



NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES

Conserve. Connect. Inspire.



Official Flower Guide





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Note: This section also includes pinkish-purple flowers that may be difficult to define. If you can't find a flower in this section that borders on purple, check the Blue/Purple section instead.

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See note above.



Introduction

Welcome to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes! We're a small urban oasis for plant life, and we invite you to explore in all seasons to see what you can find!

This book contains 68 different species of wildflowers (both native and invasive) that can be found here on grounds, when they're blooming, and where you can see them. If you see a flower and want to know more, try this book.

Why are native plants so important?

Plants that are native have evolved with the local ecosystem over thousands of years, meaning that all of our wildlife rely on the services they can provide. Our pollinators need the nectar and pollen produced by native flowers, and birds and animals feast on the seeds those flowers produce with the help of the pollinators. Without these plants, a key part of what keeps our ecosystem thriving would be lost, and our wildlife would go along with it.

Why are there invasive species here?

As the name might imply, invasive species are really good at invasion. With few natural predators, these plants can spread quickly from outside areas, overtake native habitats, and be very difficult to remove. To help us fight invasive species here at the NCSL let us know if you see any on our trails, and keep an eye out for them on your own property! The fewer places these plants have a foothold in, the less likely they will be to spread to other areas.



Botanical Terms

Statuses:

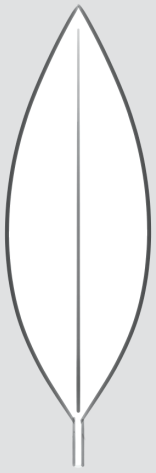
- Native: Native plants are plants that are indigenous to our local ecosystem, and have co-evolved with that ecosystem for thousands of years. This means each native plant serves an important role in that ecosystem as food or habitat.
- Naturalized: Plants that have become naturalized are not indigenous to the local ecosystem, but have instead been introduced to it and successfully established inside it. Unlike invasive plants, those that have been naturalized do not damage the ecosystem they settle in, either not aggressively out competing the native plants or being controlled by local wildlife.
- Invasive: Invasive plants are those that are not indigenous to the local ecosystem, and are able to run rampant in the absence of their natural predators and competitors in ways that harm the ecosystem they invade. Without their natural controls they can displace native plants, changing the makeup of the ecosystem in ways that can disrupt the food chain, destroy habitat, and drive animals that relied on the displaced plants to extinction.

Botanical Terms (Leaves):

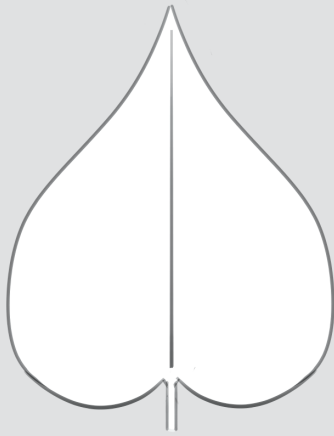
- Alternate: Leaves that are not paired at the stem, instead occurring alternately as they go up the stem.
- Basal: Leaves that cluster at the base of the stem.
- Compound: A leaf that is divided into a collection of leaflets. Ex: Ash tree leaves are compound.
- Lanceolate: Shaped like the head of a lance; narrow and pointed at the end.
- Leaflet: Leaflike structures that together make up a compound leaf.
- Lobed: Leaves with rounded or pointed structures that stick out from the body.
- Opposite: Leaves occurring in symmetrical, opposite pairs around the stem.
- Sessile: Leaves without stalks that cling to the stem.
- Toothed: Leaf edges that are serrated.
- Whorled: Leaves occurring in groups of 3 or more all meeting in the same place around the stem.

Botanical terms (Flowers):

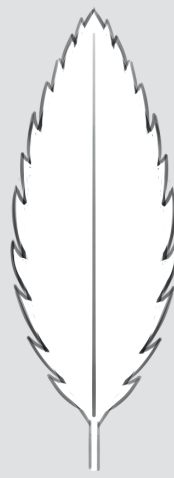
- Inflorescence: A flower cluster.
- Irregular: A flower that is not symmetrical; may be lopsided, have one petal larger than the rest, etc.
- Regular: A flower that is arranged symmetrically with identical petal sizes.
- Sepal: A small, modified leaf near the rim of a flower.
- Spike: A long flower cluster with its blooms arranged along the stem.
- Stamen: The male part of the flower, composed of a long stalk and a bump on the end that holds pollen. Flowers can have one or many stamens.
- Umbel: An umbrella like flower cluster with all the flower stalks radiating from the same point.



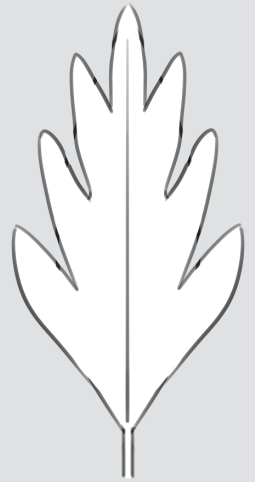
Lanceolate



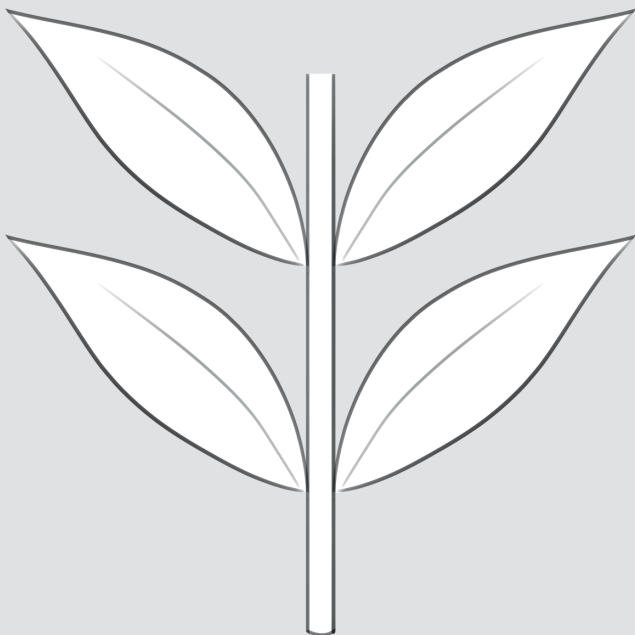
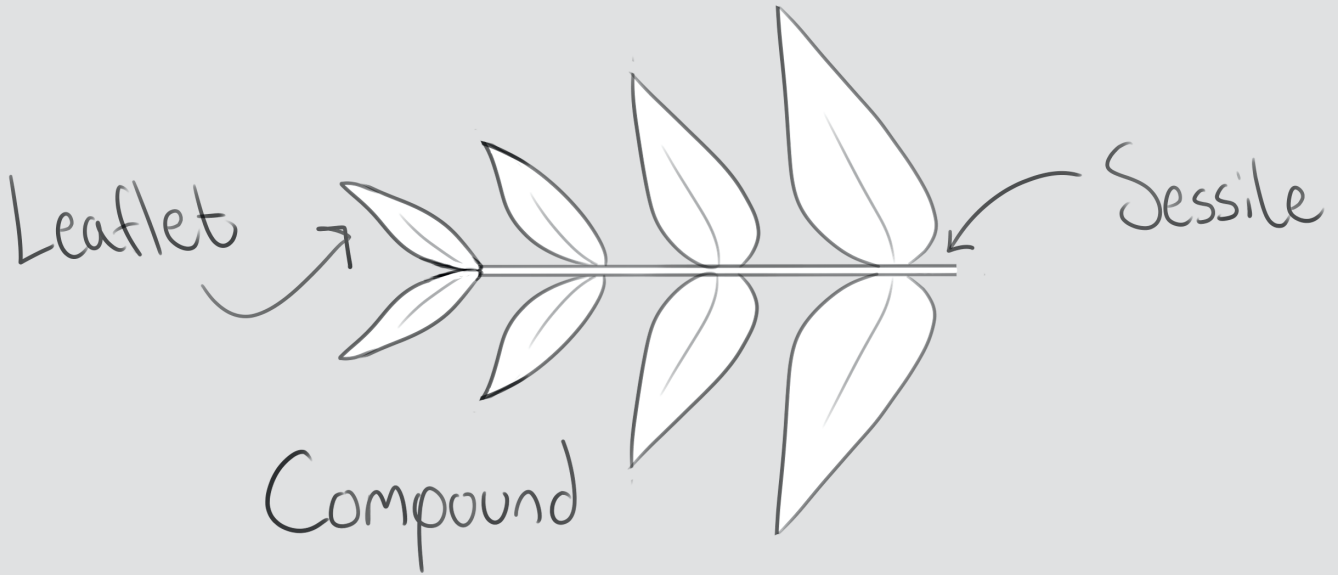
Heart-Shaped



Toothed



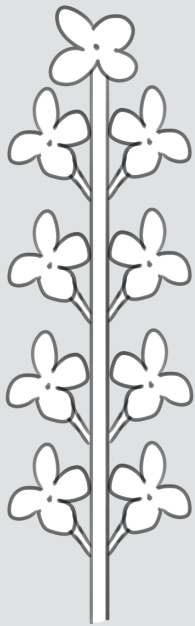
Lobed



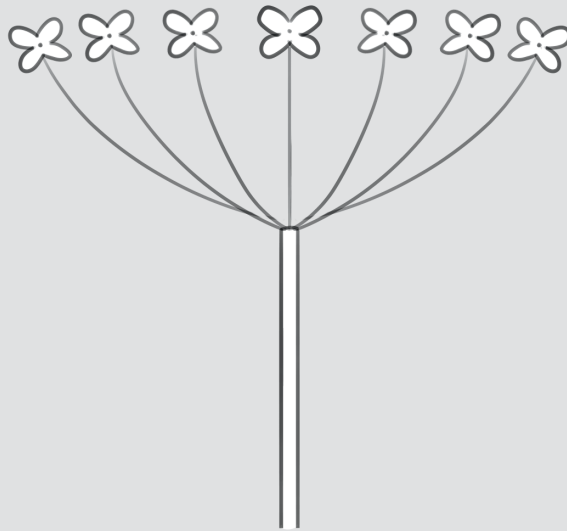
Opposite



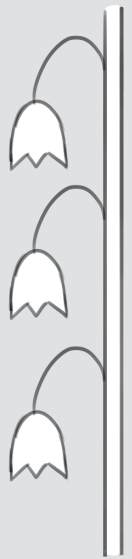
Alternate



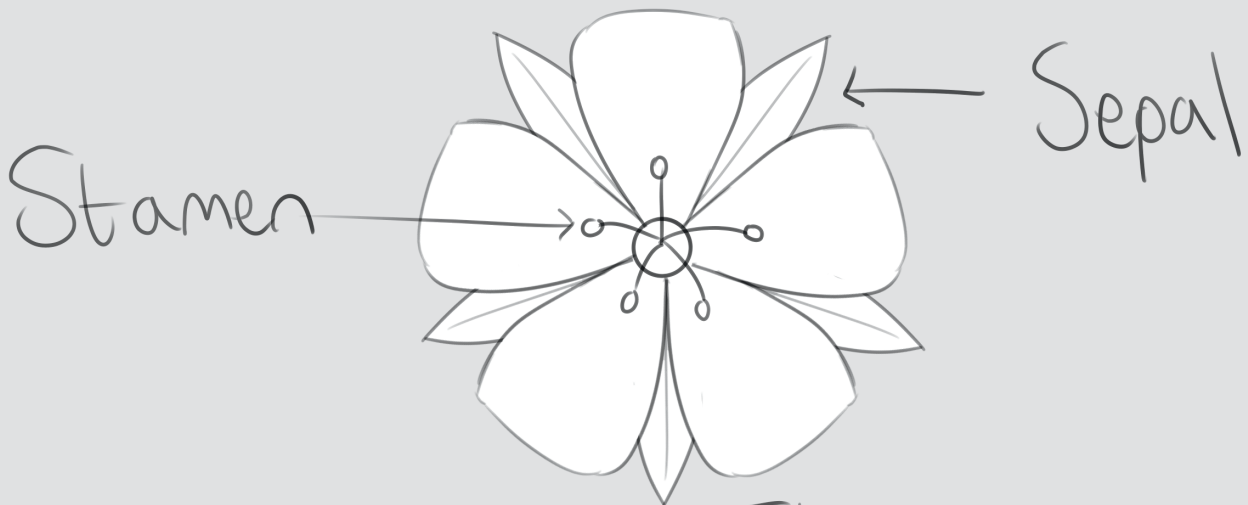
Spike



Umbel



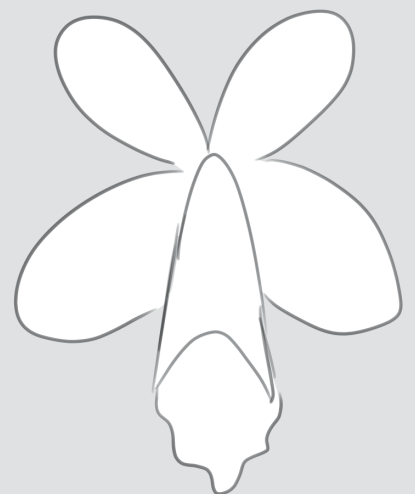
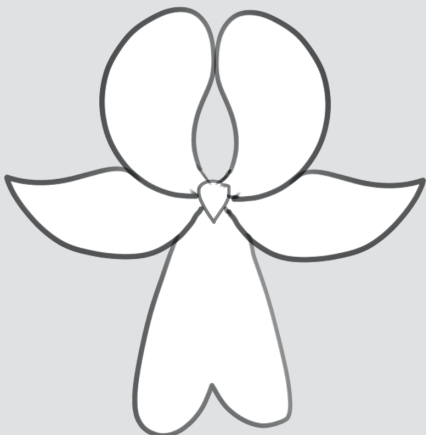
Nodding

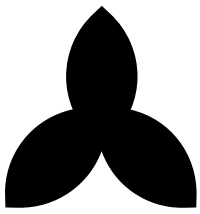


Regular Flower

vs.

Irregular
Flowers





White - 3 Petals

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)

Naturalized

Bloom Time: March

Where: Woodland Garden, Upper Rim Trail.

Description: Low growing plants with grass like leaves and nodding, 3-petaled flowers that are white with green centers.

Ecology: These flowers hail originally from Europe, and though they were brought as an ornamental garden flower by European settlers they've since become naturalized throughout Ohio. While they can self-pollinate, since they bloom early enough that many insects can't take advantage of their blooms, some early bees have been documented using them as a food source.

Great White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid April – Mid May

Where: Woodland Garden

Description: Large (2 - 4in.), 3-petaled white flowers framed by three sepals. The stem has three broad leaves. As the flowers age, they turn pink.

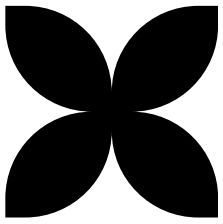
Ecology: Trilliums are spring ephemerals, meaning they undergo a period of rapid growth during the spring and then die back and persist as roots for the rest of the year. They favor well drained, upland wooded habitats and grow very slowly, taking up to 7-10 years to reach flowering maturity. Though Great White Trilliums were once thought to be self-pollinating, recent studies have shown that they're favored by bumblebees! The blooms are also a favorite snack for deer, and as deer population has boomed in the absence of their natural predators, these flowers are often over grazed and become damaged enough that they die off.



Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)



Great White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)



White - 4 Petals

Cutleaf Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late March – April

Where: Sterns Trail

Description: Plants 5 – 12 in. high with leaves divided into 3 narrow sharply toothed lobes, whorled in groups of 3 around the stem. Flowers are small, white, 4-petaled, and occur in clusters.

Ecology: Cutleaf Toothwort is a woodland wildflower that blooms early, about 1-2 weeks before the trees begin to put out leaves. As a native plant in the mustard family, it serves as a host plant for the endangered West Virginia White butterfly.

Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratensis*)

Naturalized

Bloom Time: Mid April – Mid May

Where: All People's Trail, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants up to 2 ft. tall with long leaves divided into many tiny leaflets. Flowers are about ½ an inch wide, 4-petaled, white or very pale pink, and grow in clusters.

Ecology: Cuckoo Flower grows where its moist, and has escaped cultivation and naturalized in North America inside wetlands and floodplain woods. Though its native habitat extends through Europe and West Asia, its introduction has had little negative effect on our local ecosystems, and it is therefore not considered invasive. There's even some debate as to whether the Cuckoo Flower found in North America has become genetically distinct enough from its Eurasian counterpart to be considered separate varieties.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: Mid April – Mid May

Where: Sterns Trail, All People's Trail

Description: A plant with a two-year life cycle. The first year consists of a basal rosette of dark green, kidney-shaped leaves with rounded teeth. Second year plants have triangular, deeply toothed leaves and develop a flower stalk 1-3 ft. high with clusters of small, 4 petaled white flowers.

Ecology: Originally native to Europe and parts of Asia, this plant was brought by settlers in the 1800s for its use as a food source and folk medicine. It escaped gardens long ago and has since become an aggressive invasive, able to completely take over the forest understory in some areas, pushing out native plants. They offer very little benefit to wildlife, and are in fact causing some butterfly species that rely on access to our native mustards as host plants to go locally extinct in areas they have invaded.



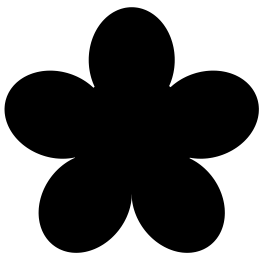
Cutleaf Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*)



Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratensis*)



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



White - 5 Petals

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Early May

Where: Woodland Garden, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants 12 – 16 in. tall with two large (8 – 16 in.), distinctive umbrella like leaves. Each plant produces a single, white flower 1 - 2 in. wide with 6-9 petals and a yellow center.

Ecology: Mayapples are woodland wildflowers that often form colonies on the forest floor by spreading through rhizomes. Its flowers mature into a fleshy, yellow green fruit that is eaten by a variety of wildlife, from squirrels to box turtles.

White Avens (*Geum canadense*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late May - June

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Sterns Trail

Description: Small ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) flowers with 5 white petals and green centers. Stems are thin, and leaves at the top are simple, while the basal leaves are typically split into 3 parts.

Ecology: White Avens are a woodland edge plant, preferring partial shade to full sun. Though the blooms aren't very conspicuous, they attract a wide variety of pollinators such as bees, beetles, and flies.

Canada Violet (*Viola canadensis*)

Native

Bloom Time: April – Early May

Where: Sterns Trail

Description: White, five petaled flowers with a yellow-ish tinge towards the center and minimal purple veining. The foliage is low growing, and the leaves are heart-shaped with rounded teeth.

Ecology: Canada Violets prefer rich, moist soil, so they are often found in forest flood plains and marshes. They're visited by a wide variety of bees for their pollen and nectar, and their foliage is the host to the larval stage of multiple butterfly and moth species.



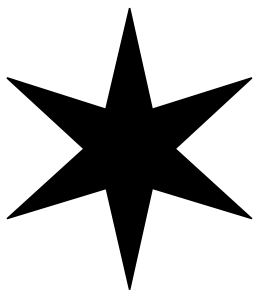
Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)



White Avens (*Geum canadense*)



Canada Violet (*Viola canadensis*)



White - 6 or More Petals

Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: May

Where: Woodland Garden

Description: 6 petaled white flowers with dark green, grass-like basal foliage. Plants do not typically exceed 1 ft. tall.

Ecology: First brought to America as a garden ornamental, Star of Bethlehem has since escaped into the wild where it has become an aggressive invasive. It spreads rapidly in clumps by bulb, displacing native species and providing little in return as its foliage is toxic and unable to be eaten by wildlife.

Shooting Stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid April – Late May

Where: Woodland Garden, Pollinator Gardens

Description: Leaves are basal and ovular. Stems are thin, 1 – 1½ ft. tall, and topped by clusters of nodding white flowers whose petals are swept backwards to reveal a pointed yellow center. Some northern populations may also have lavender or pink flowers.

Ecology: Shooting Stars occur naturally in a variety of habitats with sun and well-drained soil, such as open woods, meadows, and prairies; though due to the loss of prairie habitat over the years, it's become increasingly less common in the wild. Its primary pollinators are bees, which use a method known as buzz pollination (clinging to the flower and buzzing their wings rapidly) to shake the pollen from the flowers.

Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*)

Native

Bloom Time: May - June

Where: Sterns Trail, Pollinator Gardens

Description: Stems are hairy and grow 1 – 3 ft. in height with thin, deeply toothed leaves. Flowers have numerous, almost hair-like petals that can be white or tinged lavender and yellow centers.

Ecology: A pioneer species, Fleabane thrives best in disturbed, sunny areas such as open fields, pastures, and along roadsides. It's hardy enough that it can even compete with invasive species that attempt to fill the same niche, which is a great boon considering how many benefits it provides to wildlife! It's pollinated by a wide range of insects – bees, flies, wasps and beetles, to name a few – and its foliage is food for small mammals like rabbits and groundhogs.



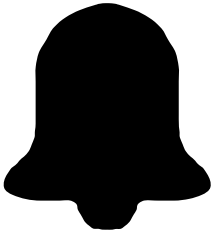
Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)



Shooting Stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*)



Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*)



White - Bell Shaped

Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late April – Late May

Where: Woodland Garden, Sterns Trail

Description: Arching, unbranched stems that can reach up to 3 ft. long and have alternately arranged, ovular leaves with prominent parallel veins. Flowers hang beneath the stem along most of the underside, often occurring in pairs of two, and are bell shaped and white, sometimes with a greenish tinge at the tip of the flower.

Ecology: Solomon's Seal is a woodland wildflower, preferring moist sites like riparian forests. The flowers of this plant eventually become dark blue-black berries, and though these are toxic to humans and most mammals, they're a food source for birds.

Sessile Leaf Bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late April – Early May

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Upper Rim

Description: Stems are 6 - 13 in. long, droop slightly, and has stalkless leaves that cling to the stem. Flowers hang underneath the stem and are an elongated bell shape, white or pale yellowish white, and only number 1-2 per stem.

Ecology: A woodland wildflower, Sessile Leaf Bellwort prefers shaded, well-drained soil. While a bit inconspicuous, these flowers support their own specialist bee, known as the Uvula bee!

Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

***Naturalized**

Bloom Time: Late April – Mid May

Where: Woodland Garden, All People's Trail

Description: Ground cover plants up to 10 in. Tall with large, smooth leaves that appear to nest inside one another. Stems have 5-10 hanging, white, bell-shaped flowers which produce a distinctive sweet aroma.

Ecology: A woodland flower native to Europe and Asia, Lily of the Valley was brought here as a garden ornamental but has since escaped into the wild. *While not yet considered invasive in Ohio, its ability to spread rapidly and aggressively by rhizome and colonize large areas of forest floor means it's being considered for upgrading into invasive status.



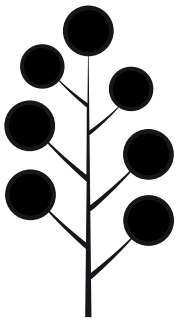
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)



Sessile Leaf Bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*)



Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)



White - Spikes

Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid April – Mid May

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Flower spikes about 4 in. long with small, densely packed white feathery flowers. The leaves are basal and toothed, divided into 5 lobes.

Ecology: Foam Flowers are primarily woodland plants, preferring shade and rich, well drained soils. Once its flower spikes go to seed, they become a source of food for small mammals such as white-footed mice and deer mice.

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid May – Mid June

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Demonstration Prairie

Description: Plants 3 – 5 ft. tall topped by a spike of white, tube shaped flowers about 1¼ in. long with flattened faces divided into 5 unevenly distributed parts. The base of the flowers may be tinged pink or lavender.

Ecology: Foxglove Beardtongue is a plant that enjoys sandy soils and full sun, occurring naturally in prairies, meadows, woodland edges, and sometimes in areas disturbed by human activity. Though this flower is also pollinated by both butterflies and hummingbirds, its coloration combined with its tubular shape is most effective at attracting long tongued bees.

Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid June – Early July

Where: Sterns Trail

Description: Plants 2 – 3 ft. tall with long, slender white flower spikes that nod at the tip. Its leaves are large, heart-shaped, and alternately arranged on the stem.

Ecology: Lizard's Tail is an obligate wetland plant, able to thrive in soil saturated with water. It's an important source of food for wetland animals, and while most mammals ignore it, it's frequently grazed by beavers. One study found that excluding beavers from an area where it was growing increased its prevalence in that area from 5% to 45%!



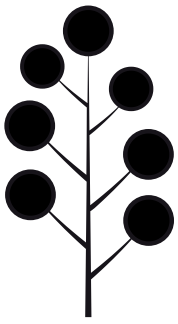
Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)



Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)



White - Spikes (Cont.)

American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Native

Bloom Time: July - Late September

Where: All People's Trail

Description: Plants that reach up to 10 ft. high with distinctive bright pink squarish stems. Flowers are small, white in color, and form loosely clustered spikes that hang from the top branches. Berries occur at the same time as blooming, and start off green before ripening to a black color.

Ecology: American Pokeweed thrives in woodland edge habitats and clearings, sometimes even finding a niche in areas disturbed by human activity. Its berries are poisonous to mammals but are an important source of food for songbirds, who are immune to the toxins.

White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Native

Bloom Time: August - Late September

Where: Pollinator Gardens, All People's Trail

Description: Plants 2 – 4 ft. tall with tightly packed spikes of white, two-lipped flowers that resemble a turtle's head. The edges of the flowers may be tinged gently pink. Its leaves are narrow, paired, and finely toothed.

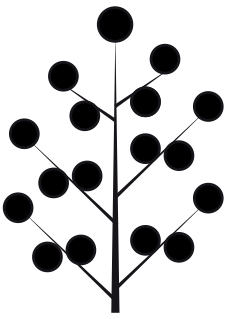
Ecology: White Turtlehead is a moisture-loving plant, occurring often in wetlands and along the banks of streams or lakes. Its primary pollinators are bumblebees, who are big enough to force the petals of the flower open to access its pollen. This flower is also the primary host for the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly, which will lay its eggs on the plant in groups of 100-700 in early summer.



American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)



White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)



White - Clusters

Prairie Dogbane/Indian Hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid June – Mid July

Where: Friends Pavillion, All People's Trail

Description: Stems with a reddish tint 3 – 5 ft. in height with long, oval shaped leaves. Flowers are tiny, white or greenish-white, and grow in clusters.

Ecology: Prairie Dogbane is native to most of the North American continent, only not found in the northern reaches of Canada where it begins to get too cold for it to grow. While its foliage is toxic to most mammals, a few pollinator species use it as a host plant for their caterpillars, including the dogbane tiger moth!

Common Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July - October

Where: All People's Trail

Description: Plants that range from 3 – 5ft. in height with flat topped clusters of fuzzy, white flowers. Its paired leaves unite at the base, wrapping around the stem.

Ecology: Common Boneset enjoys moist environments, so it can often be found in wetlands, floodplains, and alongside stream banks. While its nectar attracts a variety of insects; from bees to butterflies to beetles, wasps and flies are among its most common pollinators.

Tall Boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July - October

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants that range from 3 – 6 ft. in height with flat topped clusters of fuzzy, white flowers. It's distinguished from common boneset by its leaves, which are lanceolate and have long stalks.

Ecology: Tall Boneset can tolerate drier conditions than most bonesets and is found in open habitats with lots of light, like forest clearings and fields. Though most mammals avoid eating its bitter foliage, multiple species of moth and butterfly caterpillars use it as an essential food source.



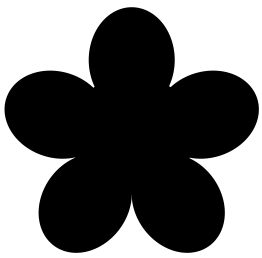
Prairie Dogbane/Indian Hemp (*Apocynum cannabinum*)



Common Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)



Tall Boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*)



Red/Pink - 5 Petals

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late April – Late May

Where: Rain Garden, Green Roof, Pollinator Gardens

Description: Stems 1 – 2 ft. Tall with leaves deeply lobed into 3 or 5 toothed parts. Flowers are 1 – 2 in. wide, 5-petaled, and a pale purple-pink.

Ecology: Wild Geranium is a woodland wildflower, and can occur in dense patches in woodland openings. Many native solitary bees visit this flower as a spring source for nectar.

Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late June - Late September

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 2 – 4 ft. tall topped by clusters of tube-shaped flowers with flattened, 5-petaled faces. One of the most cultivated native flowers, blooms may come in a variety of colors from white to pink to blue-ish purple, or combinations of all of the above. Wild populations typically bloom pink or pink-ish purple.

Ecology: Outside of cultivation, Garden Phlox naturally grows in moist, wooded areas or along the banks of streams. While cultivars highly altered from their wild coloration are not as frequently visited by native pollinators, they still provide a valuable source of nectar for butterflies, moths, and skippers.

Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid July - Early September

Where: All People's Trail

Description: Stems grow in bush-like clusters and can range from 5 – 8 ft. in height. Flowers are large (up to 8 in. across), 5-petaled, and have several different color morphs: pink, maroon, and white with a red center.

Ecology: As its name might suggest, Swamp Rose Mallow favors moist habitats, and grows in open sunny wetlands and stream banks. Its showy blooms attract nectar feeders of all kinds, and it hosts 4 different species of butterfly and moth larvae in its foliage.



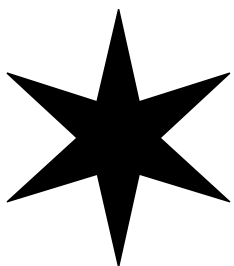
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)



Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)



Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)



Red/Pink - 6 or More Petals

Purple Cone Flower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid June - Mid August

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: A large, daisy-like flower with drooping pinkish-purple petals and a domed center. Leaves are alternately arranged, and upper leaves have smooth edges while lower leaves are roughly toothed.

Ecology: Preferring drier soils and sun, Purple Cone Flower is found in open woods and prairies and is common in the Ohio Valley region. The large seed heads this plant produces after it ceases flowering are a valuable source of food for birds, and are particularly favored by finches.



Red/Pink - Tube Shaped

Red Colombine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late April – Late May

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Green Roof

Description: Stems 1 – 2 ft. tall with leaves split into threes. Its red flowers are nodding, bell shaped, and divided into 5 parts with yellow centers.

Ecology: Red Colombine is a forest wildflower that likes shade and well drained soils, occurring in rocky woods and on slopes. Its tube-shaped flowers make it perfect for pollinators with long tongues, like hummingbirds, butterflies, and long-tongued bees.

Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid June - July

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Square stems 1 – 3 ft. high with oppositely arranged toothed leaves. Tube-shaped, bright red flowers grow in clusters at the top, and the leaf-like structures underneath the flowers known as 'bracts' are tinted red.

Ecology: Scarlet Beebalm enjoys moisture and full sun, and can often be found growing along stream beds and woodland edges. Because of the tubular shape of its flowers, it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds as its primary pollinators.



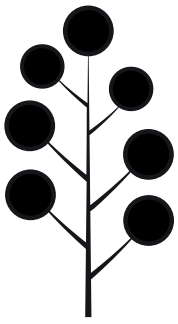
Purple Cone Flower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)



Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)



Red/Pink - Spikes

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: July - Early September

Where: All People's Trail

Description: Plants are 2 – 4 ft. tall with oppositely arranged downy leaves. Flowers are reddish-purple or pink, 6-petaled, and grow in slender spikes up to 18 in. long.

Ecology: Originally native to Europe and Asia, Purple Loosestrife was brought to North America as a garden ornamental and escaped into the wild where it has become a noxious invasive in native wetlands. It can spread quickly and densely by producing up to 2 million seeds annually, smothering native wetland plants and destroying wildlife habitat if efforts are not put in to control it.

Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)

Native

Bloom Time: July

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 2 – 5 ft. tall with thin, grass like leaves. Flowers grow in long, densely packed spikes of small, purple-pink fuzzy blooms.

Ecology: Moisture and sun loving, Marsh Blazing star grows in damp prairies and sedge meadows. As it flowers it is visited by hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, and once it goes to seed it attracts hungry songbirds.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July – Late August

Where: All People's Trail

Description: Plants 2- 4 ft. tall with slender spikes of bright red, tube-shaped flowers with 5 thin petals. Leaves are lanceolate and are finely toothed.

Ecology: Cardinal Flower thrives in wet places such as wetlands and river banks, and can even tolerate being partially submerged. Its primary pollinators are ruby-throated hummingbirds, which favor its red tube-shaped flowers.



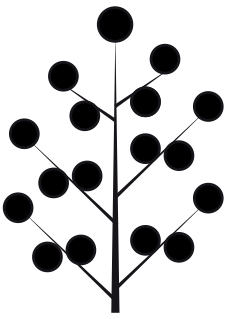
Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)



Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)



Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)



Red/Pink - Clusters

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Native

Bloom Time: Early June – Early July

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 3 – 5 ft. tall with large, oval-shaped, oppositely arranged leaves that have velvety undersides. Flowers are pale pink, divided into 5 parts, and grow in large domed clusters.

Ecology: The hardiest of our native milkweeds, Common Milkweed readily colonizes disturbed areas such as roadsides, ditches, and abandoned fields. Though its foliage is toxic to animals, over 450 different species of insect use it as a food source, including the caterpillars of the Monarch butterfly. These caterpillars can take advantage of the toxicity of the leaves, as consuming them makes them equally toxic to predators.

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid June - August

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants 3 – 5 ft. tall with narrow, oppositely arranged lanceolate leaves with smooth undersides. Flowers are a rosy pink, divided into 5 parts, and grow in flattened clusters.

Ecology: Swamp milkweed prefers wet soils, growing thick specialized roots that function well in saturated low-oxygen environments. In the wild it thrives in wetlands, stream beds, and low-lying areas that tend to retain water. Among all the milkweeds, swamp milkweed is considered one of the best attractors of the monarch butterfly, as they've been observed to preferentially lay their eggs on this plant.

Sweet Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July - Mid September

Where: Pollinator Gardens, All People's Trail

Description: Stems typically tall (4 – 7 ft.) and thick, with leaves whorled in groups. Blooms top the stem in large, domed clusters of pale pink fuzzy flowers. May smell faintly of vanilla.

Ecology: Preferring moist but well drained soils, Sweet Joe-Pye Weed grows wild in damp prairies, riverbanks, and wooded slopes. It attracts a wide variety of pollinators, but has been noted as a particularly important plant for honey production in bees.



Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)



Sweet Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

Orange - Pouch Shaped

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July - October

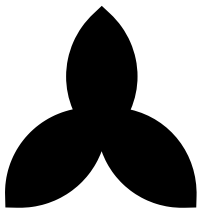
Where: Sterns Trail

Description: Stems grow 3 –5 ft. tall and are thick, smooth, and semi-translucent. Flowers are hanging, bright orange, pouch shaped, and have darker orange spots.

Ecology: Jewelweed enjoys moist soils, and can be found in ditches, creek beds, and low-lying woodlands. Its two elongated lower petals form landing pads for insects like bumblebees to visit and feed, and the flowers elongated shape also attracts hummingbirds.



Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)



Yellow - 3 Petals

Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

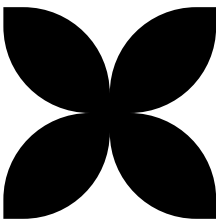
Invasive

Bloom Time: Mid May – Early June

Where: All People's Trail, Sterns Trail

Description: Long, sword shaped leaves that grow in clumps up to 3 ft. tall. Flowers are yellow and divided into 3 drooping parts.

Ecology: Yellow flag iris is native to Europe and parts of Asia and Africa. It was brought here as a garden ornamental, but has since escaped into the wild and become invasive. This plant often proves difficult to remove once it invades an area, as it forms tough underground rhizomes. It directly competes with – and often *out competes* – our native iris, the blue flag iris.



Yellow - 4 Petals

Common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July

Where: Sterns Trail, Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 1 – 5 ft. high with lanceolate leaves 3 – 7 in. long. Flowers are bright yellow with 4 broad petals and cross shaped stigmas.

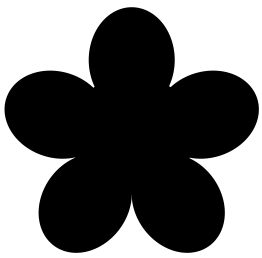
Ecology: Evening primrose is a plant that favors open, sunny environments, even growing in places disturbed by human activity. It's a significant source of food for birds once it goes to seed, and it also hosts a moth known as the primrose moth, which lays its eggs exclusively on the flower buds of evening primrose.



Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)



Common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)



Yellow - 5 Petals

Downy Yellow Violet (*Viola pubescens*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late April – Early May

Where: Woodland Garden

Description: Irregularly shaped 5-petaled yellow flowers with purple veining on the lower most petal. Leaves are heart-shaped and finely toothed, and both stems and leaves are covered in fine, tiny hairs that give a fuzzy appearance.

Ecology: Both a woodland wildflower and a lover of moisture, Downy Yellow Violet typically occurs in floodplain forests. Their primary pollinators are bees, especially solitary mason bees. Small mammals also turn to this plant for food: mice for its seeds, and rabbits and chipmunks for its foliage.

Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: May - June

Where: Sterns Trail, All People's Trail

Description: Stems up to 20 in. Tall with smaller simple leaves towards the top and deeply lobed, blotchy leaves divided in 3 parts towards the bottom. Flowers are small, yellow, glossy, and usually have five petals but may have more.

Ecology: Originally sold as a garden ornamental, this flower from Europe and Asia has escaped into the wild and become invasive in our native habitats. It can produce low, running stems that create dense mats and smother out the surrounding vegetation.

Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: June

Where: All People's Trail, Sterns Trail

Description: Long, low growing vine like stems with oppositely paired, rounded leaves. Flowers are small, bright yellow, cup shaped, and have 5 petals that come to points at the end.

Ecology: Native to Europe and Asia, Creeping Jenny was brought to the US as an ornamental to use in landscaping and now has become invasive, especially in wetland habitats. Leaving any part of the plant behind can allow it to re-sprout, making it incredibly difficult to remove. Its ability to form dense mats on the ground smothers native plants, and there's even emerging evidence that high populations can alter the hydrology of the wetlands they invade.



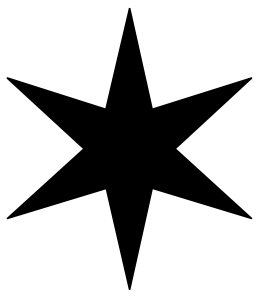
Downy Yellow Violet (*Viola pubescens*)



Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)



Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)



Yellow - 6 or More Petals

Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

Native

Bloom Time: April

Where: Sterns Trail, Upper Rim

Description: 2 basal leaves that are mottled a dark brown or purple-ish color. Flowers grow in a stalk 4 – 10 in. Long and are yellow, 6 petaled, nodding, and have 6 long brown stamens.

Ecology: Yellow Trout Lily is a spring ephemeral, so it's only visible for a short period of time early in the year. It takes advantage of the returning sunlight in spring by blooming ahead of the trees leafing out, storing all the energy it can before it goes dormant again and waits for the next spring. These flowers can also reproduce by budding small bulbs off from the main root bulb, forming dense colonies on the forest floor this way, some of which have been dated to 300 years old.

Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid April – Mid May

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 1 – 3 ft. Tall. Basal leaves are heart shaped with rounded leaves and purplish undersides. Each flower is daisy-like with 8-14 yellow petals and darker yellow centers.

Ecology: Golden ragwort enjoys damp soils, so it grows wild in low lying meadows, open woods, and wetlands. Flies and smaller solitary bees are its primary pollinators. Its foliage contains toxins that protect it from mammalian herbivores, but it is edible to caterpillars.

Oxeye sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late June – Late August

Where: All People's Trail, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants ranging from 2 – 5 ft. tall with large, coarsely serrated leaves. Flowers are golden yellow, with 8 – 20 ray petals surrounding a deep yellow central disk.

Ecology: Able to tolerate some shading, Oxeye sunflowers grow in wooded areas as well as woodland edges, thickets, and low-lying prairies. Bees and butterflies patronize the flowers of their nectar and pollen, and the seeds produced afterwards feed birds.



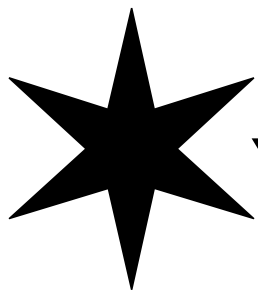
Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)



Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)



Oxeye sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)



Yellow - 6 or More Petals (Cont.)

Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)

Native

Bloom Time: July - Early September

Where: All People's Trail, Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants up to 10 ft. Tall. Flowers are 3 –4 in. Across with 18 – 40 yellow ray petals and a darker, orangish yellow center. Leaves are rough to the touch and join in pairs surrounding the stem, forming “cups” that can fill with water after it rains.

Ecology: Preferring areas that are a little wetter, Cup Plant grows in low lying prairies, woodland edges, and along stream banks. Bees, butterflies, and skippers are its primary pollinators. The water that collects in the plants namesake cupped leaves can also provide a source of drinking water for small mammals and birds.

Black Eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Native

Bloom Time: July - Late September

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Flowers are large and yellow with 10-20 petals and dark brown centers. Stems are 1 – 3 ft. tall and bristly, each only having one flower.

Ecology: Black Eyed Susans love full sun, growing naturally in open woods and prairies. The flowers are favorites of butterflies, attracting multiple types to come and feed on its nectar, and are the host plant for three butterfly species: the bordered patch, the gorgone checkerspot, and the silvery checker spot.

Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid July - Late September

Where: Rain Garden, All People's Trail

Description: Stems are tall (4 – 12 ft. in height) with leaves that are deeply lobed with 3 or 5 lobes each. Flowers are large and have many yellow, drooping petals attached to a green or greenish-brown conical center.

Ecology: Cutleaf Coneflower enjoys moisture, and grows in floodplains and stream banks. Its nectar attracts butterflies and the seed heads the flowers produce become food for songbirds. The American Goldfinch in particular has been known to favor them.



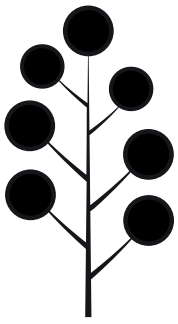
Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)



Black Eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)



Yellow - Spikes

Wild Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July - August

Where: All People's Trail

Description: Plants 3 – 6 ft. tall with large, feathery leaves composed of 5 - 10 small leaflets. Flowers bloom yellow in dense, conical clusters.

Ecology: Wild Senna likes where it's sunny and damp, growing on stream banks and in wetlands. Its blooms attract primarily bumblebees and sulfur butterflies, one of which (the Cloudless Giant Sulphur) uses it as a host plant for its caterpillars.

Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid August - October

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Stems 1 – 3 ft. long with broad, pointed leaves that are toothed. Yellow flowers are small and grow in a wand-like cluster at the top of the stem.

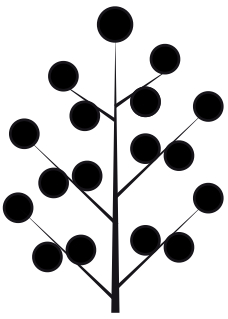
Ecology: Zigzag goldenrod enjoys shadier areas, and grows in woodlands and thickets that have rich soil. Like most goldenrods it attracts quite a few pollinators, but butterflies are its primary customers.



Wild Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*)



Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)



Yellow - Clusters

Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late April – May

Where: Rain Garden

Description: Stems are 2 – 3 ft. tall with leaves that are made up of 3 or 5 leaflets and are toothed. Flowers are yellow, tiny, and occur in flat topped clusters.

Ecology: Golden Alexanders enjoy moderately damp soil and sunlight, growing in moist woodland openings, prairies, and meadows. Though tiny, its flowers attract a vast array of pollinators, from bees and butterflies to wasps and beetles.

Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid August - October

Where: Rain Garden, All People's Trail

Description: Plant is 3 – 6 ft. tall with thin, lanceolate leaves that are toothed and fuzzy on the underside. Yellow flowers are small and grow in a large branching plume at the top of the plant.

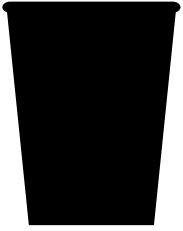
Ecology: A hardy generalist, Canada Goldenrod can grow in both wet and dry soils and is usually one of the first native plants to begin establishing in disturbed sites. Goldenrods are considered keystone species in supporting pollinators, and this species of goldenrod supports multiple types of bees, butterflies, wasps, and beetles.



Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)



Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)



Green - Cup Shaped

Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

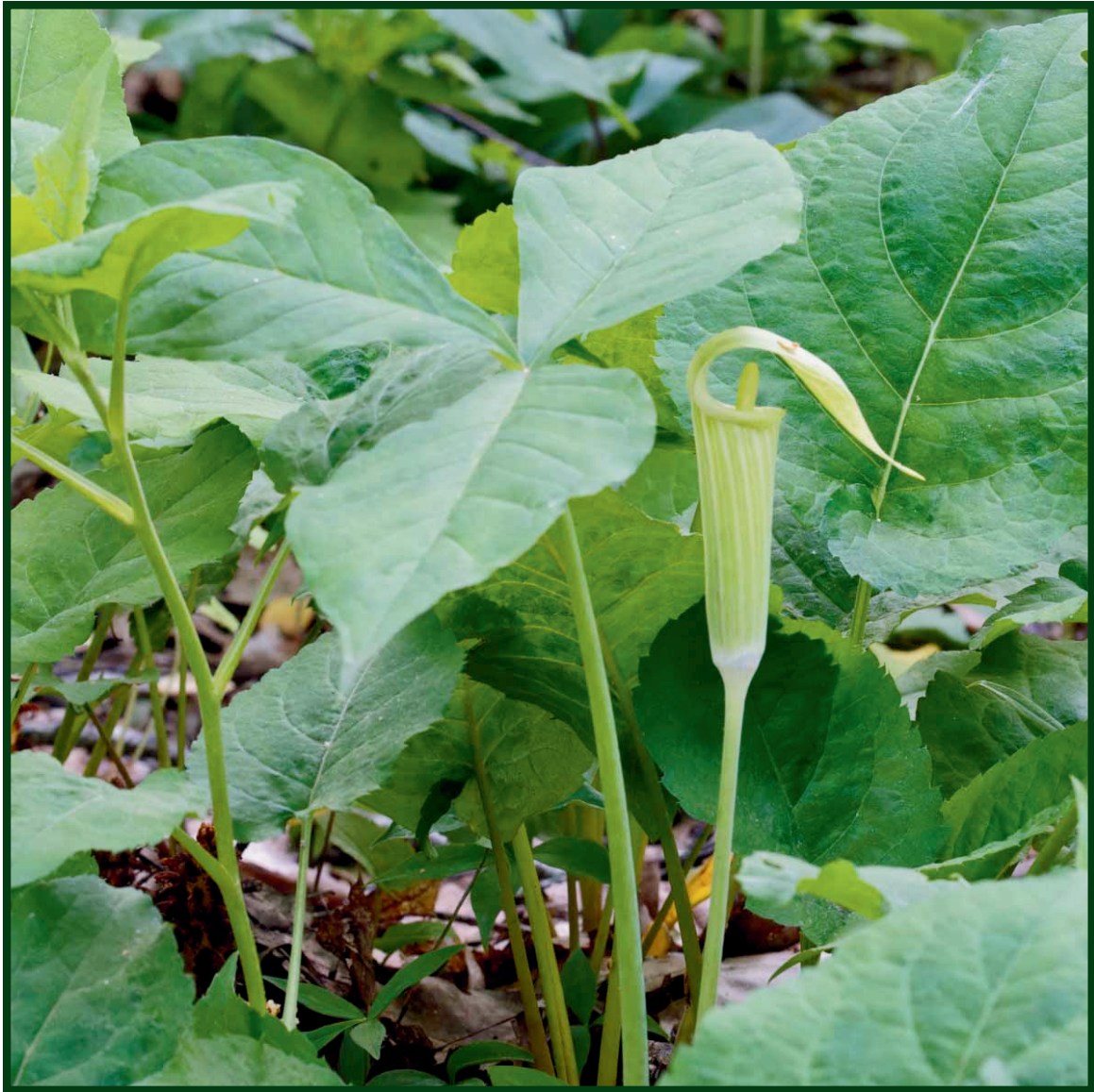
Native

Bloom Time: Mid-April – Mid-May

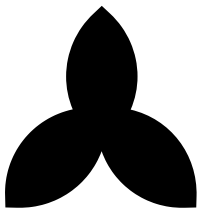
Where: Woodland Garden, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants 1 – 2 ft. tall with 1 – 2 leaves per plant visibly divided into 3 parts. Flowers are solid green or green striped with reddish-brown, and have an unusual flower shape of an elongated cup with one petal extending over the top in a hood.

Ecology: Jack in the Pulpits are woodland flowers, doing best in wet forest soils. They're resistant to herbivory due to their unique adaptation of containing calcium oxalate crystals in their foliage, which act like tiny needles. They have unique pollinators as well: fungus gnats, who are attracted to the very faint fungal odor of the flowers.



Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)



Blue/Purple - 3 Petals

Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid May – Mid June

Where: Rain Garden

Description: Plants 2 – 4 ft. tall with grass like leaves that wrap around the stem in sheaths at the base. Flowers are violet with 3 rounded petals and clusters of yellow stamens.

Ecology: Enjoying a bit of moisture, Ohio Spiderwort most commonly occurs in low lying meadows, along stream banks, and in ditches; but can also be found in drier habitats such as oak savannas and prairies with sandy soil. Its primary pollinators are bumblebees.

Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid-May – Early June

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Sterns Trail, All People's Trail

Description: Long (2 – 3 ft.) sword shaped leaves that grow in clumps, and often droop at the ends. Flowers are a violet blue with flashes of yellow towards the base, and divided into 3 parts.

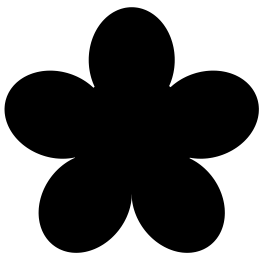
Ecology: Blue flag iris enjoys wet areas such as marshes and stream banks, and can even grow in shallow standing water. They're visited by various pollinators including hummingbirds, butterflies, and multiple species of bumblebees.



Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)



Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)



Blue/Purple - 5 Petals

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: March – Mid May

Where: Sterns Trail, Upper Rim Trail

Description: Grows long, trailing stems over the ground forming patches. Its leaves are glossy, dark green, oppositely arranged, and 1 – 2 in. long. Flowers are violet purple with 5 petals and about 1 inch wide.

Ecology: A native to Europe and some parts of Asia, Periwinkle was brought to the US as a ground cover and landscaping plant, but is now an invasive species in our woodlands. Its ability to form dense mats with its creeping stems chokes out other plant life, preventing native wildflowers and other forest plants from growing.

Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)

Native

Bloom Time: Early March – Early May

Where: Sterns Trail

Description: Flowers are blue violet to purple with flashes of white at the center and have 5 irregularly arranged petals. Younger leaves are more rounded and kidney-shaped but become pointier and heart-shaped as they mature. Leaves of both ages are toothed.

Ecology: Hardy and a prolific self seeder, Common Blue Violet prefers wetter woodland habitats, but can be a common sight on grass lawns as well. Though little and often regarded as unremarkable or a weed by many, this flower supports a vast array of wildlife. Native solitary bees such as sweat bees, mason bees, and a mining bee that specializes in violets all visit it for pollen. Fritillary butterflies rely on violets as the host for their caterpillars, and multiple mammals eat its foliage.

Woodland Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: Mid-April - June

Where: Woodland Garden, All People's Trail

Description: Plants that grow to 5 – 12 in. high with lanceolate leaves. Both stem and leaves are softly hairy. Flowers are small, sky blue with yellow centers, and have 5 petals.

Ecology: Originally native to Europe, this flower was brought as a garden ornamental but has since escaped cultivation and become a woodland invasive. It can spread quickly and aggressively, dominating the landscapes it invades and pushing other plant life out. This is especially threatening to native spring ephemeral wildflowers, most of whom grow slowly and require access to the light that forget-me-nots block out.



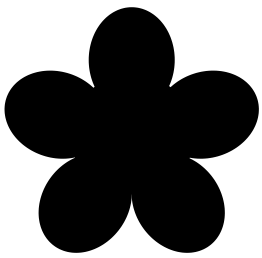
Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)



Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)



Woodland Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*)



Blue/Purple - 5 Petals Cont.

Threadleaf Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid-May – Early June

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants growing 2 – 4 ft tall with numerous needle like leaves. Flowers are pale blue with 5 pointed petals and grow in clusters at the tips of the stems.

Ecology: Threadleaf Bluestar prefers open, sunny environments, growing in meadows and fields. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds moths are all attracted to its flowers.

Eastern Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid-May – Mid-June

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants growing 1 – 3 ft. tall that grow in clumps. Leaves are dark green and narrow. Flowers are blue to purplish-blue with 5 pointed petals and grow in clusters at the tips of the stems

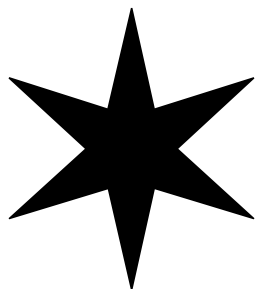
Ecology: Eastern Bluestar enjoys wetter soils, growing in open woods and plains that receive plenty of water. Its a member of the “Dogbane” family, the same family milkweeds belong to, and it also produces a milky white latex when its leaves are broken.



Threadleaf Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*)



Eastern Bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)



Blue/Purple - 6 or More Petals

Spring Crocus (*Crocus vernus*)

Naturalized

Bloom Time: Early – Mid-March

Where: Upper Rim Trail

Description: Low growing plants 4 – 6 in. high with grass like foliage that have a prominent white stripe down the middle of each leaf. Flowers are large, 6 petaled, and typically purple in color with bright yellow stamens. Petals can also occasionally be purple and white, or pure white.

Ecology: Native to Europe, these flowers were brought to the US as garden ornamentals and have since escaped and naturalized themselves. While introduced, Spring Crocuses aren't considered invasive as they don't become monocultures like many non-native plants can outside of the range of their natural predators. In fact, some animals here can control their spread; the bulbs are often dug up and eaten by squirrels.

Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*)

Invasive

Bloom Time: Late March – Mid-April

Where: Woodland Garden, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants are 4 – 8 in. tall and have grass like foliage. Flowers are about 1 in. wide, nodding, and have 6 blue-violet petals that flare backwards.

Ecology: Native to a small range between Turkey and Russia, these flowers were brought for cultivation in gardens but have since become invasive in our woodlands. It can spread rapidly by root and removing it is no easy task, as even small pieces of broken roots can resprout.

Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid-May – June

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 6 – 12 in. tall with clumped, grass like foliage. Flowers are small, purple or bluish purple with 6 petals and yellow centers.

Ecology: Despite its name, Blue Eyed Grass isn't a grass at all, but a member of the Iris family. It prefers a little moisture and can be found in low lying meadows, fields, and open woods. Bees, flies, and small butterflies all visit it, and its seeds eventually become food for songbirds.



Spring Crocus (*Crocus vernus*)



Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*)



Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)



Blue/Purple - Tube Shaped

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid April – Mid May

Where: Woodland Garden

Description: Plants reaching 1 – 2 ft. tall with long, ovular leaves. In bud the flowers are pink, but gradually turn blue as they bloom. Once fully bloomed, the nodding flowers are sky blue and trumpet shaped.

Ecology: A woodland wildflower, Virginia Bluebells can be found on shaded forest floors and wooded hillsides. The long trumpet shape of its flowers attracts long tonged bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds.

Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid July – Early August

Where: Pollinator Gardens, Sterns Trail

Description: Plants up to 3 ft. Tall with square stems and lanceolate leaves that are toothed. Tube-shaped, lavender or rosy-purple flowers grow in clusters at the top.

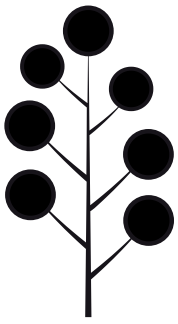
Ecology: Wild Bergamont occurs in open woods, woodland edges, meadows, and marshes. It supports a wide variety of pollinators: bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds.



Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)



Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Blue/Purple - Spikes

Downy Skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late June – Early August

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Square shaped stems up to 3 ft. Tall, leaves have rounded teeth. Both stems and leaves are covered in small, fine hairs. Flowers grow in spikes at the top of the plant and are purple, upright tube-shaped with two distinct lips, and a flash of white on the bottom lip.

Ecology: Downy Skullcap tolerates dry soils and partial shade well, thriving on wooded hills, rocky slopes, and in meadows. It attracts many different pollinators, but its most frequent visitors are bumblebees.

Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid August - Mid September

Where: Pollinator Gardens, All People's Trail

Description: Plants 2 – 4 ft. tall with finely toothed lanceolate leaves. Blue to violet flowers are trumpet shaped and grow in large spikes.

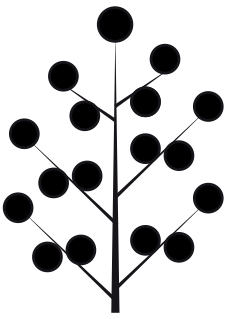
Ecology: Great Blue Lobelia is closely related to Cardinal Flower, and thus shares many of the same habitat preferences: damp soils in wetlands and stream banks. Where the two differ is the pollinators they serve. While Cardinal Flower's red blooms attract hummingbirds who favor that color, Great Blue Lobelia's purple-ish blue color is favored by bees!



Downy Skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*)



Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)



Blue/Purple - Clusters

Common Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*)

Native

Bloom Time: Early July - Early September

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants grow 2 – 5 ft. tall with long, lanceolate leaves that are finely toothed. Flowers are small, magenta-purple, fuzzy looking, and occur in semi-flat clusters at the top of the plant.

Ecology: Preferring moist soils, Common Ironweed grows in low lying meadows and prairies and is found in wetlands more often than other ironweed species. It attracts butterflies and skippers, as well as a wide variety of bees. Ironweed even has its own specialist bee, the denticulate long-horned bee, that harvests pollen exclusively from it.

Blue Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Mid July - October

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants 1 – 3 ft. tall with triangular, toothed leaves. Flowers are small, blue or bluish purple, appear fuzzy, and occur in flat topped clusters.

Ecology: Blue mist flower prefers wet soils, growing wild on stream banks, and in damp woods or woodland edges. Its long bloom time provides food for late season butterflies and bees.

Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)

Native

Bloom Time: Late July – Mid-August

Where: Pollinator Gardens

Description: Plants that grow 8 – 18 in. tall with grass like foliage. Flowers are small, lavender, and grow in nodding clusters of 30 on single stalks.

Ecology: Nodding Onions enjoy open areas with lots of sun, such as grasslands, meadows, and open clearings in woodlands. Its flowers are highly attractive to bees of all kinds.



Common Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*)



Blue Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)



Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)