



New York Flora Association

Helping people **see** plants.



2024 Impact Report

nyflora.org

Dear New York Flora Association Members and Friends,

Thank you for supporting the New York Flora Association (NYFA). Our mission is to help people enjoy and learn about the wild plants in New York, and promote the conservation of our native species.

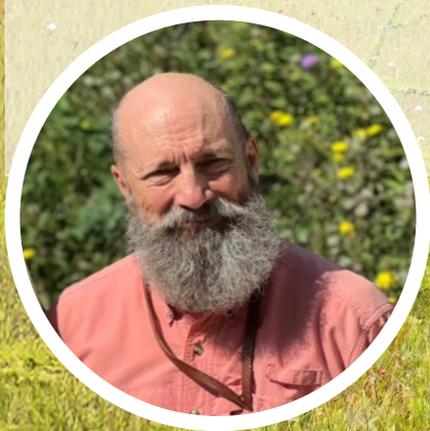
Through your support, we maintain and regularly update the New York Flora Atlas (<http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu>), a fabulous resource for all who want to better understand the plants that grow in the wild in New York. Free to all, the Atlas is regularly used by thousands of people, organizations, and companies throughout New York, the entire country, and around the world.

In addition to the Atlas, each year we offer a series of well-attended botanical field trips and workshops across the state. This year, several hundred members and nonmembers took part in 37 field trips and workshops that were hosted in 23 New York counties. We promote botanical research and award research grants to students investigating the flora of New York. NYFA is sponsoring a multiyear project that will result in a Flora of New York, the first comprehensive flora since John Torrey's in 1843. The first volume, on Monocots, is nearing completion. Also, NYFA produces a colorful, informative quarterly newsletter, *Mitchelliana*, available to members as a digital document.

Thank you again for a great 2024. We look forward to more botanical journeys in the new year.

Botanically yours,

Dan Spada
Dan Spada
NYFA President



NYFA Sphagnum workshop in St. Lawrence County in August 2024, led by experts Jon Shaw, Sean Robinson, and Tom Phillips, showed participants how to identify the great diversity of these plants in New York. Photo by Kyle Webster.

Our mission is to help people enjoy and learn about the wild plants of New York State and promote the conservation of native species.

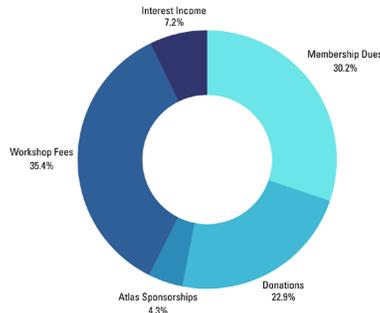


Finances

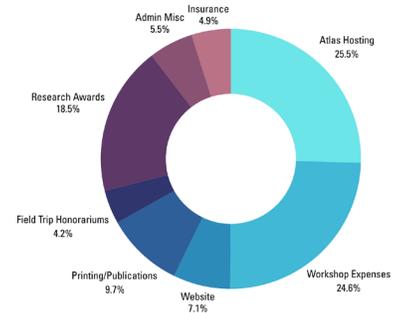
NYFA is an independent 501(c) (3) organization funded primarily by membership dues and donations. We had a great year in 2024, with total income of \$25,607, which was well above our estimate, and expenses of \$10,785. Our year-end cash total was \$82,982.

Our biggest sources of income are dues and donations, but we had an excellent year with workshop fees being well above budget. Our main expenses are related to the Atlas, workshops, and research grant awards.

2024 Income Summary



2024 Expense Summary



NYFA by the NUMBERS

375



people connected with plants during our **37** field trips and workshops held in **23** counties across the state 2024

27



research grants given out to further botanical studies in our state totaling **\$17,517** since 2013

126



newsletters available on our website dating back until 1990! **4** quarterly issues of Mitchelliana published in 2024



12



Native Plant Conservationist of the Year Awards since 2012

414



active members of NYFA in 2024

65,019



users of the online New York Flora Atlas in 2024

3,589



species described on the Atlas as of 2024

2024 Highlights



From left to right: Kyle Webster, Bruce Gilman, and NYFA President Dan Spada - Kyle, an NYFA Board Member and Botanist with the New York Natural Heritage Program, spoke about Bruce at the meeting. He was a student of Bruce's in the Horticulture Program at FLCC and knows firsthand the impact that Bruce has had on the next generation of botanists in our State.

Native Plant Conservationist of the Year

Each year, NYFA recognizes an individual or organization that has worked to conserve the native flora of New York. The Native Plant Conservationist Award is presented at our Annual Meeting and we rely on our members to help us select the recipient each year.

This year's award went to Dr. Bruce Gilman. As Professor Emeritus of Environmental Conservation at Finger Lakes Community College, Bruce continues to curate the Finger Lakes Herbarium, a collection of over 18,000 plant specimens representative of western New York. In that capacity, he is preparing an updated edition of his 1983 publication, Ontario County Flora. Bruce's four decades of teaching, research, and community involvement are unparalleled. In addition to this award, he has received the Friend of the Lake Award for his Canandaigua Lake research, the Friend of the Land Award for his volunteer efforts with The Nature Conservancy, and the Lake Tear of the Clouds Award to recognize his limnology studies in several New York State lakes.

Annual Meeting

The 2024 NYFA Annual Meeting was held at Ganondagon State Historic Site on September 21st. It was a beautiful day (the rain waited until we were leaving) that started with a business meeting and continued with the Native Plant Conservationist Award to Bruce Gilman. Steve Young administered his famous botany quiz and there were some pretty great prizes for the winning teams. Member Richard Cook shared freshly picked local paw paws as an extra treat with lunch. After the meeting the group took a field trip where we saw asters, goldenrods, and other fall blooms along the trail.



NYFA Board Members and members at the 2024 Annual Meeting

Field Trips and Workshops

We are very proud of our extensive field trip and workshop offerings every year. Field trips are free and open to all - and often fill up fast and have a waiting list. And what a great year for field trips and workshops in 2024! NYFA held 37 field trips and workshops in 23 counties across the state - connecting 375 people with plants in person! We can't thank all of our amazing field trip leaders enough for volunteering their time to share their knowledge and passion with beginner and expert botanists alike.



Whiteface flora field trip in Essex County.



Sphagnum workshop in St. Lawrence County.



Learn 10 - Asters and Goldenrods - at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany County.



Fern Workshop in Onondaga & Madison Counties.



Lorraine Gulf field trip on the Tug Hill Plateau in Jefferson County.



Chimney Bluffs State Park field trip in Wayne County.



Wetland field trip in Herkimer County.



'Petal Pedal' on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail in Ulster County.

Research Grant Award

This award is designed to promote botanical research in the state of New York. Proposals may be submitted by students and NYFA members conducting research relating to the flora of New York, especially when a substantial portion of the work occurs within the state. 27 awards totaling just over \$17,500 have been given out since 2013 to students studying plants at SUNY ESF, Brockport, Plattsburgh, Morrisville, Cortland, and Oneonta as well as Columbia, Clarkson, Cornell, and Yale Universities. Summaries of completed research can be found in the Mitchelliana Newsletter and online at nyflora.org.

2024 Grant Awardees

Rachel Hopkins, SUNY ESF, *Plants on the move. Tracking 60 years on climate-induced vegetation shifts on Whiteface Mountain, New York.*

Lydia Harvey & Amelie Przedwiecki, SUNY Plattsburgh, *Reconstructing the community and disturbance regime of a fire-dependent ecosystem.*

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New York Flora Association

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NY Flora Atlas Update

The New York Flora Atlas (Atlas) is an online resource for information including distribution of all the vascular plants that occur in New York State. Information is also available for taxa which have been erroneously reported from New York (excluded taxa). In addition to distribution, the Atlas provides information for each taxon about habitat, taxonomy, native/non-native status, synonymy, and more. Images are also being added. Accepted taxa and their distributions are based on vouchered specimens housed at public herbaria.

The Atlas has seen a huge amount of improvement over the years and is currently an extremely dynamic tool used to explore plant diversity in New York. The data can be queried in many different ways allowing the user to extract exactly the information they desire. Lists of species as well as details about particular species are available and all of the information can be downloaded and/or printed. To round out the Atlas website, direct links to other sites, news and announcements are available. A versatile and flexible tool, the Atlas has become a go-to place for details about the flora of New York. ***The New York Flora Atlas is supported entirely by New York Flora Association membership dues and donations.***

In addition to the online Atlas, in 2024 NYFA continued to sponsor the research and writing of a Flora of New York State, currently focused on the monocots. A preliminary draft treatment of *Carex* was completed, which included some new additions to the State. One exciting find was the discovery of a new population of the globally vulnerable *C. decomposita*, which had not been seen in the state for over 145 years. This new population also expands the known range of this species. *C. decomposita* photo at right courtesy David Werier.



Our Vision:

The New York Flora Association envisions a future where...

Native plants thrive within diverse ecosystems throughout New York, in cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

New Yorkers from all walks of life appreciate the wild flora and work to protect the native species, which are an essential part of biodiversity and healthy natural areas.

We believe that by fostering a deeper understanding of the native and nonnative plants around us, we build stronger connections to the natural world, and inspire people from all walks of life to conserve the native flora and ecosystems that support our collective well-being.

Join Us Today!

