

# Shaw Nature Reserve (Wildflower Trail)

March 9, 2026

What? No Species List? Nope. We usually don't make species lists for our winter hikes because most plants are dormant. Trying to determine the species of a dormant plant from its dried-up remains is not always reliable. It serves little purpose to create unreliable species lists. So, we'll just give an overview of things that happened on our walk today.

## NOTES

Finally, a warm day! And when we saw our first flower (a Spring Beauty, of course) we all felt like shouting "It's Spring!" But we knew that the wise old oaks and all the other still-sleeping trees around us would probably grumble: "Not so fast, buddy!" Sure enough, we had a hard freeze (it went way down into the teens) a few days later.

We took the promisingly-named "Wildflower Trail", not that we saw much in the way of wildflowers. Besides a few Spring Beauties, we found one overly-hasty "False Rue Anemone" flower and a small patch of Harbingers. Actually, it was exciting to find the Harbingers-of-Spring. Everywhere we go this time of year we look for them – usually without success. They're so hard to see. Fortunately the patch we found was near the "High Water Mark of 1982" marker, so we'll know exactly where to look for them in future years.

Although we were still too early for flowers, we found a number of familiar-looking leaves popping-up. Among the more interesting ones were the leaves of Elderberry, Dwarf Crested Iris, Cutleaf Coneflower, Virginia Bluebells, Waterleaf, Chervil, Celandine Poppy, Smooth Cliffbrake Fern, Birdsfoot Violet, Jacob's Ladder, and the almost-ready-to-open flower buds of Fragrant Sumac.

There are always good stories to hear on our walks. One topic of conversation was about Yellow Jackets and their ability to sting multiple times (unlike honeybees). Somebody (perhaps Burt) added that they can sense previous pheromones and will come back to resume stinging again hours later.

John often regales us with good stories. This time he explained that one of the trails we were walking on was part of the old "Labadie Trace" – a Native American trail that went all the way to Jefferson City.

Please visit our [Google Drive](#) to see the photos that Kathy Bildner and Ted MacRae shared. Also, you can read Ted's account of our walk which is, sorry to say, much better than the one you're reading now.

Flowers or not, we all enjoyed this very pleasant morning.

## PARTICIPANTS:

There were 17 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Brenda Adams, Renee Benage, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Mary Bub, Tom & Eileen Buescher, Jerry Castillon, Tina Cheung, Wayne Clark, Sally Fabbri, Michael Laschober, Ted MacRae, Burt Noll, John Oliver, George Van Brunt, and Laura Yates