

WILD GARDENING

When A Plant Does Not Return Your Affections — *Thalictrum thalictroides*

by Rosemarie Parker

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HIS IS A GARDENER'S STORY, of a plant that I fell in love with, but which has thwarted my efforts to

"give it a home" in my garden. Sometimes we just have to accept that a particular plant simply is not able to thrive, and "home" is in the wild (and maybe someone else's garden). I first saw Rue Anemone, *Anemonella thalictroides*, in 1986 in the nursery of Elizabeth Cummins,

a Rhododendron grower. It was a cultivar, "Schoaf's double pink" (page 2), and

it was rambling all over her N.J. pinelands property. I took some home along with my Rhododendrons. You have probably seen the typical form of this ephemeral flower in the spring, in rich woods, a delicate white single flower atop columbine-looking leaves. There are naturally occurring forms with pink tinges, and semi-double flowers. As is often the case, horticultural breeding has produced very double and very colorful forms. I was thrilled the first time I saw *Anemonella thalictroides* (now rather redundantly called *Thalictrum thalictroides*) in the wild.

My little plant grew from the small rhizome to be quite a nice clump. It did this in a tiny garden surrounded by a hot stone patio in full sun, but the clump was shaded by a rock and other foliage. Not at all its favored woodland habitat, but I was an inexperienced gardener, and this was in Princeton, N.J., on old farmland, so the soil was rich and acidic. Ten years later I bought another clump from the same source. Wonderful. But the next year I moved to Ithaca. All my plant successes and failures reversed fortunes as the soil type and pH changed. The divisions of *T. thalictroides* that I brought with me must have

lasted a few years, because it was not until 2002 that I tried to obtain more.

Since then, I have purchased or exchanged plants and seeds roughly every 2 years. I have purchased plants; I have grown local seed; I have grown seed from other gardens; I have grown plants divided from local gardens. I have had cultivars and true species. I have tried multiple locations, including troughs. Most have not made it beyond a couple of years. At present I have two forms in my garden, one pink grown from seed, and one double cultivar purchased from a nursery. I would love to have the native form. But in looking at past photos, I see that my oldest plant (5 years old!) has shrunk over the last 2 years. It is time to face the fact that my home is just not suited to a plant that I love.

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Solidago 22(4), December 2021

Usually it does not take me this long to accept rejection. Learning about native plants over the past two decades has taught me to be much more aware of the conditions in which a species naturally thrives. Not to rely only on catalogs or gardening references. Yes, sometimes a species is forgiving of less optimal conditions. Occasionally it will even do pretty well. But most often a plant not in its naturally preferred condition just sits there, not reproducing, just hanging around. (Am I torturing it?) Preferences for pH are especially difficult to overcome. As a more mature gardener, I am more willing to grow the native species that like my conditions, and just admire (drool over) those that are really happy in the surrounding acidic or moist wildlands. Context matters. Admiring treasures in their natural setting is preferable to admiring a single stem kept alive by heroic measures in a bed of unlikely companions. Native plant gardens are more lovely and more ecologically beneficial when they are exuberant – with lots of any individual species. And that will only happen if we choose the native plants that include our conditions within their natural habitat range. (Except Solidago canadensis - let us not discuss Solidago canadensis in a small yard "meadow." It loves my yard all too well.) ഗ്രെ



Anemonella thalictroides small (pink) – photo by R. Parker – a single pink form, grown from seed.



 Anemonella thalictroides — photo by David J. Stang, CC BY-SA 4.0, My first view of the species, this cultivar ('Schoaf's pink') stays about 4 inches high.



 Thalictrum thalictroides — photo by Robert Wesley. The native form, usually a bit taller than the horticultural forms, but still under 10 inches.



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 NEW YORK 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 LOCAL FLORA (plant lists or details of species from specific 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, and 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 and returned). We also can always use FILLERS (very short notes, small images, cartoons) for the last few inches of a column.

Solidago Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 22, No.4

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December 2021

Published quarterly at Ithaca, New York, USA.

FLNPS (founded in 1997) is dedicated to the promotion of our native flora. We sponsor talks, walks, and other activities related to conservation of native plants and their habitats. Solidago is published as a colorful online version, and a B&W paper version that is mailed. The online format is posted 3 months after publication. Please see www.finps.org for details of membership, past Solidago issues, and updates about our programs.

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NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from last issue's [Solidago 22(3), Oct. 2021, p. 3] contest was of AMERICAN PURPLE CLE-MATIS (Clematis occidentalis). It is clearly one of the loveliest native wildflowers that grows in the Finger Lakes Region. Unfortunately White-tailed Deer also find this species lovely, at least to their palates. While never too common in this region, it appears to have declined in recent decades, possibly as the result of overabundant deer populations. Thanks to all those who entered the contest, and congratulations to contest winners: Betsy Darlington, Bob Dirig, Kristine Herman, Susanne Lorbeer, Rosemarie Parker, and Robert Wesley.

THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY PLANT IS SHOWN BELOW.



Hints and suggestions are often provided to contest participants who try. Common and/or scientific names are acceptable, and more than one guess is allowed. Please submit your answer to **David Werier** at

Nakita@lightlink.com

The photographs were taken by David Werier on 12 August 2008 on the Island of Newfoundland, Canada (background), and on 11 September 2021 in Mackinac County, Michigan, USA (closeup of flowers).

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 Walking Fern (Asplenium rhizophyllum) at the Clark Reservation near Syracuse, N.Y., 11 Sept. 2021.
Photo by Gin Mistry. See the TRIP REPORT on page 8.

Plant Trivia

by Norm Trigoboff

1. What does the word "tree" mean in the next sentence? *The rabbit comes out of the hole, goes around the tree and back through the hole.* For extra credit, who or what is the rabbit in this knotty problem?

2. What is the biggest pollinator in the world in terms of height?

3. Which common tree fruit may be considered non-vegan?

4. The eastern subterranean termite, *Reticulitermes flavipes*, is the only termite in Central New York. If you want to find it in the woods here, you should turn over logs of which tree species?

5. The lanes in the Ithaca City Cemetery are named after what?

6. Which country in the Americas gets its name from a native tree? (The tree leaf-flag question was too easy.)

7. Gutenberg printed his first Bibles on paper made from which plant? Hint: see question 1.

8. What's the best way to nail a small sign to a tree?

9. Which much prized drink is made from which plant product that has been eaten by and partly digested by which animal? Each choice is in the form: drink / plant part / animal. For extra credit: Is the drink vegan? Kosher?

A. cabbage juice / cabbage leaves / Turkish cabbage worm

- **B.** saki / rice grains / Japanese rice rat
- C. tea / tea leaves / Korean tea mouse
- D. spruce ale / reindeer moss stalks / Canadian reindeer
- E. wheat milk / wheat grains / wheat wasp

F. plane seltzer / plane tree seed balls / London plane squirrel

G. coffee / coffee beans / Asian palm civet

10. What tree graces the street by the front of Gimme! Coffee on N. Cayuga Street in Ithaca?

See answers on page 5.



Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Treasurer's Report, Fiscal Year 2020-2021

In accordance with FLNPS by-laws, the Treasurer shall make a report to the membership at the end of each fiscal year. Fiscal year 2020-2021 ended on August 31, 2021.

FLNPS has had a great year in terms of membership and donations, and the Plant Sale was very popular. Expenses are lower than budgeted because there have not been any in-person meetings this fiscal year.

Expenses:	2020-2021	Budget
Copying	284.05	\$300.00
Mailing	228.94	\$250.00
Snacks		\$250.00
Speakers		\$700.00
Rent		\$900.00
Office supplies	\$40.63	\$100.00
Equipment		\$100.00
Website	\$412.32	\$500.00
Plant Sale	\$339.15	\$650.00
Solstice Prize		\$50.00
Outreach Events		\$100.00
Scholarship		\$200.00
Sales Tax	\$146.32	\$200.00
Total Expenses	\$1,451.41	\$4,300.00
Income:		
Memberships	\$2,382	\$2,200.00
Interest (ckg.)	0.47	\$0.25
Plant Sale Gross	\$2,367	\$2,250.00
Donations	\$535	\$200.00
Total Income	\$5,284	\$4,650.25
Difference	\$3 <i>,</i> 833.06	\$350.25

Respectfully submitted,

Anna M. Stalter Former FLNPS Treasurer FY 2020-2021

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Plant Trivia Answers

by Norm Trigoboff

1. The sentence helps you tie a bowline knot. The "tree" is the standing part of the rope. The "rabbit" is the working end. For those who think this is something other than a plant question: This mnemonic aid was made up back when all rope was made of plant fiber.

2. The giraffe.

3. Some fig flowers trap and digest the fig-wasp that pollinated it. Purist vegans who object to honey might also shy away from crops pollinated by insects (or giraffes).

4. Oak, most likely Red Oak. You may have trouble finding this in books. If you knew the answer, you likely collect insects, snails or herps and have turned over lots of logs and (like me) have the social life of a newt.

5. Trees.

6. Brazil, first named Terra do Brasil, or Land of Brazil, was named for the brazilwood tree.

7. Hemp (Cannabis sativa L.)

8. One nail above the other (or one in the center for tiny signs), rather than side by side.



9. G. One pound of kopi luwak, the most expensive coffee in the world, can set you back \$600. It is brewed from coffee fruits (cherries) that have been eaten by and passed through the Asian palm civet. As the civets digest the outer cherries, their digestive enzymes improve the flavor and aroma of the beans. Workers separate the beans from the stools (perhaps on glass tables). The civets live in filthy cramped cages. They are malnourished because they eat mostly coffee cherries. Take a moment to digest all that. I would prefer to think that vegans and those who keep kosher frown on this. Other costly "biodynamically farmed" coffees are processed (cough) by wild deer (muntjacs), birds (jacus) and bats (the smaller fruit bats). Their stools are collected from the wild without harm to animals. As an aside, Wikipedia says that, "Reindeer lichen (Cladonia spp.) is a staple food of reindeer and caribou in the Arctic. Northern peoples in North America and Siberia traditionally eat the partially digested lichen after they remove it from the rumen of caribou that have been killed. It is often called 'stomach icecream'."

Kentucky Coffee Tree.

Letters (Stanley Jay Smith)



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Thanks, Bob. The Smith article was awesome. That was a lot of work. The issue is gorgeous.

> John F. Cryan, Catskills, N.Y. Email, 11 Oct. 2021

What a great piece, Bob. Really, really nice for Stanley....

Lou [Ismay] and I went to see Stanley in the hospital a day before he died. He looked so pale and sick, but we both gave him a hug.

I don't know if anyone else but me knows why he had to walk with a cane. Stanley told me. He saw a rare bog plant and ended up spending hours standing in the bog waist deep studying the plant. When he realized how long he was in, he left, but it was too late. He ... got some kind of infection in his legs from overexposure there [that] basically crippled him. A great man.

Don Rittner, Schenectady, N.Y. Emails, 11 Oct. 2021

Audrey [Bowe] —

I greatly enjoyed reading the biography of Stanley Smith in the most recent *Solidago* [22(3), October 2021, pp. 5-17]. Dr. Smith was a name that I heard frequently as a kid, but only knew a few snippets of his life, so I found this a very informative read! I wanted to send the following along in hopes that you could pass this along to the authors with some additional notes about Dr. Smith.

My Dad, Dr. Norton Miller (Emeritus Curator of Bryology and Quaternary Paleobiology at the NYS Museum), apprenticed with Stanley for several summers in the early 1960's.... [He] was transformative in starting my Dad's career trajectory. Although Dad passed away a decade ago, I queried my Mom about any memories that she had of interactions with Stanley. She wrote me the following:

Stanley boarded with a family in Albany where we visited once or twice. Norton considered him a brilliant botanist and his original mentor from whom he learned a great deal about plant identification and field botany. Whenever we visited him, they talked at length about botany and, I think, other topics....

One time the three of us were on Whiteface [Mountain, in the Adirondacks], the two of them collecting plants. It was getting late, and we were tending toward leaving, but Stanley, who was somewhat crippled and walked with a cane, was having trouble getting through the vegetation so we could not move very fast. A couple of official people told us to leave in an unfriendly way, but once they understood who we were and Stanley's condition, they helped him up the slope, and we departed.

Cheers — Andrew D. Miller, Ithaca, N.Y. Email of 11 Oct. 2021

Hi Bob,

Nice going getting the article on Stanley out! It is so well done, and after your (and colleagues') many years of work, it must feel great to see it in print! I can't thank you enough for writing and publishing this article. It will be much used going forward.

Best, David Werier, Willseyville, N.Y. Email, 17 October 2021

Hi Bob,

The issue, and SJS article, are wonderful.... What a great team you & Lee make! The article is long and detailed, with great illustrations and layout. Well done.

Scott LaGreca, Duke University, Durham, NC Email, 14 October 2021

★ Please see an early article by Stanley Jay Smith on the next page. ★

Solidago 22(4), December 2021

HISTORY OF BOTANY

OVERLOOKED FOOD PLANTS*

So often when I am in various parts of the country about here, we hear of people going without sufficient food. Of course, most people would think of telling them to have a garden. Sometimes, however, when numbers of the family have to work elsewhere, they have no time to tend a garden, and then the question of fresh vegetables in summer or canned vegetables in winter, not to mention fruit, is forgotten. With ... a little effort, great quantities of plants useful for food can be learned, and, with a little time, can be easily secured. Let us discuss some of these briefly.

Since it is summer-time, and most of us are aware of FRUITS all around us, we shall first consider them. We all have seen the strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries about here (no huckleberries, please), but I wonder how many of us are aware of the dozens of other kinds of available fruits. Ground-cherries are growing all around us here in *Slaterville*. These plants are related to both the Tomato and Potato. The fruit may be either yellow or purple and is enclosed in a blabbery sack. Hawthorns, of the brighter red, juicier types, are good for food. Acorns are ground into flour and used in many places. Then, to mention some things which are not often thought of as fruits, there are many types of so-called "grass-seeds" which have been used as we are accustomed to use wheat, rice, and oats. These include the Wood Millet and some of the Panics, known as Pearl Millet, and the Wild Rices which grow in some of the marshes.

Besides the more easily seen fruits, we also have a number of plants that are also good for <u>ROOT-VEGETABLES</u>. One of the best is the **Old-Man-of-the-Earth** which is related to the Morning-Glory, but has a huge tuber, sometimes a few feet through. It is used as is the Sweet Potato. Some smaller tubers are obtained from **Ground Nut**, **Hog Peanuts**, and the **Dwarf Ginseng**, all of which are relatively common, as is the tuber-bearing **Yellow Nutgrass** which is frequent along rivers or lakes. We have at least three kinds of **Wild Onions** about here, and in some places towards *Owego* or *Elmira* may be found the **Wild Yam**, which is reported to have edible tubers.

A number of our plants may be used for what is called "<u>GREENS</u>" in my part of the country, but in other places may be called "potherbs" or "green salads". Some of the **ferns** are used for this, particularly the members of the **Flowering Fern Family**, two of which are abundant in the *Slaterville Swamp*. Likewise the **Bracken**, the coarse fern with the triangular leaves, may be used. (**Milkweed** is my favorite potherb.) **Cattails** were much relished by the Indians, who not only used the tender spring shoots as we do Asparagus and the ripening tops to make a kind of gruel, but also used the leaves in caning and thatching and the roots for a source of starch.

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DOES YOUR JOB POSSESS YOU ? Chaplain Braunstein OVERLOOKED FOOD PLANTS Smith		
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EDITORIALS :: SPORTS :: SONGS :: CARTOONS :: JOKES :: SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO EVERY ENROLLEE IN THE COMPANY:		

Another plant which has received little recognition other than as a <u>FLAVORING</u> material is **Sassafras**, the leaves of which may be cooked and strained free of fiber for use in soups, much as is the highly-prized Okra or Gumbo of European Cooks.

The last group to consider is the plants which may be used for <u>SEASONING</u>. These are more familiar, including the **mints**, **Caraway**, **Wintergreen**, **Sassafras**, **Spicebush**, **Birch**, and the **Mustards**. One, not so well known, is **Wild Ginger**, the roots of which have a strong odor similar to ginger. This plant has been used for flavoring.

In the face of so much wild food, it would seem that many of the country families might fare better. Another aspect of this food-situation is that concentrated breeding on some of these forms might prove of great value as have some forms in Europe.

Stanley Smith

★ This bit of ephemera was published in August 1937 in *The Plow Jockey*, a newsletter of *Company 1279* at *CCC Camp S-125* in *Slaterville Springs, Tompkins County, N.Y.* The original was typewritten, and probably mimeographed. Smith's text (on pp. 4-5) is transcribed here essentially unchanged, with addition of boldface for the wild plants and places. His notes from 84 years ago, on local occurrences of edible wild plants during the Great Depression in Central New York, provide a unique window into life in those often desperate times. See the article on S. J. Smith in *Solidago* 22(3). – *Ed.*

Ferns of the Clark Reservation Near Syracuse, N.Y., Sept. 11, 2021

Led by Audrey Bowe. Photos & Text by Gin Mistry. Fern List by Liz Hernan



Purple Cliff Brake (above) and scenic (right)

Fern List

American Hart's Tongue Fern

(Asplenium scolopendrium, var. americanum) Maidenhair Spleenwort (Asplenium trichomanes) Bulblet Fern (Cystopteris bulbifera) Marginal Wood Fern (Dryopteris marginalis) Walking Fern (Asplenium rhizophyllum) Common Polypody (Polypodium virginianum) Evergreen Wood Fern (Dryopteris intermedia) Marsh Fern (Thelypteris palustris) Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis) Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis) Lady Fern (Athyrium angustum) Christmas Fern (Polystichum acrostichoides) *Purple Cliff Brake* (Pellaea atropurpurea) Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum pedatum)



On September 11, 2021, a small group of masked, tireless fern enthusiasts made their way through Clark Reservation's amazing terrain. Led by Audrey Bowe, the group slowly descended a long stone stairway, squished along the swampy shore of a glacial lake, meandered through forests, then scrambled onto high cliffs of limestone bedrock. The hiking was at times challenging, but the rewards were great. At every stop, in every environment, there were ferns.

We found "Walking Fern" (see page 4) creeping its way in great numbers along damp mossy rocks. We spotted the rare "Purple Cliff Brake" hanging on in a dry limestone crevice. And, my favorite, the tiny, beautiful "Maidenhair Spleenwort" flourishing in the deep, dark, moist cervices of monster boulders.

It was a wonderful day of good company and fern discoveries.

TRIP

REPORT

*Starred species were highlights of the trip

WILD GARDENING

The Parsnip Predator by Sandy Stark

It's the one I've waited for. The perfect tool for prairie work, a shovel, only better: its thin blade slides through compact soil with one push, cuts thick stalks underground, brings even the sturdiest plant to its knees.

Wild parsnip, burdock, thistle, ragweed no need to touch things toxic or prickly, no real requirement to use extra muscle or dramatic heft.

On slopes, it doubles as my walking stick, its shaft long enough to steady me, its handle made for holding, regaining balance and breath.

Already it outshines the sizeable army of shovels in my shed, left behind. Even my neighbors say they notice how often I walk by with it, how it adds a little swagger to my step.

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Reprinted from *The Prairie Promoter* **24:2**, p. 8 (August 2021), with permission from Sandy Stark, *The Toolbox Poems* (Finishing Line Press, 2010, www.finishinglinepress.org).



The Perfect Tool for Restoration (and Gardening)

by Rosemarie Parker

This poem exactly mirrors my feelings about my own *Parsnip Predator*. I bought mine years ago, when Todd Bittner, newly arrived Director of the Cornell Botanic Gardens' Natural Areas, ordered one for Krissy Boys to use in the Mundy Wildflower Gardens. Todd knew the tool from his work in the Midwest, and I saw how useful it was. At that point it was made by The Prairie Enthusiasts, designed to help in their impressive work restoring prairie habitat throughout the upper Midwest. The handle is rotated 90 degrees to the shaft, making it much easier on wrists. If you frequently remove tap-rooted invasives or need to move a plant embedded in a nest of desirable species, the narrow sharp blade does the trick. I would not be without one.

The Parsnip Predator can be ordered from The Prairie Enthusiasts via their website, https://www.theprairie enthusiasts.org/parsnip_predator, where there is also a useful video on the best technique to remove tough weeds with your Predator (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQPiDPxBsVQ). While you are there, take some time to explore some of the wonderful restoration and education projects the various chapters carry out.

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society



Celebrate the Winter Solstice at our Solstice Night 2021!

Wednesday, December 15th — 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

In the spirit of festive, in-person FLNPS Solstice Gatherings of pre-pandemic yore, we are hosting a virtual Winter Solstice event to bring a little midwinter light into the lives of Finger Lakes plant lovers.

Short presentations will include a visual tour of some botanical highlights of the past year, an introduction to a great new online flora of a favorite Finger Lakes park, a closer look at the gametophytes of Maidenhair Spleenwort, and so much more.

There will even be chances to **identify** some winter mystery plants and **win** plant-related prizes.

Registration is required. Please visit www.flnps.org to register.

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Winter-Spring 2022 Calendar

FLNPS is again sponsoring monthly talks (via *Zoom*). The following programs have been scheduled:

Tuesday, January 18, **7:00** p.m.: A Zoom talk on **Parasitic Plants of New York State** by *Dan Nickrent*, Visiting Professor in Plant Biology at Cornell.

<u>Tuesday, February 15</u>, 7:00 p.m.: A Zoom talk on The Flora of New York State by *David Werier*, local plant expert.

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.: A Zoom talk on **Grasses** by *Jerry Davis* of Plant Biology at Cornell University.

Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.: A Zoom talk on Native American Food Ways by Catherine Landis & a Colleague.

Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.: A Zoom talk on the Nature Conservancy's **Limestone Pavement Barrens** of Jefferson County, N.Y., by **Robert Wesley** of the Cornell Botanic Gardens.

Please see our *website* (flnps.org/activities), *listserv*, and *facebook page* for details, and updates about these and other and future programs.

Thank You!

FOR THIS ISSUE, we thank writers John F. Cryan, Robert Dirig, Adrianna Hirtler, Scott LaGreca, Andrew D. Miller, Rosemarie Parker, Don Rittner, Charles R. Smith & Claudia K. Melin, Stanley Smith (posthumously), Anna M. Stalter, Sandy Stark, Norm Trigoboff, and David Werier; and photographers Rosemarie Parker, David J. Stang, & Robert Wesley (pp. 1-2), David Werier (p. 4), Gin Mistry (pp. 4 & 8), Norm Trigoboff (p. 5), Sandy Stark (p. 9), Charles R. Smith & Claudia K. Melin (pp. 11-12), & Robert Dirig (p.12). Layout & design by the Editor; proofreading by Rosemarie; and printing by Gnomon Copy. Rosemarie posted our newsletters; Whitney Carleton and Anna Stalter mailed them; and Audrey Bowe, Rosemarie, & Anna organized calendar items. Many thanks to the FLNPS Steering Committee (p. 3) for performing the "routine but noble tasks" of the organization throughout 2021.

Best Wishes to FLNPS members (and all others in our reading audience) for safety, joyous outdoor revels with the winter flora, and for a New Year filled with wonderful wild plants and happy days afield! — Robert Díríg





E FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH SEASIDE GOLDENROD on the sand dunes of Cape May Point, N.J., in the 1980s, where it blooms during the fall bird migration through that area. Until recently, the only area in the Cayuga Region where we had seen the plant was in Tompkins County, at the junction of Warren Road and U.S. Route 13, where there still was a small population of about 200 stems in multiple clones in September 2021. Recently collected specimens from that location can be found in the L. H. Bailey Hortorium Herbarium at Cornell (see http://tcf.bh.cornell.edu/). The goldenrod has continued to spread west in a rocky ditch along the north side of Route 13, just before its intersection with Triphammer Road. In this note, we refer to the "Cayuga Region" as defined by WESLEY *ET AL.* (2008).

Driving from Watkins Glen (Schuyler County) to Penn Yan (Yates County) along N.Y. Routes 14 and 14A on 24 September 2021, we were surprised to see from our car several roadside patches of a large, robust goldenrod with bright yellow flowers and shiny leaves. Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*) was going out of bloom, and we suspected the plants might be Seaside Goldenrod. We confirmed our guess when we were able to pull safely to the edge of the road at the junction of N.Y. Routes 14A and 226 (Town of Reading, Schuyler County). The photos above and on the next page (top) were taken at that location, as was a specimen for pressing and eventual transfer to the Bailey Hortorium Herbarium. Along Route 14A in both Schuyler and Yates Counties, we frequently saw Seaside Goldenrods blooming in clusters at the bases of mailbox posts and road signs, where they were protected from mowers. The largest roadside population of Seaside Goldenrod we saw was on the east side of Route 14 at its junction with Salt Point Road, at the north edge of Watkins Glen, where it was protected from mowing by a length of steel guardrail. Following our sightings in Schuyler County, we had a similar experience on 6 October 2021, driving between Whitney Point and Binghamton on I-81. Just south of the Whitney Point exit (Exit 8), we saw large patches of Seaside Goldenrod in the I-81 median and along the sides of the road in Broome County, just east of the Cayuga Region. These plants had regrown after an earlier DOT mowing; they were shorter in stature but still with abundant bloom. It is possible that the abundant Seaside Goldenrod we saw in 2021 resulted from the greater summer rainfall the region experienced.

Seaside Goldenrod can be easy to spot along roadsides, where it tolerates winter salt residues. It is a tall plant, with shiny leaves, and large, bright, yellow flowers. In 2021, it appeared to be at peak bloom when other species of goldenrods

in our region were nearly finished blooming. Though having been reported from the salty regions of the Syracuse area since at least 1909 (GOODRICH 1912), WESLEY ET AL. (2008) report its first occurrence in the Cayuga Region as 2005, and consider the plant "Rare" (1-5 known sites of occurrence). HOUGH (2019) also describes observations along I-81 south of Syracuse reported by Donald Leopold. Other observers report the plant on the southeastern edge of Seneca Lake and along Rock Cabin Road, from 1982 and 2014 (R. Dirig, pers comm.). Perhaps there now are enough sites for Seaside Goldenrod in the Cayuga Region to promote it from "Rare" to "Scarce" (< 20 sites) or possibly to "Frequent" $(\pm 100 \text{ sites})$, using the criteria of WESLEY ET AL. (2008). With extensive winter use of salt along major highways, the wind-dispersed seeds of Seaside Goldenrod may find favor-



able habitats along roadsides, where competition is reduced from plants that are not salt tolerant. It also is possible that highway equipment used for removing snow could pick up the seeds, deposit them along highways, and serve as another means of dispersal. At present, the *New York Flora Atlas* (WELDY ET AL. 2021) does not report vouchered specimens of *S. sempervirens* from any of the counties mentioned in this report (Broome, Tompkins, Schuyler, Wayne, and Yates); a "vouchered" specimen is a specimen held in a herbarium. If you have an opportunity to collect specimens, be sure to press them and deposit them in the Bailey Hortorium Herbarium at Cornell, with date and detailed location information, where they can be viewed in the future by other botanists.



North end of Rock Cabin Road near Watkins Glen, Schuyler Co., N.Y., 15 Sept. 2014, photo by Robert Dirig.

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