

# LONG ISLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 1991

## MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Museum of LI Natural Sciences, SUNY Stony Brook. The topic will be Lupines: Speciation and Pollination. Our guest speaker, Barbara Bentley, is an associate professor in the Ecology and Evolution Department at SUNY Stony Brook. She is well-known for her work on plant-insect interactions, and has written a book on plant nectaries.

## FIELD TRIPS

April 28, 1991 - Warbler Woods/Prosser Pines, 9:30 a.m.

This month's field trip will be to Warbler Woods (one of Suffolk County's newest preserves) and nearby Prosser Pines (Cathedral Pines) in Yaphank. Warbler Woods is an area of wooded ravines and kettlehole ponds set in the Harbor Hill Terminal Moraine, and contains several botanical and zoological rarities including featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*) and the marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*). John Turner, Director of Natural Resources for Suffolk County, will lead us through these two preserves.

**DIRECTIONS:** LI Expressway to Exit 67. Go North on County Road 21 to Cathedral Pines County Park. Entrance is on the East side of the road. We will park at Cathedral Pines and carpool to Warbler Woods, as parking there is very limited. For further information, please call John Turner at (516) 924-6767. A note of caution - Warbler Woods is known to have a population of deer ticks. Insect repellent or other precautions would be advisable.

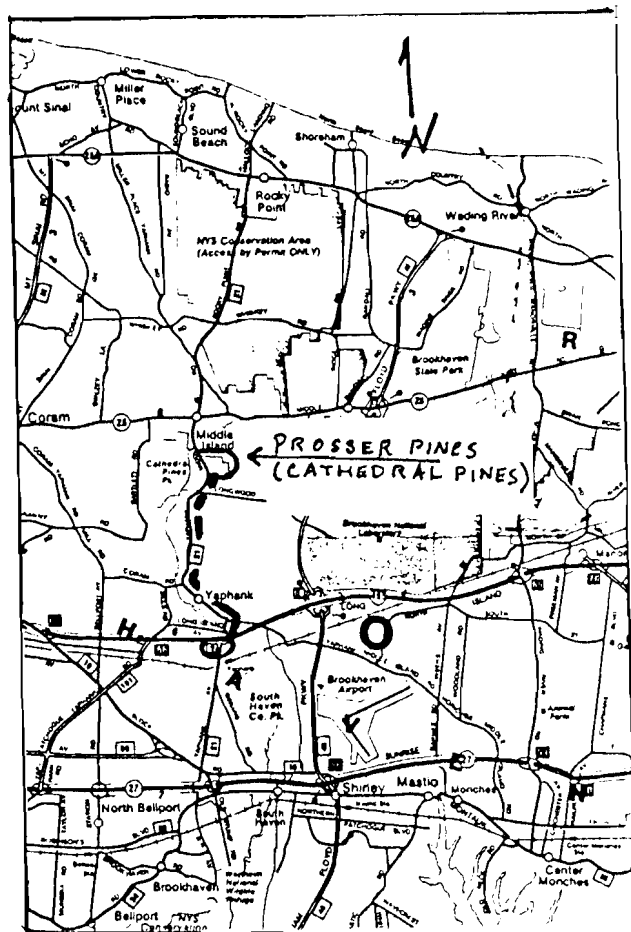
### Upcoming Trips:

May 18, 1991 - Planting Fields Arboretum, 9:30 a.m.

Leaders: Carol Johnston and Betty Lotowycz

June 8, 1991 - Montauk / Big Reed Pond, 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Eric Lamont



The following tribute to Joe Beitel by Dr. John Mickell, is reprinted from The Herbarium Sheet, a bi-weekly circular of herbarium information from the New York Botanical Garden.

JOE BEITEL -- Perhaps no one in the history of the New York Botanical Garden will be missed as much as will Joe Beitel. In spite of his relatively young age (39) and short time at the Garden (5 years on the staff, 8 years of total association), he made a tremendous impression on all of us. He was equally versed and a mainstay in all three major program divisions of the Garden. His training in science led to his beginning as a research associate in 1983, working with me on the ferns of Oaxaca, Mexico, and he was a world authority in his own right on North American clubmosses. He published 25 scientific papers and co-authored with me the Pteridophyte Flora of Oaxaca and Hardy Ferns. He did field work in many parts of North America, gave 18 papers at scientific meetings, and led field trips for local, national, and international groups, all on his own time. Joe was vice president of the Long Island Botanical Society and past-president of the New York Chapter of the American Fern Society.

From 1986 to the time of his death from brain cancer February 22, he was the NYBG horticultural taxonomist, acting as the major link between science and horticulture. His knowledge of the plants of the Garden, their taxonomy, and location on the grounds was unsurpassed. Furthermore, he was a practicing gardener, doing extensive gardening at his mother's and sister's homes in Bellport and Brooklyn, New York respectively, as well as helping with plantings here in the Bronx.

Teaching was his real love. During his brief career at the Garden he taught 21 different courses--everything from Long Island vegetation and plant ecology to ornamental woody plants, systematics, and cryptogamic botany. Joe started his teaching career working summers with the Suffolk County Department of Parks as park interpreter and assistant naturalist during his college years. In graduate school at the University of Michigan he assisted in several courses and took over some of Herb Wagner's classes when Herb had cancer of the larynx. Joe came back to the New York area from graduate school to teach three semesters at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville (1982-1983). He taught summer courses for the Leelanau Center for Education, Glen Arbor, Michigan (1982 and 1985-1990). His teaching handouts were outstanding and his enthusiasm often carried him well beyond the appointed class times. He was a popular lecturer and led field trips frequently to Long Island, the New Jersey pine barrens, and many parts of the eastern United States,

Joe's interest in plants began at an early age. In third grade he won a school prize for a science project, involving an experiment with growing sweet peas, and he was always begging his indulgent father to take him to the woods. He was strongly influenced also by a high school science teacher, Art Cooley, and went to Cornell University to study botany.

He was a meticulous worker and utilized the library and herbarium to all hours of the night--often three or four a.m., and on occasion I would find him leaving to get a couple hours of sleep as I was arriving at 7:15.

For relaxation Joe enjoyed music. He played the piano, and while at Cornell played tuba in the marching band.

Joe's passing leaves a major gap at the Garden and in our hearts. A fund in his name will be established at the New York Botanical Garden. [John Mickell]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

>>>> A Not-So-Subtle Reminder! <<<<

To all you folks who still have not paid your 1991 dues, we have an exciting field season ahead of us, with lots of great programs and trips planned. Don't miss out by neglecting to renew your membership. Check your mailing label on this issue; if the letters "NP" appear, please send in your \$10.00 membership dues now while you think of it. Make your check payable to:

L.I. Botanical Society, and mail it with the tear-off form on the last page.

"Wildflowers: Legend and Lore" is a natural science workshop to be held on Saturday, April 27 from 10 am to 3 pm at Garvies Point Museum and Welwyn Preserve in Glen Cove. The program will include a slide show, demonstrations, and a walk to illustrate the history and uses of wild plants. The fee is \$5.00; call Doug Winkler at (516) 671-0300 for information on registering.

## MINUTES

Minutes of the March 12 Meeting held at The Nature Conservancy, Uplands Farm, Cold Spring Harbor, NY.

Acting President Lois Lindberg called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. She announced that there would be an Arbor Day Festival at Planting Fields Arboretum on Saturday and Sunday, April 20th and 21st. It will be co-sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension and will take place in the Hay Barn courtyard from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The question of using our permanent display came up. Jane Blanchard will contact Margaret Conoverr to check on its current status.

An Earth Day Celebration, Sunday, April 21st, will be in conflict with the above. It will be held in Eisenhower Park, and last year attracted 25,000 people.

Our next field trip will be on Saturday, March 30th - a Lichen workshop conducted by Dr. Richard Harris, by invitation of Chris Mangels. This will begin at 12:30 P.M. at Quogue Wildlife Refuge. Microscopes and hand lenses will be used inside, and an outside field trip will follow.

On Sunday, April 28th we will have a field trip in Warbler Woods and Prosser Pines in Yaphank with John Turner.

Skip Blanchard produced one copy of the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smoky Mts. of Tennessee, and anyone interested can contact him. The dates are the last weekend in April. A suggestion that we go again next year was enthusiastically bounced about.