks and gravels in open exposed areas.

Flowering Season:

June to early July.

Known Distribution:

In Newfoundland this arctic-alpine species is only known from the calcareous gravels and scree slopes in the Humber Gorge between Steady Brook and the mouth of the Humber River. It should be searched for in other gravelly limestone areas throughout the Humber Arm.



(Distribution Map After Bouchard et al 1991)

Diagrams: See reverse side of page.

This species is not illustrated in the common wildflower guides for our area.



<u>Erigeron compositus</u> Pursh (Cut-leaved Daisy). a. entire plant, about actual size. b. photocopied pressed leaves, about actual size.

Humber Natural History Society

RARE NEWFOUNDLAND WILD FLOWERS 22

In order to develop a better understanding of the distribution of our rare plants, especially those of the West Coast, a series of these sheets will be made available to interested naturalists. Each sheet will deal with a single species known only from a few localities on the Island. Please report any sightings of rare plants to Henry Mann, Biology Department, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, A2H 6P9, or call 637-6245 (work) or 686-2340 (home). Records will be kept in the S.W.G. College Herbarium.

Plant Name: Common - Toothleaf Mountain Avens, Yellow Mountain Avens

Scientific - <u>Dryas drummondii</u> Richards

Characteristics:

This tiny creeping shrub forms low patches on rocky soils. Leaves are distinctly toothed, dark green above and white-hairy beneath. Flowering stalks (from 5 to 15 cm or more in height) arise from the prostrate plants. Each often has a few tiny scale-like bracts, and a single nodding flower. The 8 to 10 petals are yellow to orange and flowers appear to never fully open. Flowering heads become erect as the fruits, with their long twisted styles, mature. The more common Smoothleaf Mountain Avens (<u>D. integrifolia</u>) has more pointed-tipped, nontoothed leaves and white open saucer-shaped flowers.

Habitat:

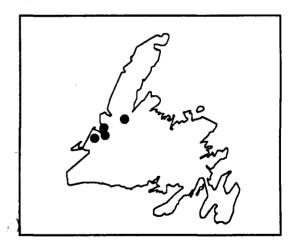
Open areas of limestone scree, gravels, and cliffs.

Flowering Season:

June to early July.

Known Distribution:

Only known in Newfoundland from limestone areas of the west coast in and around the Bay of Islands. This is mostly a western North American species of arctic and alpine zones with only a very few localities in eastern Canada.



(Distribution Map After Bouchard et al 1991)

Diagrams: See reverse side of page.

Not illustrated in the common wildflower guides of our area (Peterson and Newcomb's). It is described and illustrated in Glen Ryan's "Native Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador", 1978, Parks Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's, NF.





<u>Dryas drummondii</u> Richards (Yellow Mountain Avens)
a. entire plant, approximately actual size. b. a flower with mature fruits, X 1. The styles of the many pistils have elongated to become long, thin, and feathery (Illustration of fruits after Taylor, T.M.C., 1973. "The Rose Family of British Columbia". Handbook No. 30, British Columbia Provincial Museum. Victoria, B.C.).