

Warwickshire Flora Group

Newsletter No. 1 March 2011.

LATEST NEWS.

The first Warwickshire Dodder plant for 38 years has been found in Steve Lane's garden in Fillongley. Brian Laney has had the plant confirmed as Yellow Dodder *Cuscuta campestris* by John Poland and it is now in the herbarium in the Warwick Museum.

DON'T FORGET THE BRANDON MARSH BIOBLITZ!

Botanists and of course all other wildlife recorders are wanted for the Bioblitz at Brandon Marsh on the weekend of 3rd, 4th and 5th June. The main recording day is on the Saturday, at about 10 a.m. and a complimentary lunch will be provided if you contact Caroline Temple in advance on 02476 308993 or e-mail C.Temple@wkw.org.uk

WILDFLOWER RECORDING: WHAT DO WE WANT?

The wildflower season is nearly upon us again, and your botanical records are important to us. You can send in casual records of plants that you see when you are walking through the countryside, or long site lists from your favourite places.

- We need records of common species as well as rarities.
- We also want to know if rare plants are still there. If you have time to "mentor" a local rare plant and visit it every year or two please do not feel silly sending a record in every time.
- If you find a common species, you only need to send in one record for it from each 1km square with a six figure grid reference.
- For rare species (see Steven's book) a six figure grid reference is also fine, but if you can provide a ten figure grid reference that would be even better.

HOW TO SEND IN RECORDS

- By post, either using WBRC pink slips or lists to 46 Hill Top, Baddesley Ensor, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2BQ or by e-mail to johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk. (Tel.no.01827-712455)
- Include name of site, date seen, name of plant, grid reference, habitat and any comments you feel are important.
- We would like you to use an Excel Spreadsheet if you are planning to send in a long list. Agni at the Museum has designed a template which we can send you.

WHERE DO THEY GO?

- To the BSBI database which was used to produce the massive New Atlas of the British Flora in 2002. There is a third atlas planned for around 2024.
 - To various targeted national projects such as the current Threatened Species Project, more of which below.
 - To the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre at Warwick Museum, often in more detail, where they contribute to the knowledge and history of local wildlife sites.
- If you visit the BSBI website, (you do not need to be a member to do so), you can access up-to-date Distribution Maps for any species in Great Britain.

WANTED!

1. Are there any botanists out there with a little specialist knowledge of groups like sedges, aquatics, hawkweeds, ferns or anything else, who would be willing to lead a field visit/workshop next year?
2. Short articles for the next Newsletter coming out in the Autumn.
3. A computer-friendly soul to run a Warwickshire Flower blogsite.

BSBI THREATENED PLANTS PROJECT

The BSBI is currently asking botanists to look out for and comprehensively survey sites for a range of nationally threatened plants. Warwickshire has joined in year four of this five year project.

The species chosen for 2011 year are:

<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	Lesser Water-plantain
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder
<i>Galium pumilum</i>	Slender Bedstraw
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Round-fruited Rush
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Spreading Hedge-parsley

Michael Senior has agreed to help coordinate the project and there will be a few additional field meetings during the summer. If you would like to help with this survey work or would like details of the sites, please ask.

The species list for 2012 has already been announced:

<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged orchid
<i>Persicaria minor</i>	Small Water-pepper
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Corn Buttercup
<i>Vicia parviflora</i>	Slender Tare

If you come across any sites, (we know about Ufton Fields and Draycote Meadows) for any of the plants on either list, can you please tell us a.s.a.p.

RECENT NAME CHANGES

When the third edition of Clive Stace's *New Flora of the British Isles* was published in 2010 there were a few changes to some of the Scientific Names. Here are some of the most common Warwickshire wildflowers that have changed:

Autumnal Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> has become <i>Scorzoneroides autumnalis</i>
Blue Fleabane	<i>Erigeron acer</i> has become <i>Erigeron acris</i>
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i> has expanded into <i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> is now <i>Ficaria verna</i>
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> has become <i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>
Watercress	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> is now <i>Nasturtium officinale</i>

Betony, Hartstongue Fern, Hedge bedstraw & Common Twayblade have also been changed.

There are three pages of name changes all together, but the majority are of uncommon species. You can find a full list of the changes on the BSBI website or we can e-mail them to you. It would help us to process your records if you use these up-to-date names.

STEVEN FALK NATURAL HISTORY WALKS 2011

Steven Falk, from Warwick Museum is holding a series of four botanical walks on **Wednesday mornings** between 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Wellies or walking boots recommended.

There will be a £5 charge and booking is via Heritage Education 01926 412069. Venues are

May 11 th	Clowes Wood , park at Wood Lane car park (SP10157433)
June 15 th	Nebsworth Downs , near Ilmington. Meet in car park of Hidcote Gardens (SP11734305)
July 13 th	Burton Dassett Hills . Meet at the Beacon SP39455208 Car parking charges may also apply at top of hill, ask for arrangements.
August 10 th	Edge Hill Woodlands . Park at the Castle Pub, Edge Hill Village, SP37364739 (parking along the road)