

Highlights of NEBC Day Field Trips in 2019

May 25 - Gap Mountain, Troy NH

Matt Charpentier and five comrades bushwacked up the eastern slope of Gap Mountain. The group traveled through several locally uncommon natural communities, including a well-developed forest with mesophytic components of *Acer saccharum*, *Tilia americana*, *Adiantum pedatum*, and *Caulophyllum giganteum*. Many large (>4 ft DBH) *Fraxinus americana* were observed throughout the day: happily, none yet showed signs of emerald ash borer. Show-stoppers included a robust population of *Carex plantaginea*, moss-covered ledges, and clumps of *Trillium erectum* in peak bloom tucked amongst talus. A diverse array of ferns and sedges stimulated frequent discussion as the group attempted to reach consensus on the identification of species present. The days' botanical explorations ended atop the summit of Gap, where the group enjoyed lunch and a view of Mount Monadnock before heading down to the parking lot, and inevitably, off to get ice cream.



June 8 - Notch Mountain, Northfield MA

On a warm and sunny June 8, Peter Grima led 5 fellow-members on a foray to Notch Mountain in Northfield, MA. The first hour was a "sedge crawl" along the access road, and then we ascended the steep - very steep - south face of the enriched woodlands. Common ferns on the "crown" of the hill were *Asplenium platyneuron*, *Woodsia obtusa* & *Woodsia ilvensis*. The group also saw a small patch of the uncommon spikemoss, *Selaginella rupestris*. Highlights included a sizeable grouping of *Orobanchae uniflora* in flower, three species of *Boechera* (including the rare *B. missouriensis*), the uncommon grass *Schizachne purpurascens*, and a final tally of 2 dozen sedges!

July 13 - Kate Furbish Preserve, Brunswick ME

On July 13th, Chris Schorn and four NEBC botanists visited the new Kate Furbish Preserve in Brunswick, Maine. After beginning with some readings from a biography of Kate-- a native of Brunswick herself-- the group moseyed along woods roads passing through hemlock swamps and old pine plantations, finally reaching the prize--the *Spartina* saltmarshes of Mare Brook. It was a beautiful, sunny day, with a well- received breeze. The group met many of the characteristic inhabitants of saltmarshes, including three

Spartinas (the *alterniflora* of the low marsh, the *patens* of the high marsh, and the *pectinata* of the upland margins), *Juncus gerardii*, *J. balticus*, *Anthoxanthum nitens*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Bulboschoenus maritimus*, *Scirpus hattorianus*, *Plantago maritima*, and the wonderfully unique *Salicornia ambigua*. The day concluded with spending some time exploring the landforms of the saltmarsh, discussing their formation and their future, and thinking about what Kate would have had to say about it all.



July 20 - McLean Game Refuge, Granby CT

Laura Green led six field-trippers on a tour of West Barndoor Hill in Granby, part of the 4,000+-acre McLean Game Refuge, a privately-owned wildlife sanctuary. The group visited trap rock talus, open red cedar glades, rock outcrops along the cliff top, and a variety of oak-hickory communities rising above the richer sugar maple lowlands. Although the morning was hot and humid, and plants in bloom were sparse, the sharp-eyed participants found a treasure trove of unusual species: *Selaginella rupestris*, *Linum virginianum*, *Houstonia longifolia*, *Carex glaucodea*, *Woodsia obtusa* and *W. ilvensis*, *Pycnanthemums*, *Boecheras*, *Paronychia canadensis*, and several orchid species, as well as a wealth of *Carex* and grasses. A huge robber fly (*Laphria*), mimicking a *Bombus*, was a non-botanical highlight. A stop for ice cream in innovative flavors ended the trip.



August 4 – Barton’s Cove, Gill MA

Ten enthusiastic botanists (in five boats) spent the day paddling the circumference of Barton’s Cove, a quiet impoundment of the Connecticut River above the Turner’s Falls dam. Led by Matt Hickler, the group embodied the essence of a good NEBC trip – boundless enthusiasm, curiosity, and shared expertise. Matt explained the intricacies of identifying *Potamogeton* species (we saw eight species), along with *Myriophyllum*, *Ceratophyllum*, *Najas*, *Elodea*, and *Utricularia* species. We explored mud flats covered with *Crassula aquatica* and blooming *Sagittaria graminifolia*, found *Isoetes*, photographed spectacular *Lobelia cardinalis* in bloom, marveled at the flowering strategy of *Vallisneria*, and pulled as much *Trapa natans* as we could fit into our boats. *Asplenium trichomanes* on the rock outcrops above the water was an additional treat. Despite a brief downpour, the trip – and the post-trip ice cream - was enjoyed by all.



August 24 – Indian Pond, Orford NH

A small group of NEBC and NHBC members gathered at Bruce and Sarah Schwaegler’s property in Orford on a beautiful day to explore a trail along the edge of Indian Pond and poke around in a nearby wetland. They were rewarded with the sight of unusually abundant masses of fruit on wild raisins (*Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*), mostly pink, with some turning blue - just gorgeous. Another treat was the bog goldenrod in full bloom looking just like the picture of *Solidago purshii* in Newcomb (since lumped with *S. uliginosa*, which sometimes looks quite different). Many late-season flowers and grasses offered themselves for identification or keying practice. The Schwaegler’s warm hospitality was appreciated by all.

