

Happy New Year!

from

Hannacroix Bay Swamp Forest & Garden

a Barbets Duet site on the Hudson River, NY

January 2026

Selected photographs of 2025

Work this year from

Eric Remillard & Barbara Heinzen

+ friends, neighbours &

two 2-man crews for tree removal & sawmilling

Skunk cabbage

First plant to appear in spring with tiny flowers on the golf ball inside the warm red hood.

Skunk cabbages are multiplying in the flood plain since we reduced the invasive multiflora roses.

March 19, 7am: -2 °C/28 °F, but 15-16 °C/60 °F inside the hood.



6 May:
fully grown
skunk
cabbage



flowers

19 March

Spring ephemerals



18 April

Blood root - Sanguinaria canadensis

Ephemerals flower before trees fully leaf out, often disappearing in summer. These appeared & increased after invasives shrubs were removed.



8 May

Mayapple - Podophyllum peltatum



8 May



8 May

White trillium - Trillium grandiflora



8 May

Jack-in-the-Pulpit - Arisaema triphyllum



25 April

Trout lily - Erythronium americanum

Serviceberry or shad bush

Amelanchier arborea

They say that when this native tree blooms shad are running in the Hudson River & the ground is thawed enough to bury those who died in winter.



10 June



22 April

This serviceberry tree, planted in Sept. 2011, was feeding a flock of cedar waxwings in 2025.

8 different bees & 1 fly



1. 30 April



2. 18 June



3. 2 August

1. *Mason bee*
 2. *Two-spotted bumble bee*
 3. *Brown-belted bumble bee*
 4. *Eastern carpenter bee*
 5. *Western honeybee*
 6. *Texas leafcutter bee*
 7. *Eastern flower fly*
 8. *Silky striped sweat bee*
 9. *Pure green sweat bee*
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- Identifications from iNaturalist



4. 31 August



5. 22 June

*Insect populations are declining here, but these are still feeding on native flowers:
2 milkweeds, prairie rose, mountain mint, wild bergamot & ninebark.*



8. 3 June



6. 28 June



7. 29 June



9. 2 Aug.

Autumn asters

At least seven types of asters were photo'd in the garden & flood plain.



Newcomb's Wildflower Guide describes 31 varieties of asters.



More asters are yet to be photographed.

Cold & snow in December



This December began with a snowstorm, then cold, followed by more snow & cold.



The beaver are building again along the Hudson River, but there are fewer tracks in the snow than 3-4 years ago.

Preparing a boardwalk



We have slowly taken down black locusts near the house. The wood is hard and rot resistant. This year the logs were brought up and milled to make boardwalks for wet areas of the flood plain.



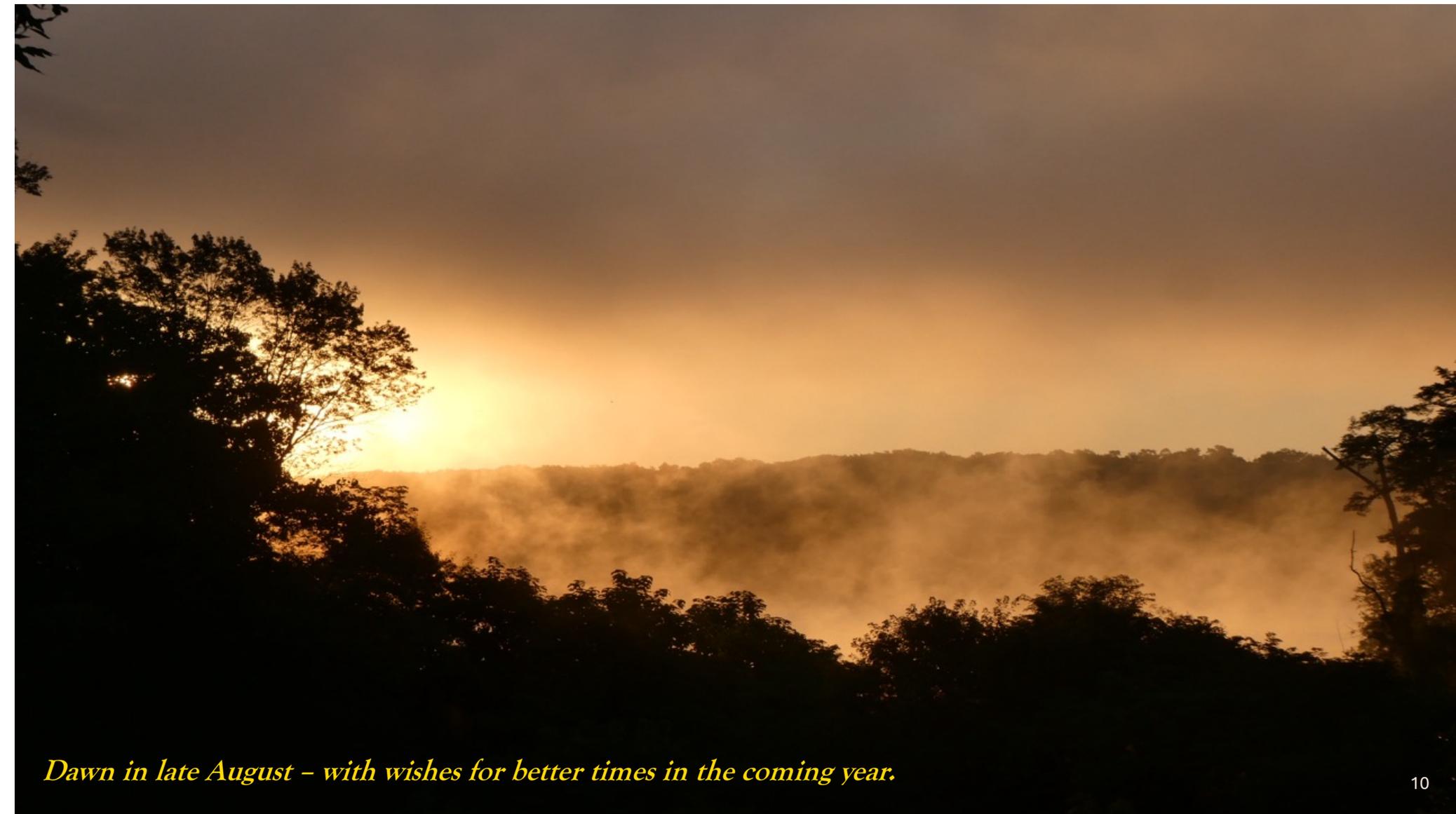
Short narrative of 2025

Since 2012, we have worked to increase the biodiversity of about 15 riparian acres & improve deer hunting. Most efforts created edge habitats & reduced the burden of invasive plants allowing natives species to reappear or be planted.

While much has been achieved, it is only a fraction of what could be done. Maintaining progress was 2025's first task.

The big project was retrieving & milling the black locust logs. New boardwalks over wet areas will allow more clearing of invasives & replanting with natives.





Dawn in late August – with wishes for better times in the coming year.