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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

**Editor**

Fenja Brodo

**Production Manager**

Sandra Gushue

**Mailing Team**

Michael Murphy  
Co-ordinator

**Associate Editor**

Bill Gummer

**Production Assistants**

Suzanne Blain  
David Thomson

Jennifer Chaundy  
Don Davidson  
Gwen Jenkins  
Roy Jenkins  
David Smythe  
Verna Smythe

Views expressed in *Trail & Landscape* and in its news supplement *The Green Line* are not necessarily those of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

*President*

**E. Franklin Pope**

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$23      Sustaining (yearly) \$50  
Family (yearly) \$25      Life (one payment) \$500

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**Membership application, correspondence :**  
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB  
Box 35069, Westgate P.O.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

**Information:**  
(613) 722-3050  
After 10 a.m.

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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Volume 29 Number 2  
April – June 1995

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa Area

Allen B. Adler & Family  
Chris P. Archibald & Family  
Bill L. Bekking  
Mrs. Shirley L. Black  
Bob & Leona Bolivar  
Geoffrey & Nadya Breathwaite  
Nicole Bruneau  
John R. Cartwright  
Stephen B. Chapman & Family  
Ms. M. A. Chene  
Charlotte A. Craig  
Austen Crapp  
Jeff P. Crolla  
Clifford F. Daly & Family  
Chris F. Defayette & Family  
Francine Deguire & Family  
Nigel P. Edmonds  
Leland C. Ferguson & Family  
Edna M. Ghadially & Family  
Lynn Gillespie  
Al C. Gregory  
Marilyn E. Harris  
Nancy A. Hartman  
Douglas P. M. Henderson & Family

Bill C. Henry & Family  
Margaret Honeywell  
Doris H. Jelly & Family  
Mike Kenzie  
Rebecca L. Kimsey  
Tiina Kurvits  
Marie-Reine Lawrence & Family  
Rochelle L. Lawson & Chris L. Callaghan  
Dolores R. Lilley  
Donna Lindo  
The Liska Family  
Peter Lloyd & Family  
S. Bruce MacPhail  
David E. Minns  
Ethel A. Morris  
Monique M. O'Connell  
James E. Oswald  
Anna C. Parker  
P. Blyth Robertson  
John A. Scott & Family  
Randi K. Shulman  
Mrs. Joan Speirs & Family  
Marianne Von Michalofski & Family  
Mrs. Marilyn Ward  
Robert D. & Lois C. Williamson

## Other Areas

Donna L. Hutchings  
Smiths Falls, Ont.

David A. Kraus  
Kingsville, Ont.

Eleanor Kee Wellman  
Port Carling, Ont.



P. J. "Mickey" Narraway  
Membership Committee  
February, 1995

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# “Golden Anniversary” Membership List 1945-1995

*P. J. “Mickey” Narraway*  
*Membership Chair*

|                |                          |                           |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| joined in 1930 | Dr. W.E. Ricker          | Nanaimo, B.C.             |
| 1931           | Dr. W.G. (Bill) Dore     | Ottawa, Ont.              |
| 1933           | Loris S. Russell         | Toronto, Ont.             |
| 1934           | C.H. Kindle              | Upper Nyack, N.Y., U.S.A. |
| 1935           | J.E.V. Goodwill          | Victoria, B.C.            |
| 1936           | W.H. Minshall            | London, Ont.              |
| 1939           | Dr. H.A. Senn            | Victoria, B.C.            |
| 1941           | T.H. (Tom) Manning       | Merrickville, Ont.        |
| 1941           | Dr. Pauline Snure        | Ottawa, Ont.              |
| 1942           | R. Yorke Edwards         | Victoria, B.C.            |
| 1943           | Dr. C. Stuart Houston    | Saskatoon, Sask.          |
| 1943           | Mrs. Sheila Thomson      | Ottawa, Ont.              |
| 1944           | Mrs. Verna McGiffin      | Pakenham, Ont.            |
| 1944           | Dr. H. M. Raup           | Petersham, Mass., U.S.A.  |
| 1944           | Dr. D.B.O. (Doug) Savile | Ottawa, Ont.              |
| 1944           | Miss Mary E. Stuart      | Ottawa, Ont.              |
| 1945           | Claud E. Garton          | Nolalu, Ont.              |

This year, 1995, we are able to add Claud E. Garton to our “GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY” membership list. Claud was awarded an Honorary Membership in 1985. Unfortunately, his health has not been great for the past few years. We wish him well.☐

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## *Trail & Landscape Circulation*

*Michael Murphy*  
*Mailing Team Co-ordinator*

Circulation of the Volume 29, Number 1 January-March, 1995 was as follows: a total of 1,003 copies was mailed; 848 of them to members and subscribing libraries locally; 142 across Canada; 10 to the United States and 3 to other foreign countries.☐

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# The 116th Annual Business Meeting

*Dave Smythe*

The 116th Annual Business Meeting of the OFNC was held on Tuesday, January 10, 1995 in the auditorium of the Canadian Museum Of Nature with 33 members attending. President Frank Pope chaired the meeting and Dave Smythe recorded the proceedings in the absence of Recording Secretary Stephen Gawn.

After allowing a half hour for members to review copies of the minutes of the 115th meeting, the financial statements and annual reports from the various committees, the Chairman called the meeting to order. The minutes were adopted as written.

Under business arising from the minutes, the Chairman announced that a proposal to modify article 17 of the Constitution had been submitted for publication in the *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) and subsequent consideration at the next Annual Business Meeting. Article 17 deals with the procedures for amendment of the Constitution, and has been subject to some criticism since the general revision to the Constitution in 1993.

Treasurer Gillian Marston presented the Financial Report noting a favourable report from the Club's Auditor, and the overall healthy state of the Club's finances. In reviewing details of the financial statements she noted some of the highlights, including an increase in Members' Equity from \$191,940 to \$216,097, the establishment of a reserve fund of \$100,000, and an increase in the de Kiriline Lawrence Fund from \$6,626 to \$10,478.

The Chairman opened discussion of the Committee reports by asking representatives of each Committee to be available for questions from the floor. There was one comment on the report from the Macoun Field Club resulting in an editorial change to the text. The other reports were accepted without discussion. Some highlights from these reports follow below but the full texts will be published in a future issue of CFN as required by the Club's By-laws.

The Birds Committee continues to look after the Club's bird feeders (see *T&L* Volume 29, Number 1) with funds that it raises through the annual Seedathon,

to maintain the bird status telephone line, to conduct bird counts and to improve its record keeping.

The Conservation Committee acted on behalf of the Club to protect and enhance natural areas in the Ottawa district by liaising with conservation authorities and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, on various issues including watershed studies of Sawmill Creek and the Jock River, as well as ice blasting alternatives for the Rideau River. Committee members also participated in the Marlborough Forest Advisory Committee and the Natural Environment Study for the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Official Plan.

The Education & Publicity Committee continued to set up the Club's display at various locations and to provide speakers and leaders on request from other organizations, but it also created new ways to publicize the Club. It distributed advertising for Club meetings and applications for membership over a wider network to libraries and nature shops, and it put information about the Club on the National Capital Freenet.

The Excursions & Lectures Committee organized 48 field trips covering a wide range of activities for members. Attendance at monthly meetings was noticeably higher than the previous year partly the result of more aggressive advertising outside of *T&L*.

The Finance Committee established a Reserve Fund for use in the event of difficult financial times by identifying \$100,000 of Member's Equity for that purpose. It also established an investment policy, and it recommended that there be no increase in membership fees for 1995.

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden is maturing and the Management Committee has increased publicity about the Garden. Large signs have been erected at the entrance, self-guided brochures have been produced and distributed and ten group tours were conducted in 1994. Consumers Gas has made another \$5000 donation to the Garden which will be used for interpretive work including signs.

As of November 1994, membership in the Club was 1,033 compared to 1,041 in 1993. Local membership continues a small but steady rise over the last two years. Four members were added in 1994 to the "Golden Anniversary List" in honour of 50 years of membership (see *T&L* Volume 28, Number 2).

The Publications Committee made a strong effort to bring the publication schedule of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* back to normal in 1994 putting out seven issues. It should be noted that more than 800 non-members receive CFN

as well as most OFNC members (some choose not to). As a consequence, the Club benefits from this wider distribution.

The Macoun Field Club carried out a full program of weekly meetings and field trips during the school year. Parts of two field trips were videotaped for a future video promoting the Macoun Field Club.

Janet Gehr was again approved as Club Auditor.

Dave Moore gave an audio-visual presentation on the work of the Education & Publicity Committee, showing slides of the Committee members in their "working environment."

Under new business, the President reported that he had attended the Governor General's Levee and had thanked him for being the Club's Patron during his tenure. Frank Pope also expressed appreciation for the support that he had received from members of the outgoing Council and thanked them for their work on Council.



The following slate of Officers and Council Members was proposed by the Nominating Committee and approved by the meeting:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>President</i>               | Frank Pope (Executive)   |
| <i>Vice-Presidents</i>         | Michael Murphy (Computers, Conservation)<br>Dave Moore (Education & Publicity) |
| <i>Recording Secretary</i>     | Dave Smythe  |
| <i>Corresponding Secretary</i> | Eileen Evans   |
| <i>Treasurer</i>               | Gillian Marston  |

#### *Council Members*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Ron Bedford (Publications)               | Carol German                             |
| Fenja Brodo                              | *Christine Hanrahan                      |
| Lee Cairnie                              | Jeff Harrison (Fletcher Wildlife Garden) |
| Bill Cody                                | Cendrine Huemer                          |
| Francis Cook                             | *Ann MacKenzie                           |
| Ellaine Dickson                          | Mickey Narraway (Membership)             |
| Colin Gaskell (Excursions &<br>Lectures) | Jane Topping                             |
|  | Ken Young (Finance)                      |
| *Trix Geary                              |  |



The names of new members are preceded by an asterisk, and chairmanship of a committee is noted in brackets.

Three members of the 1994 Council, Bill Gummer, Enid Frankton, and Stephen Gawn, chose not to stand for re-election and one member, Jack Romanow, resigned during the term of Council. Their work on Council is greatly appreciated and we hope that they remain active members of the Club for many years.☐

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## Extremes

*Robert Nero*

At the Peregrine's nest  
thirty stories above the street  
on a ferociously windy day  
to hook up a TV camera  
we saw those great birds  
slicing through air overhead  
with shrill alarm cries  
their sleek bodies on the sky  
a testament to their mastery.

A block away at my car later  
I knelt ecstatic to see  
a dancing male House Sparrow  
ignoring me and my briefcase  
head back, wings down, empowered  
hopping up and over the curb  
through the greasy debris  
all for a wan lady sparrow who,  
wrestling a Cheezies morsel,  
scolded him constatly, her cheeping  
as redolent as falcon's cry.

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# OFNC Committees for 1995

*P.J. "Mickey" Narraway*

The Club is always glad to hear from members who are interested in the work of our Committees, and would like to become involved somehow in helping the Club to achieve its aims. Please make your interests known, either to a particular chair person, to a member of the Council, or through a friend.

## 1995 OFNC COMMITTEES

### AWARDS

Bill Arthurs (225-6941)  
Enid Frankton  
Bill Gummer  
Cendrine Huemer  
Isabelle Nicol  
Ken Taylor

### BIRDS

Tony Beck (835-4455)  
Colin Bowen  
Laurie Consaul  
Stephen Gawn  
Cendrine Huemer  
Bernie Ladouceur  
Larry Neily  
Marianne Neily  
Daniel Perrier  
Gordon Pringle  
Daniel St. Hilaire  
Mike Tate  
Chris Traynor

### COMPUTER MANAGEMENT

Mike Murphy (727-1739)  
Norbert Cyr  
Alan German  
Thomas Reeve  
Brian Tousignant

### CONSERVATION

Mike Murphy (727-1739)  
Lynne Bricker  
Roma Broadfoot  
Claudia Burns  
Jeanne Currie  
Ian Huggett  
Tiina Kurvits  
Beth MacNeil  
Mary McWhinney  
Peter Mix  
Ewen Todd  
Jane Topping

### EDUCATION & PUBLICITY

Dave Moore (729-9330)  
Lee Cairnie  
Betty Campbell  
Douglas Crombie  
Don Davidson  
Laura Mahon  
Cheryl McJannet  
Tom Reeve

### EXCURSIONS & LECTURES

Colin Gaskell (728-4582)  
Robina Bennett

Ellaine Dickson

Eileen Evans  
Carol German  
Rick Leavens  
Philip Martin  
Catherine O'Keefe  
Bruce Summers

### FINANCE

Ken Young (231-6061)  
Ron Bedford  
Don Davidson  
Bill Cody  
Gillian Marston

### MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Rob Lee (225-3405)  
Martha Camfield  
Laurie Consaul  
Dale Crook  
Stephen Darbyshire  
Ellaine Dickson  
Barbara Gaertner  
Trix Geary  
David Manga  
Paule Ouellet  
Joe Shepstone  
Kim Sayers  
Patricia Whitridge

**MEMBERSHIP**

Mickey Narraway (596-1677)  
 Sandra Dashney  
 Eileen Evans  
 Elisabeth Kanasy  
 Jean McGugan  
 Alice Miller  
 Lee Nolan  
 Dave Smythe  
 Bctte Stern

**PUBLICATIONS**

Ron Bedford (733-8826)  
 Fenja Brodo  
 Bill Cody  
 Francis Cook  
 Bill Gummer  
 Elizabeth Morton  
 Joyce Reddoch

**FLETCHER WILDLIFE GARDEN**

Jeff Harrison (730-5968)  
 Sandy Garland  
 Peter Hall  
 Chris Hanrahan  
 Michael Murphy  
 Ken Young

Eileen Chivers (Landscape Ontario)  
 Peter Elliott (Friends of the Farm)  
 Gordon McEwan (Consumers Gas)  
 Desirée Salada (Friends of the Farm)  
 Cecile Souchal (Friends of the Farm)

**NOMINATING**

Trudy Bedford  
 Barbara Campbell  
 Eileen Evans<sup>□</sup>




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# Loons

*David Fraser*

The loons no longer answer when I cry  
 My voice has grown too old and harsh and low  
 To reach the purer, clearer tones they know  
 As kindred music, worthy of reply.  
 But how they used to know me! Clear and high  
 My youthful voice poured out its tremolo,  
 And then their haunting, rich arpeggio –  
 That stab of lonely wildness – etched the sky!

Father loon, true judge of spirits true,  
 But who once condescended to bestow  
 Your sleek, fierce spirit on an old, blind eye,  
 I take your silent verdicts my due,  
 And seek no consolation but to know  
 That you'll still answer when my children cry.



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# A Woolly Wonder!

*Kathy Lajeunesse*



*Alders are found alongside this inviting boardwalk at the BMC.*

I work at the Bill Mason Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies Centre (BMC) near Dunrobin. Some of you have wandered there on your own, or on the OFNC wildflower walk in the spring of 1993.

Each day I walk through wetland, forest and meadow on the centre's property with 15 to 20 students in tow. It is like walking with many sets of eyes. Together we explore these habitats and discover the natural treasures of the moments and season.

Last fall students kept noticing and asking about this white fluffy stuff hanging from branches in the wetland. It was stark against the emerging browns of autumn. We discovered this "stuff" was found only on alder shrubs. But closer observation revealed a marvellous find indeed! There, hiding amid the white fluff were tiny little insects no longer than 5 mm in length. Thanks to the help of a co-worker, we determined they were Woolly Alder Aphids (*Prociphilus tessell-*

*latus*). The insects cluster together and feed on the sap of the plant. Part of the sap is used for growth; the excess is secreted in the form of honeydew droplets; the rest is used to produce white strands of a waxy substance which is extruded out the backs of their abdomens. This substance has the appearance of white cotton, hence the common name of this insect.

Aphids belong to the same order of insects as spittlebugs and cicadas: Homoptera. Woolly Alder Aphids can have one of two different types of life cycles. One type spends its entire life cycle on alders, and the adults overwinter in the dry alder leaves at the base of the bushes. The second type spends part of its life in maples and part on alder shrubs. I figured the latter was more likely the kind we were looking at, as there is water at the bases of most alders in the BMC's swamp.

If the logic is correct, the woolly aphids in the BMC wetland overwinter as eggs on maple twigs. In the spring, they hatch into wingless females which feed on the undersides of fresh green maple leaves. This first generation of aphids gives rise to a second group of females about mid-summer. This time they are winged. They fly to the alders where they feed, reproduce and give rise to more wingless young. This generation in turn produces winged offspring which fly back to the maples to produce male and female young. The fertilized females lay single eggs on the maple twigs and the cycle repeats itself.

At this point, you may be asking how is another generation of aphids possible from one of entirely females? Some insects are capable of reproducing without the fertilization of the eggs, as is the case with the Woolly Alder Aphids. This ability, called parthenogenesis, allows very rapid multiplication.

Apparently, if you poke through the woolly white fluff produced by the third and second generations of the Woolly Alder Aphids, you will sometimes find caterpillars of the Harvester butterfly which feed on these aphids. I've never found one; but I'm going to keep looking. [The adult Harvester butterfly is attracted to, and feeds on the excess honeydew. The female butterfly lays an egg which hatches into the predatory larva.]

Discoveries of this kind are vital to the program at the BMC. We want students to understand when they leave the centre that nothing in nature exists in isolation from anything else. Everything is interconnected. We cannot pick one thing out without finding that it is hitched to many other things.

In the case of this woolly aphid, where would it be without alders? Or maples? Then again, where would we be without such natural wonders? This is just one more link in the natural world that cannot be broken!<sup>12</sup>

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# Fletcher Wildlife Garden: Diary of a Habitat Manager

*Sandy Garland*

**1993  
November 1**

Finally managed to get in touch with someone involved in the Fletcher Garden project. Talked to Jeff Harrison about what sorts of volunteers are needed and am now Habitat Manager of the Ash Woodlot. Pretty exciting; sounds a bit like “terraforming.” The plan says spread leaves around under the trees and plant seedlings and wildflowers. Okay, that sounds easy.



**November 12**

With a friend's help, I finished spreading all the leaves left at the depot. Covered about 1/8 of the woods area, about one foot deep. Could use more leaves. Took some photos. It looks pretty barren.

**December 2**

Discovered that the fenced area south of the woods is last year's leaf depot. The bags of leaves are all disintegrating and it's full of garbage (dogs' messes, bottles, packages, debris). A Parks Canada worker from Hartwell's locks noticed me struggling with the leaves and offered to help. We loaded the back of his pickup truck, drove into the woods, and as he unloaded the leaves, I gathered all the pieces of plastic and put them into garbage bags. We added a whole truckload of half-rotted leaves into the mulch in the woods and more than half the dump is cleaned up. Hooray!

**December 7**

Someone set a campfire in the woods again last night. They've burned the rest of the branches in my brush pile — very discouraging.

- December 30** It's been very cold since Christmas. Filled the feeder today; it was almost completely empty, but this is the first day I've been able to start the car. Lots of chickadees using the feeder and I caught a glimpse of a cardinal the other day.
- 1994**  
**January 2** Collected ex-Christmas trees from my neighbours and took them over to the woodlot and placed them under existing spruce trees.
- January 4** Saw five Dark-eyed Juncos near the feeder.
- January 19** Four redpolls were at the feeder today. Also a Pine Grosbeak on the ground. Chickadees everywhere, including in the suet cans.
- April 17** Finished cleaning and repairing bird boxes. Bought three new ones from Y's Owl Co-op to replace damaged ones.
- May 6** Planted several clumps of Trout Lilies (from the Carp Road); ferns, anemones, and violets (from my garden), and Moonseed vine, raspberry canes, and Allegheny-vine (a donation). Got Poison Ivy. Darn, it's not even above ground yet.
- May 15** Have added sunflowers around the bird feeder. More violets from Mom's garden.
- May 20** Received donation of Ostrich Ferns. Maple seedlings and False Solomon's Seal are coming up in the leaf mould, which I am continuing to spread as needed.
- May 22** "Rescued" White Trilliums from future housing development. Dogwood is blooming in the woodlot.
- May 27** Went to dig up more trilliums, but they have finished blooming and I wasn't able to find any more. Transplanted ones are still doing well. Moonseed vine has finally started to grow. Planted Sensitive Fern.

- June 1** Made some signs explaining what we're doing in the woodlot and tied them to trees along paths through the woods. Before I got involved in this, I was always wondering what was going on. I think people who come here all the time might also like to know.
- June 9** I just happened to be in Trevor's office today when a load of stones became available. I dashed over to the woods and got the worker to drop them on the ashes where the fires had been lit. If we can't have a brush pile, a rock pile will do. The Trout Lilies have not survived. I guess the ground is too dry for them. The anemones are not doing very well either, but everything else is thriving, including the Moonseed vine, which looked dead when I planted it. Honeysuckle and dogwood shrubs are just finishing blooming throughout the woods. They have formed the beginning of an understory, about five feet tall. There are also maple seedlings (six inches) in at least one large area.
- June 20** Was hailed by Pierre (an Agricultural Canada employee) this morning. He noticed a pair of large grey birds over by the nursery and, thinking I was an expert because of the large binoculars I always wear around my neck, wanted me to go and identify them. I drove over later, more out of curiosity than confidence, and found two more Agricultural Canada workers watching the birds — mockingbirds — feeding their young.
- August 7** Gillian Boyd was working on the butterfly garden today. We had a nice chat and compared notes. She brought me Wild Ginger, Tiarella, and Jack-in-the-pulpit from her own garden.
- August 14** Tried to do a plant inventory. Walked around with a field guide and made my poor husband write things down. We found 30 species (many aliens) in addition to the ones I've planted and the ones that arrived by accident in the leaf mulch — False Solomon's Seal, Chinese Lantern, squash, and tomato plants. I must consult someone who actually knows about flowers.



- August 30** Planted Bloodroot on east side of woods near Tiarella. Also threw in some Clintonia berries and miscellaneous seeds collected on Dewberry Trail near Mer Bleue. Found Bunchberries in a dump near Richmond and a few wood ferns.
- September 24** Put in 4 X 4 for a bird feeder donated by Bill Miller. Peter Elliot got a plaque made for it in memory of George McGee and Bill Holland who had built the feeder originally for Bill Miller. Also put up signs for "LEAF DEPOT." Saw the most beautiful thing: the dark purple New England Asters blooming in Gillian's butterfly garden were just covered with orange Monarch Butterflies.
- September 28** Jennifer Chaundy has offered plant material for the woodlot. We had a wonderful time tramping around her property this afternoon collecting wood ferns, Wild Ginger, saplings, and many pieces of decayed wood covered with fungus. She kept refusing my offers of help with the wheelbarrow until we started back. At the bottom of a steep rutted hill, she turned to me and said, "NOW it's your turn."
- September 30** Supervised two Algonquin horticulture students on work assignment. They removed most of the grapevines that were growing up into the Scotch Pine trees on the east side of the woods. Also helped identify many shrubs in understory. I weeded a lot of Black Swallowwort out of woods and especially around feeder where it was covering the lowest branches of the spruce trees. Someone has knocked down the "LEAF DEPOT" signs and destroyed one. I put the other two back up.
- October 4** Another donation from a front yard shade garden: Bellwort, Red Baneberry, wood ferns, goldenrod (woods variety), Wood Aster, Wild Ginger, Bloodroot all for the woods. Also planted New England Asters and Evening-primrose beside the new bird feeder.
- October 6** Neighbours of Chaundys donated about a dozen boxes of rotted elm wood. Chaundys helped transport them to forest along with two White Spruce and one cedar seedling. They also helped dig up Black Swallowwort and Buckthorn.

- October 15** Have taken 10 bags of leaves from Mom's front lawn over to the woods. Filled feeder (topped up this time). Saw a squirrel at the feeder one day; must buy a squirrel guard. Have seen House Finches at feeder, but see mostly chickadees. Made new sign for "LEAF DEPOT" and put it up. Looks like thugs have had their first bonfire-party of the year. Broken bottles on the rock pile, etc., but no serious damage.
- October 16** Picked up a three-foot White Spruce tree from Connie Clark. Tried to plant it outside of the woods, but couldn't dig through the tall grass. Put it with other conifers in the woods. I think I've solved the bonfire problem. I cut all the Burdock bushes, which have been plaguing my dogs anyway, and piled them in the open area where the fires have been set.
- October 22** Have been spreading leaves left at depot — two or three huge bags per day. Decided to concentrate on the northwest quadrant of the woods; that will discourage the fire starters even more and will also cover the hills of sod that were discarded from the butterfly garden. Today, picked up Bloodroot, Tiarella, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Wild Ginger and Columbine from Virginia Peck. (That makes 28 native woodland species planted this summer; I wonder how many will come up next year.)
- October 27** Much excitement while moving leaves today. A kestrel sort of appeared out of nowhere calling in a high tone. It did some rather spectacular flying manoeuvres, then landed at the top of one of the white spruce trees on the northwest side of the woods. But it kept calling for about 10 minutes before finally flying away. On the next trip to gather leaves, I noticed some crows. Within minutes a huge flock (maybe 50) had assembled, all shrieking at the top of their voices. I got my binoculars out and walked toward the trees to see what was going on. They were mobbing a Great Horned Owl which was sitting right up against the trunk of the tree where the crows couldn't get at him. Had a really good view with binoculars.

**November 11** Yesterday, picked up six oak seedlings from Jennifer Chaundy and planted them in the woods, three around the big oak tree on the south side of woods and three on north side. Still lots of leaves, probably more than I can cope with. Deirdre Furlong and her husband Dan helped one Saturday morning and we've got more leaves in the woods than any previous year. We're getting donations from more people than just Club members. Because the city won't take leaves in plastic bags, people are looking for other places to get rid of them. I put some along the edge of the west side (the semi-circle) and in the bird feeder clearing. The rest I'm going to leave at the "depot" to rot over the winter.

Boy, this year has flown by. But I can see a change in the woodlot. I've made some new friends and I've learned a lot. I've taken courses and gone on field trips to learn how to identify ferns, wildflowers and birds. Good memories: the Great Blue Heron that skimmed my head as it swooped down into the pond; discovering the baby sumac at the edge of the woods only after its leaves turned to rows of bright red pennants in October; listening to shouts from the baseball players and their families on summer evenings and the bagpipes being played some mornings; meeting fellow nature-lovers walking their dogs, or just walking; apple blossoms; dragonflies; the smell of freshly raked leaves; cool woods on hot summer days. Bad memories: back-breaking labour of hauling leaves around; pulling up swallowwort; having to plant things that I've just struggled to dig up elsewhere; sweat; flies; dirt. But boy, it's worth it!

P.S. We can always use help. We need habitat managers for the new woodlot and the sedge meadow. We need people to help weed, identify birds, bugs and plants; clean and repair bird boxes, and just generally keep an eye on things. Call me (730-0714). ☐



*Fall 1994. Lots of leaves and the beginning of an understory, photo by Roger Camm.*

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# Lifecycles: Ephemerals and Other Woodland Spring Flowers

*Isabelle Nicol*



*Trout Lily. Photo by Isabelle Nicol.*

Our lengthening days and the warmth of a spring sun once more banish a winter-weary season. Heralding the changing tempo with lusty bravado, the peeping, trilling and croaking of frogs and toads in nearby ponds echoes throughout the woodlands. Local and returning songbirds join in early morning chorus, welcome sounds which mingle with the tinkling of icy brooks rushing towards creeks and rivers in seemingly gleeful, ever expanding streams.

In the forest, snow tardily lingers, hidden in the protective lea of deadfalls and dark ravines, where the investigative rays of the sun have yet to pry. Close by, an underground corm produces its cylindrical shoot which pushes its way through the rusty vestiges of fallen leaves, as it has done for seven long years. For seven years the underground corm had grown larger, and annually produced its shoot which formed a single variegated leaf. But this year would be different. The tiny maroon cylinder, in its haste to accomplish its few week's work of replenishment, spears through wet, leafy mould, and, as it slowly unfurls, reveals not one, but two glossy leaves, strikingly mottled green and purple

throughout. And, as the leaves open, the plant discloses its prize. For beginning with this year, the plant is producing its single flower. Revealed is a stem upon which grows an elongated yellow bud. The tightly sealed bud nods gently in the breeze, and begins to yield to the coaxing rays of the warming sun. Six brilliant yellow petals and sepals slowly unfurl, sweeping back to form a golden flare encircling cinnamon-red anthers flecked in golden dust. The lovely, pendulous blossom of the Trout Lily stands, exuding a faint but sweet fragrance. At sunset, it will delicately close about the vital flower parts only to reopen with the rising sun the following day.

And so, the reawakening of the forest floor, wherein lie some of our loveliest spring wildflowers, continues apace. Some, like the Trout Lily, known as woodland spring “ephemerals,” will appear for only a very short time, and then, like will-o-the-wisps, will disappear under a darkening forest canopy.

How is it that this early woodland species with seemingly fragile flowers, having lain dormant in ground frozen down to three feet or so, and withstood harsh winter temperatures which often dipped to minus 30°C, is now ready to push forth its leaves and brilliant blossoms even as snow still lies on the ground? Few species grow and bloom during the short time between snow melt and when most other woodland species begin to flourish. Possessing but a short lifespan, the spring ephemerals occupy a special seasonal niche, drawing on resources of light, water, and nutrients.

Having several genetically controlled, specialized features, spring ephemerals and other early woodland plants must grow rapidly at temperatures well below those at which most other plants can grow, and must withstand severe frosts that are common in early spring. Then, they must be able to “give up” when other plants have only just begun; they must enter a summer dormancy.

In earliest spring, these plants get a head start by beginning growth beneath the winter snow. Several plants can already be seen developed, and perhaps even flowering, when they are first exposed by the melting snow. The secret behind this special adaptation lies in their thick, fleshy underground parts which have stored enough food from the previous year. This now enables them to send up shoots with the first warm rays — capitalizing on the sun’s energy — light streaming down through bare-branched leafless trees. The plants’ leaves take advantage of this brief period of available sun energy to manufacture food. Stored below ground, this food will be used to push up next year’s flowers. Then, in the heavy shaded darkness of the forest’s canopy, the above ground parts of the ephemeral plants gradually wither and die.

In autumn, before winter returns, the Trout Lilies and other species will send out new roots and develop underground storage that will develop the above ground parts of the plants in spring. The flower buds for the following year, in embryo, will be protected below before the cold shuts down plant activity.

Now, sometimes as early as March, and certainly by April, mature stands of hardwoods shelter a floral carpet which you can admire and study. When you are out hiking, be sure to examine the emerging undergrowth for the following wild spring beauties in our area.

The Trout Lily often dresses slopes along sparkling streams with leaves mottled brownish-purple, resembling the backs of early-biting brook trout, which gave rise to this popular name. It is also known by other colourful names such as "dogtooth-violet" (the underground corm resembles a smooth white fang), "adder's tongue" (blossoms exhibit long red stamens resembling snakes' tongues), and "fawn lily" (blooming when does are dropping their dappled fawns in the spring woodland). Its deeply buried corms divide and redivide yearly, producing dense carpets of the single, curiously coloured leaves. It takes one of these offshoots several years to grow large enough to produce a pair of leaves, at which time the corm has reached flowering size. But the blossoms are never too numerous even in large colonies. The flowers add a graceful splash of colour to the forest floor. Come the end of May, having compressed a season's worth of food making and reproduction into a couple of weeks, these blooms and their mottled leaves will have disappeared.



*Hepatica. OFNC Slide Collection.*

A brown slope or rocky woods, flooded with the light of a spring sun, may often be brightly spotted with hundreds of charming Hepatica flowers. These are one of the most common of our wildflowers and often the earliest to bloom.

Cloaked in soft, grey silk, a protection from the cold of nearby snow and the still frosty nights, waiting till the deepest cold has passed and most of the snow has melted, they then lift their buds through the litter and open their dainty flowers to the sun. Hepaticas grow in low clumps, four to six inches high. They are easily spotted next to the previous year's semi-evergreen, three-lobed leaves. The woolly new leaves lie fuzzily curled at the base of the flowers, and are partly hidden by last season's dead leaves and fallen twigs. Opening only on sunny days when early bees and insects are active, the usually light blue flowers are borne on hairy stalks. But often, because of cross-pollination at close range, the flowers may be white, pink, lavender or purple. They are members of the Buttercup family despite not being yellow. If you bend close to the plant, you will discover that some have a pleasant fragrance.



*Spring Beauty. Photo by Isabelle Nicol.*

Also rushing to push its way through the fallen leaves is the delightfully dainty six-inch Spring Beauty, an ephemeral. Each Spring Beauty's tiny bulb-like tuber lies about four inches below the soil's surface, and produces a long stem above ground on which a flower with five delicate pink or white petals is borne. Drawn through the centre of each petal are thin etchings in deep pink.

Nestling along a bank above a trickling stream may be spotted the light green shafts of Bloodroot leaves, protectively enfolding the single flower bud. Some leaves have unfurled enough to reveal their lobed shape and a large showy white blossom with its eight or more long petals and golden yellow centre. This ten-inch plant owes its curious name to the fact that the sap which “bleeds” freely from the stems and root when broken, is a deep orange-red, and rather thick and sticky. This is a characteristic feature of the Poppy family to which this plant belongs. As long as it lasts, the blossom will open in the morning and close at night. Although the flower soon withers, the distinctively lobed leaves maybe seen throughout the summer.

Towards the end of the Hepatica season, one of the most unusual-looking woodland flowers appears, the eight-inch Dutchman’s Breeches. The elongated racemes rise above clumps of soft fernlike foliage which sway with a feathery silvery grace when a breeze stirs the leaves and reveals their lighter undersides. The slender racemes bear several creamy-white pendant flowers tipped with yellow beaks. These flowers are worthy of closer inspection, for each is unusual in that it is made up of two sets of two petals which look like a tiny, jaunty pair of blown-up pantaloons attached at the waist to the stem. The flowers have a fragrant smell. With the advent of hot weather, around the first of July, the plant will have vanished.



*White Trillium. Photo by Isabelle Nicol.*



The twelve-to eighteen-inch White Trillium is a well-known, handsome flower which needs little description. It grows from thick, rough, long-lived rhizomes. An intriguing feature of the trillium is that its petals, sepals (outer covering of the flower buds), and leaves, are all in threes, which give it a symmetry which is soothing to the eye. It is Ontario's floral emblem. Masses of the wavy-edged white blooms, flushing pink with age, carpet the upland forest floor and wooded slopes of ravines in early spring, before the leaves have fully developed on the canopy above. Trillium leaves remain throughout most of the summer.

When apple blossoms start to bloom, the rich moist soil in the shadier portions of the woodland grow trailing beds of blooming Wild Ginger across the forest floor. Nestling alongside a fallen log, two large heart-shaped leaves on hairy stems rise from the ground. Look under these leaves and you will find Wild Ginger's unusual, miniature cup-shaped, three-pointed single flower growing at the base of the leaf, blooming almost unseen amid the leafy litter. Its odour, brownish-red colour, and proximity to the ground, attract the gnats and beetles that pollinate it. The sap, with its aromatic gingery tang, led to its distinctive name. This plant usually grows to a height of about ten inches with leaves hanging on throughout most of the summer.

This is only the start of a flower parade which will continue throughout the rest of the spring, summer and fall. How fortunate we are to live in an area where such abundance grows. And, although most of our readers are no doubt conservationists at heart, it still bears repeating: Please — do not pick these wildflowers. They make poor table decorations as they wilt quickly on picking. Many, when picked, take with them the life-sustaining leaves of the plant. Some spring wildflowers, such as the Trout Lily, bloom only after many year's growth. **A PLANT'S FLOWER IS ITS MEANS OF REPRODUCTION AND SURVIVAL.** Also, picking for purposes of transplanting (unless the plants will be destroyed through rezoning) is not a wise idea. Wild species often require habitat conditions not easily duplicated in your home garden, and so most transplants inevitably die. To do well they need the right soil, nutrients, pH, moisture, light, and sometimes even a layer of dead leaves from the correct species of tree.

In this day and age, we need to show a reverence for all wild things if our natural areas are to survive. We need to set an example for our conservation ethic. Leave the flowers in the woodland where they belong, for other to enjoy. To repeat an oft-repeated but still wise saying — **REMEMBER** — leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures.♠

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# Canadian Rare Plants Project

*Fenja Brodo*

“Rare Vascular Plants in the Northwest Territories” by C.L. McJannet, G.W. Argus, and W.J. Cody is the fifteenth and last volume to emerge from the Canadian Rare Plants Project, under the leadership of Dr. George Argus and with the collaboration of botanists across Canada. This volume, supported by the Research Division of the Canadian Museum of Nature, was published with the help of a small grant from our Club.

This publication completes the coverage of the rare vascular plants within each of the territories and provinces. Three additional works complement the set, namely “Rare Vascular Plants in the Canadian Arctic,” “Rare Vascular Plants in Canada: Our Natural Heritage/ Les Plantes Vasculaires Rares du Canada: Notre Patrimoine Naturel,” and “Atlas of the Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario/ Atlas des Plantes Vasculaires Rares de l’Ontario.” Together, these volumes tabulate and map the rare species regionally and across Canada. Each volume in this series stands alone and includes a definition of terms, methods, criteria for assessing rare status, an interpretation of distributional patterns, a summary on the protection of plants within the region in question, and a listing of future research requirements. With each taxon cited there is a map illustrating the species distribution, documentation supporting its rarity, phytogeography, rare status in other provinces and regions of Canada, the Nature Conservancy Global and Canada Ranks, habitat, and relevant comments.

We have at our fingertips an invaluable set of references to guide us in making appropriate conservation choices anywhere within Canada. Concentrations of rarities in particular habitats or regions are excellent indicators of ecosystems deserving of protection. Priorities for conservation treatment can be set more intelligently.

This latest volume should stimulate and facilitate more local studies within the Northwest Territories similar to Albert Dugal’s “Rare Canadian Vascular Plants and Their Occurrence in the Ottawa District” as reported in *T&L* 25 (3):79-84, and based on an earlier volume in this series.

NOTE: “Rare Vascular Plants in the Northwest Territories” is available from: Canadian Museum of Nature, Direct Mail Section, P.O. Box 3443, Station “D”, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4, prepaid \$16.00 (Canadian Orders) and \$18.95 (US and Overseas), or call toll free: 1-800-263-4433. Most earlier volumes in this series may also be ordered through the museum.☐

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# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee  
For further information,  
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

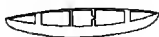
**ALL OUTINGS:** *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.*

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.*

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** *Phone 825-7444 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

*Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire. The Club number is 776-3822 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.*



Sunday  
9 April  
6:30 a.m.  
to  
6:30 p.m.



**BUS EXCURSION:**  
**SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE**  
**Leaders:** Bob Bracken and Colin Gaskell  
**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
**Cost:** \$20.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events.)  
The Club's traditional spring excursion to Presqu'ile Provincial Park offers an ideal opportunity to study the diverse assortment of water fowl that congregate in the surrounding waters during their northward migration.



Tuesday  
11 April  
8:00 p.m.

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**UNDER THE SEA:**  
**IN ANTARCTICA AND THE HIGH ARCTIC**

**Speaker:** Kathy Conlan

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Kathy Conlan is a graduate of Queen's University, the University of Victoria and Carleton University. She is a scientist at the Canadian Museum of Nature (since 1979) and studies sea bottom communities of animals and plants under the ice in Antarctica and the High Arctic. Her research concerns impacts of ice gouging and waste contamination, comparing their positive and negative effects and the prospects for community restoration. Kathy will take us on an underwater tour showing what life is like under the ice and will compare the marine fauna of the Antarctic with the Arctic, and how ice controls community structure.

Sunday  
23 April  
6:30 a.m.  
to  
6:30 p.m.



**BUS EXCURSION: HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL**

**Leaders:** Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

**Cost:** \$25.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events.)

When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of thousands of hawks migrating over Derby Hill, New York is an amazing phenomenon well worth the bus ride. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. Optical equipment in new condition should be registered with Canada Customs in advance of the trip. The excursion will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. You will be notified of any change of plan. Transportation will be by a comfortable, washroom-equipped motor coach supplied by Carleton Bus Lines.

Friday  
28 April  
7:30 p.m.

**OFNC SOIRÉE – WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Meet:** Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street.

See centre fold in previous issue for further details.

Saturday  
29 April  
and  
Sunday  
30 April

**EXCURSION: SPRUCE GROUSE IN ALGONQUIN PARK**

**Leader:** Stewart Macdonald

The primary focus of the excursion will be to observe the dazzling courtship displays performed by Spruce Grouse during the breeding season. Stewart Macdonald, a world renowned expert in grouse behaviour, will be the leader for the outing. Moose and Gray Jays are among some of the other anticipated highlights. Participants will leave Ottawa at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and arrive at the Visitor Centre for lunch. Overnight accommodation will be provided at the Algonquin Parkway Motel Inn in Whitney and the group will return to Ottawa by early Sunday evening. The approximate cost per person will be \$35 for accommodation (based on double occupancy) plus meals and the shared cost of transportation by participants' cars. The excursion is limited to 14 persons and is already fully subscribed at the time of this printing.

## BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following series of walks (3 or 4 hours duration) is offered for novice birders during the month of May.

| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Place</b> | <b>Leader</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| May 6           | 7:30 a.m.   | Britannia*   | Jeff Harrison |
| May 13          | 7:30 a.m.   | Britannia*   | Don Davidson  |
| May 20          | 7:30 a.m.   | Britannia*   | Jim Harris    |

\*Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant

## MAY EVENING STROLLS

These four informal walks are offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome on these outings. Bring waterproof footwear and insect repellent.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>3 May<br>6:30 p.m.  | <b>BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA</b><br><b>Leader:</b> Dave Moore<br><b>Meet:</b> Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant.  |
| <b>Monday</b><br>8 May<br>6:30 p.m.     | <b>SOUTH GLOUCESTER CONSERVATION AREA</b><br><b>Leader:</b> Ewen Todd<br><b>Meet:</b> Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Bank Street at Riverside Drive. |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>17 May<br>6:30 p.m. | <b>NEW YORK CENTRAL RIGHT-OF-WAY</b><br><b>Leader:</b> Ron Bedford<br><b>Meet:</b> Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard and Smyth Road.      |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>25 May<br>6:30 p.m.  | <b>TRILLIUM WOODS</b><br><b>Leader:</b> Catherine O'Keefe<br><b>Meet:</b> Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.                           |

**Saturday**  
**6 May**  
**8:00 p.m.**

### **SPRING WILDFLOWERS**

**Leader:** Philip Martin

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

Come out and enjoy a spring morning looking for wildflowers. Bring a snack and insect repellent.

**Tuesday**  
**9 May**  
**8:00 p.m.**

### **OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**

#### **BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS**

**Speaker:** Mike Runtz

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Mike Runtz, a widely acclaimed naturalist, educator and best-selling author, will provide an entertaining insight into the innovative adaptations that many species of wildflowers have evolved to cope with harsh environments and ensure reproductive success. His illustrated talk will reveal a number of these amazing strategies. Autographed copies of his latest book, "Beauty and the Beasts, The Hidden World of Wildflowers," will be available for sale.

**Sunday**  
**14 May**  
**9:00 a.m.**

### **SPRING RAMBLE AT THE GINNS' FARM IN CANTLEY**

**Leaders:** Ann and Jim Ginns

**Meet:** Front entrance of the Supreme Court Building, Wellington at Kent Street.

This will be a general walk to discover whatever birds, flowers (carpets of trilliums) and other forms of wildlife are present. Bring a lunch, binoculars, insect repellent and your favourite field guides.

**Monday**  
**15 May**  
**7:30 a.m.**

### **WARBLERS IN THE CITY**

**Leaders:** Monday Birding Group

**Meet:** Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant.

The Monday Morning Birding Group invites you to join them at the Britannia Conservation Area, one of the premier birding sites in the National Capital. Mud Lake and the surrounding woods offer a wide diversity of habitat and, with spring migration well under way, many different species should be observed.

**Saturday**  
**27 May**  
**7:00 a.m.**

**BIRDING AT MORRIS ISLAND**

**Leaders:** Colin Gaskell and Dave Moore

**Meet:** Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue. The Morris Island Conservation Area is located along the Ottawa River just west of Fitzroy Harbour. Several forest habitats and ponds are accessible from a number of woodland trails and an abandoned railway bed. Pack a lunch to enjoy after a productive morning of birding.

**Sunday**  
**28 May**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**ELPHINS AND DUSKY WINGS – BUTTERFLIES  
OF THE CONSTANCE BAY SANDHILLS AND  
THE CARP RIDGE**

**Leader:** Bob Bracken

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

This will be a full-day quest for certain species located in specific habitats at this time of year. Bob will explain the intricate relationship between various plant species and communities and the life cycles of different Lepidoptera. Bring a lunch, comfortable footwear, a butterfly net (if possible) and insect repellent (but not too much!).

**Sunday**  
**4 June**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**BLUEBIRDS IN LANARK COUNTY**

**Leader:** Carson Thompson

**Meet:** Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, south side, Carling at Woodroffe Avenue.

Participants will drive to the Perth Wildlife Preserve to be met by Carson Thompson who manages the property on behalf of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The group will proceed along an established bluebird trail to the Mill Pond Conservation Area where Carson has conducted a slash and improvement cut to assist stand regeneration and create new habitat for wildlife. Many interesting species of birds and plants should be encountered on the trip. Bring a lunch to enjoy in picturesque Lanark County.



**Tuesday**  
**6 June**  
**9:00 a.m.**

### **MIDWEEK OUTING TO MARY STUART'S PROPERTY**

**Leader:** Mary Stuart

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

At the old farm near Pakenham we should see Pink Lady's-slippers, Fringed Polygala, louseworts and a variety of intriguing plants and birds. We will make a few stops at points of interest along the way. Bring a lunch, something to drink (there is no drinking water available), waterproof footwear, insect repellent and binoculars. A hat is recommended. Call Mary the day before at 820-5520 for last-minute instructions.

**Saturday**  
**10 June**  
**4:30 a.m.**

### **DAWN CHORUS AT THE RICHMOND FEN**

**Leader:** Monty Brigham

**Meet:** Tim Horton Donuts, south side of Robertson Road (i.e., Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Road turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners.

A splendid opportunity to see and hear interesting species of birds that breed in the wetland fen and the peripheral woodlands, with an expert in the realm of nature recording. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent are absolutely essential for this outing. Be prepared for a lengthy walk along the railway tracks.

**Sunday**  
**11 June**  
**9:00 a.m.**

### **GIANT GRAPEVINES IN DAWSON WOODS**

**Leader:** Albert Dugal

**Meet:** Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Bank Street at Riverside Drive.

Join Albert on an expedition to the South Gloucester area in search of giant grapevines, climbing Poison Ivy, ancient cedars, fabulous ferns and colourful orchids. It will be easy walking but there may be some wet areas. Bring rubber boots and a lunch for this long half-day outing.

**Tuesday**  
**13 June**  
**8:00 p.m.**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

**Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

**Speaker:** Awegechew Teshome, Carleton University Ph.D. student, associated with Agriculture Canada.

**Topic:** Seeds of Survival: a study of the survival of ancient, common crops in Ethiopia. Preserving sorghum, maize and corn.

**Speaker:** Jane Buckley of Joywind Farm, Rare Domesticated Breeds Conservancy.

**Topic:** Conservation of rare breeds of domesticated animals. (Talks will be well illustrated.)

**Sunday**  
**25 June**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**VISIT TO THE PURDON FEN CONSERVATION AREA**

**Leaders:** Robina Bennett and Catherine O'Keefe

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

If you are not already familiar with Purdon Fen, this is a splendid opportunity to acquaint yourself with what is probably the largest colony of Pink Lady's-slipper Orchids in Canada. In addition to these beautiful orchids, we should also see the Leafy White Bog Orchid, Pitcher Plant and many other wildflowers. Bring a lunch for this long half-day outing. There will also be an opportunity to canoe and swim in the afternoon.

**Wednesday**  
**5 July**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**MID-WEEK GENERAL INTEREST**  
**WALK AROUND MER BLEUE**

**Leader:** Fenja Brodo

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

The boardwalk takes us through several different habitats where we shall find insects and other invertebrates associated with different kinds of plants in this famous bog. As insects are more difficult to find in inclement weather, the outing may be rescheduled as conditions dictate. Please call Fenja at 723-2054 if the forecast appears doubtful. Bring a lunch, hat, waterproof footwear & insect repellent. Insect net, hand lens or magnifying glass would also be very helpful. Children welcome.

Sunday  
9 July  
8:30 a.m.

**BUTTERFLIES OF THE SEASON AND  
WETLAND SPECIALTIES**

**Leader:** Bob Bracken

**Meet:** Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.  
This all-day outing will visit several selected wetland habitats west of the city. Sedge Skippers, Hairstreaks and Coppers will be encountered as well as some of the more elusive species such as the Baltimore. Bring a lunch, suitable footwear and a butterfly net, if you have one.

Saturday  
15 July  
8:00 a.m.

**GENERAL BOTANY OUTING AT MANION'S CORNERS**

**Leaders:** Ellaine Dickson and Catherine O'Keefe

**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road.

This will be a general botany walk to see what we can find — perhaps the rare Crested Wood Fern. Bring a lunch, a drink, a hat, insect repellent, binoculars and field guides.☐

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## Any Articles for Trail & Landscape?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form—typed, written, printed or painted!

**DEADLINE:** Material intended for the July-September 1995 issue must be in the editor's hands by May 1, 1995. Mail your manuscripts to:

Fenja Brodo  
Editor, *Trail & Landscape*  
28 Benson Street  
Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5  
H: (613)723-2054; Fax: (613) 990-6451.

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# The GREEN LINE



## Will the National Capital Commission Save the Greenbelt?

### A Short History of the Greenbelt

In the 1930's, "Green Belts" were created around major cities such as London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle to check the sprawling growth of these cities and to preserve a substantial rural zone around them. Around the same time, a series of British "Garden Cities" were built, mostly after 1946 and the New Towns Act. Those established near existing major cities were primarily intended to solve housing and environmental problems of the parent city.

Municipal planning staff at the city of Ottawa had been influenced by the "garden city" movement. So when Jacques Greber, a French planning consultant, was retained in 1937 to advise on certain federal projects in the downtown core of Ottawa, certain other concepts he suggested for the capital were well received by the public. World War II intervened but in 1945, Greber was invited back to Canada to draft a master plan for the development of the national capital area. A National Capital Planning Committee was created by the Federal District Commission (which was later to become the National Capital Commission) to draw up a master plan of the National Capital District. The committee, accompanied by Nepean Council, visited Washington DC in 1948 and returned inspired to create a new capital for Canada. In fact, all of the local municipal governments were originally enthusiastic about the Master Plan, mostly because of the various parkway road projects that would be carried out at federal expense. The Planning Committee convinced Ottawa Hydro to cease timber cutting at Britannia and Nepean Council followed their recommendation to establish a Dominion sanctuary there for migratory birds and waterfowl in 1948.

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Unfortunately, the cooperative climate quickly dissipated when the the city of Ottawa applied to the Ontario Municipal Board in the spring of 1948 to annex almost all of the urban sections of Nepean Township. Post-war development in Ontario had become too rapid and complex to continue to be run from the Premier's office, so the Planning and Development Act of 1946 provided more local control over subdivisions. But the City of Ottawa had initiated this application to annex with no prior consultation with the Township or its residents. There was some merit to the concept from a planning perspective as well as some support within the Township Council but strong opposition to the boundary change from rural Nepean residents surfaced as an election issue. There was opposition too from Ottawa residents concerned about the costs of providing services to an expanded urban area. Although the OMB approved the application, the annexation caused enmity between the two municipalities. This resulted in an unwillingness to work together with federal and provincial authorities to carry out provisions of the National Capital Plan when it was finally approved in 1950 by the newly formed National Capital Commission.

The National Capital Plan didn't seem to offer much economic development opportunities to Nepean. The Township was especially concerned about the provision in the plan for a two-mile wide "controlled development area" around Ottawa. This was to prevent "strip development" along major transportation routes, which is not economical for the services that municipal governments were newly obliged to provide with the first Planning Act of 1946. Greber, who disliked the term "greenbelt", originally intended that municipalities carry out the land use provisions of the Master Plan by zoning. Due to opposition by rural landowners and councillors from Nepean, the federal government was eventually compelled to implement the Greenbelt portions of the National Capital Plan by expropriation, beginning in 1958.

### The Greenbelt Review

An initiative of the Mulroney Conservative government, the Neilson Commission of 1984 began to reevaluate the assets of each federal department and

News Editor: Michael Murphy (613) 727-1739/ Fax: 727-1245  
ai536@freenet.carleton.ca

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agency. Any lands or facilities not directly required were to be identified as surplus and sold off by Treasury Board.

The NCC itself and its governing legislation was greatly reorganized in 1988 and began experiencing budget reductions, a pattern which has continued to the present.

The National Capital Commission was responsible under the Federal Land Use Plan to be the "lead agency" for environmental assessment of federal land disposition decisions in the National Capital Region. So when the NCC conducted environmental assessment of corridor selection alternatives for the Hunt Club Extension highway project, it was accused by ratepayer groups opposed to the Tanglewood corridor of acting with a conflict of interest. The selected corridor resulted in a severance of a small parcel of land from the Greenbelt and a large "windfall" of cash from the sale which went directly into the NCC's coffers, not Treasury Board's.

Environmental and ratepayer groups began clamouring for more openness in NCC decision-making. Indeed, changes have occurred, but are due more to new Access to Information legislation than to a change of philosophy that recognised the need for a "transparent" planning process.

In "The Future Greenbelt" (1990), a series of four reports for the NCC analysed the effectiveness of the Greenbelt as an instrument for managing urban growth and compared it with similar features in other cities around the world.

In the Ecological Analysis of the Greenbelt (1991), the NCC approached the problem of ecological function. Three scenarios of varying levels of commitment to the protection of significant lands were compared and the report recommended the maintenance and improvement of existing natural areas within the greenbelt.

In June 1992, the NCC began holding a series of Public Consultations to assess public reaction to the concepts they had summarized in the discussion paper entitled "Into the Next Century: Reflections on a Renewed Future for the Greenbelt". The public was vocal in their opposition to the sale of Greenbelt lands, mostly due to the prospect of losing access to them for recreational purposes. Landowners who had been expropriated were unwilling to allow the NCC to profit by what amounted to "land banking" at their expense.

Our worst fears seemed to be realized two months later with the appointment of Marcel Beaudry, a prominent real estate lawyer and land developer from West Quebec, as Chairman of the NCC for

the unprecedented term of seven years.

The rationale for such a long term was so vague as to be ominous. The Mulroney government appeared to be putting the Greenbelt on the chopping block.

### The Master Plan

The revised Greenbelt Master Plan was to have been completed by mid-1993. It was believed that the NCC was waiting until after the 1993 federal election to bring forward its recommendations, but it was actually January 1995 before the public got a glimpse of their strategic direction.

To begin the public consultation phase of the Greenbelt Master Plan, NCC Chairman Beaudry outlined the main points of the Plan on January 26 at the Congress Centre in Ottawa with most members of the NCC's Board of Trustees from across Canada brought in for the occasion. He announced that no decisions had yet been taken and that the public would have an opportunity to comment on any and all of the proposals before approval would be sought. He pointed out that the new proposals would actually expand Greenbelt lands even though some "adjustments" to the those areas under the Greenbelt designation would also be made. Environmentally-sensitive lands west of Shirley's Bay and east of Mer Bleue would be added to the Greenbelt. Furthermore, the lands that the NCC describes as "Urban Corridors", a total of nine areas in Nepean, Ottawa, Aylmer and Hull, would be offered for sale to the Regional and local municipalities. Chairman Beaudry and Members of the NCC Board then answered questions from the floor, mostly from citizens and ratepayer groups unhappy with the sale of the "Urban Corridor" lands which also include certain natural areas such as "Grasshopper Hill", "McCarthy Woods", and "Clyde Woods" to the Region and the City of Ottawa. In March, the NCC held further public information meetings and released the first copies of the draft Master Plan to the public, although only the summary report was widely available.

It is premature to celebrate, but it seems clear that the NCC has recognized the benefits in continuing to fulfill an environmental protection mandate. In a political climate with a federal government obsessed with deficit reduction, it may have been tempting to the NCC to walk away from a land stewardship role. We can support some of the objectives but object to some of the means of achieving them. The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is preparing a draft response to the National Capital Commission and we would like to hear from you.

Please forward your comments by telephone, mail, FAX or passenger pigeon to: **Mike Murphy** (days: 238-2697, eves: 727-1739) or **contact the NCC directly** at 239-5555 (INFO NCC).