

Northeastern Bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*) rediscovered in New York

Article and photographs by Steve Young, New York Natural Heritage Program

August 2010: The federally-threatened Northeastern Bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*) is known from Virginia north to Vermont. In New York, there was only one historical collection, from the Putnam Mountain area in Washington County in northeastern New York, in September 1900, and the species was listed as extirpated from the state. The location for the historical record has been searched numerous times but no plants had been found again. In recent years more populations of the bulrush were found in adjacent Vermont and in northern Pennsylvania in a county adjacent to New York. It was frustrating that we couldn't find it in New York – it was so close by.

This year I received funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to look for Northeastern Bulrush again in the Southern Tier of New York to see if there were populations extending north from Pennsylvania. On the second day of searching small wetlands in Steuben County,

south of Corning, I finally found it. It was growing in a small (40 m diameter) vernal wetland at the top of a hill that I had identified as a place to search using topographic maps and Bing birds-eye-view aerial photos on the web. One month shy of the 110th anniversary of its last collection in New York, it was back in our flora. I spent two more days searching other wetlands in the county, but no new populations were found.



September 2010: During the last week of searching Steuben and Allegany Counties for the federally threatened Northeastern Bulrush, assisted one day by David Werier and Steven Daniel, we did not find any additional populations but we encountered good habitat dominated by other plants.

So we still only have one population of Northeastern Bulrush in the state but we remain optimistic that more can be found in the Southern Tier. Rob Naczi of the New York Botanical Garden also searched wetlands in Eastern New York near Vermont this summer but did not find any additional populations either.



The species has rays that arch down from the top of the culm.

As they say in sports, "Better luck next year!"



A small, open muddy area in the center of the marsh was surrounded by Northeastern bulrush.



This excellent candidate marsh was dominated by *Carex tuckermannii*, a new species for Steven Daniel (on the right with David Werier).



The culms usually lay down and root in the mud.

Another significant rediscovery on Long Island

Article and photograph by Steve Young, New York Natural Heritage Program

September 29th was a warm and sunny day as Rich Kelly, Mike Feder, and I searched the Long Pond Greenbelt area for the rare plants *Eupatorium leucolepis* (white-bracted boneset), *Eupatorium pubescens* (serrate round-leaf boneset), and *Ageratina aromatica* (small white snakeroot). As we started down one of the sandy trails, Rich was curious about a plant along the trailside that looked different. It was tiny blue curls, *Trichostema setaceum*, a plant he had recently seen on a botanical trip to New Jersey. Unknown to Rich, tiny blue curls had not been seen in New York since September 1945 when a collection was made at Long Pond Sag Harbor. He had spotted it 65 years later almost to the day in the same area! Others had searched for it at Long Pond in the 1980s, 1996, and 2000 but no plants had ever been seen until Rich happened to look down that day and knew that they were significant. It was first seen at Long Pond in 1925 with an additional record in 1927. There are also 4 other historical records for this rare plant in New York: Tottenville, 1889; Princes Bay, Staten Island, 1894; Wading River, Long Island, 1921; and Salem Center, Westchester County, early 1900s.



Tiny blue curls differs from the more common forked blue curls by having more narrow leaves, 1-5 mm wide and at least 6 times as long as wide (see photo), where the leaves of forked blue curls are 5-25 mm wide and not more than 5 times as long as wide.

NYFA FIELD TRIP RECAPS

Chaumont Barrens

Recap by Scott LaGreca, Berkshire Museum

The first-ever NYFA Cryptogamic Field Trip was held on Sunday, September 19, 2010 at Chaumont Barrens in Jefferson County. The focus of this trip was on bryophytes and lichens, and twelve botanists—ranging from expert ecologists to budding bryologists—attended. The trip began with a helpful herbarium specimen "preview" of notable Chaumont Barrens lichens, dutifully delivered by Bob Dirig. Then, before setting out, Bruce Gilman taught us about the ecology and history of the Chaumont Barrens TNC Preserve, the largest of about seven alvar sites in the county. As we walked along the trail through an overgrown meadow to the first of two large, open alvar habitats, two vascular plants that characterize these sites—*Geum triflorum* (prairie-smoke) and the rare *Sporobolus heterolepis* (northern dropseed)—were spotted. Also in abundance was *Oligoneuron album* (upland white goldenrod).

The first open alvar habitat presented us with a confusing array of Cladoniaceae. Some easily recognizable species—*Cladonia arbuscula, C. furcata, C. multiformis, C. pleurota, C. pocillum, C. rangiferina* and *C. stellaris*—were pointed out. The lichen flora of the siliceous glacial



erratics, which is very different from the calcareous pavement, was examined; species found on these erratic boulders include Acarospora fuscata, Aspicilia cinerea, Rhizoplaca chrysoleuca, Sarcogyne privigna and Xanthoparmelia spp. In contrast, the pavement vielded such calciphile treasures as Dermatocarpon miniatum (s.l.), Placynthium nigrum, and Placynthium of the petersii. Α patch uncommon lichen Cetraria also arenaria was found amongst Polytrichum mosses. After lunch, we examined the second, open alvar habitat, in

which we found two species of *Collema*; *Cladonia multiformis*; and the uncommon, poorly known lichen, *Thyrea confusa*. The largest extant population of the latter species in the northeast US was discovered here in 1997, and it appears to be thriving.

Bryologically speaking, *Aulacomnium palustre* was found in abundance. Our two bryologists, Jon Myers and Norm Trigoboff, busily collected mosses and liverworts, rounding out our cryptogamic field trip.



Over the years, a list of lichens and bryophytes (as well as vascular plants) for all of the Jefferson County alvar sites has been compiled by Bruce Gilman. Our field trip yielded a number of new species for this list: the mosses *Aulacomnium heterostichum, Dicranum montanum, Entodon seductrix, Pohlia nutans,* and *Tortella humilis*; the liverwort *Riccia beyrichiana*; and the lichens *Imshaugia aleurites, Phaeophyscia* spp., and *Rhizoplaca chrysoleuca*. Most of these new species occur on bark or wood in forest habitat, a habitat that may have been largely ignored on previous cryptogam field trips to this site (e.g., an Andrews Foray; a Tuckerman Workshop), which focused on saxicolous, alvar species. David Werier was particularly smitten by the diversity of bark-dwelling *Phaeophyscia* species in the limestone woodlands, all new to the list: *P. adiastola, P. pusilloides*, and *P. rubropulchra*.

Thanks to all of our eager participants who made this field trip a rousing success! If you have any suggestions for future NYFA Cryptogamic field trips, please email the NYFA Cryptogamic Committee, c/o Scott LaGreca, at:

slagreca@berkshiremuseum.org.



Lorraine Gulf

Recap by Anne Johnson

On sunny August 7, 2010, nine intrepid people met and headed down and into Lorraine Gulf from the Bullock's Corners bridge. The South Sandy Creek winds its way tortuously through the gulf, the bottom of which is, for the most part, broad and covered with flat rock and shingles between the steep shale walls. Only very occasionally did the forest descend to the



bottom in a less steep fashion, filling the land side of the creek's oxbows. Wading was easy and many small fossils were seen. The going was slow as there was so much to look at, and by the time we got to the really good spots, we were worn out but somehow managed to keep looking.

We were happy to have the company of Dave Larabee, who arranged a convenient exit point at Abijah Creek and a place to

spot cars (and who also forewarned the owners of two bull mastiffs on the property).

The floor of the gulf had, in places, lush stands of tall herbaceous vegetation bordered by lines of *Carex torta* near the water edges, but for the most part we spent most of our time viewing the walls. It was obvious in places that the water can be very high and very fast at certain times of the year – large rocks and downed trees were flung up on shore in unusual places here and there. The plant highlights were nice stands of yellow mountain saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*), some still even in flower, many rosettes of bird's-eye primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), and overall, the lush moist walls covered with luxuriant growths of ferns and mosses. Unfortunately, a few infestations of goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) had appeared since the leader's last visit in 1995.

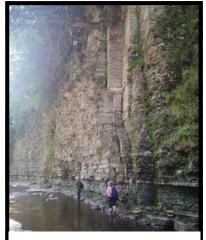
The walk was a well-rounded trip; all kinds of fish information and moth, butterfly, and caterpillar information was provided by Doug Carlson and Steven Daniels respectively. The leader, for some unfathomable reason, thought we would be done and out of the gulf by noon and that we would be able to explore another gulf. So it was a surprise when we exited at almost 7:00 in the evening!

Lorraine Gulf species list 8/7/2010

Acalypha virginica Acer saccharum var. saccharum Acer spicatum Actaea rubra Adiantum pedatum Aegopodium podagraria Ageratina altissima var. altissima Agrimonia striata Agrostis stolonifera Ambrosia artemisiifolia Amphicarpaea bracteata Anemone canadensis Angelica atropurpurea Aquilegia canadensis Aralia racemosa ssp. racemosa Arctium lappa Barbarea vulgaris Bromus ciliatus Campanula rapunculoides Carex aurea Carex communis var. communis Carex eburnea Carex flava Carex pedunculata Carex torta Chelone glabra Chenopodium album Cinna latifolia Circaea alpina Clematis virginiana Cornus rugosa Cryptogramma stelleri Cryptotaenia canadensis Cystopteris bulbifera Dasiphora fruticosa ssp. floribunda Deparia acrostichoides Desmodium canadense Doellingeria umbellata var. umbellata Dryopteris marginalis Elymus riparius Elymus virginicus var. virginicus Epilobium ciliatum ssp. ciliatum Epilobium coloratum Erigeron annuus Erigeron philadelphicus var. philadelphicus Eupatorium perfoliatum Euthamia graminifolia Eutrochium maculatum var. maculatum Fraxinus americana

Galeopsis bifida Galium asprellum Geranium robertianum Helenium autumnale Hydrocotyle americana Hypericum perforatum Hypericum punctatum Impatiens capensis Impatiens pallida Juncus articulatus Juncus dudleyi Juniperus communis var. communis Lactuca biennis Laportea canadensis Lobelia cardinalis Lonicera canadensis Lycopus americanus Lysimachia ciliata Melilotus albus Mentha arvensis Mentha spicata Mimulus ringens Mitchella repens Muhlenbergia mexicana Muhlenbergia sylvatica Myosoton aquaticum Onoclea sensibilis Persicaria maculosa Persicaria sagittata Phegopteris connectilis Plantago lanceolata Poa compressa Polystichum acrostichoides Prenanthes alba Primula mistassinica Ribes cynosbati **Ribes** lacustre Rorippa palustris Rosa sp. Rubus allegheniensis Rubus frondosus Rubus idaeus ssp. strigosus Rubus occidentalis Rubus odoratus Rubus pubescens var. pubescens Rudbeckia laciniata var. laciniata Salix bebbiana Salix eriocephala Salix x fragilis Saxifraga aizoides Scutellaria lateriflora Shepherdia canadensis

Solanum dulcamara var. dulcamara Solidago caesia var. caesia Solidago canadensis var. canadensis Solidago gigantea Solidago hispida Solidago nemoralis Sonchus arvensis ssp. arvensis Sphenopholis intermedia Stachys tenuifolia Symphyotrichum cordifolium Symphyotrichum lanceolatum var. lanceolatum Symphyotrichum novae-angliae Symphyotrichum prenanthoides Symphyotrichum puniceum var. puniceum Taxus canadensis Thalictrum pubescens Thelypteris palustris var. pubescens Thuja occidentalis Tsuga canadensis Ulmus americana Verbena hastata var. hastata Verbena urticifolia var. urticifolia Viburnum dentatum var. lucidum Viola cucullata Vitis riparia Zizia aurea



Lorraine Gulf. Photo by Dave Larabee.

NYFA WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Sedge Workshop, Ithaca

Recap by Steven Daniel

The July 5-7, 2010 NYFA sedge workshop was information-packed, energizing, and just great fun. Although it coincided with the biggest heat wave in years, that fact barely slowed us down.

The workshop began in the Bailey Hortorium lab at Cornell for what was to be an exciting learning experience, led by David Werier. David has a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding botanist, so we expected lots of content. We were pleased to discover that he is also an extraordinary teacher whose passion for the subject overflows.

Many field botanists are intimidated at the prospect of learning sedges. With over 300 species in New York, sedges can be a daunting prospect. Beyond showing us a great variety of sedges, David wanted to give us the tools to continue our sedge studies beyond the workshop.

David began by introducing the sections of *Carex*, and providing a multi-access key he had prepared. The key is designed so the user can draw on one or more of a suite of characters to help find the proper section of *Carex* for any specimen. Once the proper section of *Carex* is determined, the number of possible species is greatly reduced, and the process of identifying an unknown becomes much more doable. It works.

In the lab we practiced using the key with samples of the various sections of *Carex*, (which David provided from his collections) or with our own specimens.

The field outings were highlights. We spent much of the first day at South Hill in Ithaca, one of Cornell's preserved natural areas. South Hill is a geologically interesting and floristically diverse area - with a great diversity of sedges. We used the multi-access



Overheated but happy sedgers after a *Carex schweinitzii* sighting. Front row: Pete Woods, Peter Debes, Claudia Knab-Vispo, Julie Lundgren, Anna Stalter, Aissa Feldmann. Back row: David Werier, Rocky Gleason, Joanne Schlegel, Dick Rosche, Rick Koval, Steven Daniel, Ed Frantz, Richard Ring. Photo by Pete Woods.

Carex key to work out to section several species of *Carex*, including one (*Carex baileyi*) which had not previously been recorded in the Cayuga Lake Basin. We also keyed several species of *Scirpus*, and looked carefully at species of *Schoenoplectus*, *Trichophorum*, and *Eleocharis*. With repeated practice, the keys began to seem quite workable.

Despite the heat we didn't call it a day until 6:30 or so - and then enjoyed an excellent dinner at a Thai restaurant. After dinner the truly possessed returned to the lab for more practice, while others called it a day, or enjoyed a swim beneath fireflies and a star-filled sky.

After more review and lab practice on Wednesday morning, we headed to Michigan Hollow - a headwater swamp where Susquehanna and Lake Ontario drainages diverge - to see some new species and *Carex* sections, including several in section *Vesicariae*. Slogging through the wetland, sometimes knee-deep in water, actually made the heat and humidity quite bearable.

In the afternoon we visited a calcareous fen near Syracuse which had several calciphiles we hadn't yet seen. The highlight was a vibrant population of the globally rare *Carex schweinitzii* in its habitat - calcareous rivulets through rich fens and cedar swamps.

It was an intensive couple of days of terrific outings and top notch instruction. Many thanks to NYFA for offering this workshop, and to David Werier who did a truly masterful job.



David Werier helping the group with woodland sedges. Photo by Ed Frantz.



Carex schweinitzii. Is that sheath baggy? Photo by David Werier.

Bramble Ramble

Recap by Bonnie Isaac, Photographs by David Werier

Nine folks braved the prickly topics of *Rosa* & *Rubus* identification at a workshop arranged by David Werier in Ithaca, New York on June 25-27, 2010. The workshop was taught by Arthur Haines (a hip guy who teaches with style). The Bailey Hortorium was kind enough to lend the group lab space each morning for studying specimens followed by scratching out prickles in forest & field (mostly field). The group visited Cornell Plantations South Hill Swamp, Hammond Hill State Forest, Mullholland Wildflower Preserve, Cayuga Heights, Sapsucker Woods, Taughannock Falls State Park & the Finger Lakes National Forest, (Church Pasture) & found about 25 different taxa.



Three fruits, side-by-side: Rubus idaeus ssp. strigosus, Rubus x neglectus (=R. idaeus ssp. strigosus x R. occidentalis), Rubus occidentalis.

By the end of the workshop the stabbing topics of roses & blackberries got under our skin and we were all receptacles armed with valuable information to make us botanically sharper. More to the point, a bloody good time was had by all.





Arthur Haines, the group's fearless leader, holding up an individual *Rubus canadensis*.



The ramblers: Bonnie Isaac, Joe Isaac, Arthur Haines, David Werier, Ed Fuchs, Joanne Schlegel, Anne Johnson, Michael Siuta, Anna Stalter.

Bramble Ramble species list, by location, 6/25-27/2010

South Hill Swamp, Cornell Plantations

Rosa carolina Rosa multiflora Rosa canina Rubus pensilvanicus Rubus recurvicaulis Rubus jaysmithii Rubus allegheniensis Rubus allegheniensis x jaysmithii Rubus idaeus ssp. strigosus Rubus occidentalis Rubus x neglectus (=R. idaeus ssp. strigosus x R. occidentalis) Rubus hispidus

Hammond Hill State Forest Rosa gallica Rubus allegheniensis x Rubus sect. Arguti Rubus canadensis

Mulholland Wildflower Preserve Rubus caesius

Private Residence, Cayuga Heights Rosa setigera

Sapsucker Woods *Rosa palustris*

Taughannock Falls State Park Rosa rugosa Rubus odoratus Rubus phoenicolasius



Anna Stalter hard at work keying a rose. Photo by David Werier.

Finger Lakes National Forest, Church Pasture Rosa canina Rosa rubiginosa Rubus allegheniensis x frondosa Rubus frondosus Rubus jaysmithii Mystery Rosa (very close to R. cinnamomea)

What Programs, Field Trips and Workshops Would You Like?

We are considering these options for next year and would like feedback from our members.

Botanical Illustration Workshop Salix Workshop Aquatic Plants Workshop Asters and Goldenrods Workshop Field trip to Bergen Swamp Annual *Carex* Workshop

What do you think? Email your picks and any other ideas to: editor@nyflora.org.

Thanks!

NYFA ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

Recap by David Werier

The 2010 NYFA annual meeting was held in conjunction with the NYFA peatlands field trip. The meeting was held at the camp of Ed Frantz in Aldrich, New York. Ed and his family prepared an amazing barbecue with enough delicious food to feed an army. The meal was truly spectacular.

After the meal a very short business meeting was conducted. The primary item on the agenda was the board elections. Last minute votes for board members were accepted. The final results of the election included the addition of two new people to the board for a term of three years: Anna Stalter of the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY and Kim Smith, the NYS Parks/NY Natural Heritage Program Botanist based out of Albany, NY. A big congratulations and welcome to Anna and Kim! In addition Ed Frantz, Gerry Moore, and David Werier were re-elected for a term of three years. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers at the October board meeting for the board to approve.

From the business meeting it was back to the bogs that fill that wonderful part of the state!



Happy botanists under a virgin white pine on the trail to Lost Pond Bog, Wanakena. Top row: Joe McMullin, Connie Tedesco, Laura Lehtonen, David Werier, Allan Strong; front row: Steve Young, Anne Johnson, Peter O'Shea, Aissa Feldmann, Steven Daniel, Chris Martine, Alex Young, Bernie Carr. Photo by Carol Gates.

CYBER BOTANY

Andrews Bryophyte Foray species lists available online



The Andrews Foray, a relaxing gathering of professional and amateur bryologists who work to advance the study of mosses, liverworts, and lichens in the Northeast, took place in central New York near Syracuse on September 17-19. The group visited five sites with substrate and hydrologic diversity. Locations included: Bullhead Pond, a pond surrounded by an unstable *Carex* mat dominated by *Sphagnum central* and *S. teres* and a swamp forest with conifers, red maple, and poison sumac; East Osceola State Forest, a dry late successional forest; Three Falls Woods, a privately-owned property

with limestone pavement outcrops; Vanderkamp Center, which hosted the Foray; and Kibbie Lake, a floating mat poor fen *Sphagnum* site.

The Kibbie Lake location held considerable sentimental value for Dick Andrus, who spent quite a bit of time there for his PhD work in 1972. This foray was the first time he'd been back since! He mentioned that the dominant species are still the same, but that he suspects *Decodon* to be more abundant now.

For species lists and more foray information, visit https://sites.google.com/site/andrewsforay/



Local botanists Nancy Eldblom & Anne Johnson have just published: <u>Plants of St. Lawrence County, NY: An Annotated Checklist of Vascular Flora</u>.

Contains write-ups of over 1,300 plants growing wild in St. Lawrence County.

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263 page paperback available for \$22.95 at local bookstores and from the publisher, Bloated Toe Publishing, PO Box 324, Peru NY 12972 (http://www.bloatedtoe.com/)

For enquiries call (315) 322-4058.

Selected Regional Events

Winter Ecology Walks and Botany Lab at Hawthorne Valley Farm, Columbia County

"Winter Explorations"—back by popular demand! A series of winter ecology walks to various locations throughout Columbia County. The walks will be on Saturdays, 12:30-2:30pm (Nov. 6, Dec. 11, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, and March 12), locations to be announced. The outings are free, but please register with <u>claudia@hawthornevalleyfarm.org</u> or call 672-7994 for information.

Botany Lab: Participants in the Natural History Survey Group will meet right after the "Winter Exploration" outings for botany lab sessions (3-5pm at the Creekhouse) to review some of the plant groups that are difficult to identify in the field. Limited space for new participants might be available. Contact us if you are interested in joining this in-depth botany study group.

The Northeast Natural History Conference is back!

Join us for the 11th Northeast Natural History Conference (NENHC) and the historic first meeting of the Association of Northeastern Biologists (ANB). As with past years, this conference will be held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY. This conference promises to be the largest regional forum for researchers, natural resource managers, students, and naturalists to present current information on the varied aspects of applied field biology (freshwater, marine, and terrestrial) and natural history for the Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. It will serve as a premier venue to identify research and management needs, foster friendships and collegial relationships, and encourage a greater region-wide interest in natural history by bringing people with diverse backgrounds together.

More information on their website: http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC_2011/NENHC2011

Interested in pulling kudzu in Rockland County?

There will be a late fall volunteer kudzu pull in in Rockland County! The group is awaiting landowner permission and should have a date specified soon. For more information, contact:

Jessica Rohloff Cancelliere, Assistant Entomologist Division of Lands and Forests NYS DEC 518-810-1609 jarohlof@gw.dec.state.ny.us





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REMINDERS

W YORK FLORA ASSOCIATION BLOG Reporting on the Flora of New York

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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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.

Don't forget to promote awareness of NYFA by proudly purchasing and wearing Café Press items.

http://www.cafepress.com/nyflora

Please note that all programs and trips are posted on the NYFA calendar at:

www.nyflora.org/Calendar.html

Let us know if your have any others you would like to post by sending them to Steve Young at:

young @nynhp.org





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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Ed Frantz – President: Term Expires: 2010 Steve Young – Treasurer: Term Expires: 2012 Currently Vacant– Vice-President Troy Weldy – Past President: Term Expires: 2012 David Werier – Secretary: Term Expires: 2010

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MUSINGS

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is in flower."

-Albert Camus

"I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself than be crowded on a velvet cushion."

- H. D. Thoreau

"It's tough being a propagule. Even the rarest plants may not be all that fussy."

-A. A. Reznicek

"Break open a cherry tree and there are no flowers, but the spring breeze brings forth myriad blossoms." - Ikkyu Sojun

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