

The ACPF Herald

ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN FLORA

Fall 2010

FREE Vol. 1



Pink Coreopsis (Alain Belliveau); Buttonbush Flower (Megan Crowley); Lance-leaved Violet (Megan Crowley); Button Sedge (Martin Thomas); NS False Foxglove (Martin Thomas)

The Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Project

Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (ACPF) refers to a unique group of plant species that are mainly restricted to the flat land along the Atlantic Coast from Florida to Nova Scotia called the Atlantic coastal plain. There are over 90 species of ACPF in Nova Scotia that are mainly found along lake shorelines, salt marshes and freshwater wetlands in the southwest part of the province. Some of these plants are found nowhere else in Canada and are globally rare, making our province a special place! It is up to us to ensure that we don't lose this distinct and diverse group.

A project focused on ACPF was initiated this year by the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI) and partners. It focused on increasing the science, stewardship and education of ACPF through lake atlasing, habitat mapping, water quality monitoring, hands-on participation, public events and outreach on high priority ACPF lakes.



Photos by Megan Crowley

Learning about Lakes: This July, two water quality monitoring training sessions were held at MTRI and in Carleton. This gave interested locals the opportunity to learn about the water quality component of the ACPF project, and a chance to get involved and collect valuable data which will help us better understand the health of the lakes we all care about.

Water Quality Monitoring

In June, MTRI held a community meeting and collected helpful suggestions about water quality monitoring and sampling from locals and experts. From this, we developed a sampling protocol and put our boats in the water. Water sampling was successful and we were able to sample 10 lakes this year.

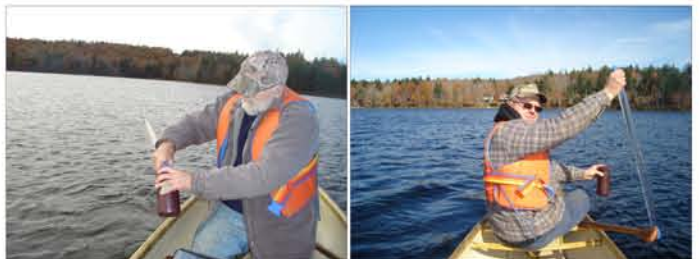
THANK YOU!

We would like to sincerely thank all the amazing and dedicated volunteers that helped with lake atlasing and water quality monitoring during the first year of this project. Over 20 volunteers dedicated more than 600 hours of their time towards the project this summer and fall. Incredible! Two volunteer appreciation and project update events will be held this fall to celebrate and we hope everyone can make it. Join us on Nov.7th at the Carleton Fire Hall, and Nov.12th at MTRI in Kempt, as we acknowledge volunteers and track our progress.



Photo by Mary Lou Harley

Volunteer at Work: Martin Thomas explored many wetlands and lakeshores around southwest Nova Scotia this summer, spending days looking for rare ACPF species to take photos for the field guide. Thanks Martin for your time and photos!



Photos By Randy Cleveland

Volunteers at Work: Allen Hall and John Cunningham, just two of our many volunteers, collecting water samples. Samples were collected from selected lakes in July, August and October. Sampling will continue next year, with the addition of sample collection in May.

YOU CAN HELP

If you live or play near this special group of plants there are many easy ways you can help:

- Learn to recognize these species and the habitats they depend on.
- Volunteer your time and become a steward!
- Maintain the natural vegetation around lake shorelines and wetlands.
- Plant native species and reduce or eliminate lawns by lakes, especially on the lake side of the house/cottage.
- Drive off-road or all-terrain vehicles on designated trails only, and avoid all sensitive habitats (lake shorelines, wetlands, beaches).
- Do not put in rock walls, rake, mow, or infill the lake shoreline.
- Keep your sewage system well maintained.
- Eliminate chemical use and buy phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Tell your friends, families and neighbours what you are doing and how they can help.



Photos by Megan Crowley and Pat Hudson

ACPF LAKE ATLASING

This summer teams of botanists, researchers and volunteers visited 11 ACPF lakes including Hog, Molega, Pleasant, Sloans, Agard, Barrington, Great Pubnico, Salmon, First Christopher, Little Ponhook, and Ponhook to atlas over 140 kilometres of lake shoreline for ACPF. Our super team of botanists Sean, David, Nick, and Tom shared their vast knowledge of the unique plants in this region with researchers and volunteers while out on the beautiful lakes in this province.

This winter we will be working hard to create maps of the lakes that were atlased this year, showing occupied and potential habitat for rare ACPF species along the shore. Please check them out in the spring on MTRI's website, www.merseytobeatic.ca (click on 'projects' 'freshwater' 'Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora').



Photos by Megan Crowley and Pat Hudson

ACPF Social: This August an ACPF Social event was held at the Carleton Fire Hall with music by Johnny Horton and friends, information about ACPF and the project, refreshments and food, and a round of SARGO (species at risk bingo). We hope you can make it again next year!

LANDOWNER CONTACT

Contacting landowners is a great way to meet new and interesting people and share information about ACPF, how to protect these species and ways to get involved. Researchers visited and chatted with over 50 landowners this year on six lakes. Some joined in on the ACPF atlasing and it was very exciting and rewarding to see so many of the landowners come out to our first ACPF Social in Carleton this year. We are looking forward to having more landowners get involved next summer. If you would like to learn more about ACPF and how you can get involved, contact one of the fine folks below.



For more information, please contact MTRI (682-2371) or Kejimkujik (682-4006) and request a copy of "Healthy Lakes and Wetlands for Tomorrow: A Landowner Stewardship Guide for Species at Risk in Nova Scotia."

An Atlantic coastal plain flora field guide is being produced this winter, and will be available next spring. Let us know if you are interested in a copy.

CONTACT US

For more information or to get involved contact one of our friendly team members:

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