

**New York Flora
Association**

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The Story Behind the Species Name: Ithemer Bingham Crawe, M.D

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A respected physician, father and grandfather of physicians who served the Watertown community well into the twentieth century, Crawe's passion from a very young age was mineralogy and botany.

Born at Enfield, Connecticut on June 11, 1792, his family moved to Hamilton in Madison County when he was nine. There he worked on his family's farm and went to district school until he was 19. In the summer of 1811, he injured himself while working in the wheat fields. Still able to walk and ride about he developed a lifelong interest in botany and began enthusiastically collecting and classifying local plants. On the advice of his physician to visit the seashore, he visited Block Island in Rhode Island, spending the following two years teaching at schools in Earlville and Oneida County. With his health once again failing, he traveled to New Bedford Massachusetts, where he embarked on two fishing voyages to the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. His health once again restored, he stopped in Albany on his way home where he found a position teaching in a select school. Returning home in March 1818 he prepared for a career in medicine by studying with Dr. Hastings of Clinton. His education was supplemented by two sessions in 1821 and 1822 at the College of Physicians

and Surgeons in New York City. At the time a medical school education was not a requirement for the practice of medicine, a preceptorship with a "reputable practitioner" was generally considered adequate. While studying with Dr. Hastings, he made the acquaintance of Dr. Noyes, professor of chemistry at Hamilton College. Through Dr. Noyes he had free access to Hamilton's large collection of minerals, which undoubtedly stimulated his interest in the subject. He then entered into a short partnership with Dr. Bissel of Clinton before moving to Watertown in the fall of 1822.

In Watertown, he began a very active medical career, becoming a member of the Jefferson County Medical Society in 1822, serving as its secretary in 1825, as its censor for six years and as its president in 1827 and 1842. In 1846, the honorary Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon him by the regents of the University of the State of New York upon recommendation of the state medical society. In 1830 he married Charlotte F. Mortimer, daughter of wealthy Watertown banker John Mortimer. Charlotte, a graduate of a French finishing school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was also a student of Madame Deferiet and spoke French fluently. (Continued on page 2)



On the occasion of their wedding her father had built a stately house on Court Street, which for a long time was one of the oldest houses in the city. The house was visited not only by Madame Deferiet, but also on occasion by General Jacob Brown. After a number of years in Watertown, he was persuaded to relocate to Ogdensburg, where he remained for three years before leaving to take charge of a lead mining operation in Lubec, Maine. When the mine failed he moved to Pontiac Michigan before health problems forced him to return to Watertown. Judging by his activities in the Jefferson County Medical Society, it appears that he left Watertown some time after 1834, returning by 1841.

His greatest botanical achievement was the discovery of Crawe's sedge (*Carex crawei* Dewey), a rare perennial sedge that is currently on New York State's Threatened Species list. The plant grows in limestone pavement areas and is found in western and northern New York. A number of populations are still known to exist in Jefferson County. In the spring of 1833, Crawe and the botanist, Asa Gray, did a mineral survey of Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. Gray, an early supporter of Darwin and the first to attempt a classification of the species on a natural basis of affinity, was later to serve as a professor of natural history at Harvard and regent of the Smithsonian Institution. The resulting article in the American Journal of Science and Arts, "A sketch of the mineralogy of a portion of Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties" was Gray's first paper to receive widespread readership.

A frequent collaborator on Gray's projects, it was this relationship that led to his untimely demise. Child describes the events that led to his drowning: His friend, Prof. Grey of Cambridge, Mass. requested him to procure for him some rare plants which are found on the marsh at Perch Lake, and are in their perfection about the 1st of June. Having patients on the opposite side of the lake, he went there to see them June 3, 1847. After visiting them he crossed the lake in a leaky boat, the only one obtainable at the time, taking a small pan to bail

with, and accompanied by Enoch Eddy, a large fleshy man, and William C. Gould, a young man, the son of one of his patients. They crossed the lake safely, and he made a large collection of the desired specimens, which he arranged in a large book, with heavy, strapped covers. About 5 p.m. they started to return. The wind having freshened since morning, the waves were rolling, causing the boat to strain and leak badly. When about 20 rods from shore it became evident that the boat must sink. The doctor, rising in the boat, threw his book as far towards the shore as possible, and taking out his watch, said "It is just 6 o'clock; this boat will sink in a few minutes. Mr. Eddy, you stick to the boat, Gould and I can swim." When the boat sank he caught and held up Mr. Eddy, turned over the boat and helped him onto it, and he soon floated near the shore. With Mr. Gould he started for land. The former was ahead and reached the shore with difficulty, and turning to look back, he saw the Doctor's feet sticking out of the water. He was an exceedingly fine, powerful swimmer, and must have had cramps in his shoulders, caused by the extra exertion he was obliged to make, encumbered as he was with clothing and long, heavy boots, to wade through wet, marshy ground. When the news reached his home some of his Masonic friends started out that night and began dragging the lake early the next morning. His body was found some six rods from shore, in about seven feet of water. (Continued on page 3)



Dr. Crawe



According to the family, the day after his tragic death, notice of his appointment to the chair of mineralogy and botany at Yale was received (although a later newspaper report on the subject claimed the offer was from Harvard). At the time of his death, his mineral cabinet was said to weigh eight tons.

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	NY Flora Association @newyorkflora Now a good time to distinguish the more racemose inflorescence of VA creeper vs the dichotomous one of woodbine. They are often confused. from New York, US	27 Sep

A Message From Kim Smith

Dear NYFA Members,

As my family moves west to California, it is with some sadness that I announce my departure from New York, the NYFA board, and the NYFA Treasurer position. I have really enjoyed helping to promote field botany in New York through NYFA, and meeting many of you on various field trips and workshops. It has been truly exciting to be a part of NYFA during the past few years as it has grown and transitioned to a non-profit organization. With this new non-profit status, there is great potential for expansion and development of activities, programs, and conservation actions. I look forward to hearing about these changes, interesting botanical discoveries, and other new developments in New York's botanical community.

All the best,

Kimberly Smith



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Field Trip Summary Deer Creek Fens and Dunes, July 14-15, 2012

By Andy Nelson

Thirteen of us met on Saturday, July 14, to explore the sand dunes and fens associated with the Deer Creek – South Pond wetlands complex along Lake Ontario just north of the Salmon River in Oswego County. We visited three sites on Saturday with a fourth scheduled for Sunday (see map page 6).

Our first stop was a fen in the wetlands bordering the south shore of South Pond. Access was through a field and forest on Nature Conservancy property along Tryon Road. A short traverse of marginal shrub swamp and marsh, made relatively easy by a severe lack of rain over the preceding weeks, lead us into the fen. We found variety of characteristic fen species including sundews, pitcher plants, and sedges. Carex enthusiasts were pleased to see creeping sedge (*Carex chordorrhiza*) and mud sedge (*C. limosa*) growing in wetter areas along deer trails. Our trek through the fen curved north and west. Our leader (me) forgot, for the moment, that field botany is not necessarily a mathematical pursuit and opted for a “shortest distance between two points is a straight line” return to the mainland. This led us on a journey through shrub fen and swamp thicket, which though exhausting, included a small clearing containing a colony of the native American common reed (*Phragmites americanus*).

A short drive to the west end of Rainbow Shores Road and then north on North Rainbow Shores Road brought us to another Nature Conservancy parking area where we had lunch before exploring our second fen. Here at Rainbow Shores Fen the big draw was orchids, including swamp-pink (*Arethusa bulbosa*), tuberous grass-pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*), green adder's-mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*), white fringed orchis (*Platanthera blephariglottis*), and rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). A colony of Virginia chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*) borders the open fen along its western edge.

Most of us continued south on South Rainbow Shores Road to the left fork that leads to a DEC parking area from which it is a short walk along an established path to the dunes. These are the southernmost of a series of sand dunes that extends north for approximately seventeen miles along the shore of Lake Ontario. The established path winding south along the dunes ends with a boardwalk cross over to the beach. Along the way we saw characteristic dune species such as field sagewort (*Artimisia campestris* ssp. *caudata*), Great Plains flatsedge (*Cyperus lupulinus* ssp. *macilentus*), and vigorous stands of northern poison oak (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*). A highlight of this portion of the trip was sand dune willow (*Salix cordata*), a state endangered species. After traversing the main portion of the dunes, a few of us opted to return along the back side of the dunes where we saw additional species uncommon in this region including common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and Sprengel's sedge (*Carex sprengeii*).

On Sunday, part of the group with a particular interest in the dunes headed off to the Black Pond area, another publicly accessible dune site at the northern end of the system. Steve Daniels and I undertook an expedition into the red maple swamp, tamarack-red maple swamp, and another fen in the northeastern part of the Deer Creek wetland. Fortunately, the heat was a little less intense than on Saturday and the drought had lowered the water level so that entrance and exit from the swamp was through ankle deep rather than the more normal thigh deep water and muck. The diversity of habitat provided for the longest species list of the weekend. We noted nine members of *Carex* (again including *C. chordorrhiza*), twig rush (*Cladium mariscoides*), tawny cotton-grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*), and alpine cotton-grass (*Trichophorum alpinum*).

The wetlands of the Deer Creek – South Pond complex consist of over 1500 acres of swamp, marsh, and fen. It is a very dynamic system influenced by short and long-term fluctuations in climate, natural succession, Lake Ontario water levels, and human activity. The fens we visited, though related, are each unique in their own way. Most of the wetland is protected through ownership by the Nature Conservancy and DEC, and much of it is publicly accessible. This system offers many further opportunities for exploration and botanizing.



Deer Creek Fens and Dunes Plant List

South Pond Fen Species List

Acer rubrum var. *rubrum*
Alnus incana ssp. *rugosa*
Andromeda polifolia var. *glaucophylla*
Calamagrostis canadensis var. *canadensis*
Campanula aparinoides
Carex aquatilis
Carex chordorrhiza
Carex comosa
Carex crinita
Carex lacustris
Carex lasiocarpa ssp. *americana*
Carex limosa
Carex stricta
Cephalanthus occidentalis
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Cladium mariscoides
Comarum palustre
Drosera intermedia
Drosera rotundifolia
Dulichium arundinaceum
Frangula alnus
Glyceria striata
Ilex verticillata
Juncus canadensis
Larix laricina
Lysimachia terrestris
Lysimachia thyrsiflora
Lythrum salicaria
Menyanthes trifoliata var. *minor*
Myrica gale
Nuphar variegata
Osmunda regalis var. *spectabilis*
Peltandra virginica
Persicaria amphibia
Persicaria arifolia
Phalaris arundinacea
Phragmites americanus
Phragmites australis
Platanthera clavellata
Pogonia ophioglossoides
Potamogeton gramineus
Rosa palustris
Sagittaria latifolia
Salix pedicellaris
Sarracenia purpurea
Scutellaria galericulata
Spiraea alba var. *alba*

Thelypteris palustris
Typha angustifolia
Typha latifolia
Utricularia intermedia
Vaccinium macrocarpon

Rainbow Shores Species List

Acer rubrum var. *rubrum*
Alnus incana ssp. *rugosa*
Andromeda polifolia var. *glaucophylla*
Arethusa bulbosa
Aronia melanocarpa
Betula papyrifera
Calopogon tuberosus
Campanula aparinoides
Carex canescens
Carex comosa
Carex lasiocarpa ssp. *americana*
Carex limosa
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Decodon verticillatus
Eriophorum virginicum
Ilex verticillata
Iris versicolor
Larix laricina
Lycopus uniflorus
Lysimachia terrestris
Malaxis unifolia
Menyanthes trifoliata var. *minor*
Myrica gale
Osmunda regalis var. *spectabilis*
Peltandra virginica
Pinus strobus
Platanthera blephariglottis
Pogonia ophioglossoides
Rhynchospora alba
Sagittaria latifolia
Sarracenia purpurea
Scheuchzeria palustris
Solidago uliginosa
Thelypteris palustris
Typha latifolia
Vaccinium macrocarpon
Vaccinium oxycoccos
Woodwardia virginica

Deer Creek Dunes Species List

Acer saccharum
Actaea rubra
Ammophila breviligulata
Argentina anserina
Artemisia campestris ssp. *caudata*
Asclepias syriaca
Bromus tectorum
Carex muehlenbergii var. *muehlenbergii*
Carex sprengelii
Celtis occidentalis
Centaurea stoebe
Cyperus lupulinus ssp. *macilentus*
Dichanthelium acuminatum
Elymus canadensis
Epipactis helleborine
Euphorbia polygonifolia
Festuca subverticillata
Frangula alnus
Juniperus communis var. *depressa*
Lythrum salicaria
Maianthemum stellatum
Phalaris arundinacea
Poa compressa
Populus deltoides
Prunus virginiana
Quercus rubra
Quercus velutina
Rhus typhina
Salix cordata
Saponaria officinalis
Toxicodendron radicans ssp. *negundo*
Toxicodendron rydbergii

Deer Creek Northeast Species List

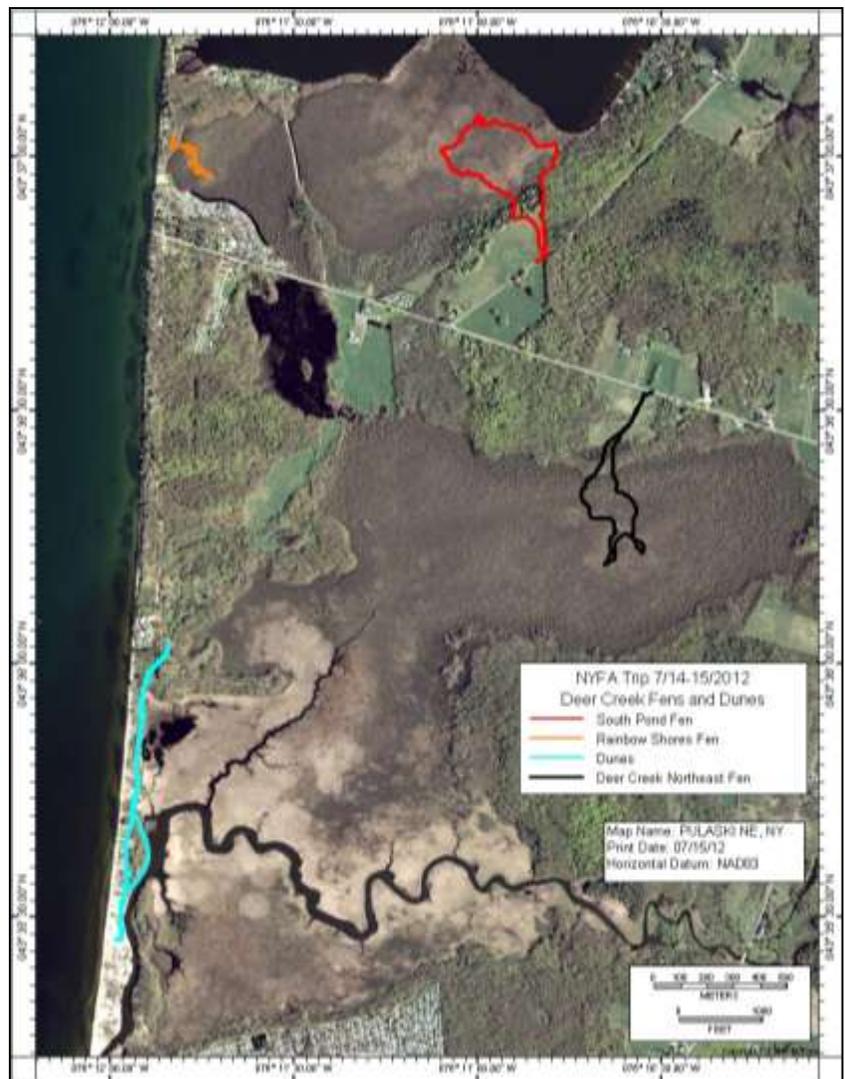
Acer rubrum var. *rubrum*
Alnus incana ssp. *rugosa*
Andromeda polifolia var. *glaucophylla*
Arisaema triphyllum ssp. *stewardsonii*
Aronia melanocarpa
Bidens connata
Boehmeria cylindrica
Campanula aparinoides

Continued on page 6



Carex aquatilis
Carex atlantica ssp. *atlantica*
Carex atlantica ssp. *capillacea*
Carex chordorrhiza
Carex exilis
Carex lacustris
Carex lasiocarpa ssp. *americana*
Carex leptalea
Carex seorsa
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Cicuta maculata
Cinna latifolia
Cladium mariscoides
Comarum palustre
Decodon verticillatus
Doellingeria umbellata
Drosera intermedia
Drosera rotundifolia
Epilobium palustre
Eriophorum virginicum
Frangula alnus
Glyceria striata
Ilex verticillata
Iris versicolor
Juncus canadensis
Larix laricina
Lycopus uniflorus
Lysimachia terrestris
Maianthemum canadense
Menyanthes trifoliata var. *minor*
Muhlenbergia glomerata
Myrica gale
Nemopanthus mucronatus
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis var. *spectabilis*
Peltandra virginica
Penthorum sedoides
Picea mariana
Pogonia ophioglossoides
Ranunculus flabellaris
Rhamnus alnifolia
Rhynchospora alba
Rosa palustris
Rubus pubescens
Rumex britannica
Sarracenia purpurea

Saururus cernuus
Scutellaria lateriflora
Sium suave
Solanum dulcamara
Solidago uliginosa
Symphyotrichum boreale
Symphyotrichum puniceum
Thelypteris palustris
Toxicodendron vernix
Triadenum virginicum
Trichophorum alpinum
Trientalis borealis
Typha latifolia
Typha x glauca
Utricularia cornuta
Utricularia intermedia
Vaccinium corymbosum



NYFA's *Juncus* Workshop with Wesley Knapp

September 7-9, 2012

By Steven Daniel

NYFA's first *Juncus* workshop was a terrific weekend of botanical discoveries, challenges, and shared learning. Although we could not accommodate all who wished to attend, seventeen botanists and plant enthusiasts from botanical clubs, academia, agencies, and consulting firms, journeyed to Rochester from many regions of New York and southwestern PA to deepen their knowledge of this interesting group of graminoids.

Our instructor was the knowledgeable and amiable Wesley Knapp, a botanist and ecologist with Maryland Natural Heritage Program, and an expert on *Juncus*. Wes is writing the keys to *Juncus* for the revised Gleason and Cronquist flora, being prepared by Rob Naczi at the New York Botanical Garden.

The Biology Department at Monroe Community College hosted the workshop, where a bio lab was our indoor classroom for most of the weekend. With access to dissecting microscopes, there was ample time to practice keying, examine a good variety of species of *Juncus*, and compare differences between sections, and related species in the same section. Several participants brought specimens they had collected, or herbarium sheets, that needed verification, which Wes was happy to provide. The field sites we visited offered good *Juncus* diversity. Saturday we visited a recently created mitigation wetland, where many *Juncus* species could be seen in a small area. Sunday we visited different parts of a rich fen at Mendon Ponds Park, where many surprises, *Juncus* and otherwise, lurked.

Wes began Saturday with a Powerpoint introduction to *Juncus*, and compared Juncaceae with related graminoids – grasses and sedges. We continued these comparisons in our field outings. Wes brought with him a great variety of fresh *Juncus*, as well as herbarium specimens. The participants had an excellent chance to see a many of the New York species, as well as several others that occur south of New York, and gained a sense of the breadth and variation of the genus in eastern North America. We were able to key and observe over 20 species of *Juncus* in the lab. This was very helpful in understanding the terminology and to see the structures on actual specimens that were referred to in the keys.

The following *Juncus* species were observed in the field (F) and in the lab (L):

<i>effusus</i> var. <i>solutus</i> F	<i>bufonius</i> F, L	<i>dichotomus</i> L	<i>pelocarpus</i> L	<i>scirpoides</i> var. <i>scirpoides</i> L
<i>pylabei</i> F, L	<i>tenuis</i> F, L	<i>compressus</i> L	<i>validus</i> L	<i>articulatis</i> F
<i>balticus</i> var. <i>littoralis</i> F	<i>dudleyi</i> F	<i>canadensis</i> L	<i>torreyi</i> F, L	<i>diffusissimus</i> L
<i>romerianus</i> L	<i>longii</i> L	<i>brevicaudatus</i> L	<i>nodosus</i> F	
<i>coriaceus</i> L	<i>biflorus</i> L	<i>subcaudatus</i> L	<i>megacephalus</i> L	
<i>filiiformis</i> L	<i>marginatus</i> L	<i>brachycephalus</i> F	<i>scirpoides</i> var. <i>compositus</i> L	

Our time in the field was invaluable, and well timed. When a front with heavy rains and winds came through Saturday morning, we were busy working in the lab. When it was time to visit the mitigation wetland, the front had passed and we had perfect weather out among the *Juncus*.

The mitigation site, recently constructed, provided many chances to see and compare *Juncus tenuis* with *Juncus dudleyi*, and *Juncus effusus* var. *solutus* with *Juncus pylabei*. *Juncus articulatus* may be the most common *Juncus* in the Rochester area, so we had good chances to see it in various stages of



development. We also compared *Juncus torreyi* with *Juncus nodosus*. At the same time we didn't ignore other graminoids – and saw grasses such as *Eragrostis spectabilis*, *Eragrostis pectinacea*, *Panicum dichotomoflorum*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Leersia oryzoides*. Nor were sedges overlooked – there were big patches of *Cladium mariscoides*, which never ceases to fool even experienced botanists into thinking it is a rush – Twig Rush is the common name for that sedge. Other sedges that we saw included *Cyperus odoratus*, *Cyperus bipartitus*, *Scirpus atrovirens*, *Eleocharis sp.*, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*, as well as *Carex lupulina*, *Carex comosa*, *Carex flava* and what appeared to be *Carex cryptolepis*. It was a great graminoid outing!

But there were other botanical and other surprises. Of particular interest was what appears to be the showy but potentially invasive *Ludwigia grandiflora subsp. hexapetala*. This is a record far north of what has been previously reported for New York (NYC area seems to be as far north as it was known.) Many were surprised to discover that it was in the Onagraceae, as it had 5 petals and sepals, unlike most in that family that are often in 4's.

When the sun came out so did the dragonflies and butterflies – we saw viceroys, buckeyes, and others (buckeyes had been seen laying eggs on *Agalinis tenuiflora*, which was common at the site.) We disturbed many black saddlebags, a type of migratory dragonfly, that were resting in the grasses. The group even found the stunning caterpillar of a showy bird-dropping mimic moth – the pearly wood nymph, *Eudryas unio*. It was a great day, and many of us celebrated with an excellent dinner at a Thai restaurant.

Sunday's field trip to a rich fen at Mendon continued our *Juncus* discoveries. We added a couple of fen species. *Juncus brachycephalus*, a calciphile, was found in several places. *Juncus balticus var. littoralis*, was found throughout the fen. The fen was full of other interesting graminoids, including *Schoenoplectus acutus*, *Carex sartwellii*, *Eleocharis rostellata*, *Eleocharis intermedia*, *Rhynchospora alba*, and *Rhynchospora capillacea*. We compared the native *Phragmites* to the invasive one. *Utricularia* was also of interest – *U. gibba* was still in flower, and we noted the interesting flat leaves on the mud of *Utricularia intermedia*. Pitcher plants and sundews (*Drosera rotundifolia*) were common. We noted one flowering plant of the state listed *Solidago ohioensis*, several flowering stems of the rare *Symphyotrichum boreale*, and abundant fruiting shrubs of poison sumac, *Toxicodendron vernix*. (Continued on page 9)

Plants of *Ludwigia grandiflora ssp. hexapetala* found on the trip.



The workshop ‘officially’ ended around 3 pm on Sunday, but I offered to show anyone a nearby site with *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, and *Cyperus flavescens* – both rare or uncommon in NY. Wes was quite interested to see them so a few of us made a short detour. And after seeing those two diminutive species, Wes picked out several tiny plants of the annual *Juncus bufonius*, which we had seen in the lab but not yet in the field! It was an exciting ending to a fabulous workshop. Thanks to Wes Knapp for his excellent instruction and making the trip from Maryland, and to all the participants who contributed to a very successful workshop.



Happy participants at the Juncus workshop. Wesley Knapp in the middle in blue coat.

Where to Deposit Herbarium Specimens

By David Werier

For those wishing to donate pressed plant specimens, consider the following herbaria. The Bailey Hortorium at Cornell (BH) is being maintained and specimens are being mounted. Moreover, they also database Tompkins Co. specimens and I believe all new specimens coming in. They plan to share their data with NYFA and are in the process of launching their new website (<http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu>).

Otherwise, New York Botanical Garden (NY) is a very good option. They are working on databasing six vascular plant families and I imagine with time others will get done. They have also agreed at times to supply data to NYFA (<http://sciweb.nybg.org/science2/SteereHerbarium.asp>).

Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BKL) is a good option too and they share all their data with NYFA. Their focus is on the New York City metropolitan region and not New York as a whole. Their website is <http://www.bbg.org/research/herbarium>

Are other herbaria willing to take specimens? Contact the editor for posting in the next newsletter.



C. Barre Hellquist Leads Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop

By Rich Ring. Photos by Connie Tedesco.

On August 18, 2012, nine aquatic plant enthusiasts attended a workshop led by C. Barre Hellquist concentrating on the Potamogetonaceae, or pond-weed family, in Albany. Dr. Hellquist is a Professor Emeritus of Biology at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and has co-authored "The Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Northeastern North America", and treatments of the aquatic families in the "Flora of North America", "Flora of China", and the "Jepson Manual of California".

The workshop began with a hands-on examination of aquatic plants at the Pine Bush Discovery Center. Dr. Hellquist brought with him a wide selection of fresh specimens, mostly of *Potamogeton* species, as well as pressed specimens. After everyone had the opportunity to personally examine lacunae, abaxial keels, and adnate stipular sheaths up close, the group headed out into the field, or more accurately, out onto the water. By canoe and kayak, we paddled the Mohawk River at Niskayuna. The site had a good diversity of aquatics, if a bit skewed toward exotic species. Among the species we saw were the following:

Potamogeton berchtoldii

P. crispus

P. foliosus

P. nodosus

P. perfoliatus

Stuckenia pectinata

Najas minor

Elodea nuttallii

Vallisneria americana

Acorus calamus

Typha latifolia

T. x glauca

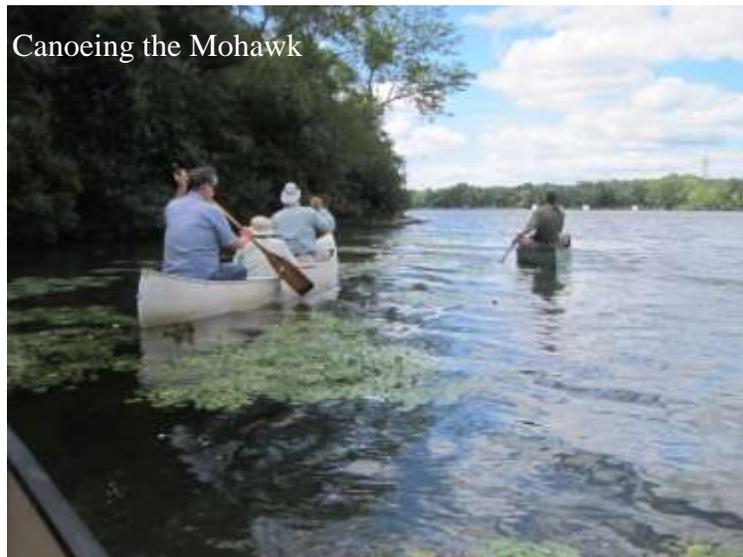
Iris pseudacorus

Myriophyllum spicatum

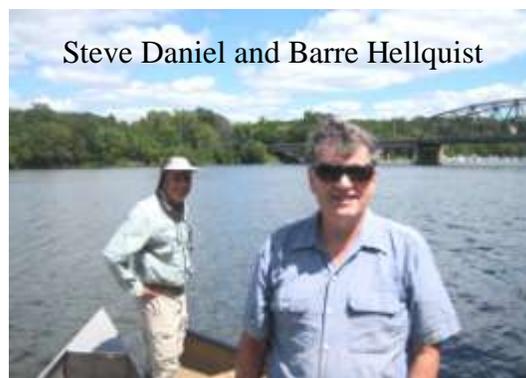
Heteranthera dubia

Nymphaea odorata ssp. *tuberosa*

Trapa natans



After our outing we returned to the classroom for a lecture and discussion of *Potamogeton* and a chance to examine our collections. Many thanks to C. Barre Hellquist for leading the workshop, and to Rich Ring for organizing a memorable and educational outing.



Joint NYFA/LIBS Goldenrod Workshop Sept. 15th, 2012

By Rich Kelly

LIBS President Eric Lamont conducted the workshop, which was held in his yard in Northville, Suffolk County, Long Island. There were 22 participants, some from as far away as Pennsylvania and upstate New York. The weather was great and everyone had a good time. We appreciated the preparatory work that Eric had done to make this workshop successful; not just a plain field trip where you show up and start looking around.

We started by walking across the street for an introduction on the beach facing Long Island Sound. Eric had written a key to goldenrods in a LIBS newsletter from 1992, and this was used as the basis for the identifications. A short addendum was handed out which updated nomenclature, documented occurrences in our area, and provided some information on the *Solidago altissima/canadensis/gigantea* complex.

Participants worked singly or in small groups, wandering around Eric's yard to use the keys to identify 25 specimens of approximately 19 species of goldenrods. Some of these were growing naturally at the edge of the yard. However, most were pieces of live plants that were in pots of water or planted in pots. At the end, a review was conducted to discuss why each specimen keyed to its correct species ID. Additionally, people brought their own specimens in pots or pressed, and Eric went through these to discuss the relevant characters of each.

An added treat for the naturally oriented group was the sighting of a rare butterfly. During the review of species in the backyard, a Giant Swallowtail flew around the participants a couple of times before departing. This is possibly only the second sighting ever in Suffolk County.

If that wasn't enough, afterwards Eric led a small group on a short walk to see *Hottonia inflata*, Featherfoil. It was just emerging at this time, but it is a state rare plant.



The group at the beach - from left to right: Vicki Bustamante, Wayne Morris, Barbara Conolly, Leon Dalva, Polly Weigand, Chet Schmitt, Karen Blumer, Sue Avery, Sarah David Rosenbaum, Margaret Conover, Rich Kelly, Mike Feder, Eric Lamont, Kathy Gaffney, Donald House, John Seirup, Regina Conlan, David McNaughton, Pauline Rosen, Rebecca McMalkin, Chris Roddick.



More Goldenrod Workshop Photos



John Seirup ponders a key while a goldenrod leans over and seems to say, "Give up?"



Participants help each other key out species.



Barbara Conolly is one with number eight.



Leon Dalva and John Seirup follow along as Pauline Rosen talks about the characters.



Margaret Conover looks closer.



Report from the NYFA Crustose Lichen Workshop, 6-7 October 2012

by Scott LaGreca, Curator, Cornell University Plant Pathology Herbarium

A crustose lichen workshop was held on Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7, 2012 at the Cornell University Plant Pathology Herbarium, Ithaca, NY. Four botanists—Anne Johnson, Chris Mangels, Tom Phillips and David Werier—attended. The workshop was led by me, with assistance from Bob Dirig; David Werier kindly handled the workshop registration and logistics.

After a brief introduction to crustose lichens, important characters used in genus diagnosis, and the relevant literature, participants worked on identifying their own unidentified, crustose lichen specimens. About halfway through the workshop, the group visited a very interesting habitat known colloquially as “the Lake Cliffs”, along the east shore of Cayuga Lake. This site had not been explored for crustose lichens previously, and it turns out that it is home to a very good diversity of species, especially members of the genera *Caloplaca* and *Lecanora*. The cliffs are also exceptional in supporting a number of species of Lichinales, a poorly known order of black, gelatinous, lime-loving lichens (see photo). A preliminary checklist of species from the cliffs is in preparation.

The small size of the workshop and the keen eyes of the attendees created a unique learning environment, where folks could get one-on-one assistance from instructors and, at the same time, learn from each other. Everyone (including me) came away with new techniques for identification; an appreciation for characters useful for diagnosing genera and species; and a batch of newly identified specimens. We hope to offer these workshops on a semi-regular basis (and in different locations), so if you missed this one, look for announcements in future issues of this newsletter! If you have any questions or suggestions for future NYFA cryptogamic workshops or fieldtrips, please email the NYFA Cryptogamic Committee, c/o Scott LaGreca, at: sal66@cornell.edu



Identifying lichens in the classroom.



Tom Phillips at the Lake Cliffs



Position Announcement

Newsletter Editor (Volunteer)

The New York Flora Association (NYFA) is a registered 501c3 not-for-profit organization operating within NYS. NYFA was founded in 1988 to promote field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild in New York State. The goals of the organization are:

- to promote the study of New York State's flora;
- to encourage the production of botanical publications that are educational to the public and beneficial to the scientific community;
- to provide an umbrella organization for field and herbarium botanists that can represent their points of view;
- to serve as an information exchange for botanically related organizations and botanists active in New York State;
- to foster the pursuit of common interests;
- to support the continued development of the New York Flora Atlas; and
- to promote conservation of native plants and natural communities.

The NYFA is seeking a volunteer individual to perform the duties of editor of the newsletter.

The NYFA organizes and runs botanical field trips, offers botanical workshops and publishes a newsletter quarterly. The newsletter contains articles and illustrations on various botanical topics including taxonomy, plant ecology, invasives, rare species, etc.; botanically oriented announcements and current events; and schedules of botanic field trips and workshops sponsored by NYFA as well as other botanical societies and organizations in NYS. The newsletter is published in paper and digital format.

Duties of the editor would include soliciting, receiving and editing articles, "pasting" up copy, and organizing the distribution of paper and digital copies. The editor is supported by the NYFA newsletter committee. The prospective editor should be proficient with word processing programs and, ideally, familiar with specialized editing/publishing software. The candidate is not required to have a degree in botany. However, a passion for plants and a desire to help inform NYFA members and the public on botanical matters is essential. The prospective editor should send a letter of intention and a resume to the address below. For more information or to apply for the position contact:

Steve Young
Acting Editor
New York Flora Association
P.O. Box 122
Albany, New York 12201-0122
editor@nyflora.org





“Did you know that *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Sweet Vernal Grass, still has the same scientific name today as in 1855?”

An Old Quote That Resonates to This Day

Sent in by Steven Daniel

Miss Thorley and I are doing a little botanical work! for our amusement, and it does amuse me very much . . . I have just made out my first grass, Hurrah, Hurrah! I must confess that fortune favors the bold, for as luck would have it, it was the easy *Anthoxanthum odoratum*; nevertheless, it is a great discovery. I never expected to make out a grass in all my life, so Hurrah! It has done my stomach surprising good.

Charles Darwin to Sir Joseph Hooker, 1855



Do you have a photograph, article or poem, or pondering that you would like to share with other NYFA members? We are always looking for interesting contributions for our newsletter and blog. Please send your contributions and suggestions to:

EDITOR@NYFLORA.ORG

We would also like to know what articles are most interesting to you about our flora. We like feedback!

What's On Our Website?

All of our programs and trips are posted on the calendar at:
<http://www.nyflora.org/calendar-of-events/>

Go to our Google Map to see plant lists by location at:
<http://www.nyflora.org/plant-lists/>

All of our field trips and workshop are at:
<http://www.nyflora.org/field-trips-and-workshops/>

NYFA Atlas Statistics

Species – 3898

Images – 2242

Herbarium Records
153293



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Thank you for supporting NYFA and the flora of New York State