

## Friday Field Group 2010

Join the Friday Field Group a mix of amateur and professional plant lovers devoted to the natural history and identification of plants. We use Newcomb's Wildflower Guide and other keys to identify plants at various sites around the Capital District. We also include a few trips that delve into other aspects of natural history. The trips do not have an official leader or sign-up but if you have questions call the contact listed for that trip. All trips begin at 5:30 PM and end at dusk. If severe weather is threatening, use your judgment or call the contact person. All trips are at your own risk. **Schedule available at [nyflora.org/Calendar.html](http://nyflora.org/Calendar.html)**

April 30 Hannacroix Creek Preserve, Coeymans Albany Co. Spring wildflowers along stream ledges and scenic waterfall. Take Thruway (Interstate 87) to Exit 22. Head South on NY Rte 144. Pass through Coeymans. Parking and the trailhead is on the right side, just past the Albany County line (and 5 miles from Thruway exit). Contact: Chuck Kieweg 794-7598

May 7 Joralemon Park Spring wildflowers Take 9W south to Ravena. Turn right at the light onto 143W. In about 2 mi turn right on 102. Park on the stone parking lot on the left just after the Game Club. Contact: Steve Young 588-8360

May 14 Eastern Rensselaer Plateau Escarpment Area, Rensselaer Co. First group Attempt to explore a large area of moderately rich sugar maple dominated woods at the crest of an E facing escarpment within the Capital District Wildlife Management Area. We should see common spring wildflowers such as spring beauty, dwarf ginseng, blue choosy, toothwort, and trout lily. **The trip will involve bushwhacking on a relatively steep and somewhat rocky slope within a forest with open understory.** Directions: Meet at the corner of Dutch Church Road (Co. 41) and Taborton Road (Co. 42), from where we will travel about 2 miles to the site. Contact: David Hunt for possible carpool closer to Troy, meeting at ~5:00 pm. 279-4124

May 21 Wolfe Creek Falls Preserve, Mohawk Hudson Conservancy preserve Albany Co. From the intersection of the Northway and Rt US 20, Western Avenue: Drive West, approximately eight miles and turn left onto Route 146 toward Altamont. Route 146 turns right in the middle of Altamont onto Maple Ave. Take that turn onto Maple. Route 146 then turns left at the end of a long block; however, you should keep going straight; as you leave Altamont you will find that you are on the Bozenkill Road. The Preserve is about 3-miles from Altamont; the parking lot is on your left. The nearest homes are at 774 and 816 on the north side of Bozenkill Road; the parking lot is between them on the south side of the road. Contact: John Meierhoffer 275-2539

June 4 Ward Hollow Pittstown Moderately rich lower slopes of the Rensselaer Plateau with scattered patches of Appalachian oak-hickory forest. Interesting plants indicative of rich soils including bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), mock-pennyroyal (*Hedeoma* sp.) and milletgrass (*Milium effusum*) From NY Rt 7 go 2 mi. E of Tomhannock Reservoir, turn Right (South) onto Parker School Rd, cross Co. Rt. 129 (Tamarack Rd) onto Edelman Rd [listed as Williams Rd on some maps], go 0.4 mi. S bear left at fork on

to Ward Hollow Rd, go ~0.5 mi to trail parking for Pittstown State Forest. Contact: David Hunt 279-4124

June 11 Bentley Sinkhole, Berlin, Rensselaer Co. First attempt to carefully explore the only known sinkhole wetland in Rensselaer County, its surrounding circumneutral Maple Basswood Rich Mesic Forest, and a very small calcareous cliff community. The site contains Bulblet Fern *Cystopteris bulbosa* and has good potential for other interesting county rare plants and spring ephemerals. Directions: Meet at Stewart's Shop on Rt. 22 in Berlin. We will then drive ~1 mile south to the site. Contact: David Hunt for possible carpool closer to Troy, at ~5:00 pm. 279-4124

June 18 Mohawk Bike Trail, Colonie. Albany Co. Explore a sedge meadow/swamp and a deep ravine along the Mohawk Bike Trail. From Exit 6 and the Northway to west on Route 7 to the fork at the Subway just after the overpass. Take the right fork on Forts Ferry Road and go 1.7 miles to a right curve and downhill section to River Road. At River Road go straight then take the immediate right on Onderdonk Ave. Go down Onderdonk Ave. 0.3 miles and park along the road at the bike trail. Prepare for wet feet. Contact: Steve Young 588-8360

June 25 Schor Preserve Canaan Columbia Co. Our first survey of this Columbia county preserve. Take Taconic Parkway South from Berkshire Spur. Take first exit off Taconic (immediately after entering the Parkway) onto Rock City Rd. Turn left down the hill to Rt 295. Turn left on 295 to meet at East Chatham Post office on the left. Contact: John Meierhoffer 275-2539

July 9 Crystal Lake Survey, Sand Lake, Rensselaer Co. Annual lake survey for Rensselaer County. We will observe aquatic plants and fauna in mid summer conditions to conduct a preliminary survey of this little known privately owned dimictic lake. **Mask, snorkel, fins and wetsuit are recommended, or you can follow the divers along in a canoe. Canoes are welcomed.** Directions: Meet at Sand Lake Town Hall at NE corner of Rts 43 and 66, from where we will carpool to a house on the NE side of the lake. Contact: David Hunt 279-4124

July 16 Black Brook, East Nassau Rensselaer Co. Unexplored stream habitat in Rensselaer Co. Meet at the E. Nassau post office on Rt 66 in E. Nassau Contact: Chuck Kieweg 794-7598

July 23 White Lily Pond, Grafton, Rensselaer Co. We will develop a preliminary list of species for this recent addition to Grafton Lakes State Park that contains the tracked county exemplary occurrences of Eutrophic Pond and Shrub Swamp. We will look for several known bog plants such as bog aster (*Aster nemoralis*) cranberry (*Vaccinium*), tawny cottongrass (*Eriophorum virginicum*) leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), and peatmosses (*Sphagnum*). Directions: Meet at Grafton Elementary

School at the jct of Rt. 2 and Babcock Lake Road (Co. 87). Contact: David Hunt for possible carpool closer to Troy at ~5:15. 279-4124

July 30 Featherstonhaugh Beaver Pond, Duaneburg Albany Co. In the state forest we will walk the old road north along a wetland to the outlet of a large beaver pond. From Rynex Corners Road, Route 159, take Lake Road west to a parking area on the west side of the road 0.5 miles west of Tidball Road. Contact: Steve Young 588-8360

Aug 6 Jay Hakes Woods Fungus survey, Grafton. Rensselaer Co. A revisit to this site for the first group attempt to focus on fungi identification with the help of local expert Chris Kielb. We will look at several mushroom species, club fungi, and other fungus types growing in a mature Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forest, a Spruce Plantation and a Successional Northern Hardwood Forest. Directions: Meet at David's house at 348 Jay Hakes Road, 1 mile S of NY Route 2 (Go 1 mile E of Brunswick/Grafton town line on Rt. 2 to Jay Hakes Road just past Al's Truck Caps; white house on left side with sky blue mailbox, park in driveway). Short walk to site. Contact: David Hunt 279-4124

Aug 13 Normanside Farm Albany Co. Potential site to have listed as protected or green space. Survey for rare plants. Take 787 South to its end. At the light, take a left onto Southern Blvd/9W/McAlpin St. and drive about a half a mile until the street ends in a T intersection with Delaware Ave. Take a left onto Delaware Ave. Drive .4 miles. After passing Graceland Cemetery on your left, slow down and take the next left onto Mill Road, there may not be a sign, but the Normanside Veterinary Clinic is located at 700 Delaware Ave, at the corner Delaware Ave. and Mill Road. The road narrows here, so be careful not to get rear-ended as you approach Mill Road. Drive about .1 mile until you see a parking area on your left. Park here. Contact: Laura Welles 852-4103 (cell)

Aug 20 Hoosick River Mouth: Shoreline Outcrop Plot Schaghticoke, Rensselaer Co. Large patches of calcareous shoreline outcrop hypothesized to be the best example in the county, exposed at low-flow conditions. Characteristic plants include state rare upland white goldenrod (*Oligoneuron album*), heath aster (*Symphotrichum pilosus* var. *pringlei*) Goal: sample a small plot; quantify the abundance of plants, community structure, soil and hydrologic characteristics, and surface features. Lock 4 Canal Park. From the Stillwater bridge over the Hudson River just E of Stillwater go E ~0.2 mi. Turn right onto the road leading to canal park for ~0.5 mi. to the parking lot left of the lock control building. Contact: David Hunt for possible carpool closer to Troy at ~5:00. 279-4124 **(Gate Closes at dusk)**

Aug 27 Thatcher Park Spiders Tentative survey of the Thatcher Park Indian Ladder trail for interesting spider species. August 27<sup>th</sup> - John Boyd Thacher Park. Spider search along the Indian Ladder Trail for interesting spider species. Directions to park from Albany: take Route 85 west from Albany and through the village of West Salem. Just west of the village, turn right onto Route 157. Continue on Route 157 until you reach the John Boyd Thacher Park. Meet in the Indian

Ladder picnic area near the Park Office. We will be taking a hike over the Indian Ladder trail to the falls and back. Contact: Tony Scalise, 377-0531.

Sept 10 Hidley Farm Gibbs Woods North Greenbush North Greenbush. Rensselaer Co. First attempt to carefully explore a relatively large parcel of mostly undeveloped land in suburban North Greenbush which includes hemlock forest and wetlands. Trip starts at the Gibbs' house at 287 Hidley Road, park in driveway. Directions: Meet at the North Greenbush Recreational Area on Rt 136, E of U.S. Rt 4, from where we will travel about 2 miles to the site. Contact: David Hunt 279-4124

Sept 17 Mt Olympus, Troy. Rensselaer Co. First group attempt to explore one of the few small remnants of natural vegetation remaining in downtown Troy. The site contains large rock outcrops with characteristic rocky summit grasses. We may find some Hudson River Valley plants unusual for the county. Directions: Park along E side of 5th Avenue on N side of Downtown Troy, 2 blocks N of Federal Street (Green Island Bridge). Contact: David Hunt 279-4124

Sept 24 Woodlawn Park Schenectady From the Northway take Central Ave. 5.4 mi W to Mohawk Commons. Continue straight 0.4 mi to light at Gifford St. go left then continue to the end of Gifford and Park at the fence. Group may gather for dinner after field trip Contact: Steve Young 588-8360