

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS: WINTERBERRY (ILEX VERTICILLATA)

Article and Photographs By Emily DeBolt, Owner, Fiddlehead Creek Farm and Native Plant Nursery

While sharp, pointy, and evergreen comes to mind when you think holly (at least that is what comes to my mind), winterberry is not your typical holly. Instead it is deciduous, losing its leaves in the winter, and doesn't have sharp pointy leaves. It is a very adaptable shrub, found in swamps and along streams and lakes in the natural landscape, where it can tolerate poorly drained soils and provides food for the birds with its bright red berries. It does well in drier garden soils as well, getting up to 10 feet tall. Winterberry can tolerate a wide range of sunlight conditions – from sun to shade, although you get better berries in the sunnier conditions.

What winterberry does have in common with its holly relatives is that it is dioecious, meaning that both male and female parts are not on the same plant; rather, there are separate male and female plants. This is a very important point to be brought up when talking about using native plants in the home landscape.



"The female flowers are in small clusters or alone - and have a green ovule in the center."



Other dioecious shrubs you might run across include bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). I have heard from many people that they bought a winterberry shrub at a nursery and it had beautiful berries on it the first winter, and then never again after that. They couldn't understand what was wrong with the shrub or if they were doing something wrong. On the one hand, the good news is that there is an easy fix to their problem. On the other hand, the problem could have been easily avoided in the first place, a cause for frustration for many a homeowner. Since only the female winterberry shrubs get the berries, you need a male to pollinate the female plant if you want to have berries.

Here are a few tips to help you make sure you bring both a male and a female home with you from the store. Winterberry is a great addition to the home landscape, so don't be scared

away by having to figure out if your shrub is a male or female, The bright red berries in the winter are worth the hassle – trust me.

1. Ask the staff first. Maybe your garden center is conscious of this fact and has labeled and/or knows which shrubs are the males and which are the females. Unfortunately, many gardeners are not this lucky.

2. It is hard to tell if the shrub is a male or female until it is a few years old (around 3 usually) – so don't buy a small bargain shrub that is only 1 or 2 years old.

3. Only females get the berries in the fall/winter. So if you go shopping for your winterberry shrubs in the fall it is easy to be sure to get a male and female. You don't have to have a 1:1 ratio. A good guideline is 1 male for every 3 female shrubs.

4. Look at the flowers. While both male and female shrubs flower, once you know what you are looking for, you can tell them apart. Males have large clusters of flowers, each with



"The male flowers are in large clusters, with yellow anthers prominent."

several yellow anthers protruding from the center. Females tend to have flowers in small clusters singularly along their stem. There is a green ovule in the center of the flower. Winterberry flowers in the late spring/early summer so buy when they are in flower to be sure.

Avoid buying winterberry at times of the year when you can't tell them apart to save yourself the hassle.

For information about native plants for landscaping, visit the Fiddlehead Creek Farm and Native Plant Nursery website at <u>www.fiddleheadcreek.com</u>

New Native Orchid Discoveries in New York State

By Steve Young

Small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), a federally threatened orchid, was recently discovered in Orange County, New York in late May by Kimberly Smith, a botanist for DEC's New York Natural Heritage Program and the Office of State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Kim spotted the orchid in a state park where she was performing botanical



Small Whorled Pogonia, Orange County - Photo by Kim Smith

surveys for other rare plants. A follow-up survey in mid-July counted 96 stems in the area! No one had seen this small orchid in New York since 1976 when botanist Mildred Faust photographed a plant with two flowers in a swamp in Onondaga County. Beaver have flooded that area since then and invasive plants have come in so the orchids are no longer there. The orchid is present in 17 other states in the Eastern United States and in Ontario, but is endangered or threatened in each one.

Botanists have spent decades looking for small whorled pogonia throughout New York, where it had been collected only five times before 1976, from 1887 to 1923. Botanists collected it once in five different counties: Washington, Ulster, Rockland, Nassau and Suffolk. Orange County is now added to the list of counties where it grows. Botanists for the New York Natural Heritage Program have rediscovered other rare plants that no one has seen in many decades, sometimes

for over 100 years, but this discovery is especially important because it involves a globally rare and federally threatened orchid.

It had been 25 long years since the state rare dragon's mouth orchid (*Arethusa bulbosa*) was seen on Long Island when Kimberly was bushwacking through some wet thickets in a state park in Suffolk County and she spotted just one plant of this rare orchid. After further searching, Kim did not turn up any additional plants. However, future survey efforts may locate more plants. *Arethusa* is an orchid that grows in medium to high pH wetlands and usually with sphagnum. It has been recorded from many upstate counties but wetland habitat loss has reduced its numbers. It is very hard to see when it is not in flower and may not come up every year which limits the time when searches can be performed.



NYFA FIELD TRIP RECAPS

Allegheny State Park

We had nine enthusiastic plant people participate in two days of plant walks in Allegany State Park. On Saturday morning, May 15, we traveled to the southern end of the park and hiked up the trail to Bear Cave Rocks and Mount Seneca. At Bear Cave Rocks we wanted to confirm an old record of *Trichomanes intricatum*, the Weft Fern, that only occurs as a gametophyte in the cracks of the big conglomerate boulders. After searching a while with flashlights we finally found a couple of patches of the fern to everyone's delight. We were all now part of an exclusive group of people that have ever seen this plant in New York. After that excitement, Bear Cave Rocks lived up to its name as three bear cubs came down the trail toward us screaming for their mother. When they stopped and saw us, we had a chance to photograph them before retreating back down the trail to let them leave. The east side of Mount Seneca was very rich and we saw many species of wildflowers, mosses, and ferns. Lichens were also identified by member Jim Battaglia. We all made it to the top of the mountain before descending to the bottom through a drier and less diverse forest.

Later that afternoon we drove to Thunder Rocks, another area of large conglomerate boulders where we wanted to look for *Trichomanes* again. These boulders were open to a lot more climbing by visitors and we had no luck finding the fern. On Sunday morning a group of six of

us went back down to the southern end of the park and hiked the Blacksnake Mountain Trail. This was another rich area that had a large hillside with many calcareous springs emanating from it. The hillside was covered with many spring wildflowers that were very healthy and in full flower. We had never seen so many plants vellow mandarin, of Disporum lanuginosum, and never any so large! On the way out of the park a few of us stopped in an where twinleaf, area



Ready to start the trip! Jim Battaglia, Michael Siuta, Ed Fuchs, Mary Alice Tock, Steve Daniel and Kim Smith.

Jeffersonia diphylla, had been seen in the past but we didn't find any plants.

All in all it was a great trip and everyone agreed that we should return again to explore other areas of the park. A few more photos and the list of plants resulting from our excursion follows.

Allegheny State Park Field Trip Photos



Clintonia borealis was very common and in full flower. We had hoped to see *Clintonia umbellata* but no luck.



We saw a nice stand of *Phlox divaricata*.



Looking for *Trichomanes* at Thunder Rocks.



Rosy twisted stalk was fairly common on the east side of Mount Seneca.



Seneca Mountain Bear Rocks Plant List 5/15/2010

Acer pensylvanicum Acer platanoides Acer rubrum Acer saccharum Actaea pachypoda Agrimonia sp. Alliaria petiolata Allium tricoccum Alopecurus sp. Amphicarpaea bracteata Anemone quinquefolia Antennaria sp. Aralia nudicaulis Arctium minus Arisaema triphyllum Asarum virginianum Athyrium filix-femina Barbarea vulgaris Bellis perennis Berberis thunbergii Betula alleghaniensis Calystegia sp. Cardamine concatenata Cardamine diphylla Cardamine pensylvanica Cardamine pratensis Carex ?appalachica Carex ?blanda Carex ?communis Carex albursina Carex arctata *Carex intumescens* Carex laxiflora Carex pensylvanica Carex plantaginea Carex rosea Carex stipata Carex torta Carpinus caroliniana Carya sp. Caulophyllum thalictroides Cirsium sp. Claytonia virginica Clintonia borealis Coptis trifolia Cornus alternifolia Crataegus sp. Dendrolycopodium obscurum Dennstaedtia punctilobula Deparia acrostichoides Descurainia sp. Dicentra canadensis Disporum lanuginosum Dryopteris carthusiana Dryopteris marginalis Dryopteris intermedia

Epifagus virginiana Epipactis helleborine Equisetum arvense Erythronium americanum Eurybia macrophylla Fagus grandifolia Fraxinus americana Galium aparine Galium lanceolatum Galium sp. Gaultheria procumbens Geranium maculatum Geranium robertianum Glechoma hederacea Hamamelis virginiana Hepatica nobilis var. acuta Houstonia caerulea Hydrophyllum virginianum Impatiens capensis Laportea canadensis Liriodendron tulipifera Lonicera canadensis Lonicera dioica Maianthemum canadense Medeola virginiana Mitchella repens Mitella diphylla Monotropa uniflora Myosotis scirpoides Oclemena acuminata Onoclea sensibilis Osmorhiza claytonii Osmunda cinnamomea Osmunda claytoniana Ostrya virginiana Oxalis montana Packera aurea Panax trifolius Persicaria maculata Persicaria virginiana Phlox divaricata Pinus resinosa Pinus strobus Pinus sylvestris Plantago major Plantago rugelii Poa alsodes Poa pratensis Podophyllum peltatum Polygala pauciflora Polygonatum pubescens Polypodium appalachianum Polypodium virginianum Polystichum acrostichoides Populus tremuloides Prenanthes sp.

Prunus serotina Pteridium aquilinum Quercus rubra Ranunculus abortivus Ranunculus recurvatus Ribes cynosbati Rubus odoratus Rubus sp. Rumex sp. Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis Sambucus racemosa Schizachne purpurascens Smilax herbacea Solidago caesia Solidago gigantea Taraxacum officinalis Thalictrum dioicum Thelypteris noveboracensis Tiarella cordifolia Tilia americana Trichomanes intricatum Trientalis borealis Trillium erectum Trillium grandiflorum Trillium undulatum Ulmus americana Uvularia sessilifolia Veratrum viride Veronica chamaedrys Viburnum acerifolium Viola blanda Viola canadensis Viola cucullata Viola pubescens Viola rostrata Viola rotundifolia Viola sororia Waldsteinia fragarioides

Thunder Rocks Plant List 5/15/2010

Acer spicatum Anthoxanthum odoratum Betula lenta Ilex montana Rosa multiflora Rumex obtusifolius Salix sp. Trifolium sp. Viburnum lantanoides Acer pennsylvanicum Acer saccharum Actaea pachypoda Actaea rubra Adiantum pedatum Agrimonia ?gryposepala Allium tricoccum Amelanchier laevis Anthoxanthum odoratum Aralia nudicaulis Asarum virginianum Athyrium filix-femina Barbarea vulgaris Cardamine concatenata Cardamine diphylla Cardamine pensylvanica Carex ?appalachica Carex ?communis Carex arctata Carex blanda Carex bromoides Carex gracillima Carex intumescens Carex plantaginea Carex stipata Carex utriculata Carpinus caroliniana Caulophyllum thalictroides Chelone glabra Chrysosplenium americanum Claytonia caroliniana Clintonia borealis Coptis trifolia Cornus alternifolia Dalibarda repens Dendrolycopodium dendroideum Dendrolycopodium hickeyi Dendrolycopodium obscurum Dennstaedtia punctilobula Deparia acrostichoides Dicentra canadensis Dichanthelium clandestinum Diervilla lonicera Diphasiastrum digitatum Disporum lanuginosum Dryopteris intermedia Dryopteris marginalis Elymus sp. Equisetum arvense Erythronium americanum Eurybia divaricata Fagus grandifolia Fragaria virginiana Galium sp. Geranium maculatum

Blacksnake Mountain Plant List5/16/2010

Hamamelis virginiana *Hepatica nobilis* ssp. *acutus* Huperzia lucidula Hydrophyllum virginianum Hydrophyllum canadense Impatiens capensis Juncus effusus Juncus sp. Laportea canadensis Lonicera canadensis Luzula acuminata Lysimachia ciliata Magnolia acuminata Maianthemum canadense Medeola virginiana Milium effusum Mitchella repens Mitella diphylla Monarda didyma Oclemena acuminata Onoclea sensibilis Osmorhiza claytonii Osmunda cinnamomea Osmunda claytoniana Oxalis montana Packera aurea Plantago major Platanthera sp. Poa ?palustris Poa pratense Poa sp. Podophyllum peltatum Polygonatum biflorum Polystichum acrostichoides Populus tremuloides Potentilla simplex Prenanthes sp. Prunus avium Prunus serotina Prunus virginiana

Pteridium aquilinum Ouercus rubra Ranunculus abortivus Ranunculus acris Ranunculus hispidus var. caricetorum Ranunculus recurvatus Ribes sp. Rosa multiflora Rubus pubescens Salix sp. Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis Sanicula sp. Smilax herbacea Sorbus americana Spinulum annotinum Streptopus roseum Symphyotrichum prenanthoides Taraxacum officinale Thelypteris noveboracensis Thelypteris palustris Tiarella cordifolia Trientalis borealis Trillium erectum Trillium undulatum Tsuga canadensis Tussilago farfara Ulmus americana Ulmus rubra Uvularia grandiflora Uvularia sessilifolia Veratrum viride Veronica chamaedrys Veronica serpyllifolia Viburnum lantanoides Viola blanda Viola canadensis Viola cucullata Viola pensylvanica Waldsteinia fragarioides



Happy participants at the end of the trip: Kim Smith, Steve Daniel, Hermann Emmert, Joanne Schlegel, and Ed Fuchs.

UPCOMING NYFA EVENTS

July 24 and 25: Peatlands led by Bernie Carr and Anne Johnson

This trip will visit various peatlands, from bogs or poor fens to rich fens, in the Star Lake/Cranberry Lake area including a visit to the Streeter Lake area and bog. Streeter Lake adjoins the old Schuler estate (of the Schuler potato chips; there you can see old potato fields and his mausoleum).

August 7: Tug Hill Gulfs led by Anne Johnson

Numerous deep gulfs cut through the limestone and shale border the Tug Hill plateau. We will explore the bottom and walls of one (or two, if time permits) of these gulfs on the western side of Tug Hill. Interesting plants include *Saxifraga aizoides* and *Primula mistassinica*. Wear footwear that you don't mind getting wet as we may walk through the streams in places.

September 19: Cryptogamic field trip to Chaumont Barrens led by Scott LaGreca

After 20 years, NYFA finally has a Cryptogamic Committee. The head of this committee, lichenologist Scott LaGreca (Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA), will be leading NYFA's first-ever cryptogamic field trip to Chaumont Barrens, located between Watertown and Cape Vincent in Jefferson County (about 1.5 hours north of Syracuse). An unusual grassland community called "alvar vegetation" occurs here, and the barrens are home to several rare vascular species. A rich diversity of lichens can also be found, including a number of interesting Dermatocarpon and Cladina/ Cladonia species. NYFA has visited this natural area twice before, but lichens and bryophytes were not on the agenda. The preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy; we are pursuing the possibility of collecting, but we probably won't be able to collect. Bring a handlens and sturdy shoes with good treads (the rocks can be treacherous, especially in wet weather).

Travel north along Route 12E from Limerick heading towards Chaumont. As you enter Chaumont, turn right on the Morris Track Road. There is a TNC sign at this intersection. Proceed about two miles watching for a left turn on to Cross (Van Alstyne) **Road.** At this intersection there is a small rural cemetery. Travel about 1/2 mile to the TNC parking lot on your left. Please call Scott LaGreca at 617-962-2327 if you plan to attend. ritzko@northnet.org.

For more information and to register contact Anne Johnson at: 315-322-4058

ritzko@northnet.org.

Directions:

For more information, directions, and to register contact: Anne Johnson (315-322-4058/ ritzko@northnet.org) or Bernie Carr (315-469-9379 / mycocarex@hotmail.com).

2010 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BBQ

Saturday, July 24th 12 PM

This year's Annual Membership meeting will take part in conjunction with the Peatlands Field Trip being led by Bernie Carr and Anne Johnson. Board Elections will take place as part of a short business meeting following lunch provided by NYFA. For those wishing to spend the entire weekend there is plenty of room for free camping at the site. On Friday evening there will be a camp fire and grill for sharing food and stories. The Peatlands Field Trip will start from this location on July 24th at 9AM. The Peatlands Field Trip is an exciting 1.5 day trip to multiple sites that ends on the 25th. To RSVP or for more information and directions contact Ed Frantz efrantz@dot.state.ny.us or by phone at 315 793-2421.

For a location map, type "Aldrich, NY" into the search box at Google Maps (http://maps.google.com). The location is a 10 minute drive from Star Lake.

NY FLORA ASSOCIATION

OTHER SELECTED REGIONAL EVENTS

The 35th A. Leroy Andrews Foray

September 17 to 19, 2010 Vanderkamp Center Cleveland, New York

The Andrews Foray is a relaxing gathering of professional and amateur "Bryologists" who work to advance the study of mosses, liverworts and lichens in the Northeast and is an excellent opportunity for beginners to learn basic identification techniques and for more advanced students to refine their skills. Additionally, each foray allows participants an opportunity to add valuable information to the regional Natural Diversity Data Base, or possibly to find a range extension for a given species.

This year's Foray will take place in central New York near Syracuse. All day field trips for Saturday and Sunday morning are being arranged and will include sites with good substrate diversity including limestone.

To learn more about or register for the Foray visit https://sites.google.com/site/andrewsforay/

or contact Keith Bowman at at kcbowman@syr.edu.

HANDY RESOURCES

The Invasive Species Council, which is co-led by DEC and the Dept of Agriculture and Markets (DAM), recently released the so-called "four tier" non-native species assessment and listing process report to the governor and legislature. This report was called for in NY's invasive species legislation (Chapter 26 of Laws of NY, 2008) and can be viewed online at:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/63402.html.



Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) is just one of many non-native species evaluated in the report. Photo by P. Titus.

CYBER BOTANY

Naczi Presentation Available On-Line

A recent presentation given to the Torrey Botanical Society by Robert F. C. Naczi, PhD is available online at: <u>http://www.vimeo.com/10897997</u>. Dr. Naczi is the Curator of North American Botany at The New York Botanical Garden and he conducts research on the identification, geographic distribution, frequency, ecology, and conservation of plants growing wild in this region. The chief aim of this research is revision of Gleason and Cronquist's Manual of The Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada (The New York Botanical Garden Press, 1991). The geographic coverage of the Gleason & Cronquist Manual encompasses all or portions of 22 states of the U.S.A. and five Canadian provinces. Major advances in botanical science since the last



edition of the Manual mean the time is ripe for a revision. At this presentation, Dr. Naczi spoke about revision of the Gleason & Cronquist Flora that is currently underway.

Collaborating on Invasive Species Management

The 'Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey' is an international collaboration aimed at obtaining much-needed data on the abundance and distribution of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) across its native and introduced ranges. In the first field season (2009) measurements and seed samples were received from 65 populations, with a majority of those coming from Europe. The goal for 2010 is to gather information from 150 or more populations, with a stronger emphasis on the southern and midwest to western United States.

The study encourages participation among educators, as well as land managers and 'citizenscientists' who may not have much formal science training. The survey involves a simple protocol that can be followed directly or incorporated into field courses and nature surveys. A population takes two people about 2-4 hours to measure. Also under development are a variety of internet-based teaching modules and tools to aid with monitoring and managing this invasive plant. The sampling protocol, along with contact information, is available at the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey website: www.GarlicMustard.org (NOTE: you do not need to log in to the site to participate).

Ideal sampling time is 2-4 weeks after flowering finishes and ranges from early June in southern states (e.g. OK, AR, AL, GA, SC) and lower altitudes to mid to late July in northern states (e.g. OR, WA, ID, ND, MN, WI, MI, VT, ME), higher altitudes, and Canada.

MUSINGS

I love being asked to identify plants, and I don't know which gives me more pleasure: to know what they are or not to know what they are."

-Elizabeth Lawrence

"

"Let us give nature a chance; she knows her business better than we do."

-Michael Eyquen de Montaigne

To the attentive eye, each moment of the year has its own beauty, and in the same field, it beholds, every hour, a picture which was never seen before, and which shall never be seen again."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Love thou the rose, yet leave it on its stem."

-Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

"The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks."

-Tennessee Williams

Do you have a photograph, artícle or poem, or pondering that you would be willing 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

REMINDERS



It's easy to stay up to date on the latest in New York state plant sightings, plant related events, job postings, conservation issues, and many other topics throughout the state by visiting:

http://nyflora.wordpress.com/

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Become a fan of the New York Flora Atlas on Facebook.

Just enter "New York Flora Atlas" into search from your Facebook page. It is a great place to connect with other fans, and upload photos you would like others to help you identify.





Countless individuals and institutions have provided data, effort, and funding to make the New York Flora Digital Plant Atlas available, incorporating information from over 70 herbaria. Why not take advantage of this unparalleled resource and explore New York's floral riches by visiting the website at : http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu

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