Shaw Nature (Wildflower Trail & Whitmire)

March 17, 2025

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	**FAMILY** [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	**COMMON NAME**
☐	*Aesculus glabra* (ESS-kyoo-luss)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Ohio Buckeye (flower)
☐	*Aesculus pavia* (ESS-kyoo-luss)	Sapindaceae [CC7]	Red Buckeye (flower)
☐	*Alnus serrulata* (ALL-nus)	Betulaceae [CC7]	Alder (flower)
☐	*Cardamine hirsuta* (kar-DAM-ih-nee)	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Hairy Bittercress (flower)
☐	*Carex albicans* (CARE-x)	Cyperaceae [CC6]	White-Tinged Sedge (flower)
☐	*Cercis canadensis* (SR-siss)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC3]	Redbud (flower)
☐	*Cercis canadensis* f. *alba* (SR-siss)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [garden]	White Redbud (flower)
☐	*Claytonia virginica* (klay-TOE-nee-uh)	Montiaceae [CC3]	Spring Beauty (flower)
☐	*Corydalis flavula* () (kor-RID-uh-liss)	Papaveraceae (Fumarioideae subfam) [CC3]	Pale Corydalis / Yellow Fumewort (flower)
☐	*Crocus vernus* () (KRO-kuss)	Iridaceae [introduced]	Spring Crocus (flower)
☐	*Draba verna* () (DRAY-buh)	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Spring Whitlowgrass (flower)
☐	*Enemion biternatum* (eh-NEE-mee-un)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Lowland Rue Anemone (flower)
☐	*Erigenia bulbosa* () (ayr-ih-JEE-nee-uh)	Apiaceae [CC6]	Harbinger of Spring (flower)
☐	*Galanthus nivalis* () (gal-ANN-thus)	Amaryllidaceae [introduced]	Snowdrop (flower)
☐	*Hepatica acutiloba* () (heh-PAT-tick-kuh)	Ranunculaceae [CC7]	Sharp-Lobed Hepatica (flower)
☐	*Hepatica americana* () (heh-PAT-tick-kuh)	Ranunculaceae [CC6]	Round-Lobed Hepatica (flower)
☐	*Lindera benzoin* (lin-DEER-uh)	Lauraceae [CC5]	Spicebush (flower)
☐	*Mertensia virginica* (mr-TEN-see-uh)	Boraginaceae [CC6]	Virginia Bluebells (flower)
☐	*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* () (nar-SISS-us)	Amaryllidaceae [introduced]	Daffodil (flower)
☐	*Noccaea perfoliata* () (NOCK-ee-uh)	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Perfoliate Pennycress (flower)
☐	*Phlox bifida* (FLOCKS)	Polemoniaceae [CC8]	Cleft Phlox, Sand Phlox (flower)
☐	*Rhus aromatica* (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Sumac (flower)
☐	*Salix eriocephala* (SAY-licks)	Salicaceae [CC5]	Missouri River Willow (flower)
☐	*Sambucus racemosa* = *Sambucus pubens* (sam-BOO-kuss)	Adoxaceae [CC10]	Red Elderberry (flower)
☐	*Sanguinaria canadensis* (san-gwen-AYR-ee-uh)	Papaveraceae [CC5]	Bloodroot (flower)
☐	*Thalictrum thalictroides* (thuh-LICK-trum)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Rue Anemone (flower)
☐	*Viola sororia* (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC2]	Common Blue Violet (flower)

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: We met at the Whitmire Wildflower Garden to get a preview of the delights that will be in store for us later in the year. Afterwards we drove to the Trail House and walked the Wildflower Trail, adding a short side-trail down towards the river.

SORTING-OUT THE RUE-ANEMONES:
St. Louis has 2 Rue-Anemones that look quite similar: the upper-class "True Rue" Anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*) and the less fortunate "False Rue" Anemone (*Enemion biternatum*).
The False Rue Anemone is known as "Mister 5", not only because that was his number in prison, but also because almost everything about him has to do with the number "5".
"Mister 5" only has 5 petals (actually they're petaloid sepals). The opulent True Rue can often boast of more than 5.
"Mister 5" has flowers colored W-H-I-T-E (5 letters). The artistic True Rue often shows-off some pink in his petals!
"Mister 5" has to live down by the R-I-V-E-R where it is M-O-I-S-T. True Rue gets to live on higher ground with a view.
"Mister 5" often has to live in G-R-O-U-P housing with a C-R-O-W-D. True Rue can afford to live more spaciously.
"Mister 5" is stuck with ugly names, like F-A-L-S-E and E-N-E-M-Y (*Enemion*). True Rue enjoys the catchy, mind-bending name "*Thalictrum thalictroides*" (meaning "a Thalictrum that looks like a Thalictrum").
"Mister 5" has leaflets with spindly fingerlike lobes, not good for much more than playing the P-I-A-N-O. True Rue is admired for his cute leaflets with short, manicured, kitten-paw lobes.

YOU'LL WONDER WHERE THE YELLOW WENT:
When we found our first Bloodroot Poppy (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), somebody mentioned that the Native Americans had used its red latex as war-paint on their faces. James had doubt in his voice when he replied with something like: "the Papaveraceae – that's not a family you want to mess with."
Case in point: You don't hear much of Colgate's "Viadent Toothpaste" anymore. It used to be quite popular. You can view an old television commercial of it HERE. Viadent had used the alkaloid "Sanguinarine" (from the Bloodroot Poppy) in the recipes of both their toothpaste and mouthwash. Before long it was noticed that people who used the products had a greater chance of developing white Leukoplakia lesions in their mouths. Yikes! Viadent then removed Bloodroot from their recipes.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- We found at least 27 flowering species today, quite a jump up from last week's 4.
- Kathy Bildner, Steve Turner, and June Jeffries have shared their photos on our GoogleDrive: HERE.
- Our entomologist Ted was excited to find a thick branch from an Ozark Witch Hazel that had 3 beetle galleries along the length of its heartwood. He explained that this was very unusual and said that he's never heard of such beetle activity associated with *Hamamelis*. So this might be a new discovery! He intends to take the branch home, cut it into smaller sections, and incubate them to see what kind of insect emerges. He suspects that it'll be some sort of large, longhorn beetle.
- We were walking, looking at all the plants, when quite out of the blue our naturalist John Christensen asked: "How can you tell if an elephant has been in your refrigerator?" There was silence, as if some weighty mathematical puzzle had been presented. He continued "By looking for footprints in the peanut butter." On the outside, most maintained a straight-faced silence. After all, it would be undignified to outwardly laugh at such a stupid joke. But inside, everybody was surely laughing.
- After our walk, Katie invited us to visit her office in the seedbank. It was exciting. She showed us their big freezers, their X-Ray machine, and she explained the mechanics of processing all the seeds they obtain. Everybody had lots of questions which she cheerfully answered. Afterwards we all had a greater understanding and appreciation of the important work that she does.

PARTICIPANTS:
There were 16 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):
Gisela Baner, Kathy Bildner, John Christensen, Wayne Clark, June Jeffries, Michael Laschober, Sharon Lu, Ted MacRae, Burt Noll, John Oliver, Katie Pittman, Ruth Tenbrink, Kathy Thiele, James Trager, Steve Turner, and George Van Brunt.