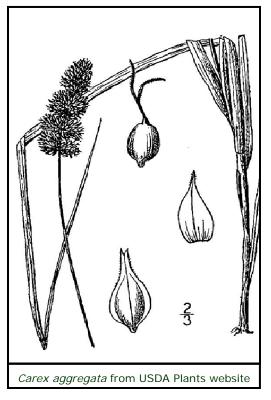


# Carex aggregata Rediscovered in New York

Article by Steve Young, New York Natural Heritage Program



In 2008 Heather Liljengren and Camille Joseph, staff members of the Greenbelt Native Plant Center in Staten Island, were collecting graminoids for seed preservation in Inwood Park on the northern tip of Manhattan Island during the last week of May. They noticed a sedge that looked different and collected it to send off to Dr. Rob Naczi, a sedge expert at the New York Botanical Garden, for identification. Dr. Naczi confirmed it as glomerate sedge. Then in June 2009 Rob Naczi himself discovered it in the southwestern portion of the botanical garden grounds near the Bronx River during a survey of the plants of the Bronx forest. Both of these discoveries were then reported to the Natural Heritage Program in 2011.

Only three populations of glomerate sedge have ever been reported from New York (there is also a Torrey specimen at NYBG with no location) which is at the northeastern edge of its range. It was first collected from the Perch Lake area of Jefferson County in 1949 then again in 1959 from the Spring Valley area of Rockland County. In 1988 Mike Oldham, a Heritage botanist from Ontario, collected it in Oakwood

Cemetery during a trip to the Natural Areas conference in Syracuse. Another trip to the cemetery site in 1990 did not find the plants again. All of these collections occurred during the last week of May or in June. For 20 years there were no more collections or sightings of this sedge in New York until that day in Inwood Park. This sedge now has the distinction of being the only state endangered or threatened plant that currently exists on Manhattan Island.

From the New York Natural Heritage Program conservation guides (which can be found online at: <u>http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=9450</u>) we have the following information about identifying this sedge: There are three other members of Carex section Phaestoglochin (*C. sparganioides*, *C. cephaloidea*, and *C. gravida*) that are similar. *Carex sparganioides* is perhaps the most different from *C. aggregata* of these three. It has a more elongated inflorescences (3-15 cm long) with a larger proximal internode. In addition the widest leaf blades are 5-10 mm wide (Ball 2002).

*Carex cephaloidea* is the most similar to *C. aggregata* of the species that occur in New York. *Carex cephaloidea* has the widest leaf blades (4-)5-8 mm wide and the ligules are just longer than wide. In addition, the pistillate scales are 1.5-2 mm long, subobtuse to acute, and the bodies are no more than 0.5 times the length of the perigynia. Mackenzie in his description of *C. aggregata* (as *C. agglomerata*) used culm scabrousity to separate *C. cephaloidea* and *C. aggregata*. The angles of the culms of *Carex cephaloidea* being strongly serrulate while those of *C. aggregata* are only roughened just below the inflorescence. These character states may be incorrect or subtle.

*Carex gravida* does not occur in NY but was attributed to the state incorrectly in the past. It is not expected in the state. *Carex gravida* mainly differs in having the summit of the leaf sheath fronts white, hyaline, not thickened, and fragile.

Mike Oldham has seen the species a few times but mostly in disturbed habitats and he wonders if some of them have been introductions. We don' have any information on where the closest native population is to New York.



#### **Organizational Meeting Kicks-off the Mid Atlantic Regional Seed Bank**

Over 30 professional plant people met at Black Rock Forest near Cornwall, NY on January 3-4 to discuss the formation of a Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARS-B). The seed bank would follow the Seeds of Success program (http://www.nps.gov/plants/sos/) that is run by the Bureau of Land Management from their office in Washington, D.C. and partially funded by Kew Gardens in England. The meeting was organized by Ed Toth of the Greenbelt Native Plant Center http://www.nycgovparks.org/greening/greenbelt-native-plant-center on Staten Island where they already do a lot of seed collection, storage, and processing for restoration projects in New York City. The group listened to presentations on the role of seed banking for conservation and land management by Patti Vitti of the Chicago Botanic Garden and the goals of the Seeds of Success Program by Peggy Olwell and Megan Haidet of BLM. Ed and his staff explained the work that the nursery does to collect, store and propagate restoration plants. Presently they have 36 species in production from collected seed. The vision for MARS-B is to seek partners in the seed banking effort, train collectors, process collections, develop markets, and do some pilot projects. The end goal is to preserve seed for many of the plant species in the Northeast. The participants discussed ways to get the program started and how it could be successful in an area from New York south to Virginia and west to Ohio. If you are interested in the program contact Ed Toth at Edward.Toth@parks.nyc.gov.

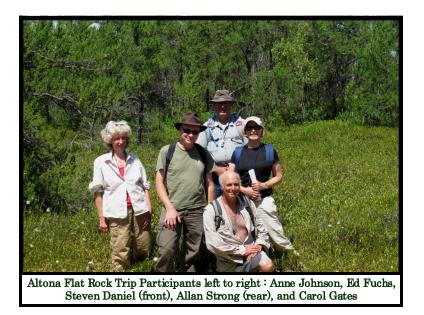
# NYFA Field Trip Recaps

# Altona Flat Rock Pavement Barrens, Clinton County, July 23rd, 2011

#### By Anne Johnson

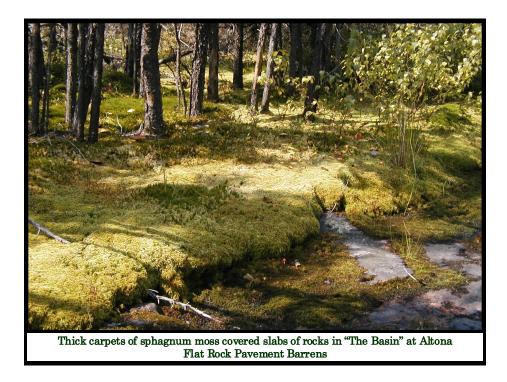
Six intrepid individuals set out across the western side of the Altona Flat Rock on 23 July, one of the hottest days of the summer. Of course, being botanists, the going was slow, which helped make the heat more tolerable. The Altona Flat Rock is a large expanse of jack pine and sandstone pavement barrens in northern Clinton County. The barrens were formed by a torrential scouring of water from a large glacial lake many years ago, and as such they have very little to no soil. The month of July had very little rain, and the plants on the Flat Rock were showing the effects of the hot and dry weather. The lowbush blueberries and the huckleberries had shriveled. The fruit of blueberries were not worth eating or collecting, but the shriveled and dried shadbush fruit was delicious, and the highbush blueberries in the wet spots (which were barely wet at the time of the trip) were edible and welcome. Local pickers reported the second bad blueberry crop year in a row.

After a quick "side trip", during which David Werier relocated a mixed stand of *Sedums* that had originally been noted and collected by Stanley Smith in 1977, we slowly meandered our way toward the feature known as The Basin. Along the way we stopped to look at willows in the now dry depressions, including a number of balsam willow (*Salix pyrifolia*). The state-listed sedge, *Carex cumulata*, while present, was much less abundant than had been noted in the years immediately following Miner Institute's clearing of large amounts of damaged jack pine and jack pine litter after the ice storm of 1998. We were also pleased to find three types of cottongrass in one of the larger wetland (*Eriophorum tenellum, E. vaginatum*, and *E. virginicum*), and enjoyed perusing the numerous lichens and bryophytes on the rocks, as well as the Sphagnum encroachment over the rocks in places (see photo).



We finally reached The Basin, a water and rock filled depression surrounded by piles of rock rubble. Sphagnum moss is draped everywhere over the rocks, both in and out of the water. As some of us lounged by the side of the pool, Steven Daniel had a swim the in Sphagnum and rock infested water and David Werier found an exciting lichen (*Parmelia neodiscordans*) on some rock rubble on the slope above the pool.

We had hoped to make it to the Cold Brook area and return via the Dead Sea, but the heat and the lateness of the day were against us, so we headed back for dinner. Despite the heat and incessant sun, a good time was had by all.



After a night spent in Miner Institute's dormitories, the next day found us heading north to The Gulf. Fortunately the day was cooler as the walk in was longer than anticipated. The Gulf Natural Area is part of the same line of scoured sandstone as the Altona Flat Rock, but is much closer to the mouth of the outflow. The woods there are white pine rather than Jack pine and the trees are larger. The understory was dominated by hairgrass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), blueberries, and huckleberry. We descended into the very steep sided gulf via the less-steep remnants of a stream (directions kindly provided by Ken Adams) and found a verdant, species-rich floor framed by lush, steep sides. We headed north and emerged adjacent to a vertical dripping sandstone face not far from the Canadian Border.

All in all, the northern portion of Clinton County is an interesting part of the state, both botanically and historically (geologic and human) and well worth a visit. If you would like an electronic copy of a plant list for Altona Flat Rock Pavement Barrens compiled over a number of years (2006-Present), please send a request to editor@nyflora.org.

#### The New York Flora Association and the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society Aster and Goldenrod Workshop-September 2011

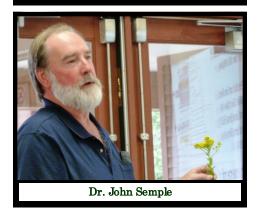
#### Photos and Summary by Priscilla Titus

This overwhelmingly popular workshop was filled almost as soon as registration was opened. The workshop was led by Dr. John Semple, a Professor of Biology at the University of Waterloo in Ontario and author of over 175 publications, primarily on asters, goldenasters, and goldenrods. The morning session took place in the conference center at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, near Wilson, New York, and consisted of an overview of the current taxonomical research on this group of plants. After lunch, the group took a close-up look at some of the species discussed, and later traveled to Whirlpool State Park to observe species not seen earlier.

Thanks to NYFA's Connie Tedesco and Ed Fuchs with the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society for arranging this valuable workshop benefiting members of both organizations.



Upland white goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*) is a goldenrod that could easily be mistaken for an Aster.



# Puttyroot (*Aplectrum hyemale*) discovered in Monroe County By Steve Young

NYFA Board member Steven Daniel reported that he recently found a population of puttyroot, *Aplectrum hyemale*, in Monroe County. This is the second extant record for this orchid in New York, and the first verified report for Monroe County since 1895! Puttyroot is a curious orchid – like Calypso and Cranefly orchid (*Tipularia*) it puts out a single leaf



The pleated leaves of the new puttyroot orchid discovery Photo by Steven Daniel.

in the fall. This leaf is able to photosynthesize (when it is not snow covered) when temperatures are above freezing. Come spring, the leaf begins to wither and is usually gone by the time the plant flowers, typically in late May or June.

This species can be easily overlooked. Look for puttyroot in rich beech-maple woods. When it is not obscured by ice and snow, it stands out in the mostly leaf-covered forest floor. The leaves are distinctive with their pleating and white venation.



# NYFA Receives 501(c)3 Status

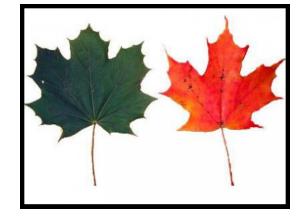
NYFA recently received word that the organization has finally been approved as an independent "501(c)(3) organization." This means that the organization has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, charitable organization. "Charitable" is broadly defined as being established for purposes that are religious, educational, charitable, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering of national or international amateur sports, or prevention of cruelty to animals and children.

Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible for federal exemption from payment of corporate income tax. If an organization has obtained 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, an individual's or company's charitable contributions to this entity are tax-deductible. This status also allows NYFA to be eligible for grants from both private foundations and government sources.

We all owe a debt of gratitude and big thanks to NYFA Board of Directors members Andrew Nelson, Steve Young, Troy Weldy, Ed Frantz, and Joseph McMullen for their relentless effort in pushing this move forward through a somewhat cumbersome and timeconsuming process. In addition, NYFA received legal assistance from Pro Bono Partnership in guiding the organization through the process.

As a consequence of this new status, NYFA is now formally separated from the New York State Museum Institute and has a new address provided below. Please update your records accordingly.

> New York Flora Association PO Box 122 Albany, NY 12201-0122. *Quick Quiz-What species are shown below?*



For the answer, visit the NYFA blog, at <u>http://nyflora.wordpress.com/</u> or check next month's newsletter!

# Announcing the Northeast Natural History Conference 2012

Join us for the 12th Northeast Natural History Conference (NENHC). This conference promises to again be the largest regional forum for researchers, natural resource managers, students, and naturalists to present current information on the varied aspects of applied field biology (freshwater, marine, and terrestrial) and natural history for the Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. It will serve as a premier venue to identify research and management needs, foster friendships and collegial relationships, and encourage a greater region-wide interest in natural history by bringing people with diverse backgrounds together.

**New Venue!** By popular demand and to better serve the entire Northeast Region, NENHC will now be rotated to a new location each year. With the able cooperation of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the 2012 conference will be hosted in Syracuse's OnCenter Convention Center.

**Three Full Conference Days!** An extra day is added to the conference schedule this year. The extra day for presentations will provide for less overlap, permit participants to attend more of the oral sessions, and will also allow for the posters to be up for a full day. Workshops and field trips prior to and/or following the main conference days are in the planning stages as well.

For More Information, see: http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC\_2012/NENHC2012.

#### NYFA Annual Members' Meeting

This year's NYFA Annual Member's Meeting will take place in conjunction with the NENHC conference. We've scheduled a meeting and luncheon for Tuesday, April 17, at 12:30 pm, and it will be offered as an item on the NENHP conference registration form. The meeting registration will also provide for ordering a box lunch.

#### NYFA Botany Presentation Awards

The New York Flora Association is pleased to announce the Northeast Natural History Conference 2012 Botany Awards. Awards will be given in three distinct categories: best botany-related poster presentation, best student botany-related oral presentation, and best overall botany-related oral presentation. A prize of \$150 will be given to the winner in each category. Presentations will be judged for significance of ideas, creativity, quality of methodology, validity of conclusions drawn from results, and clarity of presentation.

For more information about the conference, please visit the New York Flora Association website at:

http://www.nyflora.org/

or the Northeast Natural History website at: <u>http://www.eaglehill.us/NENHC\_2012/NENHC2012</u>.

# REMINDERS

## Seeking Member Involvement

NYFA continues to seek your ideas for the newsletter and will be developing a newsletter committee and a selection of field forays and workshops in the coming months. Please send us your ideas to improve the newsletter and a list of workshops and field trips you would enjoy in order to ensure that activities offered match your interests. Only with member participation will NYFA continue to be a lively growing organization. Send your ideas, photos and articles to:



## 2012 New York Flora Association Research Awards

In 2012 the NYFA will again be offering research awards to qualified individuals. These awards are for botanical research in the state. Proposals and supporting letters must be received **by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012.** Submit required materials by email as a WORD or PDF file to:

christopher.martine@plattsburgh.edu.

For more information see the Fall 2011 NYFA newsletter



# Selected Regional News and Happenings

#### Adirondack Botanical Society Is Up and Running!

The Adirondack Botanical Society had its kickoff meeting in Raybrook on April 30th, 2011. Many people were in attendance and they came up with good ideas to promote and enjoy the flora of the Adirondacks. After a summer of field trips, a second meeting was held at Paul Smith's College on November 12th. There are now plans for a native garden at the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center and more field trips on the way. The next meeting will be April 21st in Westport and we encourage anyone interested in the flora of the Adirondacks to participate in the



Society. The website for the organization is <u>www.adkbotsoc.org</u>. To join their Google discussion group send an email to adkbotsoc+subscribe@googlegroups.com and write **Join** in the subject line. You can state why you would like to join in the body of the email.

#### Association of American Geographers Conference

The Association of American Geographers is holding a conference in New York City February 24-28, 2012. The conference will include presentations and posters relating to invasive species including the following:

- Emerald Ash Borer: Patterns of an Invasive Species across the Landscape
- Factors Explaining An Invasive Species' Distribution in Both its Native and Nor Native Ranges
- Towards An Embodied Approach In Invasive Plant Management

For more information, see:

http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting

#### Finger Lakes Native Plant Society

#### **Upcoming Meetings**



- January 18th-7 PM: Seneca Meadows Wetland Restoration by Andy Buss, Applied Ecological Services
- February 15th-7 PM: Bringing Nature to Your Garden by Ellen Folts, Amanda's Garden
- March 21st-7 PM: Panel Discussion-Issues in Native Gardening, Philosophical and Practical

All FLPS presentations take place form 7-8:30 PM and are free and open to the public. The locations for the above presentations will be held at the Ithaca Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo and Aurora, enter side door of annex on Buffalo Street and go up the stairs). For more information, contact info@flnps.org.

#### Niagara Frontier Botanical Society

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

General meetings are held on the second week of each month, September--May, at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Main St, (one block south of Main St.) in Snyder. All General Meetings are open to the public and free of charge.



February 14, 2012, 7:30 p.m. "Ecological Survey of the Lake Erie Shore." Albert Garofalo, Canadian ecologist, will discuss his continued research from the Canadian shore of Lake Erie and present his discoveries from the 2011 field season.

March 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m. Margaret Wooster, Habitat Planner for Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and author of Living Waters: Reading the Rivers of the Lower Great Lakes (2009). Topic to be announced.

April 10, 2012, dinner meeting. Speaker will be Doug Bassett, Park Naturalist at Letchworth State Park. Topic to be announced.

May 8, 2012, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Mary Bisson, Professor of Biology at SUNY-Buffalo. Dr. Bisson will present a program on Charophytes, a group of algae, and describe their importance in our local ecosystems.

#### **Field Trips**

Field trips will resume on April 28, 2012 with a visit to the Heartland Nature Center, a 100-acre private preserve on the outskirts of Niagara Falls, Ontario.

#### Upcoming Botanical Workshops At Eagle Hill on the Maine Coast

Lichens and Lichen Ecology May 27 - Jun 2. David H.S. Richardson and Mark R.D. Seaward Crustose Lichens: Identification and Ecology Jun 3 - 9. Stephen R. Clayden

Introduction to Modern Phylogenetic Methods Jun 3 - 9. Brigid O'Donnell and Hilary A. McManus

- Sterile Crustose Lichens: An Introduction with a Special Emphasis on Identification Jun 10 -16. James Lendemer
- Color Pencil Illustration Workshop: Flora and Fauna of Coastal Maine Jun 10 16. Dolores R. Santoliquido

Bryophytes and Bryophyte Ecology Jun 17 - 23. Nancy G. Slack

Lichen Chemistry: Spot Tests and TLC in Lichen Identification Jun 17 - 23. Scott S. LaGreca and Thorsten T. Lumbsch

Sedges, Rushes, and Grasses: Ecology and Taxonomy of Wetland and Upland Species Jun 24 -30. Anton A. Reznicek

Brachytheciaceae of Northeastern North America Jun 24 - 30. William R. Buck

Lichen Research Tutorials Jun 24 - 30. Richard Harris

Peatmosses of North America Jul 1 - 7. A. Jonathan Shaw and Blanka Shaw

Northeast Forests, Forest History, and Forestry Policies Jul 8 - 14. Lloyd C. Irland

Lichens, Biofilms, and Gravestones Jul 8 - 14. Judy Jacob and Michaela Schmull

Vascular Plant Morphology for Botanists and Naturalists Jul 22 - 28. Susan Pell

Botanical Illustration on Vellum and Paper: Botanical Portraiture and Microlandscapes Jul 22 - 28. Carol Woodin

Mushroom Identification for New Mycophiles: Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms Jul 29 - Aug 4. Greg A. Marley and Michaeline Mulvey

Classification and Identification of Vascular PlantsAug 5 - 11. Stephen R. Hill

Botanical Latin Aug 12 - 18. Stephen R. Hill

Applied Field Botany in a Digital and High-tech World Aug 12 - 18. John T. Kartesz

*Taxonomy and Biology of Ferns and Lycophytes* Aug 19 - 25. Robbin C. Moran and W. Carl Taylor

A Survey of Grasses of Northeastern North America Aug 26 - Sep 1. Dennis Magee

Aquatic Flowering Plants of North America, with a Special Focus on the Potamogetonaceae and Hydrocharitaceae Aug 26 - Sep 1. C. Barre Hellquist

Descriptions and syllabi will be available in January. Prior discussions of personal study objectives with instructors are welcome. For more information, contact:

Humboldt Institute, PO Box 9, Steuben, ME 04680-0009

207-546-2821, Fax 207-546-3042

E-mail - office@eaglehill.us

Or go to: http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/

# Hot off the Presses

# Flora Novae Angliae: Here At Last!

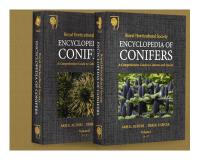
Arthur Haines' Flora Novae Angliae (A manual for the identification of native and naturalized tracheophytes of New England) has been published. This work is one of the most important floristic works covering New England to ever be published. With fully researched entries on some 3,500 native and nonnative species, the book is the first in decades to provide a complete and correct botanical reference for the region's noncultivated plants. Although not covering New York, this book will prove extremely useful in New York due to the similarity of the flora between the two regions and the book provides New York botanists with a much needed modern treatment of tracheophytes of the region-a must have publication. For more



information see: http://yalepress.yale.edu/book.asp?isbn=9780300171549.

## Coming Soon

The Royal Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Conifers. A comprehensive guide to cultivars and species by Aris G. Auders and Derek P. Spicer.



Kingsblue Publishing Limited, in cooperation with The Royal Horticultural Society, England, are soon to publish a unique Encyclopedia of Conifers: *Encyclopedia* of Conifers. A Comprehensive Guide to the Conifer World by Aris G. Auders and Derek P. Spicer. This hard cover edition will comprise two lavishly illustrated volumes. It will feature more than 8,000 cultivars and all of the world's 615 conifer species plus their subspecies and varieties. Apart from its extensive descriptive text it is illustrated by more than 5,000 photographs especially

for this encyclopedia. The species and their descriptions follow the most recent botanical classification (Farjon, 2010) and cultivar information has been compiled with reference to the RHS International Conifer Register and Checklist, including as yet unpublished data. There is a unique appendix listing all the principle conifer collectors, nurseries, arboreta and individuals responsible for introducing new cultivars over the last three centuries. The book is designed to meet the needs of professional as well as amateur gardeners. For more information see: www.coniferworld.com.



Reporting on the Flora of New York It's easy to stay up to date on the latest in New York state plant sightings, plant related events, job postings, conservation issues, and many other topics throughout the state by visiting: http://nyflora.wordpress.com/

Become a fan of the New York Flora Atlas on Facebook! Just enter "New York Flora Atlas" into search from your Facebook page or go to :

facebook.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-Flora-Atlas/47147037126

It is a great place to connect with other fans, share photos and send out a plant question to

Please note that all programs and trips are posted on the NYFA calendar at:

http://www.nyflora.org/calendar-of-events/ Let us know if your have any others you would like to post by sending them to Steve Young at: young @nynhp.org You can promote awareness of NYFA by proudly purchasing and wearing Café Press items at:

http://www.cafepress.com/nyflora



Do you have a photograph, article or poem, or pondering that you would like to share with other NYFA members? We are always looking for interesting contributions for our newsletter and blog. Please send your contributions and suggestions to: EDITOR@NYFLORA.ORG



Countless individuals and institutions have provided data, effort, and funding to make the New York Flora Digital Plant Atlas available, incorporating information from over 70 herbaria. Why not take advantage of this unparalleled resource and explore New York's floral riches by visiting the website at:

http://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu

#### **NYFA Board of Directors**

David Werier - President: Term Expires: 2013 Steve Young - Vice-President: Term Expires: 2012 Kimberly J. Smith - Treasurer: Term Expires 2013 Anna M. Stalter - Secretary: Term Expires: 2013 Ed Frantz-Past President: Term Expires: 2013 Directors Steven Daniel - 2014 Aissa L. Feldmann - 2014 Ed Frantz - 2013 Eric Lamont -2013 Christopher T. Martine - 2012 Joseph M. McMullen - 2014 Andrew P. Nelson - 2012 Richard Ring - 2012 Connie Tedesco - 2014 Priscilla Titus - 2014 Troy Weldy - 2012



#### Go Green with an Electronic Newsletter

**PLEASE** consider receiving the NYFA newsletter electronically in .pdf format in order to cut down on our operating expenses and to minimize resource use. It is easy to switch; just send an e-mail to:

#### membership@nyfa.org

and put "NYFA electronic newsletter" in the subject line. We appreciate your efforts to save paper, money, and time by receiving your newsletter electronically. An electronic membership has the added advantage of delivery before paper copies are sent out and includes full color photographs. To date more than half of our members receive the newsletter electronically. In the future, we hope to convert most of our members to the electronic newsletter format!



NEW YORK FLORA ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM 2010	
Annual Membership dues:	
New \$20	
Renewal \$20 per year	
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	NYFA efforts like botany presentation awards and small grants.
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