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

Solidago

Newsletter of the
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 18, No. 2 ☙ June 2017

WILD GARDENING

Hazelnuts — A Powerful Ally

by Akiva Silver

[photos by the author unless otherwise credited]

POWERFUL AND PACKED WITH DENSITY ON MULTIPLE LEVELS, HAZELNUTS ARE SO AMAZING! There are several species of hazelnuts around the world, belonging to the genus *Corlyus*. Most species of hazelnuts are shrubs, but some can be huge forest trees. Hazelnuts have been eaten by people for thousands of years; their shells have been found in ancient cave sites. Hazelnuts were one of the first plants to appear behind retreating glaciers in a volatile and raw world. They really are rugged, adaptable survivors.

What Is A Shrub?

The word ***shrub*** can be improved on for sure. It makes it sound as if hazels were a cute little bush, but they are not. Shrubs are actually very powerful. They are true survivors. Shrubs are built to be browsed upon, cut, burned, and trampled. They will send up endless shoots at any disturbance.

Most shrubs like hazelnut behave quite differently, depending on where they are grown, and how often they receive disturbance.

A hazel in the shade will grow slowly and patiently, just kind of hanging out. If that same plant is suddenly exposed to light because of an opening in the forest canopy, then it will become aggressive, and race for light with abandon. For a few years it will build a dense root mass and a profusion of woody shoots, and then it will flower and fruit.

If nothing bothers a hazel shrub for a few decades, it will begin to decline. The wood will become old and tired, and openings will appear in the center of the shrub. Soon other plants will begin to fill in, and the bush will slowly die.

However, if a hazel is cut to the ground when it is 10 or 20 years old, it will start over. New, young, vigorous shoots will rapidly rise, and it may live for another 30-50 years. Of course, if this plant is cut on a repeated cycle, it may live indefinitely. There are hazel shrubs in Europe today that were planted in the days of the Roman Empire, and still are healthy because they have been repeatedly cut.

The whole bush does not need to be cut to the ground; you could just cut out any older stems.

Hazelnuts evolved to live on savannahs and at the edges of woodlands, along with wildfires and herds of mammoths and elk.

American Hazelnuts in their husks.

Types of Hazelnuts

EUROPEAN HAZEL (*Corylus avellana*): These grow as shrubs throughout Europe and central Asia. There are mountainsides of European Hazel growing along the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. They are primarily gathered by hand, and brought to collection points, where they are sent to large processing facilities. Around 90 percent of cultivated hazelnuts come from Turkey.

Most of these nuts are much smaller than those we see in stores around the holidays. They closely resemble our native hazelnuts, and are used for things like Nutella, oil, nutbutters, desserts, and candies.

European Hazels have the largest nuts. The husks usually only come halfway down on the nut, leaving the bottom exposed.

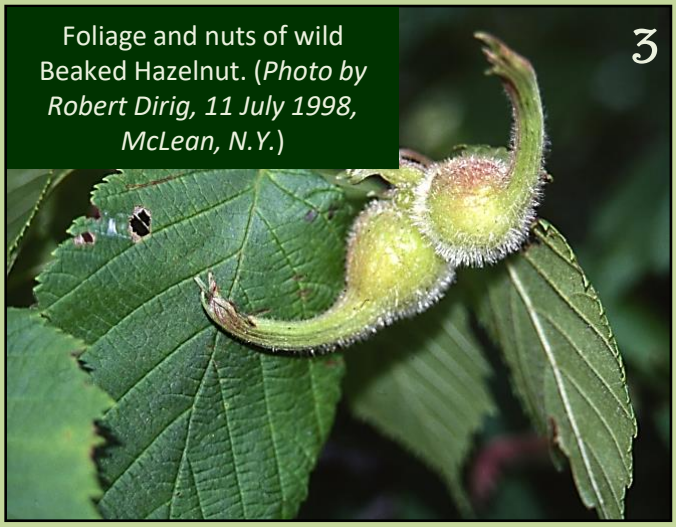
The European Hazel is not very cold hardy (somewhere around zone 5 or 7, depending on variety). It also lacks disease resistance. Here in eastern North America, we have a native fungus that devastates European Hazels, but leaves our native hazels unharmed. This fungus is called Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB).

American Hazel (*Corylus americana*): This adaptable shrub has a range across almost all of eastern North America, extending to the tree line in Canada and Alaska. It is hardy to at least zone 2, and possibly zone 1 in certain genetic pools.

American Hazel has a big husk that completely envelops the nut **(Figs. 1 & 2)**.

It is a fiercely suckering plant. In the upper Midwest and into parts of central Canada, American Hazel will make huge thickets covering hundreds of acres at a time. A single shrub will be 12-15 feet high and wide at maturity.

Beaked Hazel (*C. cornuta*): Beaked Hazel has a range similiar to the American Hazel's, but stretches farther west and north. Here in upstate N.Y., I have only found it growing sparsely in the understory. It is a smaller plant than the American Hazel. The husks also look different; they are pointed, and very sticky, with irritating hairs **(Fig. 3)**.


3 Foliage and nuts of wild Beaked Hazelnut. (*Photo by Robert Dirig, 11 July 1998, McLean, N.Y.*)

Hybrid Hazel: The European Hazel has been bred for millennia, but our native hazels do not appear to have been bred until very recent times. They are usually not as productive as the Europeans.

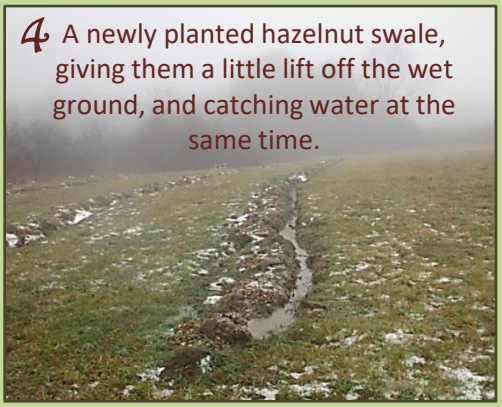
To combine the cold hardiness and disease resistance of the native hazels with the productivity and large nut size of the European, breeders have crossed the species. Some crosses are between American and European, and some also involve the Beaked Hazel. Many of these hybrid hazels are great plants. There is genetic variability between individuals, but overall they appear to be precocious (early bearing), productive, and very tough


2 Foliage and nuts of wild American Hazelnut. (*Photo by Robert Dirig, 19 July 1997, Albany Pine Bush, N.Y.*)

survivors. The nuts are almost always smaller than the large European filberts we are used to seeing around Christmas time, but they are no less tasty or useful.

Growing Hazelnuts

Drought, Soil Tolerance, Competitiveness: Growing hybrid or native hazels is not difficult **(Fig. 4)**. The plants are very tough and competitive. They are able to survive very well in just about any soil or light exposure. I have seen them thriving in heavy clay, sand, full sun, and full shade. Nut production and growth are both greatly increased in full sun and in good soil. They are very drought tolerant as well as flood tolerant, but they will undoubtedly benefit from decent soil conditions.


4 A newly planted hazelnut swale, giving them a little lift off the wet ground, and catching water at the same time.

Form: People grow hazelnuts in either tree form or shrub form. The tree form requires repeated burning or pruning of sprouts. The plant wants to be a bush, but a single trunk is selected instead. The advantage is that mechanical sweepers are able to drive under the trees and efficiently harvest the orchard floor. This is the growing style of modern hazel production in the Pacific Northwest. It does not appeal to me at all.

In shrub form, hazels are able to grow into their natural shape. In Turkey, hazel bushes are planted in a circle called an Ocak. Growers in the Midwest have been growing hybrid hazels bushes as hedgerows. Hedge plantings is the method I have been using here.

Spacing: Three feet between plants within the row, and 12-15 feet between rows, is a good way to go for the hedgerow system. The hedges will be dense, and compete with weeds at a

Hazelnut stems with catkins

American Hazelnut: 6. Male flowers (catkins). **7 & 9.** Female flowers with stigmas (*Photo by Steven Daniel, 9 April 2017, Mendon Ponds, N.Y.*)

Beaked Hazelnut: Catkin and red stigmas (*center bud*) of a wild shrub (*Photo by Robert Dirig, 16 April 1997, Ithaca, N.Y.*)

Hazel nuts

young age. The space between the rows will really fill in over time as the bushes become older, bigger, and wider. Many farmers are experimenting with grazing animals between hedges of hazel.

Pruning/Coppicing: Cut hazels when they are dormant. During the winter, their energy is stored in their roots. If you cut them in the summer, they could be severely weakened. To really thrive over the long haul, hazels do need to be cut periodically. Cutting (coppicing) the whole bush to the ground every ten years keeps them invigorated. The first year after coppicing, there is no harvest. Pruning is an alternative to coppicing. Stems older than 4 or 5 years old are removed annually.

Flowering and Pollination: Hazels are wind-pollinated. Each plant produces male and female flowers. The male flowers are dangly catkins **(Figs. 5-8)**. They appear in the fall and persist throughout the winter, finally opening and shedding pollen early in the spring. The female flowers are very small beautiful pink stars that form on the tip of a bud **(Figs. 7 & 9)**.

Hazelnuts are not self pollinating. They need to be close enough to a different hazelnut to receive pollen from the wind.

Hazel flowers are very cold-hardy. The male catkins are hardy to at least -50°F., and the female flowers to at least 2°F.

Harvesting: As soon as the nut is able to be wiggled in its husk, hazels can be picked **(Fig. 10)**. It is okay if they are still green or white so long as they can move in the husk. If you push on the nut and it is stuck, then it is not yet ripe.

Hand harvesting is surprisingly fast. The nuts grow in large clusters of anywhere from 2 to 10 nuts, typically, though larger numbers have been observed. I think picking hazelnuts is really fun. Sacks fill up so quickly. Branches are easily bent to within reach because they are so flexible.

Machine harvesting is done in the Northwest with sweeper type machines. Some folks in the Midwest have been using blueberry pickers to harvest hazelnut hedges.

The Nuts: Hazels are very high in protein and oil. They are, by weight, 60% oil. They have three times the protein of soybeans. They are tightly packed nuggets of energy.

They can be pressed into an excellent nutbutter **(Fig. 11**, *p. 4*), and make a great oil for salads or popcorn and for cooking. After being squeezed for oil, the presscake remains. This is a great product for things like cookies **(Fig. 12**, *p. 4*) or granola bars.

When eaten raw, the nuts sometimes have a bitter flavor. I have found that if they are roasted, they are almost never bitter, and a real strong hazel flavor comes through.

The Shells: Hazel shells are much denser than wood. They give off as many BTUs as anthracite coal when burned. Many modern hazel-processing facilities power themselves with the shells burned in bio-generators. The ash from burned hazel shells is extremely high in many trace minerals, and is a good fertilizer.

The Wood: In northern Europe, hazels have been cultivated for centuries for their wood. Hazel canes are very strong and flexible. Wattle fences, and even house walls, are woven from the stems. The wood is fairly durable, and makes a good alternative to bamboo canes for northern gardeners.

Hazel wood also burns very hot, and can be used as a fuel, for charcoal, or biochar.

Because hazels need to be cut to grow well for a long time, there is always an abundance of hazel wood available to the grower.

Wildlife Value

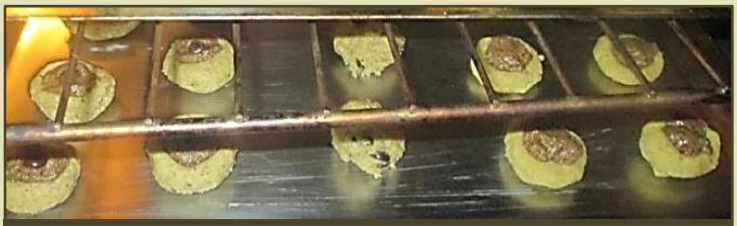
Hazelnuts are excellent plants for wildlife. Their dense thickets provide great cover for rabbits, grouse, turkeys, songbirds, raccoons, deer, and many other animals. The catkins are eaten throughout the winter by game birds and deer. The nuts are highly prized by turkeys, crows, jays, rodents, and foragers. The winter buds and summer leaves provide browse to deer. The stem's bark is eaten by rabbits. What forest edge would not benefit from the addition of a few hazel bushes?

Creating Change

Hazels provide food, carbon, soil and water retention, wildlife habitat, wind breaks, wood, and strength to the world. If you care about food justice or climate change, or wildlife, then hazelnuts are your allies. They will do the work willingly and very well.

Squeezing the oil out of hazelnuts with a small hand press

11



12 Chestnut flour cookies with hazelnut butter in the center!

While annual agriculture provides us with abundant food, it also erases the landscape every year, and burns up the carbon in our soils. Hazelnuts are a force that is far more effective than any vote or dollar in creating the change we want to see.

Twisted Tree Farm, 279 Washburn Road,
Spencer, NY, 14883, United States
☎ 607-589-7937. ***ttfarm279@gmail.com***

Participants in the ***Ellis Hollow Wetland Ramble*** near Ithaca, N.Y., on 8 April 2017, led by **Torben Russo** (fourth from left, in back). We visited upland forest, swamp forest, shrub-swamp, rich fen, wet meadow, marsh, and old field habitats on a brisk sunny day at this highly diverse site. The Cascadilla Creek valley forms the background of this photo by Robert Dirig.

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*) 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 summer foliage, or do you need help identifying a wildflower growing in your meadow? Ask your FLNPS Facebook friends!

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

Solidago

Newsletter of the
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 18, No. 2 **June 2017**

==========

Published quarterly at Ithaca, New York, USA.

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*) after the next issue is produced.

Contents

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) in bloom, Catskills, N.Y., 18 May 2017

Please send *Solidago* contributions & correspondence to Robert Dirig, Editor, at editorofsolidago@gmail.com

Deadline for the September 2017 issue is August 15th !

Please Contribute to *Solidago*

We welcome contributions that feature wild plants of the Finger Lakes Region of N.Y. and nearby. 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, meetings, 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.

NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from last issue's [*Solidago* 18(1):6] NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST looked a little like the skin of an alligator, but indeed was of a trunk of a **Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)** tree. Although Black Gum trees are often not the largest trees in the forest, they are one of the longest living hardwood trees that occur in the eastern United States. Trees have been dated to 679 years in New Hampshire and 568 years in New York. Their bark becomes particularly alligator skin-like when they are old. Bob Dirig wrote, "They grow 20 to 40 feet tall on bluffs along the Delaware River (in the southern Catskills), and in Albany Pine Bush wetlands, where their size may be influenced by occasional fires. The crimson foliage is stunning in autumn, and I love the slight asymmetry of their leaves." Betsy Darlington wrote that this species occurs at the Logan Hill Nature Preserve in Candor, where the trail through the preserve goes right past two individuals. Thanks to all those who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winners: **Betsy Darlington**, **Bob Dirig**, **Peter Fry**, **Susanne Lorbeer**, and **Rosemarie Parker**.

This issue's mystery plant is shown above — a real hidden beauty that locally is very rare, although perhaps overlooked. It is a forest understory herb that generally grows in acidic forests. The bizarre flowers are distinctive.

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** at

.

The photographs were taken by David Werier on 24 May 2016 in Passaic Co., N.J.

LETTERS

Dear Robert,

Attached is my photo of an **Early Yellow Violet (*Viola rotundifolia*)**. I had seen the leaves while hiking last September, but had never seen this species in flower, so I pledged to return to the site this spring. I got there a week later than I had expected, and was very disappointed to see capsules, not flowers. But after some searching, I found a few still in flower! I can't wait to go back next spring to see them again.

Thanks!

Julia Miller
Ithaca, N.Y., May 14, 2017

Bob,

I loved reading your article, "The Sassafras Path." You have such an appreciation for the natural world. You reminded me of my childhood memories. We grew up in a time when children were free, and encouraged to play on their own in nature. Some children are lucky to still have that today, but many of them do not.

Susanne Lorbeer
Ithaca, N.Y., March 4, 2017

Hi Bob,

What a wonderful place you grew up in! I greatly enjoyed your vivid, engaging essay about it in the recent issue.

Mary Gilliland
Ithaca, N.Y., May 10, 2017

Bob,

I wanted you to know that I have a source for **Golden Ragwort (*Senecio aureus*, *a.k.a.* *Packera aurea*)**, following your delightful tale in the last newsletter. I already have THE GEM [*Orthonama obstipata*, a small geometrid moth] in my yard, but I would like to see the caterpillar. Not knowing what it is using in my yard, I am now hopeful that it will chose *Packera aurea* so that I get to see it.

I plan to reread your delightful account of "The Sassafras Path" again and again. It is THE *REAL* GEM.

Colleen Wolpert
Apalachin, N.Y., May 17, 2017

Plant Quiz

Plant Trivia *by* **Norm Trigoboff**

1. What's the **oldest seed that ever germinated**?

2. What tree has the **largest crown diameter**?

3. What is the **heaviest tree fruit**?

4. What's the **most massive plant** (not including clones)?

5. Which of these are **constellations**?
- **a.** The microscope
- **b.** The painter's easel
- **c.** The unicorn
- **d.** The oak tree
- **e.** The fish
- **f.** The American Indian

6. Which flowering plant has the **longest leaves**?

7. You find an **iridescent oil-like sheen on water** by a road. How do you tell if it's from bacteria, or petroleum leaked from vehicles?

8. How was **mustard gas**, the first poison gas used in war, made?

9. You see an abundant, dull, powdery, **light green scum** on the surface of small ponds and ditches in the summer in Central New York. Which of the following is probably responsible?
- **a.** *Wolffia*
- **b.** *Lemna*
- **c.** *Spirodela*
- **d.** *Euglena*
- **e.** Millfoil
- **f.** Pine (pollen)

10. Why did ***Aspidistra elatior*** become a popular house-plant in Victorian England?

11. What do these vascular plants **have in common**?
- **a.** Onion
- **b.** Lettuce
- **c.** Fig
- **d.** White Mulberry
- **e.** Norway Maple
- **f.** Marijuana
- **g.** Banana
- **h.** Flowering Spurge

12. What are the **two spruces** at the right?

PLEASE SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

Poet's Corner

From the pale star with green tail
a blood-red pouch emerges.

Parade dress crimsons a slender stem.
Green shields flounce.

An unexpected shower
flicks a rumpled scarlet sheet.

— Mary Gilliland

Review

by **Stan Scharf**

Hubbard Brook: The Story of a Forest Ecosystem, by Richard T. Holmes & Gene E. Likens. Yale University Press, 2016, 288 pp., 187 color illustrations, 8½ × 11 inches, cloth hardcover. See this site for details: *http://yalebooks.com/book/9780300203646/hubbard-brook.*

This "crystal clear" and delightful book on the Hubbard Brook Forest Ecosytem Study in New Hampshire was published in May 2016 by Yale University Press. FLNPS member **Natalie Cleavitt**, currently located at Hubbard Brook as a Cornell Research Associate, is given several credits and acknowledgements in the book ("helpful comments and suggestions on various drafts," and several credits for photography, including the frontispiece — "The Gorge on the main stem of Hubbard Brook"). ***Hubbard Brook*** is a tributary of the ***Pemigewasset River***, which, I was recently startled to learn, has its source in ***Profile Lake*** in ***Franconia Notch State Park***, below what used to be the "Old Man of the Mountain." During late spring and summer of 1961, between my junior and senior years at Cornell, I worked for the USFS at Hubbard Brook.

PHOTO ESSAY

Miniature Harbingers of Spring!

1-2: **Dwarf Mistletoe** (*Arceuthobium pusillum*) on Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*), staminate flowers; Mendon Ponds, N.Y., 9 April 2017, Steven Daniel.
3: **American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*), abundant catkins on browsed shoot sprouts, near Dryden, N.Y., 23 May 2006, Robert Dirig.
4: **False Mermaid Weed** (*Floerkea proserpinacoides*); Shindagin Hollow, N.Y., 8 May 2015, Rick Lightbody. 5: **Boreal Club-Mushroom Lichen** (*Multiclavula mucida*), a basidiomycete with a green algal base; Berkshire, N.Y., 1 March 2017, Betsy Crispell. [See other photos, *Solidago* 13(4), p. 5.]

Plant Quiz

PLEASE SEE QUESTIONS ON PAGE 7

Answers to Plant Trivia

by **Norm Trigoboff**

1. A 10,000-year-old seed of **Arctic Lupine (*Lupinus arcticus*)**, dug from a Lemming burrow in frozen Arctic tundra. The Lemming was said to have had a very long beard.

2. The **Indian Banyan (*Ficus bengalensis*)**. Alexander the Great and 7,000 soldiers camped under one tree — without Porta Potties.

3. The **Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*)**, related to the Breadfruit (*A. altilis*), may weigh 75 pounds. I prefer to camp under Banyan trees.

4. One **Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)** may have more wood than several acres of Pacific Northwest virgin forest. No joke.

5. All except the oak. Constellations are never named after plants. This needs to change. *The Pleiades*, an asterism in *Taurus*, looks a little mossy. The rest of *Taurus* looks a little like a roof. I suggest we change *Taurus* to "The Moss on the Roof." Do we really want to camp under a giant bull?

6. Leaves of the **Raffia Palm (*Raphia regalis*)** may be 80 feet long.

7. If it breaks into plates when you touch it, fairly recent **bacteria** made it. If it swirls around as endlessly as political debates, it's **oil**.

8. By burning mustard plants. The enemy left the battlefield to find barbeques.

9. *Euglena*. A 10× hand lens will show green dots. A microscope will show active green ciliates with red eye spots.

10. Victorian gas lights gave off **ethylene**, a gas that killed most house plants. *Aspidistra* was resistant. Ethylene, a plant hormone, is used today in minute amounts to promote fruit ripening.

11. Latex.

12. Both are *Picea glauca*. The cultivar (*Picea glauca* "Conica," or Dwarf Alberta Spruce), with short branches and dense leaves, often grows a branch that reverts back to the wild White Spruce (*Picea glauca*).

Further Reading

http://waynesword.palomar.edu/ww0601.htm

http://www.tlehcs.com/question%20of%20the%20week/archive%20questions/Trees%20and%20Shrubs/spruce%20reversion.htm

Thank You!

MANY THANKS to all who contributed to *Solidago*! For **Volume 18, No. 2**, we thank **WRITERS** Mary Gilliland, Susanne Lorbeer, Julia Miller, Rosemarie Parker, Stan Scharf, Akiva Silver, Anna Stalter, Arieh Tal, Norm Trigoboff, David Werier, Colleen Wolpert, and Robert Dirig, whose contributions made this issue special. Mary Gilliand's lovely poem about Nasturtiums (p. 7) was first published in *Chautauqua* (2011). **ILLUSTRATIONS** were loaned by Akiva Silver [Figs. 1, 4-5, & 10-12 on pp. 1-4]; Steven Daniel [Fig. 6-7 & 9 on p. 3; Figs. 1-2 on p. 8]; Rick Lightbody [Fig. 4, p. 8]; Betsy Crispell [Fig. 5, p. 8]; Arieh Tal [p. 10]; and Robert Dirig [Figs. 2-3 & 8, pp. 2-3; p. 4, *bottom*; p. 5; p. 6, *bottom right*; p. 7, *upper right*; p. 8, Fig. 3]; Norm Trigoboff [p. 7, *lower left*]; David Werier (p. 6, *left*); Julia Miller [p. 6, *upper right*]. **CALENDAR ITEMS** were organized by Rosemarie Parker and Anna Stalter. **LAYOUT and DESIGN** by the Editor. **PROOFREADING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** by Scott LaGreca and Rosemarie Parker. **PRINTING** of paper copies by Gnomon Copy, Ithaca, N. Y. And **MAILING** by Rosemarie Parker and Susanne Lorbeer.

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

— Robert Dirig
(*editorofsolidago@gmail.com*)

Regional BioBlitzes, July & September

A ***BioBlitz*** is part scientific survey, part competition, part educational outreach, and part festival. It's a 24-hour, scientific survey of a particular geographic area, in which participants race against the clock to document as many species as they can. Against the backdrop of this intense scientific inventory, nature-themed performances, hikes, art activities, and other programs happen.

On **Saturday, July 15, 2017**, from 8:00 a.m. to midnight, the ***Cummings Nature Center of the Rochester Museum & Science Center*** *in* ***Naples, N.Y.***, will sponsor a BioBlitz of their 950-acre campus. They are looking for experts in all fields of environmental science to help catalog the living things on their property. Participating experts will help identify species, lead a hike for participants, perform independent surveys, and possibly give a presentation on current research. They would love to have FLNPS members help with identification of wildflowers, wetland plants, grasses, and mosses. Please see this website for more information:

http://www.rmsc.org/cumming-nature-center/nature-center-programs-and-events/item/432-bioblitz

From 3:00 p.m. **Friday, September 8**, to 3:00 p.m. **Saturday, September 9, 2017**, the first ***Cornell's School of Integrative Plant Science BioBlitz*** will happen on the grounds of the **Cayuga Nature Center and Smith's Woods**, northwest of Ithaca, N.Y. We need botanists to help with our all-species inventory of the Nature Center property during this event. To learn more and to register your interest, please visit:

https://sips.cals.cornell.edu/news-events/sips-bioblitz

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

The FLNPS season of monthly talks is over until September, but we are sponsoring two walks on South Hill in Ithaca, N.Y., in June and July. These and a number of other plant-related activities in and near the Finger Lakes Region are detailed below.

Walks & Activities, Summer 2017

June 24 — Saturday — 10:00 a.m. to noon, **South Hill Marsh — Revisited,** a walk led by **Arieh Tal**. ***Please meet at 9:30 a.m., at the Tompkins County Cooperative Extension (CCE) center, 615 Willow Avenue, in Ithaca, N.Y. From there we will carpool to limited roadside parking on East King Road.***

Arieh's Description: The South Hill Marsh (Town of Ithaca) has long been considered a botanical "hotspot." Fortunately, large portions of its extensive acreage have been preserved as natural areas by Ithaca College and Cornell University. Timed to coincide with the spectacular flowering of *Penstemon digitalis* (Foxglove Beardtongue, *left photo*) and many other species, this two-hour walk will survey portions of the open marsh and surrounding woods. Hiking conditions will be relatively easy, though this year probably is wetter than last year, so wear water resistant footwear. This walk takes place one month later in the season than last year's walk (see ***http://flnps.org/activities/961/south-hill-swamp-and-woods-walk***), so we will see many more species in flower, including *Apocynum cannabinum*, *Carex* and *Galium* spp., *Cornus racemosa*, *Gaylussacia baccata*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Lysimachia quadrifolia*, *Oenothera perennis*, *Rosa carolina*, *Rubus hispidus*, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, and *Viburnum dentatum.*

July 15 — Saturday — 10:00 a.m. to noon, South Hill Powerline. Led by **Arieh Tal**. ***Please convene at 9:30 a.m., at CCE. From there we will drive to an Ithaca College lot (with free weekend parking), and proceed on foot to the site.***

Arieh's Description: Despite being human-disturbed habitats, powerlines can be great places to botanize. Because of the sandy, sunny nature of the site, the 1½-mile stretch of powerline heading south from Ithaca College to E. King Road includes some species more typical of coastal plain communities, such as *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterflyweed, *right photo*), *Cirsium pumilum* (Dwarf Thistle), *Gaylussacia baccata* (Black Huckleberry), and *Rosa carolina* (Pasture Rose), as well as a variety of *Vaccinium* species (blueberries). The margins of the service road running uphill from the parking lot also have some interesting plants, including *Verbena hastata* (Blue Vervain), *Anaphalis margaritacea* (Pearly Everlasting), and *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint). We may also see other species in flower, such as *Lespedeza violacea* (Wand-like Bush Clover), *Polygala sanguinea* (Bloody Milkwort), *Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium* (Fragrant Rabbit Tobacco), goldenrods, and asters.

Miscellaneous Botanical Activities & Events

Ongoing through July 31 — 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Weeds of the Northeast, an exhibit by the ***Finger Lakes Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators***, at the Boyce Thompson Institute on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, N.Y.

June 17 — Saturday — 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.: Explore Your Watershed: The Natural History of the Six Mile Creek Natural Area is a series of walks sponsored by the Friends of Six Mile Creek and the City of Ithaca Natural Areas Commission. Meet in the parking lot of the Mulholland Wildflower Preserve off Giles St. in Ithaca, N.Y. The June 17th walk, highlighting ***Butterflies and Dragonflies***, will be led by **Meena Haribal**, author of a field guide to damselflies and dragonflies of the region. Don't forget your binoculars! This Preserve also harbors many interesting plants. See ***www.sixmilecreek.org*** for more information.

The Leatherstocking Botanical Society will sponsor several walks east of the Finger Lakes Region: **June 17 — Saturday — 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, ***Youngs Lake Flora* (*Montgomery County*)**; **July 8 — Saturday — 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, ***Botanical Searches in Chenango Balsam Fir Wetlands* (*Chenango County*)**; and **August 26 — Saturday — 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, ***Exploring Chenango Valley State Park* (*Broome County*)**. Please see the ***flnps.org*** website or the Leatherstocking Botanical Society Facebook page for full details.

September 15-17 — Friday to Sunday: The **41st A. Leroy Andrews Foray**, an annual field exploration for bryophytes and lichens, will be held at the SUNY-ESF Adirondack Ecologic Center at the Newcomb campus in Newcomb, N.Y. **Steve Langdon** & **Dan Spada** are organizing field trips in the Shingle Shanty Preserve of the Adirondacks, and other sites near the Newcomb campus. Details will be forthcoming when arrangements have been completed.

FLNPS is organizing programs for the 2017-2018 season, which begins in September.
We would love to hear suggestions for speakers or topics, walks, and rambles.
Please watch our website* (www.flnps.org) *for details and updates about upcoming activities.