Plant Sightings

Bird's-foot Violet (*Viola pedata*) in Patchogue, Long Island

John Heidecker

For the past few years John Heidecker has been monitoring a population of bird's foot violet (Fig. 1) on the north side of Sunrise Highway North Service Road, west of Hospital Road, in Brookhaven Township, Suffolk County. The population occurs in a clearing dominated by graminoids and herbs in dry sandy soil on the edge of a pitch pine-oak forest. On May 2, 2021 hundreds of individuals were observed; hundreds were also observed in 2019. A sign is posted in the clearing indicating 10 acres are for sale, most of the land includes pine oak forest. *Viola pedata* was once common throughout the pine barrens of central Suffolk County but now only a handful of colonies persist. The species is probably extinct in Kings (Brooklyn) and Queens counties and is rare in Nassau County.

Recollections of Bird's-foot Violet (*Viola pedata*) on the South Fork of Long Island

Jim Ash

From the 1960s to early 1980s bird's-foot violet occurred in large numbers from Shinnecock Hills east to Montauk. I remember it being most numerous along the road shoulders up on the terminal moraine, which was mostly woodland then. There were many extensive colonies that could be easily observed by driving the back roads. The largest colony that I remember was at East Hampton Airport. The infield of the airport was carpeted with many thousands of blooms. Unfortunately that area is covered with hangers and a fuel depot today. I am also sad to say that to find bird's-foot violet nowadays one needs to drive for quite some time along those same roads just to find a very few isolated small groups of them.

Current status of *Arethusa bulbosa* (Orchidaceae) on Long Island

Eric Lamont and Jim Ash

Dragon's-mouth (*Arethusa bulbosa*) has not been observed on Long Island since 2014. The last known population, observed and photographed by Vicki Bustamante, was at Montauk, Suffolk County. In 1923 Norman Taylor of Brooklyn Botanic Garden reported *Arethusa* at Montauk as “very common, perhaps more so than at any other Long Island locality, except in the region north of Manorville.” During the 1970s and 1980s we were aware of four populations at Montauk: 1) False Point, 2) Caswell Cliffs, 3) just east of Ditch Plains, and 4) north of the Walking Dunes. Suitable habitat for *Arethusa* still (continued on page 15)
Society News

LIBS: 35 Year Anniversary. 2021 marks another milestone for LIBS! The first meeting of the society was attended by 29 founding members in 1986 at the Museum of Long Island Natural Sciences, Stony Brook University. For an account of that meeting and a list of founding members see LIBS Newsletter, vol. 6, p. 5. In past years LIBS members celebrated anniversaries by botanizing flowery places in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee, Costa Rica, Newfoundland, Florida, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. The Covid-19 pandemic prohibited members from travelling to faraway places in 2021 but hopefully the tradition will resume on our 40th anniversary.

Rich Kelly Day. LIBS members and friends met on June 16th at Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve in Lloyd Harbor to witness the flight of Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies in memory of Rich. 810 checkerspots were counted, a testimony to the success of the management plan largely developed by Rich (see LIBS Newsletter, vol. 30, p. 10). Additionally, Mike Feder found a previously unreported population of ragged fringed orchid (Platanthera lacera) on Butterfly Hill (additional individuals were later found at nearby Bull Pen field). An extra bonus was a sighting of a male and female bobolink; Rich probably would have jumped up and down in excitement.

LIBS members protest development of Moore’s Woods. On April 21, 2021 five LIBS members attended a Village of Greenport board meeting to protest the construction of a miniature train ride through Moore’s Woods. A formal letter of protest was submitted by LIBS. Vicki Bustamante, Louise Harrison, MaryLaura Lamont, Larry Penny, and John Potente elucidated some of the project’s negative impacts on the environment. Native vegetation will be cleared and lost forever including wildflowers, rare plants, and old trees hundreds of years old. Freshwater wetlands and habitat for migrating and nesting birds will be destroyed. It’s quite extraordinary that New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a permit to allow the train ride to run through wetlands - habitat for frogs, salamanders, soil invertebrates, and a host of other organisms. Owls, flying squirrels, and other animals will abandon the adjacent forest as they flee from noise pollution and night lights. Construction is planned to begin in the summer of 2021.

LIBS participates in Natural Garden Fair. On May 15, 2021 LIBS Education Committee Chair, MaryLaura Lamont, engaged community members at the well-attended month long “eco fair” sponsored by Southampton Arts Center. In addition to presenting information on native plants, past issues of the LIBS Newsletter and membership applications were made available.

LIBS member Carol Gracie publishes Florapedia: A Brief Compendium of Floral Lore. LIBS highly recommends this delightful illustrated treasury of botanical facts and fancy. Abstract: Writing in her incomparably engaging style, Carol Gracie discusses remarkable plants from around the globe, botanical art and artists, early botanical explorers, ethnobotanical uses of plants, botanical classification and terminology, the role of plants in history, and more.

In Memoriam
Otto Heck
(1929 – 2021)
(Plant Sightings, continued from cover page)

exits at Montauk and probably a few small colonies persist. In the mid-1800s Arethusa occurred at more than 25 localities on Long Island (based on herbarium collections) mostly on or near the south shore from Brooklyn to Montauk.

**Rare mushroom (Bolbitius glatfelteri) found in Queens County, Long Island**

Andrew Greller and Joel Horman

While botanizing in Oakland Gardens, Queens County on June 13, 2021 Andy Greller found a mushroom he was not familiar with. Photographs were taken (Fig. 2) and sent to Joel Horman for identification. Joel, an authority on Long Island mushrooms and editor of The Sporeprint (newsletter of the Long Island Mycological Club), promptly replied: “Gave me a run for my money, but finally identified your find as Bolbitius glatfelteri, apparently rare, (and new to our checklist [of LI mushrooms]) with only a dozen collections globally (NYBG has only one). It is a NY state record, based on Mycoportal data, an online compendium of worldwide fungaria, which can be accessed via this URL: https://mycoportal.org/portal/collections/list.php. As can be seen, there are only a dozen records, while other species can have hundreds or even thousands of collections. It is found only in North America, most recently in Quebec, and most collections are from the last century.” Subsequently, Andy returned to the site and collected a voucher to be deposited at The New York Botanical Garden herbarium. The population comprises approximately 24 individuals including buttons as well as senescing individuals. The habitat is heavily disturbed ground containing a mixture of local soil, decayed roots, asphalt, and concrete on the side of a small paved road.

**Update on the status of Squawroot (Conopholis americana) on Long Island**

Stéphane Perreault and Jim Stevenson

Squawroot, a member of the Broom-rape Family (Orobanchaceae), is rare on Long Island, known only from northern Nassau County. Before this report the only known population on the island occurred at Shu Swamp Preserve, Mill Neck, Nassau County. In May 2017 Jim Stevenson found a population of squawroot in the forested area of the Greentree Foundation property, Manhasset, Nassau County. Greentree is a 400-acre private property with no public access. In May 2021, the Foundation staff, in an effort led by Stéphane Perreault, counted and mapped Greentree's squawroot population. The flowering period began the first week of May and ended the first week of June with peak bloom and maximum coloration taking place in mid-May. Just over 8,700 flower "cones" were counted on May 14. The population comprised seven sub-populations in an area covering 3 acres (1.5% of the forested area at Greentree). Four of the seven sub-populations were found parasitizing single large individuals of northern red oak (Quercus rubra). 1,700 flower "cones" (20% of the total) were found associated with these single parasitized trees and counts ranged from 25 to 1,000 flower "cones" per tree. The DBH of the single parasitized red oaks were 43", 50", 72" and a double oak had 34" and 36" DBH per trunk. The DBH of the oaks did not correlate with the number squawroot flowers. Of the three areas with multiple adjacent parasitized oaks, the largest covered 2.4 acres and included approximately 5,400 flower "cones." The distribution of squawroot flowers was not even within that area with some trees being more parasitized than others. The area where squawroot was found encompassed the oldest oak-tulip tree-beech stand on the property.

(continued on next page)
The soil there is moist because the property drains into that area. Squawroot did not occur in the wettest areas, but rather in well-drained soil within the system, often on slopes. Other native plants in the area where squawroot was found included Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), round-leaved shinleaf (*Pyrola americana*), and yellow trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*). Squawroot flowers were sometimes found among the invasive English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Squawroot is an odd plant. Lacking chlorophyll and true leaves it is unable to produce its own food and generally grows beneath or near oak trees which it parasitizes to obtain its nutritional needs. For a detailed discussion of this fascinating species see *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History* by LIBS member Carol Gracie (2020, Princeton University Press).

**May Apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*, Berberidaceae) is spontaneous on Long Island**

Andrew Greller and Allan Lindberg

For the past 30 years members of the LIBS Flora Committee have been discussing whether may apple is a spontaneously occurring member of Long Island’s flora or known only from cultivation. Committee members have been aware of dense colonies occurring in northern Nassau County and elsewhere but in each case the species has been determined to be planted (through the years some cultivated colonies have vegetatively increased in size). Smith Ely Jelliffee did not include may apple in his 1899 *Flora of Long Island* and Norman Taylor reported the species as “unknown on L.I.” in his 1915 *Flora of the Vicinity of New York*. On the April 24, 2021 LIBS field trip to Muttontown Preserve, Nassau County several spontaneously occurring individuals of may apple were found scattered throughout the woodlands. The nearest known cultivated colonies occur hundreds of feet away at the former Chelsea Estate.

**Results of a survey of the rare southern twayblade orchid (*Neottia bifolia*) on Long Island**

David Taft

On June 2, 2021 a group of six botanists and naturalists surveyed a population of southern twayblade at Connetquot River State Park Preserve, Suffolk County. Sixty widely scattered individuals were located. Although this number might sound positive, throughout the 1980s and 1990s LIBS members regularly counted 1000s of individuals in the extensive red maple swamp (with scattered individuals of pitch pine, *Pinus rigida*) between the Connetquot River and an upland pitch pine-oak forest. During those decades and into the 2000s a count of 60 could have been made standing on one hummock. There were often almost uncountable numbers of orchids, I rarely made actual counts after a time, knowing I could not be as accurate as needed for a true survey. The reduced numbers are distressing although 2021 could be an “off year” (not an uncommon event for orchid populations). It’s difficult to determine the health of an orchid population based on a single year or even a dozen years. I’ve seen colonies mysteriously rebound. For some unknown reason individuals were probably just dormant or not putting up above-ground vegetation in the years in question. Personally, I believe there are issues going on at this site regarding the tree canopy and the loss of pines due to the southern pine beetle. Maybe increased light reaching the forest floor has caused changes in the vegetation resulting in more competition for the orchids, or perhaps there are subtle changes in the water table or quality of the water. We’ll just have to keep watching.

**Akebia quinata (Lardizabalaceae) in Roslyn Harbor, Long Island**

Mary Normandia

While visiting the former Childs Frick Estate in Roslyn Harbor with Seth Ausubel on May 11, 2021 we were treated to a magnificent display of *Akebia quinata* (five-leaf akebia) in full flower (Fig. 3). Some of the individuals at the formal garden have been persisting since the 1920s and have also escaped into adjacent areas. Five-leaf akebia is a high-climbing woody twiner that is native to Japan, China, and Korea. In some areas of eastern USA the plant is an invasive species. Although *A. quinata* is not currently considered invasive on Long Island it may be in the near future.
Observations of *Hottonia inflata* (Primulaceae) on eastern Long Island

Eric Lamont, MaryLaura Lamont, and Victoria Bustamante

Previously unreported populations of *H. inflata* (featherfoil, Figs. 4 and 5) were located in 2021 in eastern Suffolk County: 1) North Fork Preserve (NFP), Northville, Riverhead Township, 2) Hallock State Park Preserve, Northville (approximately 2 miles east of NFP), and 3) Culloden Point State Park, Montauk, East Hampton Township. All three populations occur in seasonal ponds. The two Northville populations are located in the Harbor Hill Moraine whereas the Montauk population is in the Ronkonkoma Moraine. Eric Lamont has been monitoring the NFP population for more than 20 years (see LIBS Newsletter, vol. 8, pp. 29-30) and 2021 marked the most prolific bloom recorded. Before 2021 featherfoil had been located in six widely scattered ponds throughout the preserve; the two new colonies are in ponds that had been frequently surveyed in the past but no featherfoil had been observed. The population at Hallock State Park Preserve was found in Lily Pond by MaryLaura Lamont in February 2021. The Culloden Point population was found by Vicki Bustamante in May 2021 in a pond that had been surveyed many times during the past decade but no featherfoil had been observed. Featherfoil is a bizarre aquatic plant found primarily in shallow ponds that fluctuate in water level throughout the year. For a detailed discussion of the fascinating lifecycle of this curious species see *Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History* by LIBS member Carol Gracie (2020, Princeton University Press).
more than 100 individuals and occurs in a weedy lawn. A smaller population of *Cryptotanea japonica* (Apiaceae) at Forest Park, Queens County. The main population includes a weedy lawn. A smaller population of *atropurpurea* at Camp Hero State Park, Suffolk County, representing the first report of the species from New York. On April 15, 2011 Andy Greller found *H. pusilla* at Jones Beach State Park, Nassau County (see LIBS Newsletter, vol. 21, pp. 34-35). On April 10, 2021, Vicki Bustamante found approximately 1000 individuals of *H. pusilla* in sandy soil on the east side of East Lake Drive just south of East Hampton Airport, Suffolk County, representing the northeasternmost population in North America. *Houstonia pusilla* probably occurs at other localities on the south shore of Long Island; it also probably occurs in New Jersey but has not yet been reported from there.

**Selaginella apoda** (Selaginellaceae) 
rediscovered in Montauk, Long Island

Victoria Bustamante

On June 11, 2021 Vicki Bustamante found a population of meadow spikemoss (*S. apoda*) at Camp Hero State Park, Suffolk County. The last report of this species from Montauk was in 1927 when William Ferguson (a member of the Torrey Botanical Club) collected it from ‘wet ground, Montauk’ (voucher at The New York Botanical Garden herbarium). Spikemosses are rare on Long Island. The only other known occurrence of *S. apoda* on the island is from along the Nissequogue River, Smithtown Township, Suffolk County. A second species of spikemoss (rock spikemoss, *S. rupestris*) is currently known from only one locality on Long Island: Orient Beach State Park, Suffolk County.

**Aesculus parviflora** (Sapindaceae) is naturalized on the North Fork of Long Island

Eric Lamont

*Aesculus parviflora*, commonly known as bottlebrush buckeye or dwarf horse chestnut, was reported as escaped from cultivation in Northville, Suffolk County by Eric Lamont in 2015 (see LIBS Newsletter, vol. 25, p. 25). Since then the escaped individual has produced flowers and viable fruit and has spread more than 30 feet from the initial introduction. Two young individuals were observed in 2020 and 2021; one plant was unearthed in the early spring of 2021 and the old fruit was still attached to the base of the stem. *Aesculus parviflora* was not included in *New York Flora Atlas* by Troy Weldy et al. (2015) but David Werier included it in his *Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of New York State* (2017) listing it as not naturalized. Based on the Northville observations and collections this species should be considered naturalized in New York.
**Field Trips continued from back cover**

Paking fee is $8.00. Rain cancels the program.
Meeting place is the entrance to Hallock State Park Preserve:
6062 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901.

**August 28, 2021 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 10:30 am**
*Hallock State Park Preserve, Riverhead, Suffolk County, NY*
A Great Wildflower Garden with Butterflies
Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont
Email/contact info: mary.lamont@parks.ny.gov,
(631) 315-5475

The wildflower garden at Hallock State Park Preserve was planted in 2020 and has done extremely well. It has attracted many pollinators such as butterflies and various species of bees. Observe and learn about the different species of Long Island native wildflowers that were planted, why they were chosen, and why it is important to plant native flowers. Observe and learn about some beautiful butterflies as well!

Paking fee is $8.00. Rain cancels the program.
Meeting place is the entrance to Hallock State Park Preserve:
6062 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901.

**September 9, 2021 (Thursday) 11:00 am - 2:00 pm**
*Big Reed, Montauk County Park, Suffolk County, NY*
A Great Wildflower Garden with Butterflies
Trip Leader: Victoria Bustamante
Email/contact info: vickibustamante@gmail.com,
(631) 747-8273

This walk has been recently coined “the Montauk Miracle Mile” due to the many rarities in a one mile stretch along Big Reed Pond which is flanked by a fresh water shallow emergent marsh and a high salt marsh/salt shrub community. Over twenty S1-S3 state ranked plants can be seen including *Coleaea angustifolia*, *Akepa aniceps*, *Cyperus flavescens*, *Edrastima uniflora*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata var. verticillata*, *Eupatorium torreyanum*, and *Eleocharis ambiguens*.

Directions: Take route 27 (Montauk Highway) through the Hamptons into Montauk. Pass straight through town continuing east toward the lighthouse a few miles (~4). Turn left (north) onto East Lake Drive (don’t make the mistake of turning too soon onto West Lake Drive!) Follow ~2 miles north, see sign for the Big Reed Nature Area on right, follow short dirt drive into parking lot. If you come to the airport you’ve gone too far.

Special instructions: *Ticks are a special concern and sometimes mosquitoes, come prepared - Boots, tick spray, tick clothing, gators. Plan to bring water, lunch and/or snack, sunscreen. Note there are no bathrooms in the park, it is recommended to allow for time to stop in downtown Montauk beforehand and find one of the public bathrooms in town. (Kirk Park ball field, one behind Fort Pond Native Nursery, one attached to the Montauk Police sub-station, one before Gosman’s Dock, also a couple at the public beaches).*

**September 18, 2021 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**
*Jones Beach Island Rare Plants and Cyperus*
Tobay and Cedar Beaches, Suffolk County, Joint field trip with the NY Flora Association.
Trip Leader: Steve Young, https://nyflora.org/events-directory/
(after you sign up, Steve will send you details about the trip.)

We will start out at the Kennedy Nature Preserve just west of the Tobay Beach parking field to look for an old occurrence of *Pseudolycopodiella caroliniana*, a very rare lycopod, then head down to Cedar Beach to take a look at the federally threatened seabeach amaranth, *Amaranthus pumilus*. Along with other beach plants, we will focus on the identifcation of Cyperus species we find at both places.

There is a limit of 20 people for the trip so please fill out REGISTRATION FORM at https://nyflora.org/events-directory/ and we will send you more details about the trip and the meeting place. If you have any questions about the trip before registering, contact events@nyflora.org.

**October 2, 2021 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**
*Greentree, Nassau County, NY*
Trip Leaders: Stéphane Perreault and Jim Stevenson-Mathews
Email: sperreault@greentreefdn.org / cell: 516-423-0947

Expect to walk 4-5 miles on the 400 acre Greentree property (former Whitney Estate). The primary habitat is a mature broadleaf deciduous forest (covering 180 acres) featuring a nice diversity of tree species. The primary canopy trees are red oak, black oak, American beech, tulip tree, and sweet birch. Biodiversity in the forest has not been well characterized and includes the usual plethora of invasive species.

Areas with moist soils showcase American witch-hazel, American hornbeam, sweet pepperbush, American sweetgum, and at least 8 species of ferns. The property features 4 species of native parasitic plants. There are 50 acres of meadows and grass areas; native species include nodding ladies-tresses, seedbox, Virginia meadowbeauty, white turtlehead, green milkweed, golden aster, and New York ironweed. The former Whitney Estate showcases well-maintained ornamental trees, a chestnut arboretum, and several gardens.

Directions: 220 Community Drive, Manhasset, Nassau County.
The only access is from Community Drive, regardless of what your GPS device might tell you. Take Community Drive from the LIE service Road (exit 33 East Bound, exit 33 or 34 West-bound). Entrance is on Community Drive immediately after the hospital, on the right side as you go downhill. The correct entrance is the one with the somewhat inconspicuous “Greentree Foundation” signs. Take the driveway to the security gate. Only those registered will be admitted on the property. Registration is limited to 10 LIBS members. Contact Stéphane Perreault.

Special instructions: Poison ivy is abundant and deer ticks are present. Bring snacks. There will be short breaks, but no lunch. No bathroom available.
FIELD TRIPS

(Note: Due to Covid-19 protocols, registration is limited and required on all trips; please contact the Trip Leader for information and to pre-register)

July 17, 2021 (Saturday) 10:00 am
Carll's River Botanical Garden at Gréger Park, Deer Park, NY
Trip Leader: Jenny Ulsheimer
Email: julsheimer1@optimum.net

Tour will include an explanation about the redevelopment of the site and the re-creation of the red maple swamp, wetland and flood plain for the Carll's River. The tour will also show the original wetland that contains Pyrola americana, Chimaphila maculata, Clethra alnifolia, Vaccinium corybosum, and Alnus incana. The trip will conclude with a tour of the botanical garden aspect of the site and the future development to come.

Directions: From the LIE - Exit 51 south - Deer Park Ave, Rte. 231. Make a right on to Grand Blvd and continue to make a right onto 23rd Street where you will see a parking lot on your left. From Southern State Parkway or Sunrise Hwy - go north on Deer Park Ave, Rte. 231 to Grand Blvd., make a left and continue to 23rd Street where you will make a right and you will see the parking lot on your left.

August 7, 2021 (Saturday) 9:00am - 10:30am
Hallock State Park Preserve, Riverhead, Suffolk County, NY
The "Bad Plant" Walk!
Trip Leader: MaryLaura Lamont
Email/contact info: marylaura.lamont@parks.ny.gov, (631) 315-5475

Invasive plant species are taking over native habitats and eliminating native plants and animals. Learn, identify, and observe the many different kinds of "bad plants" that grow in the Preserve. Roundtrip walk along the trail will be about 1 mile.

(continued inside on page 19)