



Clay Cliffs Natural Area

Floristic Quality Assessment Results

A Floristic Quality Assessment of Clay Cliffs Natural Area was conducted by Liana May during the summer of 2012, with an addendum in 2015.

Floristic quality assessments (FQAs) are a useful tool to measure a plant community's conservation value. To perform an FQA, all vascular plant species in a community are quantified and an index representing the rarity of these species is summed to give a ranking that can be compared across different ecosystem types. This information can then be used to identify high-quality species and groupings of species in order to prioritize conservation and management efforts. At Clay Cliffs Natural Area the total number of species and native species are:

Native Species	Total Species
163	225

The coefficient of conservation (C) is a value between 0 and 10 assigned to each species, representing the species likelihood to occur in an unaltered, pre-European settlement landscape in the state of Michigan (Herman et al 2001). A C-value of 0 is assigned to species with low fidelity to their natural habitat and the ability to persist in numerous habitat conditions. A C-value of 0 is assigned to invasive species, also called adventives. At Clay Cliffs Natural Area the mean C-values are:

Native Mean C	Mean C w/ Adventives
4.2	3

The coefficient of wetness (W) is assigned to each species depending on their probability to occur in wetlands, where species with a W-value of -5 are obligatory wetland species, and those with a W-value of +5 are upland species. At Clay Cliffs Natural Area the mean coefficients of wetness are:

Native Mean W	Mean W w/ Adventives
1.2	1.7

FQIs less than 20 have minimal significance, while FQIs greater than 35 represent areas of conservation importance and are floristically significant on a statewide level. Areas with FQIs greater than 50 are extremely rare and represent areas of significant native biodiversity (Herman et al 2001). At Clay Cliffs Natural Area the FQI's are:

Native FQI	FQI w/ Adventives
53.6	35.7

May, L 2012. Floristic Quality Assessment and Habitat Mapping of Clay Cliffs Natural Area. Addendum Feb. 2015.

Herman, K. D., L. A. Masters, M. R. Penskar, A. A. Reznicek, G. S. Wilhelm, W. W. Brodovich, and K. P. Gardiner. 2001. Floristic Quality Assessment with Wetland Categories and Examples of Computer Applications for the State of Michigan – Revised, 2nd Edition. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife, Natural Heritage Program. Lansing, MI. 19 pp. + Appendices.



Clay Cliffs Natural Area

High Quality Plant Species

This list represents the most ecologically significant and high quality plants found at the Clay Cliffs Natural Area during a 2012 Floristic Quality Assessment conducted by Liana May. These plants are the highest quality species found on the property and therefore may be rare, difficult to find, or not be blooming depending on the season.

Please remember to practice Leave No Trace techniques; picking flowers may not seem like a big deal, but it means others won't have a chance to enjoy them. With thousands of people visiting Conservancy properties, the less impact we each make, the longer we will enjoy what we have. If you are interested in conducting a scientific study on the property please contact the Conservancy for written permission.

C	Scientific Name	Common Name
7	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	DOLL'S EYES
7	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	YELLOW BIRCH
7	<i>Dicentra canadensis</i>	SQUIRREL CORN
7	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES
7	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	CANADA WILD RYE
7	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	WATER HORSETAIL
7	<i>Equisetum scirpoides</i>	DWARF SCOURING RUSH
7	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	SOAPBERRY
7	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	BLUE STEMMED GOLDENROD
7	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	FOX GRAPE
8	<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	SLENDER WHEAT GRASS
8	<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	SPIKENARD
8	<i>Carex plantaginea</i>	SEDGE
8	<i>Corallorrhiza odontorhiza</i>	FALL CORAL ROOT
8	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	SAND COREOPSIS
8	<i>Cornus florida</i>	FLOWERING DOGWOOD
8	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	SHARP LOBED HEPATICA
8	<i>Mitella diphylla</i>	BISHOP'S CAP
8	<i>Oenothera oakesiana</i>	EVENING PRIMROSE
8	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	ALDER LEAVED BUCKTHORN
10	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	MARRAM GRASS
10	<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>	SAND REED GRASS
10	<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	GOLDIE'S WOODFERN
10	<i>Epifagus virginiana</i>	BEECH DROPS
10	<i>Equisetum pretense</i>	MEADOW HORSETAIL
10	<i>Lathyrus japonicas</i>	BEACH PEA

To see pictures or learn more about the plants listed above please visit the Michigan Natural Features Inventory website at <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/data/specialplants.cfm> or consult Newcomb's Wildflower Guide by Lawrence Newcomb.

Table 2. Summary of high conservation-value species.

C	SCIENTIFIC NAME	W	WETNESS	PHYSIOGNOMY	COMMON NAME
8	<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i>	0	FAC	Nt P-Grass	SLENDER WHEAT GRASS
8	<i>Aralia racemose</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Forb	SPIKENARD
8	<i>Carex plantaginea</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Sedge	SEDGE
8	<i>Corallorrhiza odontorhiza</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Forb	FALL CORAL ROOT
8	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	3	FACU	Nt P-Forb	SAND COREOPSIS
8	<i>Cornus florida</i>	4	FACU-	Nt Tree	FLOWERING DOGWOOD
8	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Forb	SHARP LOBED HEPATICA
8	<i>Mitella diphylla</i>	2	FACU+	Nt P-Forb	BISHOP'S CAP
8	<i>Oenothera oakesiana</i>	5	UPL	Nt B-Forb	EVENING PRIMROSE
8	<i>Rhamnus alnifolia</i>	-5	OBL	Nt Shrub	ALDER LEAVED BUCKTHORN
10	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Grass	MARRAM GRASS
10	<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Grass	SAND REED GRASS
10	<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	0	FAC	Nt Fern	GOLDIE'S WOODFERN
10	<i>Epifagus virginiana</i>	5	UPL	Nt P-Forb	BEECH DROPS
10	<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	-3	FACW	Nt Fern Ally	MEADOW HORSETAIL
10	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	4	FACU-	Nt P-Forb	BEACH PEA
10	<i>Veronica beccabunga var. americana</i>	-5	OBL	Nt P-Forb	AMERICAN BROOKLIME

Table 3. Summary of non-native vegetation (61 species making up 28% of the flora).

SCIENTIFIC NAME	W	WETNESS	PHYSIOGNOMY	COMMON NAME
ACER PLATANOIDES	5	UPL	Ad Tree	NORWAY MAPLE
AGROPYRON REPENS	3	FACU	Ad P-Grass	QUACK GRASS
AGROSTEMMA GITHAGO	3	FACU	Ad P-Forb	CORN COCKLE
AGROSTIS GIGANTEA	0	FAC	Ad P-Grass	REDTOP
ALLIARIA PETIOLATA	0	FAC	Ad B-Forb	GARLIC MUSTARD
ARCTIUM MINUS	5	UPL	Ad B-Forb	COMMON BURDOCK
BERTEROA INCANA	5	UPL	Ad A-Forb	HOARY ALYSSUM
BROMUS INERMIS	5	UPL	Ad P-Grass	SMOOTH BROME
CENTAUREA MACULOSA	5	UPL	Ad B-Forb	SPOTTED BLUET
CERASTIUM FONTANUM	3	FACU	Ad P-Forb	MOUSE EAR CHICKWEED
CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEMUM	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	OX EYE DAISY
CIRSIUM ARVENSE	3	FACU	Ad P-Forb	CANADIAN THISTLE
CIRSIUM PALUSTRE	-4	FACW+	Ad B-Forb	MARSH THISTLE
CIRSIUM VULGARE	4	FACU-	Ad B-Forb	BULL THISTLE
CORONILLA VARIA	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	CROWN VETCH
DACTYLIS GLomerata	3	FACU	Ad P-Grass	ORCHARD GRASS
DAUCUS CAROTA	5	UPL	Ad B-Forb	QUEEN ANNE'S LACE
DIANTHUS ARMERIA	5	UPL	Ad A-Forb	DEPTFORD PINK
ELAEAGNUS UMBELLATA	3	FACU	Ad Shrub	AUTUMN OLIVE
EPILOBIUM PARVIFLORUM	3	FACU	Ad P-Forb	WILLOW HERB
EPIPACTIS HELLEBORINE	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	HELLEBORINE
EUPHORBIA ESULA	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	LEAFY SPURGE
FESTUCA PRATENSIS	4	FACU-	Ad P-Grass	MEADOW FESCUE
GALIUM ODORATUM	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	SWEET WOODRUFF
HIERACIUM AURANTIACUM	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	ORANGE HAWKWEED
LACTUCA SERRIOLA	0	FAC	Ad B-Forb	PRICKLY LETTUCE
LEONURUS CARDIACA	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	MOTHERWORT
LONICERA MORROWII	5	UPL	Ad Shrub	MORROW HONEYSUCKLE
MALUS PUMILA	5	UPL	Ad Tree	APPLE
MEDICAGO SATIVA	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	ALFALFA
MELILOTUS ALBA	3	FACU	Ad B-Forb	WHITE SWEET CLOVER
MENTHA PIPERITA	-5	OBL	Ad P-Forb	PEPPERMINT
NEPETA CATARIA	1	FAC-	Ad P-Forb	CATNIP
PHLEUM PRATENSE	3	FACU	Ad P-Grass	TIMOTHY
PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA	0	FAC	Ad P-Forb	ENGLISH PLANTAIN
POA COMPRESSA	2	FACU+	Ad P-Grass	CANADA BLUEGRASS
POLYGONUM CONVolvulus	1	FAC-	Ad A-Forb	FALSE BUCKWHEAT
POPULUS ALBA	5	UPL	Ad Tree	WHITE POPLAR
PRUNELLA VULGARIS	0	FAC	Nt P-Forb	LAWN PRUNELLA
RANUNCULUS ACRIS	-2	FACW-	Ad P-Forb	TALL or COMMON BUTTERCUP
RHAMNUS CATHARTICA	3	FACU	Ad Tree	COMMON BUCKTHORN
RIBES RUBRUM	5	UPL	Ad Shrub	RED Currant
ROBINIA PSEUDOACACIA	4	FACU-	Ad Tree	BLACK LOCUST
ROSA EGLANTERIA	5	UPL	Ad Shrub	SWEET BRIER
ROSA MULTIFLORA	3	FACU	Ad Shrub	MULTIFLORA ROSE
RUMEX ACETOSELLA	0	FAC	Ad P-Forb	SHEEP SORREL
RUMEX OBTUSIFOLIUS	-3	FACW	Ad P-Forb	BITTER DOCK
SALIX FRAGILIS	-1	FAC+	Ad Tree	CRACK WILLOW
SILENE PRATENSIS	5	UPL	Ad A-Forb	WHITE CATCHFLY
SILENE VULGARIS	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	BLADDER CAMPION
SOLANUM DULCAMARA	0	FAC	Ad P-Forb	BITTERSWEET NIGHTSHADE
STELLARIA GRAMINEA	5	UPL	Ad P-Forb	STARWORT
SYRINGA VULGARIS	5	UPL	Ad Shrub	COMMON LILAC
TARAXACUM OFFICINALE	3	FACU	Ad P-Forb	COMMON DANDELION
TRAGOPOGON DUBIUS	5	UPL	Ad B-Forb	GOAT'S BEARD
TRIFOLIUM CAMPESTRE	5	UPL	Ad A-Forb	LOW HOP CLOVER
TRIFOLIUM HYBRIDUM	1	FAC-	Ad P-Forb	ALSIKE CLOVER
TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE	2	FACU+	Ad P-Forb	RED CLOVER
VERBASCUM THAPSUS	5	UPL	Ad B-Forb	COMMON MULLEIN
VERONICA Verna	5	UPL	Ad A-Forb	SPRING CORN SPEEDWELL
VIBURNUM OPULUS	0	FAC	Ad Shrub	EUROPEAN HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY
VINCA MINOR	5	UPL	Ad Shrub	PERIWINKLE

Clay Cliffs Natural Area (all)

Addendum 2015

Clay Cliffs Natural Are

Leland

Leelanau

MI

USA

FQA DB Region:

Michigan

FQA DB Publication Year:

2014

FQA DB Description:

Reznicek, A.A., M.R. Penskar, B.S. Walters, and B.S. Slaughter. 2014. Michigan Floristic Quality Assessment Database. Herbarium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI and Michigan Natural Features Inventory,

Liana May

Practitioner:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Weather Notes:

Growing season 2012

Duration Notes:

Mesic northern forest, fallow farm fields, Lk MI shoreline bluff and beach.

Community Type Notes:

Eurybia may be similar species. Unknown vine along west side of viewing platform, checkk July for flw.

Other Notes:

Public

Conservatism-Based Metrics:

Total Mean C:	3
Native Mean C:	4.2
Total FQI:	45
Native FQI:	53.6
Adjusted FQI:	35.7
% C value 0:	31.1
% C value 1-3:	27.1
% C value 4-6:	30.2
% C value 7-10:	11.6
Native Tree Mean C:	4.4
Native Shrub Mean C:	3.4
Native Herbaceous Mean C:	4.3

Species Richness:

Total Species:	225
Native Species:	163
Non-native Species:	62

72.40%

27.60%

Species Wetness:

Mean Wetness:	1.7
Native Mean Wetness:	1.2

Physiognomy Metrics:

Tree:	27	12%
Shrub:	27	12%
Vine:	5	2.20%
Forb:	127	56.40%
Grass:	17	7.60%
Sedge:	10	4.40%
Rush:	0	0%
Fern:	12	5.30%
Bryophyte:	0	0%

Duration Metrics:

Annual:	15	6.70%
Perennial:	196	87.10%
Biennial:	14	6.20%
Native Annual:	8	3.60%
Native Perennial:	151	67.10%
Native Biennial:	4	1.80%

Species:

Scientific Name	Family	Acronym	Native?	C	W	Physiognomy	Duration	Common Name
Acer platanoides	Sapindaceae	ACEPLA	non-native	0	5	tree	perennial	norway maple
Acer saccharum	Sapindaceae	ACESAU	native	5	3	tree	perennial	sugar maple
Acer spicatum	Sapindaceae	ACESPI	native	5	3	tree	perennial	mountain maple
Achillea millefolium	Asteraceae	ACHMIL	native	1	3	forb	perennial	yarrow
Actaea pachypoda	Ranunculaceae	ACTPAC	native	7	5	forb	perennial	dolls-eyes
Agrostemma githago	Caryophyllaceae	AGRGIT	non-native	0	5	forb	annual	corn-cockle
Agrostis gigantea	Poaceae	AGRIGIG	non-native	0	-3	grass	perennial	redtop
Alliaria petiolata	Brassicaceae	ALLPET	non-native	0	3	forb	biennial	garlic mustard
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Asteraceae	AMBART	native	0	3	forb	annual	common ragweed
Amelanchier arborea	Rosaceae	AMEARB	native	4	3	tree	perennial	juneberry
Ammophila breviligulata	Poaceae	AMMBRE	native	10	5	grass	perennial	marram grass
Anaphalis margaritacea	Asteraceae	ANAMAR	native	3	5	forb	perennial	pearly everlasting
Anemone canadensis	Ranunculaceae	ANECAN	native	4	-3	forb	perennial	canada anemone
Apocynum cannabinum; a. sibiricum	Apocynaceae	APOCAN	native	3	0	forb	perennial	indian-hemp
Aquilegia canadensis	Ranunculaceae	AQUCAN	native	5	3	forb	perennial	wild columbine
Aralia nudicaulis	Araliaceae	ARANUD	native	5	3	forb	perennial	wild sarsaparilla
Aralia racemosa	Araliaceae	ARARAC	native	8	3	forb	perennial	spikenard
Arctium minus	Asteraceae	ARCMIN	non-native	0	3	forb	biennial	common burdock
Arisaema triphyllum	Araceae	ARITRI	native	5	0	forb	perennial	jack-in-the-pulpit
Artemisia campestris	Asteraceae	ARTCAM	native	5	5	forb	biennial	wormwood
Asclepias syriaca	Apocynaceae	ASCSYR	native	1	5	forb	perennial	common milkweed
Berteroa incana	Brassicaceae	BERINC	non-native	0	5	forb	annual	hoary alyssum

Sympyotrichum firmum; aster puniceus	Asteraceae	SYMFIR	native	4	-3	forb	perennial	smooth swamp aster
Sympyotrichum laeve; aster l.	Asteraceae	SYMLAE	native	5	3	forb	perennial	smooth aster
Syringa vulgaris	Oleaceae	SYRVUL	non-native	0	5	shrub	perennial	common lilac
Taraxacum officinale	Asteraceae	TAROFF	non-native	0	3	forb	perennial	common dandelion
Taxus canadensis	Taxaceae	TAXCAN	native	5	3	shrub	perennial	yew
Thalictrum dasycarpum	Ranunculaceae	THADAS	native	3	-3	forb	perennial	purple meadow-rue
Thalictrum dioicum	Ranunculaceae	THADIO	native	6	3	forb	perennial	early meadow-rue
Thuja occidentalis	Cupressaceae	THUOCC	native	4	-3	tree	perennial	arbor vitae
Tilia americana	Malvaceae	TILAME	native	5	3	tree	perennial	basswood
Toxicodendron rydbergii; t. radicans	Anacardiaceae	TOXRYD	native	3	0	shrub	perennial	poison-ivy
Tragopogon dubius	Asteraceae	TRADUB	non-native	0	5	forb	biennial	goats beard
Trientalis borealis	Myrsinaceae	TRIBOR	native	5	0	forb	perennial	star-flower
Trifolium campestre	Fabaceae	TRICAM	non-native	0	5	forb	annual	low hop clover
Trifolium hybridum	Fabaceae	TRIHYB	non-native	0	3	forb	perennial	alsike clover
Trifolium pratense	Fabaceae	TRIPRA	non-native	0	3	forb	perennial	red clover
Trillium grandiflorum	Trilliaceae	TRIGRA	native	5	3	forb	perennial	common trillium
Tsuga canadensis	Pinaceae	TSUCAN	native	5	3	tree	perennial	hemlock
Typha latifolia	Typhaceae	TYPLAT	native	1	-5	forb	perennial	broad-leaved cat-tail
Urtica dioica	Urticaceae	URTDIO	native	1	0	forb	perennial	stinging nettle
Uvularia grandiflora	Convallariaceae	UVUGRA	native	5	5	forb	perennial	bellwort
Verbascum thapsus	Scrophulariaceae	VERTHA	non-native	0	5	forb	biennial	common mullein
Veronica beccabunga var. americana	Plantaginaceae	VERBEA	native	10	-5	forb	perennial	american brooklime
Veronica serpyllifolia	Plantaginaceae	VERSER	non-native	0	0	forb	perennial	thyme-leaved speedwell
Veronica verna	Plantaginaceae	VERVER	non-native	0	5	forb	annual	spring corn speedwell
Viburnum acerifolium	Adoxaceae	VIBACE	native	6	5	shrub	perennial	maple-leaved viburnum
Viburnum opulus	Adoxaceae	VIBOPU	non-native	0	-3	shrub	perennial	european highbush-cranberry
Vincetoxicum	Apocynaceae	VINMIN	non-native	0	5	shrub	perennial	periwinkle
Viola pubescens	Violaceae	VIOPUB	native	4	3	forb	perennial	yellow violet
Viola striata	Violaceae	VIOSTR	native	5	-3	forb	perennial	cream violet
Vitis labrusca	Vitaceae	VITLAB	native	7	3	vine	perennial	fox grape
Vitis riparia	Vitaceae	VITRIP	native	3	0	vine	perennial	river-bank grape