

Conservation Corner – January 2020

Historically I think we have all believed that habitat destruction was the leading cause in the disappearance of our native orchids. In a presentation from the NCC (Nature Conservancy of Canada) Lions Head office at Orchidfest a few years ago, the major issues facing our native orchids are as follows:

- 1 - Picking and Poaching
- 2 - Trampling
- 3 - Invasive Species
- 4 - Habitat Destruction

Habitat destruction occurs when natural habitats are no longer able to support the species present, resulting in the displacement or destruction of its biodiversity. Examples include harvesting fossil fuels, deforestation, dredging rivers, bottom trawling, urbanization, filling in wetlands and mowing fields. (see everythingconnects.org <https://www.everythingconnects.org/main-types-of-habitat-loss.html>)

Habitat destruction can also be habitat erosion. In a recent article in the National Geographic online, the case is made for better water monitoring and stewardship of existing parks and reserves. The article focuses on the beautiful Ghost Orchid of the Florida swamps, but infers the need for better stewardship in all our preserved areas. To read the article copy and paste the location below in your browser.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2019/10/florida-ghost-orchids-threatened-by-development/>