



Long Island Botanical Society

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The Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2014

Noteworthy Plants Recently Reported from Long Island, New York¹

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¹An expanded version of this report has been published in vol. 141 of the *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* (Lamont, Werier, and Glenn 2014). Readers should note that the expanded version includes reference citations that have been omitted here.

Long Island, New York, continues to be a botanical hotspot as the following report reveals. Recent field work and herbarium study have yielded several noteworthy floristic discoveries on Long Island. Of the seven vascular plant species included in this report, six are non-native and the nativity status of one (*Juncus diffusissimus*, slim-podded rush) is debatable.

Four of the species are additions to the flora of New York: *Actinidia arguta* (hardy kiwi), *Carex kobomugi* (Asiatic sand sedge), *Kalopanax septemlobus* (castor aralia), and *Scirpus pallidus* (cloaked bulrush). The report of *Cyperus acuminatus* (taper-tipped flatsedge) from Long Island changes the status of this species in New York from non-persisting to persisting. *Cyperus difformis* (variable flatsedge) and *Juncus diffusissimus* (slim-podded rush) are recent additions to the flora of New York and our reports verify their status as persistent and spontaneously reproducing.

Throughout this report we have endeavored to give credit to individuals who reported their findings to us. We especially thank David Werier for sharing the results of his field work on Long Island and extensive herbarium searches. Additionally, we acknowledge the following individuals: for assistance in the field we thank Michael Bilecki (National Park Service), Michael Feder (New York City Parks Department), Rich Kelly (Long Island Botanical Society), and Jordan Raphael (National Park Service); for assistance in searching for specimens in herbaria we thank Robert F. C. Naczi (The New York Botanical Garden) and Anna Stalter (Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University). For providing funding for research that led to some of our discoveries we thank Long Island Invasive Species Management Area.

Discussion

Actinidia arguta

Hardy Kiwi, Tara Vine

Actinidiaceae, the Chinese Gooseberry Family



[Photo by Lois Lindberg]

Actinidia arguta is a perennial vine native to Japan, Korea, and central and eastern China and has been cultivated since 1874 in the northeastern United States. We are unaware of any reports of this species naturalizing in northeastern North America prior to 1991, when Weatherbee (1991) reported that it had naturalized in “a limited area of Stockbridge and Lenox,” Berkshire County, Massachusetts. It has since been reported as part of the floras of Maine, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In addition, Kartesz (2013) reported *A. arguta* from Morris County, New Jersey, based solely on personal communication

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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.

Visit the Society's Web site
www.libotanical.org

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Society News

The Annual LIBS BBQ was held on June 10, and for once it didn't rain. One highlight of the evening was the surprise appearance of out-of-state LIBS members Skip and Jane Blanchard.

The Long Island Botanical Society warmly thanks Zu Proly for serving as Refreshment Chairman for many years. She announced her retirement in April.

The 30th anniversary of the founding of LIBS is coming up in 2016, and plans are being discussed for a week-long field excursion in celebration. President Eric Lamont is taking suggestions for locations which so far include Iceland and Mt. Rainier.

The LIBS Newsletter may soon become electronic. Back issues are presently available as pdfs on the LIBS website, and there is some discussion of whether members would wish to receive the electronic version only. The Executive Committee will take this into consideration.

Margaret Conover announced that the New York Botanical Garden has initiated a project to digitize John Torrey's herbarium specimens, along with all other pre-1874 specimens in their collection. The "Torrey Herbarium Project" involves an estimated 20,000 specimens and is projected to take several years. The garden is currently seeking volunteers to help pull specimens from the general collection, image them and transcribe the label data. Margaret is working with NYBG Herbarium staff on this effort and is the project's contact person. Please contact her if you are interested in volunteering for this important and exciting project: margaret.conover@gmail.com.

Dick Stalter reported on the Jamaica Bay (June 7) field trip. A 13-foot tidal surge during Superstorm Sandy cut a channel from the fresh-water pond to the bay so that the pond is no longer fresh. The National Park Service has no plans to fill the breach. Botanically the area is a study in Novel Ecosystems consisting largely of invasive species.

John Turner commented on his effort to get an easement on the Radar Tower property on Freeman Ave. in Islip which has been the location of a half-dozen rare plants and is the only remaining Long Island location for pyxie moss (*Pyxidantha brevifolia*). The site is 13 acres, though the rare plants exist in an acre or less.

A Recent Publication:

Lamont, E. E. and R. Stalter. *Flora of Plum Island, Suffolk County, New York*. J. Torrey Bot. Soc. 140: 465–479. 2013.—ABSTRACT: Plum Island, New York, has one of the highest concentrations of rare plants in the state and supports a high diversity of native plant species. The island's varied topography and diverse ecological communities have contributed to the diverse flora; for much of the past 100 years, approximately 90% of the island has remained undeveloped. The vascular flora consists of 414 species within 270 genera and 92 families. Largest families include Asteraceae (61 spp.), Poaceae (60 spp.), and Cyperaceae (26 spp.) and largest genera include *Carex* (9 spp.), *Cyperus* (8 spp.), and *Juncus* (7 spp.). Twenty three species are listed as endangered, threatened, or rare in New York. Of these 23 species, 17 are extant, having been observed in the field during this study and six are considered extirpated. Plum Island provides a significant refugium for biodiversity and should be preserved and protected.

(*Noteworthy Plants continued from cover*)

with David Snyder. We do not have any additional information regarding the latter report. Recently, we have received the following report of a population of *A. arguta* in Nassau County, Long Island.

In June 2011, Long Island Botanical Society (LIBS) members Barbara Conolly and Lois Lindberg (pers. comm.) found a small population of *A. arguta* at Coffin Woods Preserve, Matinecock, Nassau County, Long Island. Young observed the population in 2013, and found that it covered approximately 2000 m² in a tulip-tree mixed hardwood forest that has been degraded with other invasive species. *Actinidia arguta* formed a groundcover and climbed over shrubs and up a number of large tulip-trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Young saw no fruits. Some of the trees covered by the kiwi were toppled by hurricane Sandy in 2012. [Ed. Note: See related article in LIBS Newsletter 24:7.]

Grier and Grier (1929) reported *A. arguta* as being cultivated on three estates in northeastern Nassau County and adjacent Suffolk County, which is in the general region of the Coffin Woods Preserve.

We are concerned that *A. arguta* is becoming a problematic invasive species at least in some areas in the Northeast.

Carex kobomugi

Asiatic Sand Sedge, Japanese Sedge
Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family



[Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org]

Carex kobomugi, a species primarily of coastal dunes and native to east Asia, has been established in Ocean County, New Jersey, since at least 1929. In 1979, Stalter (1980) documented *C. kobomugi* from Sandy Hook, Monmouth County, New Jersey. This species is also known from further north of Long Island in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Carex kobomugi was extensively planted for dune stabilization in eastern United States from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s.

Belcher et al. (1984) report that prior to 1984 this species was planted on Long Island, New York, for “field tests” and was determined to be well adapted to Long Island climatic conditions. Therefore, at least some of its spread in the Northeast is the result of intentional plantings. The populations of this species on the New Jersey coast have been expanding exponentially.

Mastrogriuseppe (2002), in her *Flora of North America* treatment, included New York in the distribution of *C. kobomugi*. We have not been able to determine the source of her report and have unsuccessfully searched BH, BKL, CONN, NY, and NYS for specimens that document her report. Mitchell and Tucker (2003) did not include *C. kobomugi* in the flora of New York. In 2013, Michael Byer (National Park Service) told us that “several years ago” he had seen *C. kobomugi* at Breezy Point, Queens County, Long Island, and that “several years ago” the National Park Service had herbicided the population. He also indicated that he had not collected a specimen from this population. In 2011, Tony Luscombe (National Park Service) showed David Werier the area at Breezy Point where the eradication had allegedly taken place although Luscombe admitted that his knowledge of where this had taken place was second hand and he was unsure of the exact location. Werier did not find an extant population at that location at that time.

On 24 October 2012, Heather Liljengren (New York City Parks Department) collected a species of *Carex* from Rockaway Beach, Queens County, Long Island (*Liljengren s.n.*, BKL) that Robert F.C. Naczi (pers. comm.) confirmed as *C. kobomugi*. On 7 August 2013, Young along with others surveyed this population. The population occurred in two distinct habitats bordering the Atlantic Ocean: low, gently undulating primary dunes and the adjacent upper parts of ocean beach wash flats. The survey team documented the population from Beach 41 St. to just west of Beach 56 St., Arverne-by-the-Sea, Rockaway Beach. The population consisted of five large colonies and scattered individuals covering 5800 m². According to Young, in 2006, piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) stewards first noticed, but did not initially report, the plants at this site.

In 2013, Young and Lamont confirmed additional Long Island populations of what are likely *C. kobomugi* from Fire Island, Suffolk County found by Julia Priolo (Land Use Ecological Services) and Breezy Point, Queens County found by Hanem Aboulezz (National Park Service). The plants in these two populations were solely vegetative and therefore lacked fruiting material. Since *C. kobomugi* is morphologically similar to *C. macrocephala*. (largehead sedge), another invasive sedge of maritime dunes, and is difficult to distinguish without reproductive material, it is possible that the populations are indeed *C. macrocephala*. Young sent plants from the populations to Louise Wootton (Georgian Court University) for molecular

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work and identification but results are not available as of this writing. *Carex kobomugi* is an invasive species and plans to eradicate it in New York have been implemented.

Cyperus acuminatus

Taper-tipped Flatsedge

Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family



[Photo by Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org]

In 2012, Werier found a small population of *Cyperus acuminatus* at Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, Suffolk County, Long Island (7 August 2012, *Werier 4540*, BH, GH; 3 September 2012, *Werier 4698*, NY, Werier pers. herb.). The population occurred on the edge of wet ruts in a sandy, infrequently used dirt road adjacent to a utility right-of-way. Associated species included *Cyperus bipartitus* (slender flatsedge), *C. difformis* (variable flatsedge), *C. iria* (ricefield flatsedge), *C. microiria* (Asain flatsedge), *C. odoratus* (fragrant flatsedge), *C. squarrosus* (bearded flatsedge), *Eleocharis obtusa* (blunt spike-rush), and *Schoenoplectiella mucronata* (bog bulrush).

The native range of *C. acuminatus* is northeastern Mexico and most of the United States. The native status in the northeastern United States, where populations are known from only widely scattered locations, is contentious. In New Hampshire, *C. acuminatus* is considered native by Angelo and Boufford (2007), non-native by Haines (2011), and “introduced?” by Tucker et al. (2002). In Pennsylvania, it is considered native by the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania (2013) and “introduced?” by Tucker et al. (2002).

In New York, this species was previously known from only one population (Westchester Co., Yonkers, Grassy Sprain Reservoir, 27 September 1924, *G. T. Hastings s.n.*, NY!). Mitchell and Tucker (2003) considered *C. acuminatus* to be non-persisting and non-native. Our report changes the status of this species in New York to persisting. We consider *C. acuminatus* non-native at Edgewood Preserve because the site has significant anthropogenic disturbances, many plant associates are non-native species, and *C. acuminatus*

had not previously been known from this site or any other in the vicinity (the Grassy Sprain Reservoir is approximately 50 km from this site).

Cyperus difformis

Variable Flatsedge

Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family



[Photo by David Werier]

Cyperus difformis is introduced in North America where its spread has been well documented. Stalter et al. (2000) reported this species from Sandy Hook, Monmouth County, New Jersey. In 2002, a collection of *C. difformis* was made for the first time in New York (Queens Co., Strack Pond, 25 September 2002, *Rothstein s.n.*, BKL!). Strack Pond is in Forest Park, Long Island, and is managed by the New York City Parks Department. In 1966, the Parks Department filled in the pond and built ball fields on the site. Then in 2000, the site was “restored” into a kettle pond. Wenskus (2002) reported that in 2001, the site (called Twin Fields at that time) was revegetated “with mass plantings of herbaceous wetland plants”. It is possible that NYC Parks Department might have unintentionally introduced *C. difformis* to the site during the “restoration” work.

Werier surveyed the Strack Pond site in 2012 and collected a voucher (4 September 2012, *Werier 4714*, BH, BKL, NY, Werier pers. herb.). The population was thriving and occupied an area of approximately 0.2 hectares with hundreds of individuals. The density of the population varied from sparse to dense. The plants occurred on the edge of Strack Pond just up from the level of standing water as well as in marshes in the pond. The plants were in full sun to very slight shade from the adjacent forest, and occurred in water depths up to approximately 10 cm. Some associates included *Amaranthus blitum* (purple amaranth), *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (annual ragweed), *A. trifida* (great ragweed), *Artemisia vulgaris* (mugwort), *Carex*

lurida (shallow sedge), *C. vulpinoidea* Michx. (fox sedge), *Cyperus esculentus* (yellow nut-grass), *C. iria* (ricefield flatsedge), *Eleusine indica* (India goosegrass), *Juncus effusus* var. *solutus* (common rush), *J. tenuis* (path rush), *Leersia virginica* (Virginia cutgrass), *Panicum dichotomiflorum* (fall panic-grass), *P. virgatum* (switchgrass), *Persicaria hydropiper* (marshpepper smartweed), *P. longiseta* (creeping smartweed), *P. pennsylvanica* (Pennsylvania smartweed), *Plantago rugelii* (black-seeded plantain), and *Symphotrichum lanceolatum* (white panicle aster).

In 2012, Werier found two additional populations of *C. difformis* in New York. One is in Suffolk County, Long Island (Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, 3 September 2012, Werier 4693, BH, BKL, NY) and the other is in Richmond County, Staten Island (Ocean Breeze Park, 18 September 2012, Werier 4773, BKL). The Edgewood population consisted of about 150 plants covering a 100 m² area, growing on the edge of a seasonally wet depression bordering a sandy and gravelly road, adjacent to a utility right-of-way.

Juncus diffusissimus

Slim-podded Rush

Juncaceae, the Rush Family



[Photo by David Werier]

In 2004, Lamont and Young (2005) found the first population of *Juncus diffusissimus* in New York. That population consisted of 17 individuals and occurred in the Town of Islip, Suffolk County, Long Island. In 2012 and 2013, Werier found four additional populations of *J. diffusissimus* in New York. Two of the populations were also from the Town of Islip, Suffolk County (Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve, 7 August 2012, Werier 4537, BH, BKL; Timberline Park, 7 August 2012, Werier 4533, BH, BKL), a third was from Rich-

mond County, Staten Island (Ocean Breeze Park, 18 September 2012, Werier 4778, BH, BKL), and the fourth was from Orange County, (Town of Warwick, Sterling Forest, 12 July 2013, Werier 5035, NY, Werier pers. herb.). The population at Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve was extensive and comprised hundreds to thousands of individuals. It was also dominant in a human-created wetland at this site.

Kalopanax septemlobus

Castor Aralia

Apiaceae, the Carrot Family



[Photo by Steve Young]

Although *Kalopanax septemlobus* is not listed as occurring in New York (Mitchell and Tucker 2003, Weldy et al. 2013), this species has been at least minimally spontaneously reproducing and persisting at two localities on western Long Island. In 2012, Anne Wong (Prospect Park Alliance) informed Werier that *K. septemlobus* had been spontaneously appearing in and along the edges of the forests at Prospect Park (Kings County, Long Island) although she did not specify how many individuals had appeared and for how long she has been observing them. According to Wong, The Prospect Park Alliance has been actively removing them. Wong showed Werier one 25cm dbh individual, from which he collected a voucher (5 Sep 2012, Werier 4720, BH). Werier searched the area, although not extensively, and did not see any additional individuals. In 2000, LIBS member Steven Glenn documented one individual of *K. septemlobus* growing as an adventive in the local flora garden of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (Glenn 5358, BKL), which is adjacent to Prospect Park. The Brooklyn Botanical Garden currently has three cultivated individuals of *K. septemlobus* on its grounds (Glenn, pers. comm.). Therefore, it is possible that the spontaneous individuals that have appeared at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and Prospect Park originated from seeds produced by these cultivated individuals.

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In 2012, LIBS member Allan Lindberg (pers. comm.) observed two saplings of *K. septemlobus* at Coffin Woods Preserve in Matinecock, Nassau County, Long Island, which appeared to him not to have been planted. They were growing in a tulip-tree/mixed hardwood forest that has been degraded with other invasive species. In 2013, he collected a voucher (18 May 2013, *Lindberg s.n.*, BKL, NY, OBPF) and unsuccessfully searched the area for a nearby parent tree. Lindberg treated the two saplings with herbicide and will be monitoring them to see if they re-sprout.

We suggest that *K. septemlobus* be closely monitored for invasive tendencies. It may prove not to be invasive or problematic but it could be a species like *Phellodendron amurense* (Amur cork-tree) that is an invasive and becomes problematic over time.

Scirpus pallidus

Cloaked Bulrush

Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family



[Photo by David Werier]

In 2012, Werier found a population of *Scirpus pallidus* naturalized on Long Island (Queens Co., Forest Park, Strack Pond, 4 September 2012, *Werier 4716*, BH, Werier pers. herb.) The publication (Lamont et al. 2014) on which the present article is based was the first report of this species from New York. The population occurred in a “restored” kettle pond called Strack Pond. See details about the history of this site in our account of *Cyperus difformis* above. It is possible that the New York City Parks Department originally planted *S. pallidus* at this site during restoration work, especially since this species is often mistaken for the native *S. atrovirens* (darkgreen bulrush). Werier did not fully assess the size of the *S. pallidus* population but noted that there were at least two dozen individuals. They were growing in shallow water at the edge of the pond with *Leersia oryzoides* (rice cutgrass).

Scirpus pallidus has not previously been reported from New York. It is native primarily in the western and central United

States and Canada. Whittemore and Schuyler (2002) reported populations as far east as Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ontario, and disjunct in Pennsylvania. They appear to have considered all of these populations as native but the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania (2013) considered the Pennsylvania population non-native. Angelo and Boufford (2007) also reported *S. pallidus* from Maine as a non-native. Haines (2011) did not consider it to be part of the flora of New England but has now confirmed that there is a voucher representing the report from Maine and has accepted *S. pallidus* as part of the flora of New England (Haines pers. comm.). There is also a possible reference to this species occurring in New Jersey, but it is unclear.

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FIELD TRIPS

AUGUST 17, 2014 (SUNDAY) 10 AM

Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, NY

Trip leaders: Leah Beckett and Rebecca Swadek

Email: Leah.Beckett@parks.nyc.gov

Pelham Bay Park has a diverse set of habitats including extensive salt marshes dotted with upland "islands," formed by exposed gneiss-quartz bedrock overlain by glacial till soil. It is the southernmost example of a rocky New England coastline, and is the largest park in New York City.

A walk along the upland-salt marsh boundary in mid-summer will include mature oak-hickory forest, shrub-dominated marsh edges, and salt marsh dominated by *Spartina alterniflora*, *S. patens*, and *Distichlis spicata*. Other salt marsh species will include *Iva frutescens*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Pluchea odorata*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Salicornia depressa*, and possibly *Bolboschoenus robustus*, *Limonium carolinianum* and *Symphotrichum subulatum* (S2).

The low marsh, inundated twice daily by tides, also harbors live ribbed-mussel communities, breeding marsh wrens, and a few relic oysters. Other shore birds such as great egrets, snowy egrets, great blue herons, and birds of prey can be seen on the bedrock outcrops in the marsh.

Be prepared for possible wet walking. Knee boots or taller waders are recommended if you want to venture out of the upland. Low tide is at noon. Bring plenty of water and be prepared for ticks.

Directions: Meet in the Southeast corner of the Split Rock Golf Course parking lot. The parking lot entrance is off of Shore Road just north of Orchard Beach Rd. The southeast corner is the far corner (the side farthest away from the clubhouse) closest to Shore Road.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2014 (SATURDAY) 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Locations in Delaware and Otsego Counties, NY

Trip leaders: Al & Lois Lindberg

Email: ajlindberg@verizon.net Phone: 516-686-6649

(after Sept. 3 phone 607-865-9487.)



(Literature Cited, continued from page 26)

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We will visit Franklin Mountain Sanctuary, 100 acres of diverse hilly woods and fields, and the site of a noted hawk watch. Nearby Emmons Pond Bog Preserve consists of 140 acres of wetland meadows and a sphagnum bog. September gives the birders among us the opportunity to take a look at some early-season hawk migrants. Oneonta is in central New York State, approximately 4 hours from LI, and there are several motels in the area for overnight accommodations. Please bring lunch.

Directions: Email or call for further details and directions to the meeting location.

OCTOBER 4, 2014 (SATURDAY) 11 AM

Cranberry Bog Preserve, Riverhead, Suffolk County, NY

Trip leader: Andrew Greller

Email: agreller2@optonline.net

(Co-listed with the North Shore Land Alliance)

Join botanist Andy Greller to explore this magnificent community, complete with carnivorous plants, when it is at its most beguiling.

Directions: Please Email mdfeder2001@yahoo.com for meeting place and directions. Enrollment is limited.

OCTOBER 18, 2014 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

North Fork Preserve, Northville, Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, NY

Trip leader: Eric Lamont

Email: elamont@optonline.net

The day will include about 2 miles of walking and the emphasis will be on the diversity of ecological communities and the dominant plant species that characterize them. Many different freshwater wetland communities will be observed and classified, as well as a rare upland forest ecosystem. Bring lunch and be prepared for ticks. Participants must register with trip leader to attend.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 9, 2014*

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Shari Romar: "The Urban Oasis: Queens Botanical Garden." With origins dating back to the 1939 New York World's Fair (now celebrating its 75th Anniversary), Queens Botanical Garden continues to enchant visitors. But QBG isn't just a pretty face--the Garden offers innovative educational programs and demonstrates environmental stewardship practices throughout its 39 acres in bustling Flushing. Shari is the New Media Manager at Queens Botanical Garden. She is an avid birder, nature photographer, and freelance writer specializing in gardening and nature topics.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center,
Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

October 14, 2014*

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

James Lendemer: "Long Island Lichens: From Distant Past To Uncertain Future." Lichens are fungi that are found in terrestrial ecosystems throughout the globe. From the highest mountains to the driest deserts, they often form conspicuous displays on rocks, trees, and soil where they are noticed by scientists, naturalists, and the public alike. This presentation will explore the natural history of the lichens of the New York City metropolitan region, focusing on Long Island. It will follow the development of the local biota from the distant past, to our modern present, and into the uncertainties of the future. Dr. James Lendemer is a post-doctoral researcher at The New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. He and his colleagues in the Bronx are lichenologists whose research focuses on assessing lichen biodiversity, its patterns, threats, and conservation needs in North America and abroad.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center,
Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

* Refreshments and informal talk begin at 7:30 p.m.
Formal meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
Directions to Muttontown or Stony Brook: 516-354-6506