

The following was provided by Lisa A. Standley, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE 919th NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB MEETING
JUNE 7, 1996

The 692st meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc., being the 919th since the original organization, met at the Harvard University Herbaria with 35 members and guests present. This was the first meeting held at an earlier time (6 PM), with refreshments preceding the meeting.

Following a summary of the minutes of the previous meeting, President Hudson announced future meetings, including the September "Away" meeting at North Adams State College and the October meeting. He invited comments on the new meeting time. Several members commented that it was very difficult to get to the meeting during rush hour traffic, and that the time was difficult for people who work. A compromise of 6:45 or 7 PM was suggested. There was a consensus that refreshments prior to the meeting was good, and that coffee should also be served. The HUH Seminar Room is likely to be too small to accommodate most meetings of the Club, so the Biological Laboratories Lecture Room will continue to be used. Club members agreed to reschedule some future meetings for an earlier time.

In response to the call for new business, old business, and gossip, John Barrett described a recent field trip to the Hale Reservation, where 45 species of mosses occur. He recommended that the Club provide more speakers on bryophytes at future meetings. John also called the Club's attention to threats to Brazil's Pantanal, where navigation improvement projects may result in changes in the hydrology of the world's largest wetland.

Don introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Garrett Crow of the University of New Hampshire, who spoke on "**Botanizing in Newfoundland: In Anticipation of the Centennial Field Excursion.**" Garrett and Barre Hellquist will lead the field excursion in early July. Garrett exhibited commendable restraint in limiting his presentation to only two slide projectors and carousels. Those who were not actually going on the field trip got a day-by-day overview of the trip, with scenic vistas and closeups of the flora. The seminar room only needed a fog and wind machine to make the experience complete!

The first field trip, to the limestone barrens of Table Mountain, featured alpine vegetation at 2700 feet in the severe coastal environment. This site was botanized by Fernald on his first Newfoundland trip 86 years ago. Trees, including spruce and tamarack, grow ankle high. Other highlights include dwarf willows, *Dryas*, *Lobelia kalmii*, *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *planipetalum*, and *Arenaria rubella*. En route to the next trip in Gros Morne National Park, the armchair field trip stopped at a raised bog along the highway, featuring *Scirpus caespitosus*, *Eriophorum spissum*, *Arethusa*, and *Schizaea pusilla* (hard to find, but common).

The Serpentine Tablelands, now in Gros Morne National Park, were a favorite collecting area of Fernald's. Unusual species on the serpentine rubble include pitcher plants (official plant of the province), *Lychnis alpina*, *Armeria maritima*, *Primula mistassinica*, *Pinguicula*, *Adiantum aleuticum*, and *Arenaria marcesens*. A boat trip up the freshwater fjord of Western Pond Brook provided spectacular scenery of 2000-ft vertical cliffs and waterfalls.

The trip continued north along the coast to St. Anthony and Cape Norman, tundra environment where views of icebergs are guaranteed, and cold weather gear is a must. The trip visited L'Anse aux Meadows, site of the reconstructed Norse settlement and sod houses, and crossed the Straits of Belle Isle to Labrador and the historic Basque whaling station at Red Bay. Plant highlights included *Primula laurentiana*, *Carex scirpoidea*, *Silene acaulis*, and *Sedum roseum*. All of Garrett's photos seem to feature more rocks than plants!

Following the "organized" portion of the trip, the armchair travelers continued around Newfoundland, through the old fishing village of Twillingate, to the seabird colonies on the cliffs of the Avalon Peninsula, and to St. John's before catching the ferry back to Sydney, Nova Scotia.