

The ACPF Herald

ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN FLORA

SPRING 2011

FREE Vol2.



Golden-pert, White Fringed Orchid, Water-pennywort, Virginia Meadow-beauty, Toothed Flat-sedge.
(All pictures by Alain Belliveau)

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 of plants.

A project focused on ACPF was initiated in 2010 by the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI). It focused on increasing the science, stewardship and education of ACPF through plant inventories, habitat mapping, water quality monitoring, hands-on participation, public events and outreach on 36 ACPF lakes.

Mapping Plant Populations



This winter the MTRI staff was busy putting the data collected in 2010 to good use. Last summer botanists, volunteers and MTRI staff counted rare ACPF plants along nine lake shores in the Tuskent, Barrington and Medway watersheds. The plants were marked with GPS units at points and along stretches of shoreline. With this information MTRI staff were able to produce maps showing where the plants exist along the shoreline and where they were not counted. Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora populations are dynamic and move around the lake shore and don't always grow in the same areas each year. In the future maps will also be made that show known and potential habitat around lake shores.

The plants were marked with GPS units at points and along stretches of shoreline. With this information MTRI staff were able to produce maps showing where the plants exist along the shoreline and where they were not counted. Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora populations are dynamic and move around the lake shore and don't always grow in the same areas each year. In the future maps will also be made that show known and potential habitat around lake shores.



Hot Off The Press In 2011: The New ACPF Guide

Megan Crowley and Lindsey Beals were hard at work all winter working on the new book "Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora in Nova Scotia: Identification and Information Guide", published by MTRI...

continued...

It features photos and ID tips for 93 species of ACPF and includes information on how you can help this unique and special group of plants. Alain Belliveau composed a french version of the guide. Contact MTRI if you would like a copy!

Water Quality Monitoring

Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora require clean, low nutrient water. In 2010, the water quality on 10 lakes from the Tuskent and the Medway watersheds was monitored once during each of July, August, and October. This was done to determine nutrient levels and aquatic health. All of the results were in by fall and after having a look at the numbers MTRI staff were able to categorize the lakes based on how productive they were.

The initial results from 2010 are as follows*:

Eutrophic Lakes (high nutrient levels, support a lot of plant and algae growth that push out ACPF species)	Cameron Fanning Raynards
Mesotrophic Lakes (moderate nutrient levels, fine for ACPF)	Sloans Salmon Little Ponhook Kegeshook Hog
Oligotrophic Lakes (low nutrient levels, ideal for ACPF)	Wilson's Bennetts

*Contact MTRI if you would like more in depth data



Photos by Megan Crowley and Pat Hudson

ACPF Social Events

There will be two social events: one on Aug 13th in Quinan and on Aug 20th in Greenfield to learn more and enjoy food, music, games and prizes. Look for posters in your areas or contact MTRI (682-2371) for more details.

Your Chance To Get Involved

Learn first hand about this project and the unique plants in our province by helping with surveys or water quality monitoring. We will be conducting ACPF plant surveys with expert botanists throughout August and hitting the lakes four times this year (early May, early July, late August, and late October) for water quality monitoring. There will be two volunteer appreciation and project update events in the fall. If anyone would like more information about results, workshops, or volunteering contact any of our team members below.

Lakeshore Property Owner of the Year Contest

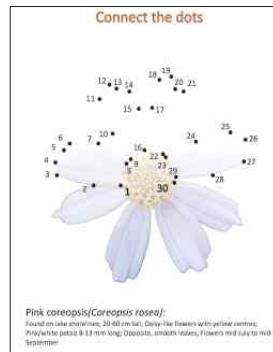
MTRI is accepting nominations for the first annual lake shoreline owner of the year contest as part of the ACPF project. ACPF as well many other native plants and animals require natural, low nutrient shoreline habitats to thrive and grow. There are many ways we can live with these species without impacting them. We would like to highlight and showcase the incredible landowners in Southwest Nova Scotia that are living with nature in a way that minimizes impacts on shoreline habitat and water quality.

We would like to hear your stories about your property, why it is special to you and how you have taken actions to maintain shoreline habitat and water quality around your lake. The deadline for submission is September 15th.

There are many fantastic prizes including an individualized painting of your property by an artist, and a plaque. Prizes will be awarded in late fall. For more information and to submit nomination form visit www.merseytobeatic.ca



For more information, please contact MTRI (682-2371) or Kejimkujik (682-2185) and request a copy of **“Healthy Lakes and Wetlands for Tomorrow: A Landowner Stewardship Guide for Species at Risk in Nova Scotia.”**



Project On The Go: Kid's Booklet

MTRI is producing a kids booklet about the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora. This booklet will provide a fun and informative way for young people to learn about this unique group of plants through games and puzzles (crosswords, connect the dots, labyrinths and more!). The future conservation of these species depends on younger generations to ensure that they will be protected and cared for, long into the future.

Congratulations!

Q: What does Yarmouth Junior High School and the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora have in common? A: Alex Cunningham. This year for his science fair project, Alex decided to investigate two Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora plants that he lives close to in the area around Carleton. His project, «L'effet d'un excès de nutriment sur le Sabatie de Kennedy et le Coreopsis Rose» is about the effect of excess nutrients on the Pink Coreopsis and the Plymouth Gentian. Alex won the People's Choice Award and his project finished in the top ten in the intermediate category in his school. Congratulations from all the ACPF researchers!



CONTACT US

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

csiba1
@ns.sympatico.ca



Pat Hudson

lindsey.beals
@merseytobeatic.ca



Lindsey Beals

brad.toms
@merseytobeatic.ca



Brad Toms

megan.nicole.crowley
@gmail.com



Megan Crowley

alain.belliveau
@merseytobeatic.ca



Alain Belliveau