

2017 FBO Field Trips

Ephemeral Wildflower and Sedge ID, Hockley Valley, ON

Saturday May 13 (09:50 AM)

Leader: Dan Barcza

Dan will kick off our 2017 season with a spring ephemeral wildflower and sedge id field trip at his property in the Hockley Valley. The trip will be located at the junction of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment above the Nottawasaga River. The property contains a mixture of mature to old-growth forest and swamp. Old sand dunes support additional interesting plant species. Groundwater seeps feed intermittent and permanent watercourses that flow into the Nottawasaga River.

A Walk Through South Cameron Lake, near Tobermory, Bruce Peninsula: Saturday May 20 (09:50 AM)

Leader: Lenore Keeshig

Lenore will lead us on a 3 ½ - 4 hour hike through the forests of South Cameron Lake, with strategic stops to learn about the natural and cultural history of the area, through an Anishnaabe perspective, with an emphasis on the Anishnaabe uses of plants for food, medicine, utilitarian and ceremonial purposes. This will include opportunities to explore some area that are not part of the normal route.

Lichen, Fungi, and Forest Ecology, near Kingston, ON

Saturday May 27 (09:50 AM)

Leader: Chris Deduke

Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation area is a protected area located just north of Kingston, included within the Frontenac Arch Biosphere. The property contains marsh, field and forested habitats and a diversity of vascular plants, lichens and fungi. Walking through the area one can expect to see lichens such as the Hooded Rosette Lichen, Maple Dust Lichen and potentially the less common Boreal Oakmoss. Pelt and Pixie-cup lichens grow among mosses and on dead wood. A variety of fungi, including Birch Polypore, Tinder Polypore and Black Knot can be found. If conditions are favourable, jelly fungi like Orange Jelly and Ear Fungus might be observed. A park entry fee will be in effect.

Sydenham River Nature Reserve, Alvinston, ON

Sunday May 28 (09:50 AM)

Leader: Pat Deacon

The 193 acre Sydenham River Nature Reserve property was recently purchased through the efforts of Ontario Nature, Lambton Wildlife Inc. and the Sydenham Field Naturalists. We will compile a list of observations throughout the day to contribute to ongoing biological inventories being conducted on the property. Hiking through the large area of floodplain forest we should see lowland Carolinian tree species such as Kentucky Coffee-tree, American Sycamore, and Blue Ash. Herbaceous species may include Green Dragon, Virginia Bluebells, Striped Cream Violet, Harbinger-of-spring, Spring Avens and James' Sedge. Areas of forested slopes and ravine may also turn up some interesting finds. Terrain will be relatively flat with some time spent on the slopes leading to the floodplain.

Southern Sedges, Kopegaron Woods and Canard River near Harrow, ON Saturday, June 3

Leader: Tony Reznicek

Extreme Southwestern Ontario has a high diversity of sedges, especially *Carex* species, with a number rare or absent elsewhere in Ontario. This trip will focus on several rich areas, tentatively including a protected woodlot along the Canard River and adjacent open areas, a woodlot near Harrow, and Kopegaron Woods Conservation Area near Wheatley. We'll try to see as many species as feasible, look at the groupings of related species of *Carex*, while still admiring plants in the late spring flora with larger flowers as well.

Upland Sedge and Grass Identification, Near Newmarket, ON Sunday June 4 (9:50 AM)

Leader: Steve Varga

This field workshop will key out and identify a number of common upland sedge and grass species on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Meet at the York Region Forest (Hollidge Tract). It is located on the east side of Highway 48 just south of Vivian Road. Please wear long pants (there is poison-ivy present). Steve will provide copies of keys but bring a hand lens and a 15 cm, clear plastic ruler.

Flowerpot Island, Tobermory, Bruce Peninsula, ON Saturday June 10 (09:00 AM to 05:00 PM)

Leader: Walter Muma and Tyler Miller

We will spend the day exploring Flowerpot Island. We will be catching the tail end of the peak orchid season, and we will likely see many orchids still in bloom: Calypso, Northern Green, Heart-leaved Twayblade, Bluntleaf Rein, Huron Green, White Bog, Showy Lady Slipper, Striped Coralroot, Alaska are all possibilities. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Flowerpot Island, and the timing is dictated by the transport. The first jetboat to the island leaves Tobermory at 9:15am, the first glass-bottom boat leaves at 9:00am. Both arrive at the island at approximately the same time. You must be on one of these in order to join up with the group. The cost of the boat trip is \$44.

Caledon Lake Forest, Caledon, ON Saturday June 17 (09:50 AM)

Leader: Lisa Riederer

Caledon Lake Forest is a 500 hectare natural area in the northern reaches of the Credit River Watershed. It is comprised mostly of thicket swamp, coniferous swamp, mixed swamp and a few small fens. Most of the vegetation is of a more northern affinity with carpets of Sphagnum mosses, Labrador Tea, Bunchberry, Mountain Holly, and Bog Birch. We will be walking to the Leatherleaf Fen viewing platform and exploring the flora of the rich swamps in the area. Time permitting; we will visit a Shrubby Cinquefoil Fen underlain by marl substrates which is a rare community for this watershed. Expect to see some beautiful flowers in bloom including Showy Lady's-slipper and Small Yellow Lady's Slipper. The area will probably be wet and muddy so bring rubber boots if you don't want to get wet.

Wetland Sedge and Grass Species, near Sunderland, ON Saturday, July 8 (9:50 AM)

Leader: Steve Varga

This field workshop will key out and identify a number of common wetland sedge, grass and rush species on the Lake Simcoe Lowlands. Meet at a public trail on a former railway line that cuts through the Beaver (Beaverton) River in Durham Region (Brock Township). It is located on Regional Road 13 just west

of Highway 7/12 and south of the community of Blackwater. Please wear long pants (there is poison-ivy present) and long sleeves (there are mosquitos present). Most of the time we will be walking along the railway trail but be prepared to get your feet wet (wear old shoes or boots). Steve will provide copies of keys but please bring a hand lens and a 15 cm, clear plastic ruler.

Mississagi Provincial Park near Eliot Lake, ON

Saturday July 15 (8:00 AM)

Leader: Will Kershaw

Will Kershaw will lead us on an exploration of Mississagi Provincial Park, noted by Tripadvisor as “the single best park in Ontario”. The recommended plan is to arrive on the evening of Friday July 14 and camp in the Semiwite campground; with the field trip taking place all day Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Participants could then stay overnight on Saturday and depart on Sunday. We will explore the underlying rock formations, and investigate vegetation in this transition forest of Great Lakes and Boreal systems, including lichens on rock (e.g., *Steriocolon*) and on trees (*Lobaria*); plants in wetland and upland habitats: orchids, other herbs, shrubs and trees; as well as birds and butterflies. Depending on the weather and interest there may be a night owl prowl. Participants will travel as a group on Saturday walking along trails in the park, driving a short distance to position ourselves at striking stream side bedrock outcrops and to see vegetation types from wetlands to uplands. It is essential to have sturdy footwear.

Plant Dependents and Dependencies at Terra Cotta C.A.

Saturday, August 5 (9:50 AM)

Leaders: W. D. McIlveen and Leanne Wallis

We often like to think about plants being healthy and intact for purposes of photography, herbarium specimens, not to mention their own well-being. The reality is that plants are subjected to attacks by a wide range of other organisms that obtain their own requirements at the expense of the plants. This dependent group is dominated by insects (e.g. general herbivores, leaf miners, gall formers, borers) and fungi (e.g. wilts, mildews, blights, leaf spots, cankers, etc.) though there are others. In turn, many plants are dependent on such things as nodules, mycorrhizae and pollinators. During this trip, we will be looking at plants from the perspective of their fitting into a very complex natural ecosystem. (Park entry fee in effect).

Bickford Oak Woods Conservation Reserve, Wallaceburg, ON Saturday August 12 (09:50 AM to 2:00)

Leader: Allan Woodliffe

Allen will lead us on a trip to Bickford Oak Woods Conservation Reserve in west central Lambton Co. Several hectares of former agricultural field have been planted into prairie right at the beginning by the parking area, but the main point of interest would be to visit the one and only place in Canada where Swamp Cottonwood exists. It isn't easy to get to unless you know exactly where it is, and even then it can be a bit of a challenge, but worth the effort once one arrives in that part of the swamp forest. Rubber boots are a necessity, as well as good tolerance of an abundance of mosquitoes! The total distance is likely a little less than 3 km, round trip, with some wet and uneven footing but this will not be a challenging walk.

Bruce Peninsula Wilderness near Ferndale, ON**Saturday August 19 (9:30 AM to 4:00 PM)****Leader: Walter Muma**

Join us for something different as we spend the day exploring a wilderness area in the northern Bruce Peninsula. Our starting point will be at the junction of Hwy 6 and Dyers Bay Road (between Ferndale and Tobermory). We will pass through a wide variety of habitats as we walk a number of bush tracks in a large loop. The total length of the hike will be approximately 6-8 km, and there are no exit points along the way - Please be prepared to walk the entire distance. We will encounter hardwood, cedar, and shrub forests, wetlands and ponds, fen-like habitats, alvars, meadows, cliff habitats, and more. This outing is limited to 15 due to the wilderness nature of the hike.

Kelly Stanton ESA, London, ON**Saturday August 26 10:00AM – 2:00PM****Leader: William van Hemmesen**

Much of the landscape in the London area was historically prairie. Beginning in the mid-1800s conversion of the land to agriculture destroyed all but a few small remnants of the prairie landscape. Many of these remnants are located within railroad rights-of-way where they were protected from encroaching farmland. However, in the absence of disturbance forces such as wildfires, many of these remnants have developed through natural succession into meadows, thickets and forests. Sandwiched between the CN and CP rail lines in northwest London, the Kelly Stanton ESA protects one of the last remnants of historic prairie in the City of London.

Mystery Tour on the Oak Ridges Moraine, GTA, ON**Sunday August 27 (9:50 AM)****Leader: Steve Varga**

The Moraine is recognized as one of the premier natural heritage systems in southern Ontario noted for its intermingling of southern and northern plant species. It supports extensive mature forests, remnant prairies, sand barrens and oak savannahs, numerous kettle lakes, kettle peatlands and other kettle wetlands and large headwater discharge wetlands for over 50 watersheds. The Moraine stretches 150 km from the Niagara Escarpment near Orangeville east to Rice Lake and the Trent River. We will be visiting an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) on the Oak Ridges Moraine looking at wetlands and forests and putting together a species list for the area.

Hardy Lake and Torrance Barrens, near Bracebridge, ON**Saturday September 16 (9:50 AM)****Leader: George Bryant**

Hardy Lake is a provincial park surrounding a large lake, all undeveloped. An old trail to the lake wends through an impressive maple-hemlock forest with old-growth characteristics; boardwalks allow access to wetlands. In the afternoon we will visit a less-travelled portion of Torrance Barrens, an expanse of exposed rock, oak openings, fens and ponds. Most of the ~42 Atlantic Coastal plants known from the area are inconspicuous aquatics and graminoids. We will discuss their origins and endeavour to point out several examples. At this time of year, the many species of asters, goldenrods and ferns show well and are readily separable. Interesting plant species expected should include Boott's Shield Fern, Stout Goldenrod, Ciliolate Aster, Case's Ladies'-tresses, and Purple Bladderwort

Mushrooms in Norfolk County, near Port Rowan, ON**Sunday October 1st (9:50 AM)**

Leader: Inga Hinnerichsen

After a quick introduction at the parking lot we'll walk a short distance to a picnic shelter where Inga will have set up a "Show and Tell" display of guide books and fungi. She will give some background info on fungi, genera and species identification tips, etc. for roughly 20 - 30 min. Then we'll hike along some trails in Backus Woods observing different species of fungi. After a lunch break we'll drive to a second location for another hike to observe as many species as possible. Bear in mind that fungi are finicky so predicting which species we will see is uncertain, but we will look in places that usually have a rich diversity.

****The AGM will be held on September 9-10, 2017 in Ottawa – details to come later!****