SOLIDAGO

The Newsletter of the
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

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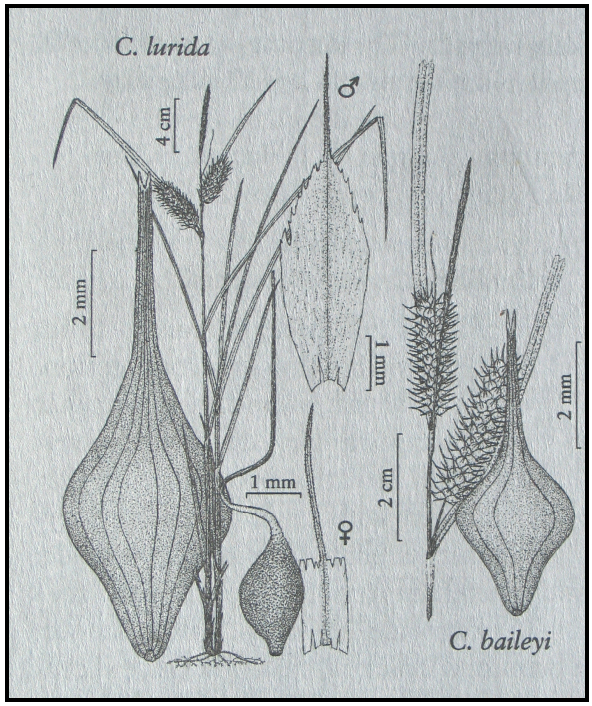
Bailey's sedge – *Carex baileyi* A New Addition to the Flora of Tompkins County and the Cayuga Lake Basin

by David Werier

From July 5th-7th, 2010 I taught a sedge workshop for the New York Flora Association based out of the Bailey Hortorium (BH) at Cornell University (see Daniel [2010] for a summary of the workshop). We visited South Hill (Tompkins County, Town of Ithaca) on July 6th and towards the end of our time at this site two of my astute students, Julie Lundgren and Rich Ring, found a specimen of *Carex baileyi* (Bailey's sedge). It was growing in a recently created clearing in the forest with an abundant and dense sedge and grass cover. The site had been clearcut to erect a research wind tower which has since been removed. All woody plants that are attempting to regenerate at the site (except a few inside tall fences) are being heavily browsed by deer and are not attaining any height. On the other hand, the sedges and grasses that have grown since the clearing was created are extremely robust, abundant, and diverse. Most of the seeds of these sedges and grasses were likely in the seed bank just "waiting" for a disturbance.



***Carex baileyi* (Bailey's sedge) and the similar *C. lurida* (sallow sedge)**

Illustration by Susan A. Reznicek

Reprinted from Reznicek and Ford (2002), page 508.

I had not seen *C. baileyi* in Tompkins County before and determined that it was indeed a new addition to the flora of Tompkins County as well as the Cayuga Lake Basin. A voucher specimen (DW 3802) was collected and will be deposited at BH.

Carex baileyi is a species of the Appalachian Mountains (Reznicek and Ford 2002) and in New York is primarily a wetland species of acidic soils. Its range extends from Maine and Quebec southwest to North Carolina and Tennessee (Reznicek and Ford 2002) with the Biota of North America Project (BONAP, 2010) also listing it from Alabama and Arkansas.

Status in central New York

Carex baileyi has not previously been reported from Tompkins County (Dudley 1886, Wiegand and Eames 1926, Smith 1945, Clausen 1949, Wesley et al. 2008, Weldy and Werier 2010). It has been reported from Tioga County (Fenno 1903) and from the upper Susquehanna River drainage (as *C. lurida* [var.] *gracilis*) in Clute's (1898) flora of that region. Although at least a small part of the upper Susquehanna River drainage occurs in Tompkins County, Tompkins County is excluded from the territory covered by Clute's (1898) flora. The area covered by his flora is to the west, south, and east of Tompkins County. He does not

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Become A Member of FLNPS:

To become a member of FLNPS (suggested dues $20 [$10 students]) send your name, address, phone number, and email along with your dues to:

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society
532 Cayuga Heights Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

THANKS!!!

NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from last issue's (Solidago 11(3)) name that plant contest was of May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*). Congratulations to the contest winners Betsy Darlington, Bob Dirig, Ken Hull, David Keifer, and Susanne Lorbeer.

This issue's plant contest is pictured below. Please submit your answers to David Werier (email and address in box to the right). The plant is a relatively common species of central New York although the photo makes the subject perhaps a little more difficult to identify. There is also an extra bonus question. Which subspecies is pictured? Common and/or scientific names are acceptable. More than one guess is allowed. Hints and suggestions are often provided to contest participants who try. The photo was taken on 12 June, 2010 in Tompkins County, NY.

Photo by David Werier

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
January 14th, 2011

Please send items for the newsletter to David Werier, editor (email noted in box above). The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday January 14th.** As always, we need your pieces to help make this newsletter lively, interesting, and informative. Items to send can include articles, stories, trip reports, drawings, photos, information on relevant upcoming events, letters to the editor, and more. Thanks again for your help in making this newsletter possible.

Ithaca's Third Annual Designing with Native Plants Symposium

Friday and Saturday, March 4th and 5th, 2011
Location: La Tourelle Resort & Spa, Ithaca NY

What's this symposium really about?

We believe many issues of overall sustainability find an elegant intersection in native horticulture, ecology, and the use of native plants. Many discussions of sustainability, including local ones here in Ithaca, often overlook the relevant role of horticulture and landscaping, and the fundamental use of native plants in clean, green practices. Our goal is to connect local horticulture and the local use of native plants to a larger movement.

In other parts of the country, similar conferences have promoted natural landscaping and native plants to the forefront of horticulture, ecology, and sustainability from a previously marginal position. This conference is an attempt to do the same for the Finger Lakes and upstate NY.

A formal registration email with all the relevant details will be sent out in mid-December, 2010. To get this email or for any questions or information contact Dan Segal (dan@plantsmen.com).

Announcing the Northeast Natural History Conference 2011 and the Founding Meeting of the Association of Northeastern Biologists

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.

For more information visit the NENHC website at http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC_2011/NENHC2011.shtml

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Pictured below are two native plant gardens that FLNPS members have been involved in designing, planting, and maintaining. On the left is the garden in front of the offices of the Finger Lakes Land Trust on the corner of Court and Tioga Streets in Ithaca, New York. On the right is the garden at the Paleontological Research Institute's Museum of the Earth off of Rt. 96 in Ithaca. Stop by these gardens and tell us what you think.

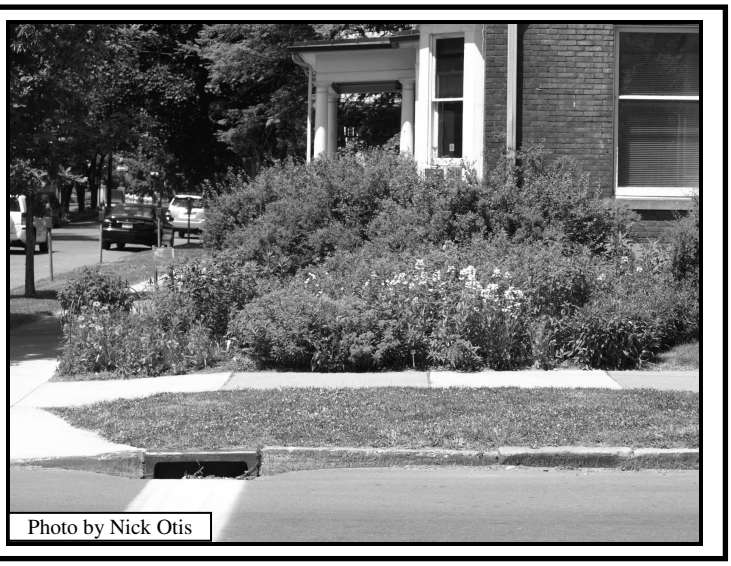
Photo by Nick Otis

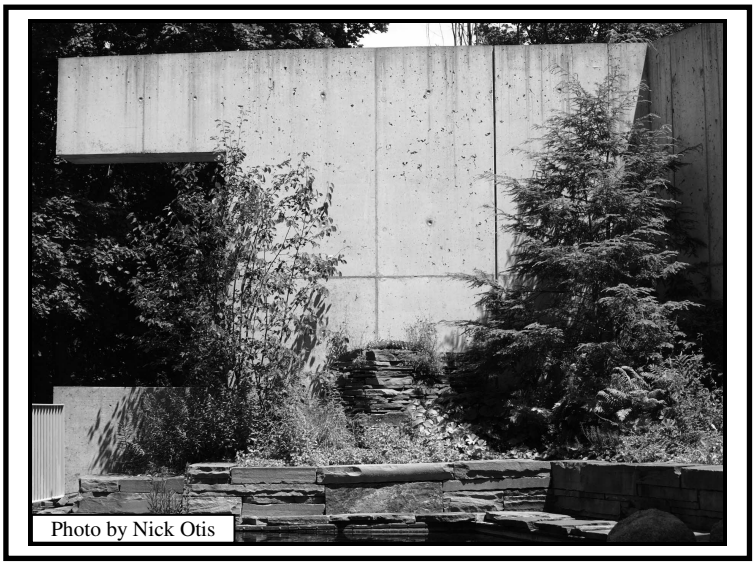
Photo by Nick Otis

Beaver Meadow State Forest Takes Unprecedented Steps to Improve Its Forest's Health via Deer Management

by David Werier

I spend a significant amount of time exploring and studying the natural areas throughout New York State. Increasingly, I have become alarmed at the poor condition of these natural areas. It has become abundantly clear that the level of deer browse in many parts of New York has reached alarmingly high levels and the associated degradation of the land is striking (see the December 2009 special issue of *Solidago* 10(4) on white-tailed deer and their impact on native plants). This past fall, I was exploring the new addition to the Finger Lakes Land Trust's (FLLT) Roy H. Park Preserve in the headwaters of Six Mile Creek in Tompkins County. While I was extremely excited that the FLLT was the new owner of this ecological significant land and that it would now remain in an undeveloped state I was literally shocked by the health of the vegetation as the result of deer browse. Did it really matter that the FLLT now owned this parcel? Would they have the foresight, knowledge, and ability to help the plants remain healthy or even simply prevent them from becoming extirpated?

So when I heard about Beaver Meadow State Forest participating in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) to help improve the health of the forest via deer management I wanted to learn more about this program and see if this could be a tool that organizations interested in the ecological health of their land could implement. Below is a summary of information about DMAP on Beaver Meadow State Forest from the NYS DEC website. In addition, I have included an email interview that I conducted with Christopher Sprague, a region 7 DEC forester.

DMAP on Beaver Meadow State Forest (from DEC website)

The Division of Lands and Forests in Sherburne, NY has received a permit from the Bureau of Wildlife to participate in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) on Beaver Meadow State Forest in the towns of Smyrna and Otselic in Chenango County. As a result, the Sherburne Forestry office will have DMAP tags available for use on Beaver Meadow State Forest this hunting season for interested hunters with a valid license. Tags are valid only for antlerless deer and will be loaned out on a weekly basis, determined by lottery drawing, depending on demand.

Why is DMAP necessary on Beaver Meadow State Forest?

DEC foresters have determined that browsing by deer is negatively impacting the forest beyond what traditional hunting and forest management can address. Tree regeneration, wildflowers and other herbaceous plants have been repeatedly damaged and degraded by persistent overbrowsing by deer. By focusing additional hunting in a targeted area for an extended amount of time, foresters hope to create a 'window of opportunity' for tree regeneration to grow beyond the browse height of deer. Prior to and during this window of opportunity, foresters will strategically group timber sales and increase harvesting intensity in some areas to overwhelm the deer

Chaumont Barrens Preserve in Jefferson County
Note the heavy deer browse on the red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*). What else are the deer eating here?

with abundant new forest growth. DMAP tags will be used on Beaver Meadow State Forest for a period of time (3 to 7 years typically) depending on the success of the program. The end result hopefully will be a healthier forest and perhaps even better habitat for deer and other flora and fauna that may have been missing or greatly reduced in the forest due to the effect of prolonged over-browsing by deer.

Email Interview with Christopher Sprague – Forester with the NYS DEC - Region 7

David: Is Beaver Meadow State Forest the first SF or the first SF in region 7 to participate in the DMAP program?
Chris: *Beaver Meadow is the first State Forest in New York State to participate in the DMAP program.*

David: Who made the decision to apply for a permit in the DMAP?
Chris: *The decision to apply for DMAP was pursued by Andy Blum and myself with the support of our supervisor Robert Slavicek.*

David: Are there plans to study other SF in region 7 or across NY to determine if they also would benefit from participation in the DMAP?
Chris: *Right now this is more of a pilot project or experiment to learn about the effectiveness of DMAP at reducing the deer population on large tracts of land, like Beaver Meadow State Forest, and to test hunter and public reaction to a DMAP permit on a State Forest. If DMAP does prove to be effective, there is no doubt that other State Forests in Region 7, as well as across the State, would benefit from participation.*

David: What is the total acreage of Beaver Meadow State Forest?
Chris: *5,816 acres located in the towns of Smyrna and Otselic in Chenango County.*

David: What is the current (prior to the hunting season) estimate of deer per area in BMSF?
Chris: *Deer are notoriously difficult to count and there is little agreement on the best method to count deer, so I am not comfortable giving you a definitive population number. We are more interested in following population trends and trying to correlate this with the impact of deer browse on vegetation. That said, our deer density index estimate from this past spring was in the area of 20 deer per square mile, plus or minus 2 or 3 deer, with our data showing an upward trend in the population over the past few years.*

Now, 20 deer per square mile may not sound like a lot of deer to someone in western NY or in the Hudson Valley and it may sound like a lot of deer to someone in the Adirondacks, but I want to use our estimate to illustrate a point. The number of deer per square mile in a heavily forested area compared to that same number of deer in an area with abundant cropland does not mean the same thing in terms of deer impact on the habitat. An area with better quality habitat can support more deer per square mile before the negative impacts of deer browsing become an issue. Conversely, the negative impacts of deer browse show up at much lower population levels in areas with lower quality habitat. People always want to know how many deer there are or how many deer are too many, but there is no simple answer to those questions and the numbers are always relative to the local habitat conditions. That is why it is important to talk about deer in terms of the impact the current population of deer has on its habitat, and not base discussions strictly on the number of deer.

David: What is the ultimate goal for BMSF in terms of deer per area? Or are goals based on vegetation responses?
Chris: *Our goal is definitely based on vegetative response and we have set up a number of monitoring projects to evaluate change over time. We started with a deer density and browse impact survey that we conduct each spring after snowmelt and before leaf-out. We have done that for four consecutive years now. We have also installed a deer exclosure on Beaver Meadow State Forest to monitor and compare the impacts of deer browse inside versus outside the exclosure.*

More recently we enlisted the help of Tom Rawinksi, a botanist from the Durham office of the USFS. He has helped us set up several monitoring projects aimed at identifying changes in herbaceous growth in response to changes in the deer population. Woody species sometimes do not respond immediately or changes are hard to detect, so we were looking for another way to evaluate changes in the forest due to changes in deer browse intensity that would give more immediate results.

The primary monitoring project Tom designed is a set of 6 transects with 13 plots per transect where we counted the number of individuals of each species and measured the tallest individual of each species found in each plot. We also then measured all the trees in a larger subplot to give the vegetative plot some context. This has generated a large set of baseline data that we can use to monitor change overtime. In addition to monitoring change, we hope to identify some plant species that respond quickly to changes in browse intensity that we can uses as indicator species.

Tom also set up a couple simple spontaneous offshoot monitoring projects. In one instance we tagged and measured the height of sugar maple and white ash seedlings is a specific area. In another project, we tagged and measured the heights of hobblebush plants. The goal

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Updates on Japanese Stilt Grass in Central New York

Status of Stilt Grass on South Hill at Ithaca College

by Amber Zadrozny

Two years ago (in 2008), Ithaca College got word of a possible outbreak of the invasive, non-native species Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) on South Hill land. Students from ecology and biology courses were sent up to the South Hill Natural Area to determine whether the rumor was true. After students searched the majority of the preserve, stilt grass was discovered on a portion of South Hill located directly behind campus.

It is especially important for Ithaca College to remove this invasive species from the South Hill Natural Area because the stilt grass has been found in a portion of the Perched Swamp White Oak Swamp located on South Hill. This ecological community is rare at both the local and state levels and is carefully managed by Ithaca College Natural Lands Committee (ICNL), an advisory group that helps manage the preserves owned by the college. Shallow depressions in the bedrock at the top of the hill retain water, creating seasonal swamp conditions despite the elevated position, making this forest type unique.

ICNL has coordinated two stilt grass pulls this fall (2010) with student volunteers and South Hill stewards from the Ithaca College community. Many academic professors have also dedicated class time to the pulls, enabling students to learn about the issue and physically take part in the conservation efforts on South Hill. This year a main priority was pulling the grass before it went to seed, and eliminating it from the Perched Swamp White Oak Swamp area. Although the stilt grass pulls have ended for this season, ICNL hopes to continue the elimination of Japanese stilt grass next summer.

2010 *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese Stilt Grass) Eradication Efforts at Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, New York.

by David Werier and Krissy Faust

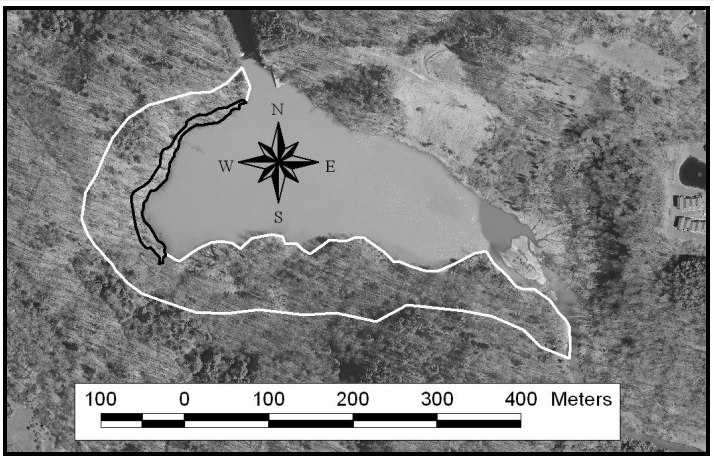
Microstegium vimineum (Japanese stilt grass) was first found in central New York in 2003 at the Six Mile Creek wildflower preserve in Tompkins County, New York. Since then it has been found in at least two additional locations in central New York (see adjacent articles). Stilt grass is considered to be a highly invasive species. The Six Mile Creek site is very rich and diverse with many sensitive plant species and there is the potential that the stilt grass could negatively impact the native flora.

The Finger Lakes Native Plant Society (FLNPS) has been organizing yearly eradication efforts at the Six Mile Creek population since 2004. This year (2010), David Werier mapped the population (see map 1) to help assess the eradication efforts. The population is approximately 0.31 hectares (0.75 acres) in size. Further survey efforts are needed on the northeast shore of the reservoir and in additional adjacent areas to determine if the population is bigger than currently delineated. In addition, regular surveys are needed to determine if the population is changing in size. Ideally funding will be provided to help create a more comprehensive plan, to implement the plan,

Students in Cornell's Hort. 1101 class at the end of their time pulling Japanese stilt grass at Six Mile Creek

and to evaluate the results.

On September 23rd and 24th of this year (2010) the entire Cornell University Horticulture 1101 class including Professor Frank Rossie, Cornell Plantations Natural Areas staff, Bailey Hortorium staff, and members of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society worked together at the Six Mile Creek population. Altogether over 50 people provided the pulling power needed to remove the majority of the stilt grass plants. This field trip is a new addition to the Hort 1101 labs. Never before had they been to a natural area to pull invasive species. The class was enthusiastic and hard working. They learned to identify stilt grass and to distinguish it from the other plants in the wetlands and uplands. They pulled the stilt grass and tried not to disturb the other plants nearby. This simple task required a lot of concentration and focus.



Population of stilt grass at Six Mile Creek wildflower preserve. Black polygon = stilt grass population. White polygon = area surveyed.

On September 25th a number of FLNPS members and Tompkins County residents returned to the Six Mile Creek stilt grass population to complete eradication efforts for the year. The majority of the plants had been pulled the previous two days and this allowed the group to focus on removing the remaining individuals. Most of the plants were removed although some smaller individuals remained. Seeds were gathered from some adjacent native grasses and broadcast on the areas where the stilt grass had been removed. The 2010 Six Mile Creek stilt grass eradication efforts were concluded by a short botanical tour of the site by David Werier, who introduced the group to some of the magnificent plants of the area.

Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) New to Seneca County and Report on Control Efforts

by David Werier

This past fall I was alerted to the presence of Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) by Suzanne Lorbeer. I contacted Linda Ziemba, wildlife biologist with the MNWR, to find out the details. Linda found stilt grass for the first time at MNWR near where heavy equipment is parked near the main offices of the refuge in Seneca County north of Rt. 5 and 20 in August of 2009. The population was small (approximately 0.2 acres in size) and along with MARSH volunteers she was able to pull the entire population over a period of 2 days. In September of 2009 she found a second population along the Esker Brook Trail also in Seneca County. This population was even smaller (approximately 10 x 20 feet in area) and again MARSH volunteers were able to remove the entire population. In 2010, the two populations appeared much smaller and again MARSH volunteers were able to pull all of the stilt grass plants. A herbarium specimen has not yet been made of these new populations but next year a voucher specimen will be made, that is if there are any plants left. A sincere thanks goes out to Linda for both recognizing the presence of stilt grass at MWR and for acting immediately and decisively. To learn more about the MARSH program, see the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex winter 2010 newsletter at: http://www.friendsofmontezuma.org/cattails.html.

Japanese stilt grass – *Microstegium vimineum* displaying its seeds at Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York

Beaver Meadow State Forest
continued from page5

of both of these projects was to observe changes in height growth. These species, particularly hobblebush, are prized by deer as tasty treats, so any change in deer browse intensity should be easy to observe.

David: Why is there a forestry component to the BMSF DMAP plan if the goal is to improve the vegetation that has been negatively impacted by high deer browse?

Chris: *It is not that forestry is a component of our DMAP program, but that DMAP is one of many components to our forest management program. Scientific research leaves little doubt that deer management and forest management can no longer act independently of each other. The biological carrying capacity and the social carrying capacity of deer far exceed the biodiversity carrying capacity of the deer's habitat, the forest. If deer are negatively impacting tree seedlings, then it is likely they have already decimated the wildflower, herb and shrub population in a forest. Deer cannot only survive, but can and do thrive at populations densities much higher than is beneficial to rest of the ecosystem. Thus, sustainable forest management, silviculture, has become intertwined with deer management. Forest management that ignores the impact of deer may result in a lower quality forest in the future or timber harvesting that is unsustainable. State Forests are "green certified" from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) so to maintain this certification we need to constantly prove we are meeting the highest sustainability requirements. This means as foresters for the DEC it is our foremost responsibility to manage the State Forests in a sustainable manner so that future generations can enjoy and benefit from our wise use of the natural resources. We see DMAP as another tool available in our toolbox to help us regenerate forests for the future.*

David: Anything else you want to add would be great.

Chris: *The easiest, least costly, and the best method of reducing the deer herd is through public hunting. We see DMAP as a way to focus hunters on a specific area to not only reduce the deer population so we could grow tree seedlings, but also help us contain costs. The alternative to reducing the deer population is fencing off large tracts of forests but this is an expensive proposition that is beyond our budget.*

DMAP was not our first course of action nor is it our only course of action. Not only did we implement the various monitoring studies discussed above, we also modified some of our harvesting techniques and harvesting schedules and began strategically grouping and timing our harvests to improve our chances of succeeding growing tree seedlings beyond the reach of the deer. Perhaps the most important action we took was becoming involved with the Citizen Task Force (CTF) process. State Forests are not immune to changes in the surrounding landscape. Human activities are ultimately responsible for many of these changes and one of the activities that is of particular importance to the practice of sustainable forestry is the management of the local deer herd. Until recent times, the impact of deer on State forest land has gone largely unnoticed. However, circumstances have changed and a new understanding of the role of deer management and how it relates to successful forest management has emerged. If we wanted to be involved in the discussion on the deer population, we realized we needed to be involved in the CTF meetings.

Some background on the Citizen Task Force meetings: During the CTF process, people representing the full range of interests concerned with deer population size in an individual WMU are brought together for a series of meetings. This process involves a great deal of discussion, negotiation and compromise on the part of the individual members of the CTF to determine the appropriate deer population for that WMU. This process of conflict resolution and consensus building results in a Task Force recommendation that is used to determine the goal for the deer population level in that WMU and guide deer management actions. The deer biologist then uses the CTF recommendation to determine the number of Deer Management Permits (DMPs), doe tags, available to hunters needed to meet the population goal. The use of DMP tags are the primary tool for managing deer population levels. More info about the CTF process is available at http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7207.html.

So in 2006 when the Bureau of Wildlife announced it was holding the CTF meeting for 7M, we were determined to participate in the meeting. The NYS DEC is the largest single landowner in Wildlife Management Unit 7M, and as the managing agency, the Bureau of State Lands Management has a vested interest in decisions that will affect State Forest lands. Therefore, deer management goals established by the 7M WMU Citizen Task Force are of particular interest and importance. The CTF meetings were traditionally run by a meeting facilitator and the Bureau of Wildlife deer biologist, but for the first time we were able to have a Bureau of State Land Management forester speak to the task force members about the impact of deer on forests. This proved to be a critical step in advancing the discussion about recognizing and considering the negative impacts of an over abundant deer population on forest ecosystems because, in this case, the decision of the 7M CTF was to reduce the deer population by 10%. More importantly, a DEC forester now attends any CTF meeting where the WMU contains State Forest land and presents material alongside the deer biologist. The point being that deer management begins with decisions made on the landscape (WMU) level and it is

important for foresters, ecologists, biologists and the like to be involved in the CTF when it comes to their WMU.

David: Thanks again for taking the time to answer my questions.

D-shaped emergence hole of the Emerald Ash Borer
Photo from NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse
(http://nyis.info/insects/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis)*
Photo from NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse
(http://nyis.info/insects/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx

Borers & Beetles

by Rosemarie Parker

Despite some glitches with recalcitrant equipment, October's presentation on the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were both well attended and very, very informative. Rick Hoebecke and Mark Whitmore gave us the history, status, and concerns about these insects. They also covered identification of the insects and their characteristic damage. Tom Gerow gave practical insights into the effect of the Emerald Ash Borer, and the resulting wood quarantine zones, on woodlot owners and the lumber industry. If you missed the talks, there is no way I could reproduce the wonderful displays and practical ad

But I will pass along my take-home message. These insects are near enough now that they are a real danger. When they arrive, they kill the trees quickly - primarily ash and maples, but the Longhorn beetles are not as restricted to maples as the EAB is to ash. There are methods of slowing their spread, maybe even stopping it for the ALB. Thus it is worth it to us, as forest lovers, to learn the signs, spread the word, stop moving wood hither & yon, and communicate possible infestations to people who can DO something about it. It was insistent members of the public that alerted experts to new ALB infestations.

You can pick up information sheets on both EAB & ALB from the Cooperative Extension. You can download information from the Forest Service (http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/ then look under "pest alerts" for both EAB & ALB). There is a nice novice level identification guide for EAB at the NY Invasive Species Clearinghouse (http://nyis.info/insects/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx and follow links to a comprehensive list of quarantine, locations, etc.). Be sure to look at the comparisons of native borers vs. EAB, and native Sawyer beetles vs. ALB.

If, after reading these, you feel you have a suspicious sighting, please tell someone! If you have wood "in hand", say a piece of firewood or a packing crate, you can bring it to the Cooperative Extension in your county. If the tree is still standing, try to take pictures of the aspects that cause concern (exit holes, visible S-shaped galleries, woodpecker feeding), and send the photos with description to Dr. Mark Whitmore (mcw42@cornell.edu). From experience, I can state that he would rather patiently explain many times to many concerned folks why their tree is OK than to miss a true expansion of these insects.

Bailey's sedge – *Carex baileyi*

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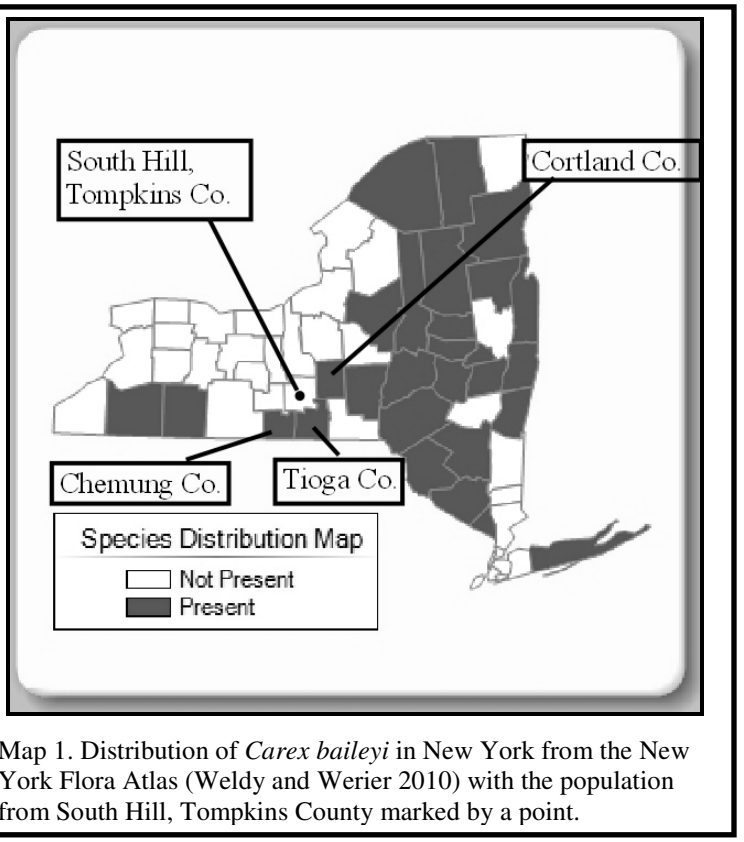
make it clear where in the region covered by his flora *C. baileyi* occurs. First he lists *C. lurida* as, "Plentiful throughout our range in wet and sometimes in dry soil." Then he lists *C. baileyi* (as *C. lurida gracilis*) as, "Found in the same places as the preceding, with which it is often confused." The meaning of "found in the same places" could be interpreted as "throughout our range" and/or "wet and sometimes in dry soils". Either way, as mentioned above, he clearly did not report *C. baileyi* from Tompkins County.

Two more recent floras covering south central New York inclusive of Tompkins County (Clausen 1949, Wesley et al. 2008) do not include *C. baileyi* even though these floras cover the region where Clute (1898) and Fenno (1903) indicate that *C. baileyi* occurs. Wesley (personal communication) believes that his omission of the species from his flora was an oversight. *Carex baileyi* is similar to *C. lurida* and had previously been considered a variety of it (as *C. lurida* var. *gracilis*). It is possible that Clausen was simply lumping *C. baileyi* under a broad concept of *C. lurida*. This seems a little unlikely since Clausen appears to have recognized this taxon, as evidenced by a specimen collected by him in 1939 at BH which was apparently identified by him as *C. baileyi* (as *C. lurida* var. *gracilis*) from Allegheny Co., New York. Therefore, it also appears that Clausen's omission of *C. baileyi* from his flora was an oversight.

I examined all of the *C. lurida* specimens from Tompkins County housed at BH and did not find any *C. baileyi* mixed in with them. I did find at BH three *C. baileyi* specimens, two filed and labeled as such from Chemung and Cortland Counties collected in 1946 by Stanley Smith and one originally called *C. baileyi* but later annotated to *C. lurida* (clearly mistakenly) from Chemung County collected in 1896 by Thomas Lucy. All three of these specimens are within the regions covered by Clausen's (1949) and Wesley et al.'s (2008) south-central New York floras. The presence of *C. baileyi* in Chemung and Cortland Counties aligns with the New York Flora Atlas's distribution map of *C. baileyi* (Weldy and Werier 2010, see map 1). Examination of the specimens of *C. baileyi* at BH as well as reports of specimens noted on the New York State Museum master plant distribution files, which are the basis for the Chemung, Cortland, and Tioga County records in the New York Flora Atlas, indicate that the closest known population to South Hill is about 28.5 kilometers away on Laurel Hill in the town of Erin, Chemung County. This is based on one of the Smith specimens at BH.

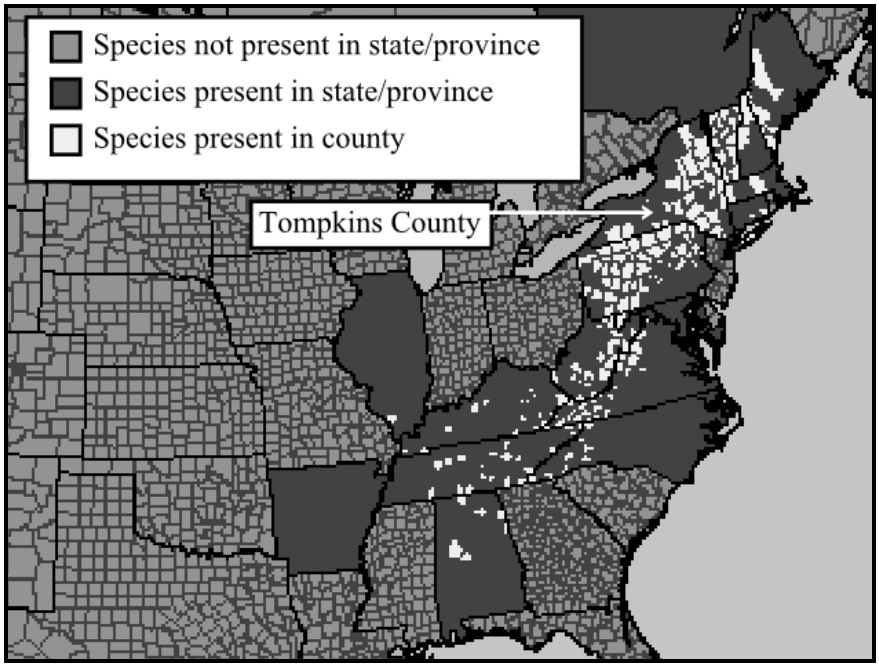
BONAP's (2010) county distribution map of *C. baileyi* in North America clearly shows its primarily Appalachian distribution and how Tompkins County is on the margin of its range (see map 2). Since *C. baileyi* is on the margin of its range in Tompkins County, it may be rare or uncommon in this county. The fact that it has gone undetected at South Hill (a site well known by botanists and very heavily botanized) as well as Tompkins County (also heavily botanized) lends support to *C. baileyi* being quite rare in Tompkins County. It may also have been overlooked as it is very similar to *C. lurida*. Sedges in general seem to be overlooked quite frequently. In the heavily botanized Tompkins County, *C. baileyi* is the third native sedge species to be added to the County's flora in the past decade (see Werier 2004, 2006). The Tompkins County population may also be the result of a recent slight expansion of the range of *C. baileyi*. Finally, there is the possibility that *C. baileyi* was introduced to South Hill via machinery used to create the clearing and/or in the construction and deconstruction of the temporary tower. Further field work may help lend evidence to one of these hypotheses. In the mean time, it is best to treat the South Hill population of *C. baileyi* as a native population as it is known from relatively close and there is no clear evidence that it was introduced.



Map 1. Distribution of *Carex baileyi* in New York from the New York Flora Atlas (Weldy and Werier 2010) with the population from South Hill, Tompkins County marked by a point.

Identifying features

Carex baileyi is a member of *Carex* section *Vesicariae*. It is quite similar to *C. lurida* but has a more delicate look due to its narrower leaves and narrower pistillate spikes. It can also be spotted in the field by the relatively longer beak



Map 2. Distribution of *Carex baileyi* throughout its range (adapted from BONAP 2010) with Tompkins County labeled.

to body ratio of the perigynia. The following key is adapted from Reznicek and Ford (2002).

1a. Pistillate spikes (12-)15-22 mm wide including the beaks; widest leaves (4-)4.5-13 mm wide; perigynia (6-)6.5-10.8 mm long, the beaks 0.7-0.9 times the length of the body……..**C. lurida**
1b. Pistillate spikes 9-14 mm wide; widest leaves 2.4-4(-5) mm wide; perigynia 4.8-6.6(-7.6) mm long, the beaks 0.7-1.3 times the length of the body……**C. baileyi**

It only seems appropriate that a sedge named in honor of Liberty Hyde Bailey would finally be detected in the county that he spent most of his life and that the discovery would occur during a workshop that was based out of the herbarium that he (in part) founded.

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FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS WINTER, SPRING 2011

December 16th – Thursday – 7 pm – FLNPS Annual Solstice Celebration - Our annual solstice celebration of native plants and native plant lovers is almost here. There will be a wild foods potluck, native plant seed exchange, members night slide show, plant quiz, live music, and much, much more. Don't miss one of the hottest events in town. For more details and things to bring please see the enclosed flier.

January 19th – Wednesday – 7 pm – Bird Friendly Gardening – the Lazy Way ! by Marie Read, Wildlife Photographer. Want to entice more birds to your garden? It's easy! Join renowned wildlife photographer Marie Read as she shares her beautiful bird photos and many simple ways to enhance backyards to attract colorful, melodious songbirds.

February 16th – Wednesday – 7 pm – Origins of American Ethnobotanical Medicine: Native Plants from the Aztec Empire to Ithaca – by Eloy Rodriguez

March 16th – Wednesday – 7 pm – Native Lawn Establishment - by Krissy Boys Fauset, Cornell Plantations

April 20th – Wednesday – 7 pm – To Be Announced

May 18th - Wednesday – 7 pm - Night Jewels and Day Marauders: An Insight Into Exotic Life Styles of Moths on Native Plants – by Meena Haribal. A few years ago when Meena was trying to identify a photograph of a moth taken in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, she was told that she may be able to find over one thousand species in a year in Sapsucker Woods. So she decided to give it a try in her own backyard. She set up a blacklight in her yard. She did and does get lots of moths. Then the moths started leaving their eggs on the sheet for her to rear. Thus one thing led to another and now she is hooked for life on observing the life style of these moths and also on stressing the importance of native plants in the yard. The talk will be illustrated with slides. Here is a link to some of the moths that are found in Meena's backyard in Ithaca. http://haribal.org/webcontent/pages/leps.html

All presentations are from 7-8:30 pm at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, 615 Willow Ave. and are free and open to the public.

WALKS AND OUTINGS

Stay tuned for new walks and outings coming soon.