

NYFA Newsletter

New York Flora Association
of the New York State Museum Institute

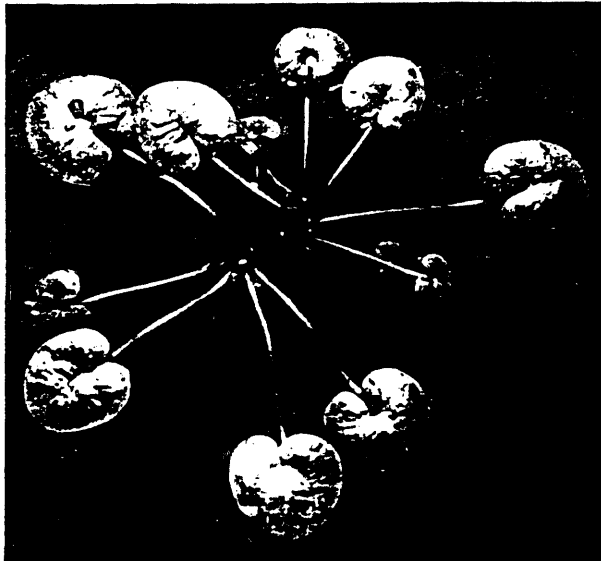
Vol. 2, No. 1 Co-Directors: Richard S. Mitchell Robert E. Zaremba February - 1991
New York State Museum The Nature Conservancy
Address all Correspondence to NYFA, 3132 CEC, Albany, NY 12230

Welcome all New Members! We're Over 300

European Frog's-bit -- Aquatic Invader

by Anne Johnson

The European Frog's-bit, *Hydrocharis morsur-ranae*, is a recently introduced aquatic, currently invading the slow moving waters of northern New York State. It was first brought to Canada from Switzerland in 1932, and by 1939 it had escaped from a pond at the Ottawa Experimental Farm to a nearby ditch that connected with the Rideau Canal. From there it spread into the Ottawa, Rideau, and eventually St. Lawrence Rivers. The first collection of it on the United States side of the river was in 1974 near Ogdensburg, New York (Roberts *et al.*, 1981); this was followed by another sighting near Kring Point, near Alexandria Bay in



the Thousand Islands region. Dick Mitchell and Ken Dean collected it 14 miles inland in 1977 near Rensselaer Falls. In the summer of 1989, Andy Nelson noted two populations as far south as Fair Haven, on the south shore of Lake Ontario.

Mats of the plants have colonized numerous slow arms and shores of St. Lawrence County rivers, streams, and beaver impoundments, slowing water flow and collecting debris in their tangled, dangling root masses. Catling *et al.* (1989), monitored the change in cover values of submerged native vascular aquatic plant stands, both with and without Frog's-bit. They found a significant decline in native flora below stands of the floating mat, and attributed it to the decrease in light and increased competition for gases and nutrients.

When I first encountered *Hydrocharis* (1982), at the Brandy Book marsh in the township of Madrid, there was only a scattering of individuals. The next year the shores and embayments were covered with plants. The population has since settled into a less dominant role, and it now blends in more discretely with the native flora. This pattern of proliferation followed by reduction in numbers was also observed at the Indian Creek Nature Center near Rensselaer Falls and in a swampy area south of Canton.

Richards and Blakemore (1975), in a study carried out in Britain, found that 2 weeks of temperatures approaching 15° C were needed for maximum growth stimulation of turions (winter buds), and that higher temperatures were necessary before they would float. One night of 1° C was enough to retard turion sprouting significantly. As the Frog's-bit moves farther south in New York, perhaps it will find temperatures more amenable and predictable than they are here in the St. Lawrence River Valley (we often have a killing frost in early June). The plant is not in any of our area manuals (aside from a mention in an appendix here and there, and I found it in Bailey's Key to the cultivated plants) So be on the look-out for a miniature water-lily like plant with gauzy white three-petaled flowers forming mats in sluggish channels of waterways. It's apparently heading south! To anyone who does see it, I would appreciate a note on its location.

Literature:

Catling, P.M. & W.G. Dore. 1982. Status and identification of *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* and *Limnobium spongia* (Hydrocharitaceae) in northeastern North America. *Rhodora* 84: 523-545.

_____, K.W. Spicer, & L.P. Lefkovich. 1988. Effects of the introduced floating vascular aquatic, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Hydrocharitaceae), on some North American aquatic macrophytes. *Le Naturaliste Canadien* 115: 131-137.

Richards, A.J. & J. Blakemore. 1975. Factors affecting the germination of turions in *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, L. *Watsonia* 10: 273-275.

Roberts, M., R. Stuckey & R. Mitchell. 1981. *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* (Hydrocharitaceae) new to the U. S. *Rhodora* 83: 147-148.

My First Extended Botany Field Trip --

by Eugene C. Ogden

During the summer of 1934, Merritt Lyndon Fernald and Arthur Stanley Pease, both professors at Harvard University, botanized in southern Ontario and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Fernald taught plant taxonomy and plant geography and was Curator of the Gray Herbarium. Pease taught Latin and Greek and was head of the Department of Romance Languages. Among the plants they collected, Prof. Fernald named several new species and declared that the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan had been a nunatak (an island of land in a sea of ice) during the Wisconsinan stage of the Pleistocene. Geologists do not currently agree with this. They maintain that the area was covered with ice at the time, and when the ice melted it was covered with water.

Professor Pease was anxious to go back to Michigan the next summer to re-visit the areas of interest and find more new species. Fernald said he was too busy to go that summer, but he would send me along with Pease. At the time I was a part-time graduate student at Harvard and part-time photographer on the staff of the Gray Herbarium. Dr. Pease had many years of experience as a botanical collector, since he and Mr. Ralph C. Bean had made many botanical field trips together. Pease and Bean, whom Fernald called his "pulsating" friends¹, had

collected extensively in New England. Fernald was very fond of puns, and most botanists will have caught this one. Perhaps his most famous pun was to Dr. Lily Perry, who, with a wide smile, kept walking back and forth in the Gray Herbarium library where Fernald was working. He said, "Lily, will you stop your peregrinations."

Dr. Pease and I botanized for a month in the areas he had visited the year before. Upon our return to Cambridge it was my assignment to identify the collections and name, as new, all such specimens that were surely to be found. However, all of our collections appeared to me to agree with previously described species. Dr. Pease called my attention to a collection of bush honeysuckle, *Diervilla lonicera*, that he'd found on the Bruce Peninsula of Ontario, that was more pubescent than usual. I studied *Diervilla* in the herbarium and found a wide range from glabrous leaves to those that were densely pubescent, with no real separation. Whether we had found nothing new, or whether I couldn't recognize a new taxon if I fell over it, I didn't know. Apparently Dr. Pease thought the latter, and he asked Prof. Fernald to look at the collections. Fernald found no new species, which was a disappointment to Dr. Pease, but a relief to me. Fernald did, however, name the pubescent bush honeysuckle *D. lonicera* var. *hypomalaca*. A few years later Dr. Norman Fassett at the University of Wisconsin studied *Diervilla* and reduced the pubescent variety to a form.

Special thanks to Dr. Ogden for capturing for us the mood of an era in which field botanists were expected to come up with undescribed taxa after almost every exploratory excursion. (Editors)

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Thanks to Members for:

- Specimens:**
 Noel Albertson (Renss. Co.)
 Raymond Curran (Essex Co.)
 Nancy Eldblom (St. Lawrence Co.)
 Bob Ingalls (Renss. Co.)
 Anne Johnson (St. Lawrence Co.)
 Carol Johnston (L.I.)
Data Slips:
 Carol Johnston, Planting Fields Arboretum (OBPF)
 Bob Trozzo (southern NY)

Note: Our system for keeping records of NYFA specimen donations has just been put in place. You, as a donor, should receive a thank-you and receipt. If we haven't acknowledged your gift of specimens or data slips soon, please let us know.

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¹The Fabaceae (Leguminosae) were once called the "Pulse Family" almost as commonly as the "Bean Family."

The New York State Station for Cathcart's Woodsia: A History of its Known Existence

by Stephen W. Eaton

The fern *Woodsia cathcartiana* was originally named by Benjamin Lincoln Robinson in honor of Miss Ellen Cathcart, who first found the species in northeastern Minnesota in 1873 (Fernald, 1950). According to a treatment by Lellinger (1985) the fern called *W. cathcartiana* Robinson or *W. oregana* var. *cathcartiana* (Robinson) Morton, is a cryptic tetraploid of *W. oregana* D.C. Eaton. The tetraploids have more globose spores, dissected pinnules and clear, enlarged cells along their margins (seen best in cleared specimens). The nature and origin of the tetraploidy is as yet undescribed, and the plants are sometimes difficult to distinguish with certainty from *W. oregana*. Mitchell (1986) recognizes the New York plants from Ontario County at the species level.

The New York Natural Heritage Program (Clemants, 1989) listed the species globally as G5, i.e., demonstrably secure throughout its range (however, it is very rare in eastern N. A.). It is listed as S1 in New York State, critically imperiled because of extreme rarity. Federally, it is listed as C2 (1985): taxa that may be appropriate for listing but for which more data are needed. Mitchell and Sheviak (1981) treated the New York plant, and it is nicely illustrated by Anne Lacy on page 30 of their book, *Rare Plants of New York State*.

The New York station was discovered by my brother, Elon H. Eaton, Jr., who, with my father E.H. Eaton (Professor of Biology, Hobart College), and a summer student-assistant, Francis A. Young, were exploring the calcareous shale cliffs near our slab-sided cabin. The cabin is on the west shore of Canandaigua Lake, south of Canandaigua, New York (Ontario County, South Bristol Twp.). If my memory serves me right, my father was hoping to find the cliff brake (*Pellaea atropurpurea*) or rock brake (*Cryptogramma stelleri*), both of which had been found on similar exposures in the Cayuga Lake Basin (Wiegand & Eames, 1925). My brother was traveling along the rim of the cliff when he located the unusual ferns. Father and his assistant were following along in a rowboat below with binoculars. Father was familiar with *Woodsia ilvensis* and *Woodsia obtusa* that occur on sandstone cliffs in less calcareous situations, and he recognized that this *Woodsia* was something different. He sent some fronds of the fern to the New York State Museum where Elsie Gibson Whitney, assistant to the State Botanist, in a letter dated 4 October 1929 said:



"The fronds of *Woodsia* which you sent for identification do not correspond to any *W. ilvensis* we have here in the herbarium, neither do they seem to be quite *obtusa*, unless it is a very small or young plant. We are sending them on to Dr. Maxon for his opinion and will let you know his decision as soon as we hear from him."

In the next letter to my father from Elsie Whitney, dated 29 October 1929, she wrote: "...Dr. Maxon [at the United States Museum] returned the specimens with the suggestion that they might be *W. Cathcartiana*, but the material was too scant or incomplete for positive identification. He suggested further that the fronds be sent to the Gray Herbarium where the type specimens of *Woodsia Cathcartiana* are deposited. His surmise was corroborated there with the same reservations, and Dr. Weatherly [at the Gray Herbarium] asked if I could get more information as to location of the plants."

Father returned to the station on 5 July, 1930, and wrote out a description, saying there were about fifteen plants. He sent more complete specimens to B. L. Robinson, curator of the Gray Herbarium. C. A. Weatherly, in Dr. Robinson's absence, answered 17 July 1930:

"... the best I can do with it is *W. Cathcartiana*. The New York plant is much less finely dissected than the original material, even when the frond is of the same size and apparent age,

and the architecture of the lower pinnae seems to be rather different. The turning up of such plants as yours raises the question of the real relationship of *W. Cathcartiana* which may be with *W. oregana* rather than with *W. scopulina*, as D. C. Eaton, whom Dr. Robinson followed, supposed."..." I have given your plants to the botanic garden to grow and hope to be able to make thorough observations on it..."

Father also deposited a specimen of the *Woodsia* at the National Museum, where it was acknowledged by letter on July 20, 1931 by J.E. Graf, Associate Curator. No students of ferns had been shown the ferns on-site before my father died on 27 March, 1934. Milton S. Baxter of the Rochester Academy of Sciences wrote my mother Esther Woodman Eaton on 4 October, 1934:

"While attending the recent meeting of the American Fern Society at Lancaster, Pa., the President of the Society, Dr. Wherry of Philadelphia, asked me if it would be possible to see the plants, in their native habitat, which Dr. Eaton found some years ago along the shores of Canandaigua Lake." ..."I would like to visit the station before I write Dr. Wherry that I can guide him to it so he will not come from Philadelphia on a 'Wild-Goose-Chase'."

In another letter, my brother agreed to guide Mr. Baxter to the location, but, today, he can't remember if this event ever occurred.

I have made notes at the station on various occasions in the period from 1946 to 1990, usually when guiding people to the site. The owners of the property have been unaware of its presence over the years.

6 Oct., 1946- Mrs. Hugh Glasgow and sister from Albany. (in notes made after the trip).. "several fronds and plants were found; lady from Albany collected spores."

13 Oct., 1946- Robert T. Clausen and Seymour Dunn; Clausen collected fronds for Cornell Herbarium.

2 July, 1948- counted 65 individual plants along 60 ft. (18.4 m) of shale bank; also in stretch were 3 plants of *Asplenium platyneuron* photo taken.

2 Aug., 1948- T. T. Odell and others from Hobart College, Geneva.

15 June, 1951- found station "flourishing".

13 June, 1960- "Station mainly under shade of white pine (*Pinus strobus*); recent digging nearby; twenty-four plants counted; three fronds without rhizomes collected for St. Bonaventure University Herbarium (cat. # 4580).

10 Aug., 1963- T. R. Liston and L. Liston (1968) took photos; thirty-one plants counted; some

washing from above spread the station into three areas; white oak logs piled horizontally along edge of cliff above station and a drainage ditch to north was washing over cliff eroding bank; many fronds with black sporangia.

Aug., 1968- counted six plants.

6 Aug., 1978- four plants below white oak logs; found three healthy plants and one *Asplenium platyneuron*.

24 July, 1980- Elizabeth Eaton White and Gerald P. White; found three healthy plants and one *Asplenium platyneuron*.

30 July, 1980- Richard S. Mitchell, Kenneth Dean and Bruce Gilman: three plants.

19 July, 1985- I counted three plants.

19 Aug., 1988- no live fronds showing after a severe drought.

30 Aug., 1988- one plant with seven fronds opened, another unrolling; another plant one meter south with one small green pinnule; this following heavy rains which ended drought, photo taken.

16 Aug., 1990- one plant with three depauperate green fronds, one mostly eaten about 0.3 meters southeast of *Asplenium platyneuron* at base of *Quercus rubra* (photo taken).

21 Aug., 1990- last of three fronds seen 16 Aug., still green but shriveled. On this date I took notes on features of the site. The ferns grow on a calcareous buttress of West River Shale near the point where Genundewa Limestone reaches the rim of the cliff. The the rock sediments are of the Genesee Group, Middle Devonian Epoch (Clark and Luther, 1904). Shading the area was a red oak 35 cm DBH. A red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) also produced some shade and added dead leaves to the rock substrate. To the east, rooted down the slope, was a small pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) that produced shade in the early morning. Shrubs on the bluff above and within 10 meters were: *Prunus virginiana*, *Viburnum rafinesquianum*, *Symphoricarpos alba*, *Rhus typhina*, *R. aromatica*, *R. glabra*, *Shepherdia canadensis*, and *Cornus racemosa*; prominent herbs were *Solidago squarrosa* and *S. juncea* (photos taken).

There are still two areas at the station where live rhizomes hold to the interstices of shale and perpetuate the existence of this station of *Woodsia cathcartiana*. Perhaps with luck from weather, proper shading, and stability of the calcareous shale buttress, the ferns may make it into the 21st century.

Literature Cited:

Clark, J. M. and D. D. Luther 1904. Strategic

and paleontologic map of Canandaigua and Naples Quadrangles. N.Y. State Mus. Bull. 63: 3-76.

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Fernald, M. L. 1950. Gray's Manual of Botany 8th edition. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York. 1632 pp.

Liston, T. R. and L. Liston. 1968. Ferns of western New York. Science on the March (Buffalo, NY) 48: 18-23.

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_____ and C. J. Sheviak 1981. Rare Plants of New York State. N.Y. State Mus. Bull. 445. 96 pp.

Wiegand, K. M. and A. J. Eames 1924. The Flora of the Cayuga Lake Basin, New York. Cornell Univ. Agr. Exp. Sta. Mem. 92. 491pp.

A New Weed Found in New York State --

Thomas Delendick of Columbia University recently published an account of an Asiatic weed that has been overlooked in the boroughs of New York City for some time. *Acalypha australis* L., a

three-seeded mercury (Euphorbiaceae), has now been reported from 22 sites, from Bronx and northern New York (Manhattan) Counties to southern Kings (Brooklyn) and eastern Queens. It occurs in sidewalk cracks, along hedge rows and on lots that have been cultivated or otherwise disturbed. It may easily be distinguished from native *A. virginica* L. var. *rhomboidea* (Raf.) Cooperrider by its heart-shaped (rather than lobed) fruiting bracts.

Advisory Council Appointed for NYFA -

In the previous newsletter we listed those persons who might to serve on an advisory board for our organization. In response to the call for nominations from the membership at our fall meeting, and by mail, a twelve member panel was offered for your consideration. No objections were voiced on any of the nominations, so the proposed members of the panel have been accepted for a term of two years, at which time they may be reinstated or replaced by a vote of the membership.

Panel members may resign at any time, and they do not necessarily have to be replaced, though we would replace any member resigning and leaving the board with fewer than seven individuals. Members of the Advisory Council will soon receive a letter calling for an annual meeting of their board and planning a date for it. As stated before, the Advisory Council will vote upon and initiate courses of action to utilize our funds and human resources in service of the stated goals of the organization: supporting field botany exploration and data gathering, and directing efforts to promote public knowledge of natural history and wise use of wild plant resources.

Members of the NYFA Advisory Council (1991-1992):

Skip Blanchard - Long Island Univ., Brookville
Steve Clemants - Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Knowlton Foote - Tompkins Co.
Ripley Gollovin - Dutchess Co.
Paul Huth - Mohonk Preserve Inc.
Anne Johnson - St. Lawrence Co.
Eric Lamont - The New York Botanical Garden
Les Mehrhoff - Connecticut Dept. Env. Protection
Claire Schmitt - NYS Museum Institute - Board
Breta Sisson - SUNY, Cortland, retired
Bob Smith - Hartwick College
Gordon Tucker - New York State Museum



Acalypha australis L. A three-seeded mercury from southern Asia, now spreading in the New York City boroughs. From Delendick (1990) Bull. Torrey Bot. Club, vol. 117, p. 292.

Do you have an article you'd like to write for the newsletter or an editorial comment? Please send it in, and we'll print it or try to answer questions.

The Bryophyte Collection at the New York State Museum --

by Lorinda Leonardi

The New York State Museum Herbarium (NYS) houses a significant collection of bryophytes, stored in labeled packets. The majority of the collections at NYS are from within the state, but there are many out-of-state and out-of-country specimens as well. The moss collections are currently being refiled according to the *List of Mosses of North America north of New Mexico*, by H. A. Crum, L. E. Anderson & W. R. Buck in *The Bryologist*, vol. 93, 1990.

The moss herbarium, with current holdings of over 20,000 collections of "bryoids" (mosses, liverworts and hornworts), was established in 1865 by Charles H. Peck, New York's first State Botanist, at the time of the publication of his *Catalogue of Mosses Presented to the State of New York*. Stanley J. Smith also contributed greatly to the NYS bryophyte collection, from the 1940's through 1970's, collecting and identifying species in most New York State counties and adding significantly to the state's moss checklist. Other important historical collectors were John M. Macoun, Coe Finch Austin, Elizabeth G. Britton, George W. Clinton, Roy Latham, W. H. Wiegmann and E. B. Ehrle. More recent important collections include specimens from Edwin H. Ketchledge, Nancy G. Slack, Richard E. Andrus, Norton G. Miller and Bruce H. Allen.

Botanists with experience in bryology are encouraged to send identified specimens of mosses, liverworts and hornworts to the State Museum. We are asking for your New York State duplicates of both rare and common species to help us eventually produce an atlas of the distributions of these plants. Out-of-state collections are also welcome.

The *Revised Checklist of the Mosses of New York State* by Edwin H. Ketchledge (1980) may be used as a reference source to close distributional gaps within the twenty-six New York State districts. These districts are based on a grid one degree of latitude by one degree of longitude. Specific location data are also sought (as with higher plants) to help us eventually plot the distributions of all New York bryophytes on our Geographical Information System.

Ketchledge's bryophyte checklist (Bulletin 440) can be purchased from the Museum for \$2.00. For a list of the rare mosses of New York State see: Clemants, S. E. and Ketchledge, E. H. 1990. Flora protection: The question of rare mosses in New York State. In: R. S. Mitchell *et al.* (eds.),



Fissidens taxifolius Hedw., a common moss in many parts of New York State, can be found on soil or rock surfaces, especially in calcium rich habitats.

Ecosystem Management: Rare Species and Significant Habitats. See page 10 for more information on ordering publications.

Note: NYFA members requesting only the Clemants & Ketchledge rare moss list may receive a free copy with their moss checklist order (or contact me if you already have the checklist and just want the rare bryophyte list).¹

Bryophyte specimens should be sent to:
Attn. L. Leonardi, New York State Museum,
Biological Survey, 3132 CEC, Albany, NY 12230.

¹Bryologists interested in a New York rare moss newsletter should contact William R. Buck, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458-5126. The first issue has just come out, and it includes a copy of the article by Clemants & Ketchledge with the rare moss list for the state.

A Niche for NYFA in Plant Conservation?

by Richard Mitchell

Allen Peterson of Owego recently sent us an interesting and provocative proposal regarding the possible involvement of NYFA in conservation and recovery of rare native plants. Allen posed some good questions and addressed several philosophical and practical considerations basic to such an undertaking. His comments also made it clear to me that our organization's functions need to be further explored. First, I'd like to try to put NYFA into perspective for those of you, like Allen, who might propose projects in the future. NYFA: we are primarily a private information exchange and field botany promotion association, but we will also function as a sponsoring organization for certain types of projects, if the membership agrees. Such projects will require outside support (donations of money, time or facilities by individuals and other organizations), since funds collected through dues are currently limited, and I feel that dues should remain modest. The NYFA advisory council will largely determine what projects we undertake, but the membership will be consulted, and a vote will be taken on any issue that proves controversial.

Rare Plant and Critical Habitat Conservation:

There are, already in place, a number of organizations, both private and governmental, that devote themselves to these ends. Some NYFA members have expressed interest in how such organizations interact in New York State. Since this is crucial to how our young organization will settle into its future niche, I'd like to discuss those organizations briefly, along with my idea of their relevance to us:

The N. Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or EnCon):

The Division of Lands and Forests within DEC is responsible for the protection of rare plants in New York state. It regulates trade in ginseng and initiates and enforces state legislation protecting rare and vulnerable native plants. Throughout the state, DEC is preparing unit management plans for state-owned land. These plans include information on the occurrence and management needs of rare plant species. The botany program is located in Albany on Wolf Road. Tel. (518) 457-7370

The Nature Conservancy (TNC):

The Nature Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization committed to the preservation of biodiversity. Recent protection efforts in New York include many purchases of land supporting rare plant species and easements and management agreements directed at rare plant conservation.

The stewardship department of the Conservancy is responsible for rare plant monitoring, management, and research on over 200 preserves in New York. The main office in New York is in Albany on Western Ave., with six regional offices throughout the state. Tel. (518) 869-6959

New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP):

The Natural Heritage Program is part of a nationwide network initiated by TNC, in which state government undertakes inventories of rare species and natural communities. The inventories include maps of occurrences, ranking of rarity on both state and global bases, and data management for conservation purposes. In New York State, the Natural Heritage Program is a joint venture of NYS DEC and the Conservancy. The program is run from offices within DEC at Wade Road in Latham. The staff of five includes a plant community ecologist and a botanist, whose position is funded through the Division of Lands and Forests. Beyond field inventories and compilation of other data, the Natural Heritage Program oversees work on federally-listed plant species in New York. Currently there are two New York plant species federally-listed endangered and two listed threatened. Funds from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are used to monitor these species and develop recovery programs. Tel. (518) 783-3932

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS):

This branch of the Department of the Interior is responsible for the federal efforts to maintain biodiversity. The Service funds rare plant surveys and compiles information to determine the need for federal actions. They also prepare documents justifying the federal listing of species, prepare legislation, and coordinate protection and recovery efforts. Local offices are located in Cortland, New York and in Newton Corner, Mass.

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC)

The CPC is a private, non-profit organization focusing on globally rare plant species. They maintain an international database on rare plants and have established a national network of gardens which are attempting to learn more about the biology of rare plant species. They also coordinate the collection and maintenance of seedbanks for globally rare species. The New York Botanical Garden is one of about 15 gardens involved in this cooperative effort. The headquarters of CPC is located in St. Louis, Mo. at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Tel. (314) 577-5100

The New York State Museum

The Biological Survey of the state museum has carried out botanical research, exploration and mapping since its initiation, (as the state Natural

History Survey) in 1836, with John Torrey as the first botanist. Distributions of all native and introduced plants are monitored by the State Botanist's office, in conjunction with ongoing efforts to write an encyclopedic account of the state flora and develop a Geographic Information System of plant distributions backed up by voucher specimens. The NYS Herbarium houses over 250,000 dried plant specimens. Tel. (518) 486-2027
NYFA and Plant Exploration:

One of our first-stated aims was to promote botanical discoveries and gather plant distribution information. The advisory council will review proposals at their first meeting, and probably authorize use some dues money to offer one or more small grants to applicants who have demonstrated enthusiasm in their quest to increase botanical knowledge and the specimen database, and who need travel and expense money to carry out further studies. Beyond such small grants, we also seek private donations from persons who would like to see specific botanical projects done in their names or anonymously under the auspices of NYFA. Special accounts may be set up under the New York State Museum Institute for such projects, with specific goals detailed by the donor. We welcome inquiries.

NYFA and Rare Plant Conservation:

What, then, should be the role of our organization in rare plant and critical habitat conservation? I welcome letters and comments on this subject, and that the subject will be discussed at the first advisory council meeting. The reason I bring it up is that I don't think we want to duplicate efforts or compete with any of the organizations mentioned above.

It is my personal suggestion that a major function of this organization might be to bring together persons with worthy rare plant conservation projects and persons or agencies willing to fund them. An example might be liaison between an organization about to extirpate rare plants on their property and botanists willing to carry out a "rescue" operation, in which the plants would be transplanted to a nearby botanical garden or arboretum that has agreed to serve as a refuge.

NYFA might sponsor projects and handle the financing, if desired, through The New York State Museum Institute, with payment of a reasonable service charge to that organization for bookkeeping.

I was recently nominated to the board of trustees of the Landis Arboretum (ca. 30 miles west of Albany), a place where a rare plant garden could function both in preservation and public education. I would be willing to coordinate

cooperative efforts among private gardens across New York state who wish to grow rare native species on their grounds. The plants would, of course, be obtained through seed exchanges and other means not detrimental to wild populations.

It might serve our organization well to contact the Center for Plant Conservation (recently moved to the Missouri Botanical Garden) to determine what information and advice they might provide to help our interested members get new rare plant conservation efforts started. Details on donation of labor and funding can be worked out by those of you interested in participating in, or supporting the work. I look forward to input from you, the members, on this subject.

**Richard S. Mitchell, N. Y. State Musuem, 3132
CEC, Albany, NY 12230**

**Another New Weedy Grass in New York
by Robert Zaremba (The Nature Conservancy)**

While conducting rare plant surveys along the Hudson River, I collected an unfamiliar grass in open wetland woods above tidal influence. The plant specimens sat in my sizeable unidentified-grasses pile for four years, until David Hunt of our office looked at them and recognized the grass as *Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) Camus, not previously collected in New York. *Microstegium vimineum* has in recent years expanded its range north into New York and southern New England. Collections were made from Iona Island in Rockland County and the mouth of Fishkill Creek in Dutchess County. At both sites, *M. vimineum* was locally abundant on saturated, organic soil under an open-canopy of red maple.

1st NYFA Field Trip - 1991

Place: Hudson River Glen

Time: Saturday, June 22, 1991, 10:30 a.m.

Meet: where Rt. 28 crosses the Hudson north of Warrensburg, NY. West bank of the river, just past the bridge. Bring a bag lunch and shoes good for walking on cobbles and mud.

Botanical Features: We hope to see a number of NY rarities and other interesting species, including: *Rosa acicularis*, *Viola nova-angliae*, at its only state location, *Platanthera flava*, and many others.

Attending? Please call Bob Zaremba at (518) 869-6959 before June 1. If the weather looks atrocious, call before you come, in case of cancellation or postponement. We will help long-distance travelers to find motels & other lodging.

-- Summer Field Trips in New England --

New England Botanical Club, June 7-8

Johnson Vermont, field trips both days and a talk by Cyrus McQueen on June 7.

Connecticut Botanical Society, July 13

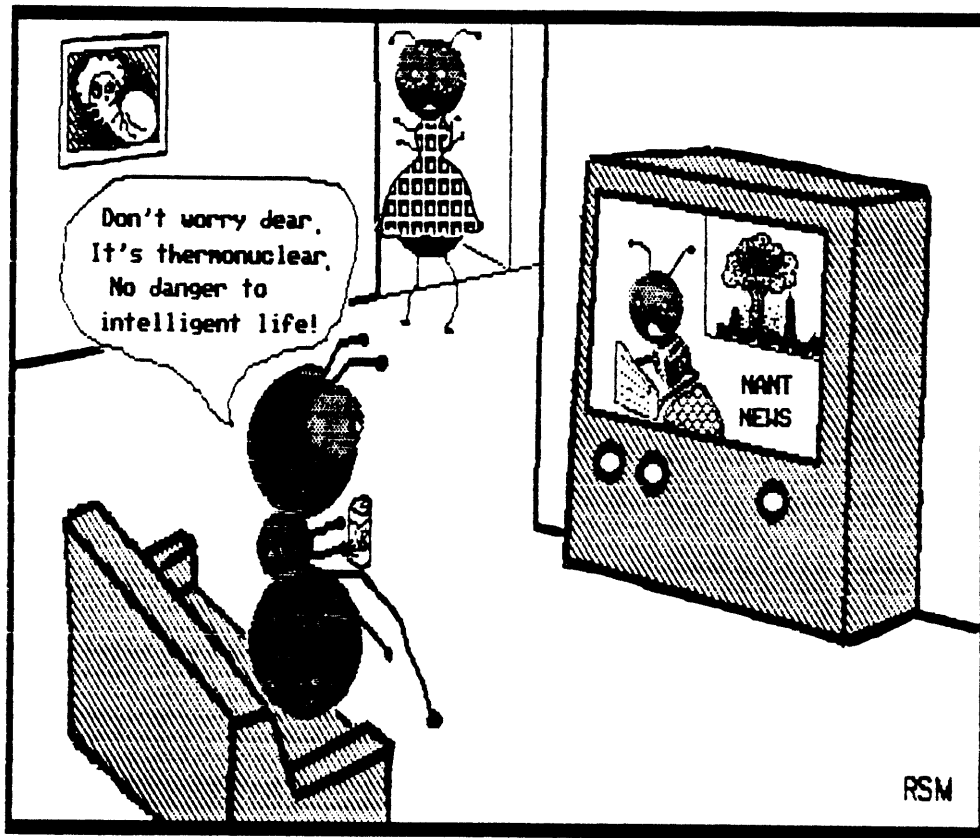
Kent Connecticut, Rt. 7 north of Rt. 341, meet at the post office at 10 a.m. (will botanize the foot of St. John's ledges and some dry limey woodlands.

For more information on both trips call:

Les Mehrhoff (203) 486-4319

Scenic Hiking in Rensselaer County

The Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy, a non-profit corporation, sponsors a series of nature hikes, scenic and historic day-trips to further appreciation of the rural aspects and natural and historic features of their county. For a brochure and calendar, contact Warren Broderick at (518) 235-4041 or Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy, P.O.Box 40, Lansingburgh Sta., Troy, NY 12182.



CALL FOR NYFA DUES

Renewing Members - \$10.00

(New Members - \$15.00; includes Atlas)

Make all checks payable to:

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Mail to:

**New York Flora Association
3132 CEC, Albany, NY 12230**

New Publications from the N. Y. State Museum¹

Furlow, J. J., & R. S. Mitchell. 1990. Betulaceae through Cactaceae of New York State. Contr. to a Flora of New York State VIII. New York State Mus. Bull. 476. 94 pp. (\$8.00)

Clemants, S. E. 1990. Juncaceae (Rush Family) of New York State. Contr. to a Flora of New York State VII. New York State Mus. Bull. 475. 68 pp. (\$6.00)

Mitchell, R. S., C. J. Sheviak & D. J. Leopold (eds.). 1990. Ecosystem Management: Rare Species and Significant Habitats. Proc. 15th Ann. Natural Areas Conference. New York State Mus. Bull. 471. 314 pp. (\$24.95)

Ogden, E. C. & R. S. Mitchell. 1990. Identification of Plants with Fleshy Fruits. New York State Mus. Bull. 467. 98 pp. + 360K floppy disk with computerized keys. (\$12.95)

Whitehead, D. & S. Jackson. 1990. The Regional Vegetational History of the High Peaks (Adirondack Mountains), New York. New York State Mus. Bull. 478. 28 pp. (\$6.00)

Jackson, S. T. 1989. Postglacial Vegetational Changes Along an Elevational Gradient in the Adirondack Mountains (New York). A Study of Macrofossils. New York State Mus. Bull. 465. 30 pp. (\$6.00)

¹Available from: N. Y. State Museum Publications

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Add \$1.00 postage + handling.

Note: If you have botany publications that you wish to announce in the newsletter, that service is free to members.