



The intrepid group of naturalists



rattlesnake hawkweed  
(*Hieracium venosum*)

The hot, sunny day didn't deter us from exploring an eastern section of the Goulais River Beach Ridges Conservation Reserve. We accessed the Reserve via the powerline ROW and adjacent two-track just 1 km west on Pine Shores Road from 17 HWY. Black bear and moose tracks were seen, which is not surprising for this area. We ended up finding two provincially tracked plants which was really cool. The group found a new site with *Carex wiegandii* (Wiegand's sedge; bottom, two images on left), which adds to numerous sites documented throughout the Cons. Res. over the past few years, essentially from the east end of the Reserve to the west end near Goulais Bay. The huge surprise was finding a nice population of *Hieracium venosum* (rattlesnake hawkweed). Only recent records place it on Ile Parisienne (just to the west in L. Superior) and Pinery Provincial Park in S. Ontario. Rob submitted a request to the Ontario MECP to collect a voucher specimen to be submitted to a regional herbarium. The blueberries were just starting to ripen and we ate our fair share. There were good examples of our two varieties of early lowbush blueberry, although the varietal status is no longer recognized according to VASCAN. In the image below (two images, right) there is the variety *nigrum* (bluish green foliage; produces black fruit) adjacent the more typical variety *laevifolium*. We also saw velvet-leaved blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*). There were some beautiful orchids in bloom and some cool carnivorous plants (see accompanying pages). Was a great day to get out and explore this beautiful area that ended with coffee and pie at the Northwinds Restaurant.



Wiegand's sedge (distinctive fruits and wide leaves when compared to similar species) – *Carex wiegandii*



early lowbush blueberry – *Vaccinium angustifolium*



Top: Cicada, boreal bog sedge (*Carex magellanica* subsp. *irrigua*)

Middle: exploring the flora (Tiina, Anik, and Erik in foreground), round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) – we provided some nourishment to one plant

Bottom: alpine clubrush (*Trichophorum alpinum*), *Sphagnum wulfianum*, swamp yellow loosestrife aka swamp candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*)





Top: Michaux's sedge (*Carex michauxiana*), northern pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)

Middle: spoon-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*)

Bottom: ragged fringed orchid (*Platanthera lacera*), club-spur orchid (*Platanthera clavellata*), tawny cottongrass in bloom (*Eriophorum virginicum*)

