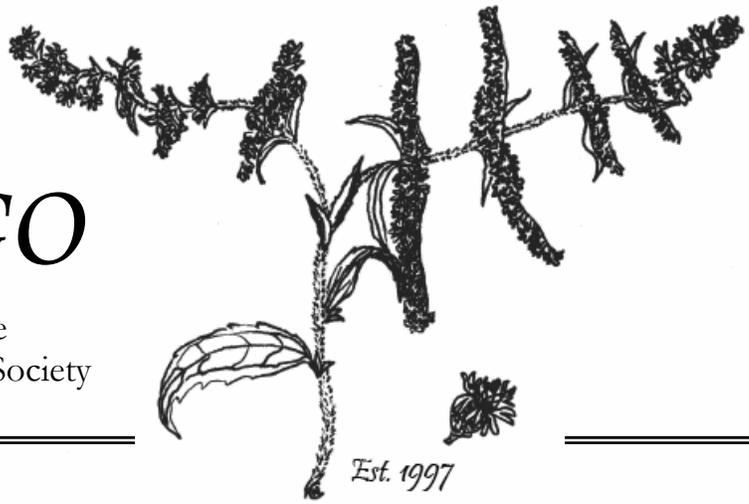


# SOLIDAGO

The Newsletter of the  
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society



Volume 12, No. 4      December 2011

**Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens* ssp. *sempervirens*) New to Tompkins County and the Cayuga Lake Basin**  
by Susanne Lorbeer

There was something different about a group of goldenrods along Route 13 west of the intersection with Warren Road that caught my eye in late September this year (2011). I had to go back and have a closer look. Upon examination, I was sure they were *Solidago sempervirens*, seaside goldenrod. This was interesting, because I had not expected to find that species here in Tompkins Co. I was aware that *S. sempervirens* occurs along the Atlantic seacoast, on beaches and dunes above the high tide line, as well as in salt marshes (some of them located inland). I had seen it along the Connecticut shore near Old Lyme, and also on Cape Cod. In addition, I had seen a population of it along Route 81, south of Syracuse and I had heard and read that *S. sempervirens* has been observed in other locations along major highways. It appears that this species is increasing its range, most likely because it can tolerate the windy, salty conditions that exist along highways.

*Solidago sempervirens* has relatively large flower heads (capitula) when compared with other species of goldenrod and its leaves are smooth and fleshy, an adaptation that conserves fluids, even in the presence of salt spray. Its basal leaves remain green in

winter (*sempervirens* means 'ever green'). It does not have rhizomes and it is known to hybridize with rough-stemmed goldenrod (*S. rugosa*). It is a beautiful, sturdy plant, able to endure harsh conditions.

Goldenrods bloom late in the growing season, and *S. sempervirens* is among the latest of them, still blooming in November. Goldenrod flowers are an important late season source of nectar and pollen for many insects, including butterflies\*, bees, and beetles. These insect pollinators carry the heavy, sticky pollen of goldenrods; the pollen is not wind-borne, so it is not an allergen.

I told David Werier about finding *S. sempervirens*, and he was also surprised that it was in Tompkins Co. He advised that a specimen should be collected for the Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium (BH) at Cornell and I offered to do that. This was my first experience collecting, but Rosemarie Parker and I volunteer at the Hortorium, so we knew the routine. We noted the location, the approximate size of the population (over 100 individuals), and took a representative stalk on Oct. 3, 2011. After pressing, drying, freezing to kill any accompanying organisms, and mounting, the specimen was added to the Tompkins County section of the collection. There are two subspecies of *S. sempervirens* in the U.S. and I determined my specimen to be *Solidago sempervirens* ssp. *sempervirens* by using the key from Flora of North America. The other subspecies, known as *S. s. ssp. mexicana*, has a more southern range. It has smaller stem leaves and flower

*continued on page 5*



**seaside goldenrod**  
***Solidago sempervirens***

Illustration by Eduardo Salgado

Reprinted from Holmgren, N.H. 1998. Ill. Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Man. The NY Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. P. 535.

## 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!!!

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## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Please send items for the newsletter to David Werier, editor (email noted in box to the right). The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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## NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from last issue's [Solidago 12(3)] name that plant contest was of buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). I received numerous responses which made me realize that there are many sharp botanists living in this part of the world. Colleen Wolpert wrote, "I was excited to see *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush) in the Name That Plant Contest. It is a lep [i.e. Lepidoptera- butterflies and moths] friendly plant both for nectar and as a host-plant to some cool moths, including the Promethea moth. I have some planted to replace my Forsythia and they are doing well even without being in a wet area. I also started a number of them by seed this year, but I am not sure I can get them to over-winter in their tiny state." Congratulations to contest winners: Betsy Darlington, Bob Dirig, Ellen Folts, Bruce Gilman, John Gregoire, Sue Gregoire, Alice Grow, Ken Hull, David Keifer, Susanne Lorbeer, Ron Palmquist, Rosemarie Parker, Lisa Podulka, Louise Raimondo, Priscilla Titus, and Colleen Wolpert.

This issue's plant contest is pictured to the right. A gorgeous native vine this plant is closely related to a highly invasive species. Please submit your answers to David Werier (email and address in box above). 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 by David Werier on 25 September 2011 in Niagara Co., NY.

## THE FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### Steering Committee Members

**Charlotte Acharya:** [redacted] at large  
**Krissy Faust:** [redacted] Projects (chair)

**Meena Haribal:** interim webmeister  
[redacted]

**Mark Inglis:** at large

**David Keifer:** Treasurer

**Rick Lightbody:** [redacted] at large

**Susanne Lorbeer:** Outings and Education

**Rosemarie Parker:** [redacted] Secretary and Assistant Newsletter Editor

**Dan Segal:** [redacted] at large

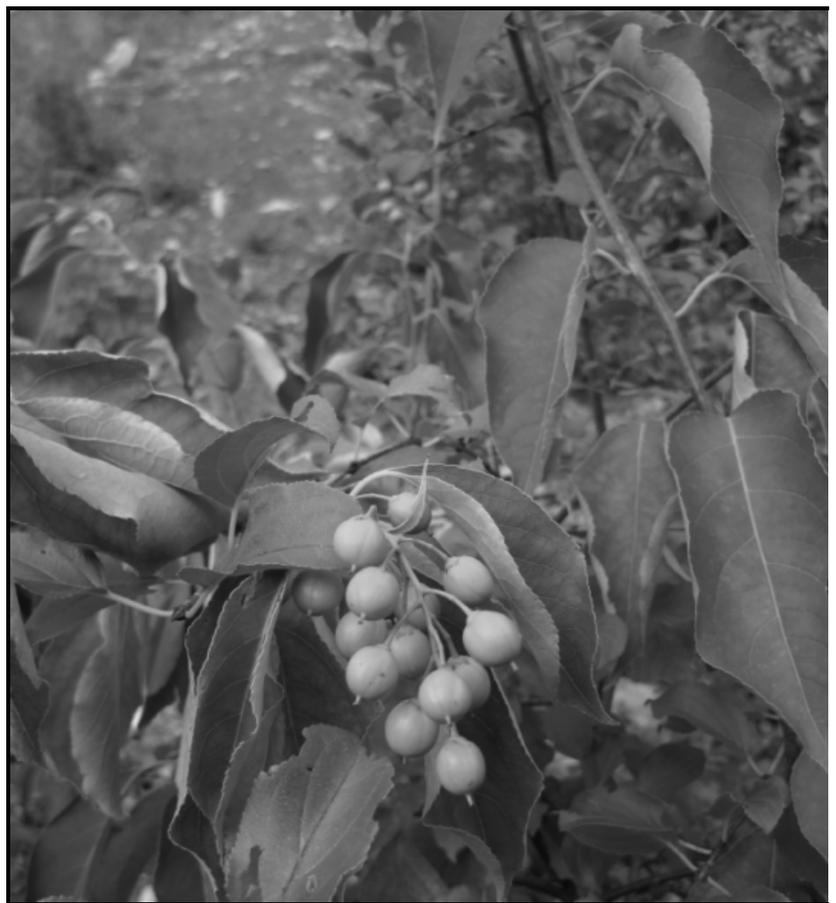
**Anna Stalter:** [redacted] President, Outings & Education (chair)

**David Werier:** [redacted] Newsletter Editor

**Bob Wesley:** Outings and Education

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**Send all correspondence regarding the newsletter to: David Werier, Editor, 30 Banks Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817 or email [nakita@lightlink.com](mailto:nakita@lightlink.com)**



## 2011 FLNPS SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

December 15<sup>th</sup> - Ken Post Classroom, in the  
Horton Lab on Cornell University Campus

HELP MAKE IT FUN

It's time again for our annual celebration of native plants and native plant lovers. **YOU are key** to making this event fun. **Please help with the following:**

**Food** We hope everyone will come with a dish having a native or naturalized plant ingredient. The ingredient need not be foraged; supermarket berries or nuts are fine. But there will be a prize for the most creative use of local native flora, as well as a people's overall choice prize. If you have questions, please contact *Anna*\*.

**Door prizes** Do you have something plant related to offer as a door prize? Please contact *Rosemarie*\* so we know how many to expect.

**Slide Show** This is your chance to show a few slides of your favorite plant, natural area, or especially great shot.

You need to contact *Robert*\* so we have the proper equipment AND because the total number of slides shown will be limited.

**Seeds** If you have collected regionally native seeds, please bring some for distribution. If possible, let *Krissy*\* know ahead of time so we can include photos. Label your seeds by species and include collection location and whether garden or wild collected.

**Set up** Help is needed in setting up and cleaning up. If you could come a bit early or stay late, please, please contact *Rosemarie*\* ASAP.

**And it all starts with a map-reading adventure to find the room. Be sure to look at the map on the reverse side of the meeting announcement!**

\***Contacts:** Anna Stalter ( ),  
Rosemarie Parker ( ), Robert Wesley  
( ), put "FLNPS slide show" in subject),  
Krissy Faust ( )

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### New Book Announcement

*Flora Novae Angliae – A manual for the identification of native and naturalized higher vascular plants of New England* by Arthur Haines with illustrations by Elizabeth Farnsworth and Gordon Morrison. 2011. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.

### FLNPS Education and Workshop Grants

The FLNPS steering committee has small grants available to members who wish to attend educational workshops that are in keeping with the mission of FLNPS. Recipients of these funds are required to present a short written report to the steering committee for possible inclusion in this publication. Please contact any member of the steering committee for more information.

### Newsletter Help Request

I am looking for help with this newsletter, *Solidago*. I need a person who would solicit articles and/or items for the newsletter, ideally about one item per issue or four a year. Items that could be solicited include member profiles, plant profiles, summaries of plant related projects being worked on by students and / or faculty, stories by members about observations of the plant world, information about important regional plant news, etc. The volunteer would be supported and guided, if desired, by the editor. If you are interested please contact David Werier, email in box on the previous page.

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## The 12th Northeast Natural History Conference (NENHC)



This conference promises again 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 [www.eaglehill.us/NENHC\\_2012/NENHC2012](http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC_2012/NENHC2012)

**FLNPS Tree Identification**  
**Walk, Oct. 30, 2011, Report**

by Nancy Richards

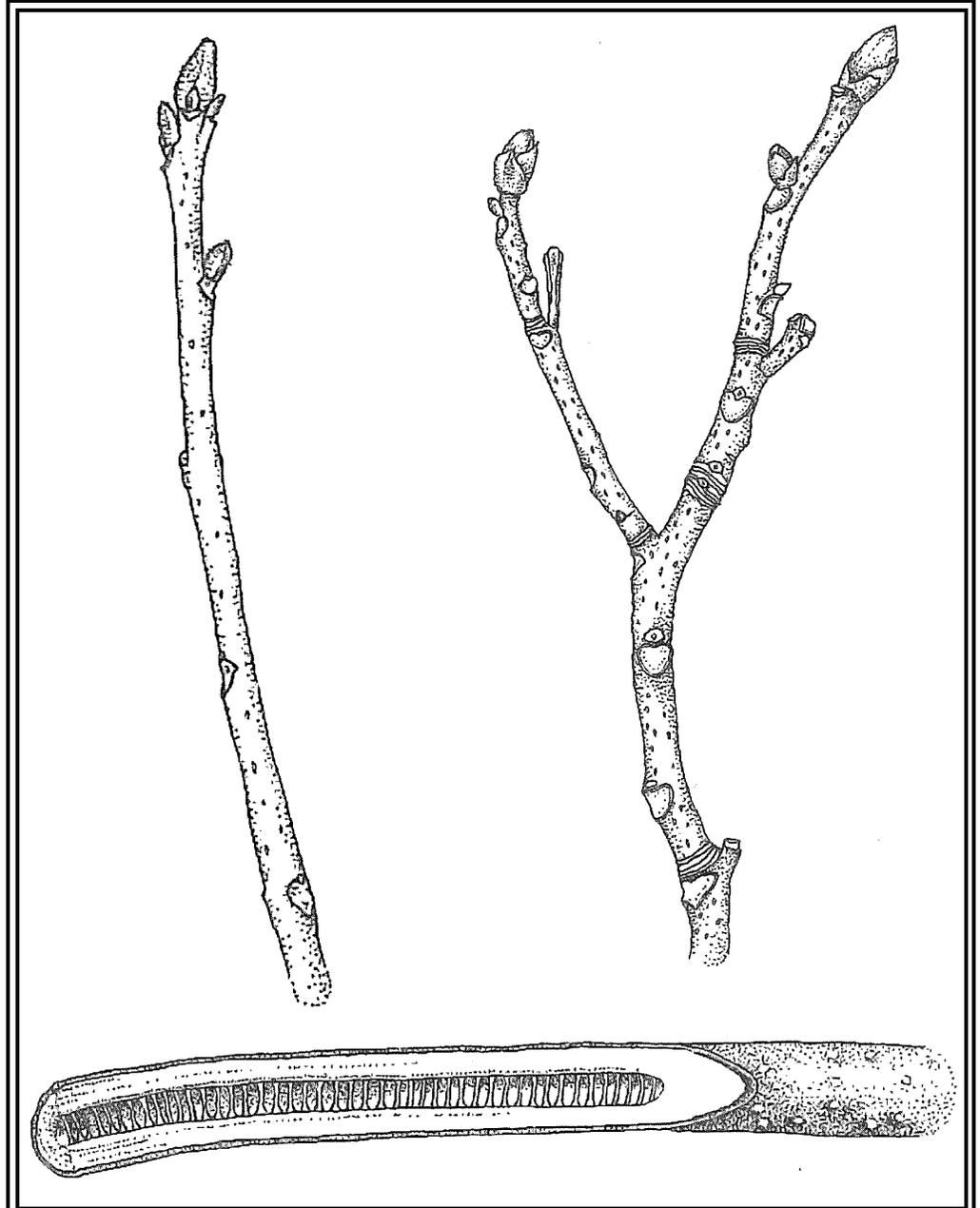
Thank you to Tom Koslowski and Anna Stalter for the delightful, informative tree walk Sunday afternoon, October 30, 2011. About a dozen enthusiastic folks gathered near the Finger Lakes Trail by Comfort Road, Danby for the start of the walk.

The weather was beautiful, the sun was shining and the leaves made colorful carpets on the path.

Both Anna and Tom know trees very well (whereas I need to painstakingly look up the features to identify what I'm looking at). Anna talked about and showed some reference tree books before the walk and then left the books in the car during the walk because she had a pretty good idea of what we were about to see. They dedicated their time to more than just the duration of the walk that day, because they had scouted out the location during the prior weekend. Tom passed out a handout on buds and leaf scars, features so important for winter identification, and also showed a sample of various twigs.

The walk was publicized as focusing on bud and bark characteristics but we learned so much more. They pointed out features such as the shapes and heights of different trees and shrubs, the color and texture of bark, and the important characteristics for twig identification. Tom cut open a particular twig which had "chambered" pith. We looked at leaves and their color, shape, texture, feel, and even their smell. Both the fallen leaves and a few leaves still hanging on the branches helped to identify the types of tree (e.g. various maples, oaks, and magnolia) along the path. Tom read a passage from A Natural History of Trees by Donald Peattie to illustrate how important trees are and how great the Sycamores

once were. Having a 10x hand lens along was helpful. Looking at enlarged details opens a whole new miniature world, which is hidden until you see the fascinating details. Everyone on the walk seemed engrossed in looking for characteristics of the different species. It was a pleasure to be part of such a dedicated knowledgeable group, all of whom were interested in the trees and shared information.



left: bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*); right: shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*); bottom black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

Illustrations by Anna Aniško

Reprinted from Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. The Plants of Pennsylvania. Univ. of Penn. Press, Philadelphia, PA. Pages 461-2.

## Bequest from C.R. Marks

by Rosemarie Parker

## Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens* ssp. *sempervirens*)

*continued from page 1*

It is with much sorrow that I report the death of long-time FLNPS member C.R. Marks last August. She was an avid walk participant in the early days of the Society; health problems interfered in recent years. But she attended talks until about 2 years ago, when the night driving became too dicey. "CR" lived in Alpine, NY, in a house she and her husband Lawrence built on a hillside overlooking fields and extensive gardens. She incorporated many native plants in her landscape, often obtained through our seed exchange or our spring plant sale. CR represented FLNPS at the Schuyler County Earth Day event for several years. In fact, she donated the professional display board that we use at public events, replacing the original cardboard arrangement FLNPS loaned her for Earth Day.

Although increasingly unable to attend FLNPS events, CR kept native plants in her thoughts. We at FLNPS are honored and grateful that she saw fit to donate \$5000 to the Society in her will. The Steering Committee is considering the best ways to use this bequest for public education about our native plant heritage. We may increase the number or extent of scholarships for members' conference attendance. We may purchase additional equipment to facilitate table presentations or meetings. We will certainly continue to bring in speakers who need travel reimbursement.

Always an enthusiastic outdoors-woman, CR's distinctive drawl will be remembered by all who knew her. FLNPS will certainly strive to do justice to her remembrance.



heads. On Nov. 21, 2011, I collected a second specimen of seaside goldenrod (also deposited at BH), this time with basal leaves and roots.

Anna Stalter, curator at BH, searched unsuccessfully for specimens of *Solidago sempervirens* from Tompkins Co. and the Cayuga Lake Basin at BH. She did find specimens from Schuyler Co. (28 Oct 1982, Wesley 1981) and one from Dutchess Co. as well as some from SE NY, which are from mostly coastal habitats. In addition, the New York Flora Atlas does not indicate any records of *S. sempervirens* from Tompkins Co. or the Cayuga Lake Basin.

Robert Wesley (personal communication 2011) noticed *Solidago sempervirens* in the late 1970s N. of Watkins Glen, along Route 14 and since the 1980s in Tompkins Co., within approximately a half mile east of the location where I saw it. He has not vouchered or published a report of the Tompkins County population. My specimens are likely the first vouchers for Tompkins Co. and from the Cayuga Lake Basin. In addition, this report is the first published of this species from these regions.

I appreciate the help I have been given by my friends in the FLNPS.

Additional information:

\* *Solidago sempervirens* provides nectar for butterflies such as: clouded sulphur, purplish copper, gray hairstreak, snout butterfly, silver-bordered fritillary, pearl crescent, Milbert's tortoise shell, viceroy, wood nymph, monarch, and eastern tailed blue.

For more information search the following websites for

*Solidago sempervirens*:

<http://ontariowildflowers.com>

<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org>

<http://www.efloras.org>

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov>

Also for an interesting article related to the range expansion of *S. sempervirens* see:

[www.eeb.cornell.edu/geber/Brauer\\_Geber\\_2002.pdf](http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/geber/Brauer_Geber_2002.pdf)



The other subspecies of seaside goldenrod (*S. sempervirens* ssp. *mexicana*), a rare species in New York. Photo taken on 10 September 2011 in Suffolk Co., New York by David Werier.

# **FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

## **UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS Winter/Spring 2011/2012**

### **December 15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday – 7 pm – FLNPS Annual Solstice Celebration**

Our annual solstice celebration of native plants and native plant lovers. There will be a wild foods potluck, native plant seed exchange, members night slide show, plant quiz, live music, and much, much more. Start planning for this event. **In the Ken Post Classroom, in the Horton Lab on Cornell University Campus. For a map go to <http://www.cornell.edu/maps/interactive.cfm> and search on Horton Lab.**

### **January 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 7 pm – Seneca Meadows Wetland Restoration by Andy Buss, Applied Ecological Services.**

### **February 15<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 7 pm – Bringing Nature to Your Garden by Ellen Folts, Amanda's Garden**

### **March 21<sup>st</sup> - Panel Discussion - Issues in Native Gardening. Philosophical & Practical**

### **April 18<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 7 pm – Non-Native Species in Our Midst: A Curse or A Blessing by Susan Cook, Cornell University.**

### **May 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – 7 pm – Tiny Mite Homes & Extrafloral Nectaries: The Miniature Drama on Your Garden's Viburnums by Marjorie Weber, Cornell University**

*All presentations are from 7-8:30 pm and are free and open to the public.*

*The locations for the winter/spring presentations are different than our usual location so please take note. From January through May presentations will be held at the Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo and Aurora, enter side door of annex on Buffalo St & go up the stairs).*

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## **WALKS AND OUTINGS**

Stay tuned for new walks and outings coming soon.