

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.
Brokenhead Fen and Libau Bog Field Trip, July 9, 2016

The Brokenhead fen contains some different orchids than the June array. The Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve, designated in the summer of 2005, was created to preserve and protect a calcareous fen, a wetland type considered rare in North America. The ecological reserve contains 23 species of provincially rare and uncommon plants as well as 28 of Manitoba's 36 native orchid species.

In the spring and summer of 2007 and 2008, NOCI collected seeds from native orchids (dragon's mouth [*Arethusa bulbosa*], lesser rattle-snake (*Goodyera repens*), heart-leaf twayblade (*Listera cordata*) in both the Libau and Brokenhead reserves. This was done in accordance with a national program, led by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, to preserve seeds of wild plants in support of Canada's international commitment at the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Situated in the Interlake Plain sub-region of the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region, the Libau Bog Ecological Reserve preserves and protects a flat and poorly drained floating sedge bog and black spruce-tamarack bog, as well as the 11 species of orchids found there. This floating sedge bog is classified as a quaking bog, formed when a mat of vegetation grows over a shallow pond. The bog is adjacent to the Mars Hill Wildlife Management Area, an end-moraine ridge comprised of sand and gravel, with a few bog areas interspersed. The area is dominated by aspen forest and extensive stands of jack pine. White spruce, black spruce and balsam fir are also found here. Wildflowers grow in profusion in open areas and a few grassland areas with tall-grass prairie species have been identified. The WMA contains an important wintering area for deer, along with the occasional moose and black bear. Ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, spruce grouse, a variety of raptors, and numerous non-game birds breed and migrate through the area.

Brokenhead Fen species list

Orchids:

Small yellow lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*)
Large Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*)
Spotted coral-root (*Corallorhiza maculata*)
Striped coral-root (*Corallorhiza striata*)
Dragon's-mouth (*Arethusa bulbosa*)
Showy lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*)
Ram's-head lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium arietinum*)
Small round-leaved orchid (*Galearis rotundifolia*)
Early coral-root (*Corallorhiza trifida*) (seed pods)
Bog orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis* or *huronensis*)
White bog-orchid (or bog candle) (*Platanthera dilatata*)
Long-bracted orchid (*Dactylorhiza viridis*)
Hooker's rein-orchid (*Platanthera hookeri*)
Blunt-leaf rein-orchid (*P. obtusata*)
Grass pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)

Heart-leaved twayblade (*Neottia cordata*)
White adder's-mouth (*Malaxis monophyllos*)

Wildflowers and Shrubs:

Fringed milkwort or gaywings (*Polygala paucifolia*)
Bastard toadflax or pale commandra (*Commandra umbellata*)
Golden corydalis (*Corydalis aurea*)
Wild strawberry (*Fragaria* sp.)
Northern starflower (*Trientalis borealis*)
Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
Greenland primrose (*Primula egaliksensis*)
Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*)
Common horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)
Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)
Climbing bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)
Indian hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*)
Bicknell's geranium (*Geranium bicknellii*)
Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
High bush-cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*)
Downy arrowwood (*Viburnum rafanesquianum*)
Philadelphia fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*)
Creamy peavine (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*)
Common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*)
Seaside arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*)
Wild lily of the valley (*Maianthemum canadense*)
Large white ground-cherry (*Physalis grandiflora*)
Twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*)
Common bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*)
Blue-bead lily (*Clintonia borealis*)
Common pink wintergreen (*Pyrola asarifolia*)
Strawberry blight (*Chenopodium capitatum*)
Spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)
Wild comfrey (*Cynoglossum virginianum*)
Swamp fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera oblongifolia*)
Twining honeysuckle (*Lonicera dioica* var. *glaucescens*)
Coltsfoot (*Petasites* spp.)
Goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*)
Bishop's cap (*Mitella nuda*)
Bog violet (*Viola nephrophylla*)
Buck bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)
Dewberry (*Rubus pubescens*)
Wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
Northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*)
Wild rose (*Rosa* spp.)
Sundew (*Drosera* spp.)
Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum* spp.)
Green wintergreen (*Pyrola virens*)
Bog birch (*Betula grandulosa*)
Boletus spp. mushroom
Snakeroot (*Sanicula marilandica*)
Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)
Coral fungus (*Clavariaceae* spp.)
Bladder campion (*Silene cucubalus*)
Mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*)
Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*)
Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
Rock cress (*Arabis* spp.)
Bluebur (*Lappula squarrosa*)
Oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
One-flowered wintergreen (*Moneses uniflora*)
Small bog cranberry (*Oxycoccus microcarpus*)
Sun-loving sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera villosa*)
Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)

Libau Bog species

Dragon's mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*)
Ram's head lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium arietinum*)
Small round-leaved orchid (*Galearis rotundifolia*)
Round-leaved rein-orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*)
Slender ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes lacera*)
Red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
Grass-pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)
White adder's-mouth (*Malaxis monophyllos*)
Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*)