After the Ice Age:

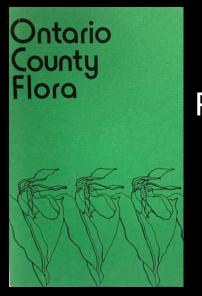
the Return of Plant Life to the Bristol Hills



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Public Presentation Saturday, April 29 10:00 - 11:00am

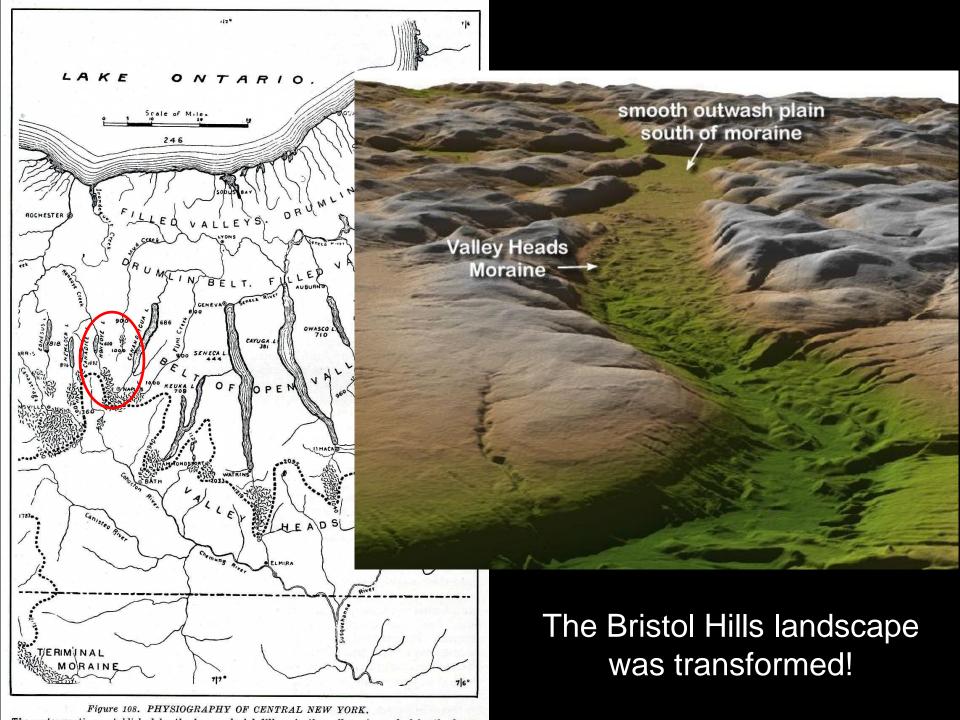


The Bristol Hills Region at the peak of glaciation



20,000 years ago





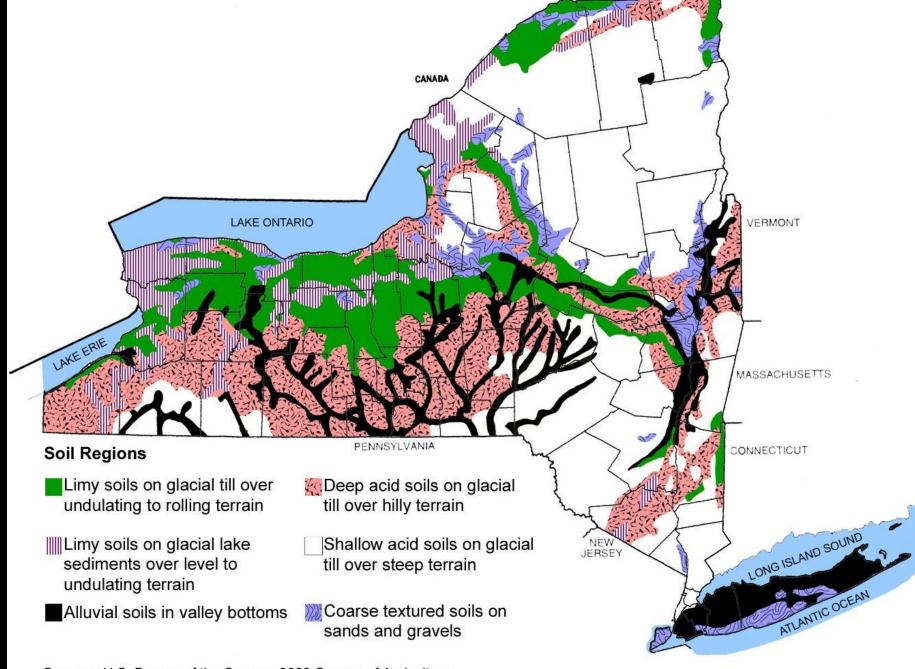
Where had the plants sought refuge when the northeast was buried beneath glacial ice?

At least 3 possibilities...

Plant Refugia



What developing soil conditions fit the ecological requirements of migrating plants?



Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002 Census of Agriculture Thompson, John Henry. *Geography of New York State*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University, 1977.

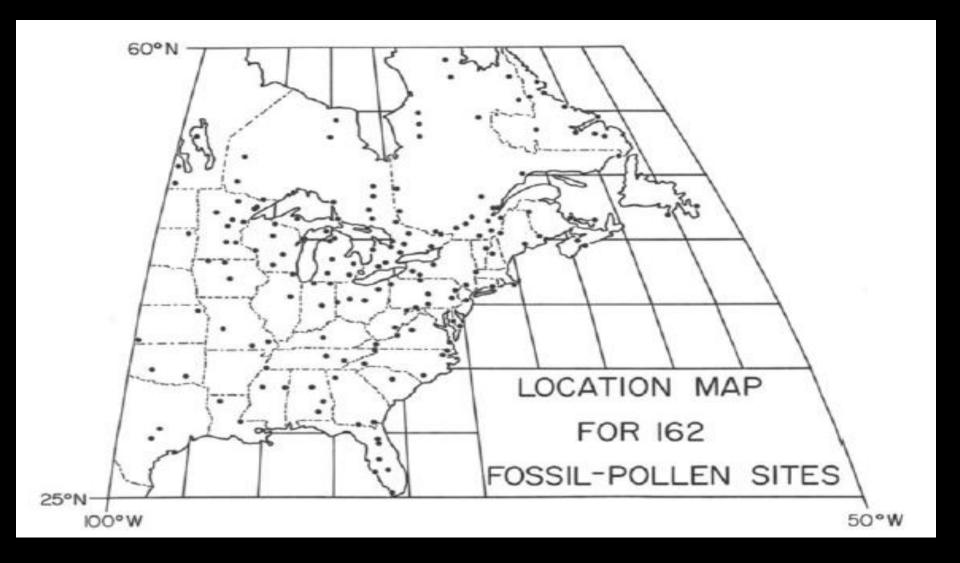
What natural plant communities colonized our newly forming soils?

- role of plant refugia during peak glaciation
- rates of migration
- vectors of migration
- climatic adaptation and tree physiology
- ecological succession

Visualizing forest community change using historic records

- The science of palynology
- The science of dendrochronology
- The original land survey records
- A modern land use/land cover field research project to describe our modern plant communities - recent inventory and mapping completed in Ontario County

Return of plant life to North America (fossil pollen studies)

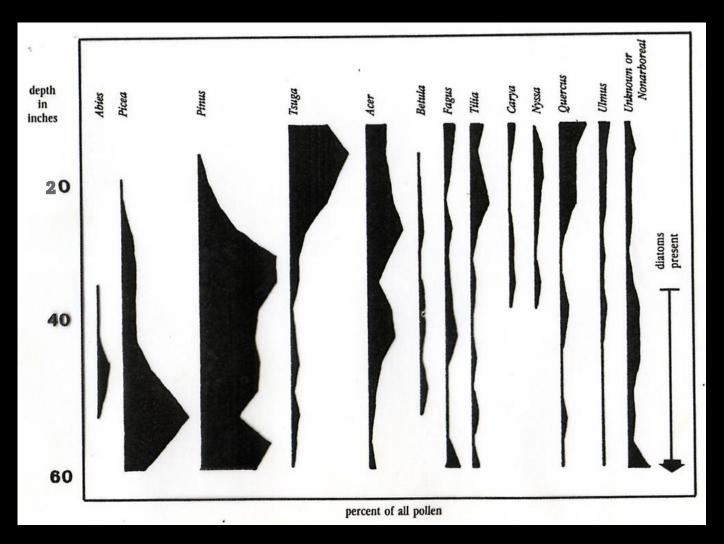


Collecting Pollen Samples







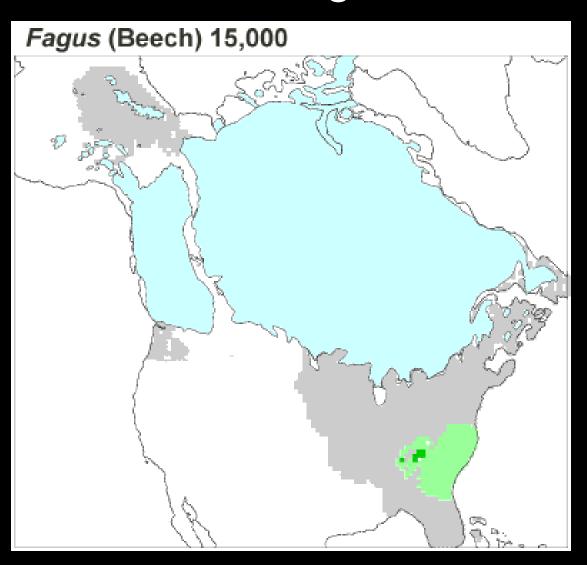


Abies (Fir) Picea (Spruce) Pinus (Pine) Tsuga (Hemlock) Acer (Maple) Betula (Birch) Fagus (Beech) Tilia (Basswood) Carya (Hickory) Nyssa (Tupelo) Quercus (Oak) Ulmus (Elm)

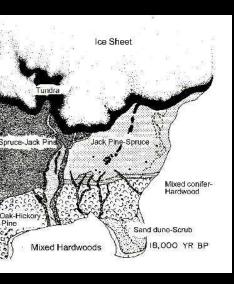
Gilman and Wentland 1975

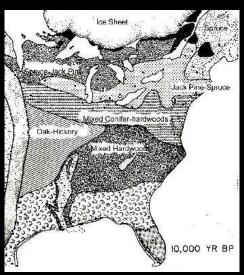
Patterns in tree pollen abundance suggest changes in forest composition that may be driven by improving climate and soils at the end of the Ice Age.

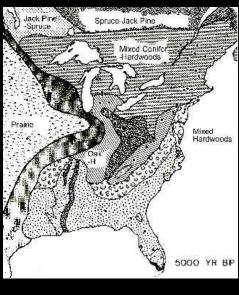
Re-vegetation of landscape Beech migration

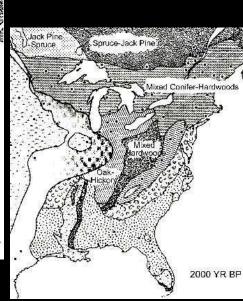


Northly Shifts in Forest Communities after the Ice Age

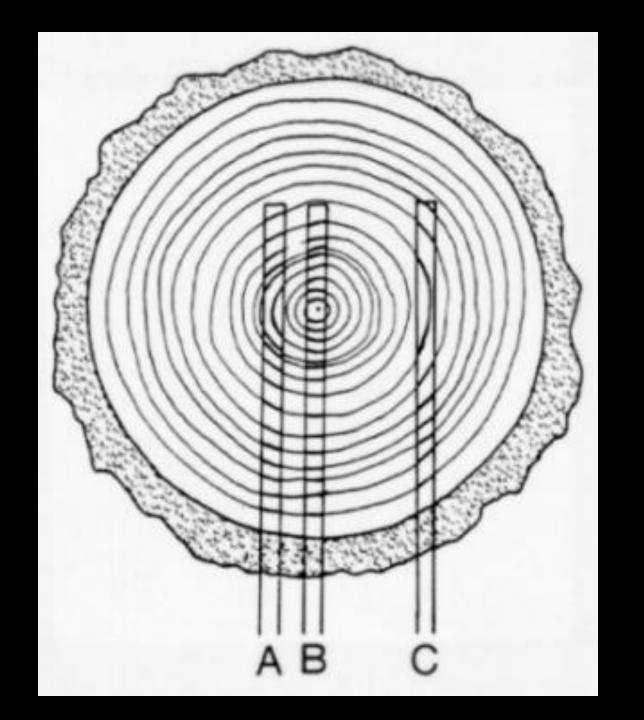














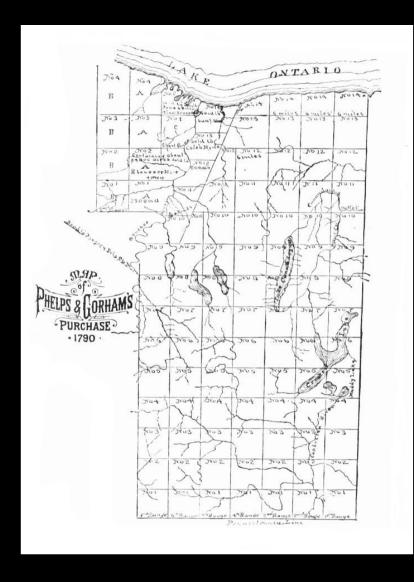
Using a tree increment borer in Gosnell's Woods, Webster NY



The pre-European settlement forest



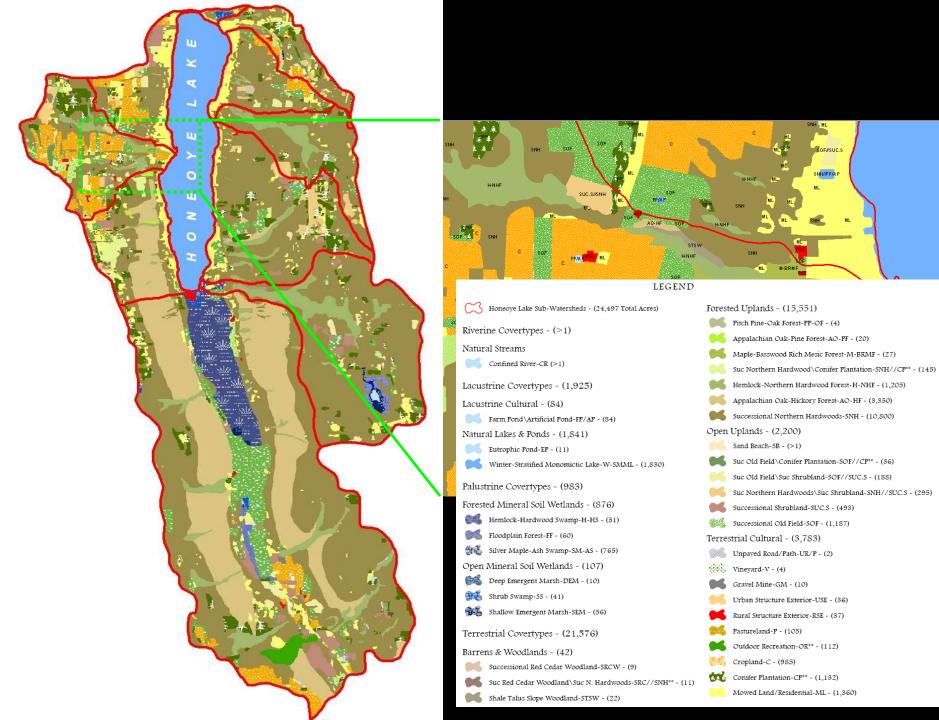
Gosnell's Woods, Webster NY

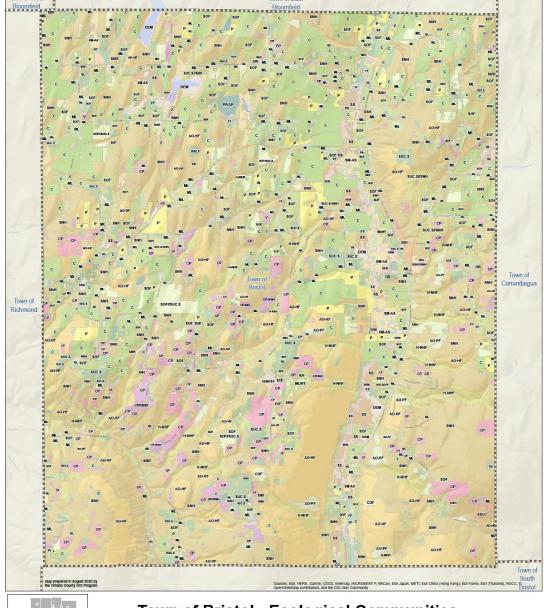


Lot descriptions and witness trees

Land surveys conducted in the 1790's hint at the composition of the original forest







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Town of Bristol - Ecological Communities



TOWN OF BRISTOL

Inventory of Land Use and Land Cover

Prepared for:

Ontario County Water Resources Council 20 Ontario Street, 3rd Floor Canandaigua, New York 14424

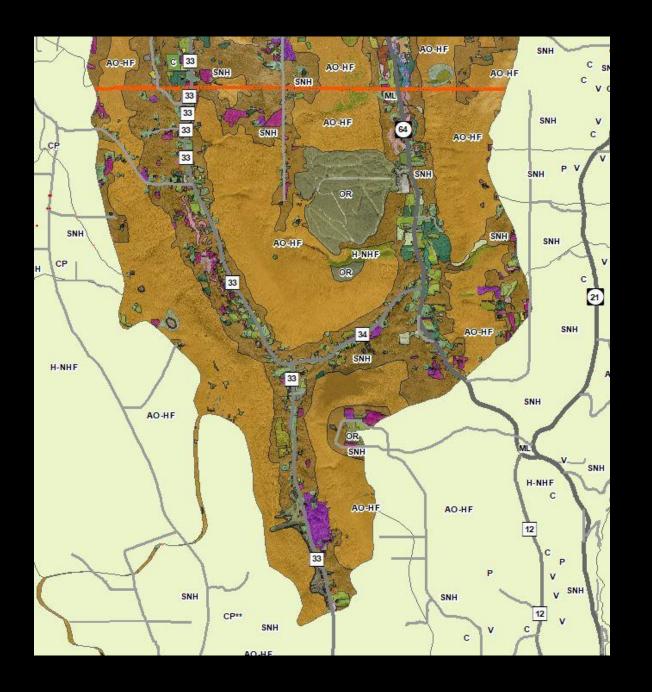
and

Town of Bristol 6740 County Road 32 Canandaigua, New York 14424

Prepared by:

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Department of Environmental
Conservation and Horticulture
Finger Lakes Community College
3325 Marvin Sands Drive
Canandaigua, New York 14424-8395

2020



Ancient Appalachian Plateau now with Broad Glacial Valleys



Stream Patterns that continuously erode the Landscape



Post-Glacial Ravine Formation with special microhabitats



Spring Wildflowers in Natural Plant Communities of the Bristol Hills







Let's begin the tour!

Flowers of the Mid-reach Stream



Flowers of the Mid-reach Stream





Swamp Buttercup

Marsh Blue Violet

Flowers of the Mid-reach Stream





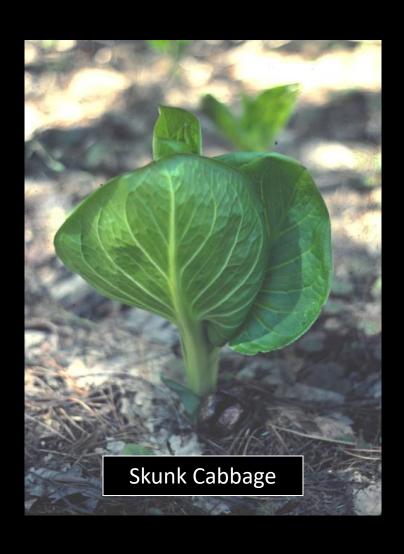


Virginia Bluebells

Flowers of the Silver Maple-Ash Swamp Forests



Flowers of Swamp Forests







Flowers of Swamp Forests



Flowers of Swamp Forests





Marsh Marigold

a.k.a.

Cow Slip



Flowers of Swamp Forests



Spreading Globeflower

NYS protected!



Flowers of Swamp Forests

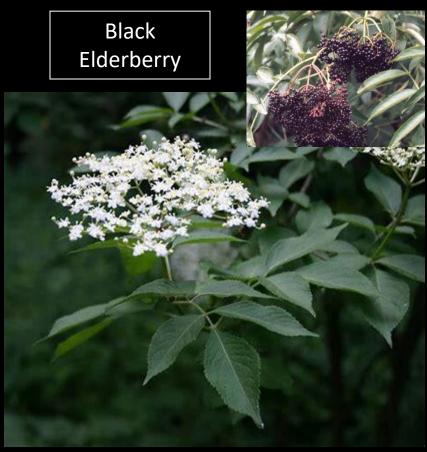
Blue Flag Iris

Water Cress



Flowers of Swamp Forests







Flowers of the Ravine Forest





Flowers of the Ravine Forest

True Miterwort

a.k.a.

Bishop's Cap





Flowers of the Ravine Forest





Red Trillium

a.k.a.

Wake Robin

NYS protected!



Flowers of the Successional Northern Hardwood Forest







NYS protected!







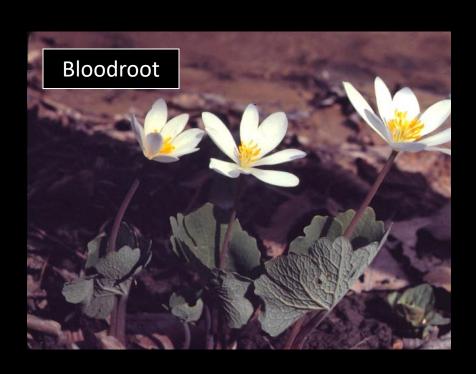




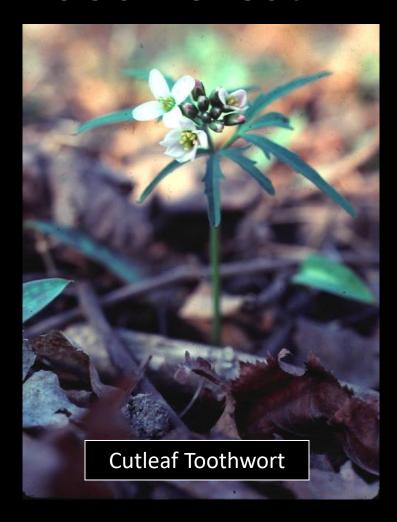
False Solomon's Seal

True Solomon's Seal





NYS protected!



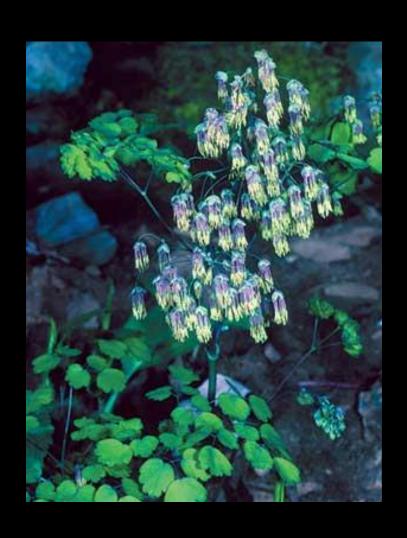


White Baneberry

a.k.a.

"Doll's Eyes"







Early Meadowrue







Blue Cohosh











Mayapple





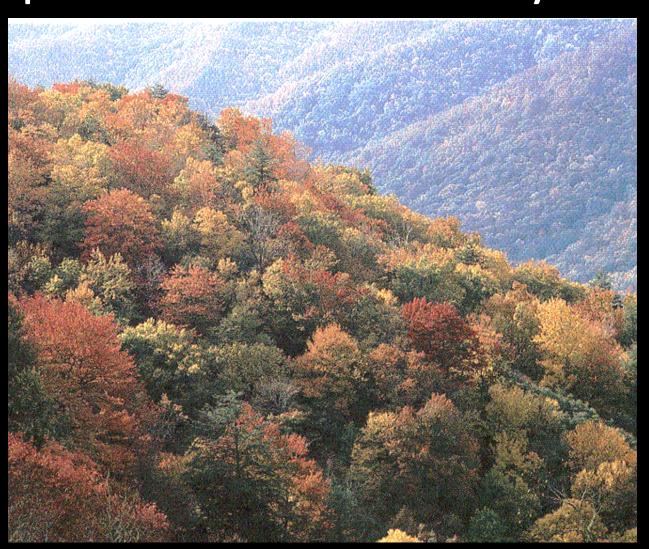




Wild Leeks



Plants of the Appalachian Oak-Hickory Fo**rest**





Early Low Upland Blueberry

Shadbush or Serviceberry

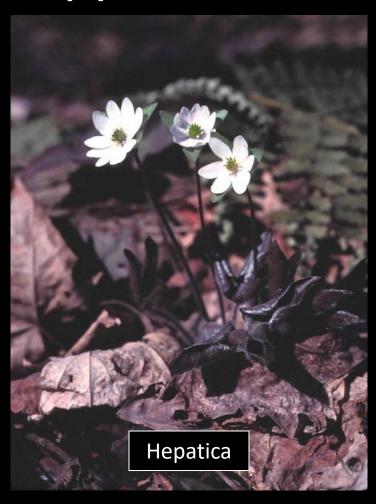




Wild Columbine











NYS protected!







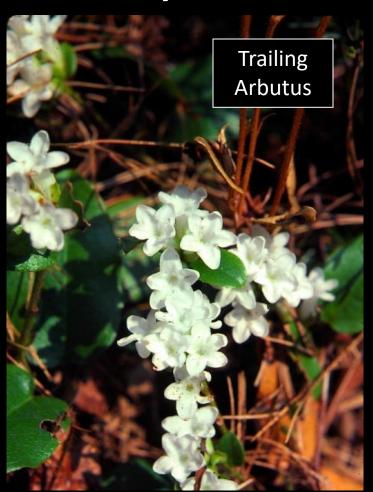
Painted Trillium

NYS protected!









Both are NYS protected!



Pink Ladyslipper

a.k.a.

Mocassin Flower

NYS protected!



Wild Sarsaparilla



Starflower



Flowers of the Successional Old Field



(and Roadsides)



Flowers of the Successional Old Field





Wild Strawberry

Flowers of the Vernal Pool





Not flowers but amphibian eggs are pretty cool!

Progress on an updated Ontario County Flora



Creating a Database

- Plant family
- Scientific name
- Common name
- Location information
- Collector
- Date
- NYS ranking
- Phenology



Publishing an updated Ontario County Flora



Showy Lady' Slipper, Cypripedium reginae, West Bloomfield, NY

