

Appendix G-2
Central Pine Barrens Joint Policy & Planning Commission

December 5, 2016



December 5, 2016

Mark Hissey
Discovery Land Company
528 Main Street
East Quogue, NY 11942

Dear Mr. Hissey,

Please be advised that during the course of and incidental to southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) surveys conducted on The Hills properties in East Quogue during the summer and fall of 2016, a number of rare plant species, a special concern animal (which has already been noted by The Hills) and unique species compositions were observed and documented by Commission staff within the bounds of these collective properties. These observations were made on the following Suffolk County Tax Map parcels:

Carrie Meek Gallagher
Chairwoman

Steven Bellone
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

Jay H. Schneiderman
Member

Sean M. Walter
Member

900-250-2-2; 900-250-2-4;
900-250-3-1; 900-250-3-2; 900-250-3-3; 900-250-3-6; 900-250-3-7;
900-288-1-61; 900-288-1-141.1

The following species were observed:

- ***Linum medium* (Planch.) Britton var. *texanum* (Planch.) Fernald**
Rarity Rank: S2/G5T5 - State Status: Threatened
- ***Sericocarpus linifolius* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.**
Rarity Rank: S2/G5- State Status: Threatened
- ***Pityopsis falcata* (Pursh) Nutt.**
Rare Rank: S3?/G3G4 – Global Status: Rare
- ***Lespedeza frutescens* (L.) Hornem. (Previously *L. violacea*)**
Rarity Rank: S3/G5 - State Status: Rare
- ***Lespedeza stuevei* (Identification requires plant material)**
Rarity Rank: S2/G4 - State Status: Threatened
- ***Spiranthes tuberosa* Raf.**
Rarity Rank: S3 - State Status: Exploitably vulnerable
- **Box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*)** **Rarity Rank: S3/G5-**
State Status: *Species of Concern* were frequently documented (N>10) in this area along with *Opuntia humifusa* (Raf.) Raf. var. *humifusa*; the region's only native cactus which is readily foraged

G-2.1
Sec. 2.3.2

624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

Phone (631) 288-1079
Fax (631) 288-1367
www.pb.state.ny.us

upon by *T. carolina*.

Also, additional populations of certain plants were noted as follows:

- Large *Baptisia tinctoria* (L.) R. Br. stands (0.5 acre), were observed in the understory of Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) forest. *Baptisia tinctoria* is a host species for and provides critical habitat to the **Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*)** **Rarity Rank: S1/S2:G3- State Status: Threatened**
- The barren grassy areas and trail sides support unique species in compositions not commonly found including the above listed rare plant species along with *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* Schrad., *Eupatorium hyssopifolium* L. (S3/S4), *Asclepias tuberosa* L., *Schizachyrium scoparium* (Michx.) Nash var. *scoparium*, *Desmodium marilandicum* (L.) DC., (and possibly *Desmodium ciliare* (Muhl. ex Willd.) DC. (S2/S3)), *Tephrosia virginiana* (L.) Pers. and *Polygala polygama* Walter.

A report containing an aerial photographic map identifying the locations of the largest populations of individual species observed and which contains on-site photographic and narrative information is attached for your review. The locations on the aerial photo are keyed to GPS coordinates and a GIS shapefile which our staff can share with you.

Species presence was documented (as noted on the attached aerial photograph) and confirmed through field identification and/or photographs. Further photographic confirmation of the New York State rare and threatened plant species was provided by Steve Young, Chief Botanist of the New York Heritage Program. Please note that formal plant surveys were not conducted at these locations as these observations were made by chance in the course of southern pine beetle ground surveys. However, populations of the respective species were observed throughout the edges of the disturbed areas, grassy openings and Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) forest understories, some in locally high abundance and/or frequency.

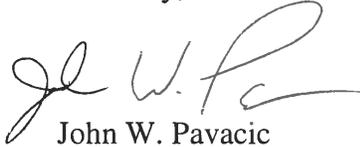
Accordingly, population size, frequency and extent were not quantified. Rather, as noted above, only the largest observed population of a particular species was documented on the aerial photo. As such, this report does not indicate that occurrence is restricted to the location referenced in the photograph. Due to the potential for additional suitable habitat, formal population surveys may identify the extent and abundance of extant species documented and may possibly identify additional rare plant species.

The high diversity of rare species and unique floristic species compositions documented through chance observations reveals that this location, including those historically disturbed, may be providing critical and unique habitat to certain rare and threatened species. Accordingly, protection and mitigation activities may be developed to ensure the continued persistence of these declining habitats and species.

Please note that, in keeping with existing protocol, Commission staff will be providing the aforementioned data to the New York Natural Heritage Program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Pavacic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John W. Pavacic
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: Charles J. Voorhis, CEP, AICP Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC
Kyle P. Collins, AICP, Town Planning and Development Administrator, Town of Southampton
Martin E. Shea, Chief Environmental Analyst, Town of Southampton
Judith Jakobsen, Policy and Planning Manager, Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
Julie Hargrave, Principal Environmental Planner, Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
Ann Carter, Science and Stewardship Coordinator, Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
Polly Weigand, Ecologist, Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission



Rare Plant and Animals
and Unique Species Compositions
documented in
East Quogue, New York
Summer and Fall 2016

Rare Plant Species and Unique Plant Composition East Quogue, New York August - September 2016

Legend (Species Ordered by Photo #)

- ★ 1. *Linum medium* var. *taxanum* (S2/G5T5)
- ☆ 2. *Sericocarpus linifolius* (S2/G5)
- ★ 3. *Pityopsis falcata* (S3?/G3/G4)
- ★ 4. *Lespedeza* spp. (*Lespedeza frutscens* (S3/G5) & Poss. *L. stuevei* (S2/G4?))
- ★ 5. *Spiranthes tuberosa* (S3/G5)
- ★ 6. Unique Species Composition (*Baptisia tinctoria*, *Tephrosia virginiana*, *Pcynanthemum tenuifolium*, *Eupatorium hyssopifolium*, *Asclepias turberosa*, *Desmodium* spp.)

— Streets

2013 Suffolk County Aerial Photography

Rarity Rank:

S : New York State (State Status)
 1: Critically Imperialed (Endangered)
 2: Imperialed (Threatened)
 3: Rare (Rare)

G: Global Rank
 1: Critically Imperialed
 2: Imperialed
 3: Rare, Vulnerable to Extinction
 4: Apparently Secure
 5: Demonstrably Secure



NYS Office of Information Technology Services, GIS Program Office

0 600 1,200 Feet

1 inch = 800 feet



Photo Reference #1

***Linum medium* (Planch.) Britton var. *texanum* (Planch.) Fernald
ID Confirmed by S. Young NYHP**

Rarity Rank: S2/G5T5 - State Status: **Threatened**

Number of Plants: 25+ in numerous within the barren area (expect upwards of 50)

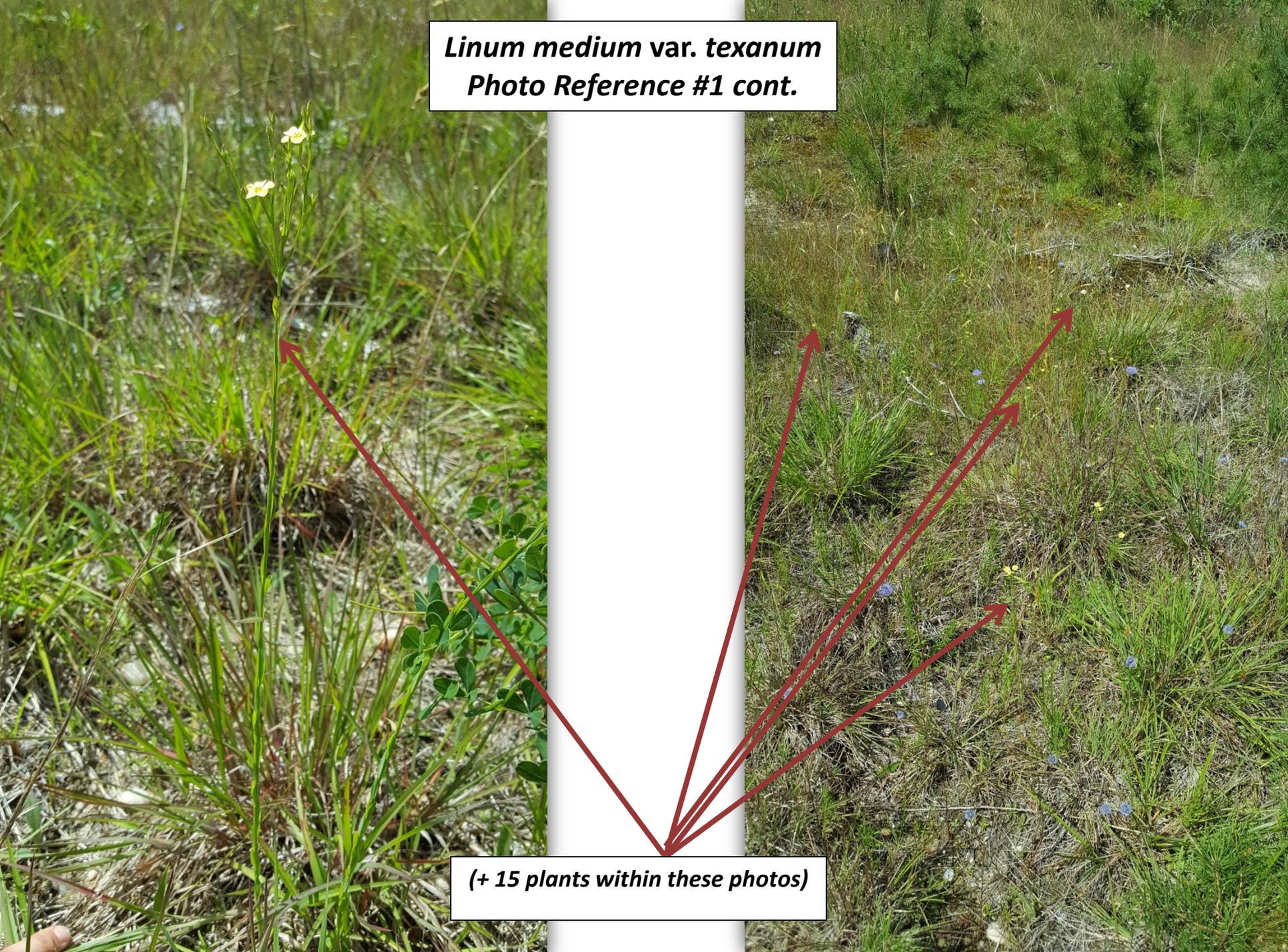
NY Heritage Program Rare Plant List:

<https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I21efe775c22211ddb7c8fb397c5bd26b?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>
(S. Young 2010 - http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2010rareplantstatus.pdf)

NY Plant Atlas:

<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=6608>

Linum medium var. *texanum*
Photo Reference #1 cont.



(+ 15 plants within these photos)

Photo Reference #1 Cont.
Grassy Barren with
Linum medium var. *texanum*



Photo Reference #2



***Sericocarpus linifolius* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.**

ID Confirmed by S. Young NYHP

Rarity Rank: S2/G5- State Status: Threatened

Number of Plants: 100's+ large population

New York Heritage Program Rare Plant List

<https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I21efe775c22211ddb7c8fb397c5bd26b?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2010rareplantstatus.pdf

New York Flora Atlas:

<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=446>

Sericocarpus linifolius
Photo Reference #2 Cont.

Rarity Rank: S2/G5-State Status: Threatened
Number of Plants: 100's+



Western Aspect:

Sericocarpus linifolius

on both sides and length of path in mass.

100's of plants in population

Southern Aspect:

Photo Reference #3



***Pityopsis falcata* (Pursh) Nutt.**

Rare Rank: S3?/G3G4 – **Global Status:** **Rare**

Number of Plants: 100+ scattered throughout the barren area and edges of trailed through out the Hills property.

New York Heritage Program Rare Plant List:

<https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I21efe775c22211ddb7c8fb397c5bd26b?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>
(S. Young 2010 - http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2010rareplantstatus.pdf)

New York Plant Atlas:

<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=239>

Photo Reference #4 (Lespedeza Spp.)



***Lespedeza frutescens* (L.) Hornem. (Previously *L. violacea*)**

ID Confirmed by S. Young NYHP

Rarity Rank: S3/G5 - State Status: Rare

Number of Plants: 25+

New York Heritage Program Rare Plant List

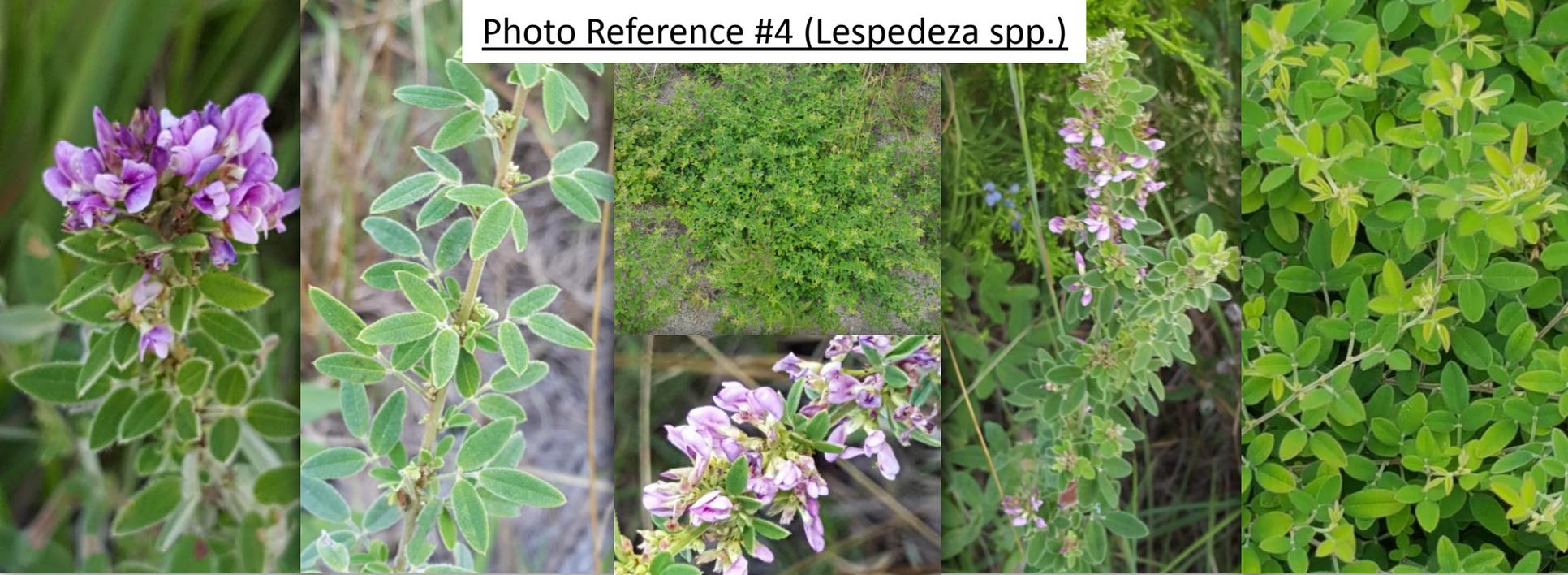
<https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I21efe775c22211ddb7c8fb397c5bd26b?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>

(S. Young 2010 - http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2010rareplantstatus.pdf)

NY Flora Atlas:

<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=1399>

Photo Reference #4 (*Lespedeza* spp.)



***Lespedeza* spp. (Possibly *Lespedeza stuevei* Nutt.)**

Many species of *Lespedeza* documented at this location include *L. frutescens* (L.) Hornem. (State Rare), *Lespedeza capitata* Michx., *Lespedeza hirta* (L.) Hornem. ssp. *hirta*, *Lespedeza virginica* (L.) Britton and expectedly associated hybrids. Additional species were documented, however without plant sample, identification to species as either *L. stuevei* a State Threatened species or *Lespedeza violacea* (L.) Pers. (Previously *L. intermedia*) Further surveys recommended.

L. stuevei

Rarity Rank: S2/G4 - State Status: Threatened

Number of Plants: 50+

New York Heritage Program Rare Plant List

<https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I21efe775c22211ddb7c8fb397c5bd26b?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=%28sc.Default%29>

(S. Young 2010 - http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2010rareplantstatus.pdf)

NY Flora Atlas:

<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=1427>

Photo Reference #5



***Spiranthes tuberosa* Raf.**

Rarity Rank: S3 - State Status: Exploitably vulnerable

Number of Plants: >5

Growing with *Linum medium* var. *texanum*

New York Heritage Program

(S. Young 2010 - http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/2010rareplantstatus.pdf)

New York Flora Atlas

<http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=2015>



Additional Ecologically Valuable Observations:

- Large stand of *Baptisia tinctoria* (L.) R. Br. – the host species of the Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*)
 - **Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*) -Rarity Rank: S1/S2:G3- State Status: Threatened**
- At least 10 individual **Box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*)** **Rarity Rank (S3, G5) State Status: Species of Concern** were documented in this area along with *Opuntia humifusa* (Raf.) Raf. var. *humifusa*; the region's only native cactus which is readily foraged upon by *T. carolina*.
- The barren area and trail sides support unique species in compositions not commonly found including the above listed rare plant species along with *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* Schrad., *Eupatorium hyssopifolium* L. (S3/S4), *Asclepias tuberosa* L., *Schizachyrium scoparium* (Michx.) Nash var. *scoparium*, *Desmodium marilandicum* (L.) DC., (and possibly *Desmodium ciliare* (Muhl. ex Willd.) DC. (S2/S3)), *Tephrosia virginiana* (L.) Pers., and *Polygala polygama* Walter.

