



NYFA Newsletter

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Callitriche hermaphroditica, Autumnal Water-Starwort, Rediscovered

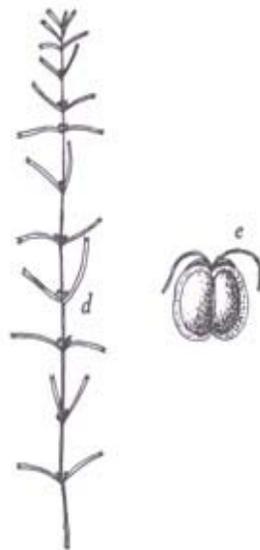
By David Hunt, Ecological Intuition & Medicine, Grafton, NY.

During stream surveys of the Tug Hill area conducted in 2001 and 2003 for the NY Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy (Hunt et al. 2005), the state rare species autumnal water-starwort (*Callitriche hermaphroditica*) was found as a submergent plant in two marsh headwater streams: the headwaters of the East Branch Fish Creek and Lower West Branch Deer River Marsh. This find is significant in being a state historical plant (NY Natural Heritage Program rank of G5/SH) with no known collections or observations for over 20 years. Specifically, this species was found along the East Branch Fish Creek west of Page in the Town of High Market, about 0.3 miles upstream of the G&W Road crossing, and along the West Branch Deer River southwest of Liberty Corners in the Town of Montague, about 0.8 miles upstream of the Worth Road crossing.

Callitriche hermaphroditica can be distinguished by its habit (entirely submerged and never with floating leaves), leaf shape (linear), leaf venation (1-nerved, prominently so beneath), and leaf apex shape (retuse, bifid or broadly notched) from the similar species *C. heterophylla*, *C. palustris*, and *C. stagnalis* which typically have some floating leaves, and have leaves with linear to oblong shape, 3 to 7 nerves, and an obtuse apex (Fernald 1950, Gleason and Cronquist 1991). Barre Helquist of North Adams College, with the help of Steve Young of the NY Natural Heritage Program, recently verified the identity of the two collections as *Callitriche hermaphroditica*. This species is described as a circumboreal plant of calcareous ponds and slow streams, extending into north and western New York (Fernald 1950, Gleason and Cronquist 1991). Stanley J. Smith (New York State Museum) was the last person to collect this plant in New York (Clinton County: Rouses Point on Lake Champlain, 1956). *Callitriche hermaphroditica* was histori-

cally known from northern New York (Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Seaway watersheds) as well as a few reports from Long Island and southeastern New York (although these coastal specimens need verification).

Both Tug Hill sites where *Callitriche hermaphroditica* was collected represent pools in flat, meandering, 3rd order streams. At the West Branch Deer River site, it was collected from an aquatic bed in the middle of a large marsh complex. The bed is a relatively dense concentration of rooted aquatic macrophytes with underwater plants to 2 meters tall in areas of warm, slow-flowing water. It varies in dominance among floating to submergent vegetation and can consist of a variable mix of several species including: bur-reed, coontail, pondweeds, and fountain moss. Abundant epiphytic algae, aquatic macroinvertebrates and minnows are present. The dominant vascular plants at the two sites include the emergent aquatic vegetation bur-reed (*Sparganium americanum*) and submerged aquatics coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and pondweeds (*Potamogeton epihydrus* and *P. illinoensis*). Dominant non-vascular plants include the moss *Fontinalis dalecarlica* and epilithic filamentous green algae. Other characteristic vascular plants include the floating leaved aquatic plants yellow pond-lily (*Nuphar variegata*), white water-lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), and water-shield (*Brasenia schreberi*), the submerged aquatics pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus* var. *tenuissimus*), water-starwort (*Callitriche palustris*), and bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.). Other characteristic non-vascular plants include stoneworts (*Chara* sp. and *Nitella* sp.). Other state rare plants known or suspected to occur in



association with *Callitriche hermaphroditica* in the marsh headwater streams of the Tug Hill include blunt spikerush (*Eleocharis ovata*), small bur-reed (*Sparganium natans*), northern pondweed (*Potamogeton alpinus*), algae-like pondweed (*P. confervoides*), and water-marigold (*Bidens beckii*).

Fish species associated with *Callitriche hermaphroditica* at the two sites include blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*), reaside dace (*Clinostomus elongates*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*), and creek chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*). Associated macroinvertebrates include net-spinning caddisflies (Hydropsychidae), northern caddisfly (*Molanna*), stony-cased caddisfly (*Agarodes*), stream mayflies (Heptageniidae), spinners (*Habrophlebia*), midges (Chironomidae), freshwater limpet (*Ferrisia rivularis*), odonates [darner (*Aeshna*), dancer (*Argia*), jewelwing (*Calopteryx*), and clubtail (*Gomphus*)], sphere clam (*Sphaerium* spp.), eastern floater (*Pyganodon cataracta*), pea clam (*Pisidium* sp.), marsh rams-horn snail (*Heliosoma trivolvis*), deerfly (*Merycomyia*), abundant leeches (*Helobdella stagnalis*, *Placobdella papillifera*, *Erpobdella punctata*, and *Glossiphonia complanata*), water boatman (Corixidae), water scorpions (Nepidae), and scuds (*Amphipoda*). Associated vertebrates include beaver (*Castor canadensis*), eastern newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), frogs, great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), American black duck (*Anas rubripes*), and mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

The exotic aquatic plant species Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) has invaded the West Branch Deer River system at the Culpepper impoundment of McNeil Creek and is apparently spreading downstream towards the marsh containing *Callitriche hermaphroditica*. Threats to the viability of this population from a potential continued spread of Eurasian milfoil at this site are expected to be experienced over the next decade or two.

Callitriche hermaphroditica was not mentioned in a biogeography of aquatic plants of Tug Hill by Hotchkiss (1932), although water-starwort (*Callitriche palustris*) was reported to occur as a shoreline aquatic plant on some of the slower brooks of the Tug Hill. The two populations found during the stream surveys were opportunistically encountered via specimen collection; revisits to the two sites are recommended to precisely relocate these populations, map their extent and estimate the abundance of individuals. Further de-novo searches in aquatic beds of other little disturbed marsh headwater streams of the Tug Hill Plateau may locate additional populations of this rare aquatic plant species and are recommended. A background information study of streams on the Tug Hill Plateau suggested that this region supports about 50 high quality leads of marsh headwater stream (Hunt 2003). Examples of this natural community type on the Tug Hill

Plateau most promising for *Callitriche hermaphroditica* may include South Branch Mad River, Big Brook, Fall Brook Osceola, Pringle Creek, Sevenmile Creek, West Fork Salmon River, and Alder Creek.

References Cited:

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Annual Rare Plant Status Meeting Takes Place

The annual New York State rare plants status meeting took place on January 11, 2006 at the New York Natural Heritage Program offices in the Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany. In attendance were Steve Young (Natural Heritage), Troy Weldy (Natural Heritage), Nancy Davis Ricci (Natural Heritage), David Werier (Ithaca), Bob Wesley (Cornell Plantations), Steve Clements (Brooklyn Botanic Garden), Chuck Sheviak (New York State Museum), Chris Reidy (National Resource Conservation Service), Jason Denham (NYS DEC), Jerry Carlson (NYS DEC), and Joe McMullen (Terrestrial Environmental Services). The group discussed approximately 35 name changes and 20 rank changes. The sensitive data status of certain rare plants was approved and the qualifications for watch list species was better defined. Recent native plant additions to the flora were discussed as well as the schedule for an update to the state protected list which should occur this year.



Changes from the meeting will be reflected in the 2006 Rare Plant Status List published in the Spring.

Publication News

This section will keep readers up-to-date on some of the recent publications that are pertinent to NYS botany including articles from journals, magazines, and newsletters. Abstracts or summaries will be included most of the time.

1. Native Plants Journal, Fall 2004, volume 5 (3).

Genetic erosion. No longer just an agricultural issue.

Author: Deborah L. Rogers

The author discusses the role that genetics plays in planting (farming?) native plants.

Storing acorns.

Author: Kristina Connor

The storage of acorns was studied under different temperatures and moisture contents over a period of three years. To achieve optimum viability, acorns must be stored fully hydrated.

Propagation protocol for growing bareroot oaks.

Author: Gregory A. Hoss

How to collect seeds, plant and grow oaks.

A plant genetics primer.

Authors: Stephen E. Smith and Kandres Halbrook

This is a basic introduction to genetic terminology that has implications for growers and users of native plants. Genetic concepts are essential for ensuring the appropriate use of plant material for restoration sites.

2. Native Plants Journal, Spring 2005, volume 6 (1).

Why are plant names changing so much?

Author: Alan Weakley

The scientific names of plants continue to change, seemingly at a faster rate than ever, which challenges to broaden diverse group of users of those names. Why do names change? Some changes are nomenclatural, while the majority result from new research and judgments about the taxonomy of plants. A variety of factors contribute to the level of changes. Traditional plant taxonomists continue to discover plants and reclassify those already known. New molecular phylogenetic techniques provide new data that clarifies taxonomy, especially at the level of genus and above, resulting in changes in the circumscription of genera. A more worldwide community of plant taxonomy has emerged, fostered by the Internet, and taxonomic studies have broader geographic perspectives, resulting in changed opinions about relationships and more rapid communication of those changes. In the art of plant taxonomy, the "splitters" have largely regained influence, after several decades in which "lumpers" were generally in ascendancy, at least in North America. The result is a large number of name changes in plants, challenging many users, particularly those who are not professional taxonomists -- land managers, ecologists, garden-

ers, and conservationists. A greater effort by authors of floras and other products designed for use by the broad botanical community should make the effort to communicate the changes and reasons behind them.

Genetic principles and the use of native seeds -- just the FAQs, please, just the FAQs.

Author: Thomas A. Jones

The following questions help the reader understand the basic information about seeds and genetics: 1) Genetics, ugh! They didn't require that class, so I didn't take it. Just give me the basics. What do I really need to know? 2) What's the significance of polyploidy? 3) How do cross-pollinated and self-pollinated species differ botanically? 4) How do cross-pollinated and self-pollinated species differ genetically? 5) How do I know what to plant where? 7) It's an ecotype, right? 8) Shouldn't I be concerned about outbreeding depression? 9) I don't want anything that's been bred, do I?

3. Native Plants Journal, Summer 2005, volume 6 (2).

Propagation protocol for *Rhexia virginica*.

Author: Alessandro Chiari

Rhexia is easy to propagate and grow in the nursery provided adequate moisture levels are maintained in growing medium. Capsules can be collected in mid-to late September.

Native plant materials directory

A national listing of businesses that sell native plants.

4. Native Plants Journal, Fall 2005, volume 6 (3).

Propagation protocol for Virginia salt marshmallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*)

Authors: David C. Ingersoll and Sharon L. Day

Native seeds in commerce: more frequently asked questions.

Authors: Thomas A. Jones and Stanford A. Young

To make intelligent choices in the marketplace, customers should have a working understanding of 1) the diversity of products that are available in the seed trade; 2) how they move in the market; 3) how they are regulated for purity and germination; 4) how they are certified to shore genetic identity; and 5) how they are legally protected as intellectual property.

Purchasing native seeds-advice from a nurseryman.

Author: Bob Allison

Many factors influence the prices and availabilities of native seeds. Communicating effectively with vendors in stores that you received the product you want when you need it.

5. Native Plants Magazine, Fall 2004, volume 21 (1).

Here comes the sun.

Author: Lisa Halvorsen

Identification, information, uses, and photographs of some of the common wildflowers across the country.

The native truth.

Author: Sheryl Devore

A response to some of the common myths about growing native plants. Are they as good as we think?

Native people: Judy Sullivan.

An interview with our own Judy Sullivan of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York.

6. Native Plants Magazine, Winter 2005 volume 21 (2).

New York state of mind.

An interview with Robert A. Hellman, town of Hamlin, who has restored 6 1/2 acres of abandoned farmland to natural area.

7. Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society, January-March 2005, volume 132 (1).

Vascular flora of Caumsett State Historic Park, Lloyd Neck, Long Island, New York, with notes on the vegetation.

Authors: Andrew M. Greller et al.

Caumsett State Historic Park is a 650 hectare tract, 50 km east of New York City on the north shore of Nassau County. The vascular flora comprises 101 families, 330 genera, and 624 species, of which 405 species (65%) are native and 219 species (35%) are exotic.

Costs and benefits of self fertility in *Asclepias exaltata* (Apocynaceae).

Authors: Sonia L. Himes and Robert Wyatt

The authors experimented with many pollination situations with many different results.

Demography and habitat of *Corydalis flavula* (Raf.) DC. (Fumariaceae) in southwestern Michigan.

Author: Victoria A. Nuzzo

The author examines seed production, predation and habitat preference of a plant that is also uncommon in New York.

Influence of shading on the growth and leave photosynthesis of the invasive non-indigenous plant garlic mustard [*Alliaria petiolata* (M. Bieb) Cavara and Grande] grown under simulated late-winter to mid-spring conditions.

Authors: Caroline V. Myers, Roger C. Anderson, and Diane L. Byers

The results indicate that garlic mustard displays a plastic response to varied light levels in a way that would likely increase its success in invading eastern deciduous forest ground layers.

Book reviews: The herbaceous layer in forests of eastern North America. Edited by F. S. Gilliam and M. R. Roberts; Trees of Pennsylvania: a complete reference guide. By Ann Fowler Rhodes and Timothy A. Block.; Phenology: an integrative environmental science. Edited by Mark D. Schwartz.

8. New York State Conservationist, April 2005.

Native Wildflowers

Author: Frank Knight

Frank gives a short description of 28 wildflowers native to eastern North America with a short glossary and a very nice two-page pullout suitable for framing.

9. Long Island Botanical Society quarterly newsletter, Spring 2005, volume 15 (2).

The two taxa of the eastern North American Lady Fern, *Athyrium filix-femina*.

The authors examine the distinctness of subspecies *angustum* and subspecies *asplenioides* using rhizome habit, leaf shape, and notable color and surface features of the spores. Both Long Island and Staten Island fall within a narrow band of overlap between the extensive ranges of the two eastern taxa. Most authors lump these taxa but spore and isozyme data indicate substantial divergence between them suggesting that they merit distinction as the rank of subspecies or species. Subspecies *angustum* has been documented from the islands but more fieldwork is needed to determine if subspecies *asplenioides* is also found.

War on weeds: breaking news.

Author: Marilyn Jordan

Marilyn discusses new invasive plant species which have been discovered recently on the island and what can be done about them.

Spreading it around: a tale of lunacy.

Author: Ray Welch

The author confesses to spreading around *Lunaria annua*, Honesty.

Book review: Illustrated field guide to shrubs and woody vines of Long Island. By G. E. Lotowycz and B. H. Connolly.

10. Long Island Botanical Society quarterly newsletter, Summer 2005, volume 15 (3).

Saving the prairie: the Hempstead Plains on Long Island.

Author: Betsy Gulotta

After a short natural and cultural history there is information about the plant surveys done and management of invasive species in order to preserve this unique grassland.

Is Norway maple a threat to the natural woodlands on Long Island?

Author: Wei Fang

There is a description of how this tree arrived in United States and a study done to assess the ecological impact of the tree in natural woodlands on Long Island. It was found that Norway maple has a superior ability to compete for light and that it changes soil chemistry dynamics in a way that leads to a higher nitrogen loss from the soil. These two major mechanisms work together and results in the negative impact of Norway maple on the community composition and ecosystem dynamics of natural forests on Long Island. Fortunately this tree is gradually dying out on urban streets but will it do the same in natural settings?

Great pond wetland preservation committee report

Author: Lillian Ball

In April the Southold Board of Trustees voted to restrict development in this ecologically important area of the North Fork. Tax funds will be contributed to purchase the area for preservation. This is the largest area of beach and interdunal swales on the north shore.

Long Island native grass initiative

Author: Ed Toth

A group of people has been organized to develop bulk seed stocks of native Long Island grasses to use in natural area restoration and management efforts throughout Long Island. For more information contact Polly Wiegand at 631-727-2315 ext. 3.

11. Long Island Botanical Society Quarterly Newsletter, Fall 2005, volume 15 (4).

The Hauppauge Spring

Author: John E. Potente

John gives us a cultural and natural history of this important natural area of central Long Island. A coalition was formed to preserve remaining land and members are still optimistic that the land can be protected even with rising land prices.

a.k.a. "orbiculata"

Author: Ray Welch

Ray outlines the problems and natural history of this invasive vine along with the taxonomic problems of its species name.

Water chestnut and Eurasian water milfoil found in Nassau County.

Authors: Kathy Schwager and Marilyn Jordan

The plants were found in Mill Pond and Twin Lakes preserve in Wantagh.

12. Long Island Botanical Society Quarterly Newsletter, Winter 2006, volume 16 (1).

Radical changes in the classification of flowering plants.

Author: Eric Lamont

Eric shows examples of how the science of cladistics is rearranging our genera into different families based on common ancestors.

Changes in plant classifications: getting to the crux of the flux.

Author: Gerry Moore

Gerry presents a primer on the techniques used by cladistic taxonomists to come up with new delineations of families and genera.

Summary of recent generic changes in our native composites.

Author: Eric Lamont

Eric lists 31 Aster species and their new genus names. Most of the species have changed to *Symphotrichum* but other genera include *Eurybia*, *Doellingeria*, *Oclemena*, and *Ionactis*.

The Flora of Long Island Project

Author: The Flora Committee

Project history and current status of the project. Begun in the 1980s the project has recently completed the first run through the entire flora with a preliminary draft atlas published.

Poinsettia

Author: David R. Hershey

Debunking the myth of Poinsettia as a poisonous plant the author takes us through the history of this myth and why we should not be concerned about it.

13. Systematic Botany, April-June 2005, volume 30 (2).

The methods of herbarium taxonomy.

Author: Andrew Henderson

The author argues that botanical monographs and revisions should have a sound scientific basis by using a stated species concept; that they should employ an explicit, repeatable, quantitative methodology to delimit species, and this method should be linked to the species concept; and that hypotheses (i.e. species) should be proposed and tested at the same time. He concludes by suggesting a sequence of operations for the production of scientific taxonomy.

14. Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society, April-June 2005, volume 132 (2).

Biomass partitioning and reproductive allocation in the invasive, cleistogamous grass *Microstegium vimineum*: Influence of the light environment.

Author: Gregory P. Cheplick

The ability to grow and allocate limited resources to seed production in chasmogamous and cleistogamous spikelets under deep shade where other herbs are uncommon, is crucial to the success of *Microstegium vimineum* as an aggressive colonizer of disturbed forests.

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) and other non-native trees in urban woodlands of central Massachusetts.

Authors: Robert I. Bertin et al.

A study of 32 woodlands in and near Worcester found the most common non-native trees were Norway maple, black locust, and tree-of-heaven. Because of its widespread use as an ornamental, its capacity to invade intact woodlands and its intense shade, Norway maple has the potential to profoundly alter native woodlands, especially on mesic sites.

15. Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society, July-Sept 2005, volume 132 (3).

The evolution of fire-dependent flowering in goldenasters (*Pityopsis* spp.).

Author: Amy K. Gowe and J. Stephen Brewer

The authors showed that 1) fire-dependent flowering occurred in one infrageneric taxonomic group (section Graminifoliae) but not the other (section *Pityopsis*); 2) fire-dependent flowering occurred in habitats or micro sites that contained a dense ground cover canopy during years without fire and 3) fire-dependent flowering was more likely to occur in areas of relatively high fire and lightning frequency in United States.

Changes in Hemlock-dominated forest following woolly adelgid infestation in southern New England.

Author: Melanie J. Small, Christine J. Small and Glenn D. Dreyer

After reduction of *Tsuga canadensis* major trends included a shift in canopy dominance to open and mixed hardwoods, considerable understory development, including greater herb richness and abundance and increased density of clonal saplings, and expansion of several invasive shrubs and woody vines.

24 years of change in an old *Tsuga canadensis* woods affected by beach bark disease.

Author: James R. Runkle

A 2 hectare permanent plot from 1800 was studied in Rensselaerville, New York. Overall, the stand decreased in density and increased in basal area, with similar proportional changes in each time interval. *Tsuga canadensis*, by far the most important species, increased its relative density and basal area, as did *Quercus rubra*. *Fagus grandifolia* decreased in both.

16. SIDA, August 2005, volume 21 (3).

A multivariate morphometric study of the aster genus *Sericocarpus*.

Authors: Michelle R. Leonard, Rachel E. Cook and John C. Semple

The analyses were used to construct comprehensive descriptions and an identification key to all taxa of *Sericocarpus* including the three from eastern North America, *Sericocarpus asteroides*, *Sericocarpus tortifolius*, and *Sericocarpus linifolius*.

A revision of *Trisetum* and *Graphephorum* (Poaceae:Pooideae:Aveninae) in North America north of Mexico.

Authors: Victor L. Finot, Paul M. Peterson, Robert J. Soreng and Fernando O. Zuloaga

The New York species *Trisetum melicoides* is transferred to *Graphephorum* and *Trisetum spicatum* is unchanged.

Infrageneric classification of *Liatris* (Asteraceae: Eupatorieae).

Author: Guy L. Nesom

The 37 species of the genus are placed in five sections, *Liatris*, *Vorago*, *Suprago*, *Pilifilix*, and *Graminifolium*.

17. SIDA, December 2005, volume 21 (4).

Taxonomy of the *Symphotrichum* (*Aster*) *subulatum* Group and *Symphotrichum tenuifolium* (Asteraceae: Astereae).

Author: Guy L. Nesom

***Pinguicula vulgaris* (Lentibulariaceae) and its uses in Norway.**

Author: Torbjorn Alm

Information on its use for curdling milk, in folk medicine and veterinary medicine mainly to treat sore teats of cows.

18. Chinquapin, the Newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, Fall 2005, volume 13 (3).

Wildlife negative impacts on plants.

Author: J. Dan Pittillo

Trillium propagation is threatened by white tailed deer. Wild turkeys in Michigan consumed 98 out of 100 purple fringed orchids at a preserve.

Transplanting pink lady slipper

Author: J. Dan Pittillo

It was found that lifting out the entire root system from the duff and transplanting it to a similar locality was more successful than digging out a lot of soil 6 inches around each plant.

19. Solidago, the Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, October 2005, volume 6 (3).

***Epilobium parviflorum*-A common naturalized willow herb in Central New York.**

Author: David Werier

A natural history and identification of this often overlooked plant.

***Bidens cernua*-nodding bur marigold**

Author: David Werier

Information on its natural history and identification

The duck.

Author: Norm Trigoboff

A story about the common non-native and invasive liverwort *Lunularia cruciata* that may take over Cornell.

20. Solidago, the Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, December 2005, volume 6 (4).

***Hamamelis virginiana*-witch hazel.**

Author: Sarah McNaull

An in-depth look at the natural history of this beautiful fall flowering shrub.

New edition of the Peterson Fern Guide.

A review of this new field guide.

Winter Rosettes

Author: Barbara Barol

A story about Amy Grace Mekeel who wrote the "Identification of plants in the rosette condition" for her Master of Arts degree from Cornell in 1919.

21. Adirondack Life, Special collectors issue 2005, volume 36 (7).

Friendly advice. Tips on growing north country ferns.

Author: Nick Woodin

A short article on the joys of growing the common ferns of the Adirondacks.

22. Natural Areas Journal, July 2005. volume 25 (3).

Canopy and understory composition of old-growth riparian forest in Zoar Valley, New York, USA.

Authors: Thomas P. Diggins and Bruce Kerschner.

After a survey of many trees in the canopy and understory, 14 species reached 35-47.5 meters in height in this tallest broad-leaf forest yet described in the northeastern United States. Cores from seven canopy species revealed ages of 170-305 years.

NYFA Fall 2005

24. Natural Areas Journal, January 2006, volume 26 (1).

Dynamics of Atlantic white-cedar populations at the northern New England coastal wetland.

Author: Lara M. Gengarely and Thomas D. Lee

Decline of Atlantic white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), an uncommon, wetland tree of the eastern coastal United States, may be due in part to successional change in which cedar is replaced by more shade-tolerant tree species. At the Brown Mill Pond site the cedar will likely decline in the absence of disturbance but it is unlikely that cedar will be completely replaced by arboreal associates as cedar establishment was evident along the pond edge and in small patch cuts.

Book review: The Herbaceous Layer in Forests of Eastern North America by Frank S. Gilliam and Mark R. Roberts.

Author: Greg Spyreas

This publication, originating from a 1998 symposium, helps fill the gaping holes in our knowledge of this layer of the forest. Its focus is the Appalachian Plateau/Foothills north to eastern boreal systems. It is also somewhat limited in coverage of forest types with the mixed-mesophytic stands of the Appalachian highlands receiving the most attention. As with an edited book the chapters are not consistent but despite the critiques and shortcomings there is plenty of useful information in this extensive source on the herbaceous layer. It will be a standard reference for some time.

25. The Land Steward, Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Land Trust, Autumn 2005, volume 17 (4).

The bitter of Asian bittersweet.

Author: Margot Brinn

The history and problems of Asian bittersweet in our state.

26. Protectors of Pine Oak Woods. Staten Island's Land Conservation Organization. Fall 2005.

Strangers in a strange land: ignoring our natural roots.

Author: Hillel Lofaso

The challenge of teaching children about the outdoors when they spend so much time indoors.

27. Rhodora, Summer 2005, volume 107 (931).

Alien vascular plants in Massachusetts.

Author: Bruce A. Sorrie

The non-native vascular flora of Massachusetts is listed with earliest and latest dates of occurrence. A total of 1317 non-native taxa are documented, about 30% of the flora.

New York Flora Association Membership Form

Your membership expires at the end of year listed on your address. Please keep your dues up to date.

Annual Membership dues: _____ Renewal \$20 _____ New Student Members Free the First Year!

Additional donation to support NYFA's efforts \$ _____ Total \$ _____

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BOTANY TALKS

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The Northeast Natural History Conference

The conference will be held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center (adjacent to the State Museum) in Albany on **April 20-21**. **Abstracts are due Monday February 6th.** Through this notice, I am asking everyone to consider giving a presentation. Specifically, I would like to see an increase in the number of botany presentations. To encourage this, the New York Flora Association will sponsor two awards: one for the **best student presentation** and one for the **best botany presentation**. These awards will include: a certificate, \$100 cash prize, and a one-year subscription to the NYFA Newsletter.

New York Flora Association Best Student Presentation:

This award is given by the New York Flora Association for the best student presentation at the Northeast Natural History Conference. Higher consideration will be given to presentations that advance our understanding of the biology, ecology, distribution, or taxonomy of the northeastern flora. Both oral and poster presentations are eligible. All student presenters at the Northeast Natural History Conference are eligible for this award, although student presenters should send an e-mail to nyfa@nyflora.org announcing when their presentation will be given.

New York Flora Association Best Botany Presentation:

This award is given by the New York Flora Association for the best botany presentation at the Northeast Natural History Conference. Higher consideration will be given to oral presentations that advance our understanding of the biology, ecology, distribution, or taxonomy of the northeastern flora. The presentation may deal with a broad area including systematics, ecology, and/or conservation. All individuals presenting botany focused talks are eligible for this award, although we do ask presenters to send an e-mail to nyfa@nyflora.org announcing when their presentation will be given.

Please feel free to share this announcement to anyone you think might be interested. More details will soon appear on the New York Flora Association website (<http://www.nyflora.org>) and BRI's Northeast Natural History Conference website (<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/nhc>).