

# Sarracenia

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Newsletter of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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Water Avens (*Geum rivale*)

Judith Blakeley

First Prize, category A: Portraits – Flowers (including grass, sedge, rush, and conifer flowers)

## Local St John's Field Trips 2011

*Our President has been approached by a number of members suggesting field trips in their favourite places, and has put together the following list. Other walks can be added during the season, so if you'd like to suggest one in your area contact Carmel. Don't worry if you are not an expert botanist, there will probably be enough of those along to help with identification – and if not no-one will ever know what you missed!*

I hope members are able to get out and enjoy as many of our planned day trips as possible. We think members will be pleased this year's varied line-up. If any member has a suggestion or spots something exciting, please let us know as we would love to investigate.

**MAY 23 (Monday): Hawke Hills:** Diapensia, Loiseleuria and Clubmosses Meeting time & place: Top of Hawke Hills at 2 p.m. **Helen Jones** and **Judith Blakeley** are inviting members to join then in a photography shoot. This will **not** be a formal wildflower walk. The area will be checked in advance to make certain Diapensia is in bloom, so please watch your e-mail in case of cancellation. Members might like to refer to Helen's article published in Sarracenia 2008 (16) 2, 18. Of course all members are welcome, even those who don't take pictures, for it's a great opportunity to look around and learn. Contact Judith at [jblakeley@nl.rogers.com](mailto:jblakeley@nl.rogers.com) or Helen at [helen-jones@nl.rogers.com](mailto:helen-jones@nl.rogers.com) (437-6852).

**JUNE 20 (Monday): Kent's Pond:** Lunchtime Wildflower Walk around Kent's Pond- **Bill Titford Memorial Walk** Meeting time & place: Bottom of Dublin Road, off Higgins's Line at 12 noon SHARP! **Laise Hermanutz** will be leading a fast-paced walk with the intent of travelling around the entire pond in quick observation. As Laise will be returning to work, members are encouraged to continue botanizing and photographing. Contact Laise at [lhermanu@mun.ca](mailto:lhermanu@mun.ca) (864-7919).

**June 26 (Sunday): Ocean Pond: Heather Saunders** has invited members to explore some of her favourite wildflower spots at Ocean Pond. This is not a formal wildflower walk. Heather hopes Lady's Slipper will be in bloom. Meeting time & place: Starting time 2 p.m. (place to be determined). Contact Heather Saunders at [c.saunders@nl.rogers.com](mailto:c.saunders@nl.rogers.com) or 368-6935 (cell 685-1948).

**July 10 (Sunday): Seal Cove Orchid Bog:** White fringed Orchid, Arethusa, Calopogon, Rose Pogonia. Bladderwort, Sundew: **Todd Boland** is returning to see changes in this quickly developing area. Meeting time & place: 10 a.m. SHARP! Meet at the Foxtrap pole line (the pole line that crosses the TCH just west of the Foxtrap weigh scales). Contact Todd at [todd.boland@warp.nfld.net](mailto:todd.boland@warp.nfld.net) (753-6027).

**July 17 (Sunday): Fern Walk in Conception Bay South:** Beautiful garden of **Madeline Norris**.

Meeting time & place: 6 p.m. 69 LeDrew's Road, Kelligrews, a 15 to 20 minute drive from town. Take the first left past LeDrew's Lumber on the CBS Highway with a weeping birch on the corner of driveway. Madeline has over 30 varieties of fern. (or use Google Map) Contact Madeline at [madeline@nl.rogers.com](mailto:madeline@nl.rogers.com) (834-6700.)

**July 31-August 6 Wildflower Excursion** – Terra Nova Park and Bonavista Area: Leader- **John Maunder**. (Itinerary coming soon).

**August 14 (Sunday): Mushroom Hunt along Newfound Pond/Windsor Lake Area:** **Pat Hill** and **Carmel Conway** have discovered a variety of mushrooms in this area and are eager to explore further. Meeting time & place: 2 p.m. Park along Portugal Cove Road on the Windsor Lake side, close to the intersection of Airport Heights Drive. There is a section to pull off - remnants of the old Portugal Cove Highway close to the pumping station. Contact Carmel at [abcrhynd@nl.rogers.com](mailto:abcrhynd@nl.rogers.com) (722-0121) or Pat at [pat200@hotmail.com](mailto:pat200@hotmail.com) (579-1289).

**Mid-to- late August Mushroom Walk in Oliver's Pond, Portugal Cove:** time & place to be determined. **John Bridson** will be keeping a keen eye on the 'bleeding' mushroom, *Hyndellum peckii*, which is located in woods in the Oliver's Pond to Thorburn Road area (in addition to other mushrooms). John won first place in the mushroom/lichen/algae category of our Photography Competition for his spectacular image of an oozing bleeding mushroom (see p. 6). Contact John at [bridson@mun.ca](mailto:bridson@mun.ca) (895-2425.)

### The 2009-10 Executive

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## Uncommon Wildflowers of Newfoundland 7: Alternatleaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia* L.f.)

by Henry Mann

Native woody plants with showy flowers can, of course, also be considered “wildflowers” despite the more common usage of the term for herbaceous species. The trees and shrubs we purchase from nurseries are all native to some area of the globe, however, most are non-native to Newfoundland, but more importantly, many are not native to climatic zones and special climatic conditions that occur locally in various parts of the Island. Newfoundlanders probably waste millions each year purchasing come-from-away wimps that may survive a few good years, but eventually succumb to the occurring certainty of sporadic weather extremes. It seems to be the nature of the human psyche to want unusual exotics and then spend excessive effort and expense trying to keep them alive in a climate which does not suit them. Our native woody species are usually overlooked despite the fact that many

make exceptionally fine horticultural plantings when allowed to grow in good soil, uncrowded open conditions and with a bit of judicious pruning. Red Osier Dogwood, Northern Wild Raisin, Chuckley Pears, Dogberries, Shrubby Cinquefoil, Red Elderberry, Winterberry Holly, Highbush Cranberry, and many others, as well as this issue’s featured species, are some shrubs that might be considered by the adventurous naturalist and gardener. *Cornus alternifolia* is an eastern North American endemic ranging from the south-eastern states to southern Manitoba and eastward to Newfoundland where it reaches its northern climatic limit in the warmer valleys of the west coast and in the warm north-central portions of the Island. It is considered a rare species in Newfoundland partly because of its limited range and the scattered distribution of individual

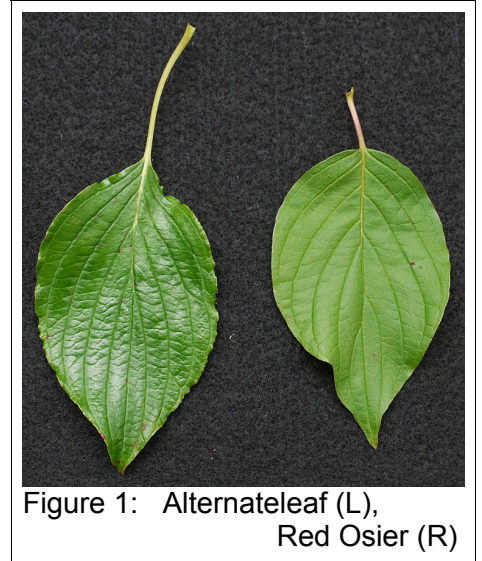


Figure 1: Alternatleaf (L),  
Red Osier (R)

plants, but also because it tends to be somewhat invisible, blending into other shrubby vegetation and being readily dismissed for its close relative, Red Osier Dogwood.

Leaves tend to have a darker green, more shiny upper surface than those of Red Osier, but otherwise similar (Figure 1). Because leaves tend to be clustered near the tips of branches their alternate nature is often not noticed. Red Osier has distinctly opposite leaves. Surprisingly, it is often easier to locate this species in winter when the leaves do not obscure the branch colours or the bud arrangement (Figure 2). Red Osier tends to have reddish twigs whereas those of Alternatleaf are a purplish-brown although in heavily shaded locations both can be more greenish. White flat-topped inflorescences are similar in both species, but fruits of Red Osier are white while those of Alternatleaf are dark bluish to almost black at maturity (Figure 3). They are eaten by birds, but not considered edible by humans.



Figure 2: Winter twig with alternate buds.





Figure 3: Mature fruits

A unique feature of *C. alternifolia* is that dead branches often become a bright orange colour (Figure 4). Although not infrequently noticed and wondered about, until recently I was unaware of its significance.

A chance encounter with some literature explained that this colour is due to a fungus known as *Cryptodiaporthe Canker* (*Cryptodiaporthe corni* (Wehm.) Petrak). The fungus causes twig dieback and the beautiful bright



Figure 4: Orange stem canker

orange colouration of the bark, but does not appear to seriously damage or affect the hardiness or showiness of the shrub. In addition to "Green Osier", one of the other common names for this species is "Pagoda Dogwood" because of its growth form which is somewhat reminiscent of shrub shapes that are associated with a Japanese garden (Figure 5).

Instead of the bushy symmetrical growth form of many species, Pagoda Dogwood produces layered tiers of almost horizontal branches making it a stunning accent plant. It is normally a shrub with dark green shiny leaves, however, variegated horticultural cultivars are also available further enhancing its desirability as an accent species. Along with showy clusters of white

flowers in early summer (Figure 6) and purple fruits later in the season, it appears to have all the attributes of a desirable garden specimen.

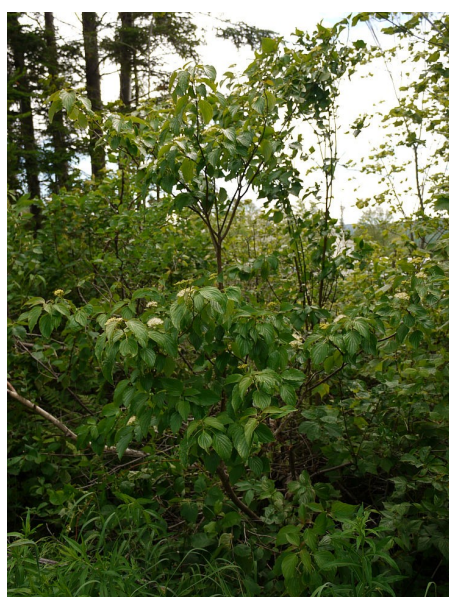


Figure 5: Shrub form and habit

It is hardy to zone 4 and some sources even suggest zone 3. In more southerly climates Pagoda Dogwood is reported to attain small tree status of up to 10 meters, but here in the Humber Valley I have yet to see anything taller than 3 or 4 meters.

Happy Botanizing!



Figure 6: Early inflorescence

## Names within Names.

by Howard Clase.

***What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet.***  
(Shakespeare, 1599)

***“Centaurea stoebe*** L. subsp. ***micranthos*** (S. G. Gmelin ex Gugler) Hayek; = ***C. biebersteinii*** de Candole; = ***C. maculosa*** Lamark.” (Mann, 2010)

The purpose of a name is to identify as precisely and concisely as possible the item to which it is applied. But, look at the scientific name above, which Henry gave to the Spotted Knapweed in the title of his article in Vol18(1) 2-5.

That's quite a name! You will see that not only does it contain Latinised names (in italics) for the genus, species and subspecies but there are also some names of people and an initial all in normal type. What's all that about, and is it really necessary?

These are the names of the people, sometimes as abbreviations, who gave the plant the scientific name that is being used. You might think that all is needed is the name, why bother with the names of the namers? But consider the following, entirely fictitious little story.

*Anne Jones has just moved into a house with an existing established garden and she wants to keep it up and learn as much as she can about the plants that are already growing there. One is a shrub with nice double orange flowers and one day she happens to ask her neighbour, Marjorie Brown, if she knows what it's called. Marjorie tells her that it looks like one that comes from her Granny's garden who called it her 'Tangerine Rose', so the family call it 'Granny Green's Tangerine Rose'. Marjorie used to have one herself, but lost it when a contractor piled up*

*scaffolding planks on it during some renovations. However, her Aunt Emily, lives a couple of blocks away in Granny Green's old house, and the original plant is still there, so why doesn't she go to see if it's the same? She promises to let her Aunt know that she's coming.*

*Anne takes a bit of her plant to Emily Green's garden to compare, and sure enough it is the same plant, but Emily tells her that a botanist friend told her that it's not a rose at all, but a cinquefoil – she said she could tell because of the shape of the leaves. She thinks it should really be called 'Granny Green's Tangerine Cinquefoil'.*

*A few days later Anne happens to be going to the local Botanical Garden, so she takes a bit of the plant to them, where she's told that it's an old cultivar called 'Golden Wonder'. As it happens this was a cultivar developed in this very garden and the original plant is still growing down the main path. She goes to see it, and sure enough it's identical to her specimen. So what should she call it? It has three different names: the most official one seems to be 'Golden Wonder Cinquefoil' which is used by the world at large, but she does know how the other names came about and who uses them, and note, they have a person's name as well as a plant name.*

This is similar to what happens

with scientific names. When someone finds a plant that they think is new, they collect a specimen – the “type specimen”, place it in a herbarium, and either they or someone more expert – a taxonomist - gives it a proper Linnean scientific name with their own name attached as the “authority” and publishes the details in a botanical journal, including a description of the plant in Latin and the whereabouts of the type specimen, i.e. where anyone can (in theory) go and check on it. - just as Anne did when she took her specimen to the Botanical garden.

Then later someone else might look at the specimen and decide that, in her opinion, the original discoverer put the plant into the wrong genus. She publishes her thoughts on the subject, giving the plant a new generic name, but keeps the old species name. To keep a record of what she has done she puts the name of the original authority in brackets and adds her name as the “authority” for the new name.

At some other time, someone else may discover that the plant had been already named in an obscure journal and given a quite different name, in which case the rules say that this older name becomes the official one - as long as it's no older than 1753! (see below) - and the new name is called a synonym. (“Golden Wonder



Cinquefoil” is the accepted name and “Granny Green's Tangerine Cinquefoil” the synonym in my example.) Since both names can be traced to proper descriptions and specimens, they are both “right” in a sense, but the older one is the accepted one – unless someone changes it again for good botanical reasons. And these days, with DNA analysis etc., there seem to be plenty of that going on!

There are all sorts of additional complications possible too, but I won't go into all those here. The point is that the full name with authorities is in fact a shorthand reference to the identity of the plant, and with a knowledge of the botanical literature and a good library you should be able to track down its full description and type specimen.

Some people have named hundreds of plants and are very familiar to botanists, so, to save space, their names are abbreviated. (There are lists of these abbreviations that can be found on the web; see below.) For example, Linnaeus, who started the whole system off with his book “*Species Plantarum*” (Linnaeus, 1753) is usually abbreviated to a single letter: L. {L.f. in Henry's article in this issue stands for “*Linnaeus filius*” - he had a botanist son also called *Carolus Linnaeus*, and by the way these are Latinised names too, for *Carl von Linné Ed.*}

Now, looking again at Henry's name, we see that it was Linnaeus who originally named the species *Centaurea stoebe*.

Now for the (*S. G. Gmelin ex*

*Gugler*) *Hayek* bit: the species name *micranthos* was first proposed by Gmelin for another specimen, but he never officially published it. That was left to Gugler who published this name and description, giving credit to Gmelin as the person who first assigned it the name *micranthos*. Still later, another botanist called Hayek came upon this specimen and descriptions and decided it wasn't really a different species, but just a subspecies of Linnaeus' plant and combined the two names accordingly. At other times de Candolle and Lamarck have named specimens that were eventually decided to be the same as Hayek's subspecies and their specific names are considered synonyms: indicated by the “=” sign here, but sometimes written “syn.”

Now that really ties it down!

### Literature cited.

**Linnaeus, Carolus. 1753.** *Species Plantarum*, Laurentius Salvius, Stockholm.

**Mann, Henry, 2010.** Uncommon Wildflowers of Newfoundland 5: Spotted Knapweed. *Sarracenia* 18(1) 2-5.

**Shakespeare, William, 1599.** The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedie of Romeo and Juliet, Cuthbert Burby, London.

**Partial list of author abbreviations:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_botanists\\_by\\_author\\_abbreviation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_botanists_by_author_abbreviation)

## Notes from the editor.

The small size of this issue is mainly due to a lack of submitted material. I've padded it out with some of the prize winning photos in our 2010-11 competition and some idle thoughts of my own that I found lying about in my computer, but I would encourage members to send in contributions for the next issue. As some of you will know Leila and I won't have much spare time this summer due to health issues and an impending move, but I will try to keep the *Sarracenia* going – as long as I don't have to write it all myself!

**First Prize, category B:** Portraits – Ferns, horsetails, quillworts, seeds, berries, old cones, buds, leaves, bark (wide discretion)



**Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) John Bridson**



**First Prize category C:**

Portraits – Mosses, liverworts, algae (including seaweed), mushrooms, and lichens.

**“Bleeding Mushroom”** (*Hydnellum peckii*)

**John Bridson**

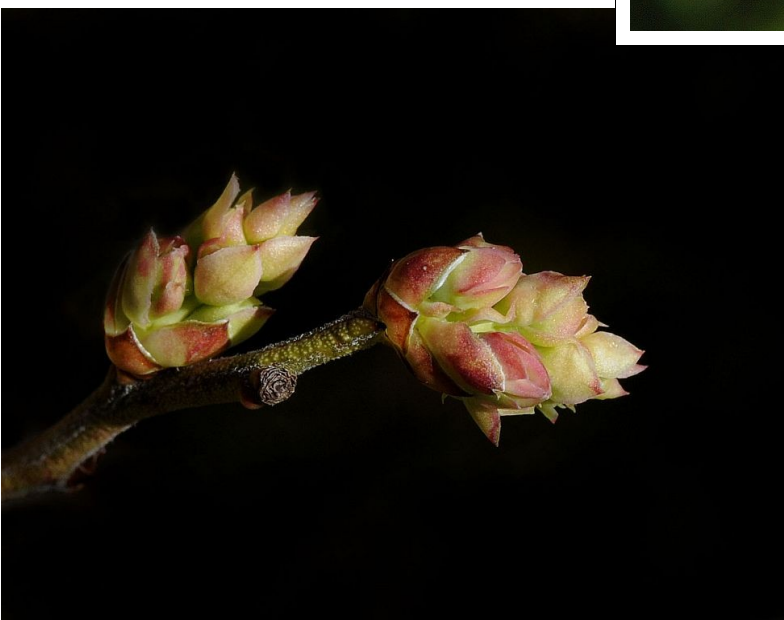
**First Prize, category D:**

Plant-mushroom-lichen/animal interactions  
(NOT including people, but including animal  
parasites such as galls, etc.)

**Crab Spider on Mountain Holly**

(*Ilex mucronata*)

**John Bridson**



**First Prize, category E:**

Plant-mushroom-lichen close-ups (original  
subject area should have been no larger than a  
postage stamp)

**Blueberry buds** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

**Judith Blakely**



**Second Prize, category A**

**Chamomile**

*(Tripleurospermum sp.)*

**Pat Hill**



**Third Prize, category E,**  
**Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)**  
**Gene Herzberg**



**Third Prize, category B**  
**Russet Cottongrass (*Eriophorum russeolum*)**  
**Heather Saunders**

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<b>Centaurea</b>	<b>Eriophorum</b>	<b>Ilex</b>	<b>Vaccinium</b>
stoebe.....5, 6	russeolum.....8	mucronata.....7	angustifolium.....7

*(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.*

<http://www.digitalnaturalhistory.com/meades.htm>) (including synonyms.)