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

Solidago

Newsletter of the
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 26, No. 4 December 2025

TRIP REPORT

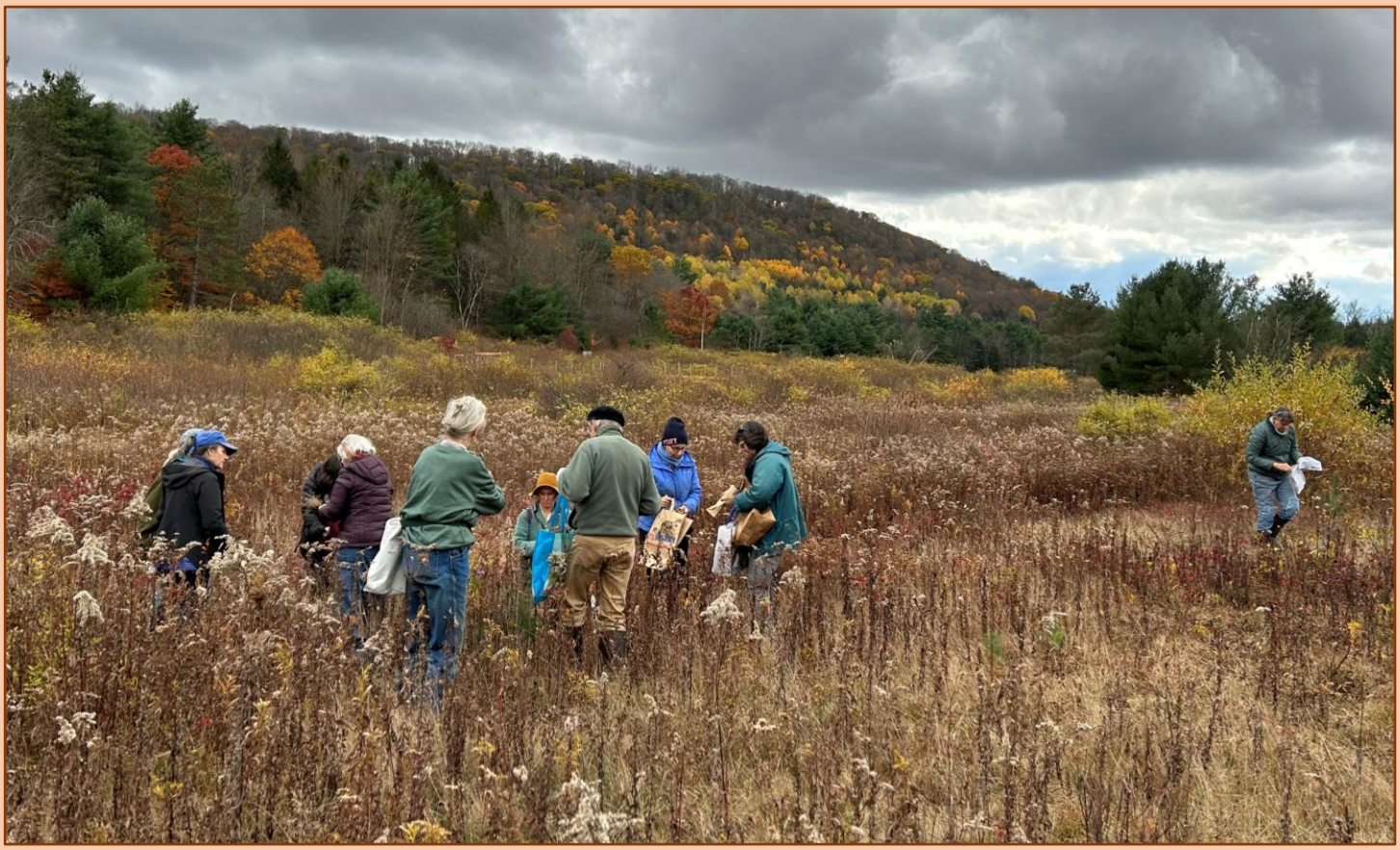
Seed Walk at Roy H. Park Preserve, 25 October 2025

by Rosemarie Parker

Seed Collecting Crew, South End: Co-leaders were Audrey Bowe (*who took this photo*)**, Krissy Boys, & Robert Wesley** (*front right*)**.**

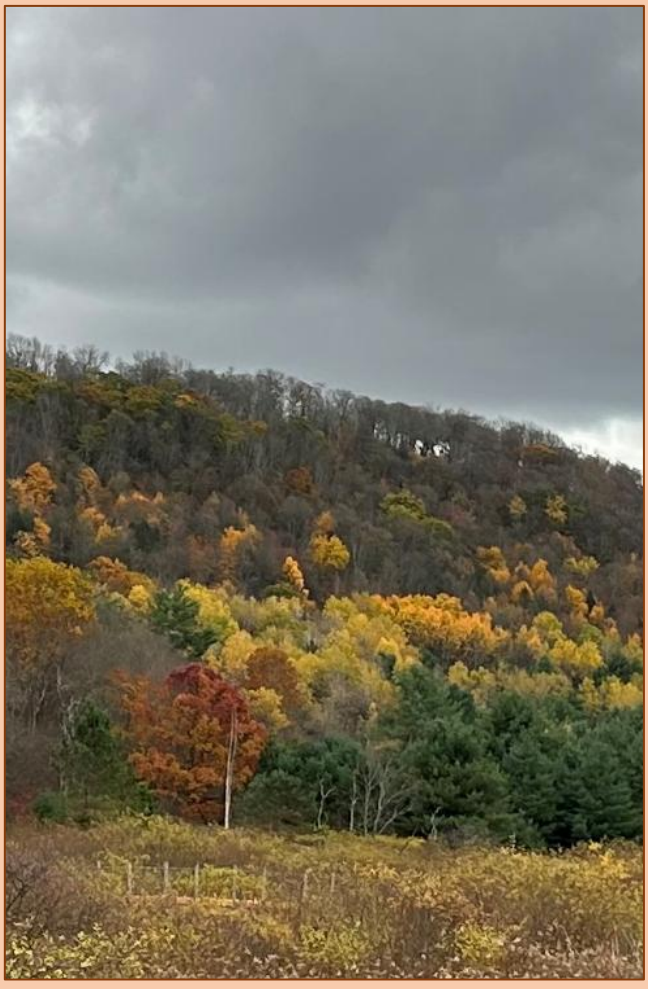
As the sun ducked in and out, a large group of FLNPS members and friends stalked through the fields of the Park Preserve on Irish Settlement Rd., looking for native seeds. We had obtained permission for limited collecting from the Finger Lakes Land Trust, which owns the Preserve. In approximately three hours we collected lots of autumn species for both Cornell Botanic Gardens and the FLNPS December seed sharing.

The northern portion of the preserve is getting a new accessible boardwalk, and the construction limited us to the west side of the creek in areas that had not yet been mowed. The north meadows have both moister and thinner soil habitats than the south end, so we went to both sections. The south entrance has filled in significantly since I had last been there, and we did not have much time, but we found some new species and added a lot to collections from the northern end. Participants took seeds home for their own use, and the back of the truck was full of bags as we left. Please consider joining us next year, wherever we end up. See a list of what we collected on the next page.



Collecting at the North end of the Preserve. *Photos on pp. 1 & 2 by Audrey Bowe*

Species	North	South
Agrostis perennans	√	
Chelone glabra		√
Clematis virginiana	√	√
Cornus racemosa	√	√
Doellingeria umbellata	√	
Euthamia graminifolia	√	
Eutrochium maculatum	√	
Lobelia siphilitica		√
Scirpus cyperinus	√	
Solidago bicolor	√	
Solidago juncea	√	
Solidago nemoralis	√	
Solidago patula	√	
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum	√	√
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	√	√
Symphyotrichum pilosum var pringlii	√	
Symphyotrichum prenanthoides	√	√
Symphyotrichum puniceum	√	
Symphyotrichum urophyllum		√
Thalictrum pubescens		√
Verbena hastata	√	
Viburnum lentago	√	



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.

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Newsletter of the
Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

Volume 26, No. 4 December 2025

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.

This gorgeous **Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*)** is associated with a tall cloning shrub as its larval host. See page 7 for details. [This butterfly was photographed in the Ocala National Forest in Florida on Sept. 20th 2006 by the Editor.]

Contents

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

Deadline for the March 2026 issue is February 15th !

Name That Plant Contest

The photo from last issue's Name That Plant Contest [*Solidago* 26(3), p. 6] was of **Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)**: yet another very special beauty that we are so lucky to have grace the lands we call home. Thanks to all who entered the contest, and congratulations to the winners: **Bob Dirig**, **Susanne Lorbeer**, and **Robert Wesley.**

This issue's mystery plant is shown below.

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 (Nakita@lightlink.com)

The photographs were taken in Tompkins County, New York, by David Werier, on July 5, 2023 (young pre-flowering shoot), July 14, 2023 (some flower buds starting to emerge), July 20, 2023 (some flower buds well swollen), July 31, 2023 (some flowers open and close-up of flower), September 17, 2023 (immature fruit), March 16, 2024 (capsule remains), and April 27, 2024 (rosettes of leaves).

Thank You!

We are grateful for the continuing support of our columnists and other contributors, including ***writers*** Courtney Kelly Jett (pp. 9-11), Rosemarie Parker (pp. 1-2, 6-8), Norm Trigoboff (pp. 5 & 12-13), David Werier (p. 4), Robert Wesley (pp.10-11), & Robert Dirig (p. 4); & ***photographers*** Audrey E. Bowe (pp. 1-2 & 6), Krissy A. Boys (p. 7), R. Dirig (pp. 3, 6-8), Courtney Kelly Jett (pp. 9-11), Dayna Jorgenson (P. 6), Steve Kress (p. 5), Rosemarie Parker (p. 14), Norm Trigoboff (pp. 12-13), & David Werier (p. 4).

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

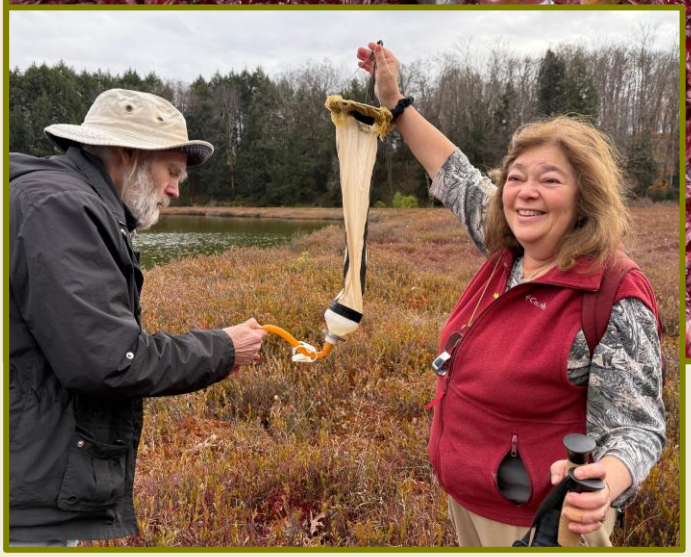
Please check our website (**www.flnps.org**) regularly throughout the coming months for announcements and details of the Solstice Gathering (Dec. 16), Members' Night (Jan. 20), walks, talks, workshops, and other events. Many thanks to our **Steering Committee** (p. 3) and all of our members for supporting FLNPS and its activities. We wish everyone in our reading audience a delightful Holiday season, and a New Year with frequent frolics with our native flora!

— Robert Dirig

Trip Report

Field Trip to a Local Bog

by Norm Trigoboff



Large Cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) growing over Sphagnum moss. *Inset*: Bottling algae with a plankton tow.

Photos by Steve Kress

On November 1, I was pleased to guide Steve Kress and Elissa Wolfson, the only ones to sign up for my moss walk, around **Lime Hollow**. We stepped out onto **Chicago Bog** and found 4 adults and 4 kids picking cranberries on the floating bog mat. We admired the expanse of the bog. We found big-leaved and small-leaved Sphagnums, Leatherleaf, blueberry, Black Alder, Bog Rosemary, Cottongrass, *Cladonia* lichen, big sedges, and small White Pines. We all ate at least a few cranberries.

Algae caught in my plankton net and identified later with a scope included *Coelastrum*, *Dictyosphaerium*, *Hapalosiphon, Staurastrum,* and *Tetmemorus*. In the woods, we saw *Frullania*, a tiny brown liverwort common on tree trunks, Intermediate Woodfern, Sugar Maple, and what might have been some very old Black Cherry trees. The bog quaked here and there, but the only dangerous part of the trip happened when we went to the visitors center later, to learn why their bog is called Chicago Bog. I sat down on a fully-charged-joy-stick-controlled-tank-tread-style-outdoor-wheelchair and tried to take a quick tour around the visitor center without destroying the place. Mostly I succeeded. This was the first time I'd stopped at a nature center nice enough to keep all-terrain wheelchairs for visitors. We left without learning the reason for the name of the bog, but I looked it up later from the safety of my own armchair. It comes from the small village called Chicago that was there in the 1830's.

PLANT PROFILE

Asimina triloba, the American Pawpaw

by Rosemarie Parker

Pawpaw fruits, *photo by Dayna Jorgenson*

I have been told that the first sentence of every Pawpaw article is "The Pawpaw is the largest edible native North American fruit." I bow to tradition, but I have not personally seen the fruits that would lead to such status.* Probably this is because I have only seen Pawpaws in the very near vicinity, while the main population of the fruit is farther south, where they may be larger. They do grow well here, and seem to be having something of a resurgence of interest. As I write this, they are being picked and dropped and squashed around Ithaca. So, let's explore the American Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*.

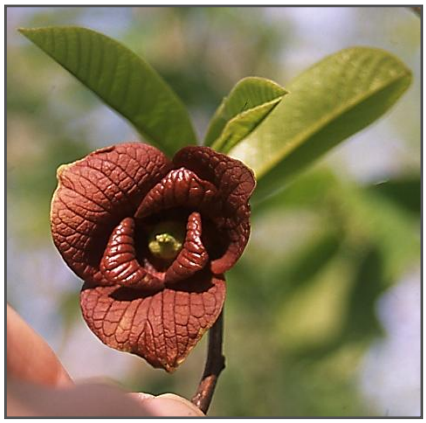
Habit, Habitat, and Native Range

There are many species within the genus *Asimina*, but most of them are found in tropical regions, *e.g.*, Georgia and Florida. The *Florida Plant Atlas* lists 12 species and 6 named hybrids within the state, all called some form of Pawpaw. New York has only the one species, *A. triloba*, and it is considered native. David Werier (*NYFA Atlas*) says "It is native in western New York although the populations are scattered and few (probably < 20 populations historical and extant). I don't believe there are any populations that are clearly native in central New York." Some folks feel that some of the older populations may have been introduced by indigenous peoples as a food crop. Native from southern Ontario to Florida and westward to eastern Nebraska and Texas, *A. triloba* has the largest distribution in the genus. American Pawpaw grows as a clonal shrub or small tree, forming thickets usually between 10 and 30 feet high. Found in bottomlands and on wooded slopes, tolerant of shade or full sun, preferring well drained, moist acidic soil, but can grow in moist calcareous soils — Pawpaw seems quite tolerant. They even grow near walnuts.

Pawpaw ecotone, Mundy Wildflower Garden at Cornell University, *photo by Audrey E. Bowe.*

Pawpaw leaves, cultivated plants in the Mundy Wildflower Garden, Ithaca, N.Y., mid-June 2005, *photos by Robert Dirig.*

* Addendum: Since writing this I *have* seen some quite large fruits from Tompkins County, N.Y. (nearly 5 inches long), possibly from great cultivation conditions, possibly one of the numerous cultivars.



Flower with waxy petals, 23 May 2018, *photo by Robert Dirig.*

The flowers are a lovely deep maroon color with a less than lovely (but mild) carrion smell to attract flies and beetles for pollination. The flower buds are "gorgeous … liver-chestnut-velvet with a tiny bit of sorrel" (K. A. Boys). The leaves are large, alternate, ovate, pendulous, and often limited to the ends of the branch. Some describe the leaf smell as "green pepper," but others say, "mild carrion." The fruits are distinctive swollen ovals, sometimes with bulges. They remain green even when ripe, although more yellowish or even brown spots are indicative of mature fruit. Ripe fruit has a *strong* scent whose character depends on how much you like the fruit itself.

American Pawpaw flower buds with sorrel hairs, *photo by Krissy A. Boys.*

Faunal Associations

American Pawpaw is fairly disease-free, and the foliage is not browsed by mammals. Many birds and mammals feast on the fruit, however, and it is considered a good wildlife value species. *Asimina* species are larval host plants for the **Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*)**. The adult butterflies lay eggs in the North during two flights between April and August, and in the South between March and December (NCSU).

A cluster of yellowish Pawpaw fruits inside a bush, 14 October 1996, *photo by Robert Dirig.*

Zebra Swallowtail (*Eurytides marcellus*), photos of reared larvae (2 color forms) and chrysalids (also 2 color forms) from Paul Feeny's Cornell lab, *courtesy of Meena Haribal*, on 10 Sept. 1999. Wild adults were photographed on 16 & 20 Sept. 2006 at the Ocala National Forest in Florida. The larvae feed exclusively on Pawpaw leaves. Mature larvae crawl down and pupate nearby. Adults are difficult to photograph in the dappled shade. Their striped wings help the butterflies blend into the background. *Photos by Robert Dirig.*

Edible or Poisonous?

The leaves and stems of *Asimina* species can cause contact dermatitis in susceptible individuals. (Possibly why there is no deer browsing.) The skin of the fruit, the seeds, the stem, and the leaves are all toxic to humans, causing intestinal pain. And yet, the pulp of the *ripe* fruit has been a cherished human edible for centuries, at least. (See The Harvard Arboretum link for Pleistocene megafauna diets!) More specifically, according to Krissy Boys, people either find the fruit delicious or repulsive. I tend toward the latter, as the texture is like custard. The sweet taste is hard to describe, although banana, mango, pineapple, and "tropical fruit" have been suggest-

ed, individually or as a mix. The pulp can be frozen, and there are many recipes available for fresh or frozen pulp. And they can just be eaten as is, being sure not to bite the very large seeds and being sure the fruit is fully ripe (cue: intestinal pain if not).

Culture and Propagation

Pawpaw germinates well from seed *if* the seed has not dried out or been frozen. In central New York that means sowing it immediately and cold stratifying in a refrigerator or warmish garage. Planting seed directly in the ground over our winters will usually fail. Once germinated, the saplings can tolerate freezing, but are best with partial shading from direct sun. In hard winters, a young tree may suffer dieback, but it recovers (D. Florini). Pawpaw is a slow grower initially but speeds up and reaches flowering size at about 6 ft. or 5-8 years. Once old enough to flower, root shoots start to grow around the original tree. "They sucker like crazy," says Krissy, "but less [in Central NY] than in the mid-Atlantic."

If you hope to have fruit, two trees are needed, preferably both seed grown. "The flowers are protogynous, meaning that the stigma (the female receptive organ) ripens before the pollen, and is no longer receptive when the pollen is shed. Thus, the flower is designed not to be self-pollinated. In addition, Pawpaw trees are self-incompatible, usually requiring pollen from a genetically different tree in order to be fertilized" (KYSU). It is not unusual to see Pawpaw thickets with no fruit, indicating the entire thicket is a clone of the original tree.

There have been efforts to commercialize Pawpaws, but they do not store well or for very long. Frozen pulp is commercially available. There are horticultural selections with larger pods up to six inches long and 3 inches wide, and with varied pulp colors & tastes (Philly). Some of the cultivars are available grafted onto wild rootstock—a different cultivar or seedling will be needed to get fruit. And if you want lots of fruit, learn to hand pollinate (Wilson).

Purchasing trees can shorten your wait for fruit. Use care in planting, as the roots are very easily damaged, and give them shade for a couple of years as you would do for seedlings.

Pawpaw trees and seeds may be available from the following local sources:

https://www.twisted-tree.net/seeds– seeds
http://www.whiteoaknursery.biz/fl_trees.shtml potted trees
https://www.ortfamilyfarm.com/potted-fruit-trees ? Trees
https://www.mehrabyannursery.com/ trees

Finally, I strongly encourage you to read the reference links below. Each has a different perspective on American Pawpaws, and I truly enjoyed learning from them all. Thanks to all the people who helped with information and references and photos, as I knew very little about *Asimina triloba* before starting this article: Audrey Bowe, Krissy Boys, Bob Dirig, Di Florini, Emma Gutierrez, Dayna Jorgenson, and David Werier.

References

Druid https://thedruidsgarden.com/2021/09/12/sacred-trees-in-the-americas-paw-paw-asimina-triloba-medicine-myths-and-meaning/ fun read with ethnobotanical vibe

FNA http://floranorthamerica.org/Asimina_triloba most accurate botanical description

Harvard https://arboretum.harvard.edu/arnoldia-stories/anachronistic-fruits-and-the-ghosts-who-haunt-them/ (Thanks to The Druid's Garden article for pointing me to these fascinating thoughts on Osage Orange, Kentucky Coffee Tree and more.)

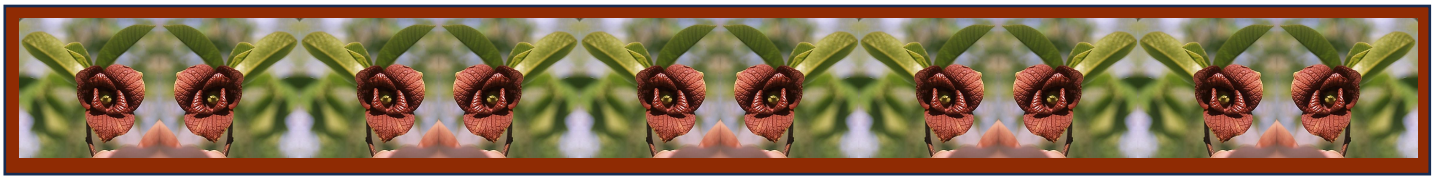
KYSU https://www.kysu.edu/academics/college-ahnr/school-of-anr/pawpaw/pawpaw-planting-guide.php very complete article with details on seedling care, why you need two distinct trees, cultivars, etc.

MOBot https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=275970 garden hints

NCSU https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/asimina-triloba/#poison full info including toxicity

Philly https://www.phillyorchards.org/2016/05/03/plant-spotlight-meet-the-pawpaw-asimina-triloba/ Recipes, how to grow, history.

Wilson https://www.wilsonbrosgardens.com/pollination-of-paw-paw-trees.html#:~:text=Regarding%20pollination%20of%20paw%20paw,trees%20are%20grown%20from%20seedlings. How to hand pollinate Pawpaws – with pictures.

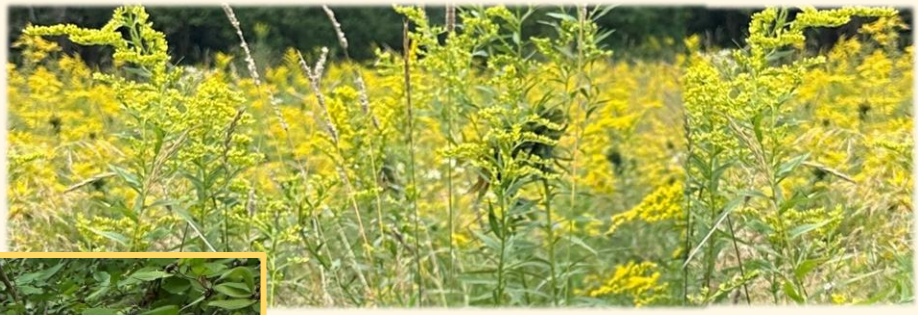


Trip Report

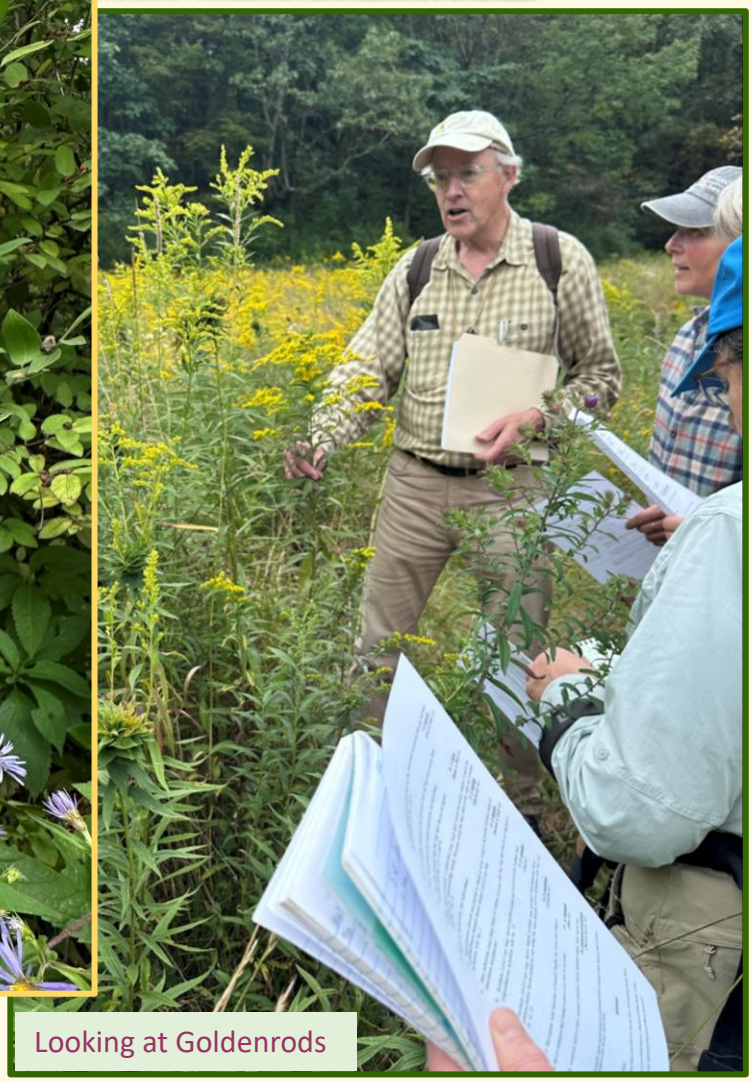
Aster & Goldenrod Walk
at Connecticut Hill, September 13th 2025

Images by Courtney Kelly Jett.
Species list by Courtney Kelly Jett
(with minimal edits by Robert Wesley).
And an informative time was had by all!
Thanks to Robert for leading the walk on a lovely day
at the Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae,
New England Aster



Symphyotrichum puniceum, Swamp Aster.
Note hairy stem and recurved involucral bracts.

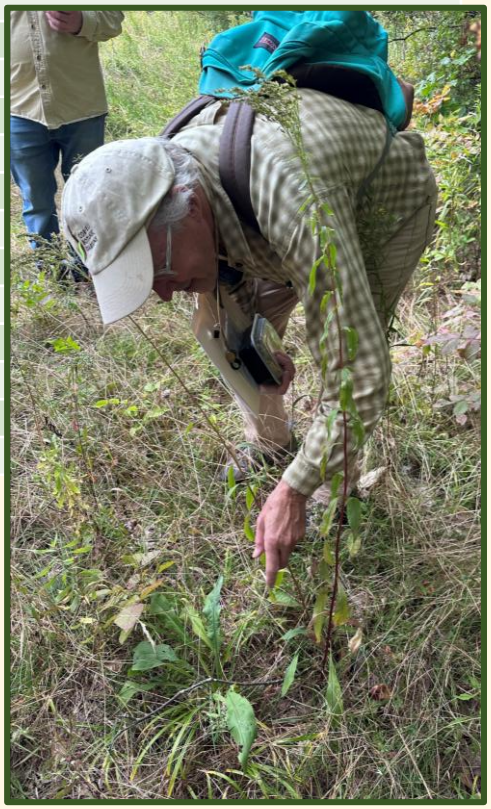


Looking at Goldenrods

Plant List for Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area, September 13th 2025

Species Seen	Common Name	Comment
Acer rubrum	red maple	
Acer saccharum	sugar maple	
Achillea millefolium	common yarrow	introduced from Europe
Alnus glutinosa	European alder	INVASIVE
Alnus incana rugosa	swamp alder	
Amelanchier sp.	serviceberry	probably A. laevis
Asclepias exaltata	poke milkweed	
Athyrium angustum	northern lady fern	
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese barberry	INVASIVE
Betula alleghaniensis	yellow birch	
Carex lurida	sallow sedge	
Castanea dentata	American chestnut	
Chelone glabra	white turtlehead	
Cornus sericea	red osier dogwood	
Cornus amomum	silky dogwood	
Crataegus sp.	hawthorns	native but unable to ID specifically
Daucus carota	Queen Anne's lace	
Dendrolycopodium obscurum	flat-branched tree-clubmoss	
Diphasiastrum digitatum	fan clubmoss	
Doellingeria umbellata	flat-top white aster	
Dryopteris carthusiana	spinulose wood fern	
Dryopteris intermedia	intermediate wood fern	
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	INVASIVE
Epigaea repens	trailing arbutus	
Eupatorium perfoliatum	boneset	
Eurybia divaricata	white wood aster	
Eurybia macrophylla	large-leaved aster	
Euthamia graminifolia	flat-topped/grass-leaved goldenrod	
Eutrochium maculatum	sweet Joe-Pye-weed	
Fagus grandifolia	American beech	
Gentiana clausa	bottle gentian	
Hamamelis virginiana	common witch-hazel	
Huperzia lucidula	shining firmoss	
Juglans nigra	eastern black walnut	
Leucobryum glaucum	pincushion moss	
Lilium philadelphicum	wood lily	

The Plant List continues on the next page.



In fall, this year's blooming stalks of ***Solidago juncea***, Early Goldenrod, have no basal leaves, while the adjacent basal clump will bloom next year.

Lonicera sp.	honeysuckle	INVASIVE
Lycopodium clavatum	stag's-horn clubmoss	
Magnolia acuminata	cucumber-tree	
Malus baccata	Siberian crabapple	
Mentha x piperita	peppermint	introduced
Persicaria sagittata	arrow-leaved tearthumb	
Phleum pratense	timothy grass	
Pinus strobus	eastern white pine	
Pleurozium schreberi	red-stemmed feather moss	
Polygaloides paucifolia	fringed polygala	
Populus grandidentata	bigtooth aspen	
Prunus serotina	black cherry	
Quercus alba	white oak	
Quercus montana	chestnut oak	
Quercus rubra	northern red oak	
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	INVASIVE
Rosa multiflora	multiflora rose	INVASIVE
Rubus allegheniensis	Allegheny blackberry	
Rubus idaeus	red raspberry	
Sceptridium dissectum	cutleaf grapefern	
Solidago altissima	tall goldenrod	
Solidago bicolor	silverrod	
Solidago gigantea	giant goldenrod	
Solidago juncea	early goldenrod	
Solidago rugosa	common wrinkle-leaved goldenrod	
Spiraea alba	white meadowsweet	
Symphyotrichum cordifolium	common blue wood aster	
Symphyotrichum lanceolatum	panicled aster	
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum	calico aster	
Symphyotrichum lowrieanum	Lowrie's aster	
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England aster	
Symphyotrichum prenanthoides	crookedstem aster	
Symphyotrichum puniceum	swamp aster	
Tsuga canadensis	eastern hemlock	
Vaccinium angustifolium	lowbush blueberry	
Vaccinium corymbosum	northern highbush blueberry	
Vaccinium pallidum	early lowbush blueberry	
Vaccinium stamineum	deerberry	
Viburnum acerifolium	mapleleaf viburnum	
Viburnum dentatum	arrowwood viburnum	
Viburnum opulus ssp. opulus	common guelder-rose	
	introduced	

New England Aster

Robert discussing the 3-prominent-vein indicator of more aggressive ***Solidago*** spp., in this case ***S. altissima***, Tall Goldenrod.

Plant Trivia ◆ *by Norm Trigoboff*

1.a. Which species of tree native to North America has the largest fruit?
1.b. What does it taste like?
1.c. Does it grow wild in Ithaca?
1.d. Why are you unlikely to see it in stores?

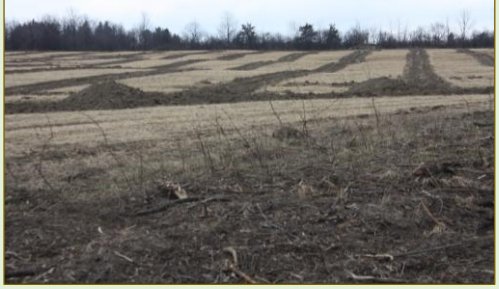
2. The following are true about lady fern except:
A. The lady fern has eyebrow shaped sori (where spores form).
B. You take care of a lady fern by buying it costly gifts.
C. Lower pinnae of lady fern point out and down as if gesturing "I haven't a thing to wear."
D. A lady fern has graceful lines.
E. A lady fern doesn't shave its legs.

3. What are the 2 largest plant families?

4. Rank these specialty organic herbs/foods found in Greenstar's dried bulk aisle from least to most pricey: chickweed, cleavers, dandelion leaf, Japanese knotweed, mugwort, nettle leaf, plantain leaf, roasted chickory root. If you get two or more with the right rank, take full credit.

5. Which one of these is true?
A. Researchers have grown a rhubarb that changes color with barometric pressure. They plan to market it as smart rhubarb.
B. Rhubarb is sometimes harvested commercially by candlelight.
C. The Tully Monster is a locally grown huge rhubarb.
D. This photo shows a field prepared to plant a delicate rhubarb variety (and other high-end crops) that will be cared for and harvested by machines that move over the unplowed strips.

5.D. Oddly Plowed Local Field



E. Very small varieties of rhubarb, carrots, green peppers and even watermelon have been used in bonsai.

6. Name a plant, or rather a part of one, that is at times positively phototrophic (moving toward light) and at times negatively phototrophic (moving away from light).

7. Forty-two states have picked a State Insect. How many of these are native? How many State Trees are native? State Fruits? Vegetables?

8. True or false?
A. Molecules of the caraway and spearmint odors have the same kinds of atoms in the same proportions.
B. The first smell-clocks were built about 200 years ago. They let you tell time in the dark, at a distance from the clock.
C. The 17,000-year-old drawings on the cave walls in Lascaux, France, were made by the light of animal fat lamps that burned scented wicks of plant origin.
D. A beetle bank is a place that lends beetles to control invasive plants. You may return the same number of beetles or pay cash.

9. In 1397, Andermatt, Switzerland banned the harvesting of any part of a certain local forest, even pine cones. The forest was thought to be vital. Why? Hint: the reason lies somewhere other than art, science, commerce, entertainment, sport, warfare, or the supernatural.

10. The word perfume comes from a word for: - rhubarb, - smoke, - the fragrance of some conifers, - stinky trivia questions.

See answers on page 13.

Plant Trivia Answers ◆ *by Norm Trigoboff*

(*from page 12*)

1.a Pawpaw. **b.** It's said to taste like a pleasant mix of bananas and other tropical fruit. **c.** Yes. **d.** It has a poor shelf life.

2. B. The U. S. Forest Service calls lady fern a low maintenance plant. **E.** refers to the dark scales on the stipe.

3. The daisy and orchid families, Asteraceae and Orchidaceae. Thoughts differ as to which is larger.

4. Prices are in dollars/lb. rounded to the nearest cent: roasted chickory root, $14.70; mugwort, $50; chickweed & cleavers, $60; Japanese knotweed , $74; dandelion & nettle leaf, $80; plantain leaf, $90.

5. A. False. Rhubarb is as dumb as ever. **B.** True. In some places in England at least, rhubarb plants are forced in complete darkness. See: https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20190424-the-english-vegetable-picked-by-candlelight
C. False. The Tully Monster (*Tullimonstrum gregarium*), first found in Illinois in 1955 by Francis Tully, is a fossil animal of uncertain lineage. **D.** False. This partly plowed spring field by the Black Diamond Trail looked like it might host a solar farm, but then they finished plowing and corn grew there. **E.** False. Get-rich-quick scheme: bonsai vegetables for big cities where space is scarce and people have small appetites.

5.E.: Bonsai watermelon look-alike

The plant shown is *Melothria scabra*, *AKA* cucamelon, Mexican miniature watermelon, Mexican sour cucumber, Mexican sour gherkin, mouse melon, and pepquino. Its home range is Mexico to Venezuela. At times you can get them at the Ithaca Farmer's Market.

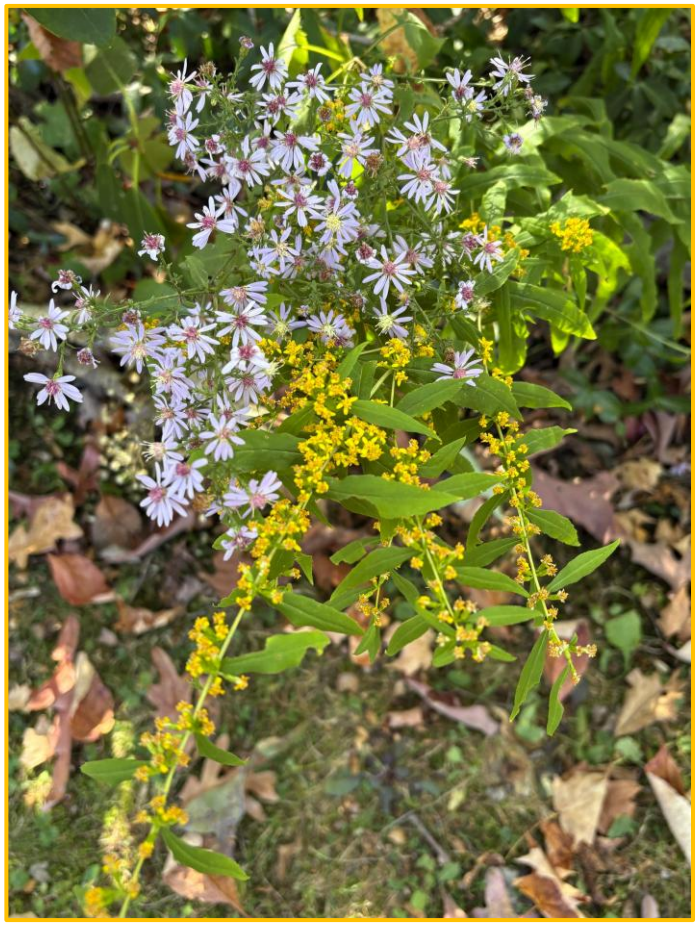
6. *Cymbalaria muralis*, or Kenilworth ivy, a native of southern Europe, may escape here, as on the rock walls of Cascadilla Creek. The ivy's flower stalk grows toward light at first. Once the flower sets seed, the stalk aims at the dark. This pushes its minute seeds into cracks in the rocks. This works well. One of the plant's common names is mother of thousands. (A kid'll eat Kenilworth ivy two. Wooden shoe.)

7. In 19 cases (about 45%), State Insects are non-native—almost always the European honey bee. Every state has a State Tree. All are native! Alas, 44% of State Fruits are non-native, as are 77% of State Vegetables. All State Amphibians, Butterflies, Fish, Grasses, Reptiles, and Shells are native, as are all the State Guns. Could we use some State Pacifists? Trivia: the Kansas state toy is the Etch-A-Sketch.

8. **A.** True. "…but the arrangement of the atoms differs. The molecules are mirror images of each other, like two gloves." **B.** False. "…from the 11th century onwards, Chinese temples used aroma clocks..." Their powdered incense gave off different scents at different times. **C.** True. "The wicks on those animal fat lamps were made of juniper and pine. Other twigs were available, but the people of Lascaux chose fragrant ones." (Questions 8A, 8B, 8C, & 10 are from *Smell: A Very Short Introduction*, by M Cobb, 2020.) **D.** False. A beetle bank is an area within a planting that gives habitat for animals that prey on plant pests. This may replace or at least cut pesticide use. (The beetles that live there pay a low interest mortgage.)

9. Protection forests defend towns against snow avalanches and landslides. "In Switzerland, 43 per cent of forests have a protection function, without which many villages in mountain regions would be uninhabitable… Even dead trees on the ground limit downslope movement and can act as dams that hold back snow and soil." Artificial barriers are sometimes used, but are said to cost "about 1,000 times that of forest maintenance." From *Forests: A Very Short Introduction*, by J. Ghazoul, 2015.

10. Smoke. "The word 'perfume' has its origins in the Latin words 'per' and 'fumum,' meaning 'by smoke.'"



Late-flowering Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*) & Heart-leaved Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)

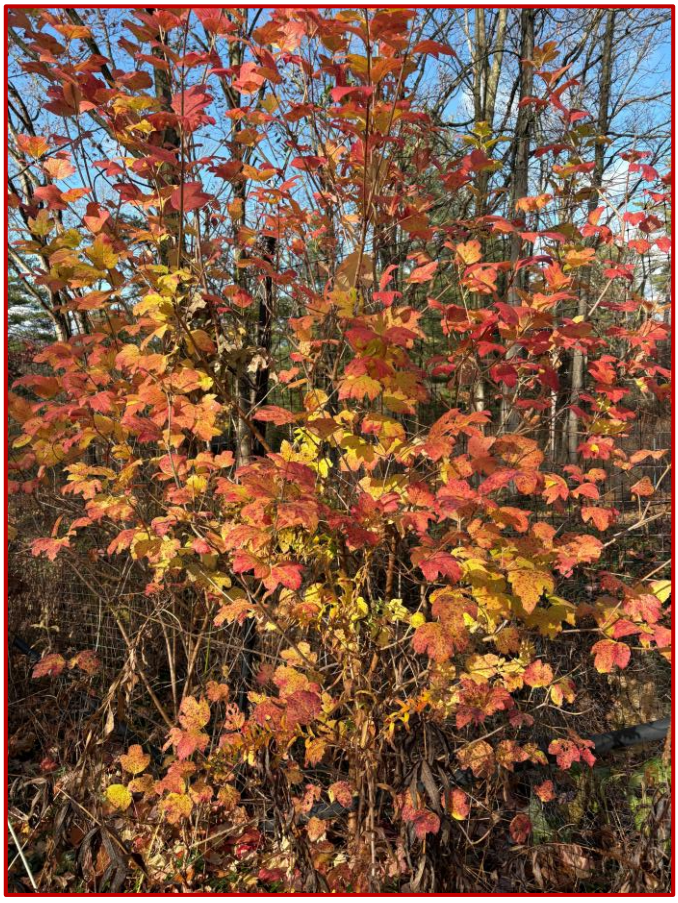
Notices

★FLNPS's annual Solstice Gathering is on Tuesday, Dec. 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Nevin Center. Join us for snacks, native plant seeds, a plant quiz, and dish-to-pass with native plant ingredients.

★Members' Night is on Tuesday, Jan. 20th at 7:00 p.m. Please send an email to Robert Wesley (frw2@cornell.edu) with MEMBERS' NIGHT as the subject, to volunteer for a brief presentation of interest to FLNPS members. Share your plant-related stories, songs, poems, artwork, photos, skills, and craftmanship. For inspiration, see last year's presentations: https://flnps.org/activities/2387/short-talks-members

★Our Steering Committee has decided to offer a new column in *Solidago* called Ask a Native Plant Gardener. We are interested in questions, and people who are willing to answer them! Submissions should be sent to info@flnps.org with the subject ASK A GARDENER. We hope to fledge this in the March 2026 issue of *Solidago*.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), in light snow



Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*, var. *opulus*), naturalized

Autumn photos by Rosemarie Parker