

Field Course work on the Crane River Tract located in Bruce County, Ontario as a Geography Science Student

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Introduction

This field course took place in the Bruce County Ontario. It was a fall field experience that occurred from October 13 to 16th 2022. There was a science aspect of the field course. It first occurred from 2 pm in the afternoon where there was a tour of the site to observe the flora and fauna (Fig.1). It was being familiar around the River Crane Tract where the students will be conducting their chosen field experiments. There was also a trip to see the Town of Tobermory on October 14th (Fig.2) and the Georgian Trail on October 15. It was to observe the site and the geographical features it had and to see the geographical features the Georgian Bay.



Fig 1- The “mushroom” found in the Crane River Tract.



Fig 2- The boats present at the town of Tobermory including the souvenir boat.

Study

The focus on the above-ground biomass and the litter in the deciduous forests. This was done by calculating the biomass in each tree compartments (wood, bark, branch, and foliage). This research took place in the deciduous plot of the Crane River Tract. The Trembling Aspen is the only tree species found in the deciduous plot of the Crane River Tract. The Data collection occurred by collecting tree core from each analyzed trees (Fig.3), measuring the trees diameter at breast height (DBH), measure the angle at the top of the tree, measure the leaf area index for both under and ground tree level. This was done in two different days.



Fig 3- The collected tree cores placed in the straws to be taken back to the lab for analysis.

Importance

There are factors that impact the growth of trees both human and physically. It is important to understand the strengths and limitations. It is also understanding the factors that caused them like there might have been an insect infestation, storms, or even human activity/anthropogenic factors. Stressors also impacted forest activity like droughts such that the trees might barely grow at all during the period. The importance of tree dating to identify the age of the trees and whether they are old or young trees. It is to recognize the roles that forests have in human and animal life (Fig.4).



Fig 4- The forest trees present in the Crane River Tract

Significance

Doing field experience courses like these and any experiential education series makes a great learning exposure. It is the transferring from the theoretical aspect and apply it to the practical field. It was learning from the previous geography courses that I have taken and applying it to this course. It was learning from past mistakes that I have made from previous courses and applying it here to rectify it. It was also finetuning my field skills like using the LAI meter to measure the above ground canopy and below tree canopy. It was a worthwhile experience. It helped to fine tune my field course skills and made me even more interested in experimental education.

Conclusion

The field course was a breathtaking experience especially moving forward towards the post COVID-19 pandemic times. It was nice to partake this practical field course even though it was shorter than the last time I took this course that was Bruce Peninsula location related. It helped me to improve more of my field course skills so I can apply it to other courses in geography. I can even share my experiences to others.