

# St. Francois S.P. (Mooner's Hollow)

March 24, 2025

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = <a href="#">Coefficient of Conservatism</a>	COMMON NAME ☼ = Flowering
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Antennaria parlinii</a> (an-tin-AYR-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Gnaphalieae tribe) CC5	Parlin's Pussytoes ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Aplectrum hyemale</a> (ay-PLECK-trum)	Orchidaceae [CC8]	Adam and Eve Orchid / Putty Root Orchid
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Aquilegia canadensis</a> () (ack-weh-LEE-jee-uh)	Ranunculaceae [CC6]	Red Columbine
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Asplenium rhizophyllum</a> (uh-SPLEE-nee-um)	Aspleniaceae [CC7]	Walking Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Borodinia laevigata</a> (bor-o-DINN-ee-uh)	Brassicaceae [CC6]	Smooth Rockcress
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cardamine concatenata</a> (kar-DAM-ih-nee)	Brassicaceae [CC4]	Toothwort ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Carpinus caroliniana</a> (car-PY-nus)	Betulaceae [CC6]	Musclewood Tree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Carya cordiformis</a> (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Bitternut Hickory
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cercis canadensis</a> (SR-siss)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC3]	Redbud ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Claytonia virginica</a> (klay-TOE-nee-uh)	Montiaceae [CC3]	Spring Beauty ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cornus florida</a> (syn. <i>Benthamidia florida</i> ) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Corylus americana</a> (KOR-ill-luss)	Betulaceae [CC4]	Hazelnut ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cuscuta groenovii</a> () (cuss-KOO-tuh)	Convolvulaceae [CC3]	Dodder (dried remains of last year's vine)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cyrtomium falcatum</a> () (kr-TOE-mee-um / fal-KAY-tum)	Dryopteridaceae [intro]	Japanese Holly-Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Cystopteris bulbifera</a> (sis-STOP-tr-riss)	Cystopteridaceae [CC8]	Bulblet Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Danthonia spicata</a> () (dan-THO-nee-uh)	Poaceae [CC3]	Poverty Grass
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Draba verna</a> () (DRAY-buh)	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Spring Whitlowgrass ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Erigeron philadelphicus</a> (er-RIJ-er-on)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	Philadelphia Fleabane
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Erythronium albidum</a> (air-eh-THROE-nee-um)	Liliaceae [CC5]	White Trout Lily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Euonymus atropurpureus</a> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [CC5]	Wahoo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Euphorbia commutata</a> (yoo-FOR-bee-uh)	Euphorbiaceae [CC6]	Wood Spurge ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fragaria virginiana</a> () (frag-GAYR-ee-uh)	Rosaceae [CC3]	Wild Strawberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Frasera carolinianus</a> () (FRAY-zr-uh)	Gentianaceae [CC7]	American Columbo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fraxinus quadrangulata</a> (FRACK-sin-us)	Oleaceae [CC8]	Blue Ash
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Galium aparine</a> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC0]	Bedstraw
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Galium concinnum</a> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC4]	Shining Bedstraw
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Galium triflorum</a> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Bedstraw
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Hepatica acutiloba</a> () (heh-PAT-tick-kuh)	Ranunculaceae [CC7]	Sharp-Lobed Hepatica ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Houstonia longifolia</a> (hew-STO-nee-uh)	Rubiaceae [CC5]	Longleaf Bluet ☼

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Hydrangea arborescens</i></a> (hy-DRAIN-jee-uh)	Hydrangeaceae [CC7]	Hydrangea
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lamium amplexicaule</i></a> (LAY-mee-um)	Lamiaceae [introduced]	Henbit ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lindera benzoin</i></a> (lin-DEER-uh)	Lauraceae [CC5]	Spicebush ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Maclura pomifera</i></a> () (mack-KLOO-ruh)	Moraceae / Rosales [introduced]	Osage Orange
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Melanthium [Veratrum] woodii</i></a> () (mel-ANN-thee-um)	Melanthiaceae [CC8]	Wood's Bunchflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Noccaea perfoliata</i></a> () (NOCK-ee-uh)	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Perfoliate Pennycress ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Packera aurea</i></a> (PACK-r-uh)	Asteraceae (Senecioneae tribe) [CC6]	Golden Aurea
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Pellaea glabella</i></a> (pell-EE-uh)	Pteridaceae [CC7]	Smooth Cliffbrake
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Planodes virginicum</i></a> () (plan-O-deez)	Brassicaceae [CC0]	Virginia Rockcress
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Polemonium reptans</i></a> (poe-leh-MOE-nee-um)	Polemoniaceae [CC6]	Jacob's Ladder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Polymnia canadensis</i></a> (po-LIMM-nee-uh)	Asteraceae (Polymnieae tribe) [CC6]	Whiteflower Leafcup / Whiteflower Bearsfoot
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Ranunculus abortivus</i></a> (ruh-NUN-kyoo-lus)	Ranunculaceae [CC1]	Small-Flowered Buttercup ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Rhus aromatica</i></a> (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Sumac ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Ribes missouriense</i></a> (RY-beez)	Grossulariaceae [CC3]	Missouri Gooseberry ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i></a> (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Cutleaf Coneflower / Goldenglow
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Sambucus canadensis</i></a> (sam-BOO-kuss)	Adoxaceae [CC2]	Black Elderberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i></a> (san-gwen-AYR-ee-uh)	Papaveraceae [CC5]	Bloodroot ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Sassafras albidum</i></a> (SASS-uh-frass)	Lauraceae [CC2]	Sassafras
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Stylophorum diphylum</i></a> (sty-LOFF-or-um)	Papaveraceae [CC7]	Celandine Poppy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i></a> (thuh-LICK-trum)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Rue Anemone ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Trillium recurvatum</i></a> (TRILL-ee-um)	Melanthiaceae [CC6]	Prairie Trillium
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Vaccinium pallidum</i></a> (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC4]	Lowbush Blueberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Viola pedata</i></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC5]	Birdsfoot Violet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Viola sororia</i></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC2]	Common Blue Violet ☼

## NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: We met in the “Mooner’s Hollow” parking lot. For slow walkers like us, the Mooner’s Hollow Trail is a bit long at 2.8 miles. But we took a shortcut by crossing the Coonville Creek early, saving ourselves some distance. Even with most of the plants still not awake from winter, it’s evident that this is a very special natural area. It feels like a privilege to even be here.

## SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- LIVERLEAF: We really hit it big with the *Hepatica* flowers, finding large swaths of white ones on the east side of Coonville Creek, and later finding a blanket of pinkish ones on the west side.
- THORNY OSAGE: We don’t often get to see Osage Orange trees, and when we do they’re always huge, towering trees that were planted decades ago. Today however, we found a number of young shrublike Osage Oranges alongside the parking lot. We were surprised at how thorny the twigs were.

- HOW MANY PETALS? John pulled-up a delicate little introduced mustard known as “Spring Whitlow-Grass” (*Draba verna*). There was something very charming about it. It had a rosette of tiny, green, pimped leaves. High above the leaves was a raceme of several small white flowers at the top of a long, wispy scape. John pointed to one of the flowers and asked: “How many petals does it have?” “Hmm” we thought. “Is this a trick question?” Yes, it was. Although we could easily count 8 petals, plants in the mustard family are famous for having 4 petals shaped as a cross. But the *Draba*’s 4 petals are deeply dissected, so each petal looks like 2 petals. Be on the lookout for this to happen again because in a week or so the Chickweeds will be flowering. They have deeply dissected petals too. But they’re in the Carnation Family, so they’ll have 5 petals which’ll look like 10. So if John again asks: “How many petals does it have?”, we’ll be prepared.
- IT’S THAT TIME OF YEAR: Steve Bizub (who regularly removes invasives as a volunteer at Victoria Glades) reminds us that this is the best time of year to remove Bush Honeysuckle because it’s so easy to see.
- PHOTOS: Kathy Bildner and Steve Turner have shared their photos on our Google Drive ([HERE](#)).
- DIFFERENT HABITAT – DIFFERENT PLANTS: We were in this park exactly 2 weeks ago, but we were botanizing a few hundred feet south of here in an area that periodically floods. Different habitats can have different plants. In the floodplain we had found Harbingers of Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) all over the place. Today on higher ground we found none. However today we found Liverleaf (*Hepatica acutiloba*) all over the place. In the floodplain we had found none.
- ANOTHER TARANTULA-LIKE SPIDER: A couple weeks ago when we were in this park, our entomologist Ted picked-up a large, black, tarantula-like spider (Folding-Door Spider). Today he picked-up another large, black, tarantula-like spider (Purseweb Spider). Ted afterwards confessed that he had considered shouting “Ow!” while holding the spider. We all laughed but were grateful that he had resisted the temptation.
- WORK OF ART: Near the end of our walk, John Christensen could be found holding a small branch with a shelf fungus attached to its end. He explained that it is called an “Artists Conk” (*Ganoderma applanatum*). The underside of the mushroom is very white. If somebody were to use a sharp point to scratch some words or illustrate something on the white surface, the image would turn black and remain legible for many years to come. Although it’s not toxic and is used medicinally, the Artists Conk is too bitter and woody to eat. (John Christensen leads the Nature Book Club, which is probably why he always has such entertaining tidbits to teach us.)

#### PARTICIPANTS:

There were 15 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Renee Benage, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, John Christensen, Wayne Clark, June Jeffries, HD Key, Michael Laschober, Ted MacRae, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, Ruth Tenbrink, Kathy Thiele, Steve Turner, and George Van Brunt.