

SARRACENIA

Newsletter of the Canadian Wildflower Society, Newfoundland Chapter.

JUN 20 1992

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MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Summer 1992

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, June 27. Natural History Society sponsored walk to Hawke Hills. Meet at 2 pm at the Arts & Culture Centre carpark. Todd Boland is guide and contact person in case of rain or other bad weather. Tel. 753-6027

Sunday, July 12. Sue will lead trip to Seal Cove. Meet at 10 am at Arts and Culture Centre carpark. A packed lunch will ward off hunger pangs. Waterproof footwear may be useful! Contact person Sue Meades, tel. 335-2669.

Saturday, July 25. We join the Orchid Society on a walk at Soldiers Pond. We meet at 2 pm on the TCH at the pole line 3.1 km. west of the Foxtrap weigh Scales. It takes at the most, half an hour from St.John's. Contact person Todd Boland, tel. 753-6027.

Sunday, August 9. Fern walk at Flatrock. We meet at 10 am at Sue's. Go out along Torbay Road (this road changes its name to Pouch Cove Highway). 1.6 km. beyond Flatrock Town Hall on the left hand side there is a 2 story brown house, with a 200ft drive. It is next to a white house closer to the road with a garage. The brown one is Sue's. A packed lunch will enable everyone to enjoy botanizing without tummy rumbles. Contact person Sue Meades, tel. 335-2669

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

Once again this year the opening of the Garden was delayed due to unseasonal snow accumulations. Unlike the season of '91 however, spring actually did arrive, bringing with it longer,

warmer days, the return of our spring flowers, buds, and leaves, and the usual migration of ducks, warblers and of course, our osprey. We are happy to report that least four broods of ducks (black and pintail) have been spotted on Oxen Pond to date. each day passes, it is amazing to see how quickly spring progressing into summer. And with each passing day comes the arrival of more and more flowers along our trails.

On Sunday, June 14, Todd Boland, Friend of the Garden, led the first wildlfower walk of 1992 for the Botanical Garden. A full list of species has been included at the end of this article. Briefly, besides learning all about ferns, a highlight of the trip for many of us was sighting several pink lady's slippers (or moccasin flowers), Cypripedium acaule along the trail. Another treat was stopping off at the peat beds to view some rarer, and often hard to find native wildflowers in bloom. The Garden does have many native species not common to the Avalon on display in the flower garden area. next time you're in the Botanical Garden don't forget to check the flower beds for species you may not have seen before. Todd leads wildflower walks Botanical Garden throughout the season, the next one on Sunday, July 5, 11 a.m.. Please don't to call us at the hesitate Botanical Garden (737-8590) receive additional information on the wildflower walks, or any of our events.

Once again this spring the Garden hosted many events, including the ever-popular "Bird Identification Course", taught by Roger Burrows, the Newfoundland Horticultural Society's "Spring



CORNUS CANADENSIS JUNE 92 J. C.

Flower Show", and our usual Sunday morning bird watches, Sunday tours, spring school program, and much more. This year we were especially proud to open the new rock garden extension and alpine house to the public. On hand to help us celebrate was Alfred Evans, former assistant curator of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Dr. Evans (he received an honourary degree at the MUN convocation this spring) visited the Botanical Garden in the early stages of its development and since then has provided much valued advice on its planning and development. During his visit, Dr. Evans presented an illustrated talk on Alpine Gardening to the public.

The next scheduled event to take note of is the "Floral Art Display", presented by the Floral Art Section of the NF Horticultural Society on July 18 and 19. I sincerely recommend you not miss this particular show, as it proves to be more beautiful, impressive, and enjoyable with each passing year. In the meantime if you would like to receive a more detailed listing of our events, please call us at 737-8590 or drop by the Botanical Garden Field Center on Mt. Scio Road during our opening hours, Wednesday to Sunday, 10-5:30. And if you have the time, why not visit the Garden soon. The flower gardens, nature trails, and display room all have something to offer. (Please note: in observance of Memorial Day, the Botanical Garden will be closed to the public on Wednesday, July 1).

BOTANICAL GARDEN WILDFLOWER WALK June 14, 1992

Acer spicatum Alchemilla sp. Alnus rugosa Amelanchier laevis Amelanchier bartramiana Amelanchier canadense Andromeda polifolia Barbarea vulgaris Caltha palustris Carex nigra Cerastium vulgaris Chamaedaphne calyculata Clintonia borealis Coptis groenlandica Cornus canadensis Cypripedium acaule Fragaria virginiana Kalmia polifolia Lepidium campestre Lonicera villosa Maianthemum canadense Myosotis arvense Nemopanthus mucronata Prunus pensylvanica

Mountain Maple Ladu's Mantle Alder Chuckley Pears Bartram's Chuckley Pear Chuckley Pear Bog Rosemary Winter Cress Marsh Marigolds Sedge Mouse-ear Chickweed Leatherleaf Poisonberry Goldthread Bunchberry Pink Lady Slipper Wild Strawberry Bog Laurel Field Peppergrass Northern Fly-Honeysuckle Wild Lily-of-the-valley Forget-me-not Mountain Holly Pin Cherry

Pyrola secunda
Ranunculus ficaria
Ranunculus repens
Rhododendron canadense
Ribes glandulosum
Rubus pubescens
Rumex acetosella
Salix bebbiana
Salix sp.
Sambucus pubens
Taraxacum officinale
Trientalis borealis
Vaccinium angustifolium
Veronica serpyllifolia
Viburnum edule

One-sided Wintergreen
Lesser Celandine
Creeping Buttercup
Rhodora
Skunk Currant
Dewberry/Plumboy
Sheep Sorrel
Willow
Willow
Elderberry
Dandelion
Starflower
Blueberry
Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Squashberry

This family of plants is among the most important and conspicuous plant families on the island of Newfoundland. It is also one of the larger plant families on the island. It is from the Ericaceae that we obtain many of our "berry" delicacies such as blueberries, partridge-berries and cranberries.

In Newfoundland, all members of the Ericaceae are shrubs, although some of the creeping members such as the creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*) and trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) do not look very shrub-like (however, even these plants have woody, if somewhat small, stems).

All Ericaceae in Newfoundland have simple leaves, although in some genera, these are modified to look needle-like or scale-like, as in Cassiope, Calluna and Phyllodace. The flowers have 4-5 petals which may or may not be fused. The number of stamens equal or double the number of petals. Flowers are hypogynous (the petals and sepals are attached to the base of the ovary). Typical floral colours are white to pink and greenish.

Members of the Ericaceae grow throughout the island and dominate barren and peatland regions. Most species are widespread but a few are restricted to certain localities. For example, Phyllodace and Cassiope are restricted to alpine regions of the Long Range Mountains; trailing arbutus is found only in forested regions of western Newfoundland and the Lapland rhododendron, R. lapponica, is found mostly in serpentine regions of Gros Morne and isolated places of the Northern Peninsula.

The family contains 14 genera and 30 species. These may bebroadly divided into two groups based on the type of fruit theyproduce. The first group are those with fleshy berry fruit. Genera with this type of fruit include *Vaccinium* (the blueberries, partridge-berry, cranberry, marshberry and bilberry - 9 species), *Gaylussacia* (huckleberries - 2 species), *Arctostaphylos* (bearberry - 2 species) and *Gaultheria*

(wintergreen -2 species).

The remaining group have fruits which are dry capsules. These include Kalmia (the laurels - 2 species), Ledum (Labrador tea - 2 species), Cassiope (2 species), Phyllodace (2 species), Rhododendron (2 species), Loiseleuria procumbens (alpine azalea), Epigaea repens (trailing arbutus or mayflower) and Chamaedaphne calyculata (leatherleaf).

The only other species of Ericaceae in Newfoundland is the heather, Calluna vulgaris. This species is not native to the island, but has become established in the wild in certain isolated localities.

Many of the Ericaceae are good subjects for the wildflower garden, or more especially in peatland gardens. The majority grow in peaty, acidic soil, although the lapland rhododendron, Cassiope and Phyllodace are notable exceptions and as such, are difficult to grow in cultivation. Many of the genera noted in this article may be viewed in the peatland beds of the Oxen Pond Botanical Park.

Report of the Annual General Meeting......Peter Scott

- 1. Sue called the meeting to order at 8 pm.
- 2. The best night to hold our meetings was discussed and the usual problems were discussed. A telephone survey will be done.
- 3. The present meeting room will no longer be available. Anne Marie said the the meetings could be held at Oxen Pond until the snow flies. Sue will enquire about using a room at the library.
- 4. Field Trips: See beginning of Sarracenia.
- 5. Janet presented the Treasurer's report. 34 paid-up members.
- 6. Election of the Executive.
 Anne Marie presented a slate:

President - Sue Meades

Secretary - Joanne McDonald

Treasurer - Janet Craske

Directors (4) - Mary Woodruff

Mike Collins

Carolyn Harley

Judith Quigley

Botanical Garden Representative - Anne Marie Madden

7. City Hall contacted the society and asked that we put up a display for St. John's Day, June 22, 2-4 pm.

Oxen Pond will provide a wildflower display for this purpose. We will phone around to find a volunteer to stand at the display.

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8. Programme

Todd presented an illustrated talk on our native orchids. Sue did the same for ferns.

Editor's Notes......Janet Craske

This time I have an especially big thank you to extend to the contributors to this edition of Sarracenia. After our very late A.G.M., and in order to let the membership know the dates of our summer programme, I asked for articles to be given to me as soon as possible, meaning within two days. Everyone obliged.

Joyce Cho has provided the illustrations of two flowers that we found on the recent wildflower walk at the Botanic Garden. One, of the Bunchberry Cornus canadensis I placed with Anne Marie's "Report from the Garden", the other of Chuckley Pears Amelanchier sp. is to be found at the end of this Sarracenia.

At one of our meetings this past year Peter Scott gave a talk about botanists in and of Newfoundland. One of these, Agnes Marion Ayre, gave an address before the Rotarian Society at the Newfoundland Hotel, August 5th 1937. This was printed as a series of articles in the Evening Telegraph later in the month. I shall present these articles in full and without modification in the next few editions of Sarracenia. Please be patient if you wonder, at the beginning, about the relevance to wildflowers. Mrs. Ayre had many and various interests. Peter Scott has written a short introduction to this series.

Agnes Marion Ayre (1890 - 1940)........................Peter Scott

Mrs Ayre was born on February 2, 1890 in St. John's to Lewis and Mary Miller. She was educated in St. John's and married to Harold C. Ayre in 1913. She had two sons (Lewis and Frederick) and a daughter (Janet Murphy).

She lived a comparatively short life but in addition to running a household and raising a family she accomplished a great deal.

Mrs. Ayre's passion for many years was wildflowers and the Agnes Marion Ayre Herbarium is founded upon her collection of pressed specimens. She initially became watercolours and interested in painting the local species in the 1920's. Mrs. Philip Knowling came out from Wales and saw the need for a list of Newfoundland wildflowers. She asked Mrs. Ayre to paint the specimens that she collected. Mrs. Knowling did not continue with the project very long but Mrs Ayre continued on. She enjoyed learning about the plants and worked very hard with the latin, identifications, and paintings. After assembling enough material she took it to Dr. Fernald' and he is reported to have been quite impressed with what he saw. He apparently considered Mrs. Ayre to be quite competent in identification. She spent many hours

painting the flowers for her own enjoyment, and she experimented with style, interpretation, and medium.

Her family learned to cope with her study of plants. She developed the sharp botanist's eye and her family had an unlimited supply of four-leaf clovers which she would spy while sitting on the lawn. They also had many lurching halts while motoring as she exclaimed "Stop the car, I see a". She did other things that were a bit inconvenient such as leave the meat locked in her car at the railway station for a weekend while she went to Clarenville to botanize.

Her grandson wrote: "She was a continual whirlwind of activity - painting, making dresses, illustrating and writing family cartoons, organizing parties, and then disappearing. Her disappearances became a fact of life. My grandfather would be called at 10 o'clock at night to be told she was stuck on some back road where she had gone hunting for flowers. At one point she called my grandfather to say she was leaving for St. Anthony on the next boat which happened to be departing in 30 minutes. He later found her car on the dock with the engine still running."

Mrs. Ayre published "Wildflowers of Newfoundland, Part III". It has a sad history. Colour was too expensive at the time and so the watercolour was washed off each painting. They were then photographed in black and white by Miss Elsie Holloway of St. John's. Miss Worral typed the descriptions in the evenings after work. The work received quite a set-back when thieves, looking for something more valuable, tipped out the typing and left them torn and crumpled. Only part three was published in 1935. An application for a grant from the Guggenheim Foundation to complete the work was being favourably considered at the time of her death from cancer.

Her collection of 2,440 specimens and 1,890 paintings, the foundation of the Agnes Marion Ayre Herbarium, is an outstanding contribution to botany. But she left her mark in other ways. There are still people who remember Mrs. Ayre identifying the flower collection that they made as a child and these people have a real appreciation of the flora.

¹ Dr. M. L. Fernald, Gray Herbarium, Harvard University.

Newfoundland has a Unique Flora......Agnes Marion Eyre

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. When Mr. MacNab invited me to speak to you to-day I was glad. I should like to tell you something about our Newfoundland flowers.

Prowse, Gosling, Kirke and others are appalled at the embarrassment of wealth of Newfoundland history. It is not too little that we suffer from, but too much.

Several times Judge Prowse put down his pen, ready to admit himself beaten. And so with the Newfoundland Flora. There is such an amount to say and to learn, and it is all so very interesting.

The title of the address which I prepared for to-day's

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luncheon was "Newfoundland Has a Unique Flora," but it will take all my time to run through the names of these plants which I gathered yesterday afternoon without telling anything about them. And just now I discovered the date: August 5th. and I should like to say a word about that as well.

August 5th

On August 5th, three hundred and fifty-four years ago to-day, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, "The Father of the British Empire"-Auspach calls him the "Parent of All the English Plantations"-set up Queen Elizabeth's Standard in St. John's.

Mayor Gosling's "Life of Sir Humphrey Gilbert", written in St. John's is the first biography of this great Englishman.

We all know the story. Gilbert said "I am now become a northern man altogether and my heart is set on Newfoundland." Two hundred and sixty of them - "smiths, carpenters, shipwrights, masons" and all - sailed from Causet Bay. We have Causelet or Cosset near Angles Cove, Cape Shore, which is on early maps.

In the Narrows the Admiral ran on the Pancake Rock. The merchants sent boats to pull him off. They took him to a place called "The Garden," and showed him their favourite walks. Captain Edward Haks' ship the Golden Hinde, named after Drake's famous one was the only ship that reached home. The Delight, the store ship with all the supplies, maps, charts, Gilbert's notes and documents sank on a shoal. With her perished nearly all the hands — Captain Maurice Browne and Stephen Parmenius, Captain Clerke and 15 survivors scambled into a boat that was tied out behind "about the size of a Thames barge, built in Newfoundland." Gilbert had bought it in St. John's. The men had been out in it shooting birds. There was only one oar, no water, no food. They ate seaweed, gathered from the top of the sea. They only saw the sun once and the stars but one night. For seven days they drifted.

The wind carried them to the shore of Newfoundland. They knelt on the beach and gave thanks: they drank from a clear stream: they built a bough house. They found great quantities of berries which grew on a large open barrens surrounded by great pyne trees, spruce, fir and very great birch trees. They ate beach peas. Ramea, I read somewhere is old Norman for "Vetches."

They travelled along the south shore of Newfoundland for five days. They met a friendly ship of St.Jean de Luz and were brought to Bizcay. "One days journey and we cared not for this Spaniard." They reached England about the end of the year. We hear of Captain Clerke in Newfoundland again some years after this.

When Captain Cook was stabbed at Hawaii, Captain James Clerke took charge of the expedition. In Newfoundland Port de Grave - Port of the Beach, is Clerke's Beach - Adam's Cove is called after an early settler, Adam Clerke. In one Newfoundland family today are five Captains Clerke and a Rhodes Scholar. Furneaux is the name of another Newfoundland Captain. There was a Captain Furneaux with Captain Cook. The Furneaux settled at Fort

de Grave, one of our oldest settlements. In 1839 a Captain Furneaux took J.B. Jukes to the sealfishery. Dr. J. Furneaux, St. John's has his grandfather's sealing gun. The Furneaux in St. John's call their house "Elsonia." A Furneaux married an Elson. Philip Gosse worked in Elson's counting-house, Carbonear for six years.

Gilbert stayed in St. John's for seventeen days. He was wined and dined and seems to have had a very pleasent time of it. St John's has an early record for hospitality.

Gilbert's voyage was not a voyage of discovery. Newfoundland had been discovered eighty years before this.

The first letter in the English language from the New World was written about this time - August 3rd. at St. John's, by Captain John Rut, a naval officer sent out by Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey in a King's ship, the Mary Guildford. This letter was written to King Henry 56 years before Gilbert's visit.

Roses Common as Brambles

Then Anthony Parkhurst, the British merchant who had been a Gentleman Adventurer with Sir John Hawkines, and who afterwards became a member of Gilbert's Company, made several trips to Newfoundland. Seven years before Gilbert's arrival, Parkhurst writes to Hakluyt the historian, the first description of the island. He speaks of "ye island of iron:" says "the English command all here:" and is the first to mention Newfoundland flowers - "As for roses, they are as common as brambles here."

Gilbert, Captain Edward Haies, and Captain Edward Wynne who thatched Lord Baltimore's great house with iris and sedges and rushes from the Ferryland marshes, all speak of our flowers and fruit - the roses, raspasse berries, whorts, etc.

"N.K." a gentleman living at Ferryland writes 18th. August, 1622 to his worthy friend "W.P." about a great fire, 10 miles compass which began between Fermeuse and Aqueforte - "It burned a week and then was quenched by a great rains. In the night the woolves being near did somewhat afright us....Many faire flowers I have seene heere which I cannot name although I had learned Gerrard's Kerbay by heart."

Hakluyt was to have accompanied his relative Gilbert as historian, but his young Oxford friend, Stephen Parmenius, came in his place. Parmenius wanted to start a forest fire - "The very colour and hue of the hilles seeme to have some mynes in them." He asked Gilbert to set the woods afire so that they could view the land. Gilbert refused.

Sir George Pechham, Gilbert's friend, and one of the executors of his will, was not in Newfoundland, but he gives us the first published account of the country. It appeared in 1583, the year of Gilbert's death. Peckham in his True Report says: "This discovery was made for the Crown of England. And as a proof there is in Newfoundland a fine port known and still called today Sanchius' Harbour. This shows that they (John, Louis, Sebastian and Sanchius Cabot) were the first to discover this coast "depuis l'altitude de 68° jus qu' au cap de la Floride, ansi qu'il appert

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des Decades." - (Harnesse).

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continued

Treasurer's Report.....Janet Craske

Statement from 30th. April 1991 to 11th. June 1992 as presented to the A.G.M. on June 11th. 1992.

Assets 30th. April 1991. \$326.32

Income
Membership fees \$385.00
Workshop \$150.00
Interest \$15.89

TOTAL INCOME \$550.89

Expenses

Postage \$ 64.85

Duplicating \$106.40

Refreshments \$ 20.29

Bank Charges \$.55

Workshop \$150.00

orkshap \$150.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$342.09

Assets

As of 30th April 1991 \$326.32
Income to 11th June 1992 \$550.89

Sub-total \$877.21
Expenses to 11th June 1992 \$342.09

CURRENT ASSETS \$535.12

All current assets held in Bank Account

At the end of this Sarracenia I have included two forms, one a membership renewal form and another membership form in the hope that you know other people that would like to join our society. Please note that these forms are for membership in C.W.S. (Newfoundland Chapter) up to September 30th. 1993.

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

What is a typical spring for Newfoundland? Well, it varies and close comparisons are hard to find. We can certainly say that this year's spring is heaps better than the one we did not have last year! The sub-tropical conditions at the end of May precipitated a flurry of growth and by mid-June the plants are one and, sometimes, two weeks ahead of what we usually expect. The sad part of all of this is that we are almost afraid to enjoy it, in case we get accustomed to it.

In this issue I would like to take you to the seaside and introduce you to two beautiful plants that nestle amongst the flotsam and jetsam all around our coast. Seaside walks are always

exciting because you never know what you will find.

There are many sedges, rushes, and grasses along the water's edge and so it is a surprise to find a bit of sunshine there, too. Silverweed is a member of the Rose Family and the Family and the genus, Potentilla. Potentilla means 'powerful'. This genus name was originally used for this plant which was once thought to have strong medicinal powers. The species name, anserina, means 'of and between geese and refers to the association shorelines. The Silverweed, Potentilla anserina, is much like its relative, the strawberry, in quite a number of aspects. The rosette of leaves and stolons are similar. The flower, except for its yellow colour, has many features in common and the fruit of the Silverweed looks like a dry strawberry. Much of this plant is covered with fine white hairs but especially the lower surface of the leaves which is densely clothed with shiny hairs. The calyx and corolla have their parts in fives but a close examination of the flower seems to reveal ten sepals. The smaller segments are known as the calyculus. Each sepal has a small stipule at its base on each side and the two stipules of adjacent sepals are fused along their margins to form the narrow segments which alternate with the broader segments.

This species grows along shores of ponds and by the ocean throughout Newfoundland. It is also found in Eurasia and across much of North America. Egede's Silverweed (Potentilla egedii) also occurs in Newfoundland. It is very similar to this species except that it lacks the hairs which are so abundant on this plant.

Silverweed was used in medicine for astringent purposes such as for diarrhea and many people used this plant as a food. The root is eaten either raw or cooked in the early spring and is said to taste like parsnip. Some also use the root as a source of red dye for wool and other cloth materials.

Another plant of our shores is the Sea Lungwort which produces flowers that look like those of its close relative, the Virginia Bluebell, only smaller. *Mertensia* is a name commemorating a German botanist, Franz Karl Mertens (1764-1831), and *maritima* means 'of seashores'.

This plant spreads over the rocks on many of our beaches and can often form quite large patches by the end of the summer. Its leaves are covered with small flakes of wax exuded by the leaf and this is what gives the whitened appearance which makes the leaves blend in with the rocks. The clusters of small bell-like flowers at the end of the branches show an interesting colour change which is also found in several other plants of this family. The flowers are rose-pink when they open but, with age, they turn blue. This provides contrast of colour that is better attracting insect pollinators. This is also seen Forget-Me-Nots (Myosotis *spp*.) and Soldiers-and-Sailors (Pulmonaria officinalis).

Sea Lungwort is a good example of a 'strand plant'. They are found on beaches by the sea and have seeds that can float in salt water to new areas. Sea Lungwort is found on the rocky beaches of

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Northern Europe and Greenland. In North America, it is found on the shores of the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea and it extends as far south as Vancouver on the west and Massachusetts on the east. It is restricted to seaside beaches and it is dispersed by the sea. Salt water is very damaging to plants because it tends to dehydrate plant tissue but Sea Lungwort has equipped its seeds for sea travel by providing them with a hard waxy coat and a corky layer which makes them buoyant. They can float off to a distant bay and become established on the beach. Cotton has a similar story.

This plant grows on beaches all around Newfoundland but particularly on those that are somewhat sheltered. It is the only member of the genus that we have and the only plant on the beach with pink or blue bell-shaped flowers.

Take a walk on the beach this summer and discover what is there but, please, do not dig for buried treasure under these plants.



Chuckley Pears Amalanchier sp.

Canadian Wildflower Society (Newfoundland Chapter).

Membership Form.

Valid to September 30th. 1993.

Name(s) Address	Telephone
Membership I cheques payal Chapter), and	if applicable) lees: \$10.00 Individual, \$15.00 Family. Please make le to Canadian Wildflower Society, (Newfoundland send to Janet Craske, Treasurer CWS(NC), P.O. Box laradise, NF., All 1C1.

Canadian Wildflower Society (Newfoundland Chapter).

Membership Renewal Form.

Valid to September 30th. 1993.

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.