



# Solidago

## Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

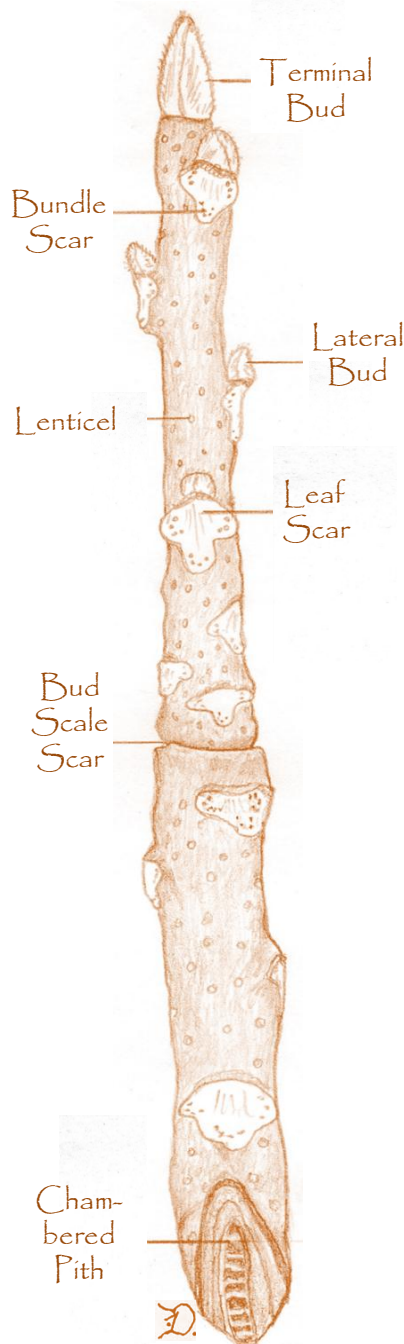
Volume 14, No. 1



March 2013

### EDITORIAL

## Stories in Twigs



**Butternut** twig with labeled parts,  
*Ithaca*, N.Y., winter 1972 (×3).

Copyright © 2013 by Robert Dirig.



**HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED CLOSELY AT A TWIG IN WINTER?** Protected by a waterproof coat, well supplied with breathing holes, marked with age-revealing scars, bearing embryonic leaves and flowers hidden beneath bud scales, and often having distinctive colors or markings that are unique for each species, this seemingly inert structure is very much alive, with tremendous potential for growth and elongation.

Technically, a **twig** is the youngest leaf-bearing part of the shoot, supported by an older, leafless **branch**. A twig's winter buds develop into leafy twigs themselves, or into flowers, during the following summer.

If you gather twigs from several different trees, you can discover interesting facts about them. Look at the arrangement of the lateral buds — are they **alternate**, **opposite**, or **whorled**? Species with alternate buds include elms, birches, hickories, and American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Maples, ashes, dogwoods, honeysuckles, viburnums, and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) have opposite buds. Azaleas and catalpas are among our few woody plants with whorled buds. Most twigs have a **terminal bud** at the top, with several **lateral buds** along their length. If you pull a bud apart, you will see that it has one or more waxy **scales** covering tiny embryonic leaves or flowers. The scales prevent desiccation and mechanical injury.

Take one of the twigs (ash is particularly good) and examine it more closely. A hand lens or other magnifier helps. You should be able to see tiny holes in the bark — **lenticels**, which provide essential air exchange. There will also be leaf scars, bundle scars, and bud scale scars. **Leaf scars** are often triangular in shape, scattered along the twig in opposite or alternate arrangement, depending on the species. This is where the **petioles** attached last summer. In the center of the leaf scar, a semicircular or crescent-shaped series of tiny dots marks **bundle scars**, sealed-off veins which supplied the fallen leaf with water and minerals from the soil, and served as a canal for transporting simple sugars that were manufactured in the leaf to the inner tissues of the twig. **Bud scale scars** circle the “twig-branch” at intervals, marking the places where the terminal bud was located in previous years. **Pith** (the spongy center of the twig) can have important diagnostic colors or other characteristics as well. Deciphering the history in the twig's features can be a fascinating activity on a winter day.

A unique combination of all these features — bud arrangement, bud scale scars, leaf and bundle scars, lenticels, and pith — with color of the bark and buds gives each tree or shrub its identity. Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) is very distinct, with beautiful sulphur-colored buds arranged alternately. American Beech is immediately apparent from its alternate, inch-long, reddish-brown buds. Others that are easy to recognize include White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Butternut (*Juglans cinerea* — at left), Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), and Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*). Practice, experience, and a good tree guide are all you need to recognize trees from their winter twigs. See *Know Your Trees* by J. A. Cope & F. E. Winch (2002, <http://dnr.cornell.edu/ext/info/pubs/misc/Know%20Your%20Trees.pdf>) and W. M. Harlow's *Fruit Key and Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs* (1959, Dover Pubs.). ~ ! ~



*Solidago*  
Newsletter of the  
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society



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## THE FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY STEERING COMMITTEE

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**Rick Lightbody:** At Large

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**Rosemarie Parker:** Secretary & Assistant Newsletter Editor

• **Dan Segal:** At Large

**Anna Stalter:** President, Outings & Education (Chair),

**David Werier:** At Large, Newsletter Editor Emeritus,

**Robert Wesley:** Outings & Education

## Please Contribute to *Solidago*

**WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS THAT FEATURE WILD PLANTS OF THE FINGER LAKES REGION OF N.Y.** We include cryptogams (bryophytes, lichens, fungi, and algae) as “flora,” and recognize that green plants provide habitats and substrates for these and many animals, especially insects. We are interested in zoological associations as long as plants are an integral part of the story.

**We can use a wide spectrum of material in a variety of writing styles.** Our regular columns include the NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST (identifying a mystery plant from images), LOCAL FLORA (plant lists from special sites), OUTINGS (reports of FLNPS-sponsored excursions), PRESSING CONCERNS (news from regional herbaria), and PLANT PROFILES (on specific local plants). We also occasionally publish APPRECIATIONS (memorials to local botanists), CHARISMATIC PLANTS (stories about formative early encounters with flora), REVIEWS (of books, talks, workshops, nurseries), FEEDBACK (commentaries and letters to the editor), ESSAYS (on botanical themes), VERSE (haiku, sonnets, and poems of less formal structure), ART (botanical illustrations, plant designs, pencil sketches, decorations), and PHOTOGRAPHS (stand-alone images, photo essays, and full-page composite plates, or originals that can be scanned & returned). We also can always use FILLERS (very short notes, small images, cartoons) for the last few inches of a column. **At present we operate in a black-and-white universe**, so contributors need to plan illustrations for this format.

Please send *Solidago* contributions  
& correspondence to  
Robert Dirig, Editor, P. O. Box 891, Ithaca, NY  
14851-0891, or by email to [red2@cornell.edu](mailto:red2@cornell.edu).

**Deadline for the July 2013  
issue is June 15th.**



## NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo in the last issue [*Solidago* 13(4), page 3] was of **Lowbush Blueberries** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) peeking out of the snow. This must have been a very difficult puzzle, as we only had two entries (and winners): **Susanne Lorbeer** & **Rosemarie Parker**! Thanks for playing. — R. D.

With this issue, we are delighted to have **David Werier** resume editorship of this column.



This issue's mystery plant is shown above. The species is a bit more common in our region than most people would believe. Still, in south-central New York, populations are usually relatively small. It is highly sought after by most wildflower enthusiasts. Additional hints and suggestions are often provided to contest participants who try. Common and/or scientific names are acceptable. More than one guess is allowed.

Please submit your answers to **David Werier**

The photo was taken by David Werier on 2 May 2011 in Sussex Co., Delaware.

### EDITORIAL PLANTS (from page 1)

#### SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF PLANTS MENTIONED

Elms (*Ulmus*), birches (*Betula*), hickories (*Carya*), maples (*Acer*), ashes (*Fraxinus*), dogwoods (*Cornus*), honeysuckles (*Lonicera*), viburnums (*Viburnum*), azaleas (*Rhododendron*), and catalpas (*Catalpa*).



## LETTERS

Hello Robert,

I just wanted to say what a great newsletter you have just sent — so full of newsy things.

I have been a participant of the Andrews Foray that Norm wrote so eloquently about for many years. I have always wondered about Mr. Andrews, for whom the Foray is named. Although I have inquired about who he was, I never got an answer other than “some botanist” or other such vague remark. So it was with great pleasure that I read about him and his affiliation with Ithaca!

As a lover of those little plants, mosses and lichens, it was really great to read this issue of *Solidago*.

Thank you!

**Georgeanne Vyverberg**

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2012



Greetings,

I found something yesterday that could be of general interest to the FLNPS community:

I discovered that larvae of the Hebrew Moth (*Polygrammate hebraeicum*, Noctuidae) feed exclusively upon the leaves of Tupelo or Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), a native N. Y. tree ([http://www.fknursery.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=plants.plantDetail&plant\\_id=899](http://www.fknursery.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=plants.plantDetail&plant_id=899)). The moth's name likely refers to the similarity of its wing pattern to Hebrew script. Tupelo is one of my favorite trees since my youth, when I first saw it at a Boy Scout Camp (Spruce Pond, Southfields, N. Y.).

I was on the phone with Forrest Keeling yesterday, who told me that in 60 days the Forrest Keeling Nursery in Missouri will be selling RPM\* trees retail over the Internet: <http://www.fknursery.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/home.home/htm>.

\*Root  
Production  
Method ®

Excelsior,

**Stanley Scharf**

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2013



#### A Safety Message:

Although winter is an excellent time to look for cryptogams, please refrain from botanizing in our beautiful Finger Lakes gorges at this season. You might slip and “Brake” your neck! No bryophyte, pteridophyte, or lichen is worth that.

**Cliff Brake**

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013

as told to Scott LaGrecia





# Fern Treasures of the Clark Reservation A Photo Essay ✪✪

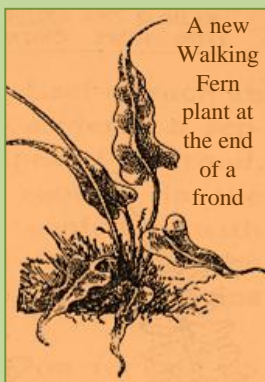
October 27<sup>th</sup> 2012, near  
Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y.

FLNPS trip led by Bernie Carr  
& Norm Trigoboff



**Hart's-Tongue Fern**, *Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *americanum*, (above & top right), is one of the rarest North American plants, classified as Threatened in New York and the United States. Its evergreen fronds are about 12 inches long, with bold lines of brown sori on the underside. It grows on cool, damp, shaded limestone slopes at the Reservation.

*Continued  
on page 5*



**Walking Fern**, *A. rhizophyllum* (bottom & center right), is more widely distributed, but still very local on shaded, wet limy rocks. Its long fronds may root at the tips, producing new plants. It is a much smaller fern than the Hart's-Tongue, with less prominent sori.



**Photos by  
Charles R. Smith**





Photos by  
Charles R. Smith

## Clark Reservation Photo Essay



A giant **birch**, *Betula* sp. (above), “on stilts,” probably originally growing on a tree stump that later decayed, with Cricket Melin providing scale.

**Evergreen Wood Fern**, *Dryopteris intermedia* (top & center right)

**Marginal Wood Fern**, *Dryopteris marginalis* (center & bottom left)



“**Nature Triumphant**” (below), showing one of the Clark Reservation’s many mosses ornamenting a discarded tire.







## BLUE IS A TREASURED COLOR IN THE GARDEN:

just read any garden design book. I love blue, too, but I am particularly in love with the white forms of flowers that are normally blue. For some reason, these always catch my eye. I guess it is just my mind saying, "What? Something isn't right here!" So I look every year for my two white Grape Hyacinths amongst all the purple.

I have a handful of white forms, mostly non-natives. *Campanula* is noted for alba forms, and my *C. poscharskyana* was hard to identify because of that. I have white forms of normally blue *Kalimeris*, *Sisyrinchium*, *Allium*, and *Myosotis* (doesn't everyone?). But my favorite is my *Lobelia siphilitica* forma alba. When I moved to my present house, there was a mix of blue and white lobelia in the beds. To keep that mix, I propagate primarily from the white form.

**BILL DRESS TOLD ME**, as he was helping to identify my *Kalimeris*, that essentially every blue flower has its white counterpart. And apparently, many (most) red flowers do too, although for some reason I tend not to like those. Unusual color forms are more often seen in cultivation, probably because they are selected against in the wild. But white forms *are* found naturally, not all are created by determined plant breeders (**IL**, **MO**). Think of the white (okay, *vanilla*) form of our *Trillium erectum*.

Scholarly research on pollinator and herbivore preferences (including insects) show many cases where one color form is favored over another (**CONNOR 2006**, **CARUSO et al. 2010**). "The genetic basis of flower color variation is relatively simple.... Consistent natural selection on a trait with a relatively simple genetic basis should result in the rapid depletion of within-population variation. However, variation in flower color is common within natural plant populations... suggesting there are mechanisms that maintain this variation" (**CARUSO et al. 2010**). *Competing* preferences between pollinators and herbivores is one mechanism that has been identified in many species. "Flower color pigments can [also] have...effects on physiological performance [due to linked genetic traits]. Plants with more pigmented flowers have been shown to be more tolerant to drought and high temperatures but can have lower fitness when growing in less stressful conditions" (**CARUSO et al. 2010**). The "fitness" can sometimes be traced to more successful male (pollen) or female (seed production) functions. **CONNOR (2006)** mentions that the white-lowered form of a *Linanthus* in the Mojave Desert has more seeds in higher rainfall years than the more usual yellow form. The situation reverses in dry years, and the variation in rainfall over time may maintain the color variation.

A quick Google search finds several instances of people finding white *L. siphilitica* in the woods. The Herbarium of the University of Michigan states that white and pink forms are less common in *L. siphilitica* than in *L. cardinalis*

## The Great (White) Blue Lobelia

by Rosemarie Parker



Mixed *Lobelia siphilitica* in the garden.

Photo by the author.

(**UMI**).  
Missouri  
Plants has

a separate page  
for the white form,  
although they state it is  
hard to find in the wild (**MO**).

There are light blue forms, and more purplish forms, but I prefer the white.

In "White-Flowered Forms of Some Arkansas Wild Flowers," **MOORE (1941)** states:

Color in the flowers of plants growing out of cultivation in Arkansas is one of their outstanding features. In a great majority of species the flower color is reasonably constant while in others there is a great deal of variability. In many of these, white forms are relatively common, while in others the white forms are sufficiently rare to attract particular attention. Some of these white forms have already been described under appropriate names. Others have apparently not previously been reported. In the present paper attention is called to some of the common white forms and some new ones previously unnoted are here described.

In at least thirteen different plant families white forms of our common wild flowers have been noted.

The Mundy Wildflower Garden at Cornell Plantations has several white *L. siphilitica* plants, probably from my

seed donations. Although I haven't seen this mentioned elsewhere, I notice a distinct difference in the seed from my white lobelia. The seed is actually a much lighter color than that from nearby blue neighbors. I have been told that is a clue to the type of genetic variation, as not all white forms have this difference. I have no interest in an all-white patch, so I let my lobelias cross-pollinate. When I grow the seed from the white form, the results will be mostly blue, but with a reasonably high percentage of white, maybe 25-30 percent. The seed from the blue form gives nearly all blue-flowered plants.

In response to a question about the white form of *Lobelia cardinalis*, Bill Cullina, native propagation guru and Director of the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, states:

The white version of cardinal flower is a recessive albino that pops up in populations once in a while. I have grown it from seed, but only get a few whites out of a batch of seed (the white seedlings lack any red/maroon pigment so are easy to spot in the seed pan). Albino or alba forms are not protected or listed separately per se, as they are genetic varieties and not geographic varieties, but both the blue lobelia and cardinal flower have white forms. Cardinal flower also has a pink form that comes more easily from seed (CULLINA undated).

*Lobelia siphilitica* doesn't tend to have the red highlights often seen on *L. cardinalis* foliage. Thus, unlike the albinos mentioned by Cullina above, my white *L. siphilitica* seem to have normal green leaves and stems. It isn't until they bloom and set seed that I can tell which is which. I have hopes of one day seeing a white form of the Great Blue Lobelia beside a stream in the woods — preferably waving amongst the blue.

**Note:** While older texts and some plant lists still refer to "form/forma *alba*," Jim Reveal notes that most researchers no longer bother to make that distinction. As described in the Cullina quote above, color variations are considered to be within the normal variability of species.

## References

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IL = <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/wetland/plants/gb-lobeliax.htm>

MO = [http://www.missouriplants.com/Whitealt/Lobelia\\_siphilitica\\_f\\_albiflora\\_page.html](http://www.missouriplants.com/Whitealt/Lobelia_siphilitica_f_albiflora_page.html); [http://www.missouriplants.com/Bluealt/Lobelia\\_siphilitica\\_page.html](http://www.missouriplants.com/Bluealt/Lobelia_siphilitica_page.html)

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UMI = <http://www.michiganflora.net/images.aspx?id=708>



White form (left) of the Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and the usual blue form (right).

White: R. W. Smith (UMI). Blue: R. Dirig (McLean Bogs, 20 Aug. 2003).

## THANK YOU!

**Special thanks to our contributors:** **Writers** Rosemarie Parker, Anna Stalter, David Werier, & letter writers. **Calendars** compiled by Rosemarie & Anna. **Illustrators:** Twig & snow crystals (pp. 1-2) by R. Dirig; Cliff Brake image by Scott LaGreca (p. 3); map by Mike Hough/adapted by Anna & the Editor (p. 8). **Photos:** David (p. 3); Charles R. Smith (pp. 4-5); Rosemarie (p. 6), R. W. Smith via UMI (p. 7), R. Dirig (pp. 7 & 9). **Layout & design** by the Editor. **Proofreading & Support:** Anna, David, Scott, Charles, Rosemarie, & Torben Russo. **Printing:** Gnomon Copy, Ithaca, N.Y. **Mailing:** Rosemarie & Susanne Lorbeer.



## Vascular Flora of Cortland & Onondaga Counties, N. Y.,

A FLNPS Talk by Michael Hough

reviewed by Anna Stalter

### THOSE OF US WHO BOTANIZE IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

are fortunate to have access to several floras and plant lists, both historical and contemporary. Should we venture too far north or east, however, we may find a thorough reference lacking. Much of Cortland County, for instance, lies outside both the Cayuga Basin, as treated in the floras of **Dudley** (1886) and **Wiegand & Eames** (1926), and the Cayuga Quadrangle, for which **Clausen** (1949) compiled a species checklist. The most recent treatment of the Cayuga Region by **Wesley et al.** (2008) treats the sum of these parts, yet only portions of Cortland, Tioga, Broome and three other central New York counties are within these boundaries.

The good news for local botanists is that a new flora of Cortland and Onondaga counties is in the works. Three years ago, realizing there was no published flora of Cortland County, **MIKE HOUGH**, a SUNY-ESF alum and instructor at ESF and SUNY Cortland, decided to produce one. Because of his familiarity with the Onondaga flora, northern neighbor to Cortland, Hough will include both counties in the upcoming work. Onondaga County is famed among botanists; limestone cliffs and inland salt marshes in the county gave rise to a regionally unique flora that is well documented (**Goodrich 1912**, **Bye & Oettinger 1969**), but a contemporary update is needed.

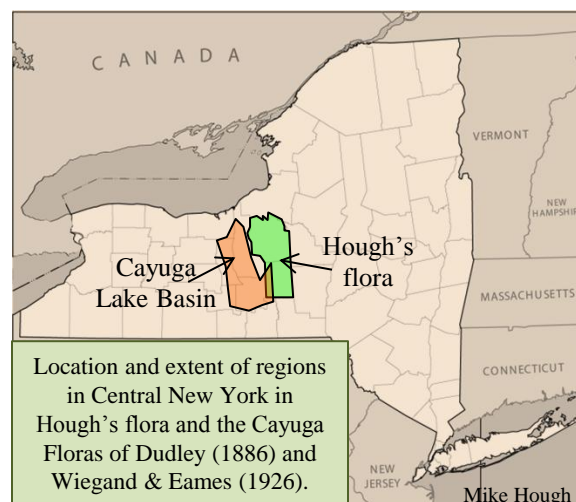
Hough has compiled data from the herbarium collections at Cortland State, the SUNY-ESF herbarium, and the Bailey Hortorium, as well as from specimens cited in the New York Flora Atlas (**Weldy & Werier 2013**). Mike has traversed the two counties extensively, and has made many of his own observations and collections as well.

**SUMMARY STATISTICS PROVIDE SOME INTERESTING COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS:** Onondaga County is larger than Cortland, and botanically more diverse. Nearly 1850 taxa will be listed for Onondaga, and 1230 for Cortland. Of those, approximately 31% (Onondaga) and 28% (Cortland) are introduced, compared to 39% for New York State as a whole. Numbers of endangered, threatened, and rare taxa are greater for Onondaga county (respectively 50, 34 and 4) than for Cortland (14, 12 and 3). For Onondaga, many endangered taxa have been extirpated, as a result of limestone mining or other development, most notably in the Jamesville and White Lake areas. Of considerable botanical interest, 51 of the 60 orchid taxa known from N. Y. occur in the Cortland-Onondaga area. Seven of those are state endangered, and of those, some are only known historically and are presumably extirpated from these two counties.

Though not as diverse or well-known as Onondaga, Cortland County boasts its own botanical treasures, in its marl pods and numerous bogs and fens. Hoxie Gorge, owned by SUNY Cortland, is rich in fern and lycopod species. That forest has just been added to the Old Growth Forest Network, by virtue of at least one 270-year-old Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) there, and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) trees that are well over 100 years old.

Hough's flora of these counties will document many interesting patterns of species loss and gain in the region, and will be a nice complement to the Cayuga floras. Together, they describe the botanical diversity of a large, nearly contiguous portion of Central New York. Hough's work, which he anticipates to complete by the end of 2013, will be a welcome addition to the bookshelf of any Finger Lakes botanist.

✂



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***THEY ARE COMING! Sharp-lobed Hepaticas*** (*Anemone acutiloba*)  
with white sepals, a nice display at Shindagin Hollow, Tompkins County, N.Y., May 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.  
*Photo copyright © 2013 by Robert Dirig.*

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## *Finger Lakes Native Plant Society*

[See Talks  
on Page 10]

### UPCOMING WALKS & OUTINGS

*Unless otherwise noted, all FLNPS walks begin and end in the parking lot at Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), just off Willow Avenue in Ithaca, N.Y. Field trips are free and open to the public. Participants are asked to stay on trails and not collect any plants without the leader's consent. For more information, please call the trip leader at the number provided, Anna Stalter [redacted], or Susanne Lorbeer [redacted]. You may also check the FLNPS website (www.flnps.org) for updates.*

**March 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday): WINTER TREE WALK**, led by **Anna Stalter**. Carpool at **1:00 p.m.** (CCE), location to be determined. Moderate difficulty. Contact Anna for more information [redacted].

**April 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday): HOXIE GORGE**, led by **Mike Hough**. Assemble at **9:00 a.m.** (CCE) to carpool. Contact Anna for more information [redacted]. Hoxie Gorge, a new addition to the Old Growth Forest Network, boasts a diverse spring flora. We'll see Hepatica, Blue Cohosh, Barren Strawberry, violets, a few sedges, shadbushes, and perhaps trilliums in flower. We will follow the Finger Lakes Trail down into the gorge for a round trip of about a mile. Moderate difficulty; the terrain may be steep in places, so wear sturdy footwear.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> (Saturday): UPPER BUTTERMILK FALLS STATE PARK, BEAR TRAIL**, led by **Susanne Lorbeer**. Meet at **1:00 p.m.** (CEC) to carpool (a parking fee may apply). A wonderful location for spring wildflowers. Moderate difficulty. Contact Susanne for more information [redacted].

**May 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday): FILLMORE GLEN STATE PARK**, led by **Susanne Lorbeer**. Carpool at CCE, **1:00 p.m.** (a parking fee may apply). Though the main trail will probably be closed this early in the season, we will drive to the upper end of the rim trail on a Park road for a short, easy walk in a locality rich in wildflowers. Contact Susanne for more information [redacted].

**June 9<sup>th</sup> (Sunday): MICHIGAN HOLLOW SWAMP** (Tompkins Co., N.Y.), led by **David Werier**. (A joint field trip of FLNPS & New York Flora Association.), **9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** We will spend the day exploring a large forested, headwater peatland, partly in upland forest, and otherwise in marshes and swamps of the Hollow. This rich botanical area will afford opportunities to see a high diversity of plants. Expect uneven trails, mucky and wet conditions, and challenging walking. Preregistration required, and numbers limited, so please register early. Contact David [redacted] for details.



# Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

[See Walks  
on Page 9]

## UPCOMING TALKS

*All FLNPS presentations are from 7:00-8:30 p.m., and are free and open to the public. In spring 2013, they are held at the Unitarian Church Annex (corner of East Buffalo & North Aurora Streets in Ithaca, N.Y.). Please enter at the side door of the Annex on Buffalo St. and go upstairs. (An elevator is also available.) As always, if you have suggestions for speakers or topics, please pass them along to a member of the Steering Committee (see box on page 2). Please see the FLNPS website ([www.flnps.org](http://www.flnps.org)) for regular calendar updates.*

**March 20<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday): NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA FLORA: STRANGERS, OR FAR-FLUNG COUSINS?** by Dan Segal.

At first glance, the floras of New York and California seem as distant as can be, as different as their two climates. But closer inspection reveals links and connections: related forms of plant community structures, several genera in common, and even some closely related species within those genera. We'll look at unique, characteristic habitats of each flora and the plant species that lend them their beauty.

**April 17<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday): CREATING QUALITY NATIVE PRAIRIE IN THE MIDWEST AND EAST,** by Harold Gardner.

When "prairie" is mentioned, we think of the central plains. Yet, some natural prairies are found in the East, especially in mountain openings, wetlands, and barrens. With seasonal flowering from April to October (peaking in July and August), prairie ecosystems attract an array of wildlife: insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Hal Gardner started with prairie restoration in the Peoria area of Illinois, where he organized a work crew called the "Prairie Dawgs," who labored to restore prairie in several Illinois preserves and on private properties. In 1991 the Gardners purchased a half-mile of railroad right-of-way containing some original black loam prairie. With intensive restoration effort, the property became designated as an official Illinois Nature Preserve (Brimfield Railroad Nature Preserve), and was recently given to the Peoria Audubon Society. The Gardners now live on a 70-acre farm in south-central Pennsylvania, where about 25 acres have been converted to prairie (with ca. 250 native plant species). Growing prairie in the Eastern U. S. is relatively easy, but not fool-proof. Come and hear first-hand experience in how it is done.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday): REVISITING THE MIRE: FLORISTIC EXPLORATIONS AT McLEAN BOGS PRESERVE,** by Torben Russo & Robert Dirig.

At Cornell University's celebrated McLean Bogs Preserve, alkaline fens, stream corridors, and shrubby swamps are interfingered with acidic forested uplands and quaking bogs. This matrix of special habitats supports a rich biota that was documented in a landmark biological survey conducted by 22 Cornell specialists in the 1920s. Therein, K. M. Wiegand and A. J. Eames provided an annotated list of 553 species of vascular plants that had been recorded in and near the 84-acre Preserve from the 1870s to 1926. Eighty years later, in 2006, we re-surveyed McLean's flora, exploring all habitats and pressing vouchers of about 450 species. We did not find a number of historically recorded plants (including Rose Pogonia, Grass Pink, and Cardinal Flower), but did notice newcomers like Purple Loosestrife, Common Reed, Japanese Barberry, and Garlic Mustard, as well as additional overlooked natives (Wood Horsetail, Ditch Stonecrop, and Dwarf Ginseng are examples). This presentation will review the results of our survey, showcasing images of McLean's gorgeous habitats and fascinating wild flora.

## ADDITIONAL AREA EVENTS

**BIRDS AND BLOSSOMS: GUIDED SPRING WALKS:** In collaboration with the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell Plantations will offer **Sunday wildflower walks in Sapsucker Woods** on **April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, & May 26<sup>th</sup>**. An easy walk along maintained trails. Meet at the Lab's visitor center at 254 Sapsucker Woods Road.

**MAPLE FEST AT CAYUGA NATURE CENTER: March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday & Sunday).** Enjoy a pancake breakfast, vendors, and live music, in addition to learning about maple production. See the CNC section of the Museum of the Earth's website ([www.museumoftheearth.org](http://www.museumoftheearth.org)) for details.

**EARTH DAY ITHACA: Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Ithaca Farmer's Market Pavilion, noon – 5:00 p.m.** Includes a FLNPS exhibit. If you can assist with questions and hand out information at our table, please call Anna [REDACTED]

[Also see NYFA programs at <http://www.nyflora.org/field-trips-and-workshops/>.]