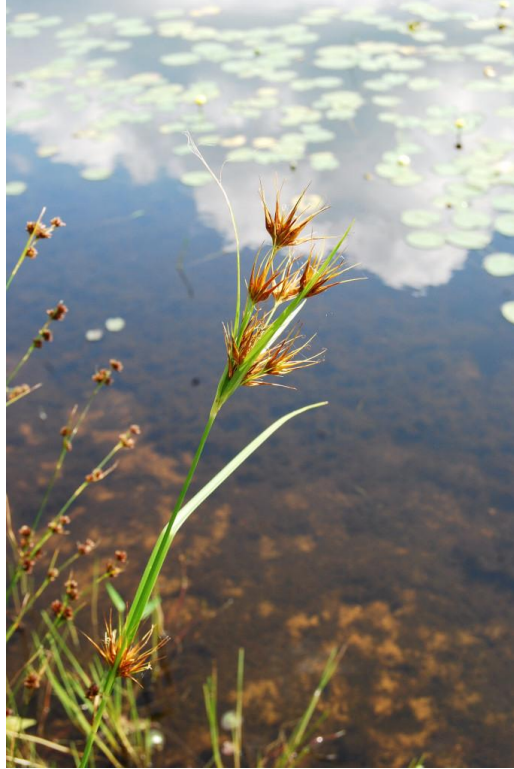


October 2018 Plant of the Month



Rhynchospora macrostachya Torr. x A. Gray, Large Spiked Horned Beaksedge

The October *Plant of the Month* is a native sedge associated with open stream and lake-side wetlands. *Rhynchospora macrostachya* is found throughout the nine counties of southern New Jersey. The plant also has records from Sussex County (Hough, 1983). The sedge is an obligate wetland species, and based on my personal observations, it occupies wetlands that are not nutrient enriched.

This sedge is one of the few beaked sedges that do not require microscopic analysis to make the identification. The plants are upright, often exceeding 1 meter. The achenes are enveloped by a reddish - brown loose clusters of 10-50 spikelets. New Jersey has one similar species, *Rhynchospora inundata*. The later species has a more wide spread inflorescence, and is found in shallow open waters of acidic bogs on the Coastal Plain.

There is no written record of this use in the historic documentations for this *Rhynchospora*. Like many large seeded native grasses and sedges, Native Americans no doubt made use of this plants large achenes, but the historical and archaeological records are devoid of supportive documentation.

JRA, 10/2018