

# Young Conservation Area

March 31, 2025

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = <a href="#">Coefficient of Conservatism</a>	COMMON NAME ☼ = Flowering
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Ampelopsis cordata</i></a> (am-pel-OP-sis)	Vitaceae [CC3]	Heartleaf Peppervine / Raccoon Grape
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Antennaria parlinii</i></a> (an-tin-AYR-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Gnaphalieae tribe) CC5	Parlin's Pussytoes ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Astragalus crassicaarpus</i></a> (uh-STRAGG-uh-luss)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC7]	Ground Plum ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Campsis radicans</i></a> (KAMP-sis)	Bignoniaceae [CC3]	Trumpet Vine / Trumpet Creeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cardamine concatenata</i></a> (kar-DAM-ih-nee)	Brassicaceae [CC4]	Toothwort ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Celtis occidentalis</i></a> (SELL-tiss)	Cannabaceae / Rosales [CC3]	Hackberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Claytonia virginica</i></a> (klay-TOE-nee-uh)	Montiaceae [CC3]	Spring Beauty ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Corydalis flavula</i></a> () (kor-RID-uh-liss)	Papaveraceae (Fumarioideae subfam) [CC3]	Pale Corydalis / Yellow Fumewort ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cystopteris protrusa</i></a> (sis-STOP-tr-riss)	Cystopteridaceae [CC5]	Lowland Bladderfern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dicentra cucullaria</i></a> (dy-SEN-truh)	Papaveraceae (Fumarieae tribe) [CC6]	Dutchman's Breeches ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Enemion biternatum</i></a> (eh-NEE-mee-un)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Lowland Rue Anemone ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Equisetum hyemale</i></a> (eck-weh-SEE-tum)	Equisetaceae [CC3]	Rough Horsetail (conelike strobili)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Erythronium albidum</i></a> (air-eh-THROE-nee-um)	Liliaceae [CC5]	White Trout Lily ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Euonymus fortunei</i></a> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Wintercreeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i></a> (FRACK-sin-us)	Oleaceae [CC8]	Blue Ash
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Glandularia canadensis</i></a> (gland-yoo-LAYR-ee-uh)	Verbenaceae [CC5]	Rose Verbena ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Glechoma hederacea</i></a> (gleh-KOE-muh)	Lamiaceae [introduced]	Ground Ivy / Creeping Charlie ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Houstonia pusilla</i></a> (hew-STO-nee-uh)	Rubiaceae [CC3]	Tiny Bluet ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lamium amplexicaule</i></a> (LAY-mee-um)	Lamiaceae [introduced]	Henbit ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lamium purpureum</i></a> (LAY-mee-um)	Lamiaceae [introduced]	Purple Dead Nettle ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lonicera japonica</i></a> (lo-NISS-r-uh)	Caprifoliaceae [introduced]	Vine Honeysuckle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lonicera maackii</i></a> (lo-NISS-r-uh)	Caprifoliaceae [introduced]	Bush Honeysuckle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Mertensia virginica</i></a> (mr-TEN-see-uh)	Boraginaceae [CC6]	Virginia Bluebells ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Noccaea</i> [<i>Microthlaspi</i>] <a href="#"><i>perfoliata</i></a> (NOCK-ee-uh)</a>	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Perfoliate Pennycress ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Nothoscordum bivalve</i></a> (no-tho-SKOR-dum)	Amaryllidaceae [CC4]	False Garlic ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Parmotrema</i></a> (cup + perforation) (par-mo-TREE-muh)	Parmeliaceae	Ruffle Lichen / Eyelash Lichen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Phlox divaricata</i></a> (FLOCKS)	Polemoniaceae [CC4]	Woodland Phlox ☼
<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>Ranunculus fascicularis</i></a> (ruh-NUN-kyoo-lus)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Early Buttercup ☼

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Ribes missouriense</i></a> (RY-beez)	Grossulariaceae [CC3]	Missouri Gooseberry ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Rosa multiflora</i></a> (RO-zuh)	Rosaceae [introduced]	Multiflora Rose
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i></a> (san-gwen-AYR-ee-uh)	Papaveraceae [CC5]	Bloodroot ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Smilax bona-nox</i></a> (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae [CC3]	Saw Greenbriar
<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>Viola pubescens</i></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC5]	Downy Yellow Violet ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Viola sororia</i></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC2]	Common Blue Violet ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i></a> (zan-tho-ZY-lum)	Rutaceae [CC4]	Prickly Ash

## NOTES

**WHERE WE WALKED:** We met in the parking lot and walked the Taconic Loop Trail (without the loop at the end). Instead of heading north from the parking lot, we began by walking down past the pond and towards the LaBarque Creek. It was not a promising beginning. It was cold. None of the wildflowers were yet open. The trail along the LaBarque Creek was muddy and lined with almost every invasive plant in the book. There was Autumn Olive, Bradford Pear, Multiflora Rose, Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Vine Honeysuckle, and of course good ol' Wintercreeper. George said something like “No need to travel to other countries – we’ve got it all right here!” (Everybody laughed). But the farther we walked, the better it got. The sun came out. The weather warmed-up. The Spring Beauties opened-up. Eventually there were Anemones, Bluebells, and Trout Lilies all around us. We had made it to Paradise.

**WHY NO FLOWERS ON THE TROUT LILIES?** We were enjoying the many Trout Lily plants with their rubbery, red-blotched leaves when some smart person asked the question many of us wished we had thought to ask: “Where are the flowers? There aren’t even any buds!”

We aren’t the first to ask this question. There’s an online botany forum ([North American Rock Garden Society](#)) where this very question was asked 15 years ago. In the intervening years there’ve been plenty of theories proposed, but still no consensus. 15 years! Among the plausible theories:

- “as with some other plants, if the plant can propagate vegetatively, there’s no need for it to produce flowers”,
- “too much shade will prevent flowering”
- “not enough moisture will prevent flowering”
- “flowering requires a vernalization period of cold at the right time”
- “like orchids, there needs to be a special microbiome – a certain combination of bacteria and fungi in the soil
- “it’s genetic; there’s a vegetal form in which 99% of the individuals do not flower, and only 1% do flower; the only distinguishing characteristic is that the non-flowering plants only have 1 leaf but the flowering plants have 2 leaves”

Some of the respondents mentioned that they acquired their plants from a robustly-flowering population, but at the new location the plants never again flowered. It seems that the answer to “Why do some Trout Lilies never flower?” is still a mystery.

## SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- **FATHER SULLIVAN:** In the parking lot Kathy Bildner relayed the sad news that our Father Sullivan had fallen (possibly from a stroke). After a few days in the hospital and a few more in a nursing home for the clergy, he is now in a better-equipped nursing home: “Mother of Good Counsel” at 6825 Natural Bridge Rd 63121. For those new to our group, Father Sullivan used to lead the Monday Morning Botany Group for decades before handing it over to the good hands of John Oliver. Without Father Sullivan our group would not exist.
- **VIOLETS:** When it comes to the complicated taxonomy of violets, John suggested that we turn to Ohio State University professor Harvey Ballard. We can experience one of his lectures [HERE](#) on YouTube.

- **DIVARICATING:** John pointed-out that our Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) was given its species epithet “*divaricata*” because it has runners that divaricate. Plants are said to divaricate when their growth form consists of a wide-angled, zig-zag branching pattern that produces a spreading, interlaced, mat-like foliage.
- **PHOTOS:** Kathy Bildner has shared her photos with us on our Google Drive ([HERE](#)).
- **THE 3 MINTKATEERS:** At the end of our walk, we were able to compare and contrast the 3 mint lookalikes: *Glechoma hederacea* (Creeping Charlie / Ground Ivy), *Lamium amplexicaule* (Henbit), and *Lamium purpureum* (Purple Dead-Nettle). Notwithstanding its unappetizing name, Creeping Charlie was said to have the best flavor of the 3 – at least not as distasteful as the others.
- **BLUETS:** The bluets we usually find are white. But the tiny, eye-catching species we found today (*Houstonia pusilla*) was truly blue.
- **JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE VINE:** Having unfortunately had lots and lots of experience, we’re pretty good at identifying this plant with its smooth, ovate leaves. So it was rather shocking to see that the first leaves of the newly-emerging plant are deeply lobed – looking like a completely different plant!
- **ROCK LESSONS:** Len observed at one section along the trail that we were walking on huge, smooth slabs of limestone. Later he pointed to Labarque Creek below and explained that St. Peters Sandstone was the source of its glistening white sand. John added that a greater diversity of plants grow on the much older LaMotte Sandstone because it has a richer mineral content than the pure quartz of St. Peters Sandstone.
- **HACKBERRY PETIOLE GALLS:** Although some of us don’t yet have our radar set on “gall-finding” mode, those that do were able to identify still-leafless hackberry trees just by finding last year’s galls hanging on them!
- **DAD JOKE:** Kathy Bildner went into the woods to explore something and came back holding a small log about 3 feet long. Each end of the log was pointed with the distinctive chewing marks of a beaver. “Why both ends?” she wondered aloud. “It needed that specific size for a purpose.” somebody replied. “He sure was busy” said Kathy. “Busy as a beaver” retorted John. Everybody tried not to laugh.

#### PARTICIPANTS:

There were 14 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Gisela Baner, Renee Benage, Kathy Bildner, John Christensen, Wayne Clark, Jennifer Judd, HD Key, Michael Laschober, Len Meier, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, Kathy Thiele, George Van Brunt, and Laura Yates.