

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. 4



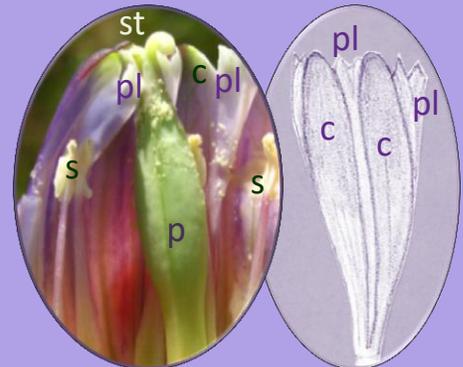
December 2017

Meadow Bottle Gentians on Connecticut Hill

“I read an old post on the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society’s website about *Gentiana quinquefolia* (Stiff Gentian) being found on Connecticut Hill.* I went there in early September 2017 to search for them, but instead found some *Gentiana clausa* (Meadow Bottle Gentian) plants [shown on this page]! It was wonderful to see beautiful flowers late in the season.”

Text and photographs by Julia Miller

LOCAL FLORA



Inside View

Outside View

s = stamen, p = pistil, st = stigma, c = corolla lobe, pl = plait (folds) between corolla lobes

ABOVE: The enlarged oval images show a flower opened to reveal the plaits that reach the top of the corolla lobes (a characteristic of *G. clausa*), and expand to allow pollinator entry. **SEE** the key, descriptions, and images in H. A. Gleason’s *The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, vol. 3, pp. 60-63 (1952, New York Botanical Garden/Hafner Press/MacMillan, N.Y.). ***PLEASE ALSO SEE** “Bluebottles, Fringes, & Bumbling Bees – Gentians in the Finger Lakes” in *Solidago*, Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 1-3, October 2013, which includes a photograph of **Stiff Gentians** on Connecticut Hill. — Ed.

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. 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, limericks, 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.



Solidago Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 18, No. 4

December 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.



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

Deadline for the March 2018
issue is February 15th!

NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from last issue's *NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST* [Solidago 18(3), page 6] was of **BUR CUCUMBER** (*Sicyos angulatus*), which is one of just two species in the cucumber family that is native in central New York. And yes, it is a relative of the garden cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*). As with most members of the cucumber family, Bur Cucumber is *monoecious* (i.e., it has unisexual flowers with both male [*staminate*] and female [*pistillate*] flowers on the same plant). The image in last issue's contest illustrated immature staminate flowers and fruits. Thanks to those who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winners: *Susanne Lorbeer* and *Rosemarie Parker*.



This issue's mystery plant is shown above. 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

Nakita@lightlink.com.

The photographs were taken by David Werier on 24 August 2005 in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania (main image), and 3 October 2017 in Sagadahoc, Maine (inset at bottom right).



LETTER: Your recent newsletter (Vol. 18, No. 3) is worthy of Continued Education credits! Thanks for continuing to expand my knowledge. Another job well done by all.

Colleen Wolpert
Apalachin, N.Y., 15 Oct., 2017



Show pictures or artwork, read a poem, ask a burning question, or explain your latest plant-related theory or discovery. This event provides an opportunity to share your "phyto" stuff (tangible and otherwise) with fellow members...

Members' Night Needs You!

The annual **FLNPS Members' Night**, begun in 2015, has proven popular. Attendees have enjoyed the variety of presentations and a chance to learn about their fellow members' interests and talents. (See the link on our website for reviews of prior Members' Nights.) So we'll do it again on **January 17th, 2018**. And of course we'll need your help!

If you like to take photos, paint, draw, write poetry (or read the poems of others), do needlepoint, sing and play music, tell stories, or do anything else with a plant-related theme that you think others might enjoy, please come and share your talents and enthusiasm with us. You can make a presentation or bring interesting objects for the exhibit table.

The more participation we have, the more fun this evening will be. If you would like to do a presentation (or a mini poster presentation at the exhibit table), please contact **Audrey Bowe** (aeb286@cornell.edu) by **January 7th, 2018**, with the following information:

- * Presentation topic and format
- * Any technical support needed (e.g., video projector, microphone, etc.)
- * Estimated presentation length (can be anywhere from 2 – 20 minutes)
- * Any preference for your position in the evening's sequence (earlier vs. later)
- * Your email address and phone number
- * Any questions, or information you think is important

Exhibit Table: Please consider bringing interesting plant-related items to be included on the exhibit table. Items may be arts and crafts, peculiar seed pods, cartoons, etc. For self-explanatory displays, there's no need to let us know in advance, unless your item is bigger than a breadbox, or can't sit on a tabletop. (If so, contact **Rosemarie** at info@flnps.org.) But please come ten or fifteen minutes before 7:00 p.m., to make sure your item gets set up the way you want it. You may wish to include a small card with your name and perhaps an identification or brief explanation of the item. If you'd like to do something more like a scientific poster presentation (where you actively explain details to the exhibit viewers), we welcome that at the exhibit table too. In that case, please let both Audrey and Rosemarie know of your plans as early as possible, and no later than the January 7 deadline mentioned above.

We look forward to seeing you at the fourth annual Members' Night. Help us make it as fun and fascinating as the first three!

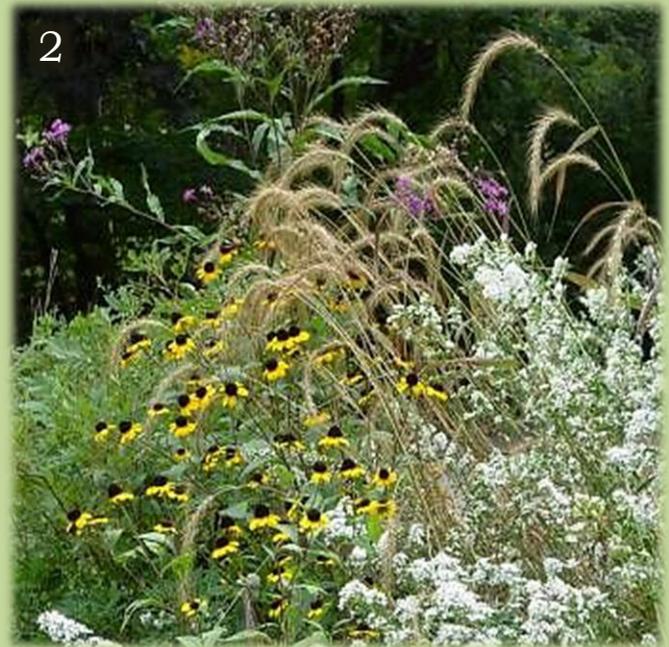


WILD GARDENING

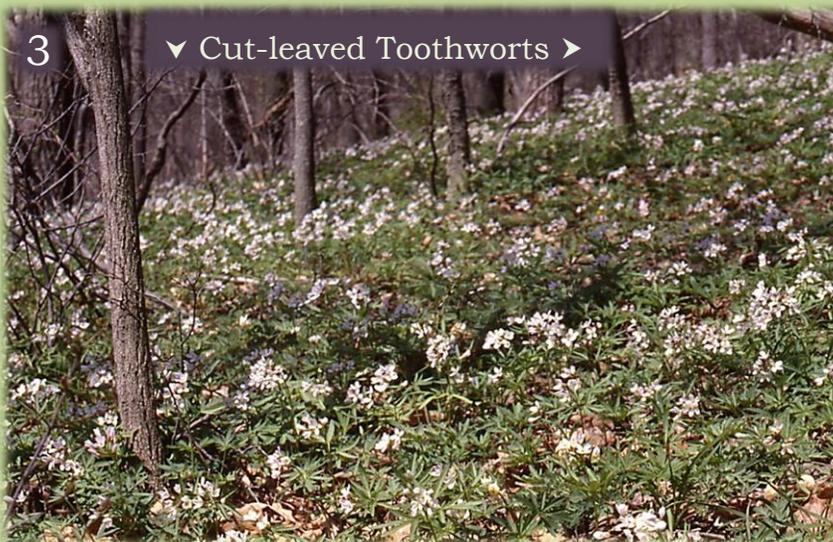
Unloved Plants

by ROSEMARIE PARKER

WELL, NOT TOTALLY UNLOVED — just, inexplicably, rarely sold at our plant sales. For those of us who appreciate them, it is hard to return them to the truck, year after year. Why don't customers see how wonderful they are? Here are a few of the perennially "unloved" plants that deserve better, in my opinion.



GRASSES (1-2). Well, really these are Krissy Boys' favorites, and I kind of understand the problem. In the spring, most grasses look like, well, grass. I have not found a photo that, when small enough for our signs, shows that in late summer that plant will be *grass!* The subtle seed heads, the movement, the way a grass complements late season flowers — that is hard to depict in a photo, let alone a smallish one. So the grasses go back to the truck.



CARDAMINE (3-6). TOOTHWORTS are such a wonderful sight in very early spring. They spread into airy white drifts and pop up everywhere. How can people not love Toothworts? And you cannot buy them at your local nursery, probably because the nurseries learned long ago that people do not buy them. Yeah, they are dormant, or nearly so, by sale time. But last year, with bigger images, we sold out of all the dormant *Dicentra* — a first. Yeah, you need more than one Toothwort, but they spread. Again, a photo showing a large group doesn't make it under sale conditions, but even a very floriferous image didn't tempt anyone. I planted them back in my woods, rather than try again.



***Collinsonia canadensis* (7).** Tropical foliage, a flower worthy of an orchid, even fragrant — I love this plant! It is true that the individual flowers must be magnified to be appreciated. But people worship teeny orchids that you can hardly see, so why not a plant that contributes big green leaves all season? **Horsebalm** hangs on at the edge of my woods (a bit too dry for them), but they are very happy in the Mundy Wildflower Garden, and many of our wild areas at wood margins. Again, not many nurseries carry them, so I would think people would snap them up. But only a few are sold each year, maybe because they are rather gawky in pots.

***Symphyotrichum urophyllum* (8).** Asters as a whole do not sell well in the spring. Many people regard asters as “the weeds along the side of the road,” and ignore them. Some more discriminating individuals choose those that are harder to find, or fit their less-than-ideal habitat. But few buy *S. urophyllum* (older name, *Aster sagittifolius*), maybe because they see it as just another white aster. I have been known to dismiss white asters myself, but *this* one, well, it is not like the others. **Arrow-leaved Aster** takes nasty dry clay and sends up a tight exclamation point above the background. They are wonderful for filling in recently cleared areas in sun or medium shade. But most, if not all, remain unsold.

Think of these when you look over the seeds in December, or the plant table in May. Perhaps you can appreciate these unloved plants as I do.

PHOTO CREDITS: 1-2 (grasses) by Krissy Boys; 3-4 (*Cardamine concatenata*) & 5-6 (*C. diphylla*) by Robert Dirig; 7 (*Collinsonia canadensis*) by David Ruppert; 8 (*Symphyotrichum urophyllum*) by Rosemarie Parker.

Which Maple Is This?

by Arie Tal



NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, while on lunch break, a colleague asked me how he could tell the difference between Sugar Maples and Norway Maples. After brief reflection, I told him that Norway Maple has milky sap, while Sugar Maple has clear sap. "Just break the leaf stalk," I explained. That simple statement seemed to satisfy him. But, what was he supposed to do during winter? Fortunately, these two species can be distinguished by several other characteristics, some available during different seasons.

This article will explain how we can easily distinguish three common maple species in our area which have similar leaves: **Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)**, **Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*)**, and **Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)**. All three species have leaves that are lobed (but not divided into separate leaflets). The edges of their leaves lack teeth, but often possess one or a few conspicuous "points" along the edges of the lobes. The sinuses between the lobes are relatively shallow and U- or V-shaped. The fruit, called a samara, is smooth, lacking hairs.

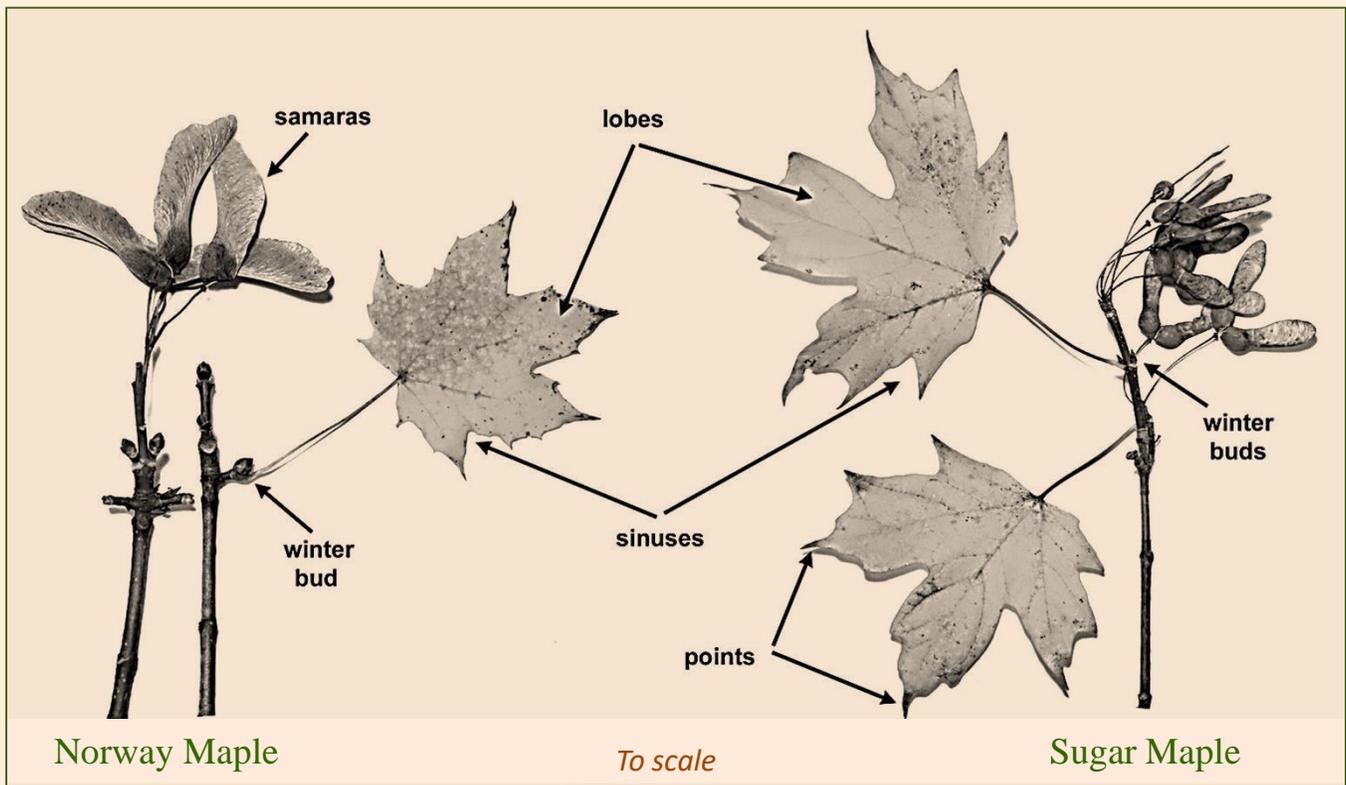


Figure 1. Explanation of terms.

THE FRUITS ARE PRODUCED IN PAIRS; the two samaras are joined by their seeds. When ripe, they split apart and fall. The samaras of Norway Maple are very flat and held widely apart, almost horizontally, whereas only the wings of the samaras of the other two species are flat. The seeds of Sugar and Black Maples are thicker and rounded, and the fruits tend to droop downward. *It should also be noted that when the samaras are ready to split and fall, they all droop, regardless of species.*

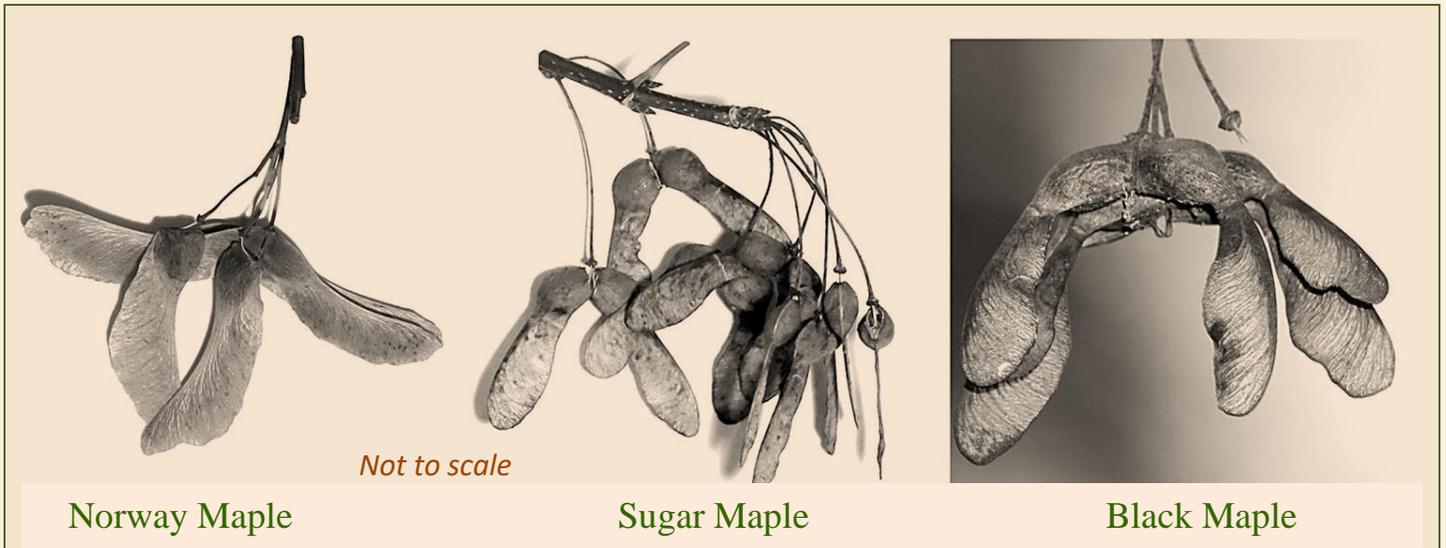


Figure 2. Comparison of fruit characteristics of three common maple species.

HOW ARE THE WINTER BUDS DIFFERENT (observed in fall or winter)? The buds of Norway Maple are rounded and blunt. The buds of Sugar Maple are narrow and pointed, longer than broad. The buds of Black Maple are more similar to those of Sugar Maple, but not quite as narrow and pointed.

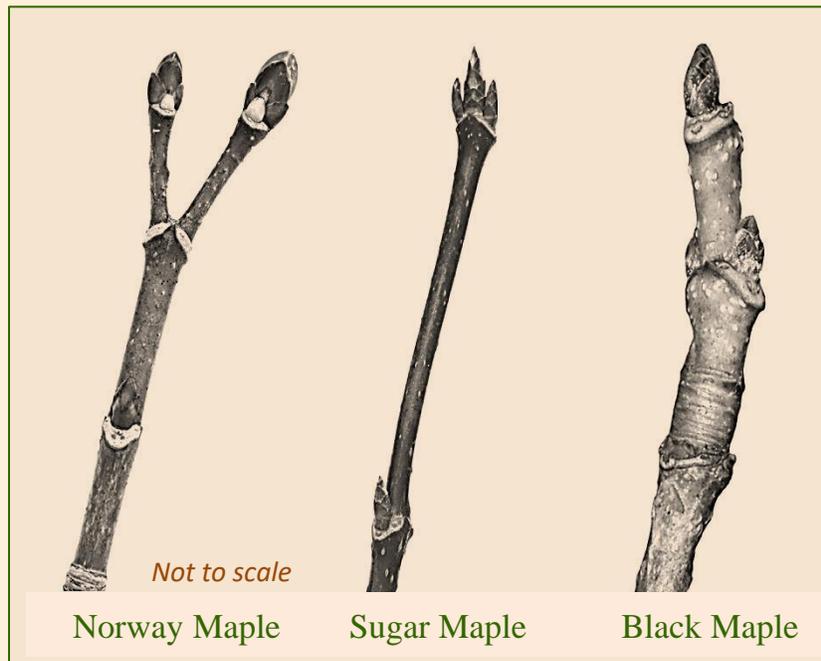


Figure 3. Comparison of winter buds of three common maple species.

MATURE TREES OF THESE THREE SPECIES EACH HAVE DISTINCTIVE BARK. The bark of mature Norway Maple has consistently closely spaced, vertical (oriented up/down) furrows, and appears neat and orderly. The bark of mature Sugar Maple consists of loose-edged plates, but not many furrows, and appears somewhat disorderly. Sugar Maple bark is more variable from tree to tree. The bark of Black Maple is more similar to that of Norway Maple, but the furrows are less regular. *It's better to assess the bark of a mature tree, for young trees may look more similar.*

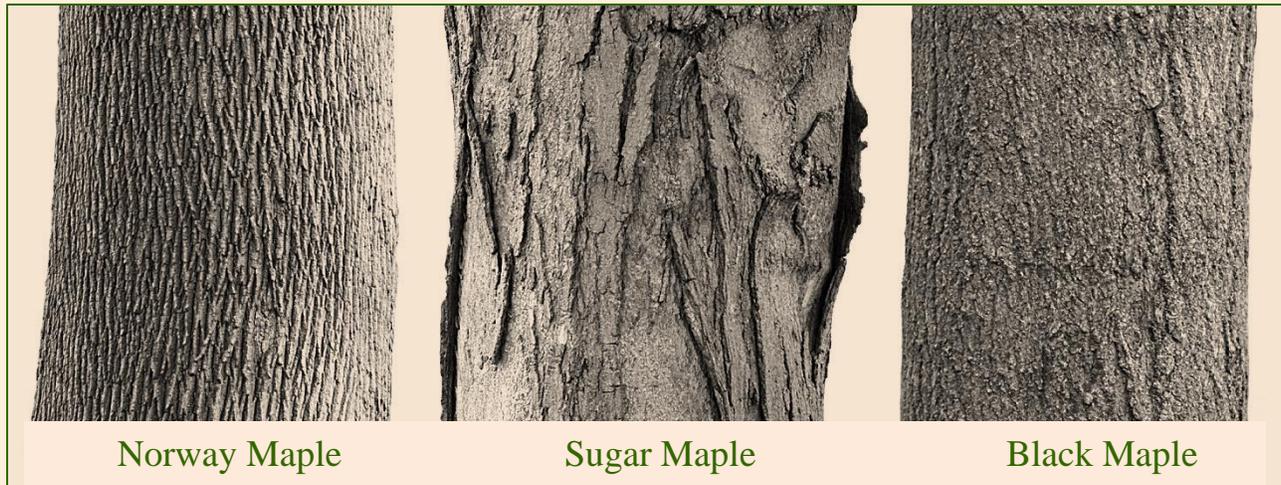


Figure 4. Comparison of bark of three common maple species.

IN OTHER CHARACTERISTICS, MOST OF THE MAPLES ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO VARIOUS MOLDS. One particularly striking mold is the **Tar Spot (*Rhytisma* spp.)**, which seems to prefer mainly Norway Maples. Sugar Maples growing adjacent to Norway Maples do not show the infection whatsoever.



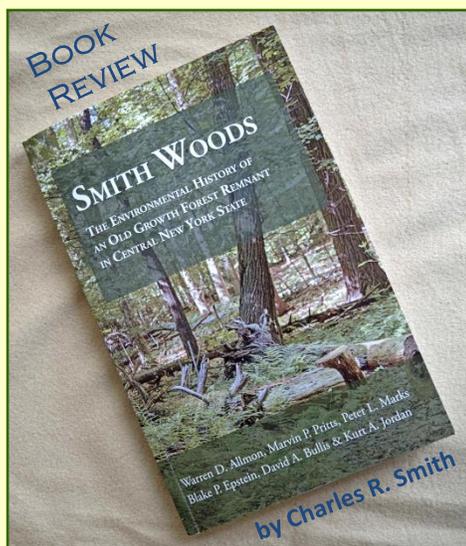
Figure 5. Tar Spot mold infection on Norway Maple leaf.

It's also potentially useful to check leaf surfaces. **Leaf lower surfaces** of Black Maple often tend to be hairy, and sometimes their leaf and flower stalks are as well. The leaf lower surfaces of the other two species covered here are not hairy.

In general, the **flowers** open in spring. Flowers of Norway Maple have petals, and are a bit more showy; the other two have only sepals, but no petals.

There you go, easy ways to tell these three species, throughout year.





Thank You!

MANY THANKS to all who contributed to *Solidago*, Volume 18, No. 4. We thank **WRITERS** Scott LaGreca, Julia Miller, Rosemarie Parker, Charles R. Smith, Arieh Tal, Norm Trigoboff, David Werier, Colleen Wolpert, and Robert Dirig, whose contributions made this issue special. **ILLUSTRATIONS** were loaned by Julia Miller [p. 1]; David Werier [pp. 3 & 12]; Krissy Boys, David Ruppert, & Rosemarie Parker [pp. 4-5]; Arieh Tal [pp. 6-8]; Charles R. Smith [pp. 9-12]; the Bald-faced Hornet [p. 13]; and Robert Dirig [pp. 1 (art), 2, 4-5 (Toothworts), & 14]. **CALENDAR ITEMS** (including MEMBERS' NIGHT & SOLSTICE CELEBRATION announcements) were organized by Rosemarie Parker. **LAYOUT and DESIGN** by the Editor. **PROOF-READING** by 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 Holidays and a New Year filled with charismatic interactions with wild plants and places!
— Robert Dirig

Allmon, W. D., M. P. Pritts, P. L. Marks, B. P. Epstein, D. A. Bullis, & K. A. Jordan. 2017. *Smith Woods — The Environmental History of an Old Growth Forest Remnant in Central New York State*. Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, N.Y. 207 pp. \$16.00 plus tax.

This little book is a valuable and important contribution to the cultural and natural history of the Finger Lakes Region. It is a book written by a committee, and the result is very satisfying. Its six chapters, each apparently by a different author, are somewhat independent of each other, and can be read in any order. The chapter titles, in order of their presentation are: *Introduction*, *Smith Woods and Indigenous People*, *Smith Woods Since 1790* (includes a description of the 1989 blowdown), *The Ecology of Smith Woods Today* (includes a list of native plants compiled by Susanne Lorbeer and mention of a new species of fungus beetle described from Smith Woods), *Smith Woods in the Future*, and *Epilogue*. While I found all chapters interesting and well written, I especially enjoyed the chapter about indigenous people. It is very informative, and the best and most up-to-date summary of the history of indigenous people in the Cayuga Region that I have read.

The book is well illustrated with a variety of color images, graphs, and maps. Sections at the end of the book include acknowledgments, brief author profiles, a glossary, compilation of references, sources for illustrations, list of footnotes, and an index. I found the listing of all footnotes at the end of the book, in sequential, numerical order, from the first chapter to the last, especially refreshing. I found it a lot more “user friendly” than starting a new sequence of numbered footnotes for each chapter, which has been the typical approach in other books I’ve read. This approach will be appreciated by anyone who wants more information or prefers to find and examine original, published sources of information.

The sharp-eyed field naturalist will find a few photos of plants and animals that have been misidentified. In the future, they easily could be corrected in a second printing, or with a simple errata sheet inserted into the book. Here they are: Fig. 48 looks like *Cardamine concatenata*, not *C. diphylla*. Fig. 49 is the introduced Cabbage White butterfly (*Pieris rapae*), not the native West Virginia White (*P. virginianensis*). Fig. 63B is a rose, but not Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*). It may be the native Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina*). Among the photo credits, I see that Figs. 49 and 63B came from internet sources. In my experience, the internet is replete with identification errors for pictures of plants and animals.

One can purchase the book at the Museum of the Earth or at some local bookstores. I recommend it highly for anyone interested in local cultural and natural history.



A sterile frond of Netted Chain Fern in Woodwardia Bog [1]. The inset [2] shows its serrulate (finely toothed) margin.



Woodwardia areolata
(Netted Chain Fern)

Discovered in
Tompkins County, N. Y.



by CHARLES R. SMITH
& NORM TRIGOBOFF

All photographs by Charles R. Smith at Woodwardia Bog on 2 Sept. 2017, except [7-9].

searched for the *Woodwardia*. It took four hours to find it. Most of the time was spent looking for the bog (O'Rourke 2007).



THE GENUS WOODWARDIA (CHAIN FERNS) has three native, North American species. Two species, *W. areolata* and *W. virginica*, occur in the eastern United States and Canada. The third species, *W. fimbriata*, grows in the western U.S. and Canada, west of the Rocky Mountains (USDA 2017). *W. areolata* and *W. virginica* both occur in New York State (Weldy *et al.* 2017).

In August 1881, W. R. Dudley collected *Woodwardia virginica*, or Virginia Chain Fern (*Anchistea virginica* of the NEW YORK FLORA ATLAS, Weldy *et al.* 2017) [9], in "**Woodwardia Swamp**" [<http://tcf.bh.cornell.edu/>]. This is a rich fen near Freeville (Tompkins County) N.Y., also known as "**Woodwardia Bog**" (Wiegand & Eames 1926), and described in detail by O'Rourke (2007). Dudley's specimen still sits in Cornell's L. H. Bailey Hortorium Herbarium (BH 27470). Dudley, who paid his way through Cornell by milking cows at the University's farm, went on to be a well known California botanist, and head of the Botany Department at Stanford University [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Russel_Dudley].

In the 1970s, Bob Wesley, who knew of Dudley's find, wandered the bog, admired the Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) and American Larch (*Larix laricina*), and, in time, relocated the population of *W. virginica*. The colony grew in what he considered an odd place: a very wet spot at the border of the fen and the surrounding woods (Wesley, *pers. comm.*). In August 2007, Joe O'Rourke, Anna Statler, and Norm Trigoboff, armed with Wesley's 30-year-old memories,

On 2 September 2017, the two of us explored Woodwardia Bog. A GPS device helped us reach the *Woodwardia virginica* seen in 2007. We then bushwhacked through a densely shrubby part of the fen (what field biologists do for fun). A few hundred meters away, we spotted a somewhat unfamiliar fern that looked a bit like *Onoclea sensibilis*. One of us (Smith) recognized it from its "gestalt," based on his work with ferns long ago, when he was a teenager in northeastern Tennessee.

After consulting multiple references (Cobb *et al.* 2005, Haines 2011, Holmgren 1998), we concluded that it was *Woodwardia (Lorinseria) areolata* — known as *Lorinseria areolata* in the NEW YORK FLORA ATLAS (Weldy *et al.* 2017). Within a 2-meter-diameter circle, we saw at least 33 fronds of *Woodwardia areolata*, all sterile [1-2], including a 5- to 6-cm-long "seedling" that was serrulate and not dissected, *i.e.*, without pinnae [3]. We collected two fronds and deposited them in the L. H. Bailey Hortorium Herbarium. Other ferns in the fen included the Virginia Chain Fern, Crested Wood Fern (*Dryopteris cristata*), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*).



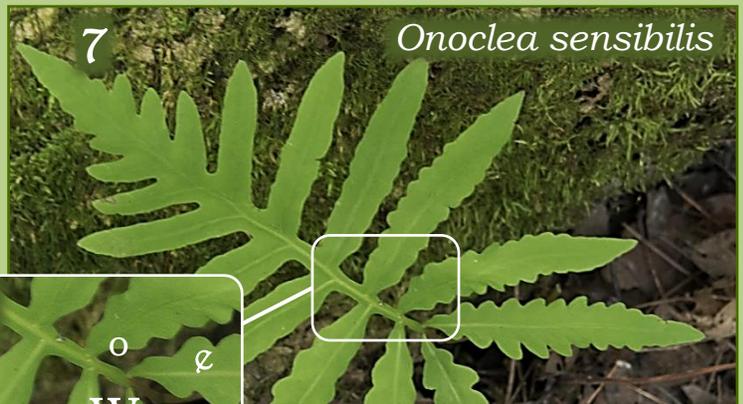
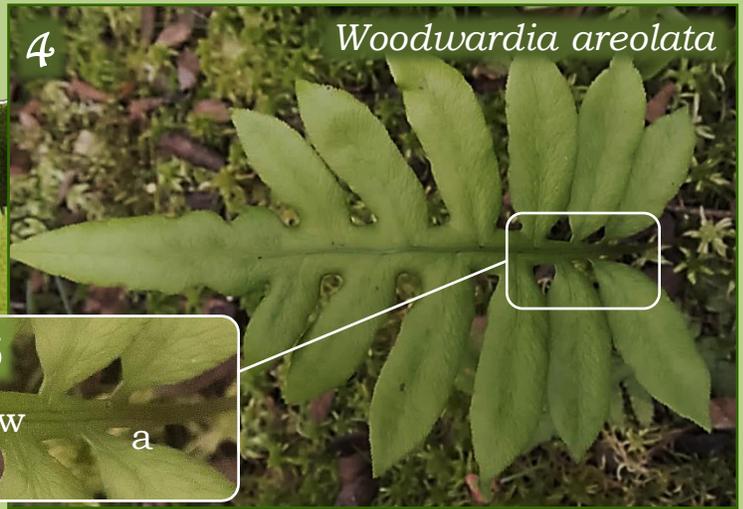
An undivided young frond of Netted Chain Fern [3].

In *Woodwardia areolata*, the pinnae have wavy margins with small teeth [2, 4-5], the lower pinnae are alternate [6a], and the lower part of the rachis is winged [6w].

In *Onoclea sensibilis* [7-8], the pinnae have wavy, but entire (smooth) margins [8e], the lower pinnae are opposite [8o], and the lower part of the rachis is not winged [8W] (Cobb *et al.* 2005, Holmgren 1998). These differences enable certain field identification.

The presence of *W. areolata* at Woodwardia Bog invites questions about how it got there. Has it always been present and gone undetected? Were spores borne on southerly winds from elsewhere in its range? Did its spores arrive on the feathers of waterfowl during spring migration, when they were attracted to standing water in the wetland? Or maybe some old-time botanist planted it, as reported for the Golden Club (*Orontium aquaticum*) at McLean Bog? We cannot know, but it still is fun to speculate. It also is worth noting that Woodwardia Bog is privately owned, without any plans at this time for its long-term conservation.

The New York Flora Atlas (Weldy *et al.* 2017) does not show any vouchered specimen records of *W. areolata* from most of upstate New York, except for Orange and Rockland Counties (in the lower Hudson River corridor), nor is it included in the 2008 list of plants from the Cayuga Region (Wesley *et al.* 2008). In his treatment of the local flora, Dudley (1886) did not include ferns and fern allies. **This observation constitutes the first images and specimen record of *W. areolata* from Tompkins County and Upstate New York**, north and west of Orange County. ৯০২



[7-8] A sterile frond from Schuyler County, N.Y., at the Finger Lakes National Forest, Blueberry Patch Campground, photographed on 17 September 2017, by Charles R. Smith.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: We thank David Werier and Robert Wesley for initially viewing images accompanying this article and confirming our identification. We also thank Susanne Lorbeer and Rosemarie Parker for directing us to a back issue of *Solidago*.

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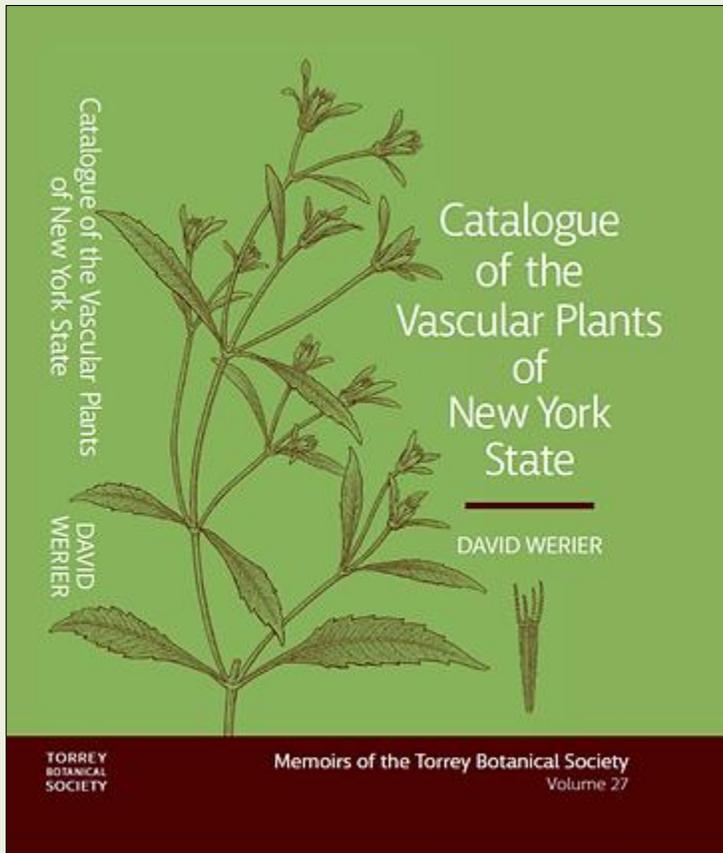
Dudley, W. R. 1886. *The Cayuga Flora. Part I: A Catalogue of the Phaenogamia Growing without Cultivation in the Cayuga Lake Basin. Bulletin of the Cornell University (Science)*, Vol II. Andrus & Church, Ithaca, N.Y. 133 pp.

[continued on next page]



[9] A young (incompletely developed) frond of *Woodwardia virginica* (Virginia Chain Fern) for comparison. Photographed at the Izaak Walton League Preserve, east of the Rome Sand Plains Research Management Area (NYSDEC) in Oneida County, N.Y., on 28 May 2017, by Charles R. Smith.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION



The TORREY BOTANICAL SOCIETY is pleased to announce that *CATALOGUE OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF NEW YORK STATE*, by **David Werier**, is scheduled for publication in late 2017 as volume 27 of *Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Society*. The *CATALOGUE*'s introduction includes a summary of the past and present status of the flora in New York, starting with John Torrey's publications in the 1840s.

The annotated species list (more than 3,500 species, 130 additional infraspecific taxa, and 250 hybrids growing outside of cultivation in the state) contains scientific names, common names, synonyms, nativity status, nonnative status, voucher information, state ranks for rarities, and notes on certain species. Additionally, a list of taxa excluded from the flora is presented, as well as a list of taxa that very likely occur, should occur, or soon may occur in the state.

Thirty pages of references are a testament to the extensive research involved in the preparation of this scholarly treatise.

The *CATALOGUE* will be available through the Torrey Botanical Society's web site:

(<https://www.torreybotanical.org/>)



Woodwardia areolata in Tompkins County, N.Y., REFERENCES, continued from previous page:

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LETTER

Dear Bob,

Solidago [18(3), October 2017] is wonderful. I love the Elderberry article, and your *Oxalis* piece.

Scott LaGreca

Durham, N.C.

21 November 2017



∞ NATURE GALLERY ∞

“Wallpaper Design”

by the Bald-faced Hornet (*Dolichovespula maculata*)

rendered in handmade paper, 1973



FLNPS Calendar, Winter 2017-2018

Wed. — Dec. 13 — 7:00 p.m. Annual *Solstice Celebration*
[One week early. See page 14 for details.]

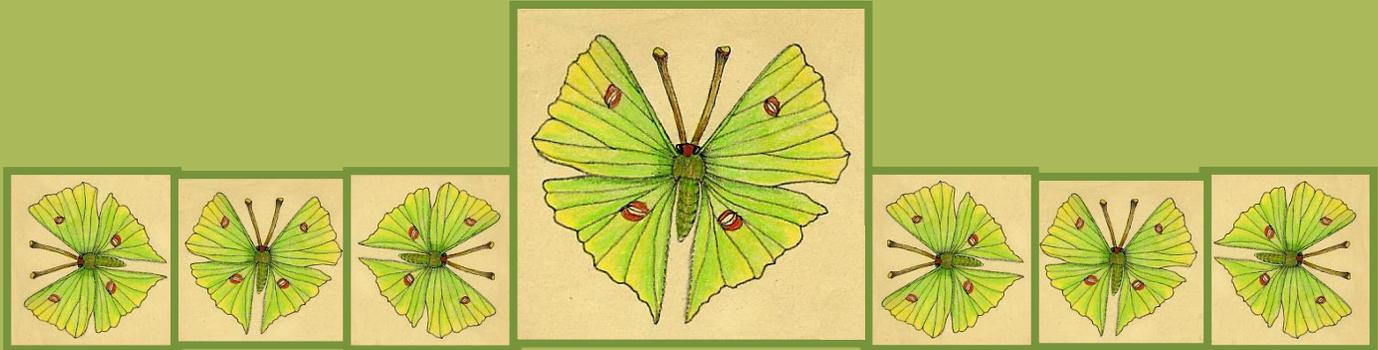
Wed. — Jan. 17 — 7:00 p.m. Annual *Members' Night*.
[See page 3 for details.]

Wed. — Feb. 21 — 7:00 p.m. *Steve Young*, New York Natural
Heritage Program, “Rare Plant Status in New York”

Other evening programs on Mar. 21, Apr. 18, & May 16.
All are held at the Unitarian Church Annex in Ithaca, N.Y.

We appreciate suggestions for speakers or topics,
walks, outings, and rambles. Please check our website
(flnps.org) for updates and details.

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society



Ginkgo Butterfly

Design from fallen, yellowing leaves of *Ginkgo biloba*, 22 Oct. 1988

The FLNPS 2017 Solstice Gathering Is One Week Early!

by Rosemarie Parker, on behalf of the FLNPS Steering Committee

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 — 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Unitarian Church Annex, 208 E. Buffalo St., Ithaca, N.Y.

[2nd floor, entrance on E. Buffalo St. An elevator is available.]

**Our annual Solstice Gathering is fun and friendly.
Please come and enjoy the plants and plant-loving people!**

Our annual Seed Exchange is part of the festivities. A list of seeds we already have is included with the December mailing. Please get in touch with Rosemarie Parker at info@flnps.org if you have seeds of native plants 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, the Gathering is the perfect time to decide what you want to grow for FLNPS to sell at the Spring Plant Sale — many species require a cold, moist, stratification period before they will germinate.

The plants we use to decorate the room for the Gathering give us materials for an Identify-the-Decorations “Quiz.” This is always fun, as well as educational, and we expect people to collaborate. You don't need to get any of the answers right to qualify for the Door Prize Drawing. It's always fun to have some new and different species for the quiz.

Every year, Door Prizes are donated by members. If you would like to contribute in this way, again, please tell me early, so we know how many to expect. We may save some for the January Members' Night!

To keep up our energy during all these activities, we ask everybody to bring some Food With a Native Element, and a prize is awarded to the creators of foods voted as favorites by the most participants. We'll have two prizes again this year, one for sweet and one for savory dishes. You can think “outside the box” here. Besides the all-time popular 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 okay). Creativity and truly local ingredients are appreciated.

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

It's time again to relax, as we share experiences and expertise. Please plan on attending and participating. We will be at our usual meeting location.