

Field Trips: Saturday September 8, 2018

Little Bluestem-Prairie Smoke Alvar Nature Reserves

Leader: Anne Barbour (CKL Flora Project Co-chair)

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

September is the perfect time to explore the grasses and fall wildflowers on these two adjoining alvar properties. We will visit a notable area of grykes and grassland alvar where Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*-S5) and Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis* – S3) grow. While there, we will search for two other *Sporobolus*: *neglectus* (S4) and *vaginiflorus* (S5) that have been found at other nearby alvar properties.

Magnificent colonies of Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*-S4) grace the alvar of both reserves. Upland White Goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*-S5) will be found, either as late-summer blooms or lovely fall seedheads. Mountain Death Camus (*Anticlea elegans*-S4) will

be in seed. It would be smashing if Ontario Aster (*Symphyotrichum ontarionis*-S5) and/or Glossy-leaved Aster (*Symphyotrichum firmum*-S4?) could be added to the CKL list! The latter is regarded as a full species by the Flora of North America and Michigan Flora and therefore recognized by NHIC (per Mike Oldham). We may also be able to see the latest new orchid for CKL, Menzies' Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*-S4) that was found here by staff of Nature Conservancy Canada in 2016 in "dry-cedar limestone forest" habitat.

If Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes*) are blooming, there is the possibility of visiting McGee Creek Alvar Nature Reserve via Lou and Judy Probst's residence so we can compare the plants there with the latest research findings of *S. incurva* (*S. cernua* x *S. magnicamporum*) by Pace and Cameron (2017: Systemic Botany). Participants will be emailed a copy of the report prior to the trip.

Meet at the Carden Community Centre, 258 Lake Dalrymple Rd. We will leave half the cars there and carpool to Prairie Smoke Alvar so that we do not have to backtrack. We will eat lunch on the alvar. (Approx. 6-7 km)



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Awenda Provincial Park

Leader: James Kamstra

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Awenda is mostly covered with deciduous forest but also contains Great Lakes Coastal Marsh, rocky shorelines, seepage fens, marshes and sand barrens. A prominent slope of the glacial Lake Algonquin shoreline is a distinctive feature of the park. The flora includes a wide range of species typical of the Great Lakes mixed forest region but many uncommon species are also present. We will visit a variety of habitats to look for a range of species including the endangered Forked Three-awned Grass (*Aristida basiramea*). Meeting details will be provided to those that sign up.



Field Trips: Sunday September 9, 2018

Copeland Forest

Leader: Kyra Howes

10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Copeland Forest, located on the Oro Moraine 25 km north of Barrie, is a rich landscape of diverse habitats. Groundwater seeps throughout Copeland Forest from the headwaters for three major local river systems: the Coldwater River, the Sturgeon River and the Willow Creek. This creates wide range of ecological communities – a recent study identified 404 vascular plants across the 1,440 ha forest.

Although interest in the recreational opportunities afforded by Copeland Forest is increasing, there are still many areas that are 'off the beaten path' and provide an excellent representation of the ecological diversity of the region.

During this hike we will traverse the hills of the Oro Moraine and explore the less travelled areas of the forest.

Location and meeting place will be provided to those

that have signed up for this field trip.

Field Trips: Sunday September 9, 2018

Ragged Rapids in the Ron Reid Nature Reserve

Leader: Dale Leadbeater

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



The City of Kawartha Lakes (including the former Victoria County) has one of the most diverse floras in Ontario, stretching from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south through the Land Between to the Canadian Shield in the north. Over 1200 species have been documented, including over 100 sedges! At Ragged Rapids we have an opportunity to see a portion of the Black River that winds across the Precambrian Shield. Here, the glaciers left behind a valley train of deep sands more than 10,000 years ago which entirely changes the character (and available habitat niches) of the adjacent lands. This area is part of the newly acquired Ron Reid Nature Reserve, 295 hectares within the heart of the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park that is protected by The Couchiching Conservancy. It captures one of the few examples of this dynamic riverine shoreline with its floodplain forest, vernal pools and swamps.

Big Bluestem, more commonly associated with prairies, is a part of the core plant association that flanks the river at Ragged Rapids, namesake of the ghost town just to the north. A new trail has been created and we will be among the first to explore this area once teaming with log-driving activity and farming. We'll search for Wire-stemmed Muhly, *Muhlenbergia frondosa* and other associates of the shifting sands. The region provides habitat for several species listed under the Ontario Endangered Species Act including: Blanding's Turtle (Threatened), Snapping Turtle (Special Concern), Western Painted Turtle (Special Concern), Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (Threatened). In addition, it is home to Ontario's only lizard, the Five-lined Skink (Endangered), and numerous at-risk bird species including Canada Warbler. Meeting details will be provided to those that sign up for this trip.



Field Botanists of Ontario **Annual General Meeting and Dinner**

Saturday September 8, 2018
Orillia Museum of Art and History
5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Following Saturday's field trips, we will meet at the Orillia Museum of Art and History at 5:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Macdonald Creative Studio (3rd floor) (<https://www.orilliamuseum.org/>). The museum is located at 30 Peter Street South in Orillia (705-326-2159). There will be a guided tour of the museums galleries at 4:30 pm prior to the AGM.

AGM Program

- 4:30 – 5:30 **Guided Museum Tour:** (no cost), be sure to sign-up on the registration form
- 5:30 – 6:00 **Social time:** an opportunity to meet and chat with fellow FBO members and enjoy some refreshments
- 6:00 – 7:00 **Buffet Dinner**
- 7:00 – 7:30 **Awards:** presentation of the Goldie Award and FBO Student Award
- 7:30 – 8:30 **Feature Speaker:** Mark Bisset (executive director of the Couchiching Conservancy)



There are over 25 land trusts working across Ontario to protect critical habitat for thousands of species, many of them at risk. Mark Bisset is the executive director of one of those organizations: The Couchiching Conservancy. The Conservancy has helped protect thousands of acres of important natural habitat in the Orillia region by closely following an acquisition strategy built to a large degree on botany. Mark will connect the dots between plant lists and donor lists to show how land trusts operate as a place where science and community meets to generate positive environmental action. Alvar plant communities on the Carden Plain have been key to identifying priority landscapes and attracting scientific and philanthropic interest. A lichen inventory in Copeland Forest became part of the recipe to galvanize community support for a grass roots stewardship group. From grasslands to upland forests to wetlands, Mark will show how botany plays a central role, inspiring support and guiding the strategic direction of The Couchiching Conservancy and land trusts across the province.

- 8:30 – 9:25 **Annual General Meeting** (the location of the AGM and potential field trips for next year will be discussed - everyone is encouraged to attend)
- 9:25 – 9:30 **Draw for door prizes!**

Annual General Meeting
Agenda

- 1** Call to Order
- 2** Introduction of FBO Executive and address of the President (5 min)
- 3** Approval of Agenda (2 min)
- 4** Approval of the 2017 AGM Minutes (2 min)
- 5** Treasurer's Report (5 min)
- 6** Auditor's Report (5 min)
- 7** Membership Chairman's Report (5 min)
- 8** Nominating Committee Report and election of officers (5 min)
- 9** Vote on the proposed change to the constitution regarding the number of board members (5 min)
- 10** Suggestions for future trips and location of 2019 AGM (15 min)
- 11** General discussion and other business (5 min)
- 12** Adjournment

...Draw for door prizes!