

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IDENTIFICATION AND NATURAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK NATIVE PLANTS

Compiled by Steve Young, New York Natural Heritage Program, November 2004

* = most used at the Natural Heritage Program

COMPREHENSIVE PLANT MANUALS AND FLORAS

- * Fernald, Merritt L. 1950. Grays Manual of Botany. Eighth Edition. Dioscorides Press, Portland, Oregon.
This contains very detailed descriptions and keys of all of the plants in the Northeast. The taxonomy has changed for many of the plants but it is still very useful in conjunction with the Gleason and Cronquist manual, especially for varieties and subspecies. It contains small illustrations, especially of key characters, which are sometimes useful. For botanical history buffs it contains the word origins of the scientific names.

- * Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 1993. Flora of North America North of Mexico. Oxford University Press, New York, New York.
An ongoing work of major proportions these volumes contain the latest information about plant species across the United States and Canada. There are keys and descriptions for all of the species and illustrations for all or representative species. Eight of the 30 volumes are now available. The new sedge volume (23) is very useful.

- * Gleason, Henry A. and Arthur Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States And Adjacent Canada. The New York Botanical Garden, New York, New York.
This is the most recent and most complete manual to the Flora in NY. It contains detailed keys and descriptions but now illustrations of every species. It tends to lump more species than Gray's manual or Mitchell's checklist. It is larger than most field guides but can be carried into the field. There is a new updated seventh printing available.

- * Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. Illustrated Companion To Gleason and Cronquist's Manual. New York Botanical Garden, New York, New York.
Every species in the manual of vascular plants is illustrated in this beautiful book that is too heavy to carry into the field easily. It is an indispensable addition to the Gleason and Cronquist manual.

- * Mitchell, Richard S. and Gordon C. Tucker. 1997. Revised Checklist of New York State Plants. The New York State Museum, Albany, New York. (Also available as a CD updated in 2002)
Produced by the State Botanist the checklist contains the names and synonyms of all species in New York State arranged by family then alphabetical by genus and species.

- * Mitchell, Richard S. 1983-1993. Contributions to a Flora of New York State. Volumes 1-11. New York State Museum, Albany, New York.
Part of a partially completed Flora of New York State these booklets contain the most detailed descriptions, keys and illustrations of every species in selected families. These are some of the best references for identifying plants in New York State although many families remain to be completed.

- * Rhoads, Ann Fowler and Timothy A. Block. 2000. The Plants of Pennsylvania, And Illustrated Manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
This is a beautifully illustrated and detailed manual to the plants of Pennsylvania, many of which occur in New York State. It has good keys and descriptions to all species and many diagnostic illustrations, especially for the graminoids. A very useful book.

- * Voss, E.G. 1972, 1985, 1996. Michigan Flora. 3 Volume Set. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
This complete flora contains many species that grow in New York State. The keys often use different characters than other manuals and the detailed descriptions and scattered diagnostic illustrations can be very useful.

GUIDES TO SPECIFIC PLANT GROUPS

Wildflowers

Brown, Lauren. 1976. Weeds in Winter. W. W. Norton & Co., Incorporated. New York, New York.

A very useful guide to wildflowers (they are not all weeds) in the winter. There is a detailed key, very nice drawings and useful descriptions and natural history information.

Case, Frederick W. Jr. and Roberta B. Case. 1997. Trilliums. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.

This is the most detailed and complete information written about our native trilliums. It treats all of the trilliums in the United States and Asia with information on morphology, ecology, natural history and horticulture. There is a key to all the trilliums and beautiful photographs and range maps of each species. Here you will find information on horticultural varieties not found elsewhere.

Chapman, William K. 1997. Orchids of the Northeast. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York.

A field guide with nice photographs, keys and descriptions of all the orchids in NY.

Chapman, William K. et al. 1998. Wildflowers of New York in Color. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York.

A photographic field guide of the more common and showy wildflowers encountered in NY. The photographs are beautiful but the descriptions are fairly short with only general habitat information. It is arranged by flower color, flower structure and leaf arrangement.

Cox, Donald D. 1985. Common Flowering Plants of the Northeast. State University Of New York Press, Albany, New York.

This is a field guide to our common wildflowers arranged by habitat type then by family. Each plant description contains information on identifying characteristics, general habitat, use as a food and medicine, and poisonous qualities. There is a key to plant families in front of the book by Mildred Faust but it does not seem to relate to the rest of the book. Each species has a line drawing. Useful as a supplement to the plant manuals.

Duncan, Wilbur H. and Marion B. Duncan. 1987. Seaside Plants of the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts (from Louisiana to Massachusetts, exclusive of lower peninsular Florida). Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

Keys, descriptions, and nice photographs and drawings of seaside plants that can be found on Long Island and that usually do not appear in many wildflower guides.

Embertson, Jane and Jay Conrader. 1979. Pods. Wildflowers and Weeds In Their Final Beauty. Scribners Press, New York, New York.

A nice photographic guide to identifying wildflowers in Winter. This can be used in addition to the book by Carol Levine and Lauren Brown.

Finder Field Guides. Nature Study Guild. Berkeley, California.

* Fern Finder

Tree Finder

Winter Tree Finder

Berry Finder

Winter Weed Finder

These are handy little pocket kinds that are basically easy-to-use keys to the species. The Fern Finder is especially useful for the ferns in New York State.

Klimas, John E. and James A. Cunningham. 1974. Wildflowers of Eastern North America. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York.

This contains an extensive listing and very nice photographs of our native wildflowers. Each description contains information on morphology, habitat and phenology as well as natural history and medicinal uses. It is arranged by flower color with simplified keys for each color. There is a small glossary and introduction to wildflowers and beginning.

Kudish, Michael. 1992. *Adirondack Upland Flora: An Ecological Perspective*. The Chauncy Press, Saranac Lake, New York.

This book contains an annotated list of species, by family, that is found in upland areas in the Adirondacks. It contains information about habitat, flowering time and frequency for each species. There is a very interesting discussion of Adirondack ecology in the beginning of the book. There are a few photographs and distribution maps included. This can be used in conjunction with field guides for more information about Adirondack plants.

Ladd, Doug. 2001. *North Woods Wildflowers. A Field Guide to Wildflowers of the Northeastern United States and Southeastern Canada*. Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut.

This is a field guide to the most common, and a few rare, wildflowers of the North Woods, an area encompassing the mountains and forests from Nova Scotia through New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and southern Canada. The plants are arranged by flower color then alphabetically by family and species. The photographs are mostly close-ups and very beautiful. There's a small section in the front describing habitats.

*Levine, Carol. 1995. *A Guide to Wildflowers in Winter*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

This is the best book for identifying wildflowers in the winter. There are very detailed drawings of many species with excellent descriptions. Many graminoids are included and there is even a section with photographs of basal leaves that is very useful.

McGrath, Anne. 1981. *Wildflowers of the Adirondacks*. North Country Books, Utica, New York.

A photographic guide to the most common and showy wildflowers that occur in the Adirondacks. Only one photograph is shown for diverse groups of plants such as goldenrods. The book has a unique arrangement by flower color then by flowering time.

* Newcomb, Lawrence. 1977. *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

This is the most useful illustrated field guide for identifying wildflowers in New York. It has a very easy-to-use key which uses flower structure and leaf arrangement. Since plants are arranged by flower structure many similar plants are illustrated together, which facilitates identification. It includes many obscure wildflowers that are usually not illustrated in other field guides. Since it uses illustrations instead of photographs the important identification characters are easier to distinguish.

Niering, William A. and Nancy C. Olmstead. 1979. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers. Eastern Region*. Chanticleer Press, New York, New York.

The use of photos arranged by color in one section in the accompanying descriptions arranged by family in another section make this guide difficult to use. Some plants have detailed and interesting natural history comments that are lacking in other guides.

Peterson, Roger Tory and Margaret McKenny. 1968. *The Field Guide to Wildflowers of Northeastern and North Central North America. A Peterson Field Guide Series*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.

This is probably the second-most useful field guide after Newcomb's Wildflower Guide and they can often be used together. The illustrations are very useful, especially with the small arrows pointing out identification characters. Its one drawback is arrangement by flower color which is less useful than by flower structure.

Semple, John C. and Gordon S. Ringius. 1992. *The Goldenrods of Ontario*. Department of Biology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.

Good keys and very detailed descriptions and illustrations of most of the goldenrods that occur in New York State, including some varieties that are hard to find in other manuals.

Semple, John C. et al. 1996. *The Asters of Ontario*. Department of Biology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.

Good keys and very detailed descriptions and illustrations of most of the asters that occur in New York State, including some varieties that are hard to find in other manuals.

Slack, Nancy and Allison W. Bell. 1995. Field Guide to the New England Alpine Summits. Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, Massachusetts.

This 96-page booklet starts with an introduction to the natural history of the alpine areas in New England with detailed descriptions and photographs of each ecological community from forest to grasslands. Next is a section with beautiful photographs and short descriptions of the plants and animals that live there including insects. This guide is a valuable complement to their guide to the Adirondack summits.

Slack, Nancy and Allison W. Bell. 1993. 85 Acres. A Field Guide to the Adirondack Alpine Summits. Adirondack Mountain Club, Lake George, New York.

This is the first field guide dedicated just to the unique plants of the alpine areas in the Adirondacks. It is a convenient small size for hiking and contains beautiful photographs of the alpine species along with natural community descriptions. There are no keys or descriptions of the individual species. A must for all hikers to the high peaks.

Steere, William C. 1965. Wildflowers of the United States: Volume 1. The Northeastern States. Parts 1 & 2. New York Botanical Garden. McGraw-Hill Book Co, New York, New York.

Not to be used as a field guide these large hardcover books contain descriptions and photographs for almost all of the species of wildflowers in New York. The keys are fairly difficult to use but the photographs and illustrations are excellent and very useful to help separate species. The plants are arranged by family and genus. There is an illustrated glossary that is very uncommon in other books.

Stuckey, Irene H. and Lisa L. Gould. 2000. Coastal Plants from Cape Cod to Cape Canaveral. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

This is a guide with descriptions and natural history of seaside plants. Most of the photographs are detailed close-up flash pictures with a few habitat backgrounds. This book is a good complement to the book by Duncan. It is arranged by family but without keys.

Uva, Richard H. et al. 2004. Weeds of the Northeast. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.

A beautiful and well-done manual for the identification of weeds in our region. It is based on vegetative characters and is full of useful photographs, drawings and descriptions of 298 common weeds. There is a key to groups of plants and a foldout grass identification table with a tabular key. This book is indispensable for land managers and others interested in becoming more familiar with our exotic and native weeds.

Vander Kloet, S.P. 1988. The Genus *Vaccinium* in North America. Research Branch Agriculture Canada Publication 1828, Ottawa, Ontario.

A very detailed treatment of the *Vaccinium* species in North America with illustrations, keys, descriptions and range maps.

Wallner, Jeff and Mario J. DiGregorio. 1997. New England's Mountain Wildflowers, a High Country Heritage. Mountain Press, Missoula, Montana.

An attractive general wildflower book with full-page descriptions of appearance, natural history, lore, and ecology accompanied by one or two excellent photographs on the facing page. It is useful in the Adirondacks but not meant to be a comprehensive guide. It is arranged by habitat type.

Williams, John G. and Andrew E. Williams. 1983. Field Guide to Orchids of North America. Universe Books, New York, New York.

This is a nice small field guide with beautiful full-color illustrations, keys and detailed descriptions. It is a very useful guide for distinguishing orchids in New York and includes a glossary of botanical terms for orchids.

Woodward, Carol H. and Harold William Rickett. 1979. Common wildflowers of the Northeastern United States. New York Botanical Garden. Barron's, Woodbury, New York.

An older photographic field guide arranged by family. The photographs and descriptions are very useful.

Grasses

Brown, Lauren. 1979. *Grasses. An Identification Guide.* Houghton Mifflin, New York, New York.
A general beginners guide to the grasses with some New York species.

Harrington, H.D. 1977. *How to Identify Grasses and Grasslike Plants.* Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.
A great resource for learning about the plant parts of grasses, sedges and rushes. Nice line drawings to aid in identification. It provides a solid background to use with keys and descriptions in other manuals.

*Hitchcock, A. S. 1935. *Manual of the Grasses of United States.* Second edition revised by Agnes Chase 1950. Two volumes. Dover unabridged paperback edition of 1971. Dover publications, New York, New York.
The bible for grass identification for many years this manual has complete keys and detailed descriptions and illustrations of all the grasses in New York. The plant names are somewhat outdated now but it is still very useful if cross-referenced with Mitchell's checklist. This is for the person who is serious about identifying grasses.

Pohl, Richard. 1978. *How to Know the Grasses. The Pictured Key Nature Series.* William C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa.
This is a series of detailed keys that may be daunting for the novice.

Trees and Shrubs

Campbell, C., Fay Hyland and Mary Campbell. 1975. *Winter Keys to Woody plants of Maine.* University of Maine Press, Orono, Maine.
This contains most of the trees found in New York. It is one of the best guides to trees and shrubs in winter with lots of detailed drawings.

Chapman, William K. and Alan E. Bessette. 1990. *Trees and Shrubs of the Adirondacks.* North Country Books, Utica, New York.
This is a useful book for keying out the woody plants in the Adirondacks. Each plant has a half page morphological description and a photograph in a separate section of the book. Some have additional line drawings. If you're hiking in the Adirondacks and are interested in looking at the trees and shrubs take this book along.

* Elias, Thomas S. 1980. *Trees of North America.* Crown publishers, New York, New York. (out of print)
One of the best books on North American native trees. It has very useful keys and detailed descriptions, maps, and drawings but does not include introduced trees. It's a little too large to take into the field.

*Harlow, William M. and Ellwood S. Harrar. 1969. *Textbook of Dendrology.* McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, New York.
The classic textbook for tree identification in New York it contains detailed descriptions, black and white photographs, range maps and identification tables to all of our trees. There is a botanical description followed by a general description of the tree with ecology and uses information. There are multiple photographs for each tree showing most of the plant parts used for identification. Instead of keys there are very useful tables that compare important characters among species. The introduction provides essential background on the identification of trees.

*Harlow, William M. 1941. *Fruit Key and Twig Key To Trees and Shrubs.* Dover publications, New York, New York.
For many years this was the bible of twig identification. It is still very useful with good keys and photographs.

Ketchledge, E.H. 1996. *Forests and Trees of the Adirondack High Peaks Region: A Hiker's Guide.* 3rd Edition. Adirondack Mountain Club, Lake George, New York.
This guide describes 34 species of Adirondack trees and interprets their role in the region's ecology. Very useful for anyone leading plant walks or wanting to know more about our north country trees.

* Petrides, George A. 1972. *A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs.* A Peterson field guide series. Houghton Mifflin, New York, New York.
This very portable paperback is one of the most valuable books for field identification of trees and shrubs. The illustrated keys are unique and very useful.

Petrides, George A. and Janet Wehr. 1998. A Field Guide to Eastern Trees. A Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin, New York, New York.

This is a reprinting and updating of the 1972 Peterson guide to trees. It's unfortunate that shrubs were left out this time.

Preston, Richard J., Jr. 1989. North American Trees. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa.

This is a well-known manual to all of the trees in the U.S. and Canada with keys, descriptions and range maps. Each tree has an easy-to-read bulleted description but the line drawings are not detailed and sometimes murky. The keys include all trees in the U.S. so they may be difficult to use when only a few of our state trees are included. There is a nice genus key and useful descriptions to the larger groupings.

* Soper, James and Margaret Heimbürger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. The Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario.

This is a beautifully illustrated book with detailed descriptions and useful keys, especially in northern and western New York.

Symonds, G.W.D. 1963. The Shrub Identification Book. George McLeod Limited, Toronto, Ontario.

A very unique system of keys using all parts of the plant. Similar parts are arranged together for easier identification and there are close-up photos of all the plant parts. This system is very useful once you get used to it but descriptions are sparse.

Symonds, G.W.D. 1958. The Tree Identification Book. George McLeod Limited, Toronto, Ontario.

Very similar to the shrub book above.

Miller, Howard et al. 1972. How to Know the Trees. The Pictured Key Nature Series. William C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa.

This is a series of detailed keys similar to the other books in the series but there are no detailed descriptions.

Ferns and Fern Allies

*Cobb, Boughton. 1984. A Field Guide to Ferns and Their Related Families. Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, New York.

This is the standard Peterson Field Guide with excellent drawings and descriptions of the ferns in our area. There is an excellent introduction and illustrated key. This is the best and easiest field guide to use.

*Hallowell, Anne C. and B. G. Hallowell. Fern Finder: A Guide to Native Ferns of Central and Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada. Nature Study Guild. Berkeley, California.

This very portable booklet is a quick and easy way to key out ferns. There are no descriptions.

Lamoureux, Gisele. 1993. Fougères, Preles et Lycopodes. Guide d'identification Fleurbec. Groupe Fleurbec. Saint-Henri-de-Levis, Quebec.

If you can read French this is a very comprehensive field guide to the ferns of Québec that contains most of the ferns and fern allies in New York. If you can't read French it still has very beautiful photographs of habitats and plant parts. There is an interesting photographic key in the beginning.

*Lellinger, D. 1985. A Field manual of the Ferns and Fern Allies of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

A very comprehensive book with keys, detailed descriptions, and habitat information on every fern in New York. Instead of drawings there are photographs of each species but the plant parts shown are not consistent.

Mickel, John. 1979. How to Know the Ferns and Fern Allies. The Pictured Key Nature Series. William C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa.

Another comprehensive book on keying ferns with short descriptions, range maps, and average illustrations. There is an excellent section in the beginning on the biology and morphology of ferns as well as collecting and growing them.

- Parsons, Frances Theodora. 1899. How to Know the Ferns. A Guide to the Names, Haunts, and Habits of Our Common Ferns. Available in a Dover paperback version. Dover Books, New York, New York.
Parsons book is the classic study of the morphology and natural history of our ferns. The identification information is in both scientific and prose style with many interesting natural history stories. There are many line drawings and an introduction that includes a section on ferns as a hobby, where to find ferns, an explanation of fern characters and biology, and a simple key.
- Small, John Kunkel. 1935. Ferns of the Vicinity of New York. Dover Books, New York, New York.
A guide to the ferns in and around New York City. Descriptive text with black and white illustrations covers the ferns growing naturally within a hundred mile radius of Manhattan Island.
- Thorne, Frank and Libby Thorne. 1989. Henry Potter's Field Guide to the Hybrid Ferns of the Northeast. Academy Books, Rutland, Vermont.
An excellent reference to the confusing hybridization of fern species. It outlines the morphology, frequency and identification of the hybrids, especially in the genus *Dryopteris*.

Wetland and Carnivorous Plants

- Borman, Susan et al. 1997. Through the Looking Glass. A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants. Wisconsin Lake Partnership, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
This is an excellent source of information on the common aquatic plants of the northern US. There are detailed descriptions on morphology, habitat, similar species, origin, phenology and value in the aquatic system. The drawings are very well done with arrows pointing to important parts. This is not an exhaustive guide to all species but very useful in New York.
- * Crow, Garrett E. and C. Barre Hellquist. 2000. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Northeastern North America. Two volumes. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.
This is the latest, most detailed information on aquatic plants in this area. The books are large and not easily carried into the field but the detailed keys and illustrations are very useful.
- Schnell, Donald E. 2002. Carnivorous Plants of the United States and Canada. Second Edition. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.
This is a beautifully done textbook on the natural history and biology of the carnivorous plants. Its keys, descriptions and excellent photographs are very useful for New York plants, especially the *Utricularia* species.
- Tiner, Ralph W. Jr. 1987. A Field Guide to Coastal Wetland Plants of the Northeastern United States. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, Massachusetts.
This is for the person interested in identifying tidal wetland plants on the coast and up the Hudson River. There is a very nice section on wetland ecology and places to see these plants. The keys, descriptions and drawings are very useful but the focus is narrow.
- Tiner, Ralph W. Jr. 1997. Winter Guide to Woody Plants of Wetlands and Their Borders: Northeastern U.S. Institute for Wetland and Environmental Education and Research, Leverett, Massachusetts.
This guide is intended to aid in winter identification of trees, shrubs, and woody vines growing in wetlands and along their borders. Includes keys and illustrations to over 100 plants.
- Tiner, Ralph W. Jr. 1988. Field Guide to Nontidal Wetland Identification. Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cooperative publication. Institute for Wetland and Environmental Education and Research, Leverett, Massachusetts.
This book includes keys to identifying about 300 wetland plants common to freshwater wetlands ranging from Florida to New England, and illustrations of more than 270 species. It is currently out of print, but IWEER is offering two options of a copied version of the book.

Mosses and Liverworts

Conrad, Henry. 1956. How to Know the Mosses and Liverworts. Revised by Paul L. Redfearn Jr. 1979. The Pictured Key Nature Series. William C. Brown Company, Dubuque Iowa.

This is a series of detailed keys, short descriptions, and small drawings that are not easy to use. There is a good section in the beginning on the biology and morphology of mosses outlining characters to look for.

*Crum, Howard. 2004. Mosses of the Great Lakes Forest. Fourth Edition. The University of Michigan Herbarium, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

William Buck and Christiane Anderson completed this edition after Dr. Crum's death in 2002. It contains detailed keys, descriptions and drawings that update Dr. Crum's past works. It is very useful in New York.

Crum, Howard. 2001. Liverworts and Hornworts of Southern Michigan. The University of Michigan Herbarium, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

There are detailed descriptions, keys and beautiful line drawings of many of the liverworts and hornworts in New York. This is also a great resource to learn about the biology and natural history of these inconspicuous but fascinating plants.

*Crum, Howard and Lewis Anderson. 1981. Mosses of Eastern North America. 2 Volumes. Columbia University Press, New York, New York.

The bible of moss identification these volumes contain keys, technical descriptions and very beautiful and detailed drawings of the mosses. Some taxonomy may be out of date.

Kimmerer, Robin. 2003. Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oregon.

In this series of essays, Robin (from SUNY ESF in Syracuse) explains how mosses live and how they interact with their environment. A great book for learning more about the natural history of mosses.

McQueen, Cyrus B. 1990. Field Guide to the Peat Mosses of Boreal of North America. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire.

This is a great little field guide for beginners with photos and descriptions of the common sphagnum species.

Vitt, Dale H., Janet E. Marsh and Robin B. Bovey. 1988. Mosses, Lichens and Ferns of NW North America. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta.

A photographic field guide (5x8.5") with 450 illustrations, 410 in good color plates. Vitt, Janet Marsh (both botany, U. of Alberta) and Robin Bovey bring the small world of mosses, liverworts, lichens, and ferns to those interested in understanding more of their surroundings. They deal with 370 species, provide keys to their identification, and adequately describe each.

Lichens

Brodo, Irwin M., Sylvia Duran Sharnoff and Stephen Sharnoff. 2001. The Lichens of North America. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

The book focuses on 805 foliose, fruticose, and crustose lichens (the latter rarely included in popular guidebooks) and presents information on another 700 species in the keys or notes; special attention is given to species endemic to North America. A comprehensive introduction discusses the biology, structure, uses, and ecological significance of lichens and is illustrated with 90 additional color photos and many line drawings. English names are provided for most species, and the book also includes a glossary that explains technical terms. A must-have for lichen studies.

Hale, Mason E. 1979. How to Know the Lichens. Second Edition. The Pictured Key Nature Series. William C. Brown Company, Dubuque Iowa.

Before the Brodo book this was the manual for identifying our lichens. Technical keys with beautiful black and white photographs and drawings help identify this difficult group.

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS

- Angier, Bradford. 1974. Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants. Stackpole books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
This guide is arranged alphabetically by common name and includes detailed descriptions and edibility information along with beautiful color illustrations.
- Elliott, Doug. 1995. Wild Roots. A Forager's Guide to the Edible and Medicinal Roots, Tubers, Corms, and Rhizomes of North America. Healing Arts Press, Rochester, Vermont.
A unique and valuable resource about the underground edible parts of plants. Detailed descriptions are accompanied by beautiful sketches.
- Foster, Stephen and James Duke. 2000. A Field Guide to Medicinal Plants and Herbs of Eastern and Central North America. A Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.
With more than 300 photos, this new edition shows how to identify more than 500 healing plants. Descriptive text includes information on where the plants are found, as well as their known medicinal uses. The updated descriptive text includes information on where the plants are found as well as their known medicinal uses. An index to medical topics is helpful for quickly locating information on specific ailments, from asthma and headaches to colds and stomachaches. Symbols next to plant descriptions give readers a quick visual alert to plants that are poisonous or may cause allergic reactions. Organized by plant color, this is an excellent guide for understanding the traditional medicinal uses of the plants and herbs in New York.
- Genders, Roy. 1988. Edible Wild Plants. A Guide to Natural Foods. van der Marck Editions, New York, New York.
This is a tabular listing of tropical and temperate wild edible plants but contains many species from the Northeast. There are photographs, drawings, and short descriptions of the plants and a large table in the back outlining nutrition and health benefits.
- Kvasch, E. Barrie. 1981. Guide to Northeastern Wild Edibles. Hancock House Publishers, Blaine, Washington.
A list of about 80 plants or plant groups with short notes on their use as food. Arranged by season, each plant is accompanied by a photo, usually of the part that is eaten. Other guides are more detailed.
- Medve, Richard J. and Mary Lee Medve. 1990. Edible Wild Plants of Pennsylvania and Neighboring States. The Pennsylvania State University press, State College, Pennsylvania.
This book contains detailed information about the characteristics, habitat, distribution edibility, precautions and preparation of over 100 edible wild plants in the mid-atlantic region. The plants are arranged by size, a very unusual arrangement, and the index contains the plants cross-referenced by common name, scientific name and food uses. This is a very useful guide.
- Peterson, Lee Allen. 1977. A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants: Eastern and Central North America. A Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts.
This comprehensive guide describes more than 370 edible wild plants, plus 37 poisonous look-alikes. There are 400 drawings and 78 color photographs showing precisely how to recognize each species. Also included are habitat descriptions, lists of plants by season, and preparation instructions for 22 different food uses.

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY DESCRIPTIONS

- Anderson, M., P. et al. 1998. International classification of ecological communities: terrestrial vegetation of the United States. Volume II. The National Vegetation Classification System: list of types. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia.
This is a list of the terrestrial vegetation types identified and named using the U.S. National Vegetation Classification system that is described in Volume I by Grossman et al. It is arranged by class, subclass, group, formation, alliance and associations and lists the name, range and global rank of each one. There is an index in the back of plants species and the association in which they occur. An up-to-date version is available online at <http://natureserve.org>.

- Braun, E. Lucy. 1950. *Deciduous forests of Eastern North America*. The Free Press, New York, New York.
This book describes in detail the trees and shrubs in the deciduous forests of Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. It is still widely used as a reference work today. Lucy Braun was perhaps the foremost botanist in the deciduous forest region. Her descriptions of the deciduous forest associations, from mixed mesophytic to beech-maple, are wonderful, a classic title in plant ecology.
- Breden, Tom et al. 2001. *Classification of Vegetation Communities of New Jersey: Second Iteration*. New Jersey Natural Heritage Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Trenton, New Jersey.
This is the technical manual used by the Natural Heritage Program with detailed descriptions and locations of each vegetation community in New Jersey. There is a listing of other states where each community occurs.
- Collins, Beryl R. and Karl H. Anderson. 1994. *Plant Communities of New Jersey*. Rutgers University Press, Piscataway, New Jersey.
Contains non-technical descriptions and natural history of plant communities and is geared for popular use. There are photographs, plant lists and maps. Many of the communities also occur in New York.
- Damman, A. W. H., and T.W. French. 1987. *The Ecology of Peat Bogs of the Glaciated Northeastern United States: A Community Profile*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Report 85.
A detailed scientific look at the composition and ecology of peat bogs. There are sections on physical properties, water movement, water chemistry, energy flow, animal and plant composition, human disturbances, and recommendations for research.
- * Edinger, Gregory et al. 2002. *Ecological Communities of New York State Second Edition*. New York Natural Heritage Program, Albany, NY.
This is a revised and expanded edition of Carol Reschke's "Ecological Communities of New York State". There are keys and detailed descriptions of all of the natural and man-made ecological communities in New York. This is the standard reference used by many organizations in the state.
- Fike, J. 1999. *Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities of Pennsylvania*. Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Harrisburg, PA.
After a short introduction and key to the sections this publication details the composition, range and related types of natural communities in Pennsylvania. There are a few photographs of some of the habitats and a crosswalk section to other classifications.
- Forman, Richard T. T. 1979. *Pine Barrens: Ecosystem and Landscape*. Academic Press, New York, New York.
This is an in-depth ecological study of the pine barrens of New Jersey but is a useful reference in understanding the pine barrens on Long Island.
- Grossman, D. H., et al. 1998. *International classification of ecological communities: terrestrial vegetation of the United States. Volume I. The National Vegetation Classification System: development, status, and applications*. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia.
This volume lays out the background to the creation of the national vegetation classification. It defines the classification structure, how it was developed and how it can be applied. In the appendices there is information about how data is taken in the Natural Heritage Program and the data gaps for each state.
- Grossman, D. H., et al., editors. 1994. *Rare Plant Communities of the Conterminous United States*. The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia.
This is a preliminary list of all communities in the U.S. reported by Heritage Programs to be rare at the state level and reworked into the national classification system. Each one has a section on names, range, species lists, vegetation description, global rank, comments and a reference section. Here you can see how New York's natural communities are described in the national classification.

- Laderman, Aimlee D. 1989. The Ecology of the Atlantic White Cedar Wetlands: A Community Profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Report 85.
Cedar swamps were much more common in New York before the 1900s but most have declined dramatically over the last 100 years. This publication contains detailed information on the physical and chemical factors in their formation and the organisms that compose them. It profiles the ecology of these swamps and the impacts of natural and human disturbance. An invaluable resource for the understanding of these rare communities.
- Reed, Clyde F. 1986. Floras of the Serpentine Formations in Eastern North America, with Descriptions of Geomorphology and Mineralogy of the Formations. Contributions of Reed Herbarium No. XXX, Baltimore, Maryland.
This is a very detailed study of the geology and plants that grow in serpentine areas. There are short sections on the serpentine areas of Staten Island.
- Sperduto, Daniel D. and William F. Nichols. 2004. Natural Communities of New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau and The Nature Conservancy, Concord, New Hampshire.
After an introduction about classifying and identifying natural communities there is a section on the ecoregions of New Hampshire followed by detailed descriptions of the individual natural communities. This is the standard community reference for New Hampshire and they are more finely divided than New York's communities but there is some similarity and overlap. There are county range maps but no photographs or drawings.
- Thompson, Elizabeth H. and Eric R. Sorensen. Wetland, Woodland, Wildland. A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire.
This beautiful book has detailed descriptions of the eight biophysical regions of Vermont followed by descriptions of each natural community in the state. Each description treats the physical characters, ecology and organisms within each community and is accompanied by a landscape drawing, range map and photographs of selected plants. It does not use the same classification system as New York but some communities overlap.

GENERAL NATURAL HISTORY OF PLANTS

Wildflowers

- Brown, Margaret and Marguerite Wellborn. 1989. Wildflowers along the Way. Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady, Niskayuna, New York.
This is a small but information-packed booklet about the natural and cultural history of the most common wildflowers in the Capital District. There are very nice line drawings by Clem Habetler. It is arranged by season.
- Eastman, John. 2003. The Book of Field and Roadside: Open-Country Weeds, Trees, and Wildflowers of Eastern North America. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
This series of books by John Eastman offers the naturalist a wealth of information on the plants that occur in these ecological community types. There are sections on names, ecology, lore and uses. They are very useful for understanding these communities and teaching others about them. Beautiful line drawings accompany the text.
- Eastman, John. 1995. The Book of Swamp and Bog. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Eastman, John. 1992. The Book of Forest and Thicket. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Petry, Loren C. and Marcia G. Norman. 1968. A Beachcomber's Botany. The Chatham Conservation Foundation, Inc., Chatham, Massachusetts.
This is a beautiful little book about seashore plants on Cape Cod but it is also useful for Long Island. There are sections on seashore ecology followed by full-page sketches of seashore plants with accompanying handwritten text about their identifying characteristics. They are arranged from the back dunes to the water.

Schottman, Ruth. 1998. Trailside Notes. The Naturalist's Companion to Adirondack Plants. The Adirondack Mountain Club, Lake George, New York.
This book provides an interesting look at the natural history of our most common and conspicuous wildflowers. There is a mix of science, lore, edibility and etymology and humor written in a conversational style. Over half of the book is devoted to our Spring ephemerals. A valuable resource for people leading plant walks.

Stokes, Donald. 1989. The Natural History of Wild Shrubs and Vines. Globe Pequot Press, Chester, Connecticut.
An informative guide to the life histories of common plants and plant groups that comprise our shrubs and vines. These plants are underrepresented in field guides so the information here is not usually found elsewhere. Pen and ink sketches supplement the text.

Natural Communities

Cox, Donald D. 2004. The Naturalist's Guide to Field Plants: An Ecology for Eastern North America. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York.
This book and the following books in this series contain interesting and useful information on the natural history and ecology of plant communities in our area. In addition to a sampling of the plants and animals each book has a section on naming and collecting plants and activities to do. Take a nice relaxing trip to a natural area and read these books.

Cox, Donald D. 2003. The Naturalist's Guide to Seashore Plants: An Ecology for Eastern North America. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York.

Cox, Donald D. 2003. The Naturalist's Guide to Forest Plants: An Ecology for Eastern North America. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York.

Cox, Donald D. 2002. A Naturalists Guide to Wetland Plants: An Ecology for Eastern North America. Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, New York.

Johnson, Charles W. 1985. Bogs of the Northeast. University press of New England. Hanover, Massachusetts.
A very detailed and fascinating natural history of sphagnum bogs. Very useful to those who plan to or have explored this habitat.

McNamara, Robert, editor. 1999. Tug Hill. A Four Season Guide to the Natural Side. North Country Books, Utica, New York.
This is an excellent book to the natural history of the Tug Hill Plateau written and illustrated by seven people who know it best. It is arranged by habitat type with information about natural history facts and lore and the animals and plants that live there. There are color drawings of the common or ecologically important plants and animals with a few additional photographs of this incredibly beautiful and fascinating landscape. The Appendix contains more complete checklists. If you plan to spend time in this area this book will give you the best background available.

Scott, Jane. 1992. Field and Forest. Walker and Company, New York, New York.
This book is written about the way plants fit into their natural communities. There is a discussion of how communities work and their interaction with humans. Four general plant communities are described along with the plants that inhabit them. The book ends with a discussion of designing and planting native plant landscapes. There is a great deal of interesting natural history information that is useful for understanding how nature works.

Scott, Jane. 1984. Botany in the Field. An Introduction to Plant Communities for the Amateur Naturalist. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.
Each chapter of this book focuses on a different plant community with a description of the environment and plants commonly found there. Very useful for nature walks or for studying symbiotic relationships.

PLANT NAMES AND FOLKLORE

- *Brown, Roland W. 1956. *Composition of Scientific Words*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
After an introduction to the history and use of scientific language most of the book consists of a large dictionary of Latin and Greek scientific names translated to English and vice versa. This reference is very complete the best one for finding the meaning of a botanical name.
- Coffey, Timothy. 1993. *The History and Folklore of North America Wildflowers*. Houghton Mifflin, New York, New York.
This book contains 700 plants that have been described in popular wildflower guides. They are included because they have been used as a food, medicine, charm, poison, or fiber by the Native Americans and more recent colonists. Each entry includes a lengthy list of common names followed by interesting stories about how the plants were observed, named, and used in the past. Arranged taxonomically by family in the Cronquist system then by closely related genera and species. There is an alphabetical index.
- Durant, Mary. 1976. *Who Named the Daisy? Who Named the Rose?* Congdon and Weed Inc., New York, New York.
Mary Durant provides detailed descriptions of the history of the scientific and common names of plants. A story, a quote, or a poem accompanies each entry from authors of the past. A very enjoyable and fact-filled book. It is arranged alphabetically with scientific and common names intermixed.
- Gledhill, D. 1989. *The Names of Plants*. Second Edition. Cambridge University Press, New York, New York.
A useful reference, this booklet starts with a discussion of the rules of botanical nomenclature and how plants are named. Most of the book consists of a glossary that translates genus and species names to English. There are a few diagrammatic drawings of plant parts.
- Mabberley, D. J. *The Plant Book. A Portable Dictionary of Higher Plants*. Cambridge University Press, New York, New York.
This is a listing of plant families and genera with accompanying statistics on naming author, important morphological characters, and the number of genera and species within each. Within families there is a listing of chief genera and within genera there are examples of important species and their uses. Also included are various common names with their accompanying Latin name, especially from the tropics. This is very useful for looking up unfamiliar families and genera and their worldwide composition.
- Martin, Laura C. 1984. *Wildflower Folklore*. The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut.
After a brief description of plant parts, habitat, and bloom time there is a longer section devoted to each plant's natural history, uses and naming history (what the author calls biographies). It is arranged by flower color then by common name with (thankfully) an alphabetical index.
- Sanders, Jack. 2003. *The Secrets of Wildflowers. A Delightful Feast of Little-known Facts, Folklore, and History*. The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford Connecticut.
This is a book filled with interesting stories about common wildflowers. It is a treasure trove for people leading plant walks. It is arranged approximately by blooming season.
- Stearn, William T. 1983. *Botanical Latin*. David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vermont.
This is a very detailed manual on the use of Latin in plant names and plant descriptions. There is an interesting history on the development of Latin terminology for plants and the scientists involved like Linneaus and Theophrastus. Another chapter outlines the differences between traditional and botanical Latin followed by the details of grammar and syntax in plant descriptions. It ends with a vocabulary section that translates Latin and Greek terms to English. Geared to the professional botanist it is also useful for those just looking up scientific name meanings.
- Zimdahl, Robert L. 1989. *Weeds and Words*. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa.
The Greek and Latin word root of each species is listed followed by a short commentary about naming history. There is a weeds section and the crops section arranged alphabetically by scientific name. There is also a reference section and index.