

Brokenhead Wetlands Interpretive Trail Field Trip
Native Orchid Conservation Inc. - June 22, 2013

Today we have a sneak-peek at the new trail into the Brokenhead Wetlands. The Brokenhead Wetlands Interpretive Trail is a 1.5 km self-guiding nature trail presently under construction by the Province of Manitoba. It is located on a 100 m strip of Crown Land just adjacent to the 1240 ha Brokenhead Wetlands Ecological Reserve in Scantebury, Manitoba. These wetlands are home to 28 of Manitoba's 37 orchid species, ten species of carnivorous plants and 23 other rare plants. Riverside Gravel Inc. made it possible to use this strip of land for the trail by kindly giving up their gravel rights to it. Initially in 1998 NOCI and the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation lobbied the provincial government for protection of the wetlands. Later Debwendon Inc., a non-profit corporation made up of three partners - Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Manitoba Model Forest and Native Orchid Conservation Inc. - spearheaded the setting aside of the Ecological Reserve and development of this trail. They fundraised for it and are responsible for the design of its interpretive features. The Province of Manitoba contributed \$1million to its construction and NOCI director, the late Eugene Reimer, contributed an endowment of \$600,000 through the Winnipeg Foundation for maintenance of the trail. The trail is projected to be finished by June 2014. For more information on this project please see www.nativeorchid.org

Plant Species List:

Parking Lot

Small yellow lady-slippers (*C. parviflorum var makasin*)
Fringed milkwort (Gaywings)(*Polygala paucifolia*)
Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
Yellow and pink corydalis (*Corydalis aurea*) and (*Corydalis sempervirens*)
High bush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)
Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans var rydbergii*)
Bishop's-cap (*Mitella nuda*)
Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
Wild strawberry (*Fragaria spp.*)
Dewberry (*Rubus pubescens*)
Horsetail (*Equisetum spp.*)
Wild Lily of the Valley (*Maianthemum canadense*)
Bicknell's geranium (*Gernanium bicknellii*)
Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)

Trail

Northern starflower (*Trientalis borealis*)
Colts foot (arrow-leaved and palmate-leaved) (stake 2) *Petasites saggitatus* and *Petasites palmatus*)
Squirrels nest (stake 28)
Large erratic (stake 32)
Mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*)

Blue-stain fungus (*Grosmannia clavigera*) or (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*) (stake 52)
Round-leaved Rein Orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*) in bud (on trail) (stake 72-73)
Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) grove (stake 76)
Kidney-leaved violet (*Viola reniform*) (77)
Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) field (99)
Cotton grass (*Eriophorum spp.*)
Twisted stalk (*Streptopus spp.*)
Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*)
Goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*) (not in bloom)
Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*) (not in bloom)

Fen

Dragon's-mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*) (104)
Tamarack (*Larix laracinia*)
Pitcher (*Sarracenia purpurea*) plants (105)
Small cottongrass (*Eriophorum spp.*)
Bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*)
Potentilla spp.
Large yellow Lady's-slippers (*C.parviflorum var pubescens*)
Buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*)
Showy Lady's-slippers (*C.reginae*) (not blooming)
Bog violets (*Viola palustris*)
Small round-leaved orchid (*Amerorchis rotundifolia*)
Three-leaved false solomon's-seal (*Smilacina trifolia*)

Photos by Eugene Reimer and Rose Kuzina



Pink corydalis



Bicknell's geranium



Small round-leaved orchid



Dragon's-mouth orchid



Carnivorous pitcher plant



The pitcher of the pitcher plant



Bishop's cap & close-up

