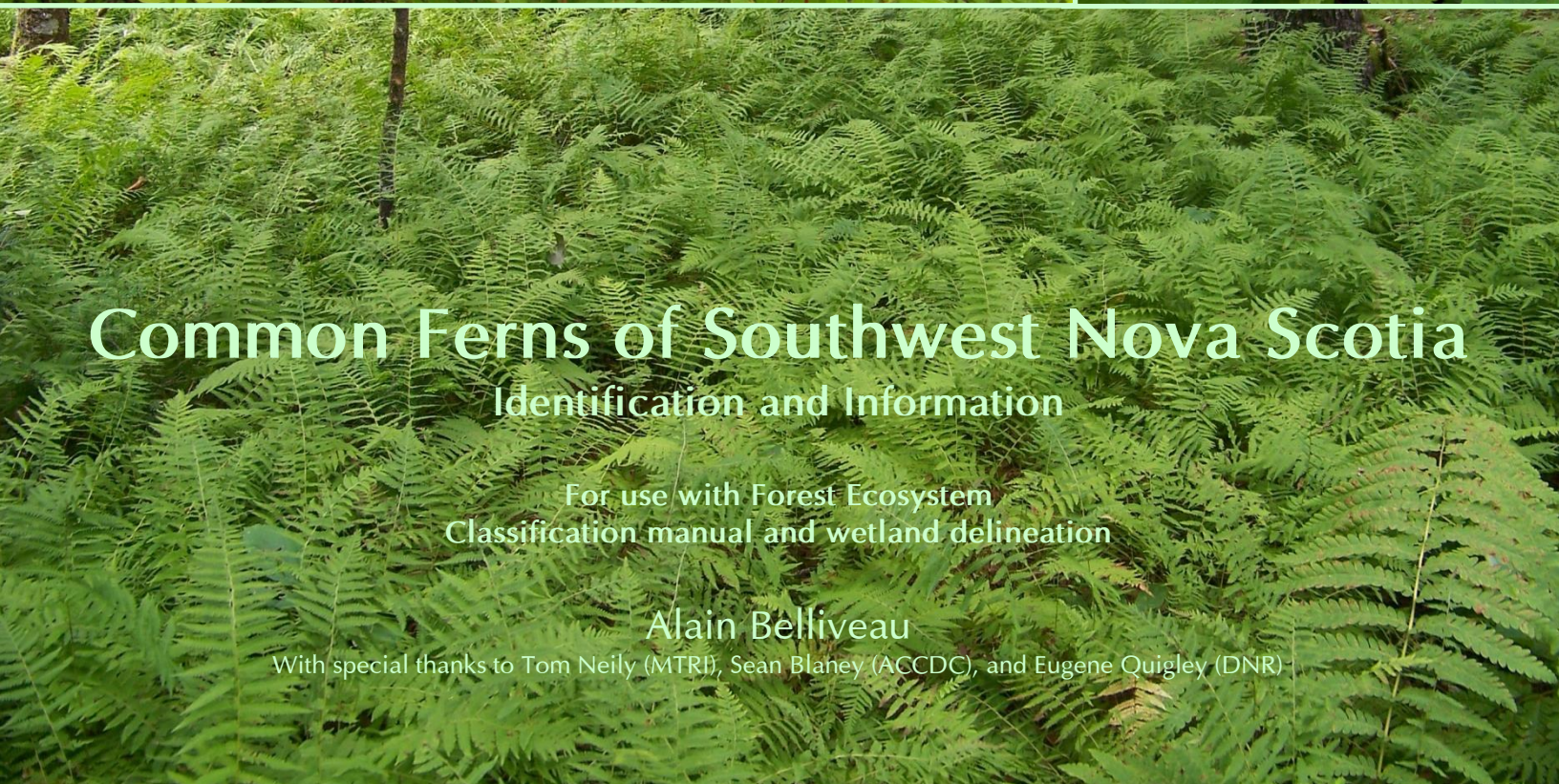




Common Ferns of Southwest Nova Scotia

Identification and Information

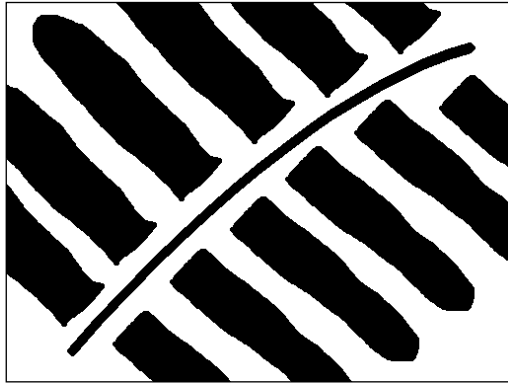
For use with Forest Ecosystem
Classification manual and wetland delineation

Alain Belliveau

With special thanks to Tom Neily (MTRI), Sean Blahey (ACCDC), and Eugene Quigley (DNR)



Key Start - Is it once-, twice-, or thrice-cut?

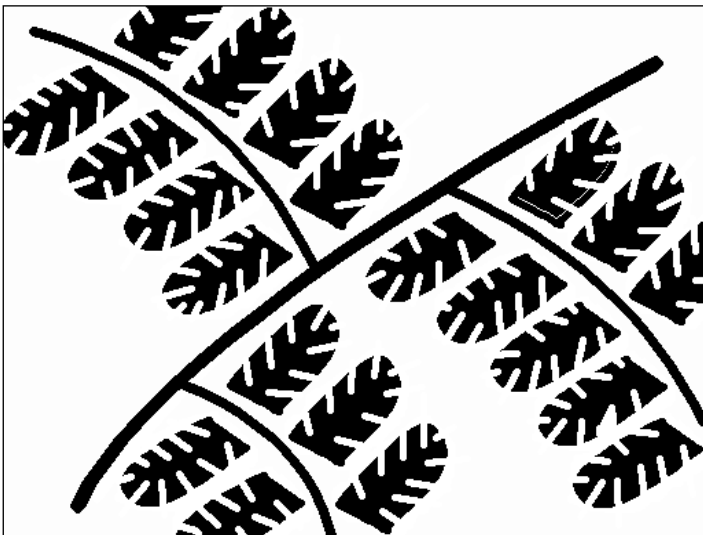
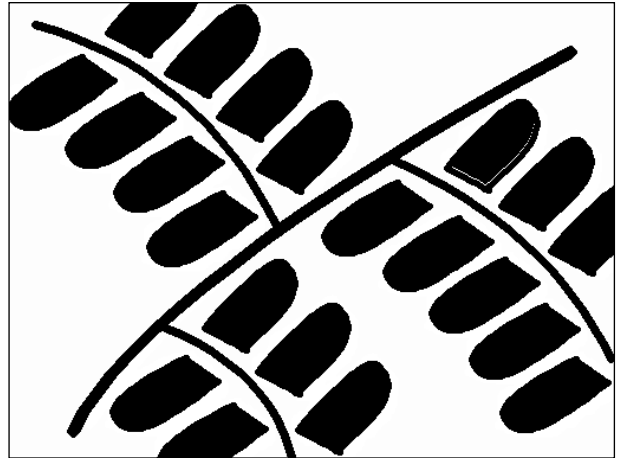


Once-cut

One single stem part
See page 3

Twice-cut

Splitting stem and simple leaves
See page 4



Thrice-cut

Splitting stem and complex leaves
See page 5

Are the leaves quite wavy
and almost twice-cut at
times?

Yes

No

Are the leaves boot-shaped and is the
fern growing in a whorled cluster?

No

Yes

Christmas fern FACU

Habitat: Fresh/moist, moderate rich to rich woodlands

Key Features: Medium size, growing in a whorled cluster, boot-shaped leaves



Sensitive fern FACW

Habitat: Wet, moderate richness, often in richer forested wetlands

Key Features: Wavy lower leaves, leafy stem, small-medium size, quite wide



Do the leaves have very
pointy tips and very small
teeth throughout?

No

Yes

Dwarf chain fern OBL

Habitat: Wet, poor sites, often along edge of wetland/shore

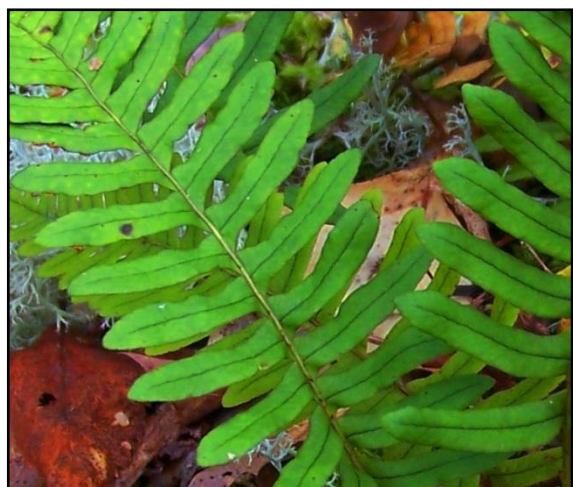
Key Features: Very pointy leaves, minute teeth, leafy stem, small size



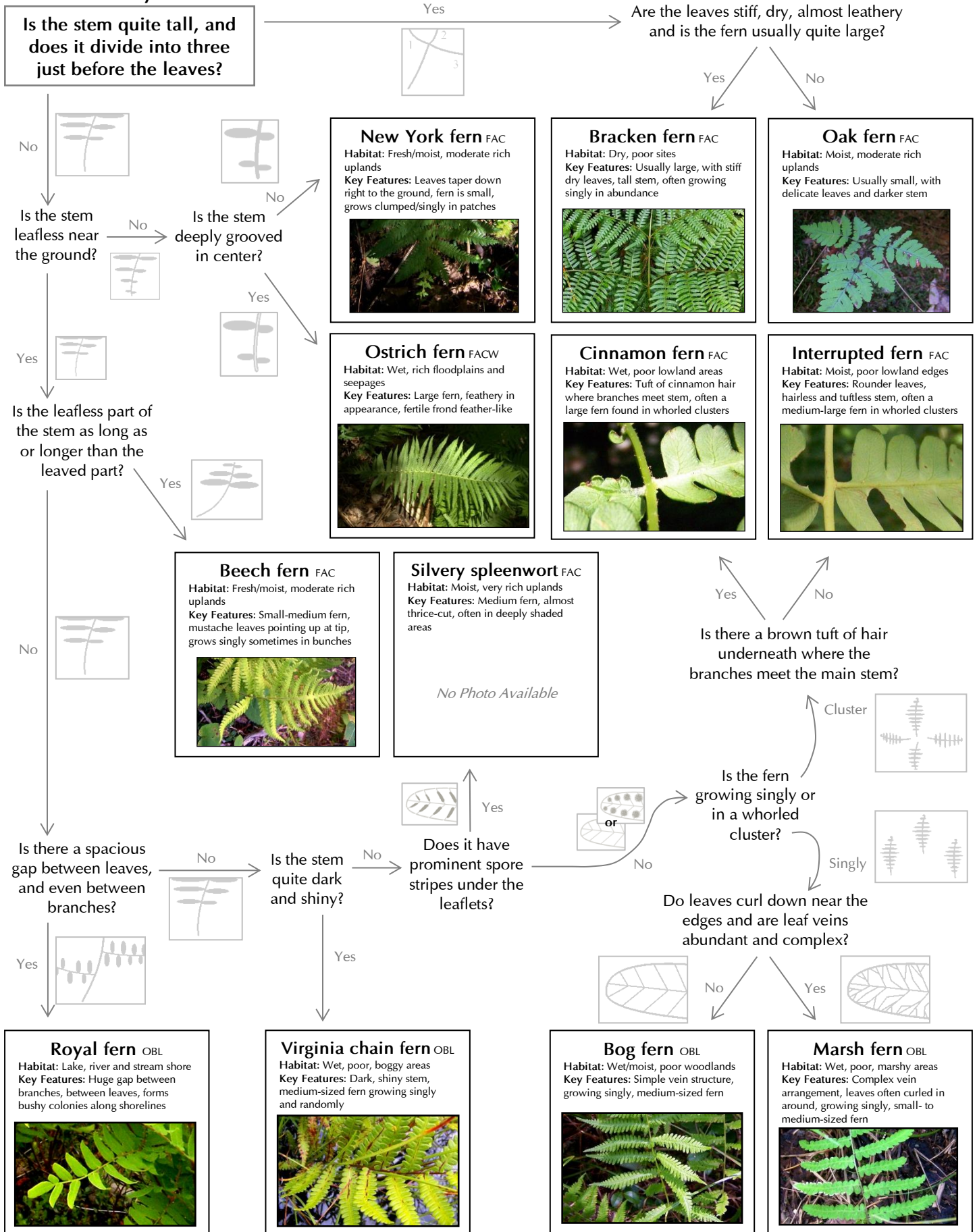
Polypody UPL

Habitat: Rock- or cliff-tops, often in a thin mat of lichens, mosses and humus

Key Features: Small size, round leaves, growing singly in bunches



Twice-cut Key Start



Thrice-cut Key Start

