

SARRACENIA

Newsletter of the Canadian
Wildflower Society,
Newfoundland Chapter.

Fall 1991



Goowiddy - News from the President.....Sue Meades

Although the persistent ice and numerous icebergs provided some spectacular scenery along the coast this spring, the accompanying cold weather delayed our summer by several weeks. Nevertheless, our field trips went ahead (mostly) as scheduled.

The first field trip to Seal Cove was attended by 15 members. Although not many plants were in bloom, we all had an interesting time. The water level of the streams was much higher than anticipated, but Fred Woodruff came to the rescue by sharing his rubber boots, so everyone could get across the streams with relatively dry feet .

The most unusual and uncommon plant encountered was the one-flowered Cancer-root (Orobanche terrae-novae). Also in flower were Spikerush (Eleocharis elliptica), Forget-me-not (Myosotis laxa), Buckbean (Menyanthes trifoliata), Golden Ragwort (Senecio aureus), Iris, Pitcher-plant, High bush Cranberry (Viburnum trilobum), Bog Rosemary (Andromeda glaucophylla), Northern Comandra (Geocaulon lividum) and Bur-reed (Sparganium chlorocarpum).

The second trip was rained out, but three returned to Seal Cove on the following Tuesday. Most of the orchids were flowering at this time. The Rose Pogonia (Pogonia ophioglossoides), Green Adder's Mouth Orchid (Malaxis unifolia) and Scent-bottle Orchid (Habenaria delectata) but the Green Wood Orchid (H. clavellata) and Ragged Orchid (H. lacera) were only in bud. Large populations of Bush Honeysuckle (Diervilla lonicera), Creeping Dogbane (Apocynum androsaemifolium) and Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis) were encountered along with several plants of Joe-pye-weed (Eupatorium maculatum), Water Lobelia (Lobelia dortmanna), the diminutive Creeping Spearwort (Ranunculus reptans) and Grass Pink (Calopogon pulchellus).

We were still too early to see flowers of Winterberry (Ilex verticillata), Turtlehead (Chelone glabra), Swamp Candles (Lysimachia terrestris), Hooded Ladies Tresses (Spiranthes spp.), and Yellow-Eyed-Grass (Xyris montana), although these were all in bloom on July 16 in previous years. Poor weather and prior field trip commitments prevented us from arranging a third visit to Seal Cove, but we will try again next year in late July.

According to reports from Peter Scott and Mary Woodruff, the Nagles Hill and Hawke Hill walks were also very successful and enjoyed by who participated.

A reminder to all who took along their cameras while botanizing this summer. If you wish to share the results of your photographic efforts please bring a selection of your slides to the first regular meeting on October 2nd. It should be very interesting to see the various perspectives of our field trips.

~~To accomodate the~~ mushroom field trip, led by John Bridson, the moss field trip will be rescheduled from September 15th. to October 6th. (rain date October 13th.). People should meet at the Arts and Culture parking lot at 2.00 p.m., then drive down to my house in Flatrock. From there Bill (Meades) and Dr. Doyle Wells will lead the field trip along a trail to the Stiles Cove Park area.

This week I received a letter from Jim Hodgins, President of the national Canadian Wildflower Society. He visited Newfoundland this summer and was so impressed with our flora, that he plans to devote an entire issue of the Wildflower Magazine to botany in our province. I have already contacted several people to write articles, but if anyone has any suggestions, please call me at 335-2669.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.

The Botany Column.....Peter J. Scott

As I write this (September 3), the sun is shining and the plants are very confused. It went down to 4 degrees Celsius last night and that has been the way of the world this summer.

Before I launch forth on a few words, I would like to give you a quotation that I heard recently. It may give you some quiet satisfaction.

No matter how mean and miserable a person may be, every time they breathe they make a flower happy.

The botany is a little loose but you get the point!

The time when a plant flowers is triggered by a number of cues, either singly or in combination. In a broad and general sense, the spring-blooming species are triggered by temperature; the summer-blooming by increasing day-length; and the fall-blooming ones by cool periods and decreasing day-length. The spring-blooming plants usually form their flower buds in the autumn and so you can see the fat buds with tiny flower buds in them on the rhododendrons, lilacs, and Northern Wild Raisin. The summer- and autumn-blooming plants will usually form their flower buds along with all of the other growth produced during the growing season.

The weather this year really confused the plants. The pre-midsummer bloomers bloomed later than usual and the flowers, because of the cool temperatures, lasted longer. This caused some problems but maybe not as many as we imagine. In the vegetable garden I planted some Chinese Radishes - the big white Daikon types. Radishes, along with other plants like spinach, bolt (start to flower) when the day get longer. The radishes did not grow because of the cold in June and so they had small roots; then they flowered. I had wonderful big flowering radishes but nothing to eat. There are many other unhappy stories that can be told - over refreshments after a meeting? The cold temperatures in July and August triggered many plants that are autumn-blooming to start flowering a bit early. And yet, the blueberries are quite good and ripening on schedule. If we are confused, just think of the plants. The cool damp conditions now seem to be encouraging a lush growth of fungus. I have noticed a lot of powdery mildew (it looks like flour dusted on the leaves). This is unsightly but should not be a real problem.

I keep a record of maximum and minimum temperatures each day for my yard and this summer has been poor for plants. Most plants are not restricted in their range on the island by maximum temperatures as we do not have any to worry about, however *Diapensia* is restricted. Minimum temperatures are a problem. In most temperate regions, 15 degrees Celsius would be considered the minimum temperature that would be a problem during the height of the growing season. I feel that 10 degrees Celsius is what we will have to accept and the plants seem to manage. Throughout this growing season the temperature regularly dropped below this at night and sometimes during the day. By the first week in July I put my bean seeds back in storage - they must have heat!

We now have the autumn to observe and grumble about. We enjoy it anyway. See you at the meetings.

Introductory Botany: The Mint Family - Labiatae.....Todd Boland

When most of us think of the Mint Family, we visualize spearmint or peppermint, however, this family contains a wide

assortment of aromatic herbs. Many of the hardy herbs that can be grown in Newfoundland are members of the mint family: eg. lemon balm, oregano, lavender, sage. Other garden plants of ornamental value, such as bugleweed, false dragonshead and beebalm also belong to the mint family.

All the above mentioned plants have certain features typical of the mint family. The give-away feature of these plants are their square stems. The far majority of plants have circular stems to some degree, but the mint family has distinctively square stems. This trait, combined with aromatic, opposite leaves (i.e. leaves produced in pairs) allow even the novice to identify a member of this family.

The flower shape of the various mints is basically tubular to some degree. The flower consists of an upper and lower lip, the upper being 2-lobed, the lower 3-lobed. The ovary of each flower is deeply 4-lobed and when in fruit, forms four little ~~seed-like nutlets or achenes~~. Most local species of mints have small flowers which are either blue, shades of purple or pinkish in colour. Overall, most do not have large or showy blooms.

In regards to our native plants, Newfoundland contains 10 genera and 17 species which are members of the mint family. The 10 genera include Ajuga, Scutellaria, Glechoma, Prunella, Galeopsis, Lamium, Stachys, Satureja, Lycopus and Mentha. Unfortunately, many of our native mints are very invasive weeds, such as gill-over-the-ground, hemp nettle, dead nettle and woundwort. All of our native mints are aromatic, some pleasantly so, while others are rather offensively pungent.

If you are considering growing any of our local species in a wildflower setting, the best choice based on flower attractiveness and non-invasive habit, would be the heal-all, Prunella vulgaris, or the skull-cap, Scutellaria sp. If their roots can be contained or your space is unlimited, spearmint and peppermint are also good choices, especially in a damp location.

Society Meetings.....Organized by Gordon Ringius

Meeting will now be held on the first Wednesday of each month. As before we meet at 8.00 p.m. in room S-3125A, Science Building, M.U.N.

Lineup of speakers for the autumn CWS meetings.

October 2, 1991

Speaker: Lydia Snellen, CWS, St.John's, NF

Title: Wildflowers and How to Photograph Them.

Lydia Snellen, a well-known photographer and member of the CWS will be presenting a slide show of some of her favourite photographs of wildflowers, wildberries, and mushrooms, as well as providing a commentary on some of the problems encountered in wilflower photography and tricks in overcoming them. We invite all Society members who were out in the wilds this summer madly clicking their cameras at wild floral wonders to bring in the fruits of their labour and share their bountiful harvests with the rest of us.

November 6, 1991

Speaker: David Innis, Biology Department, MUN.

Title: Sex Lives of Lower Plants.

David will be giving us a glimpse of the diverse modes of reproduction in lower plants, beginning with seaweeds and progressing through the bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) to the ferns. He will be stressing natural history aspects of these very interesting but perhaps less appreciated forms of plant life.

Speaker: Bodil Larsen, CWS, St. John's, NF.

Title: Some Aspects of the Flora of Australia.

Bodil has amassed a perhaps unrivalled collection of wildflower photographs and slides from all over the world. In her presentation she will be focusing on the fascinating plants of Australia which she will supplement with a travelogue style of commentary.

December 4, 1991.

Speaker: Michelle Normore, Biology Department, MUN.

Title: Leaf Miners in Newfoundland.

Michelle has been collecting information on the leaf miners of Newfoundland for several years now, and for those of us who sometimes like to look beyond the showy flowers to the less pretty but equalling enthralling world of plant-animal associations, she will be commenting on the numerous adaptations that have resulted in the associations, and the diversity of form, pattern and development of the mines that makes them so interesting. Her presentation will be illustrated with photographic slides from her personal collection. Many of the subjects of her slides will likely not be of anything you have ever seen before but I am sure, that after listening to Michelle's talk, we will all be peering a little more deeply and earnestly into the background foliage next spring and summer.

Speaker: Karen Butler, Geography Department, MUN.

Title: Exotic Plants of the Avalon Peninsula.

Karen has had a fascination for the exotic plants (otherwise known as alien species, introduced species, etc.) of the island of Newfoundland for some time. In her presentation, she will be talking about the diversity of species that have been introduced to the Avalon Peninsula, and the many distribution patterns that they have formed since their introductions. She will then take us back in history and speculate on the historical connections that are to be found between the the floras of southwest England and Newfoundland. Many of those common, everyday weeds we pass and hardly ever notice along roadsides or in abandoned parking lots in our quest for the rare and the unusual, will take on a new aura of interest for Society members after hearing Karen's presentation.

For the winter and spring meetings, the following speakers will be making presentations to the CWS. Further details on their talks will be presented in a subsequent Sarracenia.

February 5, 1992.

Speaker: Bill Meades, CWS, Forestry Canada, St. John's, NF.

Title: Ecoregions of Newfoundland.

March 4, 1992.

Speaker: Peter Scott, CWS, Biology Department, MUN.

Title: Botanists: Native and CFA's who have studied the flora of Newfoundland.

April 1, 1992.

Speaker: Sue Meades, CWS, Torbay, NF.

Title: The Fern World.

Speaker: Todd Boland, CWS, St. John's, NF.

Title: Orchid Platter.

May 6, 1992.

Speaker: Peter Scott, CWS, Biology Department, MUN.

Title: Workshop in the Rose Family.

June 3, 1992.

Speaker: Bruce Roberts, Forestry Canada, St. John's, NF.

Title: Rare and Unusual Plants of Newfoundland (Tentative).

We hope that all Society members will make every effort to attend these meetings. The depth and scope of Newfoundland flora in particular, and the world flora in general, represented by the above speakers is very impressive and we are indeed fortunate to have them willingly take time from their busy schedules to address the Society.

Flowers.....Joyce Cho

Wild flowers are uniquely beautiful and one of my favourite subjects to draw and paint. Working directly from the natural object, it is challenging to try to capture the feeling of its delicate form, colour, and tone: light, medium or dark shading, cast by the morning, noon or evening sunlight.

Each of the four seasons has its own distinctive beauty and materials are therefore always available to work from throughout the year.



Cinquefoil, (Potentilla sp.)



Harebell, (Campanula rotundifolia)

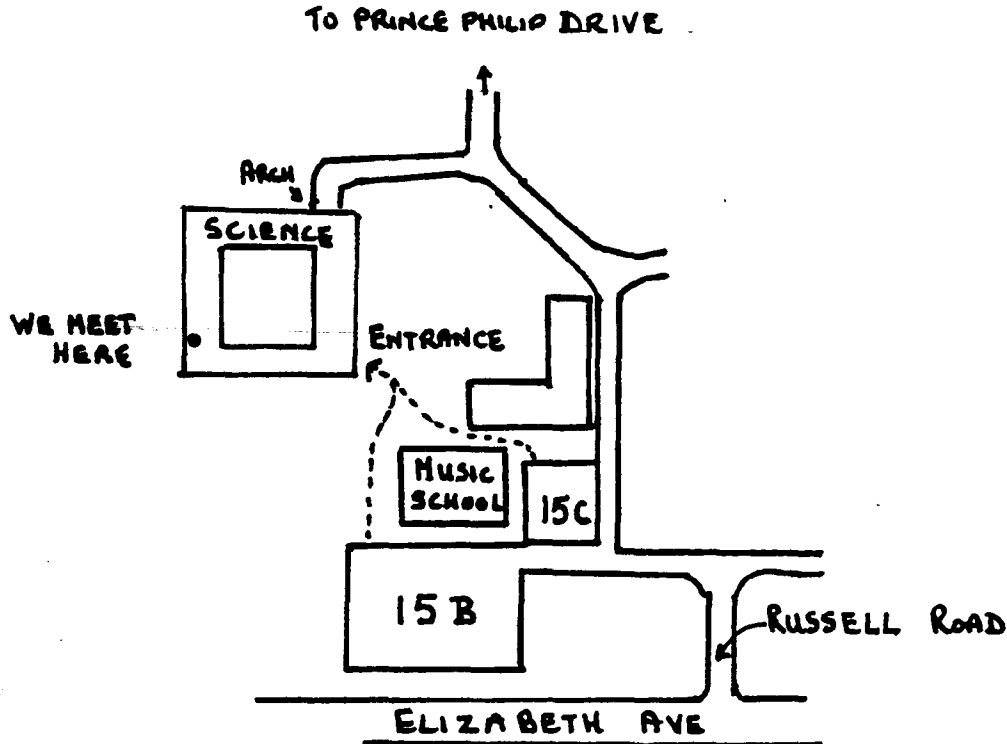
Note from Editor.....Janet Craske

Many people have throughout the year given of their time and talents to fill the pages of Sarracenia. To all these people my heartfelt thanks. To all my requests for articles I have only received positive replies, but I need a larger pool of contributors so if you see me approaching you or receive a telephone call from me, please do not run away.

Last month I contacted Joyce Cho and asked her if she would provide an illustration for this edition of Sarracenia. She presented me with two delightful watercolours, and line drawings from these paintings. As we just use standard copying techniques for this newsletter I found that I had to use the line drawings. I will have the two watercolours with me at our meeting on the

2nd. October for those who would like to see them.

I also include here a small map to show the position of two carpark which may prove convenient for members on Wednesday evenings. These are lots 15B and 15C that are adjacent to the M.O. Morgan (Music) building. These are user-pay (50 cents, flat fee) parking lots that are available after 4 p.m. weekdays.



The final date for submissions for the winter Sarracenia is November 22nd. Please let us have lots of articles so that we can send you an extra Christmas package! Contact either Mary Woodruff 738 3001 or Janet Craske 895 2071.

Report from the Botanical Garden.....Anne Marie Madden

1991 has been a special year at the Botanical Garden. Being our 20th anniversary, it has been a time to reflect on the growth and many changes that have occurred here over the years. During this season in particular, many changes have occurred. Despite the rather dismal weather, staff and the Friends of the Garden have been working at a furious pace in the semi-formal garden area. And the results are quite noticeable. The extension to the rock garden has been the most significant development. With all the rocks now in place, planting has already started. With any luck, we hope to hold a gala opening next year of this new garden. Judging from the work completed so

far, this garden promises to be quite spectacular. The Friends wildlife garden is also progressing well. The ground has been turned, and many truckloads of rocks have been removed. The site has been attracting quite a bit of interest from our visitors.

Although fall is fast approaching, the flower gardens are still putting on a beautiful show. In particular, the Newfoundland Heritage bed and the Cottage garden are looking quite spectacular. Our late growing season was a delight to all the out-of-province visitors this year. Many expressed great joy in seeing and smelling "spring" all over again. Indeed, it was rather odd seeing Rhododendrons and Lilacs still in bloom at the end of July. Now the asters, and goldenrod are flowering throughout the park, and with them come the many species of butterflies that nectar on these wildflowers.

Despite the poor weather this summer, most events at the garden went ahead as planned. Both the Orchid Society and the Floral Art group of the Newfoundland Horticultural Society presented beautiful shows as usual. The plant identification course taught by Sue Meades was a great success, with the participants requesting a follow-up workshop on fruits. And of course Todd Boland gave several wildflower walks throughout the summer. These walks have become so popular that we have to limit the amount of advertising we give these events, for fear of having too many participants.

This fall, there are several events worth noting in your calendar. One is the extremely popular Dried Flower Workshop presented each year by the Friends of the Garden. This will take place Saturday, October 19, 1:30 - 4:30. Pre-registration for this course is required, as enrolment is limited. Registration is taking place after October 2 (if you are not a member of the Friends) and the fee is just \$25. Flowers and foliage are provided.

Todd will be treating us to another wildflower walk on Saturday, September 14, 2 p.m. and of course the Sunday morning birdwatch, led by Howard Clase will be continuing throughout the fall (September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20). To join in, just meet at the Botanical Garden Field Center on Mt. Scio Road at 8 a.m. sharp. I know the hour seems rather early, but it is a beautiful time to visit the Garden. And speaking of birds, Roger Burrows will be continuing his series of Bird Identification courses. Starting September 11, and continuing until October 16, he will be teaching about fall and winter birds in the province every Wednesday evening, 7 - 10 p.m.. The fee is \$55. Weekend field trips for those who wish to participate will also be arranged.

Finally, I am putting out the call to all our members to consider entering the 14th Annual Exhibition of Garden and Nature Photographs and Illustrations. This exhibition is a non-

competitive event hosted by the Botanical Garden to encourage the illustration of natural and living things. All age and skill levels are accepted. And we encourage a variety of media including woodwork, embroidery, photography etc. Deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 27. If you don't wish to enter, make a point to come and see the exhibition once it starts (November 9 - 30). It will be well worth your visit. In the meantime, if you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Garden at 737-8590 or drop by and see our beautiful display of autumn colors.

Treasurers Note.....Janet Craske

Membership fees are now due. I include an extra Membership form for anyone else you know who wishes to join the Society. Even if this is a renewal could you please fill in the form so that our files can be updated. Thank you.

Canadian Wildflower Society (Newfoundland Chapter).
 Membership Form.
 Valid to September 30th. 1992.

Name(s) _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____

MUN Address (if applicable) _____
 Membership Fees: \$10.00 Individual, \$15.00 Family. Please make cheques payable to Canadian Wildflower Society, (Newfoundland Chapter), and send to Janet Craske, Treasurer CWS(NC), P.O. Box 278, R.R.1, Paradise, NF., A1L 1C1.

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