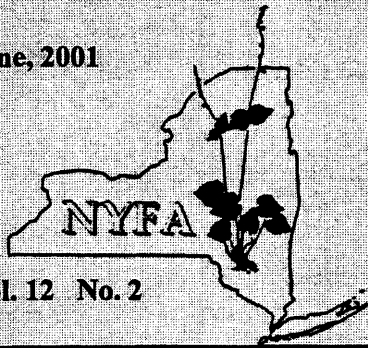


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NYFA Newsletter

New York Flora Association
of the New York State Museum Association

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NYFA Now Has a Web Site: nyflora.org

A new web site is available, describing our organization, inviting new members and providing the public with an account of things that we feel will be of interest, in terms of New York Field Botany. The web site was developed by Troy Weldy and Bob Ingalls, to whom we owe a great deal of thanks for their efforts. The site is now available, but it's still very new and basic.

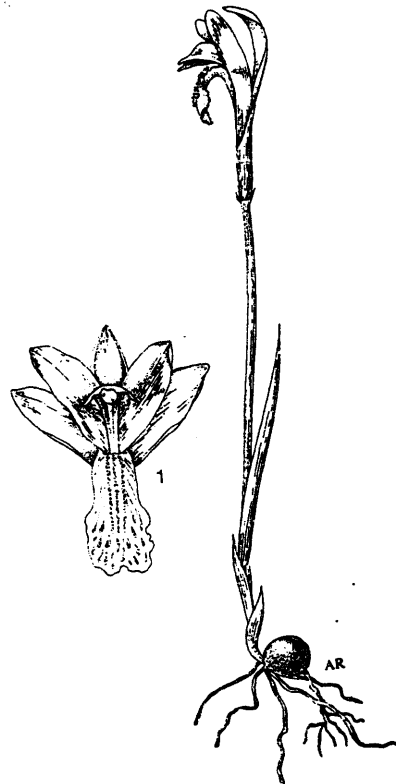
There are links to other botanical organizations, such as clubs and gardens. There are species and author dictionaries that may be downloaded and used within MS Word™ for spell-checking. Over time, we hope to improve and enhance the content, and we particularly seek your input as to how the web site may serve the organization better. Please be sure to check these pages, as we hope to add many new items to this web site over the next year, including a member bulletin board, an updated digital atlas of NY Flora, an MS Access™ database for creating herbarium labels, a NYFA Newsletter index, and other exciting projects. We need your comments on features to be added or modified.

When accessing the site, give it a minute to load, because it is currently stuffed with pictures. For those interested in a summary of the NYFA trip to Oswego County, go to the field trips and activities page and select the fens and wetlands of Oswego County (the only one with a hypertext link). It's not exactly like being there, but you can vicariously join us, as we slog through one of the organizations best days yet.

NYFA Trip: Wetlands of Oswego County

by Troy Weldy, Richard Mitchell *et al.*

If you missed the NYFA field trip to the fens and wetlands of Oswego County on June 9, you missed a truly fantastic event. In all, 17 NYFA members were treated to some great botanizing by our host Andy Nelson (SUNY-Oswego) and co-leader Sandy Bonanno (The Nature Conservancy). The weather was perfect, with clear blue skies, a light



Arethusa bulbosa L. SWAMP PINK, DRAGON'S-MOUTH

Rarity Status: State Listed Threatened (G4 S2)

State Ranked Vulnerable: management is at the land owner's discretion

• A showy, perennial herb from a corm; sphagnum bogs, fens, lake and pond shores, on the Coastal Plain and in the mountains; a boreal species that ranges southward to New Jersey along the coast, and to the Carolinas in the uplands; rare and much-depleted by deer browse; scattered widely in NY, from eastern Long Island, where it was historically reported from a number of ponds, to lakes in Adirondack Valleys, particularly on the shores of islands; also known historically from a number of sites on the Great Lakes Plains and northern Finger Lakes District, persisting at some sites, but often in decreasing numbers.

Key Habitats: OPEN & FORESTED MINERAL SOIL
WETLANDS & PEATLANDS: rich/poor fen.

[Abstracted from R. Mitchell's upcoming compendium of NY plants]

breeze and ideal temperatures. Highlights of the trip were seeing *Arethusa bulbosa*, *Carex chordorrhiza* and *Salix cordata*.

Below is a compilation of many of the species identified by NYFA members at three major sites we visited; these accounts are far from complete, but they list most of the interesting plants, and will give you a feeling for the communities we saw:

South Sandy Pond

Acer rubrum var. *rubrum*
Acer × *freemanii*
Alnus incana ssp. *rugosa*
Andromeda glaucophylla
Carex aquatilis
Carex atlantica (interior?)
Carex chordorrhiza
Carex diandra
Carex lacustris
Carex lasiocarpa ssp. *americana*
Carex limosa
Cephalanthus occidentalis
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Chrysosplenium americanum
Cladium mariscoides
Drosera intermedia
Drosera rotundifolia
Dulichium arundinaceum
Eleocharis tenuis
Eriophorum gracile
Glyceria striata
Iris versicolor
Juncus canadensis
Larix laricina
Menyanthes trifoliata var. *minor*
Myrica gale
Osmunda regalis var. *spectabilis*
Peltandra virginica
Poa trivialis
Potamogeton gramineus
Potentilla palustris
Proserpinaca palustris var. *crebra*
Rhamnus frangula
Rosa palustris
Salix pedicellaris
Salix sericea
Sarracenia purpurea
Spiraea alba var. *alba*
Thelypteris palustris
Triadenum virginicum
Typha latifolia
Utricularia intermedia
Vaccinium corymbosum

Vaccinium macrocarpon
Viburnum dentatum var. *lucidum*
Species for Site #2
(Not named to protect the orchids)

Acer rubrum var. *rubrum*
Alnus incana ssp. *rugosa*
Andromeda glaucophylla
Arethusa bulbosa
Aronia melanocarpa
Betula papyrifera
Carex canescens
Carex lasiocarpa ssp. *americana*
Carex limosa
Chamaedaphne calyculata
Drosera rotundifolia
Equisetum fluviatile
Eriophorum virginicum
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae
Ilex verticillata
Iris versicolor
Larix laricina
Lemna minor
Menyanthes trifoliata var. *minor*
Nemophanthus mucronatus
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis var. *spectabilis*
Peltandra virginica
Pinus strobus
Platanthera blephariglottis
Rosa palustris
Sarracenia purpurea
Solidago uliginosa
Thelypteris palustris
Vaccinium corymbosum
Vaccinium oxycoccus
Woodwardia virginica

Deer Creek Marsh and Dune System

Acer saccharum
Actaea spicata ssp. *rubra*
Alnus incana ssp. *rugosa*
Ammophila breviligulata (Cape Strain; naturalized)
A. champlainensis (in the broad sense; native)
Anthoxanthum odoratum
Artemisia campestris ssp. *caudata*
Berteroa incana
Bromus tectorum
Carex houghtoniana
Carex laxiflora
Carex mühlenbergii
Carex sprengei



***Carex chordorrhiza* Ehrh. ex L. f. CREEPING SEDGE**

Rarity Status: State Listed Threatened (G5 S2)

• A wiry, stoloniferous, perennial herb that roots adventitiously from older stems; sphagnum bogs and fens; shores of boggy lakes, bays, swamps and wet clearings, usually associated with peat mosses; rare: found in the limy lowlands and valleys surrounding the Adirondacks, extending onto the Ontario Lake Plain westward to Wayne County; also reported from Wyoming and Yates Counties.

Key Habitats: OPEN & FORESTED MINERAL SOIL WETLANDS: calcareous shores/fens.

[Abstracted from R. Mitchell's upcoming compendium of NY plants]

Celastrus scandens
Celtis occidentalis
Centaurea maculosa
Cornus sericea
Dactylis glomerata
Diervilla lonicera
Dryopteris intermedia
Elymus canadensis
Festuca trachyphylla
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Iris pseudacorus

Juncus balticus
Juncus effusus var. *pylaei*
Juniperus communis var. *depressa*
Juniperus virginiana
Lathyrus japonicus var. *maritimus*
Lonicera dioica
Lonicera morrowii
Maianthemum canadense
Maianthemum racemosum
Maianthemum stellatum
Melilotus alba
Moehringia lateriflora
Poa compressa
Polygonum cilinode
Populus deltoides
Populus tremuloides
Prunus pensylvanica
Prunus pumila var. *pumila*
Prunus serotina
Prunus virginiana
Ranunculus abortivus
Rhamnus cathartica
Rhamnus frangula
Rhus hirta
Robinia pseudo-acacia
Rubus odoratus
Rumex acetosella
Salix cordata
Scirpus tabernaemontani
Silene latifolia
Smilax herbacea
Tilia americana var. *americana*
Toxicodendron radicans ssp. *negundo*
Tragopogon pratensis
Ulmus americana
Viburnum dentatum var. *lucidum*
Vitis riparia

***Cuscuta obtusiflora* var. *glandulosa*:**

More Common Than We Thought

by Steve Young, NY Natural Heritage Program

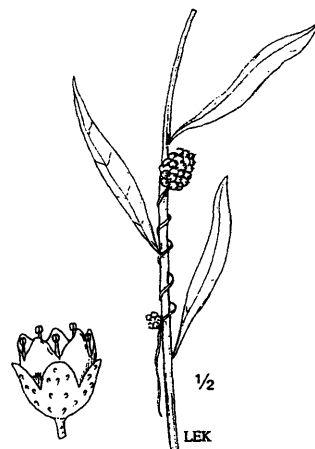
In 1996 I discovered *Cuscuta obtusiflora* var. *glandulosa* growing in a swamp on Staten Island. At the time there were no other known records of this taxon from New York State, and it was considered new to the state. After I included it on the rare plant list, our botanists at the New York Natural Heritage Program began collecting more *Cuscuta* specimens, and it turned up a few more times in the lower Hudson Valley, especially along the Hudson River.

I began to wonder if this *Cuscuta* was recently invading the state, or if it had been here all along and was overlooked. I decided to re-examine the specimens of *Cuscuta gronovii*, its closest relative, at the New York State Museum and lo and behold there were nine specimens of *Cuscuta gronovii* that fit the description of *Cuscuta obtusiflora* var. *glandulosa*. Four of them were from central and eastern Long Island and the rest were from sites along the Hudson River in Ulster and Putnam counties. Dunbar had even given a 1957 specimen the name of *Cuscuta obtusiflora* and written the defining characters on the specimen sheet but it was still filed under *Cuscuta gronovii* with no subsequent annotations. Dates of collection ranged from 1906 on Long Island to a specimen I misidentified in 1993 from Montauk Point. Most of the plants seem to be parasites on *Lythrum salicaria* along the Hudson, but they were also on asters and *Decodon* (another member of the Lythraceae) on Long Island. This begs the question of its spread in relation to the spread of purple loosestrife.

Future work should include a look at specimens stored at Bard College, the New York Botanical Gardens, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Planting Fields Arboretum, to see if there are any specimens hiding in these collections too.

The original range of this plant is from the West Indies, southeastern and Gulf states, sparingly to Mexico. It is separated from variety *obtusiflora* by having flowers that are often very glandular even though this character is not consistent. The flowers I have seen in New York specimens are not very glandular at all. The species ranges from California to Florida and south into South America and is often described as occurring on *Polygonum*. The closest this variety has been reported to New York is in Georgia but curiously it has also been reported from Minnesota (the only other northern state). I would encourage botanists in other states between New York and Georgia to re-examine their specimens of *Cuscuta gronovii* for this taxon.

Cuscuta obtusiflora is similar to the very common *Cuscuta gronovii* in having two capitate stigmas and five petals with broadly ovate, obtuse perianth lobes. It differs by having stigmas that are less than or equal to 0.5 mm long (vs. more than 0.5 mm long), and sepals that are long enough to reach the base of the perianth lobes (vs. sepals that reach only one third to halfway up the flower tube). On the specimens that I examined, these two characters seem to distinguish it from *Cuscuta gronovii* with



***Cuscuta obtusiflora* Kunth SOUTHERN DODDER
var. *glandulosa* Engelm.**

[*C. glandulosa* (Engelm.) Small]

Rarity Status: State: State Listed Endangered

⊗ Parasitic, entwining green plants and sapping their juices

- An annual vine, scrambling and climbing on other vegetation; parasitic, mostly on shrubs and coarse herbs; ranging from the Eastern Seaboard southward in the United States; the typical variety occurs in South America; rare in NY: known from a sweet-gum swamp on Staten Island; also a parasite on *Lythrum salicaria*; currently known from the Coastal Plain (Richmond & Suffolk Counties) and sites in the lower Hudson Valley (Ulster & Putnam Counties).

Key Habitats: OPEN & FORESTED MINERAL SOIL WETLANDS.

[Abstracted from R. Mitchell's upcoming compendium of NY plants]

no intermediates. The fruits of variety *obtusiflora* are also wider than high and depressed at the top (vs. a more round or elliptical fruit that has a small beak at the top).

Literature:

Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual. New York Botanical Garden.

Yuncker, Truman R. 1932. The Genus *Cuscuta* in Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Club, Vol. 18 (2): 128.

Dues: Check your envelope (above your address) to see the last year you paid up. Stay with us, please! We don't want to lose you.

Rare Orchid Searches Can Be Dangerous by Chuck Sheviak, NY State Museum

About 20 years ago, a group of us botanical sorts gathered at a spot in the Adirondacks to see a recently discovered population of the tiny, rare twayblade, *Listera auriculata*. I was there in my official capacity as a State Museum botanist. The *Listera* had been found the previous fall, and a photograph was taken for my determination. From habit and habitat, I said it must be *L. auriculata*, occurring in the only known, extant site, and the first siting in the state in almost 50 years.

We assembled at a spot on a back road, and the discoverer led us into the forest, heading toward the river bank along which he had found the colony. We proceeded down a forested slope and found ourselves at the top of a nearly vertical bank about 20 feet high. As luck would have it, this later proved to be the only portion of the slope exhibiting such an abrupt break in topography.

As we came up to the lip of the near cliff, I was the last in line, having paused en route to examine some *Malaxis unifolia* and *Platanthera hookeri*. The others were already at the base of the bank or making their way down its face using tree roots as hand- and footholds. Just as I looked over the edge to assess a route down, I tripped on a root and began to pitch forward over the edge. Instinctively I reached out and grabbed the 1 inch trunk of a small sapling next to me. Unfortunately, the tree was dead. The trunk snapped free at the base, and I plummeted down the bank, largely in a free fall. Dick Mitchell says he remembers looking back and seeing me literally airborne. I landed at the base in a heap, still desperately clutching the tree in my hand.

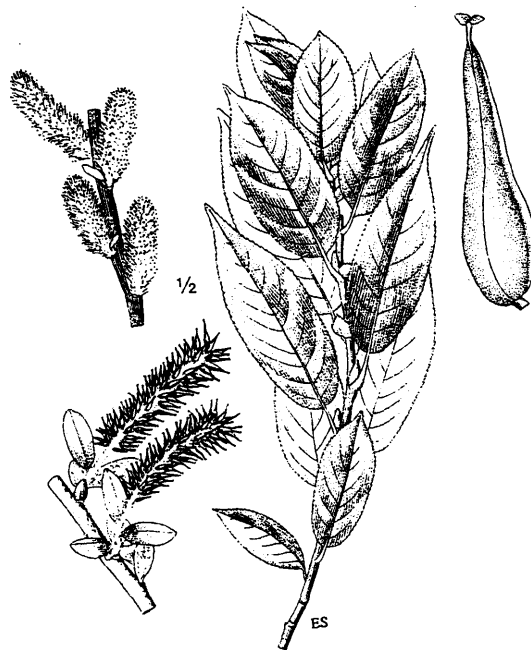
After determining that I was still functional, we continued with the jaunt, verified the determination of the now-blooming *Listera*, and counted 81 plants. By the time we returned to the cars, I noticed some stiffness in my shoulder and neck. When this persisted for a few days, I decided that I should file an accident report with my boss, in case at some time in the future, the incident resulted in lost work or disability.

My boss provided the necessary form, which proved to be designed for industrial accidents. As a result, it was a challenge to fill it out. "Describe nature of accident." I entered, "Tripped, fell down hill." "What unsafe action led to injury?" I responded, "Grabbed dead tree." Then, to the condescending question, "What safe action would prevent injury?" I offered, "Grab only live trees." With some trepidation I gave the form to my boss, who read it, then laughed heartily--and submitted it. Since then, "Grab only live trees" has been a standard comment around here.

Members: Do you have field trip stories? We'd like you to share them with us, violent or not. Send all articles and/or anecdotes to me, preferably in **Microsoft Word™**, via email. My address is on the banner. Thanks,
R. Mitchell, Editor

NYFA Field Workshop on Aquatics
The next NYFA event is an identification workshop. This is the first event of its kind for NYFA, and it is something we hope will evolve into an annual event. This year's workshop will focus on aquatic plants, with world-renown *Potamogeton* expert Dr. Barre Helquist of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts instructing the class. The event is open to all, with NYFA members getting first choice of participation, since there will be a limit to the number of participants. Since we will be paying the expert, there is a fee for attendance of **\$15 per member (\$25 for non-members, includes the workshop and a one year membership)**. The tentative date for this workshop is **Saturday, September 29th**. For more information, or to register, contact Troy Weldy (weldy@nynhp.org). If you have ideas for future NYFA field trips and/or would like to host a future trip, please let Troy know.

Illustrations for the previous articles are from Holmgren, 1998, *ibid*.



***Salix cordata* Michx.** SAND-DUNE WILLOW, HEARTLEAF WILLOW, FURRY WILLOW
(Δ *S. syrticola* Fern.)

Rarity Status: State Listed Endangered

● Sometimes cultivated on shores and around coastal dwellings as a dune stabilizer

- A shrub or small tree of dunes, beaches, blow-outs, swales and sandy stream alluvia, especially along lake shores; well-drained, gravelly soils to sterile, alkaline sands; known from the Great Lakes Plains in NY; rare: beaches and dunes of eastern Lake Ontario in Jefferson and Oswego Counties.

Key Habitats: OPEN UPLANDS: sand beach; Great Lakes dunes.

[Abstracted from R. Mitchell's upcoming compendium of NY plants]