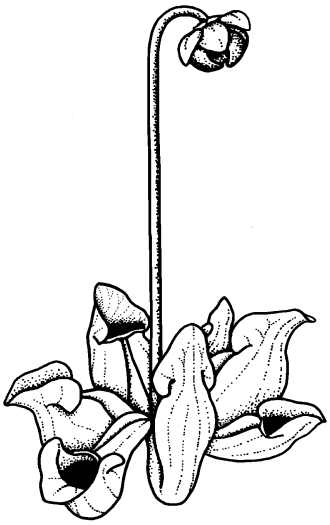

Sarracenia

Volume 16, Number 3. Summer 2008

Newsletter of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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Liparis lœselii Rediscovered in Western Newfoundland

by Andrus Voitk.

Together with the notice of the Bill Titford Memorial Walk came an e-mail from Hans Kohlmüller of Germany, with pictures of *Liparis lœselii*, the small bog orchid named by Linnæus after his colleague, Johannes Lœsel and commonly known as the Bog Twayblade. The juxtaposition of this picture with Titford's name set in motion some thought associations. The Titfords' flower book (Titford, 1995) has been our companion for years, and through it, somehow we feel they have also been our companions, although we have never had the pleasure of meeting either in person. Similarly, *Liparis lœselii* has remained our unmet but intimate companion these many years.

I understand that their book caused a minor storm by innocently publishing the picture of *Liparis lœselii* as one of the flowers one might encounter in Newfoundland bogs. Apparently many search parties were set loose upon the Stephenville bogs, where Bill Titford recalled taking the picture, with no little orchid found. Eventually the listeria-hysteria died down, although we on the west coast have kept up the hunt: my wife and I, in the company of several amateurs and professionals, have searched these and many other bogs for years, so far to no avail. When we set about to publish our own book of the wild orchids of Newfoundland (Voitk, 2007), we heard that Paul Martin Brown also had seen this little orchid here some ten years earlier, both near Stephenville and in Cheesman Park. Renewed efforts in these areas, guided by several telephone calls and e-mails to Brown for directions, went unrewarded and our book had to be content with Brown's picture of the orchid in Newfoundland.

There were speculations that pictures could have been the last slide taken in Nova Scotia rather than the first one in Newfoundland as the Titfords thought. However, considering the habitat of this flower in Nova Scotia, we felt that there is no reason why it should not grow here, but that ,perhaps, our climate may make it a bit difficult for it to become permanent or perennial, thus accounting for our failure to find it. We have continued to look, optimistic that one day we'd find it.

H. Kohlmüller

So far we have not found it. However, Mr Kohlmüller, while on holidays here, did find it, as shown by the photographs, taken midday, July 5, 2007. He has been kind enough to provide accurate GPS coordinates, which have enabled exact location of the site. Its location has been shared with several orchidophiles in order to monitor it closely next season. Kohlmüller returned in 2008 to photograph more Newfoundland orchids, but did not find *L. lœselii* in the spot where he found it the year before. Perhaps by the time of next year's Bill Titford Memorial Walk, we can learn that this "rather dishevelled looking little green orchid" is alive and well in the area where Bill first photographed it, thus ending the pleasant 15 year quest he innocently let slip on the land.

{*Many orchids do not flower every year: this may help to explain the elusive nature of this species. Ed.*}

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Riverbanks and Bogs

by Glenda Quinn.

08 08 08 - the day the whole world watched the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Beijing, a minute percentage of the population attended the Royal Regatta and our nanosize group explored Seal Cove River, mucked through a bog across from the generating station in Holyrood, picnicked at a nearby beach, and then hiked into Little Soldiers Pond.

The first site was quite beautiful with waterfalls and still pools. Massive rock formations provided shelter and heat for delicate ferns, and Clubspur Orchids *(Platanthera clavellata)* have colonized the carved crevices. The latter species grew in healthy clumps and throughout the day we encountered it so often, we dismissed it as unworthy of our attention. The Royal Fern *(Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis)* was abundant in various stages of growth and a delight to see with its fertile pinnae at the frond tips. Flat-topped White Aster *(Doellingeria umbellata* var. *umbellata)* and Purple-stemmed Aster *(Symphyotrichum puniceum* var. *puniceum)* were also blooming; nature's reminder that fall was not far away. One interesting "plant" which Madeline spotted was underwater and new to all of us, except John. He pointed out that it was not a plant but rather an animal: a freshwater sponge. I have an interesting underwater photo for my records and John informed us that there are eight species in the province. Only a microscope and an expert can help determine its name, so we left it.

Past its flowering stage, but with fruit that reminded John of little green men from space, was a shrub called Bush Honeysuckle *(Diervilla lonicera)*. The flowers are usually in clusters of three, blooming in July/August, and the leaves are oval, tapered at the tip. Its cousin, Northern Honeysuckle *(Lonicera villosa)*, blooms earlier (May/June) and bears oval shaped leaves rounded at the tip. Another shrub that enthralled us was Winterberry Holly *(Ilex verticillata)*, found only in localized areas on the island. It likes a wet habitat and Seal Cove River provided the right conditions. I am going back to the sight in December to get pictures of the berries which according to Ryan (1978) are orange to vermilion-coloured globular drupes.

Leaving the others, Carm and I manoeuvred our way over the boulders and rocks further upstream. We were rewarded when delicate Rose Pogonias announced themselves, a little worn, but still beautiful. Surpassing the work of a well-trained florist, a most striking arrangement of tall Pitcher Plants *(Sarracenia purpurea)* nestled among the verdant grasses and mosses, water flowing beneath their feet. Out came our cameras and both of us took shot after shot of the picturesque flowers growing so stately, near the riverbank. While we were enjoying being shutterbugs, John had made his own pleasant discovery - a new site for Screwstem *(Bartonia paniculata)* a member of the Gentian family and a very difficult one to find because of its tiny size. When searching you need to look for small, white 4-lobed flowers, a twining stem, growing in moist conditions such as sphagnum moss. Some of its companion plants are Larch *(Larix laricina)*, Purple Chokeberry *(Photinia floribunda)*, Mountain Holly *(Ilex mucronata)*, White-fringed Orchid *(Platanthera blephariglottis)*, Rose Pogonia *(Pogonia ophioglossoides),* and White Beakrush *(Rhynchospora alba)*. We saw them all.

It was approaching time to leave for our next stop and Susan, waiting by our cars, had seen a rose with a most unusual hue. So intense, it rivalled the colours of all wild roses known to any of us. One bloom left on *Rosa virginiana* and it was going out with pizzazz! Mix together magenta, wine, burgundy, and dark pink and you might duplicate the colour.

Our next objective was to find Northern Yellow-eyed Grass *(Xyris montana)*, a monocot, and the only member the Yellow-eyed Grass Family *(Xyridaceae)*, in our province. The site was across from the entrance to the Holyrood Generating Station in a wet and boggy area. Here, we also searched for *Bartonia.* We had our work cut out for us because both plants are very small. We were successful and, happily, we also came upon the Curly Grass Fern *(Schizaea pusilla)*, another miniature species. It was this little fern that piqued Fernald's interest in visiting Newfoundland around 1910. New Jersey's botanically famous plant seemed out of place in our sub-alpine habitat and Fernald wrote *"this species is distributed on several widely disjunct areas: throughout the Island of Newfoundland, in Nova Scotia, an apparently undisclosed locality in New York, and in New*

Jersey." Ready for another history lesson? The *Bartonia* we sought out was also the goal of two Victorian gentlemen botanising in the same area in August 1894. Robinson and von Schrenk *"secured some sixty or more individuals of Bartonia*" and concluded that the Newfoundland form is distinct from any species of the United States (Robinson 1898). They described it as *Bartonia iodandra*. Today, the plant is often recognized as *Bartonia paniculata* subsp. *iodandra*, although our checklist simply refers to it as *Bartonia paniculata.* We left this nondescript place harbouring secrets of extremely interesting plants and the ghosts of gentlemen of another era.

Our next station, Little Soldier's Pond, is a very popular place for our local orchid aficionados and well worn paths attest to the many plant enthusiasts that have explored the area over the years. On the first part of the trail Madeline adeptly kept pointing out Curly Grass Fern, it was in abundance, and its tiny size never ceased to amaze us. We had expected to see *Arethusa, Calopogon,* and *Pogonia* but we were disappointed. Instead we revelled in admiring the snowy white petals of the many White-fringed Orchids we encountered in this wet habitat. Clouds moved in, typical of this summer, but the bright yellow of Carm's jacket and the sudden appearances of small pools of water, filled with bright yellow Horned Bladderwort *(Utricularia cornuta)* atoned for the loss of sunshine. A beautiful, soft carpet formed by a delicate white sedge, White Beakrush, and dotted with startling numbers of White-fringed Orchids provided a pleasant path to the little pond.

The orchids, with some 10,000 to 15,000 species, are second in number only to the daisy family, (Asteraceae). They are highly evolved, sophisticated flowers that have fascinated men and women for centuries. Amazingly, they have a basic flower structure. "*The rarity of some species, the exciting nature of the bogs and deep forests many inhabit, and their sporadic occurrence all lend a charm and interest no other plants can equal."* (Case 1987) One aspect of the nature of orchids, not unique to this family but probably with more frequency, is that they hybridize very readily. The resulting hybrids have long had members or the scientific community pulling their hair out and raging debates are heard far and wide. On our jaunt that day we encountered two hybrids of the ragged fringed orchid complex (*Platanthera lacera*/*psycodes*), and the scientist in our midst was extremely pleased. You will hear more from John Maunder on this topic in Sarracenia.

Pitcher Plant pretending to be a Pretzel *G. Quinn*

I'm concluding this short article by mentioning my spotting a most unusual shaped Pitcher Plant, (see photo.)

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Uncommon Wildflowers of Newfoundland 1: Common Cinquefoil, Old-field Five-fingers (*Potentilla simplex* Michx.)

by Henry Mann

Some wildflower species are relatively common elsewhere in North America, but of sporadic occurrence here on the Island. Common Cinquefoil is one of these, currently known only from three locations; Pasadena on the west coast, the Grand Falls region in central Newfoundland, and Haricot on the Avalon Peninsula.

P. simplex is a low perennial herb from a short thick rhizome. Slender stems are at first erect and 20 – 30 cm tall, but begin to arch at first flowering, bending to the ground, greatly elongating, and producing tiny tubers at the tips which root into new plants. Because of this type of growth and the weak stems, later in the season the plant appears like silverweed or strawberry to have creeping prostrate stolons. Basal and lower stem leaves are long petioled with palmately compound blades of 5 toothed leaflets. Flowers are borne singly at the ends of long thin pedicels arising from the axils of the leaves. Flowers are 10 – 15 mm across with 5 bracts, 5 sepals, 5 yellow petals longer than the sepals, many stamens and many pistils, a somewhat typical *Potentilla* flower.

Flowering begins in late June and proceeds throughout July to early August. This plant prefers fields, grassy meadows, and open woods. Elsewhere in North America, as one of its common names suggests, it is often associated with re-vegetated farm fields, but is not considered a troublesome agricultural weed.

Despite its extremely uncommon occurrence, *P. simplex* was not listed as a rare Newfoundland species by Bouchard et al. (1991) because it was considered an introduced species in Newfoundland. Like most of our plants it is an eastern North American endemic and like most of them it arrived at some unknown time in the past. There is no evidence that it was introduced by humans in recent times. Although the Pasadena report (Mann 2005) and the Haricot report (Maunder 2001) are of recent origins, the species is well integrated within the "native" vegetation at these sites suggesting a long term association. Also the three records are distributed across the Island so the species may be more common than we are aware. Botanists often tend to have "blinders" for plants they consider "weeds" and because *P. simplex* resembles some of its more weedy *Potentilla* cousins, it would be easy to overlook or dismiss.

The genus *Potentilla,* the Cinquefoils, is an interesting group of the Rose Family, closely related to the strawberries (*Fragaria* ssp.) and *Sibbaldia*. Wildflower Society members who attended the field trip of 2006 may remember a presentation on the cinquefoils complete with an illustrated handout. We have 16 reported species of *Potentilla** on the Island of which seven are considered uncommon. Three additional species also only occur in the Labrador portion of the province. Look for the cinquefoils on your travels and get to know this easily recognizable group. We may find that some of the "uncommon" species are more common than currently known if we start taking notice of them.

** For purposes of this article, I am still including the recently split off genera Argentina, Dasiphora, Comarum and Sibbaldiopsis in the genus Potentilla as will be found in most of the manuals and field guides published in and prior to the 1990's.*

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Highlights of The Wildflower Society Field Trip of 2008

Collated by Glenda Quinn

Henry Mann:

Wildflower 2008 based in beautiful Bonne Bay was another huge success and John and Michael are to be congratulated for their preparations and guidance. Botanically there were many highlights including seeing the Brasenia site for the first time, observing an unusual white-flowering variant of the Newfoundland Oxytrope (*Oxytropis campestris* var. *minor*), walking through the woods of Carl's amazing orchid site, and numerous other plant related findings. However, as the years go by, the wildflower trips become much more than a study of plants and vegetation. They provide an opportunity to slow the "normal" hectic pace of life and to observe the broader context into which we and the plants are integrated. What is more pleasing and wonderful than to sit for an hour on a warm evening to watch the sun go down into a calm and tranquil sea?

Henry Mann

Or what is more fascinating than to stand for a few minutes to hear and see little waves ripple over the rocky shapes, sizes and colours of a cobble beach? In the hustle and bustle of modern life these little pleasures are often unavailable or overlooked, but on special events like the wildflower trips, we may again connect and reflect on the greater scheme of which we are a minuscule part. Mud and bugs become insignificant in this context!

Carl "the wanabe Newf" Munden:

One of the many highlights of the trip was the stop at Western Brook beach. Unfortunately, many people missed out on this one due to mix ups, boat trips and getting lost. This area contained a marvelous little wooded area with lots of Braun's Holly Fern (*Polystichum braunii)*. After exploring this "elfin" woodland, we proceeded through the dunes and onto the beach. The only members that showed were Glenda and Lorne, Henry and Phyllis, John and Michael.

Carl Munden

The attached photo shows Glenda with a gigantic Kelp specimen and she was totally unaware that this picture was taken !

It was, for me, a wonderful experience to revisit two of my favourite botanizing spots on the "ROCK"...Literally ALL of the Lomond area and the fabulous outcrop and cliff areas of Cow Head Point.

Liz and I would like to thank all of you for a very enjoyable trip and especially the capable leadership of John and Michael.

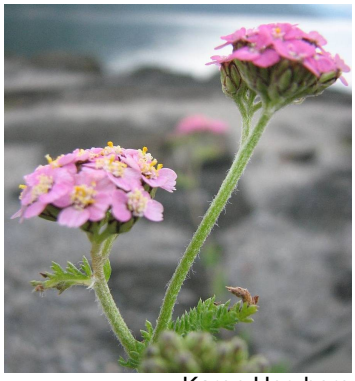
Gene Herzberg:

Gene Herzberg

I am sure that everyone will be sending flower pictures but you, and probably everyone else, know that I really prefer birds to flowers. So, I have to say that des-

pite seeing all the lovely and rare flowers on the trip, the highlight for me was seeing the rock ptarmigan on the top of Gros Morne two days before the start of the official trip. Karen and I had climbed up (much harder than we remembered from our younger days). We found a hen with several chicks just beyond the summit. The attached photo is of one of the chicks.

Karen Herzberg:


Karen Herzberg

Thank you for asking us to reflect on our Gros Morne field trip and thank you to John and Michael for making it happen so well. I believe this was the best trip I've ever been on. I've chosen a photo from Norris Point where we had a delightful tour of the MUN Marine Station. Following that, everyone did their own picnic lunches. Lois pointed out this lovely pink yarrow *(Achillea millefolium)* on the beach past the picnic tables, and I quickly snapped this photo.

Lorne Quinn:


Cyprepedium reginae Lorne Quinn

The highlight of the summer field trip to Gros Morne was being with the group.

Glenda Quinn:

From the tiny leaf of Fairy Flax **(***Linum catharticum***)** to the mammoth leaf of Cow Parsnip **(***Heracleum maximum***)**, I saw hundreds of plants of all sizes and descriptions on our trip to Gros Morne. Two stand out, one because I had never seen it before and the other, because it was well past its blooming period. The former had beautiful purplish-blue petals with protruding stamens. It was quite strikingly beautiful and it turned out to be an obnoxious weed, Viper's Bugloss **(***Echium vulgare***)**.

The other plant was familiar to all of us. We saw their roundish leaves growing in most places we visited - March Marigold (*Caltha palustris***).** We were at Woody Pond East Arm Pond, paddling in the warm waters when we reached a little stream flowing into the pond. A flash of brilliant yellow caught our attention and we stepped into the stream to get a closer look. It felt like arctic ice! We were astounded to see a Marsh Marigold in bloom. The cold water must have delayed it from blooming earlier. It was literally a breathtaking moment.


Glenda Quinn

One other thing will stand out for me is Michael's explanation of the "oil slick" you often see in little pools of water when out hiking or plant watching. Organic acids in the water leach iron and manganese from the sediments below. The effects of these metals in acidic water are the iridescent slicks that float on puddles in bogs and fens. Touch the surfaces and they will shatter. Unseen by you, a shower of minute manganese and ion oxide crystals drift to the bottom of the puddles.

An obnoxious weed, a late bloomer, and acidic water were some of the highlights of my trip. There was another, unbeknownst to me at the time - the discovery of a very rare orchid, but someone else can write that story!

Follow my Leader Judith Blakeley

Fall Indoor Schedule 2008

MUN Botanical Garden at **7.30** p.m.

October 1st - Glenda Quinn: *Gros Morne 2008 – a Pictorial Journey.*

November 5th - Judith Blakeley & Helen Jones: *Flora and Fauna of the Grasslands and Rocky Mountain Park.*

December 3rd – Annual Christmas Slide show. *Contributors should submit their Christmas Slide Show photos by November 15, 2008 to: jem@nl.rogers.com or John Maunder, P. O. Box 250, Pouch Cove, NL A0A 3L0*

Annual Subscriptions, still only $10, are now due. Please fill in the membership form which is being sent out separately.

Index to Scientific Names

(Scientific names without authorities follow: "Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Newfoundland and Labrador" by Susan J. Meades, Stuart G. Hay, and Luc Brouillet, 2000.)