



NYFA Newsletter

New York Flora Association - New York State Museum Institute

Steve Young, Editor

Correspondence and dues to NYFA, 3140 CEC, Albany, NY 12230 Dues \$20/Year
Vol. 15 No. 4 Winter, 2004-2005 email: young@nynhp.org website: www.nyflora.org

Cumming Nature Center Plant List

By Suzanne Cordell Strakosh sstrakos@ksu.edu

Editors Note: The New York Flora Association has created a new heading on our website for plant lists. All future plant lists will be available on our website instead of being published in the newsletter. We will introduce the plant lists in the newsletter and provide background information here. Go to <http://www.nyflora.org/checklists/checklists.htm> to see the full lists.

Cumming Nature Center, located on the eastern slopes of Honeoye Lake, is a satellite facility of the Rochester Museum of Science. It was originally the property of Howard and Margaret Cumming of Rochester who donated the land to the museum in 1972 and 1973 for the purpose of nature education. The visitor center was built in the mid 1970s and today the facility offers five miles of walking trails and 15 miles of cross-country ski trails. There is a diverse assemblage of plant communities from hemlock swamp to meadows and ponds. Because of cutbacks at the museum it is now only open on weekends. The naturalist for the center, Bob Cooper, has been with the museum since the 1970s and in April 1997 I was hired as an intern



from Cornell University and came up with the idea of producing a useful plant list of the flora that people would see when walking the trails.

The staff said visitors were often asking about what plants were flowering along the trails, and no one there really knew. Because of my past experience we decided this would be the perfect project. So I decided to walk the trails (almost daily), identify and map what was blooming, and have pictures and locations of them posted in the Nature Center. I worked at Cummings for almost two years, and spent most of both growing seasons walking the trails and looking for plants in bloom. I tried to observe at



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Bob Cooper in the Center's Gullick Swamp



New York People New York Plants

An update of who is doing what across
the state

Dr. Barbara Bedford (Cornell University) was chosen as the winner of the 2005 National Wetlands Award for Science Research presented by the Environmental Law Institute. She will be honored at an awards ceremony and dinner on Capitol Hill in May.

Dr. Bedford's background from her website at Cornell University.



Ph.D. - University of Wisconsin-Madison - 1980
M.Sc. - University of Wisconsin-Madison - 1977
B.A. - Marquette University Honors Program - 1968

Barbara Bedford joined the Department of Natural Resources in 1989, having served as the Associate Director of Cornell University's Ecosystems Research Center since 1980. In addition to teaching and research, she works with conservation organizations and various state and federal agencies in efforts to solve environmental problems that affect wetlands and the landscapes in which they occur.

Research

Her research focuses on wetland plant diversity, what controls it, how human actions affect it, and how to manage it. She and her students work primarily in fens, bogs, riparian wetlands, and Great Lakes wetlands. Current projects in her laboratory include: (a) relationship of groundwater hydrology and chemistry to nutrient availability, plant productivity, and plant species diversity; (b) interrelationships among nutrient availability, plant tissue chemistry, and plant species diversity; (c) landscape control of wetland biogeochemistry and hydrology; (d) effects of removing cattails on fen species composition and diversity; (e) mycorrhizal diversity and the role of mycorrhizal fungi in maintaining plant species diversity in phosphorus-poor wetlands; (f) sources of below-ground carbon to riparian zones and their role in nitrogen dynamics; and (g) development of vegetation indicators of the

June Field Trip Valcour Island

We will visit Valcour Island, a botanical treasurehouse, on Friday, June 3rd. We will meet at the DEC boat launch in Peru, just south of Plattsburgh, at 9AM for the short ride to the island. We will return at 3PM. Bring a lunch, water, rain gear and good hiking boots. The terrain is not very taxing but we will hike several miles. The island is home to many different plant communities and rare species, not to mention the beautiful scenery. Space is limited so email Troy Weldy (weldy@nynhp.org) for a spot and directions.



Willow Workshop

This 3-day workshop will be held at various locations in St. Lawrence County on June 10-12. Dr. George Argus (Curator Emeritus, Canadian Museum of Nature), the renowned *Salix* expert and author to various FNA treatments, will lead the workshop. Each workshop participant will be provided the *Guide to the Salix of New England and New York*, *Guide to Interactive Identification of Salix*, IntKey software for *Salix*, and other helpful handouts to assist with *Salix* identification. The workshop will include both lab and field exercises. Dissecting scopes and study material will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own study materials and specimens. The workshop costs are \$75 for NYFA members and students, and \$100 for non-members. This does not include lodging or meals. The workshop is limited to 15 participants, so please reserve early. Send an email to Troy Weldy (weldy@nynhp.org) to reserve your space and for further details.

Publication News

This new section will keep readers up-to-date on some of the recent publications that are pertinent to NYS botany including journal articles and newsletter articles. Sometimes abstracts or summaries will be included.

Please feel free to submit citations and abbreviated abstracts of recent articles for others to see.

1. Source: Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society 131(4), 2004.

The historical and extant vascular flora of Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County, New York 1947-1998.

Authors: Robert DeCandido and Eric Lamont

The flora of the High Line, New York City, New York.

Author: Richard Stalter

Here is an interesting look at the plants that have taken over an old elevated train line in the middle of Manhattan.

Noteworthy plants reported from the Torrey Range-2002-2003.

Authors: Eric E. Lamont and Stephen M. Young

This is a list of noteworthy finds of native and non-native plants in the counties surrounding New York City.

2: Source: Solidago, The Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society of Ithaca 6(1). February 2005.

How many bryophytes are there in New York and are any of them rare?

Author: Nat Cleavitt

A summary of what is known about the number of species in the state (617-637) and how many are rare (164). Much more work needs to be done to make these lists more accurate.

Tortula papillosa: A plant-finding challenge.

Author: Norm Trigoboff

A detailed description and guide to finding this rare (or maybe not so rare) moss.

Yucky ants.

Author: Connie Krochmal

The role of ants in plant dispersal and other mutualistic associations.

3: Source: Protectors of Pine Oak Newsletter Winter/Spring 2005.

Asian Longhorn Beetle: Frequently asked questions.

4. Source: Natural Areas Journal 25(1), January 2005.

Plant communities growing on boulders in Allegheny National Forest: Evidence for boulders as refugia from deer and as a bioassay of overbrowsing.

The overabundance of deer in Pennsylvania has reduced the species richness and evenness of forbs, shrubs, and tree seedlings on the forest floor. Boulders inaccessible to deer serve as refugia where typical levels of plant growth can be studied.

3: Source: Solidago, The Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society of Ithaca 6(2). April 2005

Claytonia virginica (Spring Beauty)

Author: Bill Plummer

A natural history of this spring ephemeral including the author's experience with the plant in his area.

Dutchman's Breeches—*Dicentra cucullaria*

Author: Alice Grow

A detailed natural history of another spring ephemeral. Propagation tips are provided.

4: Source: Plant Ecology 174:97-107.2004.

Impacts of the exotic, nitrogen-fixing black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) on nitrogen cycling in a pine-oak ecosystem.

Authors: Rice S.K., Westerman B., and Federici R.

Black locust changes the soil nutrients and vegetation of the Albany Pine Bush by adding nitrogen.

5: New pamphlet: **Terrestrial Invasive Plants of the Lake George Watershed.** The Lake George Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 1250, Lake Shore Drive, Bolton Landing, NY, 12814. 518-649-9673

Information on *Phragmites australis*, *Alliolaria petiolata*, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Lythrum salicaria*, and *Lonicera* spp.

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** \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Make checks payable to the **New York Flora Association** and mail to:

NY Flora Association
3140 CEC
Albany, NY 12230

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BOTANIST IF:

A motel owner recognizes you after you haven't been there for 5 years, because you were the one who left "straw" in her bedspread. (really happened to Stanley Smith)
Sent in by Dick Mitchell.

Initially angry landowners become friendly once you tell them you are just looking at plants instead of hunting.

[send more to syoung@nynhp.org]