



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

Solidago

Newsletter of the
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 24, No. 4



December 2023

PHOTO ESSAY

Late Autumn Glory

by Robert Wesley

*This is a great time of year to look at mosses and lichens, including
Sphagnum species, which are most colorful now.*



This is **Delicate Feather Moss** (*Thuidium delicatulum*) and **Warnstorff's Peat Moss** (*Sphagnum warnstorffii*) in a rich fen near Ithaca, N.Y.



Terete-branched Peat Moss (*Sphagnum teres*) is also very colorful in fall and winter. Unlike most *Sphagna*, it is characteristically found in rich fens and other fairly alkaline wetlands.

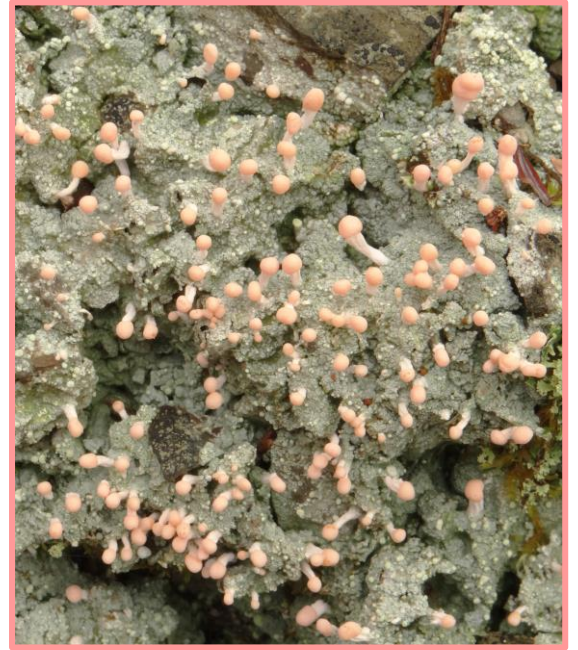
Rich-Fen Peat Moss (*Sphagnum centrale*) is characteristic of fens, but not in acid bogs.



This is the **Ladder Lichen** (*Cladonia verticillata*) in a barren old field.



I think of **Large Cranberry** (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) as growing in bogs and fens. But here it is in a barren old-field situation, with **Gray Reindeer Lichen** (*Cladonia rangiferina*).



Tiny mushroom-like fruiting bodies (*apothecia*) of the **Pink Earth Lichen** (*Dibaeis baeomyces*) grow from a gray-green crust on the soil.



Sphagnums and other bryophytes are noticeably pigmented, and at their most colorful right now in bogs and fens. This is **Little Red Bog Moss** (*Sphagnum rubellum*) growing among **Northern Pitcher Plant** (*Sarracenia purpurea*) leaves.

THE FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY STEERING COMMITTEE

Freyda Black: Facebook Page

Audrey Bowe: Treasurer & Zoom Coordinator

Krissy Boys: Native Plant Gardener

Whitney Carleton: Outings & Education Chair

Patricia A. Curran: Paper Mailings, At Large

Adriana Del Grosso: At Large

Robert Dirig: Newsletter Editor*

Diane Florini: Meeting Recorder, At Large

Adrianna Hirtler: Publicity

Carolyn Klass: At Large

Mary Squyres: Supper Club

Anna M. Stalter: Secretary, Membership

Robert Wesley: President, Outings & Education



ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTER STAFF

Rosemarie Parker: Webmaster & Assistant
Newsletter Editor

David Werier: Newsletter Editor Emeritus



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, 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 24, No. 4

December 2023

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.flnps.org for details of membership, past *Solidago* issues, and updates about our programs.



Common Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) leaves show autumn color. Photo by Robert Wesley.

CONTENTS

PHOTO ESSAY

- Late Autumn Glory, Mosses & Lichens* (Robert Wesley) • 1-3
Late Autumn Glory, Old Fields & Forest Edges
(Robert Wesley) • 16-17

COLUMNS & MISCELLANY

- Front Matter & Contents* • 4
Name That Plant Contest (David Werier) • 5
Letter (Teresa Iturriaga) • 5
Thank You! (Robert Dirig) • 5
Plant Trivia/Answers (Norm Trigoboff) • 11/13-14
FLNPS Winter 2023-2024 Calendar • 14

WILD GARDENING

- Converting Our Lawn into a Meadow for Butterflies and Pollinators* (Claudia K. Melin & Charles R. Smith) • 6-10
REVIEW: *First Ever Garden Tours* (Rosemarie Parker) • 12-13

LOCAL FLORA

- Seed Walk 2023* (Rosemarie Parker) • 11
An Underappreciated Plant? (Charles R. Smith) • 15



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

**Deadline for the March 2024
issue is February 15th!**

NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST

The photo from last issue's NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST [Solidago 24(3), p. 10] was of **Northern Hatpins (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*)**, a plant of acid water, and quite rare in central New York. It primarily grows underwater as a basal rosette of leaves, although during low-water conditions, the entire plant can become exposed. Erupting from the rosette of leaves is an elongate stem that supports a dense head of flowers, which are held above the level of the water. Thanks to all who entered the contest and congratulations to the winners: **Bob Dirig**, **Rosemarie Parker**, **Charlie Smith**, and **Robert Wesley**.

THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY PLANT IS SHOWN BELOW.



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



The photographs were taken by David Werier on July 16, 2019, in Onondaga County, N.Y.



LETTER

Hi Bob,

What a strikingly beautiful issue of *Solidago* [Vol. 24(3)]! The purple variety of exquisite flowers, mixed with the yellow ones [right] is amazing, and so interesting as well. Congratulations on such a superb editorial job! I will subscribe.

Teresa Iturriaga. Ithaca, N.Y., 11 September 2023

Thank You!

THIS ISSUE was another joy to create, with abundant contributions by **writers** Teresa Iturriaga, Claudia K. Melin, Rosemarie Parker, Charles R. Smith, Norm Trigoboff, David Werier, & Robert Wesley. Images were shared by **photographers** Linda Blossom (p. 12), Krissy Boys (p. 13), Rosemarie Parker (pp. 6, 11-12), Charles R. Smith (pp. 7-10 & 15), Norm Trigoboff (p. 14), David Werier (p. 5), & Robert Wesley (pp. 1-5 & 16-17). *Special thanks to Robert Wesley for sharing his glorious images of the Finger Lakes flora throughout the four issues of this volume!*

Layout & design by the Editor, **proofreading** by Rosemarie Parker, and **printing** by Gnomon Copy. Anna Stalter emailed copies, Pat Curran mailed paper copies, & Rosemarie posted to the web.

Please check our website (**www.flnps.org**) regularly throughout the winter for announcements and details of walks, talks, and other events. Many thanks to our Steering Committee (p. 4) and all of our members for supporting FLNPS and its activities. We wish everyone in our reading audience a delightful holiday season and winter, filled with joyous outdoor revels with wild plants!

— *Robert Dirig*

New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) & **Goldenrod** (*Solidago* sp.).

Photo by Robert Wesley.



All photos by
C. R. Smith,
except below

Wild Gardening -

Converting Our Home Lawn into a Meadow for Butterflies and Other Pollinators

by *Claudia K. Melin & Charles R. Smith*

We have lived at our home for 35 years, enough time to make garden designs and live to see the results. During our residence here, plants that arrived in four-inch flats have grown to robust maturity next to existing and transplanted plant selections. We do keep some groomed and tidy garden areas at home, and we have always engaged in limited mowing of our home lawn. We've set the mower blade up high to encourage any White Clover and Common Blue Violet in the lawn, at times mowing around the edge of the blooming patches. Years ago, this was our first effort at gardening for butterflies, when we learned that violets are a food plant for Great Spangled Fritillary. The lawn makes open space around the house, creates a vista into the distance, and provides walking and sitting places to enjoy all the plantings we've made over the years. One-third of our lawn area is our butterfly meadow, with peak bloom during August. The butterfly garden began with one inspiration planting, about 20 years ago, and subsequently evolved into a larger meadow in view of the kitchen window and the front porch.

Our inspirations began with visits to the garden examples at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas. These gardens showed us the importance of planting both nectar plants for adult butterflies, and food plants for the caterpillars. We learned from the Center that a successful butterfly garden should have a number of features, including walking paths for viewing, and we realized these features at our home site. A



Our "wild" front yard on September 6, 2023. *Scenic by Rosemarie Parker*

“good” butterfly garden is located away from home activity areas, not in the play areas for children or dogs. It should have exposure to sun, facing both south and west, and should have some protection from wind, achieved from a location at the edge of a house, foundation, stone wall, plank fence, or woods. A “good” butterfly garden has thermal features to facilitate butterfly resting and sunning — usually with masonry, stone walls, gravel walks, and some shade as well (at our house, a gravel driveway suffices). It should be open to the sky, and not overtopped by awnings, pergolas, or hanging branches. Last, and crucially, a “good” butterfly garden is not sprayed with pesticides or herbicides, and not excessively groomed by clipping, trimming, or mowing until the perennial plant cycle is finished each year. A walkway through the garden is a must, and the appearance is shaggy and informal, often verging on unkempt.

Our inspiration planting arrived here about 20 years ago. We bought a one-gallon pot of **Purple Joe Pye Weed**, to attract butterflies. It was planted in a perpetually wet area in the lawn, and we expected it would grow well there and make mowing in that wet spot a non-issue. In three years, our expectations were rewarded as the Joe Pye Weed became a statue-like clump six feet in diameter and five feet tall, and dominating the wet area. It was placed away from the house, surrounded by open space in the yard, which made it easy to view and appreciate. Butterflies swarmed to it every summer, and we declared it the best informal plant ever. The southern exposure, and protection from wind at the edge of the woods gave us confidence in what could be achieved. The house itself also provided a windbreak for this area. We began to find volunteer sprouts of Joe Pye Weed, which we pulled out, in unwanted areas — against the house foundation in our hostas, at the outflow of the rain gutters, and in the rhododendrons. If we left the Joe Pye Weed standing until December, which sometimes happened early on, it might be beautifully covered with sparkling frost or snow, or

adorned with goldfinches eating its seeds. This gave us optimism that a good butterfly planting might spread on its own and take care of itself. Back at the planted clump, we cut the Joe Pye Weed stems down every fall, moved the debris to the woods, and waited until 2015, reading up about native butterfly plants and learning from our field expeditions more about which perennial flowers would best attract pollinators. During this period, we were also rewarded by a volunteer plant of native **Boneset**, a great nectar plant for butterflies, which we encouraged and left alone to mature near the clump of Joe Pye Weed.

In 2015, we were ready to make our move. We worked with a local nursery, which specialized in native plants. Sod was removed and two garden beds, adjacent to and structurally anchored by the Joe Pye Weed, were planted. Total area was about 100 sq. feet. No more mowing! Our butterfly planting was en-



Original plantings in 2017. The fence at the edge of the lawn discouraged Cottontail Rabbits. Joe Pye Weed was planted about 2003.

hanced by our single choice for hummingbirds, the **Cardinal Flower**. We really wanted some of this plant, although we understood the quirky habit of Cardinal Flower, reported to have short-lived perennial, biennial, and annual forms, and its habit of popping up in places where we hadn't planted it. We wanted to give this super-charged hummingbird nectar plant a try, in spite of some apparent difficulty in managing it.

Results were achieved the following growing season, in 2016. **Baltimore Checkerspot** butterflies arrived in numbers, laying eggs on the leaves of **White Turtlehead**. The emergent caterpillars chewed up the leaves, and stimulated the turtlehead plants to grow more vigorously. We were rewarded later with swarms of newly-hatched Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies, a glorious sight. **Pink Turtlehead**, in our experience not used by Baltimore Checkerspot, went unchewed, and also didn't persist in this garden.



Left: **Baltimore Checkerspot** butterfly adult. Center: **Baltimore Checkerspot** larvae in their web "nest."
Right: **White Turtlehead** with a bumblebee drone pollinator

Swamp Milkweed was an immediate success, being an early bloomer, and preferred by all butterflies and other pollinators. In some years, we find it loaded with **Monarch** caterpillars. **Green-headed Coneflower** was slower to make a big show of blooming and attracting butterflies, but its restrained growth was a relief (we expected it to be more invasive), and its seeds are hugely popular with goldfinches.

New York Ironweed bloomed the first year, and was not the butterfly magnet we expected, but always in general use by pollinators, and the tallest plant in the garden. Ironweed gets high marks for its statuesque beauty — a vase of deep purple flowers above dark stems — and tough persistence through hot, dry periods. When Ironweed develops its puffy pillow of seeds, goldfinches and Pine Siskins love it. During this early period, we mowed around the 2015 garden beds, weeded them, and maintained the existing lawn area. We continued to assume that the lawn turf would suppress volunteer growth of our butterfly plants, but we were wrong.

New York Ironweed up close.



Above: a **Hummingbird Clearwing** moth at **Swamp Milkweed**. It can fly like a hummingbird: up, down, backward, forward, and sideways.

Bottom: a **Digger Wasp** at **Swamp Milkweed**



For a couple of years, we enjoyed blooms of Cardinal Flower in the garden beds and wondered what would eventually happen. Would this lobelia swell into larger clumps, or seed itself hither and yon in unexpected areas? By 2020, we knew, and today's butterfly meadow commenced. We found new sprouts of Cardinal Flower growing in the lawn, along the downhill drainage swale from the garden beds. Seed had been dropped and then carried, possibly by ants, rainfall, and snow melt, along the swale, and we had potential for an entire planting of Cardinal Flower, if only we could restrain ourselves from mowing the lawn there. We decided to let the lawn go, stop mowing, and let all naturalized seeding progress.

Since 2020, the butterfly and hummingbird plants, grown from seeds dispersed freely from the original beds, now occupy this section of the lawn, now a butterfly meadow, and continue to naturalize there. Cardinal Flower now numbers 200 or more plants, all from an original six plants. Rudbeckia and New England Aster from our other flower gardens have also seeded themselves into this butterfly meadow, a welcome addition for this design purpose.

We were also rewarded, at the opposite end of the swale at the driveway, by a lawn repair from our winter snowplow, who had gouged up part of the lawn. He repaired the gouges, put down topsoil, and seeded it with a mix of lawn grass and **Red Clover**. The Red Clover patch is about 12×12 feet, and a welcome butterfly and bumblebee planting in this design. It blooms in June-July and attracts all sorts of pollinators.

So, what does one year look like in the butterfly garden? In the spring, we mow a single walking path through the garden and leave the remainder of it alone and unmowed. Bloom begins in July and peaks in August. For weeks, the garden is gaudy red, white, blue, and purple, with smacks of yellow. Our total butterfly list is 46 species since June 2004. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use our feeders all summer, but when the Cardinal Flower blooms, they demonstrate a marked preference for its sweet nectar. Between 10-20 hummingbirds use this area for the month-plus of Cardinal Flower bloom, then they depart on migration soon after Labor Day, in September. In the fall during September and October, the pollinator plants are allowed to set seed. This is the time when goldfinches tear into the flower heads and help drop seeds into the lawn. Late October: time to cut everything down. Now that this garden is established, the stems are tough and thick. A battery-powered hedge clipper works on the thickest clumps, and we shake more seeds out of the clumps as we carry away the debris. Finally, the mow-



Cardinal Flower, also called "Cardinal Lobelia"



Blue and white color forms of
Great Blue Lobelia



Magenta
Lobelia
cardinalis

er blade is set to the height of 6+ inches and the lawn is mowed. All mowed material, which includes the seeds, is left on the ground and not raked or hauled away. It takes a few days of work, but it's the only work this garden requires for maintenance.



Partial List of Original Native and Non-Native Plants Attractive to Pollinators

(* = non-native. English and scientific names and sequence of species in lists follow Werier, D. 2017. *Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of New York State*. Torrey Botanical Society, Bronx, N.Y.)

- *White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)
- Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)
- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Tall Flat-topped White Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*) [larval food for Harris's Checkerspot]
- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- Common Flat-topped Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*)
- Common Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*)
- Swamp Goldenrod (*S. gigantea*)
- Common Wrinkle-leaved Goldenrod (*S. rugosa*)
- New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Crooked-stemmed Aster (*S. prenanthoides*)

Partial List of Introduced Native and Non-Native Plants Attractive to Pollinators

- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
[larval food for Spicebush Swallowtail]
- Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*) [attractive to skippers]
- *Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Meadow Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana clausa*)
[attractive to bumblebees]
- White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
[larval food for Baltimore Checkerspot]
- Pink Turtlehead (*Chelone lyonii*)
- Purple Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)
- Green-headed Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)
- New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
[for hummingbirds, both red- and magenta-flowering forms]
- Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siphilitica*) [both blue- and white-flowering forms attract bumblebees]

Butterflies Observed at 449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, N.Y., Beginning in 2004

Black Swallowtail
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Giant Swallowtail
[first on 15 Jun 2013]
Spicebush Swallowtail
[first on 12 Jul 2021, egg-laying on Spicebush]
Cabbage White
Clouded Sulphur
Orange Sulphur
American Copper
Bronze Copper (♀)
[first on 5 Jul 2020]
Acadian Hairstreak
Striped Hairstreak
[first on 14 Jul 2014]
Banded Hairstreak
[first on 10 Jul 2011]
Eastern Pine Elf
[first on 21 May 2021]
Eastern Tailed-blue
Spring Azure
"Summer" Spring Azure
Great Spangled Fritillary
Meadow Fritillary
Pearl Crescent
Baltimore Checkerspot
Harris's Checkerspot
[first on 8 Jun 2011]
Question Mark
[first on 30 Jun 2017]
Eastern Comma
Milbert's Tortoiseshell
[first on 24 Jun 2017]
Compton Tortoiseshell
[first on 18 Mar 2022]

Mourning Cloak
American Lady
Painted Lady
[first September 2017, multiple sightings]
Common Buckeye
[first on 17 Oct 2017]
Red Admiral
Red-spotted Purple
[first on 26 Jun 2020]
White Admiral form of Red-spotted Purple
Viceroy
Northern Pearly-Eye
[first on 31 Jul 2020]
Little Wood-Satyr
Common Ringlet
[first on 8 May 2004]
Common Wood-Nymph
Silver-spotted Skipper
Dreamy Duskywing
Juvenal's Duskywing
[first on 30 May 2013]
Common Checkered-Skipper
Peck's Skipper
[first on 10 Jun 2014]
Tawny-edged Skipper
[first on 18 Jun 2014]
Least Skipper
Hobomok Skipper
European Skipper
Dun Skipper

46 Species and 2 distinctive subspecies, as of 13 June 2022

Postscript: If you choose to have asters in your wild garden, there's an additional bonus. If you leave the stems from **Joe Pye Weeds** (*Eutrochium maculatum* or *E. purpureum*), **New England Aster** (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), or other asters standing into early November (or later), you can expect visits from seed-eating birds, like goldfinches, juncos, or sparrows.



- A winter-plumaged **American Goldfinch** enjoying **New England Aster** seeds in our garden in late October 2023

Seed Walk 2023 ~ by Rosemarie Parker



Although delayed by weather, this year's walk became another successful seed collecting foray by FLNPS members, led by **KRISSY BOYS** and **ROBERT WESLEY**. Twenty-seven species were collected at the **ARNOT FOREST PRESERVE**, and a few nice ones are listed below. Most will be represented at the December seed table.

NOTABLE SPECIES: *Agrostis perennans*, *Anaphalis margaritacea*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Diervilla lonicera*, *Gentiana clausa*, *Pseudognaphalium macounii*, *Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*, *Rubus allegheniensis*, & *Uvularia sessilifolia*.



PLANT TRIVIA by Norm Trigoboff

1. One of the following is false. Which one? **A.** Castor oil, which boils at 595°F, has been used as a lubricant in aircraft and high performance cars. **B.** The Adirondack Park is larger than Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Zion National Parks combined. **C.** Leaves of the Monkey Puzzle Tree may persist up to 7 years. **D.** There are about 100,000 registered cultivars of daylily. **E.** Over 50% of Estonia is forest.

2. Name the odd man out: eelgrass community, turtle grass community, mangrove community, coral reef community.

3. Name the odd man out: *Astragalus*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Carex*, *Euphorbia*, *Phragmites*, *Psychotria*.

4. True or false: **A.** Ocean mud made from old diatom shells may get a half mile thick. **B.** A population of diatoms may double in size every day. **C.** Diatoms sequester much carbon dioxide. **D.** Each year, 27,000,000 tons of diatom dust blow off the Sahara Desert. Some of this crosses the Atlantic and fertilizes the Amazon Basin. **E.** Diatoms generate 20% to 50% of the oxygen released into the atmosphere each year. **F.** Phytoplankton diatoms have declined 1% per year in recent years. **G.** Fossil diatoms, or diatomaceous earth, may be used as a natural, low-risk insecticide.

5. Name the odd man out: Venus Flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*);

Waterwheel Plant (*Aldrovanda vesiculosa*); Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*—our local species); Cord Moss (*Funaria hygrometrica*); Diatoms; *Oscillatoria* (a blue-green bacterium); Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pudica*); Tall Oat Grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).

6. Name a word that may mean all of these: **A.** a plant that flowers at a certain time. **B.** a foolish mistake. **C.** a social activist from Central N.Y. who, among other things, pushed for reform of women's clothing. **D.** the kind of woman's clothing referred to in C. **E.** a person who matures at a certain age.

7. What living thing most resembles the dot map of its global distribution?

8. If a man of 20 can pick 10 pounds of blackberries per hour, and a woman of 18 can pick 8 per hour, how many will they gather in an hour if they go blackberrying together?

9. My friend Zena asked me to water her house plants while she was away. She said to water the small ones more often than the large ones. I thought that the larger plants would lose water faster. It transpired that the smaller ones dried out faster. Can you explain this paradox?

10. **A.** Where is the largest herbarium in the world—in terms of number of plants? **B.** Where is the largest scientific exhibit in the world—in terms of length?

[See answers on pages 13-14.]

REVIEW

First Ever Garden Tours

by Rosemarie Parker

This year FLNPS members and friends were treated to a new type of event — tours of gardens where native plants play a large role. I admit to getting over-enthusiastic at the suggested gardens, and ended up with ten gardens over five days (thirteen options, since three repeated in spring & late summer). The spring visits were well attended, but visitors fell off as the season progressed. Comments on individual gardens and on the whole concept were positive. I will probably try to organize two days next season, hopefully one in the western Finger Lakes and one nearer Ithaca, but different than this year. (Nominate some, please!)

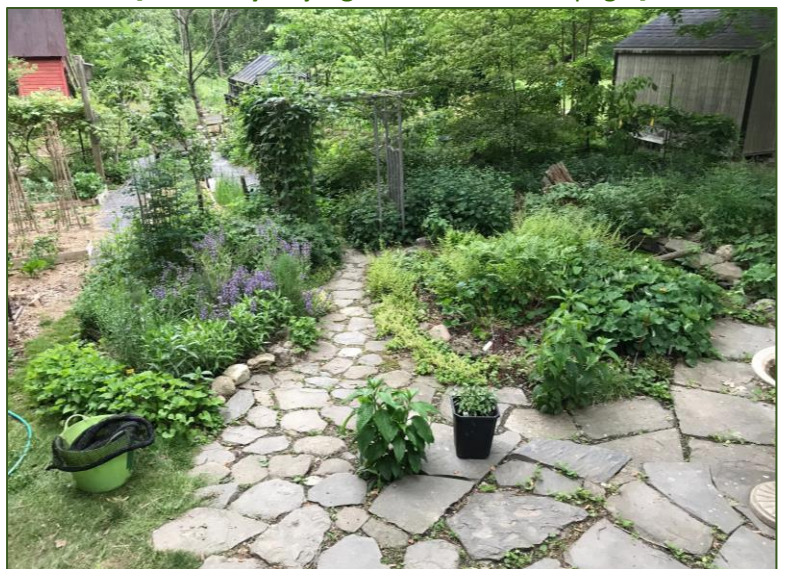
Thank you to the gardeners who allowed us to wander through this season: **Linda Blossom, Bridgit Brewer, Krissy Boys, Deanna English, Gin Mistry, Rosemarie Parker, Randy & Jo Anne Ross, Gail Shapiro, Mary Squyres, and Janice Wiles.** [See additional information about some of the gardens on the FLNPS website under the “past events with reports” tab. Some plant lists, some maps, etc.]

Some feedback:

- ◆ I didn't attend the earliest options (too busy in my own gardens!), but wish I had. Later in the summer, I focused on the Ithaca-area gardens so as not to have to make a whole day field trip out of town; so yes, grouping gardens in the same area on any given date sounds like a good idea. Plant lists and garden plans were helpful. Basically, I enjoyed the visits immensely — more, more, please!
- ◆ [We] loved visiting gardens this summer, and are so grateful for the opportunity. We just moved to Ithaca ... and we have so much to learn. I can't express how helpful it has been to be able to see so many people's gardens, and also talk to them, about their transformations, and helpful notes for us. I don't know what I would have done, as far as getting started thinking about our land, if not for this opportunity. I also can't imagine any better opportunity, for us at least, being new to a property, than this has been. I really loved ... these gardens that ... are “in process” so we can really see how land transforms. The diversity of gardens too! So many ideas. And every garden owner we spoke to was so helpful.
- ◆ I definitely preferred the garden days where all the houses that day were near to each other. I am so grateful to everyone who opened their garden for our visits, and helped answer my questions. I learn best by head-to-head with teachers, so thank each of them so much for teaching me some of what they know. I really hope you can feel how thankful I am and truly how much these visits have helped me.
- ◆ Wow, wonderful. [photos from the Ross garden in Cortland]
- ◆ I was able to make the suggested native plant garden/grower trip to Skaneateles ...Saw *Doellingeria umbellata* — A pretty cool plant. [Yes, seeing new plants is also part of the fun! — RP]



- ◀ Water feature with mostly natives in the **Ross garden**, Cortland, N.Y. (photo by R. Parker)
- ▼ **Linda Blossom's garden**, Interlaken, N.Y. (photo by L. Blossom)
- ▶ [See **Krissy Boys' garden** on the next page.]



First Ever Garden Tours
continued



Krissy Boys' garden, Richford, N.Y. (photo by Krissy)

ANSWERS to Plant Trivia

by Norm Trigoboff

1. **A.** True. Castor oil was an important engine lubricant for many years. **B.** True. The Adirondack Park, a State Park of 6 million acres, is the largest protected area in the conterminous U.S. Yellowstone clocks in at 2.2 million acres, Grand Canyon at 1.2, Yosemite at 0.75, and Zion at 0.15 million acres. **C.** False. Much longer. Wikipedia says an average of 24 years. **D.** True. Daylilly (*Hemerocallis*) has about 16 species. Most cultivars come from *H. fulva* or *H. flava*. (Paul Limmer, my old high school track coach, introduced at least 8 of them.) **E.** True. Much of it has brown bear, lynx, wolf, and wifi hotspots.

2. Coral is an animal. The others are plants. They all protect or feed many kinds of marine life.

3. *Phragmites* has four species. The other genera have over a thousand species each. *Astragalus* (milk vetch) wins with over 3000.

4. All true. Wikipedia says.

5. Butterwort. The others, or parts of them, can move under their own power (other than by growth). Cord Moss and Tall Oat Grass (and many other plants) have hygroscopic parts that twist or untwist when wet. You can give a handful of these to a little kid and let him dunk his hand underwater. Have the camera ready. *Oscillatoria* filaments are kind of creepy. If placed in a glass of water, they can climb up the side of the

glass. Perhaps late at night, when the radio is off and you're asleep, they may climb down the other side of the glass, across the floor and into your bedroom.

6. The word is *bloomer* (or *Bloomer*, or *bloomers*). **A.** Sometimes it's a general term for flowers. **B.** British slang. **C.** Amelia Jenks Bloomer, from Homer, N.Y., fought for temperance and women's suffrage in the mid 1800's. **D.** A dress with pants named for Ms. Bloomer, who, like other women freedom fighters of her day, wore them. **E.** As in late bloomer.

7. I vote for the slime mold *Didymium melanospermum*. Its fruiting structures, tiny white spheres, spread randomly over a damp surface. Compare the photo to the map [next page].

8. This is from Artificial Intelligence: A Very Short Introduction, by M. A. Boden, 2018. The question helps show how people and computers differ. The author is short on details, but suggests that the amount is likely far less than 18 pounds.

9. Smaller plants live in smaller pots. These hold smaller reserves of water, so they need water more often.

10. **A.** London, England: The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, AKA "RBG." **B.** Ithaca, New York (partly). The Sagan Planet Walk, built by the Sciencecenter, starts at the Ithaca Commons and seems to end at the Ithaca Sciencecenter with the outer solar system, but then sails to Hawaii to model the distance to our nearest star, Alpha Centauri. See sciencecenter.org/sagan-walk.



Photo by Norm Trigoboff

▲ The slime mold *Didymium melanospermum*, growing over *Sphagnum* at McLean Bogs, Tompkins Co., N.Y., ca. 31 July 2022.

ANSWERS to Plant Trivia

by Norm Trigoboff (continued)

▼ **7.** I vote for the slime mold *Didymium melanospermum*. Its fruiting structures, tiny white spheres, spread randomly over a damp surface. Compare the photo to the map of its distribution:

[https://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20m?kind=Didymium+melanospermum&guide=Mycetozoa_GSMNP].



Large Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)

Photo by Robert Wesley

FLNPS Winter 2023-2024 Calendar

As winter approaches, we welcome members and guests to our new season of presentations and other programs!

***December 19th (Tuesday):** The annual **FLNPS Solstice Celebration** is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the NEVIN WELCOME CENTER (see below). Please join us for good food and company, a native foods contest, a wild plant quiz, door prizes, and the annual seed exchange.
Please see our website for more details.

***January 16th (Tuesday):** **Members' Night**, short presentations by **FLNPS members**, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

★ Share your botanical stories, photos, music, poetry, and short talks with fellow plant enthusiasts! ★

If you would like to participate, please contact **Adrianna Hirtler** by **December 31st** with details of your presentation.

***February 20th (Tuesday):** Please save the date. Topic to be announced.

***March 19th (Tuesday):** **Assisted Relocation**, a talk by **Monica Geber**.

***April 16th (Tuesday):** **Larch Meadow Flora**, by **Arieh Tal**.

***May 21st (Tuesday):** **Fireflies**, by **Charles R. Smith**.

*FLNPS evening Talks and the Solstice Celebration begin on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the **Cornell Botanic Gardens' Nevin Welcome Center**, 124 Comstock Knoll Drive, at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Please check our website (www.flnps.org) for a map, confirmations, updates, and other details.



*Happy Holidays
& New Year
To All!*



An Underappreciated Plant? by Charles R. Smith ♦ photos by the author

This Fall, I was quite impressed by the beauty of the autumn colors of **Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)** as I drove our local highways, so I took time to get some photos. Here are a few of the results. The bicolored leaf, with differently colored leaflets on each side, was not like anything I had seen before. The yellow leaflets were facing northeast and the red leaflets were facing southwest, toward the warm sun. Besides color, that's the


only difference I noticed. Leaflet colors ranged from yellow, to red, to a lovely deep burgundy. *I think Staghorn Sumac is an underappreciated landscaping plant.* Along with its beautiful autumn colors, the female plants produce fruits that provide winter food for birds. All photos were taken along Routes 366 and 13 in the Town of Dryden, Tompkins County, N.Y. 



PHOTO ESSAY

Late Autumn Glory – In Old Fields by Robert Wesley

I am really enjoying looking at old-field vegetation.
It is like viewing miniature landscapes.



An old field closeup with lycophytes, mosses, **Gray Reindeer Lichen** (*Cladonia rangiferina*), and **Wild Strawberry** (*Fragaria virginiana*).



The yellow leaf is **Big-toothed Aspen** (*Populus grandidentata*), with another lycophyte and Gray Reindeer Lichen.



The evergreen, fall-sporulating **Grape Ferns** are very odd and interesting, and a real favorite. This is *Botrychium dissectum* var. *obliquum*.



Here's a late fall flower. The very attractive little annual, **Old-field Milkwort** (*Polygala sanguinea*), was still in bloom in mid-October (with more Wild Strawberry and Gray Reindeer Lichen).

Late Autumn Glory – Along Forest Edges by Robert Wesley



The fruits of **American Wahoo** (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) are quite colorful. They are strikingly apparent after the leaves fall (*left & center*). Once the leaves are down, twigs and bark of trees are so much more apparent. These are **Quaking Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*) (*right*).



Smooth Shadbush (*Amelanchier laevis*) often has excellent orange color in autumn (*above*).

I have always been especially fond of the fall color of **Hay-scented Fern** (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) (*middle right*).

Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is consistently one of the most satisfying fall-color species (*right*).

