

PLANT NOTES

by

L.T. Charmichael, Regina

It has often been argued that one can enjoy our wild flowers just as well without a knowledge of their names. Personally I do not think that this is so. There is a certain inner satisfaction gained by identification and positive determination, which is not only true of flowers, but of birds and insects and all wild life. The more we get acquainted with our natural surroundings, the greater will be the thrill and joy of wandering in the open.

It is remarkable how many flowers grow from the early days of spring to the dying weeks of summer on a small area. While on a Saskatoon picking expedition last season, our party spread out afternoon lunch in the shade of a poplar bluff which surrounds a very small natural meadow. This field was a real wild garden of beauty. There was not more than an acre, but on it were about fifty flowers in full bloom of late July and remains of many more which had gone to seed earlier in the summer. The thought came to us then of how splendid a project it would be to mark off a small area of this kind and make a complete inventory of every grass, sedge and other wild flower which grows there throughout the season.

Here is a project that anyone can work at. At first he will meet with many strangers among the flowers, but specimens of these can be sent to our University, or the Central Experimental Farm, Division of Botany, Ottawa, for identification - and his strangers will become friends - friends that he will meet many times, in places where he never noticed them before.

We know that some nature lovers have done this very thing. The pretty home of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Van Blaricom, of Tisdale, is situated on the crest of a wooded ravine on the outskirts of the town. Curving around below, among the trees is a narrow lagoon, teeming with a great variety of aquatic plants and animals. The flat above the wooded banks and the margin of the stream form an ideal botanical garden. The owners are not only interested in the great variety of birds which visit them each year, but have made a list of every wild plant which grows on their property. The pleasure which has been theirs in doing this can become the common property of nature enthusiasts.

The Regina Natural History Societies' wild Life sanctuary is situated in a wooded coulee on the south bank of the Qu'Appelle Valley, some twenty-five miles north and west of Regina. Overlooking the coulee on both sides are plateau-like grassy hills, so typical of the entire valley.

In the shade of the trees, in the trough and sides of the ravine, and on the sunny, bare and dry hills about it, may be found a great variety of wild flowers of various habitats. The Societies' Nature Trail winds for a mile along the floor of the valley, up the side of a steep hill, along the level meadow above and back to its starting point at the picnic ground again. Each variety of flower along the path has been named on a metal label, attached to a white painted stake, which marks its location. Here and there along the trail are suitable nature quotations, such as,

"When the book of life falls open at the page of spring  
Who does not long to enter the Kingdom of Nature  
And wander therein".

These add considerably to the general interest.

Following is a list of the common names of flowers along the trail. For those especially interested I am willing to furnish, through the medium of the "Blue Jay" the scientific names of any of them.

---

Agoseris	Red Banoberry
Alum-root	Bearberry
Agrimony	Blue Beard-tongue
Western Androsace	White Beard-tongue
Canada Anemone	Slender Beard-tongue
Smooth Aster	Northern Bedstraw
Many-flowered Aster	Sweet-scented Bedstraw
Yellow Avens	Downy Beggar-ticks
Three-flowered Avens	Bindweed

PLANT NOTES (CONTINUED)

Paper Birch	Indian Breadroot
Bladder-pod	Spiny Iron Plant
Bluebell	Low Juniper
Blue-bur	Creeping Juniper
Broom-weed	Lobed Prickly Lettuce
Low Buffalo-berry	Early Yellow Loco-weed
Burdock	Showy Loco-weed
Purple Cactus	Fringed Loosestrife
Spiny Opuntia (Cactus)	Scarlet Mallow
Fragile Opuntia (Cactus)	Heart-leaved Meadow Parsnip
Plains Cinquefoil	Early Meadow-Rue
Early Cinquefoil	Tall Meadow-Rue
Pale Comandra	Glabrate Mint
Cow Parsnip	Moehringia
Crocus Anemone	Leafy Musineon
Wild Black Current	Rough-seeded Musineon
Common Dandelion	Treacle Mustard
Red-seeded dandelion	Tumbling Mustard
Sour Dock	Wild Mustard
Red-osier Dogwood	Common Nettle
American Elm	Prairie Onion
Plains Fleabane	Clustered Oreocarya
Rough Fleabane	Penny Cress (Stinkweed)
Silvery Goldenrod	Common Pepper-grass
Low Goldenrod	Moss Phlox
Rigid Goldenrod	Pin-Cherry
Canadian Goldenrod	Poison Ivy
Northern Gooseberry	Purple Prairie Clover
Blue Grama Grass	Linear-leaved Puccoon
June Grass	Low Pussy-Paws
Virginia Wild Rye	Wild Red Raspberry
Nodding Wild Rye	Reflexed Rock-cress
Nodding Brome Grass	Hoary Sage-brush
Skunk Grass	Pasture Sage
Silvery Groundsel	Prairie Sage
Narrow-leaved Hawkweed	Wild Sarsaparilla
Round-leaved Hawthorn	Skeleton Weed
Marsh Hedge-nettle	Skunk-bush (Sumac)
Snake-root	Narrow-leaved Vetch
Western Snow-berry	Narrow-leaved Milk Vetch
Two-leaved Solomon's Seal	Canadian Milk Vetch
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal	Purple Milk Vetch
Smooth Wild Strawberry	Ascending Milk-Vetch
Smooth Sweet Cicely	Canada Violet
Canada Thistle	Wild Bergamot
Townsendia	Bush's Wood-Sorrel
Umbrella Plant	Common Wormwood
	Yarrow.

---

If you have not yet sent in the fifty-cents for renewal of your membership, please remember to do so soon. The mailing list is to be brought up to date and we are anxious that all who are interested in the "Blue Jay" continue to receive their copy. The secretary's address is 34 Sixth Ave., Yorkton, Sask.