

Founded in 1997.
Logo art of Tall Goldenrod,
Solidago altissima,
by Nat Cleavitt, 2006.



Solidago

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 14, No. 4



December 2013

EDITORIAL

Autumn Gold

by Robert Dirig



IN THE MONTH OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE, a gorgeous wild “sunflower” still blooms in the Finger Lakes Region — but it is not a *Helianthus*. Rather, it is the humble *Dandelion* (*Taraxacum officinale*), imported by European

settlers in the early years of North American colonization, and remaining an omnipresent addition to our flora. This is a hardy flower that continues to bloom into December, and even opens its bright beacons on occasional sunny, snowless winter days from January to March, before exploding in full revel in late April and May.

The architecture of this plant is highly artistic. Its asymmetrical “lion-toothed” leaves rise from a deep taproot, swirling in olive-green rosettes that are held on or just above the soil, and may turn crimson as winter approaches. At this season, its flowers also hug the ground, peeking out here and there on lawns and roadsides, hoping for a late pollinator. In the spring, the golden bloom-heads crown tall hollow stems that bleed a white latex when picked by children, sometimes massing into galaxies that fill entire meadows with a vibrant exaltation of the new growing season. This bloom peak quickly wanes; and then we notice the elegant globes of maturing gossamer seeds, waiting for a puff of wind to send them on their own voyage of colonization. Dandelions have thrived in America, where they are prized by connoisseurs of wild foods for their wine and tender leaves, but remain a bane to lovers of immaculate turf. I prefer to welcome them for the bright cheer and textural variety they bring to lawns — and for the many insects their flowers attract throughout the year.

As Crooked-stemmed, Purple-stemmed, Calico, and White Old-field Asters (respectively *Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*, *puniceum*, *lateriflorum*, and *pilosum*) and Rough-leaved Goldenrods (*Solidago rugosa*) finish flowering, and release their own fuzzy seeds in late October, lingering butterflies need to find other sources of nectar. Dandelions provide important survival food for our two latest butterflies, the **Clouded Sulphur** (*Colias philodice*) and **Orange Sulphur** (*Colias eurytheme*), during the last few weeks of their adult existence.

(continued on page 2)

Top left: Spring blooms and leaves of Dandelion, 27 May 1997.

Center left: A design from Dandelion.

Bottom left: A spring galaxy of Dandelions, 4 May 2008.

Right: A Clouded Sulphur nectaring at Dandelion, 30 Oct. 2006. (All photos taken in Ithaca, N. Y.)

Upper right: A late flower on a lawn, 10 Dec. 2006.

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Clouded

Sulphur



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A mated pair near Ithaca, N.Y., 8 Oct. 2006.

"It was bad enough to spy on their private moment, let alone tease their forewings open to reveal his black cuff and her black lace, and then take their photograph! But they were oblivious, while engaged in their vital rite — and the opportunity was too precious to miss."

(continued from page 1)

AFTER AUTUMN LAWN-MOWING FINALLY STOPS, the Dandelion's pretty yellow blooms invite the equally lovely yellow butterflies to a feast, and the Sulphurs oblige, slowly flipping from flower to flower in the bright sunshine. Over the past 13 years, I have spent some time on the warmest days of November and early December, checking for late sightings of these Sulphurs on expansive, Dandelion-spangled lawns at Cass Park, Cornell University, and other places in Ithaca, N.Y. My local **late date** for Clouded Sulphur was 23 Nov. 2010, and last sightings for Orange Sulphur were 22 Nov. in 1999 and 2005, and 25 Nov. 2006. Use of Dandelions as a primary nectar source began about the last week in October for both butterflies, coinciding with the cease of native blooms.

Regionally native **Clouded Sulphurs** originally used wild legumes as larval hosts in the Finger Lakes — likely Tick Trefoils (*Desmodium*), Bush Clovers (*Lespedeza*), Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), and Wood Vetch (*Vicia caroliniana*) that grew in oak woods and barrens along south- and west-facing river corridors and gorges. But they transferred mostly to Clovers (*Trifolium*), especially Red Clover (*T. pratense*) and White Clover (*T. repens*, **K**), after these plants were naturalized from Europe. This happened so early that SAMUEL HUBBARD SCUDDER, a famous Victorian lepidopterist, made no record of original native Clouded Sulphur foodplants in his three-volume treatise on the *Butterflies of the Eastern United States and Canada* in 1889.

Larvae of Clouded and Orange Sulphurs are very similar. They "hide in plain sight," resting in their early stages on the top-side midrib of a Clover leaflet, which closes over them like a tent at night. Mature caterpillars (**L**, p. 3) exhibit subtle pink, white, and black touches on a clover-leaf-green ground. **Chrysalids** (**M**, p. 3) have similar colors, and must be very well camouflaged in nature. Clouded Sulphurs probably **pass the winter** as pupae (or partly grown larvae), even on lawns.

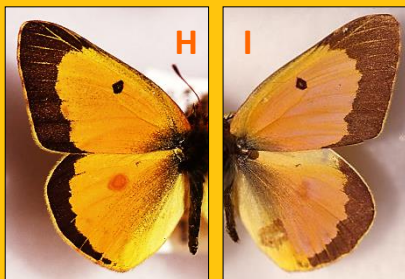
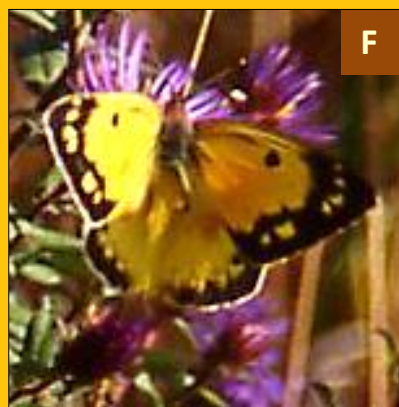


Males, in a rare open view on Purple-stemmed Aster, 8 Sept. 2002 (**A**); and closed, at Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), 18 Aug. 2005 (**B**).

Females, yellow form, partly open during courtship, on Grass-leaved Goldenrod, 1 Sept. 2009 (**C**); and the white form, closed, on Flat-topped White Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*), 8 Sept. 2002 (**D**).

Orange Sulphurs are actually rugged survivors that arrived in Ithaca in 1928, after long years of hopscotching from alfalfa patch to alfalfa patch, moving across the U.S. from their native strongholds in the Southwest to reach New York and New England, after deforestation and agriculturalization opened vast acreages for growing legumes. They now **annually migrate north** from the Southeast into New York, arriving in late May and early June (recent Ithaca arrival dates: 8-9 June 2004 and 10 June 2005). These are mostly worn, faded females that crash-land on lawns, quickly gluing their bullet-shaped ivory eggs to the leaflets of White Clover (**K**). Later broods also use Vetches (*Vicia*) and Sweetclovers (*Melilotus*). **Autumn migrations** also occur (continued on next page)





Orange Sulphur



Female specimens, showing variations in spotting of the wide black wing borders, and the white female form (J).

Females, wing undersides, 13 Nov. 2012 (E), and open during courtship, on New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), 30 Sept. 2000 (F).

Males, closed, at New England Aster, 18 Sept. 1996 (G); and specimens showing normal dorsal color (H) and the lilac iridescence seen in certain lights (this area also reflects UV) (I).

(continued from page 2) in October, when large numbers of this Sulphur move south. On 21 October 2007, I watched more than 20 adults at once, flying in a large alfalfa field near Freeville, N.Y. — the quintessential image of this species. They were avidly clustering over available flowers (with most goldenrods and asters in seed), including such oddities as Hemp Nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) and a few autumn-blooming Common Blue Violets (*Viola sororia*) at the edge of a cornfield! This large assembly of more than 50 individuals behaved like passing migrants. Orange Sulphurs seen locally at the end of November are probably late emergers from pupae on lawns or roadsides. Southward-moving Orange Sulphurs now pass in large com-

panies along the Atlantic shore in September and October, mixing with other migrating butterflies, dragonflies, and birds at Cape May, N. J.

Orange and Clouded Sulphurs are very closely related. The male Orange Sulphur's UV-reflectance is hinted at by a lilac overgloss we can see (I). Male Clouded Sulphurs lack this; but the two species frequently hybridize, and even after long geographic separation can produce adults that have paler orange coloring. Several very early, freshly-emerged, apparent "Orange Sulphurs" I saw in Six Mile Creek (Ithaca, N.Y.) on 28 April 1996 were likely of mixed heritage, getting their hardiness from their Clouded Sulphur parent, as Orange Sulphurs are not winter-hardy here.

Clouded Sulphurs produce a dwarf form in early spring, with narrower dark wing edges above, and black dusting on the hindwing venters. In summer, they may congregate in large "mud puddle clubs" to obtain nutrients not available in flowers, swirling up from their feeding in a colorful carousel, then resettling after we pass. In autumn, these two yellow butterflies reach their greatest abundance of the year, as the lingering benedictions of a waning sun. Although familiar, their animated golden presence warms the heart as they bob along roadsides, or scramble to feed at constellations of asters that twinkle in ditches, wet meadows, and other open places.

ON A RARE WARM DAY AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, after all hope for butterflies seems to be gone, we may chance to flush an Orange Sulphur from the sun-face of a Dandelion that lingers on a warm bank, bringing an unexpected thrill and much joy. Perhaps this bright duet embodies the essence of our attraction to butterflies and what they give us: the continuing excitement of a surprise encounter with something beautiful that we love.

Sulphur Life Histories: **Clovers** (*Trifolium* spp.) are frequent larval foodplants (K, p. 2, & M).

Caterpillars are clover-green with pale side stripes (L). **Pupae** are well camouflaged among clover stems (M).



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To receive a colored version when *Solidago* is published, please ask Rosemarie Parker to join our e-mail distribution list. The colored version will also be posted on our website (www.flnps.org) after the next issue is produced.

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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 and naturalists), CHARISMATIC PLANTS (stories about formative early encounters with flora), REVIEWS (of books, talks, workshops, nurseries), LETTERS (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. *Colored images in the online version will be converted into black and white before printing paper copies for mailing.*

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

**Deadline for the March 2014
issue is February 15th!**

NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from the last issue's NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST [Solidago 14(3), page 5] was of **Great St. John's-wort** (*Hypericum ascyron*). This species is known from eastern North America as well as eastern and central Asia. Botanists have previously considered the American plants to be a distinct species, compared to the Asian ones. When the two are considered separate species, the North American plants are called *H. pyramidatum*, and the Asian ones are named *H. ascyron*. These days, most botanists consider the plants from Asia and America to be the same, and use the name *H. ascyron*, since that epithet has *priority* (it was published earlier). Thanks to all who entered the contest, and congratulations to contest winners: **Robert Dirig, Harold Gardner, Ken Hull, Susanne Lorbeer, Rosemarie Parker, Val Ross, and Dan Segal.**



This issue's mystery plant is shown above. Notice the way the flowers are open, yet the leaves have not unfurled. 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**
(Nakita@lightlink.com).

The photo was taken by David Werier on 8 April 2012 in Erie Co., New York.

LETTERS

The color in the digital form is terrific, and I thank you for all your work on this publication. I do enjoy reading it.

Regards, **Lee**
by email, 7 Oct. 2013

~~~~~

Hi Bob —

Last night, I read the October, 2013 issue of *Solidago*. I'm still feeling the thrill of having entered your world of "bluebottles, fringes, and bumbling bees." It's a world you inhabit that I can only visit through your writing, photographs and walks. Thank you for taking me there.

P. S. I'll never buy another cube of peat moss.

**Thelma Turner**  
Ithaca, N.Y., 10 October 2013

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Letter to the Editor:

I want to add a **comment to Akiva Silver's article on peat in the last Solidago** [14(3), pp. 6-7]. At the end, Akiva implores us to eliminate peat moss from our potting soils, offering examples of good organic conditioners as replacements. There are times when a soil-less mix is required, as for the "Ithaca Plant Sale" in May, sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Apparently it is a State regulation of some sort. I'm not sure about compost, but I suspect that falls into the same category as soil for regulations concerned with disease and pests. But Akiva is right, there is no need to use peat moss for most plants, even if a soil-less mix is required.

Last year the Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society heard a talk by John Gaunt, the owner of Green Tree Nursery. He offers a range of soil options, from pure coir to options with some peat and/or perlite and nutrient. *Coir* is a byproduct of the coconut industry, the pith that otherwise would be thrown out. Green Tree has washed and buffered the coir in their mixes, so they are easier to start using than the pure coir. I tried a few bags of the "Green Tree Pro" (a coir/peat mix) over the summer, and really loved it. Texture and moisture and wetting properties were all as good as, or better than my old favorite, "Pro-Mix," which is mostly peat. Next year I plan to try "Green-Tree Hydro," which has no peat and very little nutrient, probably a better mix for both wildflowers and alpine plants, as both often carry "no fertilization" recommendations.

Rosemarie Parker
Ithaca, N. Y., 13 November 2013

~~~~~



## LOCAL FLORA

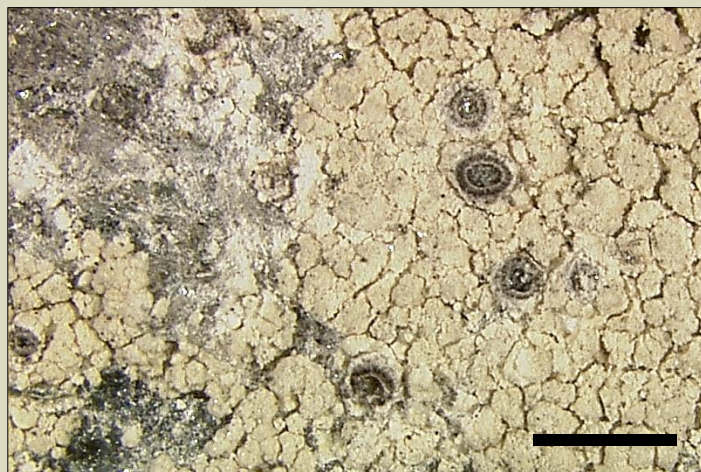
## *Diploschistes gypsaceus* ~ A Crater Lichen New to New York State

by Scott LaGreca

IN 2012, I published a complete list of lichen species from Windsor Jamb, an 80-foot-deep gorge in Berkshire County, Massachusetts (LaGreca 2012). Among the 64 species recorded was one lichen new for Massachusetts, *Diploschistes gypsaceus* (Ach.) Zahlbr., an obscure crust otherwise known in the northeastern United States from only one 1956 collection in Vermont (LaGreca 2012). Within the past year, this lichen has been discovered in four different localities in New York State — three of them in the Ithaca area. This species is not listed in Harris' (2004) *Preliminary List of the Lichens of New York*, and is thus new for the State. This short article presents the diagnostic features of *D. gypsaceus*, and describes its ecological requirements in the context of these four New York localities.

*Diploschistes gypsaceus* (Fig. 1) is distinguished from *D. scruposus* (Schreber) Norman, the common species of *Diploschistes* in New York, by having a *farinose* (scurfy) cortex, four spores per ascus, and lecanoric acid only; and by its preference for calcareous rocks in shaded habitats (*D. scruposus* grows on well-lit, acidic rock outcrops). The New York specimens are all quite *farinose*, appearing almost *sorediate* (mealy), and two have been confirmed by THORSTEN LUMBSCH, an expert on *Diploschistes* at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

I first collected *D. gypsaceus* in New York on a 2012 New York Flora Association (NYFA) field trip to the Blue Ledges, a Nature Conservancy property in the Adirondacks. These massive calcareous cliffs are home to several threatened and rare vascular plants, and a number of interesting lichen species as well [e.g., the Chocolate Chip Lichen, *Solorina saccata* (L.) Ach.]. Later that same year, during a NYFA lichen workshop held in Ithaca, we found a second New York locality for *D. gypsaceus*: the “Lake Cliffs” along the railroad tracks, west of Route 34 (East Shore Drive) on the north edge of the city. The third New York observation of this lichen was made by BETSY CRISPELL, a Cornell Plantations Natural Areas Academy graduate and volunteer at the Cornell Plant Pathology Herbarium. Betsy found it in Robert H. Treman State Park, along the rough-hewn stairs edging the gorge wall (Fig. 2). Because it was state land, Betsy took only photographs — not a specimen — but the species is unmistakable (Figs. 3-4). The fourth place that *D. gypsaceus* has been found is the Fall Creek Gorge, known from two specimens in the



**Figure 1:** *Diploschistes gypsaceus* from Windsor Jamb, Massachusetts (LaGreca 2011 in CUP). Scale bar = 1 mm. Photograph by Jason Cryan, New York State Museum.

historical **Atkinson Herbarium** (one of the many Special Collections that comprise the Plant Pathology Herbarium), filed under the name “*Diploschistes scruposus*,” which, upon re-examination, proved to be *D. gypsaceus*!



**Figure 2:** Stairway along which *Diploschistes gypsaceus* was discovered by Betsy Crispell in Robert H. Treman State Park. Photograph by Betsy Crispell.



The high humidity and calcareous substrates of these four localities provide exactly the right microhabitat for *Diploschistes gypsaceus*. The deep shade of the Treman and Fall Creek gorges matches the light conditions at Windsor Jambs, Massachusetts. However, the high-light regime of Blue Ledges and the Lake Cliffs is not typical for this species, which might explain why the growth of this lichen seemed much less luxuriant in these two cliff-face localities than in Finger Lakes gorges. Aside from the recent New York collections discussed here, *D. gypsaceus* was also recently collected in Vermont, for the first time in over 50 years, “on calcareous rocks along Lake Champlain,” and elsewhere “along a calcareous seepage on a massive rock” (James Lendemer, *pers. comm.*). *Diploschistes gypsaceus* also occurs in western North America (CNALH 2013), though its distribution there is spotty (as in the Northeast).

**SPECIMENS EXAMINED:** All specimens are deposited in the Plant Pathology Herbarium at Cornell University (CUP); CUP accession numbers follow my own specimen numbers in this list:

**United States of America. New York. Hamilton Co.:** Town of Indian Lake, BLUE LEDGES, north-facing cliffs on the south side of the Hudson River, about 11 km east-northeast of the intersection of N. Y. Routes 28 and 30, *LaGreca* 2184 (CUP-L-0004490). **Tompkins Co.:** Town of Ithaca, “LAKE CLIFFS” along the railroad tracks west of Route 34 (East Shore Drive), *LaGreca* 2183 (CUP-L-0004489); Town of Ithaca, FALL CREEK GORGE, 17 March 1894, K. M. Wiegand *s.n.* (CUP-L-0003517), K. M. Wiegand *s.n.* (CUP-L-0003518; alternate accession number CUP-A-001484).

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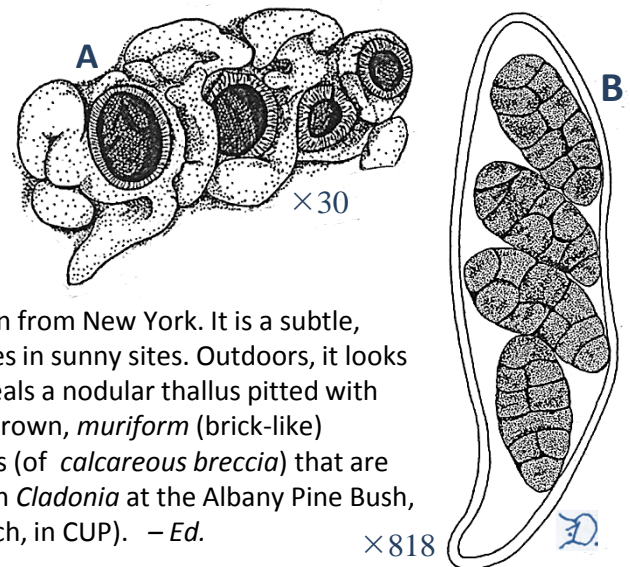
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*SCOTT LAGRECA, Plant Pathology Herbarium, 334 Plant Science Building, 236 Tower Road, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-5904, sal66@cornell.edu*



**Figures 3 & 4 (enlarged):** *Diploschistes gypsaceus* growing on a vertical cliff face in Robert H. Treman State Park. Photographs by Betsy Crispell.



***Diploschistes muscorum* (Scop.) R. Sant.** is a third Crater Lichen known from New York. It is a subtle, apparently parasitic species that grows over *Cladonia* lichens or mosses in sunny sites. Outdoors, it looks like a felty, grey, black-dotted mass, but microscopic examination reveals a nodular thallus pitted with concave, rough-edged black apothecia (A). Mature asci contain four brown, *muriform* (brick-like) ascospores (B). Catskill habitats are fallen logs and large glacial erratics (of *calcareous breccia*) that are covered with *Cladonia*. These images were drawn from thalli found on *Cladonia* at the Albany Pine Bush, a large inland sand plain in New York (*ex Dirig* L-969, det. by T. Lumbsch, in CUP). – Ed.



## WILD GARDENING

# American King of Flavor Persimmon

*Persimmons at Cape May, N.J., 7 October 2004. Photo by Robert Dirig*



by Akiva Silver

**WHAT IS THE BEST ORANGE, VITAMIN-RICH FRUIT THAT WE CAN EAT ALL WINTER?** It's not the orange, or the tangerine. It tastes even better (yes, I really think so)! And the fruit grows on an exceptionally beautiful native tree — the **AMERICAN PERSIMMON**.

*Diospyros virginiana* is native to the eastern United States, though it is mainly found in the Southeast. It is a lover of abandoned fields, hedgerows, and sometimes grows in the forest understory. Persimmons can tolerate extremes in soil, growing on dry eroded slopes, or in wet clay fields, and even in completely degraded strip-mined lands. Persimmons are excellent controllers of erosion, using their ability to send out stoloniferous runners and establish deep root systems.

The species has a tremendous amount of genetic diversity, with mature individuals ranging from 20 feet to over 120 feet high, on rare occasions. Most trees do not grow very wide; they generally have a slender upright form.

The leaves of Persimmons are dark green, simple, and oval. They are attractive, and have a slightly tropical look. The bark is rough, cracked, and furrowed, resembling alligator skin (*right*), and is considered one of the Persimmon's best ornamental qualities. The hanging orange fruits in late fall (*above*) are strikingly beautiful.

American Persimmons are in the ebony family (Ebenaceae). Their dark heartwood is very tough and hard, and is commercially used for making golf club heads. It has also been traditionally used in making tools that tackle demanding tasks, such as axe handles, and the shuttles of textile looms.

The fruit of the Persimmon is really what makes this tree stand out. *Diospyros* comes from Greek, meaning "fruit of the gods." Anyone who has tasted a luscious, ripe Persimmon understands. There are

few things as sweet and flavorful as a good American Persimmon. It is hard to overstate *just how good* a ripe Persimmon is! They have escaped commercial cultivation because when the fruits are ripe, they are very soft, about the consistency of a loose bag of jam. And so, they cannot be found at our grocery stores, but the backyard grower and forager can know this wonderful gift.

Unripe Persimmons, on the other hand, are terrible. They are so astringent that it is truly horrible to eat one. So wait to taste one until they are very soft. They generally ripen late in the fall, sometimes hanging on the trees well into winter. The frozen orange fruits that cling to branches in the winter are loaded with vitamins and flavor, providing a tremendous treat to foragers.



*Bark of an American Persimmon.*



The Persimmon's value to wildlife is high, and spreads broadly across many species. Opossums, raccoons, deer, rodents, and numerous birds will not only eat persimmons, but they will often travel great distances to them: Persimmon trees are like magnets, drawing wildlife in from all directions.

For those who want to grow our native Persimmons, give them sun if you can (though they can tolerate shade, the fruit set will be diminished in darker situations). They are hardy to zone 4. Their pollination can be a little confusing. Some trees will be male, some female, and some will have both sets of flowers. Some females can set seedless fruit without the presence of a male, but most require it. Because of this, it is best to plant a grove of Persimmons, rather than just one. If space is limited, grafted trees of self-pollinating varieties can serve well, and one tree will suffice. Persimmons can begin bearing at an early age, typically flowering at just 3 or 4 years old.

With so much lost in the past few centuries, let's add something exceptional and wonderful. I would love to see Persimmon trees dotting the landscape around here. They are easy to grow, and a great gift to ourselves, our grandchildren, and the wild ones.

**AKIVA SILVER, Twisted Tree Farm, 279 Washburn Road, Spencer, NY 14883. ☎ (607)589-7937.**  
[www.twisted-tree.net](http://www.twisted-tree.net)



*Photographs by Akiva Silver, except as noted.*



***A large fruiting Persimmon***



***A Persimmon grove in fruit***



***Bare-root first-year Persimmon seedlings, grown at Twisted Tree Farm in a living soil.***



***Butterflies love Persimmons too! A migrating Red Admiral (Vanessa atalanta) enjoys a rest stop at Cape May, N. J., on 13 October 2001. Photo by Robert Dirig.***



## REVIEW

*American Plants for American Gardens*

by Edith A. Roberts &amp; Elsa Rehmann\*

## A Review by William Plummer

In 1927, the year I was born, **EDITH ROBERTS** and **ELSA REHMANN** published the first of a series of ecological articles in *House Beautiful*. Two years later, these articles were assembled into their book. Roberts and Rehmann were on the faculty at Vassar College. Roberts was a professor of botany, and Rehmann was a landscape artist, writer and lecturer on landscape gardening. I ran across a reference to the book, was intrigued, and decided to purchase it. The foreword is by **DARREL MORRISON**, who is professor emeritus of landscape architecture at the University of Georgia.

In his foreword to the republication, Morrison traces the ecology movement from the late 1800s, citing Jan Jensen, O. C. Simonds, Wilburton Miller, Frank Waugh, the Olmsteads, and Harold Bryant. He attributes the decline in the movement to these factors: 1) the end of large estates following the 1929 stock market crash, 2) the modern movement, 3) post World War II suburbanization, 4) the landscape industry, and 5) landscape architectural education with no emphasis on local plant communities. Starting in the mid-1960s with Ian McHarg's *Design with Nature*, other books, and the first Earth Day, ecological design re-emerged.

In their introduction, the authors deplore how little use was made of native plants in the previous centuries, and express incredulity that our native plants should have been overlooked. They are concerned with plant ecology — what plants grow together, and how plants that need similar soils, exposure, water, and temperature make an association that can be described by the dominant plant. They close the Introduction by stating that the study of native plants in relation to their environment draws attention to the need to retain the original contour, and adapt the house and garden to the lay of the land and the spirit of the natural landscape. This they proceed to do throughout their book.

Based on this, they divide the book into ten chapters, from the open field to the seaside. In each chapter they discuss the associations of the plants found in each site: the trees, shrubs, herbs, and ferns that form that particular association. In the Appendix, Morrison lists the former taxonomic name and the current name, to aid the reader in knowing exactly what plants the authors were discussing. In some cases the genus name has been changed, and in others the species name. I found this very informative and helpful.

For each habitat, they outline, in lesser or greater detail, how they would site the house, how they would blend the house into the landscape using plants associated with the site, and how they might add plants to further enhance the house setting.

The environments they consider are the Open Field, Juniper Hillside, Gray Birches, Pines, Oaks, Hemlock Ravine, Streamside, Pond, and Seaside. For each of these situations, they list plants that would be found in the particular environment.

To give you a flavor of their approach to each association, let me relate in some detail what they have to offer for Oak Woods. This is a rich association — a variety of tall trees, in addition to the oaks; the smaller trees and shrubs, with wildflowers and ferns below giving a layered look that is distinctive of this association. They then take us through the year, from spring to summer, fall, and winter, painting a word-picture of the woods in winter. They state that naturalistic character has an intrinsic beauty that pervades the entire property. They would retain every tree of value and sacrifice as little of the undergrowth as possible for the driveway. The woodland should imbue the house with its very spirit. "It requires no little art to leave the woods absolutely natural and seemingly untouched. And yet nature can be aided." They describe in detail the "delightful naturalizing" that can be done with all the little plants. Around the house, leaf forms and leaf textures would count as much as flowers. They hope that in developments on wooded sites, the "natural beauty will be fully realized before the untutored ax clears it away."

I cannot help but wonder if there are gardens existing that were designed by Elsa Rehmann. Daniel Morrison unfortunately does not answer this question.

This is a book well worth reading. It gave me a better appreciation of the various habitats and the plants associated with them. This they do in every chapter of the book, from the "Open Field" to the final chapter on "The Seaside." Their word descriptions of how they would treat each particular site make it easy to picture what they are proposing for the "Juniper Hillside" or the "Beech, Maple, Hemlock Woods," for example.

\*Reprinted edition, University of Georgia Press, 1996, hardcover, 176 pages. Currently available at *Amazon.com*.





## POET'S CORNER

With thanks to **ROB RAGUSO**  
for his fascinating FLNPS lecture about  
**Yuccas and Yucca Moths**  
on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2013!



is for **YUCCA MOTH**

**Y** is for **YUCCA MOTH**, white.  
It hides away well out of sight  
'til the Yucca plant blooms.  
Then its usefulness zooms:  
It performs the fertility rite.



Poem by Robert Dirig ~ Art by John F. Cryan.

Reprinted from *The Alphabet Butterfly Coloring Book for Limerick-loving Lepidopterists, A Treasury of Random Information*, written and illustrated by Jo Brewer, Members of the Xerces Society, and Learned Guests, in the year 1975. Capra Press, Waltham, Massachusetts, 73 pp.

Copyright © 1975 by Jo Brewer. This presentation  
copyright © 2013 by Robert Dirig & John F. Cryan.



## Calico Aster

by Kenneth Hull



I allow and encourage the Calico Aster\*

To grow next to my house, against my wife's claim:

"It's a weed and needs to go." I insist it stays, for

Come September, thousands of tiny aster flowers

Make their debut, and dozens of bees can't

Get enough of its fragrance, or is it the nectar?

Overweight bumblebees, honey bees, tiny

Halictid bees and flies of every size and description

Dip, hover, attack in dizzying circles to slurp

The sweetness before it's gone. Crazy but

Communal, none attacks each other; no fights

Like you might see with drunks at a football game.

They scurry from one flower to another as if

Engaged in a game of musical chairs.

Calico is not the showiest of asters,

But like the newest iPhone, it's been in

Great demand this September.



\**Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*.



## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

### FLNPS Financial Summary September 2012 to August 2013

#### EXPENSES

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Postage                  | \$ 771.16         |
| Copying                  | 803.26            |
| Office Supplies          | 147.19            |
| Speaker Stipends & Costs | 391.24            |
| Snacks for Meetings      | 183.36            |
| Room Rental              | 800.00            |
| Website Hosting          | 120.00            |
| Plate Sale               | 449.40            |
| Non-profit Application   | 409.46            |
| Events & Outreach        | 67.96             |
| Scholarship              | 95.00             |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b>   | <b>\$4,238.03</b> |

#### INCOME

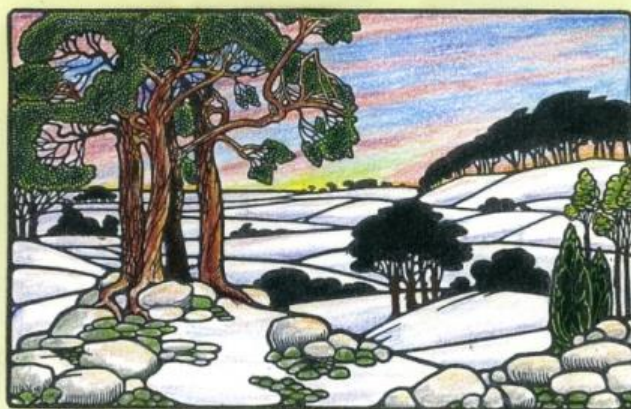
|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Memberships            | \$2,371.00        |
| Plant Sale             | \$1,809.00        |
| Room Rent Refund (CCE) | \$100.00          |
| Bank Account Interest  | \$9.96            |
| <b>Total Income:</b>   | <b>\$4,289.96</b> |
| <b>Net Income:</b>     | <b>\$ 51.93</b>   |

**Account Balance  
(August 31<sup>st</sup> 2013):  
\$10,961.81**

— Respectfully submitted by  
*David Keifer, FLNPS Treasurer*

### ★★★ Volunteers Needed ★★★

The presence of the *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid* has been confirmed in Six Mile Creek (Ithaca, N.Y.), and volunteers are needed to help assess the threat, and help guide the management process. Aerial photos and ground surveys will be used to search Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) stands, and identify trees that may be singled out for herbicide treatment in the near future. For more information, please contact Anna:  
[anna@flnps.org](mailto:anna@flnps.org).



### DEC Proposes Invasive Species Regulations ~ Public Comment Period Ends December 23<sup>rd</sup>

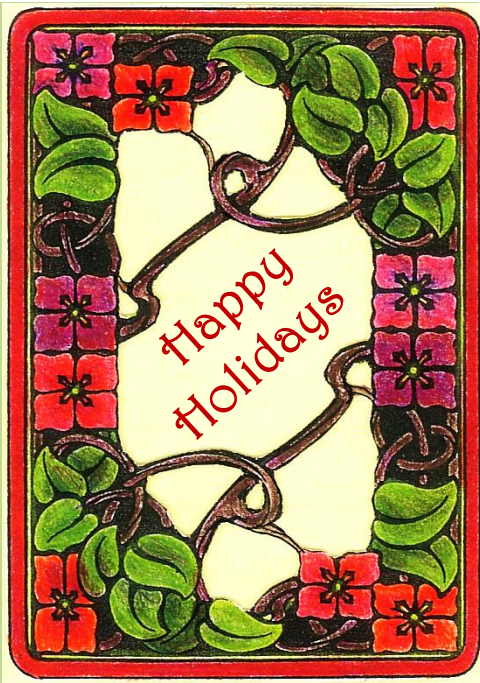
by Anna  
Stalter

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently proposed rules that will regulate the sale or possession of invasive plant and animal species in New York State. This has been a long time coming, and could really help to limit further spread of invasive species in N. Y. Interestingly, the list of **PROHIBITED** plant species (which, because they pose a risk to the economy or ecological well being of New York State, and/or to human health, cannot be sold, purchased, propagated, or otherwise introduced) includes **Garlic Mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*) and **Japanese Stilt Grass** (*Microstegium vimineum*) — not your typical nursery offerings! On the other hand, the list also includes **Purple Loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*) and **Yellow Iris** (*Iris pseudacorus*), species that uninformed gardeners might well consider purchasing. **REGULATED** species (those that have the *potential* to pose similar risks) can be sold, purchased, etc., but **cannot be introduced into a free-living state**. Under these regulations, then, **Norway Maple** (*Acer platanoides*), **Burning Bush** (*Euonymus alatus*), and **Black Locust** (*Robonia pseuoacacia*) could be purchased, but cannot be planted on public lands or natural areas. At point of sale, these must be labeled as “Invasive Species — Harmful to the Environment.”

*The public is invited to comment on these proposed regulations until December 23, 2013, and four public hearings will be held. Details may be found at:* <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html>. The species lists and express terms, as well as a procedure to follow if you want to add or delete a species, are at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/93848.html>.

## Thank You!



**MANY THANKS** to all who have contributed to *Solidago* in 2013! For Volume 14, No. 4, we thank **writers** Kenneth Hull, David Keifer, Scott LaGreca, Lee, Rosemarie Parker, William Plummer, Akiva Silver, Anna Stalter, Thelma Turner, & David Werier, whose contributions made this issue special. **Calendar items** and **announcements** were organized by Rosemarie and Anna. **Illustrations** were loaned by David Werier (p. 5); Jason Cryan (p. 6), Betsy Crispell (pp. 6-7), Akiva Silver (pp. 8-9), John F. Cryan (art, p. 11), and Robert Dirig (pp. 1-3, 7 [A & B], 8-9, & 11 [right]). Images on pages 12 & 13 were derived and colored from Victorian drawings. The banner (p. 14) was tinted and adapted from a drawing in *The Transformations (or Metamorphoses) of Insects*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by P. Martin Duncan, 1882. **Layout & design** by the Editor; **proof-reading** by Rosemarie, Anna, & Scott; **printing** by Gnomon Copy, Ithaca, N. Y.; & **mailing** by Rosemarie & Susanne Lorbeer. Abundant thanks to Thelma Turner for advice on an editorial decision. **BEST WISHES** to FLNPS members (and all others in our reading audience) for pleasant holidays and a botanically exciting New Year! —Ed.

## Get Ready for the Annual Solstice Gathering ~ December 18th!

by Rosemarie Parker

**IT'S TIME AGAIN TO RELAX** as we share experiences and expertise. Please plan on attending and participating. A map is enclosed with this mailing to help you get there.

We will have a **Members' Slide Show**, so if you have photographs of native plants, natural areas, and related subjects, please share a few slides with us. Please notify me at [info@flnps.org](mailto:info@flnps.org) if you plan to participate. Same-day submissions may be limited by time constraints.

Our annual **Seed Exchange** is part of the festivities. A list of seeds we already have is included with this mailing. Please contact me (or [info@flnps.org](mailto:info@flnps.org)) if you have native plant seeds to offer, and want a photo included on our board. Remember, you can take seeds to plant, whether or not you bring any. Even if you have no more room in your garden, this gathering is the perfect time to decide what you want to grow for FLNPS to sell at the Spring Plant Sale.

The plants we use to decorate the room for this gathering double as an **Identify the Decorations "Quiz."** This is always fun, as well as educational. We expect people to collaborate, and you don't need to get all the answers right to qualify for the **Door Prize Drawing**. It's always fun to see some new plants. Please notify me if you want to bring plant material.

Every year, **Door Prizes** are donated by members. If you would like to contribute in this way, again, please let me know.

To keep up our energy during all these activities, we ask people to donate **Food With a Native Ingredient**; a prize is awarded to the creator of the favorite dish. You can think "outside the box" here. Besides the all-time popularity of blueberry, cranberry, and apple dishes, there are many possible ingredients, from native plants like black walnuts, butternuts, maple syrup, elderberries, wild rice, mushrooms, quinoa, squash, peppers, corn, and potatoes (a Meso-American origin is OK). *Creativity and truly local ingredients are especially appreciated.*

Finally, we always need help with **Set Up** and **Clean Up**, and I am the person to contact if you want to volunteer for either.

These celebrations are fun and friendly. Please come and enjoy all the plants and plant-loving people!



# Finger Lakes Native Plant Society



*Ken Post Classroom*  
in the Horton Lab on the  
Cornell University Campus  
(same place as last year)

2013 Solstice  
Celebration

Please see  
details on  
page 13.

Wed., December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. *ff.*

## UPCOMING TALKS

*FLNPS talks are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Unitarian Church Annex (second floor) in Ithaca, N.Y., beginning at 7:00 p.m. The entryway is on East Buffalo Street. An elevator is available. Please watch our FLNPS website ([www.flnps.org](http://www.flnps.org)) for updates and summaries of talks (and announcements of coming outdoor walks).*

**December 18<sup>th</sup>:** **Solstice Celebration of Native and Naturalized Plants** (details on page 13 and above). This will include short slide presentations by several members, which are always interesting.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> 2014:** **Moths & Moth Gardening**, by **Jason Dombroskie**, Cornell University Insect Collection.

This talk will portray the huge diversity of moths that can be attracted to native plant gardens. Basic moth natural history will be discussed, along with specific examples of native plants that attract diverse and unique communities of moths. We will look at species that squirt acid, bubble poison, jam bat sonar, and throw their feces. And despite what you may think, most of them can be observed during the daytime!

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** **Milkweeds**, by **Anurag Agrawal**, Cornell University.

[Details to come.]

**March 19<sup>th</sup>:** **Botanical Travels from Coast to Coast**, by **David Brandenburg**, Dawes Arboretum, and author of the *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Wildflowers of North America* (2010, 672 pages).

David has botanized all over the country in order to prepare his *Field Guide*. He will share botanical insights and adventures.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:** **“Giving” Trees**, by **Akiva Silver**, Twisted Tree Farm, Spencer, New York.

Some tree species are more generous than others to both people and wildlife.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** **Discovering New Life in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: The All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory**, by **Charles R. Smith**, Cornell University.

Since 2000, hundreds of volunteer naturalists, both amateur and professional, have contributed thousands of hours to inventorying the biodiversity of living species in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). The project is called the All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), and has been guided and funded by DISCOVER LIFE IN AMERICA, a not-for-profit organization. A bit larger than 500,000 acres, GSMNP is the most-visited National Park in the United States, with more than 9 million annual visitors. To date, the ATBI has documented the occurrence of over 6000 species new to the Park, 900+ of which are new to science.