

The Wood Duck

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An Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*) in the Niagara Gorge.
Photo: D. Mills and R. Tervo, Ministry of Natural Resources.

Significant 2004 Hamilton Study Area Plant Records from the Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium (HAM)

Part II: Alphabetical Families Lardizabalaceae to Vitaceae

by Carl Rothfels

These records from the Hamilton Study Area are the result of fieldwork by RBG staff, fieldwork by other individuals who then deposited their specimens in HAM, or are from herbarium work on previously collected specimens (re-identifications, etc.). Included are any species that are listed as rare in Hamilton or Halton, or which are new records for Royal Botanical Gardens (with a few other interesting records thrown in). There is more information available on these records (including UTMs, etc.) upon request. This article is a continuation of Rothfels 2005a.

The following resources were used when determining whether or not a given species was significant in a given areas: Smith 2003 for RBG, Goodban 2004 for Hamilton, Varga et al. 2000 for Halton, and Newmaster et al. 1998 for Ontario. Since Varga et al. don't name the sites where a particular species has been found (they just give the total number of sites for each species), for Halton records I note the Halton status (as per Varga et al.), which may or may not include the site of the 2004 record. This is a different approach from that of the earlier summaries of this type (Rothfels 2003, 2004, 2005b; Rothfels, Spisani & Sylvester 2004).

Non-native records are marked with a “*.”

LARDIZABALACEAE

* *Akebia quinata* Dcne. **Fiveleaf Akebia.**

New for RBG, Halton, and Ontario. This species was planted at the “Director’s House” on Unsworth Ave., Aldershot, backing onto Hendrie Valley at Lamb’s Hollow. It is spreading from the house, across neighboring trees and shrubs, and down the forested ravine, where it is locally dominant, and very dense (100% cover). The patch extends at least 20m across, with vines reaching up to ~20m in height, and stems up to ~3cm across. It is not known to flower at this site. CJR 1038, P.Booker, B.Szenasi.

LILIACEAE

* *Allium sativum* L. **Garden Garlic.** SE2

Third and fourth Hamilton sites. 2004 has been the Year of the Garlic, for some reason. We found *Allium sativum* on Harmer Street just before it turns into Parkview Drive in Flamborough (same location as the *Helianthus pauciflorus* collection; see above), at the west end of Cootes Paradise (on the bank of Spencer Creek, fairly near an overlooked collection of this species by Melinda Thompson in 1999), and on the north shore of Cootes Paradise (edge of the ravine and the drive into the Arboretum). In all cases it was locally abundant, and showing invasive tendencies. CJR 1494; 1226; 1229, G.Lewer.

MALVACEAE

* *Hibiscus trionum* L. **Flower-of-an-hour.** SE4

New for RBG. One plant, sprawling, multi-stemmed, with hard tough stem, was growing at the base of a hard-baked pile of subsoil in the Mercer’s Glen compost area. CJR 1508.

ONAGRACEAE

Epilobium strictum Muhlenb. ex Spreng. **Soft Willow-herb.** S5

Three Halton sites. This was a surprise collection from Guelph Junction Woods, on the north side of Campbellville Road, west of Twiss Road, south of Hwy 401. I didn’t realize that we had something interesting until I looked at the specimen later in the season. CJR 1361, P.G.O’Hara.

* *Oenothera glazioviana* Micheli **Garden Evening-primrose.** SEH

New for Hamilton. Approximately 40 stems in ~3 patches were growing in a roadside ditch on the south side of Safari Road, 100m west of Brock Road, in Flamborough. This species appears to be planted around the house ~70m in off road (but we didn’t go into their yard to check..). The roadside population could thus conceivably be planted, although there were no signs of planting, nor any cultivated-style associates; it was growing with *Impatiens capensis*, *Phalaris*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Daucus*, etc. CJR 1089, M.T.Johnson. Det’d M.T.Johnson.

Oenothera oakesiana (A. Gray) Robbins ex S. Watson & Coult. **Oakes’ Evening-primrose.** S4?

New for RBG and Hamilton. As with the *Oenothera villosa*, Marc Johnson found this collection among HAM’s *Oenothera parviflora* specimens. One Tamsalu collection from the “top of gravel pit” in what would now be called the York Blvd Prairie, from 1955. This specimen was collected at the same time and place as some of the *Oenothera villosa* specimens below. Tamsalu 4480.

Oenothera pilosella Raf. ssp. *pilosella* **Meadow Sundrops.** S2

Fourth site for Hamilton. We found approximately 30 stems on the north side of 8th Concession West, ~300m e. of Valens Road, Flamborough. Origin unknown, but it would be a very odd place to plant something (no habitations near by, nor any other cultivated-style plants.) It was on the edge of the road and a hardwood swamp, with *Thelypteris palustris*, *Phalaris*, *Asclepias incarnata*, etc. CJR 1049, et al.

Oenothera villosa Thunb. ssp. *villosa* **Villose Evening-primrose.** S2

New for RBG and Hamilton. Marc Johnson generously offered to

annotate HAM's *Oenothera* specimens, and, while he has only made it through the collections from RBG properties, has already found a number of *Oenothera villosa* specimens from two stations on the north shore of Cootes Paradise (previously misidentified as *O. parviflora*). All are Tamsalu collections from the 1950s. Tamsalu 4468; 4476; 4477; 4478; 4479; 4481.

ORCHIDACEAE

Spiranthes romanzoffiana Cham. **Hooded Ladies' Tresses**. S5
New for Halton. Another very exciting find from "Paul's Fen" (see the *Aster borealis* entry –Rothfels 2005a), Guelph Junction Woods. Uncommon in small linear fen paralleling the railway. With cedars, *Juncus balticus*, *Equisetum variegatum*, *Scirpus hudsonianus*, *Carex flava*, etc. This species caused us some difficulty, with some individuals appearing more like *Spiranthes cernua*. P.G.O'Hara (HAM 18582), CJR 1410; 1411, J.L.Sylvester, S.R.Spisani. Det'd by P.M.Catling.

OXALIDACEAE

* *Oxalis corniculata* L. **Creeping Wood-sorrel**. SE1
New for RBG, second Hamilton site. I found one plant on a dry baked mound of subsoil, with *Oxalis* sp., etc., at the Mercer's Glen compost area. The earlier record from RBG Centre in Burlington (CJR 303 in Rothfels 2003) was a mis-identification of *Oxalis dillenii*. CJR 1509.

PAPAVERACEAE

* *Papaver dubium* L. **Long-headed Poppy**. SE1
Second Hamilton site? Approximately 12 stems were growing at the edge of a mound (tree formerly planted there?) in the area of the Arboretum (north shore of Cootes Paradise) that was not mowed this year. It occurred with *Thlaspi*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Carduus*, *Elymus repens*, etc. It is unlikely to have been planted there (no planted associates).

POACEAE

* *Alopecurus pratensis* L. **Meadow Foxtail**. SE5
I collected this species from Hendrie Valley where it was dominant over large areas this spring. Tamsalu's collections from the 1950s, from the same general area, describe this species as "sparsely grouped." This species could be overlooked locally due to its superficial similarity to Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). CJR 1369.

* *Apera interrupta* (L.) P. Beauv. **Interrupted Bent Grass**. SE2
Second Hamilton site. The one multi-stemmed plant growing along the railway ~200m w. of Wentworth St. South (downtown Hamilton) is on the same railway system as the 2003 Hamilton record (Rothfels 2004), although no plants were seen between the two sites. It was growing on weedy coarse gravel at edge of the railway tracks, with *Melilotus*, *Apocynum cannabinum*, *Nepeta*, etc. CJR 1051.

* *Calamagrostis epigejos* (L.) Roth **Feathertop**. SE2
This tall non-native grass was common along the tracks in Guelph Junction Woods, at Campbellville Road. The plants penetrated

away from the disturbed habitats into the sedge meadow surrounded by *Typha* at edge of swamp, with *Carex* spp., *Rosa* cf. *palustris*, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*, *Solidago uliginosa*, etc. This invasive tendency differentiates this occurrence from horticultural-escape-type occurrences, like the 2002 record from RBG (Rothfels 2003). Feathertop was also common (uncollected) where these tracks cross Carlisle Road. CJR 1339, P.G.O'Hara.

* *Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn. **Goose Grass**. SE3
North Hamilton, at the gate for the Hamilton Port Authority at the north end of Wellington Ave. This is approximately 600m north of where J.S. Pringle found this species in 1985 and 1986 (Pringle 1986). CJR 1431, G.Lewer, V.Brcic

Elymus villosus Muhl. ex Willd. **Slender Wild Rye**. S4
Fourth Hamilton site, also collected in Niagara. Over the past two years I've been seeing *Elymus villosus* quite a lot – has it had a population increase? Collection locations in 2004 include the south side of Ancaster Creek ~200m west of McMaster's Zone 7 parking area (from a wet meadow/old field/*Juglans* floodplain under the hydroline, with *Solidago* sp., *Clematis virginiana*, *Vitis riparia*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Rubus* sp., etc.) and across Cootes Drive on RBG property, along the east bank of Spencer Creek (where it was growing along the trail edge through the floodplain, with *Solidago gigantea*, *Parthenocissus*, etc.) We also found it ~500 m. southwest of Brock's Monument, Niagara. CJR 1100; 1146; 1450, D.Gugler, J.Ambrose, G.Meyers, G.Waldron, et al.

* *Eragrostis pectinacea* (Michx.) Nees ex Steud. var. *pectinacea* **Tufted Love Grass**. S5
Fifth and sixth Hamilton sites. This species appears to be common in disturbed habitats in the area. We collected it from north Hamilton (the railway tracks between Bay Street and Victoria Street) and from the High Level (~100m s. of Old Guelph Road junction). CJR 1234,1432, G.Lewer, V.Brcic.

Panicum linearifolium Nash **Narrow-leaved Panic Grass**. S4S5
Sixth Hamilton site. This little panic grass was forming a sparse ground cover, locally common, on the Escarpment lip at Spencer Gorge, Dundas. Its habit (very lax, droopy shiny leaves) was unlike the *P. linearifolium* I've seen in Algonquin Park, and should perhaps be investigated further. CJR 1493, A.Goodban, et al.

Panicum virgatum L. **Switch Grass**. S4
Fourth Hamilton site. I found this species to be uncommon and local in the Aberdeen Railyard complex 100m south of Chatham St. Some of the plants were seven feet tall, with heads 6cm in diameter. They were growing on bare gravel, including a moist gravel depression, with *Daucus*, *Salix exigua*, *Aster* sp., *Poa* cf. *compressa*, etc. CJR 1516.

* *Puccinellia distans* (Jacq.) Parl. **Reflexed Saltmarsh Grass**. SE5
There was a large population of this halophytic grass growing in moist depressions in a cultivated grain field on the south side of

York Road (Dundas/Flamborough), where it was common in dense monotypic patches. This species is not locally rare, but this is the first time that I've seen it behave as an agricultural pest. CJR 1033.

RANUNCULACEAE

Ranunculus aquatilis L. var. *diffusus* With. **White Water-crowfoot**. S5
Fifth Hamilton site? This species might be better thought of as occurring, sparsely, all along Spencer Creek between Valens and Christie Conservation Areas. We collected it this year on the south side of Concession 4 West, north of Sodom Rd, between Westover Rd and Middletown Rd. There were several small patches on disturbed fine-gravel beach of a ~stagnant section of Spencer Creek. CJR 1499, K.Ursic, et al.

ROSACEAE

Geum rivale L. **Water Avens**. S5
Five Halton sites. Paul found this species in the Guelph Junction Woods, south of Campbellville Road, just west of Campbellville, behind the houses on McClaren Road. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18620).

* *Geum urbanum* L. **Wood Avens**. SE3

This species, while reported from our properties, was not previously confirmed with a specimen (Smith 2003), and was causing some identification confusion. In 2003 and 2004, we paid particular attention to *Geum*, and ended up sending a package of specimens to Dr. Tony Reznicek, who generously annotated them all. The result of this effort is that we now recognize *Geum urbanum* as very common on RBG properties, with 13 specimens in our collection! All our records, however, are from Cootes Paradise, where this species is common along the trails; we have no specimens from the Escarpment Properties, or Hendrie Valley. *Geum urbanum* vegetatively resembles *Geum canadense*, the other woodland species (both are delicate, usually with three-lobed lower leaves), except that the stipules of *Geum urbanum* are huge. Its small bright yellow flowers are also distinctive (*G. canadense* has white flowers). *Geum allepicum* has different foliage, larger paler flowers, and is a species of meadows. We have five additional records from elsewhere in Hamilton, one from Halton, and one from Haliburton (CJR 1389). The earliest specimen of *Geum urbanum* in our collection is from 1949 (J.A.Riddell 49), from "Hamilton."

* *Geum Xcatlingii* J.-P. Bernard & Gaut. **Catling's Avens**. SE1

New for RBG, Hamilton, Halton, Niagara. Dr. Tony Reznicek was extremely helpful in annotating our *Geum* specimens, and pointing out the characteristics of this taxon. Once we were able to recognize it, we found it fairly commonly wherever its parents (*Geum canadense* and *Geum urbanum*) co-occurred. It has stipules intermediate between its parents, light yellow (or cream coloured) flowers, and tends to bloom throughout the summer, long after other *Geum* have shed their petals. We have nine specimens from RBG property, including one from Hendrie Valley (J.S.Pringle 2530, CJR 620; 1081; 1143; 1145; 1215; 1240; 1313; 1314, S.R.Spisani,

J.L.Sylvester, T.Sword, E.Oberndorfer, D.Gugler, A.Purdy); one additional record from along Spencer Creek in Hamilton (CJR 1075); one additional record from Halton (Nelson Escarpment Woods: CJR 1279, E.Oberndorfer), and three records from Niagara (HAM 18084, C.J.Rothfels 1451; 1455, T.W.Smith, E.Oberndorfer, J.Ambrose, G.Meyers, G.Waldrone, et al.)

* *Potentilla Xinclinata* Vill. **Downy Cinquefoil**. SE4

We made six collections of this taxon from railways in Hamilton this year; it appears to be widespread and fairly common in this habitat. CJR 1050; 1053; 1086; 1428; 1435; 1521, A.Goodban, M.T.Johnson, G.Lewer, V.Brcic, et al.

Rosa palustris Marshall **Marsh Rose**. S5

Two Halton sites. This species was locally common around a woodland pond in moist disturbed (selective logging) woodlot, under *Carya ovata*, *Acer saccharum* ssp. *saccharum*, with *Glyceria striata*, *Carex crinita*, etc., in Nelson Escarpment Woods ESA, Extension 6A. CJR 1276, E.Oberndorfer.

Galium tinctorium L. **Stiff Marsh Bedstraw**. S5

One Halton site. One collection from the Nelson Escarpment Woods ESA, Extension 6A (woodlot on the southeast corner of the intersection of #1 Sideroad and Walker's Line) where it was uncommon in a moist disturbed (selective logging) woodlot. It was growing along the edge of a woodland pond, with *Glyceria striata*, *Impatiens* sp., *Stium suave*, *Bidens* sp., etc. I didn't realize that this species was rare in Halton; this specimen should probably be confirmed by an expert (dratted little bedstraws!) CJR 1282, E.Oberndorfer.

SALICACEAE

Salix serissima (L.H. Bailey) Fern. **Autumn Willow**. S5

Three Halton sites. Paul was on a roll for Autumn Willow, finding it at the Limehouse Conservation Area and on the backside of the Neeland Property, Sayer's Mills corners, (bounded by 20 and 15 Sideroads and 5th and 6th Lines). Both plants were in wet habitats. P.G.O'Hara s.n., C.J.Rothfels (HAM 18276; HAM 18597).

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Gratiola neglecta Torr. **Clammy Hedge-hyssop**. S4

One Halton site. This little dude was locally common in a moist disturbed (selective logging) woodlot, with *Onoclea*, *Penthorum*, *Callitriche palustris*, etc., in small pond in canopy gap (Nelson Escarpment Woods ESA, Extension 6A – the woodlot on the southeast corner of the intersection of #1 Sideroad and Walker's Line). CJR 1285, E.Oberndorfer

Lindernia dubia (L.) Pennell var. *dubia* **False Pimpernell**. S4

One Halton site. Another small scroph, this species was rare on the mucky margin of a rich meadow at the edge of a slow creek/fast reservoir, with *Echinochloa crusgalli*, *Polygonum lapathifolium*, *Leersia oryzoides*, etc. Limehouse Conservation Area. CJR 1400, P.G.O'Hara.

* *Verbascum phlomoides* L. **Clasping-leaved Mullein**. SE1
New for Hamilton. A single multi-branched plant, over two metres tall, was growing in a portion of previously-mowed turf of the RBG Arboretum that has been allowed to go fallow this year (see *Melissa* record above), where it occurred with some odd associates: *Arctium minus*, *Melissa*, *Origanum*, *Cirsium vulgare*, etc. Arrived in fill or compost from another area? Note: this species was also seen this year (but not collected) by the Rose Garden Teahouse, and in a vacant lot between RBG Centre and the Laking Garden, both of which are fairly near the 2003 Rose Garden record (Rothfels 2004, 2005b). CJR 1212, A.Purdy.

* *Veronica filiformis* Sm. **Hair-like Speedwell**. SE2
Four sites in Hamilton. I found this species in 2004 on the east side of Ancaster Creek, by McMaster Zone 7 Parking Area, which is intermediate between the Cootes Paradise and Dundas Valley populations reported earlier (Rothfels 2003, 2005b; Rothfels, Spisani & Sylvester 2004). It was dominant as a dense mat, 20m x 4m, on the slope above floodplain of small creek. Area has high past human disturbance. Under *Acer negundo* and *Fraxinus* sp., with *Rubus occidentalis*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Parthenocissus*, *Aegopodium*, *Hesperis*, etc. CJR 1076.

SMILACACEAE

Smilax lasioneura Hook. **Hairy-nerved Carrion Flower**. S4
One Halton site. One plant, 2.5 feet tall, in the Nelson Escarpment Woods ESA, Extension 6A (the woodlot on the southeast corner of the intersection of #1 Sideroad and Walker's Line). It was growing with two plants of *S. herbacea*: their leaves were glabrous; leaves of this individual are distinctly but lightly scabrous beneath. In an opening in selectively-cut hardwood woodlot, with *Fraxinus* seedlings, *Geranium robertianum*, *Circaea*, *Alliaria*, *Aster macrophyllus*, etc. CJR 1374. Verified by Dr. Peter Ball.

SOLANACEAE

* *Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller **Tomato**. SE2
New for RBG and Hamilton. There was one plant growing in a long-unmaintained flower bed, with wood chips, at edge of the Cootes Paradise York Rd. parking lot, with *Taraxacum*, *Setaria* sp., *Portulaca oleracea*, *Polygonum convolvulus*, etc. (an escape from someone's picnic?), and three plants on rich topsoil/coarse wood debris piles in the Mercer's Glen compost area. CJR 1246; 1507.

* *Petunia Xhybrida* Hort. **Petunia**. SE1
New for RBG and Hamilton. I felt pretty embarrassed collecting this one, let me tell you (even worse than collecting the Tomato..). There were three plants growing on a mound of dry baked subsoil in the Mercer's Glen compost area. CJR 1509.

SPARGANIACEAE

Sparganium americanum Nutt. **Nuttall's Bur-reed**. S4?
Four Halton sites. This species was growing in shallow water along a

tributary of Bronte Creek just south of No.3 Sideroad, Guelph Junction Woods. P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM18588).

ULMACEAE

Ulmus thomasi Sarg. **Rock Elm**. S4?
Two Halton sites. This year we found two stations ~500m apart, in ESA #25A (Hilton Falls Complex Extension A – near Sayers Mills). They were on the edge of a rocky meadow on shallow soils, an alvar-like habitat, with *Quercus macrocarpa*, *Acer saccharum*, *Ulmus americana*, *Cornus alternifolia*, and *Rhamnus cathartica*. CJR 1418, P.G.O'Hara s.n. (HAM 18621), S.R.Spisani, J.L.Sylvester.

Special thanks to everyone who submitted specimens this year, especially Paul O'Hara. Several authorities assisted with identifications that were beyond me: Marc Johnson generously examined many of our *Oenothera* specimens, and uncovered the new species listed here; Tony Reznicek graciously examined our *Geum* specimens, as well as some sedges; Mihai Costea identified the *Amaranthus tuberculatus* var. *rudis*; Stephen Darbyshire confirmed the *Heracleum mantegazzianum* specimens; Paul Catling verified the *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*, and Peter Ball confirmed the *Smilax lasioneura*. Finally, Dr. Jim Pringle was again of great assistance with specimen identification, literature searches, and general herbarium matters.

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Volunteers Needed for Cartwright Nature Sanctuary Spring Field Work

by Alan Ernest

This spring we will be marking the boundaries of our newest sanctuary and doing further field work to identify species present on the property. Volunteers with good botanical identification skills are needed to assist with plant survey work, while we need people comfortable working in varied terrain and able to carry a moderate load to help out with boundary marking. The outings are scheduled as follows:

**Saturday May 7th, 9 am – 12:30 pm:
Plant Survey**

**Saturday May 21st, 1 pm – 5 pm:
Boundary Marking**

**Saturday June 4th, 9 am – 12:30 pm:
Plant Survey**

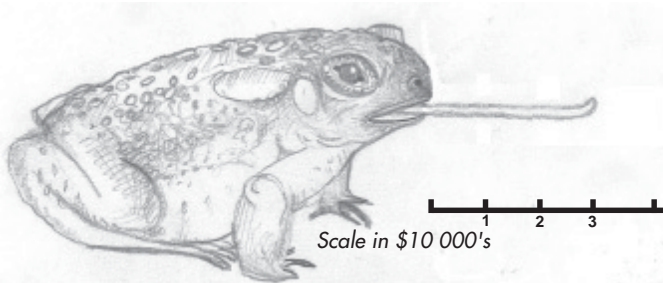
**Wednesday June 22nd, 6 pm – 9 pm:
Solstice Plant and Wildlife survey.**

In all cases we will meet at the parking lot for Borer's Falls Conservation Area located on the north side of York Road

in Dundas, 150 metres west of Valley Road. From there we will car pool to the closest access to the sanctuary – so please don't be late! Contact Alan Ernest (905) 689-9466 or ernest@interlynx.net if you are able to help out.

In addition to these scheduled outings Bob Curry and Glenda Slessor will be coordinating bird surveys on the Cartwright Sanctuary this May and June.

Over the summer and early fall we will need volunteers to help out with developing a loop trail and erecting signage. All of this work will help us get ready to invite HNC members and local residents to start visiting the new Nature Sanctuary this fall. We are planning a grand opening celebration this fall (tentatively scheduled for October 1) and we need volunteers to help with many tasks on that day and in preparation for it. Please contact Alan Ernest at the number/address above if you would like to be involved in trail work or in helping with the opening celebration. ☒



Help the Cartwright Toad
get dinner!



We've succeeded in raising \$31 100 towards our goal of \$180 000 for the Cartwright Nature Sanctuary. Please give! Contact the Club treasurer (Jim Stollard - 905 634-3538; jjstollard@direct.com) or sanctuary director (Warren Beacham - 905 627-3343; wbeach808@sympatico.ca) for more information.