

## 2004 Field Meeting

The 2004 Joint field Meeting of the Botanical Society of America, Eastern Division, with the Torrey Botanical Society and the Philadelphia Botanical was held on June 13-17<sup>th</sup> at Wildwood Lodge on Red Bay, Ontario, Canada. This was on the famed Bruce Peninsula which separates Georgia Bay from the main section of Lake Huron and is noted for its rich flora, particularly orchids and ferns, diverse habitats including limestone pavements and cliffs, mixed forests, fens and marshes. This unique area has plants characteristic of the prairies, of the Atlantic shorelines, of the deciduous forests to the south and the arctic tundra to the north, all growing side by side with the Great Lakes endemics. It was a botanical treat for all seventy-five participants.

We were divided into four groups with local leaders for the three days of field trips including one to the Niagara Escarpment to see the ancient white cedars (*Thuja occidentalis*) some of which were well over 700 years old. Other highlights included a trip by boat to Flower Pot Island that has a wealth of botanical diversity and on the mainland eastern shore we were shown a globally rare thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) in bloom. And of course the lady's slippers were at their best, both yellow and showy.

Evening programs with slide shows rounded out the program, which all in all was very successful. The Bruce is a popular botanical destination and our only regret was that we had to turn away so many interested people.

Nancy N. Williams, Chairman