

PENINSULA FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB NATURE NOTES

By Bert Miller

The Peninsula Field Naturalist Club was organized in St. Catharines early in 1954. Dr. W. J. H. Gunn of Toronto gave valuable assistance toward getting the Club under way.

The object of the Club was to carry on study in the Niagara Peninsula along the line of Native Botany and Ornithology.

During 1954 there were quite a number of members and we had a field trip every month up until frost in the fall. More members were added in 1955 and that season we had a field every month from Spring on and sometimes two trips a month.

Members were always on the lookout for something new in our area. In 1954 it was our good fortune to find a nice stand of the Green Dragon, (*Arisaema Dracontium*), a plant something like the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, (*Arisaema tryshillum*); and a lovely showing of the Virginia Bluebells, (*Mertensia virginica*). Also that season we observed the Wild Lupine, (*Lupinus perennis*).

During 1955 something quite new in this area was found, the American Columbo, (*Frasera caroliniensis*), a tall plant, four to five feet high; also another specimen quite rare, was observed, the Climbing Fumitory, (*Adlumia fungosa*), also known as Mountain Fringe and Alleghany Vine.

Specimens of all the above plants have been sent to the Herbariums at Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. At the Annual Meeting of the Club, held in St. Catharines, January 27th, 1956, the Club appeared to be well established and in good standing with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

We had an opportunity, during 1955 to have a field day with the Hamilton Nature Club and the Brantford Nature Club and we explored the Gorge below Beamers Falls, just south of Grimsby.

We are looking forward to the season of 1956 and hope to have new members added each year. All members seem to be well pleased that the Club was formed and with the wide interest it has brought out.