



NYFA Newsletter

New York Flora Association
of the New York State Museum Institute

Vol. 1 No. 1 Co-Directors: **Richard S. Mitchell** **Robert E. Zaremba** **March - 1990**
New York State Museum **The Nature Conservancy**

An Invitation to Join

We invite all interested persons to join the New York Flora Association, a new organization dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild in our beautiful State. Ours is a non-profit, private organization, administered by the New York State Museum Institute. It will be funded by dues, gifts and grants.

Goals of the Organization:

- a) to promote the study of New York State's native and naturalized plant life
- b) to encourage the production of botanical publications that are educational to the public and beneficial to the scientific community
- c) to provide an umbrella organization for field and herbarium botanists that can represent their points of view
- d) to serve as an information exchange for botany clubs and botanists active in New York State, and to foster the pursuit of common interests
- e) to gather information and voucher specimens leading to a complete atlas of New York state plant distributions
- f) to develop "ecological profiles" of our native and introduced plant species to aid in our understanding of their distributions and interactions
- g) to promote conservation and wise management of native plant resources and natural communities.

Activities of the Association:

- 1) **Field Trips** - At least twice a year, and probably more often, the organization will sponsor field trips to interesting biological communities or floristic areas around the state. In cases that warrant hiring bus transportation, members will travel at reduced rates.
- 2) **Meetings** - These will be held in early summer and fall, in Albany at first, then at institutions across the state, so that members who live in distant areas will be encouraged to attend. Business matters will be kept to an absolute minimum in favor of communication, planning field trips and short talks on topics of botanical interest.

3) **Plant Distribution Atlas** - This is a major project in which all botanists doing field work in the state will be encouraged to participate. The Botany Office of the State Museum has already prepared a preliminary atlas for the 3,500 known taxa of New York plants. Counties are dotted when a voucher specimen is currently listed at the museum. Much work remains, most of it to be carried out by Museum staff, but NYFA members can be a big help in "filling in the blanks" through field and herbarium work. We hope eventually to be able to support field projects with small grants to members, if funds become available. "A Preliminary Vouchered Atlas of New York State Flora" (ca. 500 pp.) will come post-paid to each new member of the NYFA, and updates will be issued to all members periodically as information accumulates.

4) **Newsletter** - A greatly expanded edition of this newsletter will be issued two or more times per year starting (with no. 2) this spring. The upcoming edition is scheduled to contain articles about the atlas project, as well as recent state records and plant discoveries around the state, orchids, federally listed "sandplains gerardia" and other botanical rarities. Articles written by Association members will also be recruited, especially reports of interesting field trips around the state.

What You Will Receive Initially:

- Membership in the Association
- The Preliminary Atlas
- A subscription to the newsletter
- A copy of recent New York State Rare Plant Legislation (provided to us by D.E.C.)

Dues are \$10 per year plus a \$5, one-time fee to help us with this bulky and expensive atlas.

To Join: Write a \$15 check to N.Y.S. Museum Institute
Send it, along with the address at which you wish to receive our mailings, to:

New York Flora Association
New York State Museum
3132 CEC
Albany, NY 12230