



Long Island Botanical Society

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The Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2018

More than a Quarter Century of LIBS Newsletters

by Eric Lamont, President, Long Island Botanical Society
and Margaret Conover, Newsletter Editor, Long Island Botanical Society

For the past 28 years the LIBS *Newsletter* has been the society's main outlet for disseminating knowledge on Long Island's flora. Original articles by local botanists and naturalists are featured in each issue in addition to society news and announcements. Articles published in the *Newsletter* have been cited in peer-reviewed botanical journals and books like the recently published *Catalogue of The Vascular Plants of New York State* by David Werier (2017).

Lois Lindberg served as the first editor in 1991 followed by Steven Clemants from 1992 to 1995, Eric Lamont from 1996 to 1999, John Potente from 2000 to 2003, and Margaret Conover from 2004 to present. It should be noted that editors served without compensation. The first four editors not only selected articles and copy-edited them, but also did their own layout, printing, and mailing. Beginning in 2004, we used paid services to do layout, printing and mailing.

The *Newsletter* has been published quarterly since 2000, but earlier, from 1991 to 1999, six issues were published yearly. Altogether, 28 volumes have been published comprising 131 issues and 1081 pages (including this issue).

Articles published in the *Newsletter* cover a vast range of botanical topics. Many issues include a section entitled "Plant Sightings," "Botanical Notes," or "Noteworthy Plants Reported from Long Island." These are lists and descriptions of both native and non-native vascular plant species; examples include new records for Long Island, current status of globally or locally rare species, range extensions, extirpations, population fluctuations, and appearance of invasive species. Additionally, articles on "lower plants" like mosses, liverworts, hornworts, mushrooms, lichens, seaweeds, and slime molds have been published.

Plant ecology has been a frequently featured topic in the *Newsletter*. Articles include descriptions of new ecological
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At the Annual LIBS BBQ, June 2018



Far left: Reading the Minutes.
Left: Hearing the Minutes.
Bottom: Writing the Minutes.
[Photos by R. Welch.]

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

Environmental Disaster at North Fork Preserve

by Eric Lamont

Bulldozers and other heavy machinery began arriving on 21 June 2018, and clearing of native vegetation began four days later. LIBS and the entire local environmental community had no idea what was about to happen to the extensive freshwater wetlands and old growth forest at NFP, but it didn't take long to find out. As environmentalists and several news agencies watched in disbelief, bulldozers began uprooting mature trees and clearing native vegetation during peak nesting season for birds and other wildlife.

On June 26th, more than two dozen environmentalists and concerned citizens met with County Legislator Al Krupski and other governmental officials in Riverhead. Officials handed out maps and defended the details of their project entitled "Drainage Improvements at North Fork Preserve," an apparent effort to control flooding along Sound Shore Road bordering the north side of the new county park. The goal of the project was to permanently alter the natural flow of water from the wetlands into the Long Island Sound and retain all water within NFP. County and State officials previously determined (unknown to LIBS) that the action would have no negative environmental impacts and would actually "improve" the park's wetlands.

Within the heart of one of Suffolk County's most environmentally sensitive ecosystems, the County began construction of impoundments and diffusion wells, water-control and overflow structures with piping and bubbler basins, subsurface storage modules, and 4-foot high berms. Setbacks from freshwater wetlands were not deemed necessary. The project also included excavation and removal of native soils and introduction of sub-surface derived fill and crushed stone.

Environmentalists pleaded for the protection of three wetlands in particular that would be severely impacted by the project. The wetlands are located deep within a globally rare swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) forest and one pond supported a population of featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*), a rare aquatic plant in New York. County officials eventually agreed to slightly alter construction plans at two of the wetlands and completely relocate the third impoundment, originally to be constructed within the center of a wetland.

Heavy rains began to fall on August 18th, eight weeks after construction began. Water and fine sediments of silt and clay broke through "protective" silt fences on two of the ponds and turned the once-pristine pond water into a sickly café-au-lait color; one pond supported the colony of featherfoil previously mentioned.

Negotiations continue with the County to correct the worst of what has happened.

[Ed. Note: LIBS previously published a series of articles highlighting the rich biodiversity and environmental sensitivity of NFP (see *LIBS Newsletter*: vol. 23, pp. 32-33; vol. 24, p. 10, and vol. 25, pp. 19-20).]

(Quarter Century of LIBS Newsletters, continued from cover)

communities on Long Island, alternative views on the origin of the Pine Barrens, surveys of old growth forests and novel ecosystems, and the past and present status of unique communities like the maritime grasslands and the Grandifolia Sandhills.

Articles on the history of botany include tributes to local botanists like Roy Latham and Fanny Mulford, wildflower observations by Teddy Roosevelt, a history of botany education in American high schools, and a review and database of the field trips offered by LIBS since its inception. Other articles cover original research on fossil plants, conservation topics and management of sensitive habitats. Notes and articles on local and regional environmental laws, as well as preservation of sensitive habitats like the Hauppauge Springs and entire ecosystems like Plum Island, keep the membership informed on important environmental issues. Original poetry by LIBS members has also been featured.

Print circulation has fluctuated over the years but since 2013 has remained steady at about 190 subscribers. Since about 2005, LIBS newsletters have been available digitally both to members and to the general public through LIBS's website: <http://www.libotanical.org/newsletters.html> as pdf files that are printable and can be read with Adobe Reader.

These newsletters are searchable if you know how. To read what has been written about a given species, e.g. *Magnolia*, type the following into the Google search engine: "**magnolia site:<http://www.libotanical.org/newsletters>". The search will yield links to every newsletter in which the word appears. Similar searches can be done on author and place names.**

Since 2016, LIBS newsletters have been included in the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), "a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate to digitize the legacy literature of biodiversity held in their collections and to make that literature available for open access and responsible use as a part of a global biodiversity commons." The site is searchable and is visited by over 100,000 researchers every month. LIBS newsletters, which have been uploaded by The LuEsther T. Mertz Library of The New York Botanical Garden, appear at this link: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/113735#/summary>

[Ed. Note: With this issue, I end a delightful 14-year experience as your *Newsletter* editor. I'd like to thank all the authors, artists, and photographers who contributed their scholarly and creative works; the program and field trip coordinators, Al Lindberg and Rich Kelly; Eric Lamont who as LIBS' president solicited nearly every article we published; layout designer Marylee Kuczewski; and especially Skip and Jane Blanchard whose cheerfully-delivered editing and proof-reading remarks made this task both educational and enjoyable. And of course, thank you all for reading! Margaret Conover, Eugene, Oregon.]

Literature Cited

Werier, D. 2017. Catalog of the vascular plants of New York State. Mem. Torrey Bot. Soc. 27: 1-543.

FIELD TRIPS

October 20, 2018 (Saturday) 10 AM

*Hallock State Park Preserve. Riverhead Township, Suffolk Co.
Botany and Geology*

Trip Leaders: Eric Lamont and Gil Hanson

We will meet at the visitor's center for an introduction to the land-use history of the park and then take a leisurely hike to the dunes and bluffs overlooking Long Island Sound, looking at autumn wildflowers and interesting geological features including hoodoos, locally called "The Pinnacles." The land was acquired in the 1960s for use as a sand mining operation by the Levon Corp. and, in the 1970s, by the Long Island Lighting Co. as the site for a proposed nuclear power plant. New York State purchased the property in 2002 and opened it to the public in 2017.

Please register by contacting Eric (elamont@optonline.net) with your name and contact phone number. Bring a liquid and snack or sandwich, as desired.

Directions: Take the Long Island Expressway (I-495) east to exit 73, continue east on County Road 58 (aka Old Country Road) to Northville Turnpike, continue north to Sound Avenue and turn east for 3.4 miles to the park's entrance (the visitor's center is located off Sound Ave.). The address is: 6062 Sound Avenue, Jamesport.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS CONT'D FROM BACK COVER

December 11, 2018*

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Members Night: Members are welcome to bring photos, stories, specimens, and tales of peculiar sightings of favorite plants. This is a great opportunity to show what you have found while exploring on Long Island or elsewhere. Please contact Rich Kelly in advance to advise as to the approximate number of images/slides that you would like to show and preferred medium of presentation. Thanks.

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.

Reminder - no meetings in January or February.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 9, 2018*

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Lois Lindberg: "Shu Swamp Preserve and the Beaver Brook Watershed." Shu Swamp Preserve, officially the Charles T. Church Nature Sanctuary in Mill Neck, is a 60-acre jewel of the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary system of preserves and is one component of the larger Beaver Brook Watershed. Acquisitions by Nassau County and the North Shore Land Alliance have added critical parcels that create a natural corridor to protect this valuable ecosystem. This program will explore the area's beauty and biodiversity, especially highlighting the wildflowers and other flora of this special place. Lois has been involved in nature, ecology, and outdoor education and interpretation for many years. She has a degree in Biology from Hofstra University, and is a past Curator of Natural Science for Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation & Museums, having worked at Muttontown, Welwyn, Sands Point, Garvies Point, and Tackapausha Preserves. She is currently the Membership Chair for the Long Island Botanical Society, and volunteers at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in Oyster Bay as a naturalist/field trip leader.

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

November 13, 2018*

Tuesday, 7:30 PM

John Potente: "Herbicides in Agriculture and Land Restoration." John will discuss the role of herbicides in crop production and land restoration. The program will cover how they are used, what they are intended to do, and what ecological consequences may arise from their use. He will also discuss the collateral effects of herbicides on non-plant species. John Potente is president of Native America and recently published his second book entitled *Ode to an Egg*, an analogy between the Humpty Dumpty story and planet Earth. In the first stanzas of *Ode*, Humpty is described as "an egg that was wide and a little tall, not quite so round, with a bulge in his middle," a poetic way of describing a slightly oblate spheroid, the true shape of Earth . . . and Humpty Dumpty. John, a life member of LIBS, served on the executive board for 14 years from 1998 to 2011 and was editor of the Newsletter for four years. He is still active in his dental practice.

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

(Programs continued inside on page 25)