

# NEBC Day Field Trips – Summer 2015 Highlights

## Connecticut River, Turners Falls, and Greenfield, MA, on July 11, 2015

Matt Hickler led a group of seven botanists into a variety of habitats for the first 2015 NEBC trip. We started with an unprepossessing wetland in a lawn, where Matt showed us *Lythrum portula*, the first record in eastern North America – a diminutive, *Callitriche*-like plant. We poked around the rocky Rivershore below the Great Falls of the Connecticut, and saw *Deschampsia anadyrensis* – formerly placed in *D. caespitosa* ssp. *glauca*, listed as E in Massachusetts, which was abundant on the rocky shores. The rocks also held lots of *Carex torta*, *Apocynum cannabinum*, and *Lathyrus sylvestris*. At the lovely Rock Wall (a sill across the river) we saw *Alnus viride*, *Packera paupercula*, *Prunus pumila* and *Salix exigua*. We finished the day high up on a basaltic outcrop on a powerline where we reveled in a lovely meadow of *Campanula rotundifolia*. Other highlights included *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Calystygia spithamea*, *Celastrus scandens*, *Crocyanthemums* and *Desmodiums*, *Lilium philadelphicum*, and *Minuartia michauxii*.

## Loverens Mills Cedar Swamp in Antrim and Stoddard, NH, on July 25, 2015

Joann Hoy led eight botanists into the TNC's Loverens Mills preserve in Antrim, a fabulous combination of Atlantic white cedar swamp and boreal bog. The *Chamaecyparis* was growing around the perimeter of the bog, with *Abies balsamea*, *Andromeda polifolia* var. *latifolia* (used to be *glaucophylla*), *Arceuthobium pusillum*, *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *E. virginicum*, *Gaultheria hispidula*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Ilex mucronata* (in beautiful fruit), *Larix laricina*, *Picea*, and *Sarracenia purpurea*. We found both *Vaccinium corymbosum* and *Vaccinium fuscatum*, and also the species-pair *Carex trisperma* and *C. billingsii*. Nice to be able to compare these species side-by-side! Joann also tried to teach the group to distinguish species of *Sphagnum*: she identified *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *S. fuscum*, *S. girgensohnii*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. rubellum*.

## Big River Wildlife Management Area, RI, on August 1, 2015

Tim Whitfeld, Rick Enser and Doug McGrary led four other NEBC members on a tour of habitats in the Big River WMA, starting with a lovely coastal plain pond established in a former sand pit, densely covered with *Coreopsis rosea* and pools of *Nymphoides cordata*. We found the smallest *Potamogeton* (*P. bicuspulatus*) any of us had ever seen. We stopped at a roadside population to admire hundreds of *Goodyera pubescens* in full bloom, and then explored the wet and dry sandy habitats near the Big River. The woods roads have been unfortunately colonized by *Microstegium* and *Calluna vulgaris*, but the more natural areas were rich in interesting species, including *Scirpus expansus*, *Lupinus perennis*, *Linum medium* ssp. *texanum*, *Xyris*, both species of *Bartonia*, *Equisetum hyemale* and *E. variegatum*, and both *Drosera rotundifolia* and *D. intermedia*. After lunch overlooking a lake and marsh, we explored a more typical coastal Atlantic white cedar swamp and looked (unsuccessfully) for *Carex collinsii*.