



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

# Solidago

Newsletter of the  
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 17, No. 1

2016

March 2016



LOCAL FLORA

## Getting to Know the Pussytoes of New York State Genus *Antennaria* (Asteraceae)

by Arieh Tal



Photo: Arieh Tal

Figure 1: A small colony of *Antennaria plantaginifolia* in flower, 9 May 2013.



**PUSSYTOES** (*Antennaria* species) are low-growing, colony-forming, native plants that are among the first wildflowers to bloom in spring, some starting as early as the first or second week of April. There are only four species of *Antennaria* found in New York, yet they are surprisingly difficult to distinguish from each other. They're closely related by ancestry, share many characteristics, and all seem to prefer dry, sandy or rocky, open to wooded habitats, at higher elevations, under thin canopy. Some are commonly found on lawns.

All of the species in our region produce a solitary flowering stem from a tuft of basal leaves. The inflorescence, located at the summit of the stem, consists of a tight cluster of small, unisexual, flower heads. The flowers are rayless. Stems tend to be thin, densely hairy, and scarcely exceed 10 inches in height.

[text continues →]

*Antennaria* flower heads are unisexual, not just on each stem, but in an entire colony. Populations may contain just male colonies, just female colonies, or both. In many instances, depending on the species, only plants with female (pistillate) heads are present. Check the gender of all of the colonies located in a particular population. Multiple species of *Antennaria* may sometimes be found growing together.

Populations of *Antennaria plantaginifolia* (Plantain-leaved Pussytoes, **Figs. 1-4, Table 1**) and *A. neglecta* (Field Pussytoes, **Table 1**) may often contain colonies of both male (*staminate*) and female (*pistillate*) clones. By contrast, *A. howellii* (Howell's Pussytoes, **Fig. 3, Table 1**) and *A. parlinii* (Parlin's Pussytoes, **Fig. 4, Table 1**) typically produce colonies with only pistillate (female) flower heads, and only rarely produce staminate (male) plants. These two species are capable of setting seed without fertilization from a second plant.



Figure 2. Inflorescences of *Antennaria plantaginifolia*. pistillate (left), staminate (right).

The four species are also distinguished in part by their basal and stolon leaves. *Antennaria neglecta* and *A. howellii* both have basal leaves with one prominent vein, and sometimes two additional less evident veins. Their basal leaves grow up to 2 cm in width, when fully expanded. By comparison, the basal leaves of *Antennaria plantaginifolia* and *A. parlinii* have from three to five prominent veins, and their basal leaves may grow to as much as 3.5 cm in width, when fully expanded. With respect to the shape of the basal leaves, all of our species have leaves that are "spoon shaped"; that is, with an ovate blade that tapers to a wedge-shaped petiole.

It should be noted that basal and stolon leaves may not attain their full size until somewhat later in the season. Thus, it is often helpful to look for basal leaves of the previous season, if still present. [text continues →]



Figure 3: Basal leaves of *Antennaria plantaginifolia* (top row) and *Antennaria howellii* (bottom row).

The primary reference for this article is: Bayer, R. J. 2006. *Antennaria*. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 19+ vols. New York & Oxford. Vol. 19, pp. 388-415. ♦ An excellent reference for faunal associations has been created by Dr. John Hilty at: [john@illinoiswildflowers.info](mailto:john@illinoiswildflowers.info). It can be found at his website at: [http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/fld\\_pussytoes.x.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/fld_pussytoes.x.htm) (and on other species pages there). ♦ Additional, more technical information, helpful if you wish to identify the plants in your area, can be found at my website: <http://botphoto.com/asteraceae.htm>.

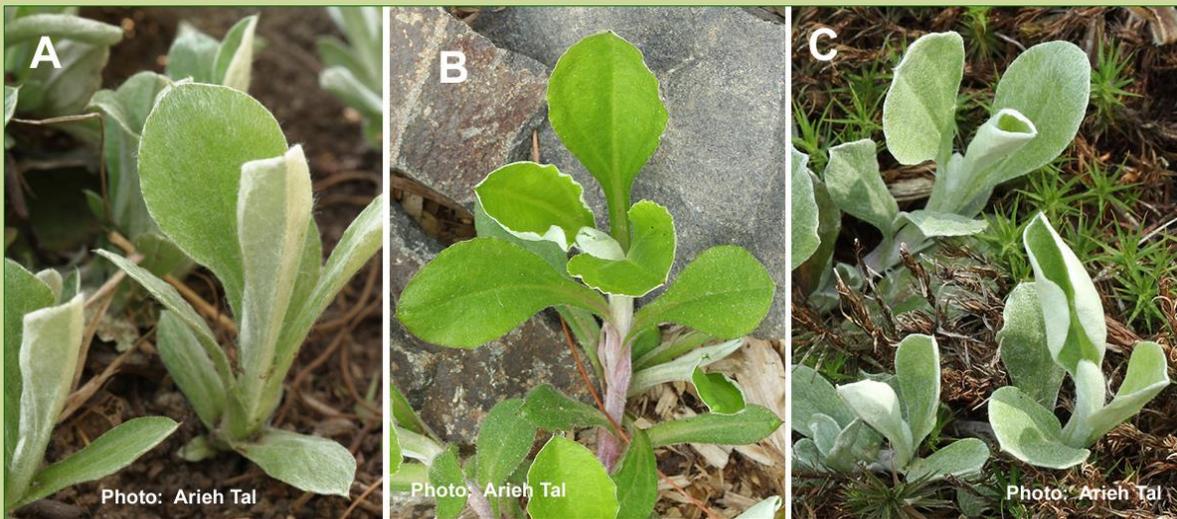


Figure 4: Comparison of basal leaves of (A) *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, (B) *A. parlinii* ssp. *parlinii*, and (C) *A. parlinii* ssp. *fallax*.

	Staminate (male) flowers present	Staminate (male) flowers absent
Basal leaves up to 2 cm wide	(1) <i>A. neglecta</i>	(2) <i>A. neglecta</i> or <i>A. howellii</i>
Basal leaves up to 3.5 cm wide	(3) <i>A. plantaginifolia</i>	(4) <i>A. plantaginifolia</i> or <i>A. parlinii</i>

Table 1. Summary of outcomes using basal leaf size and sexual distribution. (Assume that only one species is present at the site.)

*Antennaria* species have also been called "Ladies' Tobacco" by some authors. However, this vernacular name has also been applied to other species, particularly "Sweet Everlasting" (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*). The etymology of this fanciful name is not certain. Perhaps in the distant past, when women were not allowed to smoke tobacco, they turned to smoking dried pussytoes leaves instead. That's conjectural, and *not* recommended here.

Of the approximately 45 species of *Antennaria*, 34 are found in North America — in temperate and arctic/alpine regions. The remaining species are found in either Mexico, South America, or Eurasia. The majority of North American species are located along the west coast and in the mountain states, and throughout much of Canada up to the Arctic Circle. Six species grow in the states east of the Mississippi River. Of those, four are in the New York/New England region. *Antennaria virginica* and *Antennaria solitaria* are also found elsewhere in the eastern part of the country, south and west of New York.

Within the composite family (Asteraceae), the pussytoes are most closely related to the "everlastings" (*Pseudognaphalium* and *Anaphalis*), and the "cudweeds" (*Gnaphalium*). All of these species have flower heads with rayless florets, alternate stem leaves, and a covering of more or less dense, matted, and often stranded (cobweb-like) hairs. Because of the dense hairs, stems and leaves of most of these species appear variously gray-green or whitish.

A large number of insect species have been found visiting *Antennaria*, either for nectar or larval food. The butterfly *Vanessa virginiensis* (American Painted Lady) is most often cited as a visitor to these species. 🦋

[Please see pages 10-11 for more information on this butterfly.]



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To receive a colored version when *Solidago* is published, please ask Arieh Tal to join our e-mail distribution list. Each colored version will also be posted on our website ([www.flnps.org](http://www.flnps.org)) after the next issue is produced.

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**THE FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY STEERING COMMITTEE**

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**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), and PLANT PROFILES (on specific local plants). We also occasionally publish APPRECIATIONS (memorials to local botanists and naturalists), 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, at [red2@cornell.edu](mailto:red2@cornell.edu).

Deadline for the June 2016 issue is May 15<sup>th</sup>!

## Name That Plant Contest

The photo from last issue's NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST [*Solidago* 16(4), page 6] was of **Dissected Grapefern (*Botrychium dissectum*)**. Although not a rare plant in Central New York, it is small, usually occurs in low numbers, easily blends in with the surrounding landscape, and therefore is often overlooked. Like its close relatives and a few other local plants, such as Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), it is a **mycoheterotroph**. That is, it obtains its nutrition, at least in part, from parasitizing fungi that obtain nutrients from neighboring plants. I realized that the contest was going to be difficult, but I felt the need to highlight this special fern, which too often is overlooked. Thanks to all those who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winners: **Ken Hull, Susanne Lorbeer, and Rosemarie Parker.**



**THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY PLANT IS SHOWN ABOVE.** This woody native plant is a treasure. It can't be beat for its stunning beauty, shining like stars in the acidic forests where it grows. 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 [REDACTED]

The photographs were taken by David Werier on 14 June 2006 in Tompkins County, New York.



## Letters

Bob:

I was browsing Amazon Books earlier this week, and found that there is a facsimile edition of Dudley's *Cayuga Flora* available. It is described at

[http://www.amazon.com/Bulletin-Cornell-University-Cayuga-Flora/dp/B011351054/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1455402023&sr=1-5&keywords=william+r+dudley](http://www.amazon.com/Bulletin-Cornell-University-Cayuga-Flora/dp/B011351054/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1455402023&sr=1-5&keywords=william+r+dudley)

I have an original copy, but others in FLNPS might be interested. Here are the details:

*The Cayuga Flora. Part 1: A Catalogue of the Phaenogamia Growing without Cultivation in the Cayuga Lake Basin*, by William R. Dudley. *Bulletin of the Cornell University (Science)*, Vol. II., 1886, xxxii + 132 pp. + index & maps.

**CHARLES R. SMITH**

*Ithaca, N.Y.*

*Email, 13 February 2016*



Bob,

I realize that we must recognize contributors' First Amendment rights to free speech, but for future issues of *Solidago*, would it be possible to place articles that extol the virtues of invasive species toward the back pages of the issue? It doesn't seem appropriate for FLNPS to be displaying such an article so prominently in its newsletter. Not only is *Robinia pseudoacacia* widely considered invasive by many people, but it is on the official New York list of invasive species, and it is a "regulated" species, at that. NYS DEC states:

"A regulation was adopted in July 2014 that prohibits or regulates the possession, transport, importation, sale, purchase and introduction of select invasive species. The purpose of this regulation is to help control invasive species, a form of biological pollution, by reducing the introduction of new and spread of existing populations. ***This regulation became effective March 10, 2015.***"

Thanks,

**ARIEH TAL**

*Ithaca, N.Y., email, 22 January 2016*



The **NEW YORK FLORA ASSOCIATION** has proclaimed **Fringed Polygala (*Polygala paucifolia*)** to be the **2016 Wildflower of the Year!** Watch for its lovely magenta blooms in May. This plant was photographed on South Hill in Ithaca on 9 May 1998 by the Editor.



*See pages 8-9 for another local plant quiz.*

# Solstice Celebration 2015

by Rosemarie Parker

IT HARDLY SEEMED RIGHT to be celebrating the Winter Solstice with such mild weather as we had in December. *Tiarella* leaves were still bright green and red, *Packera aurea* leaves spring-fresh, and ginger leaves were just turning yellow. But on December 16<sup>th</sup>, FLNPS members observed the changing season with our traditional plant lovers' fete.

It was a delightful time, with **great decorations** of greens and browns provided by several folks (but large thanks to **Krissy Boys!**), arranged and hung by lots of helpers. Over 100 species of **locally collected seeds** were available, due to the efforts of Cornell Plantations volunteers and FLNPS members. Thanks to **Krissy**, **Susanne Lorbeer**, and **Mark Inglis** for transporting, alphabetizing, and providing photos of the species.

The collaborative plant identification effort (*aka* the **dead plant quiz**) was an opportunity for congenial learning with background music provided by **Jake Angeldinger**. This year **Dorothy Stiefel** provided most of the "quiz" plants, collecting them throughout the seasons! **David Werier** announced the answers, providing both identification tips and interesting facts about each plant. (I think I finally understand how to tell the difference between *Anemone virginiana* and *A. cylindrica*.) A few

people managed to identify all, or nearly all, of the plants, while *everyone* who made the effort learned a bit *and* probably chatted with a new face as well. That is the true point of the exercise! **Thanks to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and quiz**, and to **Dorothy, David, and Jake**.

And the **food!** Members brought an assortment of dishes, most with a regional plant connection. It was the year of **tree nuts and maple syrup**. We had walnuts & maple syrup in salad, walnuts in blueberry cake, almonds in cranberry/currant tarts, pecans & maple syrup in pie, walnuts in fudge, maple syrup in wild rice pudding — you get the idea. Plus lentil soup and other scrumptious dishes that I didn't manage to write down. If you missed the meeting, 'tis your loss, as the food was creative and good. Attendees had a hard time choosing a favorite, and the three top choices varied by only one vote (**see recipes**, page 7). *Next year we will have two winners*, one sweet and one savory, to make the decision easier. Thanks again to everyone who cooked, chopped, and brought dinner and dessert to us all.

The Solstice Celebration is *the best opportunity to meet and chat with fellow FLNPS members*, to pick other plant lovers' brains, and to learn more about some of the plants still around in the dead of winter. I hope to see even more members and friends next December.



**David Werier** (standing at right) discusses answers to the plant identification contest, from tagged plants used as table and wall decorations. The seed exchange table is in the back (boards of plant photos). *Photo by Rick Lightbody.*



**1st Place Winner!**  
**Cornelian Cherry Fool**  
 by Rosemarie Parker

[Adapted from Ellen Zachos, *Backyard Foraging*, Storey Publishing, 2013.]

The header on the back of the book is "Eat Your Way Around the Block." You will need at least to walk around the block, several times, to work off the calories from one serving of this. The classic "fool" is made with gooseberries, currants, or raspberries, which are not as tart as Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*).

Cornelian Cherries can be harvested when they are dark red and starting to soften. There should be lots on the ground; if not, you are too early. They can be taken from the ground, unless picking from the tree, as it is easy to let the "dark red" definition get lighter, and that will mean even more tartness. Wash well, and cook in a pot until just mushy enough to separate the seeds. Use a good food mill, or else disposable gloves and a grilling rack (or anything with slits that will hold the seeds but let through some skin and most of the pulp — colander holes are too small). Pulp can be frozen until needed.

**Ingredients:**

2 c of Cornelian Cherry pulp • ¾ c of sugar, or to taste [tart but not throat-closing; 50% of trial eaters found this original recipe too tart. I used a bit over 1 c for the Solstice version.] • 1 c of heavy cream • ¾ c of plain Greek yogurt • 1 T of lemon juice • 1 T of white wine [white zinfandel in Solstice version, sort of a cheat]

**Directions:**

Mix cherry pulp and sugar in a shallow pan over heat, and whisk to combine. Remove from heat. Whip cream to stiff peaks, fold in yogurt, then lemon and wine. Add half of the cherry mixture and mix well (but slowly, folding, so you don't collapse the cream.) Pour into parfait glasses and refrigerate. Pour remaining fruit mixture over yogurt mixture just before serving.

**Tied for 2nd Place**

**Acorn-Wild Rice Holiday Pudding**

by David Werier & Sara Brown

**Ingredients:**

acorn flour - 1 cup • cooked wild rice - 4 cups  
 milk - 2 cup • eggs - 4 • butter - 1/8 cup  
 grated nutmeg - 1 Tbs • maple syrup - 1/2 cup  
 vanilla - 1 Tbs

**Directions:** Cook the rice. Mix with acorn flour and grated nutmeg. In a separate bowl, beat eggs and then add melted butter, milk, maple syrup, and vanilla. Combine wet and dry ingredients and bake at 350° for about 45 minutes.

**Tied for 2nd Place**

**Wild Rice & Cranberries**

by Sandy, Bill, & Lisa Podulka

[A Traditional Indigenous Recipe. See: [http://www.aihd.ku.edu/recipes/wild\\_rice\\_cranberries.html](http://www.aihd.ku.edu/recipes/wild_rice_cranberries.html).]

**Ingredients:**

1 cup uncooked wild rice [We used a Lundberg Organic Wild Rice mix in Greenstar's bulk foods area.] • 3 cups water (or turkey stock for more flavor)

**Optional Ingredients:**

Raisins to taste [we used golden raisins] • Cranberries (fresh are best but dried will work well, too) • Black Pepper, to taste • Salt, to taste • Crushed garlic, to taste • ½ cup chopped white onions [we used 2x this amount] • ½ cup mushrooms [we used 2x this amount] • ½ cup cooked and shredded turkey breast or other lean meat • Olive oil (to lightly drizzle over top of finished rice) • Green Chiles, chopped • Red Bell Peppers, roasted and chopped • Pine Nuts, toasted [we omitted these] • Pumpkin Seeds, toasted

**Directions:**

- (1) Cook rice (slightly underdone), then fluff it.
- (2) Add cranberries, then cook at simmer level for five minutes (but don't overcook).
- (3) In separate skillet, sauté the onions, mushrooms, and other optional ingredients.
- (4) Mix all the ingredients together in large bowl and serve.



REVIEW

# Members' Night, January 2016

by Rosemarie Parker

*Our January meeting was the second Members' Night*, where we enjoyed a “botanical smorgasbord.” The format is still being tweaked, but both attendees and presenters gave encouragement to continue this type of meeting.

FLNPS has so many talented people, with interesting stories to tell. We saw amazingly detailed art photos of Canadian Horse Balm (*Collinsonia canadensis*) by **Susan Larkin** (the calyxes looked luminescent), and discovered the fall colors in a Maine salt marsh (*Salicornia*, or glasswort — yum!), courtesy of **Ken Hull**. **Susanne Lorbeer** reminded us of the nature in Robert Frost’s poetry, reading “A Passing Glimpse” (trying to identify plants while on a train), “Birches,” and “Dust of Snow.” *Nyssa sylvatica*, or Tupelo, is known for its wild honey and gorgeous fall color. **Arieh Tal** presented a lovely portrait of *Nyssa*, which is not very common here, but *can* be found, notably on lower Durfee Hill Road. Arieh’s close-up images of the tiny flower structure were fascinating. Grow it for beauty and wildlife.

*Rubus* is a very messy genus, and **Carri Marschner** engaged the audience in a group effort to find traits to distinguish the local natives and naturalized species. (*My learning*: It is true that raspberry fruits come off the plant hollow, while blackberries keep the “white stuff”; blackberries have ridged stems, evenly green leaves and “palmately compound leaves,” vs. smooth stems, white leaf undersides, and frequently “pinnately compound leaves” for raspberries; and at least *here*, the spindly blackberry that trips you in fields is *R. hispidus*.)

VERNE MORTON was a Groton photographer in the late 1800s-early 1900s, who documented the local scene, human and natural. **Gin Mistry** showed a framed original *Trillium* print, and a book of his black-and-white images; books and prints can be obtained at the History Center (check some out via Google — my favorite is the billion *Trillium* shot). Some native plants, e.g. *Hepatica* and *Trillium*, can work in a shady rock garden, as **Nari Mistry**’s photos showed. He also brought out the “plant lust” with images of his rock garden beauties from western North America and farther afield, all grown in Ithaca.

Stark views of Iceland’s landscape were presented by **Robert Wesley**, along with close-ups of species that can also be found in the higher elevations of New York and New England. There were many sighs (and travel plans?) evoked. The formal program ended with another round of “ooooohhs” and “aaaaahhs” for the stunning plant portraits of **Rick Lightbody** (“stupendous lighting,” says my note).

During the break, and before the program, we perused the exhibit table, admiring a large duck nest box made by **David Keifer**, and discussing plant microfossils from 18,000-year-old lake deposits brought by **Dan Karig**. Interestingly, both Dan and Robert Wesley mentioned *Dryas* — in NY now, and long ago. The Silent Auction featured books, sculptures, and several botanical prints (donated by **Camille Doucet**), and the proceeds will help cover travel costs for speakers.

**Thanks to everyone who displayed, donated, and presented.** The great part of this night, repeated frequently on the feedback form, is the diversity of topics — the opportunity to find so many neat botanical factoids in a short time. And, like the weather, if you aren’t thrilled with what’s happening now, just wait a minute. The goal of this event is to share experiences, ideas, fascinations, and items that wouldn’t make a 45-minute talk, but are nonetheless nifty. **So please think about what you might like to present or show next winter.**



\*Quote from **Rudyard Kipling** (1917), *Just So Stories for Little Children*, “The Beginning of the Armadillos,” p. 112.

See answer on page 9.



### What Is It?

“Curls up, but can’t swim — Stickly-Prickly, that’s him!”\*

(Fruits of a usually subtle native herb of the Finger Lakes Region.)

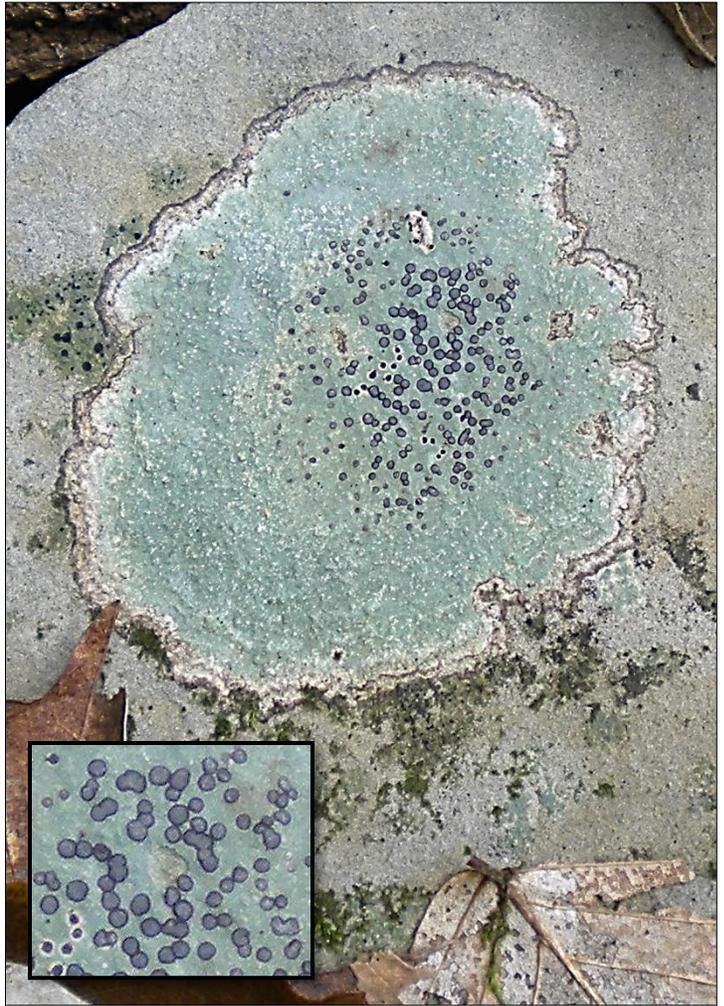
Contributed by  
**Mary Weiss-Andersson**  
Ithaca, N.Y.

## Thank You!

**MANY THANKS** to all who have contributed to *Solidago*! For **Volume 17, No. 1**, we thank **WRITERS** Sara Brown, Robert Dirig, Rosemarie Parker; Bill, Sandy, & Lisa Podulka; Charles R. Smith, Anna Stalter, Arieh Tal, Mary Weiss-Andersson, & David Werier, whose contributions made this issue special. **ILLUSTRATIONS** were loaned by Arieh Tal (pp. 1-3), David Werier (p. 5, *left*), Robert Dirig [design from Plantain-leaved Pussytoes on pp. 1, 3-4, & 10-11; photos on pp. 5 (*bottom*), 7, & 10-11], Mary Weiss-Andersson (p. 8 — Norm Trigoboff suggested her “What Is It?” contribution), and Betsy Crispell (p. 9). The banner design of Pussy Willow (p. 12) is from an old woodcut by Anna Botsford Comstock (tinted by the Editor), which originally appeared in W. R. Dudley’s *The Cayuga Flora* in 1886, on p. iii. The “chrysalis shrine” spun on Sweet Everlasting (#8, p. 11) is from Samuel Hubbard Scudder’s *The Butterflies of the Eastern United States and Canada, with Special Reference to New England* (1889), Volume III, Plate 83, No. 64. **CALENDAR ITEMS** were organized by Rosemarie Parker & Anna Stalter. **LAYOUT & DESIGN** by the Editor; **PROOFREADING** by Rosemarie Parker; **PRINTING** by Gnomon Copy, Ithaca, N. Y.; and **MAILING** by Rosemarie Parker & Susanne Lorbeer.

**BEST WISHES to FLNPS members  
(and all others in our reading audience)  
for joyous revels with the coming  
pageant of spring flora!**

— Robert Dirig



## Lichen Photos by Betsy Crispell

*Above: Pearl Button Lichen, a.k.a. Smoky-eyed Boulder Lichen (Porpidia albocaerulescens), Hurd Road.  
Common locally on rocks in wet woods.*

*Below: Elvenscript Lichen (Graphis scripta), Malloryville.  
Often seen on bark of Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis).*



## FLNPS Is Now on Facebook

 Since its inception in 1997, the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society has endeavored to provide its members with information and news about the flora of our region. The means by which we do that has changed over the years. Our newsletter *Solidago* is now produced in full color and delivered via e-mail. Our website ([flnps.org](http://flnps.org)) features enhanced content and important announcements. In the spirit of keeping current and reaching out to members and interested parties, far and wide, the “Finger Lakes Native Plant Society” now has a Facebook page! Would you like to share a striking photo of fall foliage, or do you need help identifying a composite growing in your yard? Ask your FLNPS Facebook friends!

We hope members will enjoy using this social platform for instant sharing of content with countless others with an interest in Finger Lakes flora. “Like us” on Facebook!

### Answer to “What Is It?” on page 8

Hold a mirror perpendicular to the screen on the right side of this box, to read the reflected answer.

The hitch-hiking seeds are Beggar's Lice or stickseed  
(Hackelia virginiana), Boraginaceae, a subtle herb that  
grows on alluvial, often limy soils,  
usually under tree canopy.



PLANT ECOLOGY

THE AMERICAN LADY'S INTERACTIONS WITH EVERLASTINGS



by Robert Dirig



**T**HE AMERICAN PAINTED LADY or American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*, 3-5) is richly endowed with beautiful colors, and has a dramatic life cycle (8-10) that is thoroughly

enmeshed with everlastings, pussytoes, and cudweeds. Wherever these fuzzy, pale green plants thrive, this butterfly finds them, lays eggs, and its larvae feed in silken nests on their leaves, sometimes pupating on the plant (8). People who observe these herbs outdoors may encounter the butterfly in some stage of its life cycle — if they know what to look for.

*Like Monarchs, this butterfly is not a permanent resident in the Finger Lakes Region.* Adults begin arriving from the south in late April, and are especially noticeable in mid- to late May, nectaring at Lilacs and Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronialis*). Females target "everlastings" (in the broad sense) as they move north (1), pushing their abdomens through the tomentum on leaves and stems to hide their eggs beneath. From the outside, the eggs look like tiny watermelon-shaped bumps on the plant. They hatch in a few days, and the dark, spiny larvae begin to feed, spinning white silk to form a conspicuous nest among the leaves (12-13). As they grow over 2-3 weeks, the larval nests get larger. The mature caterpillar has black-and-burgundy bands with cream spots, fine pale lines between the segments, and black spines with sparkling cornflower-blue accents near the base, best seen in bright sunlight (10). The chrysalis is usually felty grey with darker markings (9), but may be iridescent golden-green with heliotrope accents (8) — one of the loveliest pupae in our fauna. When formed inside a loose, open enclosure of glistening gossamer strands on the top of a Sweet or Pearly Everlasting plant, it suggests an idol hanging in a miniature shrine (8). A few days later, the butterfly emerges and flies away. Two or more additional broods may be produced here before adults start to fly south for the winter. They do not go as far as Monarchs, but may be seen flying with them along the Atlantic coast in September and October.

1. A ♀ spring migrant laying eggs on a pussytoe (*Antennaria* sp.) leaf. 2. The beautiful rosettes of pussytoes (white leaf undersides on bottom). 3. A migrant ♀ nectaring at Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*) on a N. J. beach. 4-5. A fresh summer ♂ feeding at Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) in N. J.

Photos copyright © 2016 by Robert Dirig.

American Lady larvae especially like *Pearly Everlasting* (11, 13-15) and *Low Cudweed* (16), but occasionally eat *Pussytoes* (1-2) and *Sweet Everlasting* (7). They have also been found in this region on cultivated *Cornflower* (*Centaurea cyanus*), *Mountain Bluet* (*C. montana*), and *Licorice Plant* (*Helichrysum petiolare*), and rarely on *Lesser Burdock* (*Arctium minus*). While enjoying wild and cultivated everlastings, I hope you will make the acquaintance of this fascinating and gorgeous butterfly!

# THE AMERICAN LADY'S Life History on Everlastings



6 Larval nest on Sweet Everlasting



8

Golden-green pupa

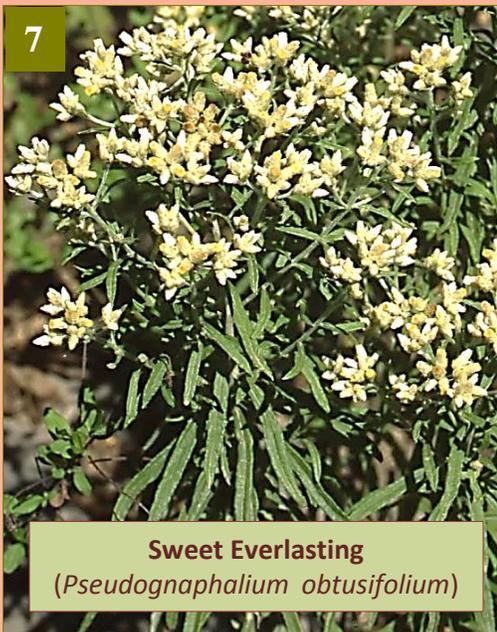


9 Common grey pupa



10

Fully grown larva



7 Sweet Everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*)

**LARVAL FOODPLANTS** include Sweet Everlasting (6-8), Pearly Everlasting (10-15), and Low Cudweed (16). Female American Ladies lay their eggs under the cobwebby leaf hairs. Larvae (10, 12) silk leaves (13) or inflorescences (6) together to form conspicuous nests on the plant. They also may pupate inside an exquisite silken "shrine" (8-9) on Smooth and Pearly Everlastings. Images © 2016 by Robert Dirig.



11

Spring growth (the favorite foodplant)



12



13 Early larval nest and its tenant



14

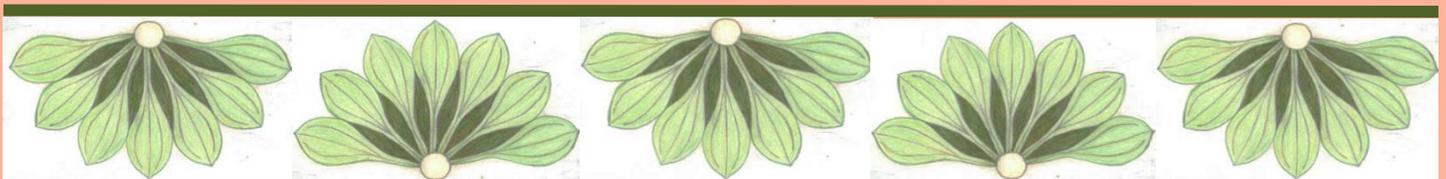


16 Low Cudweed (*Gnaphalium uliginosum*)

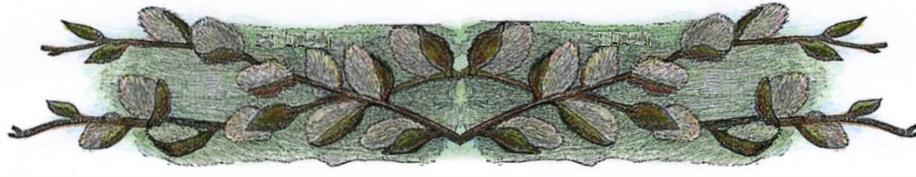


15

Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)



# Finger Lakes Native Plant Society



FIRST FLOWERS (Pussy Willow, *Salix* sp.), from William R. Dudley's *The Cayuga Flora* (1886), p. iii. From an early woodcut by Anna Botsford Comstock.

## Talks & Walks, Late Winter & Spring 2016

**March 16 — Wednesday — 7:00 p.m. *Finger Lakes Fungi: Magical, Mischievous, and More***, a talk by **GEORGE HUDLER** (Professor Emeritus, Cornell University). Unitarian Church Annex, Ithaca, N.Y.\*

**March 19 — Saturday — 10:00 a.m. *Winter Walk at Danby State Forest***, led by **AKIVA SILVER**.

Join Akiva for a walk in the woods, as we hike through the spectacular Danby State Forest along the Finger Lakes Trail! The walk will focus on ecology, human interactions with nature, and tree and shrub identification. The Danby State Forest is home to a great number of tree species, including wild American Chestnuts. This walk will travel through both early successional forest and old, mature stands. *NOTE STAGGERED MEETING TIMES:* You can either *meet at CCE† at 10:00 a.m.* to carpool, *or meet at the parking lot at the intersection of Bald Hill Road and Comfort Road in Danby, at 10:30 a.m.*

**April 20 — Wednesday — 7:00 p.m. *Wild Violets of the Finger Lakes***, a talk by **MIKE HOUGH** (SUNY-Cortland). Unitarian Church Annex, Ithaca, N.Y.\* [Also see Mike's walk on May 7, emphasizing Violets, described below.]

**April 30 — Saturday — 9:00 a.m. *Bluebells and Other Spring Beauties***, a walk at Newark Valley, led by **KEN HULL**.

Ken is excited to show us a large population of Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) that includes a white-flowered form, as well as the usual blue. Other spring flowers abound, including *Claytonia virginica* and *Viola striata*. *Meet at CCE† at 9:00 a.m.*, to carpool, *or at the Newark Valley High School at 10:00.*

**May 1 — Sunday — 1:00 p.m., *Spring Wildflower Walk***, led by **F. ROBERT WESLEY** at the Mulholland Wildflower Preserve in Six Mile Creek. Please *meet at CCE† at 1:00 p.m.*, to carpool to the site, or at the Preserve entrance at 1:15.

**May 7 — Saturday — 1:00 p.m. — *Violets at Upper Buttermilk State Park***, a walk led by **MIKE HOUGH**.

As a follow-up to his lecture on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Mike will focus on identifying common violets of the Finger Lakes, and other spring wildflowers. If time allows, we may travel to another nearby site. *Meet at CCE† at 1:00* to carpool. Parking fees may apply at UBSP.

**May 14 — Saturday, Plant Sale**, including a table run by FLNPS, Ithaca High School, N. Cayuga St., Ithaca. *Please check the FLNPS website for time and other details.*

**May 15 — Sunday — all day (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). *Chemung River Valley tour*** (a joint program with the New York Flora Association), led by **DAVID WERIER**.

We will return to the beautiful Chemung River Valley, a site we last visited in 2012. This time we will be a little earlier in the season, and can catch the spring wildflowers. We will spend the day botanizing at an upland site off the Chemung River near Chemung, N. Y. The area is not only beautiful, but rich botanically, with many southern species occurring nowhere else in central New York, or even the whole state. Some species of interest that we may encounter during this outing include *Allium cernuum* (Nodding Onion), *Amelanchier amabilis* (Lovely Shadbush), *Carex siccata* (Dry-spiked Sedge), *Galium pilosum* (Hairy Bedstraw), *Lathyrus ochroleuca* (Pale Vetchling), *Paronychia fastigiata* (Hairy Forked Chickweed), *Ranunculus alleghaniensis* (Allegheny Buttercup), *Quercus ilicifolia* (Scrub Oak), *Q. prinoides* (Dwarf Chestnut Oak), *Vicia caroliniana* (Wood Vetch), *Viola subsinuata* (Palmate-leaved Violet), and more. **A carpool† will leave Ithaca at 8:00 a.m. We will convene near Chemung, N.Y., at 9:00 a.m. and depart from near Chemung at 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. To register, and for questions, contact David Werier ( )**.

**May 18 — Wednesday — 7:00 p.m. *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid***, a film & discussion about local intervention efforts, led by **CHRIS FOITO** (film-maker) & a panel. Unitarian Church Annex, Ithaca, N.Y.\*

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is devastating the Hemlock forests and the delicate ecosystems that depend upon them. The film illustrates the vital importance of the Eastern Hemlock tree, what should be done to prevent the spread of the HWA, and the growing phenomena of invasive species as a whole. After the film, a panel will discuss local efforts to contain HWA. **HWA are here year-round, not just in the winter when we can easily see them.**

\*Talks are held at the Unitarian Church Annex (enter on East Buffalo St.) in Ithaca, N.Y. An elevator is available.

†Most FLNPS walks begin at the Tompkins County Cooperative Extension (CCE) center at 615 Willow Avenue in Ithaca, N.Y. We are still developing our programs for the year. Please watch our website ([www.flnps.org](http://www.flnps.org)) for details and updates.

## Another Spring Walk - 2016

★May 21 — Saturday — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. † *South Hill's Botanical Treasures*, a walk led by *ARIEH TAL*.

South Hill in Ithaca, N. Y., has long been considered by botanists to be a botanical "hotspot." Fortunately, large portions of its extensive acreage have been preserved as natural areas by Ithaca College and Cornell University. South Hill contains a wide range of ecological communities, from drier, hilltop niches to lower-elevation swamps. Timed to coincide with the flowering of its abundant ericaceous species, particularly the blueberries and huckleberries (photos below), this 3-hour field trip will survey one or more sites of higher diversity. †*Please meet at the Tompkins County Cooperative Extension center at 615 Willow Avenue in Ithaca, N.Y., at 12:30 p.m., to carpool.*

*Photos by Arieh Tal*



*Vaccinium corymbosum*



*Vaccinium pallidum*



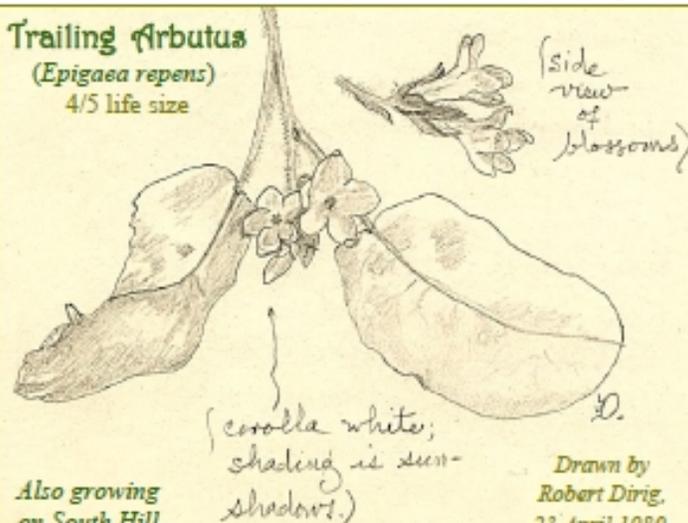
*Gaylussacia frondosa*



*Vaccinium stamineum*

### Trailing Arbutus

(*Epigaea repens*)  
4/5 life size



Also growing  
on South Hill

Drawn by  
Robert Dirig,  
23 April 1980.