



# Fairy Slipper

The term *calypso* means “hidden,” and is given in reference to the mythical sea nymph of Homer’s ‘Odyssey,’ and her concealment of Ulysses. *Bulbosa* refers to the bulb-shaped corm of the Fairy Slipper.

Although it can be found throughout Manitoba, this delightful and elusive orchid favours the habitat of lowland coniferous woodlands, choosing to nestle in the undergrowth of spruce, cedar and fir trees. Its brief appearance makes it a treasure to find.

Fairy Slipper usually features one stem (6-21 cm), encased in two or three sheaths on its bottom half. It bears only one ridged, ovate leaf, which grows from the corm in September, remaining green throughout winter and until the early summer’s bloom has withered and the seeds are dispersed. The darkish-pink 3 sepals and 2 upper petals reach out from the base. The slipper-like lip is pink or white, streaked with purple lines at the top half, purple spots at the centre of the rim and sports a tuft of bright yellow above the white bottom half. Two tiny “tusks” protrude from the bottom of the blossom.

Several species of bumblebees are pollinators of this orchid species.

Be sure to look for it from mid-May to mid-June in southern Manitoba, and up to Mid-July in northernly areas.

## On the Fringe ...

Conserve Native Plants Society will begin the work of seeding the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid this month in its preferred habitat, south of Winnipeg.



Fairy Slipper  
*Calypso bulbosa*  
Photo by Bud Ewacha

(C.N.P.S.) Conserve Native  
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**Please remember to renew  
your membership.**

## 2007 CNPS Field Trip Schedule

Please note the following schedule for planned CNPS field trips.

**Saturday, May 19** - Trans-Canada East

Bloodroot, Crocus, Three-flowered Avens and Trailing Arbutus.

**Saturday, May 26** - Brokenhead Wetlands and Belair Provincial Forest

Dragon's Mouth Orchid, Moccasin Flower and many other orchids.

**Saturday, June 2** - Woodridge Area

Showy Lady's-slippers, Small Round-leaved Orchids, Blunt-leaved Orchid, and other native plants.

**Saturday, June 16** - Agassiz Forest Reserve

Rose Pegonia, Tall Leafy Green Orchid, Loesel's Twayblade, Wood Lilies and more.

**Saturday, July 7** - Vita to Buffalo Point

Western Prairie Fringed and Purple Fringed Orchids.

**Saturday, July 14** - Trans-Canada East

Milkweed, Cactus, Iron Weed, Lilies and other native plants.

Field trips are limited to members of CNPS and their families. There will be a \$10 charge to cover the costs of these field trips, and you may have to sign a liability waiver. Please use your own discretion as to whether you are able to participate depending on the degree of difficulty walking. We do not make any guarantees that you will see every plant mentioned in bloom, but we do guarantee an interesting and informative hike with wonderful people, plants and animals to meet. If interested, please contact Bud Ewacha as early as possible at 253-4741.

Please dress suitably for the weather, as we intend to go rain or shine. Hats, lunches, sun-screen and drinking water are strongly recommended. You will be notified if a trip has to be cancelled for any reason.

