

Long Island Botanical Society

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The Quarterly Newsletter

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Noteworthy plants reported from the South Fork of Long Island, New York

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This paper is the second from a study by Vicki Bustamante comparing the current flora of Montauk with the flora reported 100 years ago by Norman Taylor (1923). The first paper by Larry Penny and Victoria Bustamante (2013) was published in the *LIBS Newsletter* (vol. 23: 37, 39-45). Field work for the 20 species discussed in this paper was conducted by Vicki Bustamante and colleagues from 2015 to 2020. Voucher collections have been deposited at the New York Botanical Garden herbarium (NY). Nomenclature in this paper follows Werier (2017) and rarity status follows Young (2020).

Noteworthy plants include native and non-native vascular species. Examples include but are not limited to new records for Long Island, current status of globally or locally rare species, range extensions, extirpations, population fluctuations, and other interesting observations.

Arthraxon hispidus var. *hispidus*, basket grass, joint-head grass, small carpet grass, small carpet weed (Poaceae, the Grass Family). Nonnative.

New record for Long Island. For the past 100 years, this non-native annual grass from southeastern Asia has been spreading throughout eastern USA where it is invasive. Within three to five years it can form dense monotypic stands that crowd out and eliminate native, herbaceous vegetation. *Arthraxon hispidus* was reported from Bronx Co., New York as early as 1950 (Fernald 1950) and in 1990 it was still known in New



Figure 1. Blunt-lobed grape fern (*Botrychium oneidense*) at Montauk, Long Island. Photo by Vicki Bustamante, 2020.

York only from Bronx Co. (New York Flora Association 1990). In 2020 (before this report), *A. hispidus* was documented with herbarium collections from Bronx, Greene, and Westchester counties (Weldy et al. 2020); unvouchered reports include observations from Dutchess, Putnam, and Ulster counties (iMap invasives database 2020). In October 2015, Vicki Bustamante found a population of *A. hispidus* along a wet, grassy roadside in Montauk County Park, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 24 Oct 2015, V. Bustamante 800 (NY)]. The dirt road leads to the Big Reed Pond boat launch and is adjacent to a large freshwater marsh; plants occurred in patches along a 3/10th of a mile stretch. *Arthraxon hispidus* is sometimes confused (especially before flowering) with *Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese stilt grass, but *Arthraxon* has distinctly cordate-clasping leaves, which *Microstegium* lacks.

It can also be confused vegetatively with deer tongue grass, *Dichanthelium clandestinum*, but *Arthraxon* has much longer cilia at the base of the leaf blades. These look-alikes all have different flower structures and can be easily separated that way.

Botrychium oneidense, blunt-lobed grape fern (Ophioglossaceae, the Adder's tongue Family). Native. (Fig. 1).

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S2S3); second extant population on Long Island. On October 3, 2020, Andy Greller and Vicki Bustamante found three individuals of a *Botrychium*

(continued on page 31)

Long Island Botanical Society

Founded: 1986 • Incorporated: 1989

The Long Island Botanical Society is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York.

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Society News

LIBS in the Covid Era. The Covid pandemic and national politics have made this a year of great turmoil, but you have probably discovered by now the soothing benefits of a vigorous hike or a quiet walk in field, forest, or urban park. In 2020, in spite of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, LIBS provided its members with informative quarterly newsletters and offered a number of well-attended field trips throughout the Island. Membership, and participation in these activities, continues strong! We look forward to a time when we can resume our program meetings as well.

Reflections on 2020 by LIBS members:

Lois Lindberg (March 21, 2020): "As we drove around this afternoon, I was encouraged to see that so many people were outdoors (safely) enjoying walks with family and pets. The sounds of the forest, fresh air, the scent of the trees, sunlight through the leaves, those spring ephemerals — all give us a sense of comfort. They ease our stress and worry, help us to relax and to think more clearly. So if you have the chance, leave the coffee cup and cellphone alone, get outdoors and take the time to really appreciate and enjoy nature this Spring."

Doug Futuyama (March 22, 2020): "I have been out birding (solo) yesterday and today, and have also seen a great many people, mostly families, enjoying the parks and shores. Maybe some will discover how much wonderful life there is to be seen. At least, some will realize how precious open, natural spaces are, and support their conservation. Best wishes to all in these frightening times."

Karen Blumer (March 23, 2020): Mike and I are finding this solitude a blessing — not having to go out, not having to keep schedules, gardening and walking our cat (he loves his little leash) on sunny days like yesterday. Wouldn't it be a gift if this entire thing, absent the tragic side, helped us change the way we live, the way we take everything for granted, the hysterical, sometimes baseless and meaningless pace of life here to something more sustainable, respectful of the wild and each other."

In March 2020, **John Potente** was ready to start his annual migration north from Costa Rica to Long Island and sent this email from San Jose airport: "My flight back to New York has just been cancelled by American Airlines and I am here at the airport in San Jose, waiting to see if I can get on the last flight back out to New York, as the airport itself is basically shutting down and blocking its borders to travel. It has been a mixed blessing to see the global economy and tourism shut down, here in Costa Rica. The restaurants, businesses and tour operators have shut their doors. The beaches are off limits, and even the drug dealers are falling on hard times as they are losing their foreign client base. I do sense, though, that the natural world down here is catching a bit of a break from all the intrusive tourists that have been using quads and chain saws to access remote natural areas. My thoughts to all my wonderful LIBS friends."

Ray Welch replied to John's email: "Quite a fix, but you might be safer in Costa Rica than on Long Island."

LIBS Membership Renewals for 2021 are due.

Mail your dues (\$25 individual, \$30 family) to:

Kathy Gaffney, LIBS Treasurer

590 Concord Avenue, Williston Park, NY 11596

Thank you for promptly renewing your membership.

(*Noteworthy Plants, continued from cover page*)

species that was subsequently determined as *B. oneidense* by Arthur Gilman (author of *New Flora of Vermont*, 2015). The plants occurred in a maritime shrubland (for a description of this community see Edinger et al. 2014), approximately 200 feet north of the bluff top bordering the Atlantic Ocean and east of Ditch Plains, Montauk, Suffolk Co. There are now 19 known occurrences of this species in New York including this new one, most of them are small in size; there are more than 30 historical occurrences that have not been field checked. During dry years this fern may not produce leaves at all but remain as an underground stem until wet weather returns. The difficulty of finding this small fern makes it more difficult to determine its rarity status.

Callitriche terrestris, terrestrial water-starwort (Plantaginaceae, the Plantain Family; formerly in its own family, Callitrichaceae). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S2S3). In January 2020, Vicki Bustamante found a population of *C. terrestris* in the upper wrack-line of Oyster Pond, a coastal salt pond in Montauk State Park, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 4 Jan. 2020, *V. Bustamante 1621* (NY)]. There are 10 extant populations in the state but all of them are small, only covering less than 30 square meters each. In New York most of our existing sites for terrestrial water-starwort are in the Hudson Valley from Rockland Co. north to Columbia Co., with one on Staten Island and now two on Long Island. There are scattered historical records from Staten Island, the Adirondacks, and Oneida Co. Five species of water-starwort occur in New York and all of them occur on Long Island: *Callitriche hermaphroditica* (S1), *C. heterophylla* subsp. *heterophylla*, *C. palustris*, *C. stagnalis* (native of Europe), and *C. terrestris* (S2S3). Habitat for the first four species includes shallow pools, ponds, lakes, wet shores, and slow streams. Terrestrial water-starwort (*C. terrestris*) occurs in damp, usually shaded soils.

Carex hormathodes, marsh straw sedge (Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S2S3). In June 2019, Vicki Bustamante found a population of *C. hormathodes* in a marsh on the west edge of Oyster Pond behind the dunes of Block Island Sound, Montauk State Park, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 9 June 2019, *V. Bustamante 1512* (NY)]. Species growing with *C. hormathodes* at this site include blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), sallow sedge (*Carex lurida*), woolly sedge (*C. pellita*), common soft rush (*Juncus effusus* ssp. *solutus*), and swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos* subsp. *moscheutos*). *Carex hormathodes* occurs in brackish marshes and other maritime areas on rocks and sand often within reach of salt spray. There are 20 known populations of marsh straw sedge in New York and more than 20



Figure 2. Sand rocket (*Diplotaxis muralis*) from Towd Point, Southampton Township, with mature flowers and developing fruits (siliques). The insect visitor, identified by Daniel Gilrein as a female drone fly (*Eristalis tenax*), was introduced from Europe around 1875 and is a mimic of the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). This type of mimicry is called Batesian mimicry because the mimic (not dangerous to predators) benefits because most predators avoid bees and wasps because they can inject toxins by stinging, so predators also avoid drone flies that are mistaken for bees and wasps. Photo by Vicki Bustamante, 2018.

historical sites. All known sites occur on Long Island except two populations from just north of New York City along the Hudson River; many of the populations are small or within degraded habitats. The historical New York City populations are believed to be extirpated except for a population at Marine Park in Brooklyn (Kings Co.) recently found by Zihao Wang.

Castanea mollissima, Chinese chestnut (Fagaceae, the Beech Family). Nonnative.

“New” (confirmed) record for New York. The status of Chinese chestnut in New York has been debatable ever since Mitchell and Tucker (2003) first reported it from the state. The discussion has focused on whether the species spontaneously escapes from cultivation or if the few specimens of this species collected in New York are from planted individuals. Werier (2017) concluded the evidence was inconclusive and excluded *C. mollissima* from the flora of New York. In October 2015, Vicki Bustamante found a spontaneously occurring individual of Chinese chestnut (approximately 10 feet tall with a dbh of 4 inches) in a vacant lot on Essex Street in Montauk, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 4 Oct 2015, *V. Bustamante 757* (NY)]. Species growing with *C. mollissima* at this site include winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum* var. *copallinum*), wild black cherry (*Prunus*

(continued on next page)

(*Noteworthy Plants, continued from page 31*)

serotina var. *serotina*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). For now, *C. mollissima* can be categorized as having an unknown nonnative status in New York (following Werier 2017). The only other known occurrence of *C. mollissima* in Montauk (in 2015) includes three mature individuals planted at the “Hither House” on the southwest corner of Lincoln Road and Adams Drive. One of these three individuals, located approximately 2 miles west of Essex Street, may be the parent of the individual in the vacant lot. In April 2020, Matthew Stedman found a seedling (not planted) of *C. mollissima* on Adams Drive, a few hundred feet west of the Hither House.

Chenopodium berlandieri* var. *macrocalyrium, large-calyxed goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae, the Goosefoot Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1S2). Large-calyxed goosefoot, an annual herb, was historically known in New York only from Long Island (all counties), Staten Island, Manhattan Island, and Bronx Co. It is currently known only on Fishers Island and the Montauk area, both in eastern Suffolk Co. Habitats for this species include coastal sands and beaches along the Mid-Atlantic Coast of North America (Clemants 1992). Before 2015, the only known locality for large-calyxed goosefoot in New York was Fishers Island in Long Island Sound where five populations were restricted to a small area of coast. In October 2015, Vicki Bustamante found a robust, almost two foot tall individual of large-calyxed goosefoot on the eastern shore of Lake Montauk, Suffolk Co. For a voucher a side branch was collected [voucher: 27 Oct 2015, *V. Bustamante 803* (NY)]. The total number of plants at both localities is presently unknown. There are 19 early (late 1800s and early 1900s) collections from the New York City and Long Island area that have not been resurveyed. Those from western Long Island and around New York City are probably extirpated.

Cyperus flavescens, yellow flat sedge (Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1). Yellow flat sedge requires exceptionally specific habitat conditions for survival. The species occurs in shallow and seasonally flooded habitats that draw down during the growing season. If the habitat is flooded for several years plants do not appear until the water recedes and sediments are once again exposed to air and sunlight. During flooded times, the seeds of this annual sedge remain dormant in saturated sediments. Not many other plant species can survive such widely fluctuating conditions. Seven (including this report) extant populations of *C. flavescens* are known in New York (six from Long Island) but four of them need to be verified with more survey work. In October 2017, Vicki Bustamante found a population of yellow flat sedge along a wet, grassy roadside in Montauk County Park, Suf-

folk Co. [voucher: 7 Oct 2017, *V. Bustamante 1227* (NY)]. The dirt road leads to the Big Reed Pond boat launch and is adjacent to a large freshwater marsh.

Cyperus iria, ricefield flat sedge (Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family). Nonnative.

New record for the South Fork. Although *C. iria* was first introduced to North America in the 1840s, it is a relatively recent addition to the flora of New York. It was not included in Mitchell and Tucker’s (1997) *Revised Checklist of New York State Plants* but was collected three years later in Bronx Co. [voucher: 20 Oct 2000, *D.S. Kunstler s.n.* (NYS)]. Subsequently, it has been collected in Nassau, Queens, and Suffolk counties (Weldy et al. 2020) and observed in Kings Co. (iNaturalist 2020). In 2018 and 2019, Vicki Bustamante found two populations of *C. iria* on the South Fork, one in East Hampton Township [voucher: 23 Aug 2018, *V. Bustamante 1394* (NY)] the other in Southampton Township. At both sites plants grew in disturbed soils, in parking lot cracks at Montauk Point State Park and in a field in Southampton.

Dichanthelium scoparium, velvet rosette grass (Poaceae, the Grass Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1). Velvet rosette grass is native to southern and eastern North America, reaching the northeastern limit of its range in southeastern New York and southern New England. In New York, the species is currently known only from Long Island, Plum Island, and Shelter Island; on Long Island, it is restricted to Suffolk Co. On October 9, 2015, Vicki Bustamante found a population of *D. scoparium* in a shrubby wetland flowing east into Sag Harbor Bay, New Haven, Southampton Township, Suffolk Co. The only other known occurrence of this species on Long Island is at the William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 12 Jul 2013, *M.L. Lamont s.n.* (NY)]. On Shelter Island, *D. scoparium* occurs at Mashomack Preserve in the “high tide zone above *Baccharis* zone of tidal shores” [voucher: 09 Jul 2007, *T. Rawinski s.n.* (in herbarium at Mashomack Preserve)] and on Plum Island it occurs in “wet sands bordering marsh” [voucher: Aug 2008, *E. Lamont & R. Stalter s.n.* (USCH)]. A population at Heyerdahl Hill, Staten Island was last seen in 1992; viable seeds may still occur at this site waiting to germinate if favorable habitat conditions are restored.

Diploaxis muralis, annual wall rocket, sand rocket, stinking wall rocket (Brassicaceae, the Mustard Family). Nonnative. (Fig. 2).

New record for the South Fork. As its common name suggests, sand rocket often grows in dry, sandy soils. In October 2018, while walking the sandy shore of Little Peconic Bay at Towd Point on the north side of the South Fork, Vicki Bustamante found approximately 12 individuals of *D. muralis* growing in low dunes with seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) and eastern prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*) [voucher: 18

Oct 2018, *V. Bustamante 1461* (NY)]. Towd Point, a hot spot for local seashell collectors, is located in North Sea, Southampton Township, Suffolk Co. *Diplotaxis muralis* is a native of Europe.

Edrastima uniflora, clustered bluets (Rubiaceae, the Madder Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1). This diminutive annual herb is at the northern limit of its range in southeastern New York where it has been rare but stable, with about the same number of populations, for the last 100 years. Historically, in New York it occurred only on Staten Island, Long Island, and Bronx and Westchester counties. Currently, there are 10 known populations in New York, all in Suffolk Co.; only three of the 10 populations have more than 200 individuals. There are three historical populations from the early 1900s that have not been resurveyed. In August 2018, Vicki Bustamante found a population of clustered bluets in a wet, sandy opening near the shoreline of Big Reed Pond, Montauk County Park, East Hampton Township, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 11 Aug 2018, *V. Bustamante 1366* (NY)]. Species growing with *E. uniflora* at this site include autumn fimbry (*Fimbristylis autumnalis*), grass-leaved rush (*Juncus marginatus*), slender yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris torta*), cross-leaved milkwort (*Polygala cruciata*), and brownish beak sedge (*Rhynchospora capitellata*). This species has been placed in three different genera during the past 30 years: *Hedyotis* (Gleason and Cronquist 1991), *Oldenlandia* (Werier 2017), and *Edrastima* (Weldy et al. 2020).



Figure 3. Basal leaves of downy rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*). The attractively reticulated, evergreen leaves of this orchid are a visual treat in any season. Photo by Tom Nelson.

Eleocharis ambigens, ambiguous spike rush (Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1). In New York, this spike rush is currently known only from Long Island (Suffolk Co.) with one historical record from Bronx Co. and one from Ulster Co. There are three extant small populations on Long Island and two of them may be threatened by *Phragmites* and overuse of the surrounding wetlands. In August 2020, Vicki Bustamante and David Werier surveyed a population of *E. ambigens* that Vicki had first located in 2018 [voucher: 7 Aug 2020, *V. Bustamante 1746 & D. Werier* (NY)]; Steve Young initially determined the identity of this species. The population occurs along the edge of Big Reed Pond, Montauk County Park, Suffolk Co. Species growing with *E. ambigens* at this site include swamp dock (*Rumex verticillatus*), hemlock water parsnip (*Sium suave*), coastal sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), eastern swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata* subsp. *pulchra*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), bristly smartweed (*Persicaria setacea*), and marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens*).

Elymus glabriflorus* var. *glabriflorus, hairy wild rye (Poaceae, the Grass Family). Native.

New record for New York (state rank: S1). Julian Campbell, an authority on the genus *Elymus*, determined the identity of this new grass for New York from a collection by Vicki Bustamante from the edge of a sandy dirt road in Montauk State Park, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 23 Aug 2018, *V. Bustamante 1389* (NY)]. Species growing with *E. glabriflorus* var. *glabriflorus* at this site include old world reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), common flat-topped goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), deer-tongue rosette grass (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*), Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), eastern poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans* subsp. *radicans*), common greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), smooth arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum*), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*).

Goodyera pubescens, downy rattlesnake plantain (Orchidaceae, the Orchid Family). Native. (Fig. 3).

Rare on Long Island. Native orchids have not fared well living with humans on Long Island. Of the 37 species of native orchids documented with herbarium collections from Long Island, 14 are considered extirpated and 10 have not been recently observed or are known from only one population (Lamont 1996, 2007; Lamont et al. 1988). *Goodyera pubescens* has fared relatively better than most orchids on Long Island although their numbers have declined on the island during the past 100 years. Sixteen widely scattered, small colonies of *G. pubescens* are currently known on Long Island including Vicki Bustamante's discovery on July 18, 2020 of this orchid in a coastal oak-holly forest in Montauk east of Ditch Plains,

(continued on next page)

(Noteworthy Plants, continued from page 33)

Suffolk Co. This record represents the first report of *G. pubescens* from the Montauk Peninsula, east of Napeague. In 1928, Roy Latham collected *G. pubescens* from Napeague [voucher: 12 Aug 1928, *R. Latham* 5782 (NY)] but it has not been recently seen at that locality.

Hypopitys lanuginosa, red pinesap (Ericaceae, the Heath Family). Native. (Fig. 4).

Unknown distribution in New York. How many species of pinesap (*Hypopitys*) occur in New York? One or two? John Torrey (1843) recognized two distinct varieties: variety *rubra* with stems “rose-color” and variety *glabriuscula* with stems “yellowish brown or tan-color.” Torrey also noted “the rose-colored variety flowers late in the season” whereas the yellow variety flowers earlier. Subsequently, the two varieties were recognized as two distinct species by Britton and Brown (1913) but later, Fernald (1950) and Gleason and Cronquist (1963, 1991) lumped the two species together into one variable species with no varieties. Fernald (1950) noted: “the variations of color not clearly supporting the differentiation of species as sometimes maintained.” He also noted the stem was “yellowish or (in autumn) sometimes red.” Some recent treatments recognize two species of pinesap in New York (Werier 2017) and New England (Haines 2011): red pinesap (*H. lanuginosa*) and yellow pinesap (*H. monotropa*). The distribution of the two pinesaps in New York is poorly known and new collections are needed for study. On August 27, 2018, Vicki Bustamante collected red pinesap along the Point Woods Trail in Camp Hero State Park, Montauk, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 27 Aug 2018, *V. Bustamante* 1402 (NY)]. This collection has been the focus of a study by Julian Koob and preliminary results support the recognition of two species. Koob (personal communication) reported: “Molecular techniques were used to identify *Tricholoma luteomaculosum* as the fungal species parasitized by *Hypopitys lanuginosa* collected from Montauk NY. This fungal species was also found to be parasitized by a different population of *Hypopitys lanuginosa* in upstate NY, but not by *Hypopitys monotropa*; while very preliminary, this suggests specialization by *Hypopitys* species on different fungal species.”



Figure 4. Red pinesap (*Hypopitys lanuginosa*). Pinesaps are mycotrophs, receiving nutrients via fungal mycelia rather than through photosynthesis. Image from Gob Botany (gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org).

Juncus scirpoides* var. *scirpoides, sedge rush (Cyperaceae the Sedge Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1). Seven extant populations of sedge rush are currently known in New York from Queens and Suffolk counties on Long Island and also from Staten Island with historical occurrences in Bronx and Nassau counties. Reports from Otsego Co. and from the salt marshes of Onondaga Co. are considered extirpated. Vicki Bustamante has been monitoring a population of sedge rush in a swale at the Camp Hero bluff in Montauk, Suffolk Co. The population of several dozen individuals has remained stable the past few years.

Ligustrum obtusifolium* var. *suave, Amur privet (Oleaceae, the Olive Family). Nonnative.

New record for Long Island. Before this report, Amur privet was known in New York from only one old specimen, but data associated with that specimen indicate it may be naturalized (Werier 2017). Further evidence of Amur privet being naturalized in New York is based on Vicki Bustamante’s collection from a spontaneously occurring individual along a trail in Montauk County Park, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 22 Jun 2018, *V. Bustamante* 1299 (NY)]. The collection was determined by David Werier. Species growing with Amur privet at this site include coastal shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis* var. *canadensis*), wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina* var. *serotina*), northern dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), common greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), and southern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum* var. *venosum*). Amur privet is native of Japan.

Malus hupehensis, tea crab apple (Rosaceae, the Rose Family). Nonnative.

New record for Long Island. *Malus hupehensis* is a popular ornamental tree on Long Island and is escaping from cultivation on the Montauk Peninsula. In May 2018, Vicki Bustamante collected a voucher of this species from an individual growing in a roadside thicket on Melchiona Lane, Montauk, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 12 May 2018, *V. Bustamante* 1260 (NY)]. The collection was determined by Daniel Atha. The thicket was composed of native and nonnative species including coastal shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis* var. *canadensis*), bayberry (*Morella caroliniensis*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Morrow’s honeysuckle

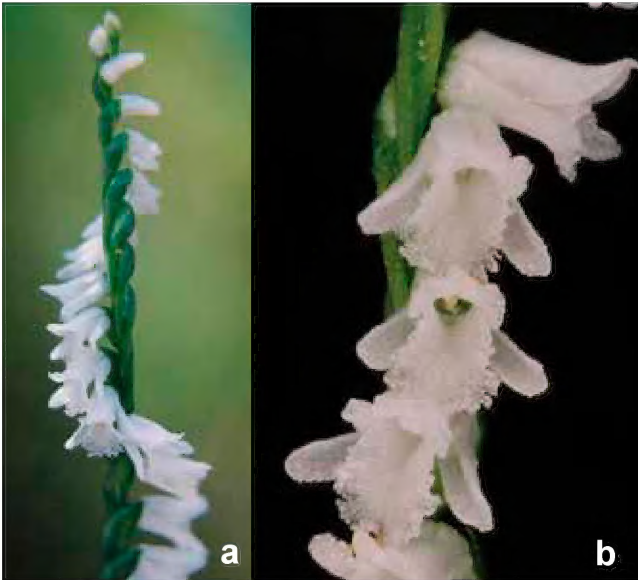


Figure 5. Little lady's tresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*); a. inflorescence, b. close-up of flowers. Despite its small size, this species is one of our most attractive and irresistible orchids, with its graceful spire of tiny, jewel-like crystalline flowers. Photos by Tom Nelson.

(*Lonicera morrowii*), and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Tea crab apple is native of China where the leaves were brewed to make tea.

Solidago latissimifolia, coastal goldenrod, Elliott's goldenrod (Asteraceae, the Aster Family). Native.

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S1). *Solidago latissimifolia* was historically known in New York only from Long Island (Nassau, Queens, and Suffolk counties). It is currently known from five populations in Suffolk Co. (Appletree Neck Meadow, Freeman Avenue, Little Northwest Creek, Northwest Creek, and Shadmore), and only one of them has more than 100 plants. Three of the populations occur in brackish to freshwater wet meadows. Another occurs in a moist, sandy/gravelly, human-made opening in pitch pine oak woods in association with wildflowers and grasses. The recently discovered fifth population occurs along the edge of a trail in Shadmoor State Park, Montauk, Suffolk Co. [voucher: 22 Sep 2015, V. Bustamante 724 (NY)]. This species was long known by the name *Solidago elliotti*, but the name *S. latissimifolia* pre-dates it and the rules of botanical nomenclature mandate the older name is valid.

Spiranthes tuberosa, little lady's tresses (Orchidaceae, the Orchid Family). Native. (Fig. 5).

Rare plant in New York (state rank: S2). Few orchid species of northeastern USA are adapted to dry, well-drained, nutrient-poor, sandy soils. *Spiranthes tuberosa* is one of them and although habitat is available on Long Island, populations have declined over the past 100 years. On September 2, 2017, Vicki Bustamante found a previously unreported population of *S. tuberosa* in a maritime grassland near Montauk Point, Suffolk Co. *Spiranthes tuberosa* is near the northeastern limit of its range on Long Island.

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FIELD TRIP (Registration required)

FEBRUARY 21, 2021 (SUNDAY) 10:00 AM

*North Fork Preserve, Northville, Suffolk County, NY
Old Growth Forest/Successional Fields*

Joint trip with the North Shore Land Alliance
Trip leader: Eric Lamont

This trip to North Fork Preserve will include walks through areas not previously covered on past LIBS field trips to this site. We will visit the old growth forest and associated old growth ponds (with ancient groves of buttonbush) in the undulating Harbor Hill Moraine, and focus on winter tree and shrub identification. We will also walk down the south slope of the moraine onto the outwash plain where we will investigate successional fields and shrublands. Approximately 2 miles of easy walking on wide trails.

To sign-up, email Eric Lamont and more information will be provided including the meeting place. [Email: elamont@optonline.net]

Safety Protocols:

- Register for the trip. Registration will be limited, so don't assume there is room for you unless the trip leader tells you. If you register and become unable to attend, please cancel so someone else can take your place.
- Wear a face covering for the duration of the trip.
- Try to "socially distance" yourself from other trip participants.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, monthly meetings at Muttontown Preserve are postponed until further notice.