

# Pacific Palisades

April 21, 2025

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = <a href="#">Coefficient of Conservatism</a>	COMMON NAME ☼ = Flowering
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Acer negundo</i></a> (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC1]	Boxelder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Aralia racemosa</i></a> (uh-RAY-lee-uh)	Araliaceae [CC8]	Spikenard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Arisaema dracontium</i></a> (ayr-eh-SEE-muh)	Araceae [CC6]	Green Dragon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Arisaema triphyllum</i></a> (ayr-eh-SEE-muh)	Araceae [CC6]	Jack-in-the-Pulpit ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Asarum reflexum</i></a> (uh-SAYR-um)	Aristolochiaceae [CC6]	Wild Ginger ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Asimina triloba</i></a> (uh-SIM-in-uh)	Annonaceae [CC5]	Pawpaw ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Barbarea vulgaris</i></a> (bar-bar-EE-uh)	Brassicaceae [introduced]	Yellow Rocket ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Berberis thunbergii</i></a> (BR-br-iss)	Berberidaceae [introduced]	Japanese Barberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Borodinia</i></a> [Boechera] <a href="#"><i>laevigata</i></a> (bor-o-DINN-ee-uh)	Brassicaceae [CC6]	Smooth Rockcress ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cardamine concatenata</i></a> (kar-DAM-ih-nee)	Brassicaceae [CC4]	Toothwort ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Claytonia virginica</i></a> (klay-TOE-nee-uh)	Montiaceae [CC3]	Spring Beauty ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Collinsia verna</i></a> (ko-LINN-zee-uh)	Plantaginaceae [CC7]	Blue-Eyed Mary ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Conocephalum salubrosum</i></a> () (kon-o-SEFF-uh-lum)	Conocephalaceae (Marchantiales)	Snakeskin Liverwort
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Corallorhiza wisteriana</i></a> (kor-al-lo-RY-zuh)	Orchidaceae [CC7]	Spring Coralroot ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cornus florida</i></a> (syn. <i>Benthamidia florida</i> ) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cystopteris protrusa</i></a> (sis-STOP-tr-riss)	Cystopteridaceae [CC5]	Lowland Bladderfern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Delphinium tricorne</i></a> (del-FINN-ee-um)	Ranunculaceae [CC6]	Dwarf Larkspur ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dicentra canadensis</i></a> () (dy-SEN-truh)	Papaveraceae (Fumariae tribe) [CC9]	Squirrel Corn (fruit)
<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>Erigenia bulbosa</i></a> () (ayr-ih-JEE-nee-uh)	Apiaceae [CC6]	Harbinger of Spring
<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 alatus</i></a> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Burning Bush / Winged Euonymus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Euonymus fortunei</i></a> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Wintercreeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Galium aparine</i></a> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC0]	Bedstraw ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Galium concinnum</i></a> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC4]	Shining Bedstraw
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Geranium maculatum</i></a> (jr-RAY-nee-um)	Geraniaceae [CC5]	Wild Geranium ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Geum vernum</i></a> (JEE-um)	Rosaceae [CC3]	Spring Avens ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Hepatica acutiloba</i></a> () (heh-PAT-tick-kuh)	Ranunculaceae [CC7]	Sharp-Lobed Hepatica
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Hydrophyllum canadense</i></a> (hy-dro-FILL-um)	Boraginaceae [CC7]	Broadleaf Waterleaf

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Impatiens capensis</i></u></a> (im-PAY-shenz)	Balsaminaceae [CC3]	Orange Jewelweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Laportea canadensis</i></u></a> (luh-POR-tee-uh)	Urticaceae [CC4]	Wood Nettle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Lindera benzoin</i></u></a> (lin-DEER-uh)	Lauraceae [CC5]	Spicebush
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Lonicera maackii</i></u></a> (lo-NISS-r-uh)	Caprifoliaceae [introduced]	Bush Honeysuckle ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Maianthemum racemosum</i></u></a> (my-ANN-the-mum)	Asparagaceae [CC4]	Solomon's Plume
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Mertensia virginica</i></u></a> (mr-TEN-see-uh)	Boraginaceae [CC6]	Virginia Bluebells ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Micranthes pensylvanica</i></u></a> (my-KRANN-theez)	Saxifragaceae [CC10]	Swamp Saxifrage ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Mitella diphylla</i></u></a> ( ) (my-TELL-uh)	Saxifragaceae [CC8]	Bishop's Cap / Miterwort ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i></u></a> (oz-mo-RY-zuh)	Apiaceae [CC3]	Longstyle Sweet-Cicely ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Packera obovata</i></u></a> (PACK-r-uh)	Asteraceae (Senecioneae tribe) [CC4]	Roundleaf Ragwort ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Persicaria virginiana</i></u></a> (pr-seh-KAYR-ee-uh)	Polygonaceae [CC1]	Jumpseed / Virginia Knotweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Phlox divaricata</i></u></a> (FLOCKS)	Polemoniaceae [CC4]	Woodland Phlox ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Podophyllum peltatum</i></u></a> (po-do-FILL-um)	Berberidaceae [CC4]	Mayapple ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Polemonium reptans</i></u></a> (poe-leh-MOE-nee-um)	Polemoniaceae [CC6]	Jacob's Ladder ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Polypodium virginianum</i></u></a> (poly-PO-dee-um)	Polypodiaceae [CC9]	Rock Polypody / Common Polypody
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i></u></a> (po-LISS-tick-um)	Dryopteridaceae [CC5]	Christmas Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Potentilla simplex</i></u></a> (po-ten-TILL-uh)	Rosaceae [CC3]	Common Cinquefoil
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Ranunculus abortivus</i></u></a> (ruh-NUN-kyoo-lus)	Ranunculaceae [CC1]	Small-Flowered Buttercup ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Ranunculus hispidus</i></u></a> (ruh-NUN-kyoo-lus)	Ranunculaceae [CC4]	Bristly Buttercup ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Ribes missouriense</i></u></a> (RY-beez)	Grossulariaceae [CC3]	Missouri Gooseberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Rosa multiflora</i></u></a> (RO-zuh)	Rosaceae [introduced]	Multiflora Rose
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i></u></a> (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Cutleaf Coneflower / Goldenglow
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Sambucus canadensis</i></u></a> (sam-BOO-kuss)	Adoxaceae [CC2]	Black Elderberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i></u></a> (san-gwen-AYR-ee-uh)	Papaveraceae [CC5]	Bloodroot
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Sanicula odorata</i></u></a> (suh-NICK-yoo-luh)	Apiaceae [CC2]	Clustered Black Snakeroot
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Saururus cernuus</i></u></a> (suh-ROO-rus)	Saururaceae [CC6]	Lizard's Tail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Staphylea trifolia</i></u></a> (staff-ill-LEE-uh)	Staphyleaceae [CC5]	American Bladdernut ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i></u></a> (sty-LOFF-or-um)	Papaveraceae [CC7]	Celandine Poppy ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i></u></a> (thuh-LICK-trum)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Rue Anemone ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Trillium sessile</i></u></a> (TRILL-ee-um)	Melanthiaceae [CC5]	Toadshade Trillium
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Viola pubescens</i></u></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC5]	Downy Yellow Violet ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Viola striata</i></u></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC3]	Striped Creamy Violet ☼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u><i>Viola sororia</i></u></a> (vy-O-luh)	Violaceae [CC2]	Common Blue Violet ☼

## NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: Well, it's hard to say. We met in the south parking lot on Buscher Road. From there we walked northward a few hundred feet on a service road. Then, with John looking at his cell-phone, we suddenly stopped, turned right, faced a waterlogged woods completely overgrown with invasives, gulped, and began bushwhacking our way eastward through honeysuckle and wintercreeper towards some promised land.

Our destination is a north-facing river bluff where there are rumored to be a couple of highly conservative plant species that grow there: *Mitella diphylla* (with its snowflake-like petals) and *Micranthes pennsylvanica* var. *forbesii* (with its cluster of basal leaves and its leafless scape).

As we bushwhacked our way inward, we were saddened by the apparent neglect and mismanagement of this property. There are no marked trails and evidently no effort has been done to remove the invasive plants (which now own the place). Although they've worked wonders elsewhere, here at Pacific Palisades our beloved Missouri Conservation Department seems to have thrown up their hands and said: "Let the hunters have it."

At first the newer botanists in our group were probably wondering why John had picked such an awful place. But a strange thing happened as we neared our destination. There were fewer and fewer invasives. No, the Conservation Department doesn't get credit for protecting it – they apparently don't realize that this hidden paradise even exists. The habitat itself gets the credit. A healthy, well-functioning habitat keeps out invasive species. There's no room for them to get a foothold. Every bit of land is occupied by the necessary machinery of the ecosystem.

When we finally got to the legendary bluffs, they were as glorious as had been promised. We found both Saxifrages (*Mitella* and *Micranthes*) not just surviving, but numerous and thriving on the dripping mossy sandstone. In fact the area was so packed with native ferns and ephemeral wildflowers that it was hard to take a step without trampling them. So, what's the takeaway? Was the beauty worth the bother? How many times in our lives are we going to be able to see a flowering *Mitella* and *Micranthes* together on the same stage? When a museum holds a precious work of art, they often charge an entrance fee. The Louve in France charges \$23, the Van Gogh museum in the Netherlands charges \$36, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art charges \$30. The bushwhacking was our entrance fee. So yes, everybody seemed to feel privileged to have had the chance to experience this special habitat. But we probably wouldn't want to do it again next week. It's been some 3 years since we've last been here. That sounds about right for our next visit.

WILD GINGER MISIDENTIFICATION: Say it ain't true! All these years we've been identifying our Wild Ginger as "*Asarum canadensis*" when in reality it is "*Asarum reflexum*". How do we know this? Because our resident entomologist Ted MacRae did something quite heroic. He (for whatever reason) compared his Wild Ginger flower photos to the photos on the "[Flora of the Southeastern United States](#)" website (that's the Alan Weakley website that John speaks highly of). The *Asarum reflexum* flower has 3 sepals that are "reflexed" (bent far back – almost touching the calyx tube). This may be one of those cases where we'll actually need a flower to make a species determination. How inconvenient! But it seems that the native habitat of the true "*Asarum canadensis*" is nowhere near St. Louis, so we're probably safe in assuming that any Wild Ginger plant we encounter here is "*Asarum reflexum*".

### SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- PHOTOS: June, Steve, and Ted have shared their photos on our Google Drive ([HERE](#))
- BRISTLY BUTTERCUP: this buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus*) is probably the most difficult-to-identify plant we found today. It looks so frustratingly similar to the Early Buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis*). But our BRISTLY is a much larger plant with larger leaves. John made the helpful observation that the BRISTLY has terminal leaflets that are NOT elongated. (The Early Buttercup has leaf lobes that are longer and narrower.)

### PARTICIPANTS:

There were 20 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Rick Armstrong, Gisela Baner, Prem Barton, Renee Benage, Jerry Castillon, Wayne Clark, Scott George, June Jeffries, Michael Laschober, Sharon Lu, Ted MacRae, Len Meier, Burt Noll, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, Deb Tolcou, Mark Tolcou, Steve Turner, George Van Brunt, Laura Yates, and Jerry Mathers as the Beaver.