

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS

# THE ALVARS OF ONTARIO

*Significant Alvar  
Natural Areas  
in the Ontario  
Great Lakes Region*

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Federation of Ontario Naturalists

355 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2W8

Tel: 416 444 8419, Fax: 416 444 9866

Toll Free: 1 800 440 2366

E-mail: [info@ontarionature.org](mailto:info@ontarionature.org)

Website: [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)

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The Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) protects Ontario's nature through research, education, and conservation action. FON champions woodlands, wetlands and wildlife, and preserves essential habitat through its own system of nature reserves. FON is a charitable organization representing 15,000 members and over 100 member groups across Ontario.





The earliest visitors to the Great Lakes region were in awe of its magnificent forests. But early settlers also found scattered examples of unique rock wildlands—flat, barren and largely treeless—now known as Great Lakes alvars. These globally imperiled habitats persist, still largely undisturbed and still supporting species not known anywhere else.

This report summarizes the distribution, ecology and inhabitants of these wild rock gardens, and compares them across Ontario's Great Lakes region. The best remaining alvars, documented here, deserve our best conservation efforts.

