

Monday, June 6, 2005



Harebell – *Campanula rotundifolia*



Dwarf hawk's beard – *Crepis nana*



Red-tipped lousewort – *Pedicularis flammea*



Purple saxifrage, Mayflower – *Saxifraga oppositifolia*

# BEAUTY ON THE BARRENS



Roseroot – *Sedum rosea*

Residents of the Great Northern Peninsula have a paradise of natural beauty growing in their backyards.

Showy mounds of arctic-alpine plants appear in vibrant jewel-like colors on the limestone barrens of the peninsula from early spring to late summer.

The area extending from Port au Choix National Historic Site to Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve is a hotspot of plant diversity on the Island.

Of the 298 species of rare plants on the Island of Newfoundland, 104 occur in this eco-region and 22 of these species are only found here. Three of these plants, which are listed as species at risk, are found nowhere else in the world!

These barrens are very high in calcium. Many of the plants growing here are calcium specialists. This allows the plants to thrive on the limestone

barrens where other plants cannot.

Merritt Lyndon Fernald, a botanist at Harvard University, drew attention to the rare plants of the barrens in the early 1900s.

In recent years scientists have identified the limestone barrens as a rare and fragile ecosystem.

Local residents, students, naturalists, and scientists are working together to conserve the natural heritage of the limestone barrens habitat. Their goal is to ensure that these beautiful plants and their habitat remain for future generations.

TEXT AND PHOTOS  
BY DULCIE HOUSE



Bird's-eye primrose – *Primula laurentiana*



Woolly arnica – *Arnica augustifolia* subsp. *Tomentosa*



Barrens willow (rare, endangered) – *Salix jejuna*



Fairy slipper orchid – *Calypso bulbosa*



Chickweed – *Cerastium alpinum*



Lapland rosebay – *Rhododendron lapponicum*



Burnt Cape Cinquefoil – *Potentilla usticapensis*