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Bar Harbor, Maine

ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5 Spring Number, 1939 Number 1

Acadia Nature Notes is issued quarterly by the Naturalist Staff of Acadia National Park. This publication is intended to aid in the interpretation of Acadia National Park. Publications using these notes must give credit to the writer and to Acadia Nature Notes.

George B. Dorr, Superintendent
B. L. Hadley, Assistant Superintendent
Maurice Sullivan, Park Naturalist, Editor

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Early Wildflowers of Acadia
by
John H. Pierce, Ranger-Naturalist

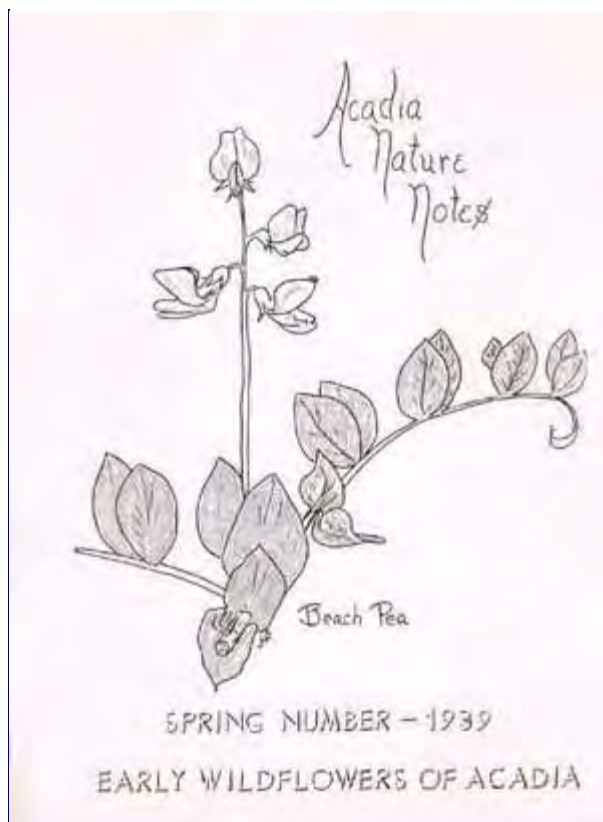
This issue is a continuation of "Nature Notes from Acadia" which last appeared as Volume IV, Number 1, January-February 1935. Note that the name has been changed to "Acadia Nature Notes".



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	SPRING NUMBER - 1939	Number 1
----------	----------------------	----------

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Foreword | Flowers White |
| How To Use The Color | Flowers Pink |
| Key | Flowers Yellow |
| Color Key | Flowers Blue |
| Rarer Spring Wildflowers | Index Of Common |
| Of Acadia | Names |
| | Index Of Scientific |
| | Names |



(click on image for a larger size)

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/acad/notes/vol5-1.htm>
10-Jan-2008



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

GEORGE B. DORR, Superintendent	MAURICE SULLIVAN, Editor
Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939
	Number 1

FOREWORD

The winter is past, the snows are over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voices of frogs are heard. It is spring in Acadia, "land of the murmuring pines and the hemlocks". Mounting higher and higher, shining longer and longer each day, the warmth-bestowing sun at last is victor over the cold sea water and frozen earth. Then wild flowers which have lain dormant for half the year spring verdantly forth for their one big spread of bloom.

The bare rock ledges and sheltered nooks warm up more quickly than those areas exposed to the cool ocean breezes and make conditions favorable for a diverse flora — a mixture of the southern with the northern forms, a mixture such as is found in no other area.

This booklet is intended for the amateur who knows a few flowers and wishes to know more. It is in no sense a complete list, and omission of a flower does not mean that it is absent from our flora. It may not be common enough or it may bloom later than the arbitrary and indefinite period of "Early Spring". Those familiar with this region know that there is no such thing as early spring.

Acadia National Park is a sanctuary for all wild flowers, and picking or disturbing of any trees or other plants is prohibited, no matter how common.

Maurice Sullivan,
Park Naturalist.

<<< Previous

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1b.htm>
09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

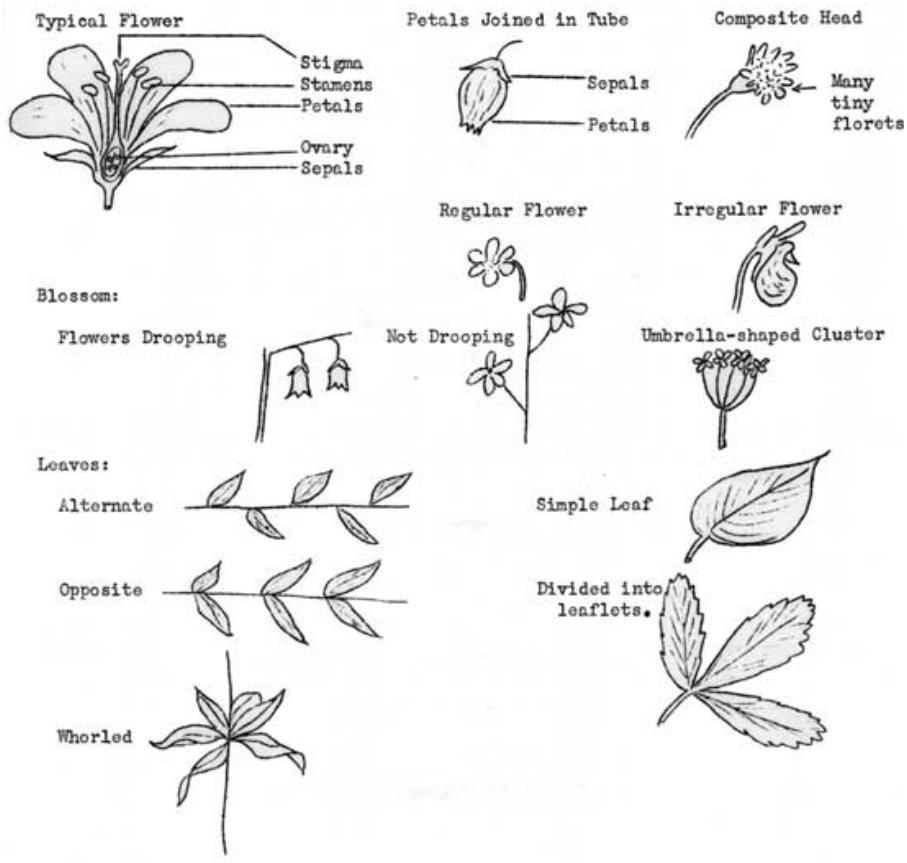
Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

HOW TO USE THE COLOR KEY

The Color Key is designed to assist in the identification of an unknown plant. The following page of drawings illustrate the determining characters used in the key.

Directions for using the key are as follows:

1. Determine flower color (for example, white).
2. Consider A.; if plant fits A, proceed to B; if not go to AA.
3. If plant fits B, proceed to a; if not, proceed to BB; and so forth until you reach the species description which fits the plant.



<<< Previous

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1c.htm>
09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

COLOR KEY

Flowers White or nearly white

- A. Herb-like plants, not woody.
- B. Petals similar, flowers regular in shape.
 - a. Petals normally 3.
 - b. Painted Trillium - Trillium undulatum, purple V at base of white petal, [page 27](#).
 - aa. Petals normally 4.
 - b. Leaves opposite.
 - Bluet - Houstonia caerulea, [page 13](#).
 - bb. Leaves alternate
 - c. Plant 8-18 inches.
 - Shepherd's Purse - Capsella Bursa-pastoris, [page 6](#).
 - cc. Plant 3-6 inches.
 - d. Leaves 1/3 - 3/8 inches.
 - Snowberry - Chiogenes hispidula, [page 9](#).
 - dd. Leaves 1/2 - 2 inches.

Canada Mayflower - *Maianthemum canadense*, [page 15](#).

bbb. Leaves in a crowded circle or whorl.

Dwarf Cornel or Bunch berry - *Cornus canadensis*, [page 11](#).

aaa. Petals normally 5.

b. Leaves toothed, three-parted.

c. Root golden yellow.

Goldthread - *Coptis trifolia*, [page 10](#).

cc. Root not golden yellow.

d. Leaf teeth coarse, rounded.

Wild Strawberry - *Fragaria virginiana*, [page 12](#).

dd. Leaf teeth, fine, pointed

Wood Raspberry - *Rubus triflorus*, [page 20](#).

bb. Leaves toothed, not three-parted

c. Flowers in umbrella-shaped cluster.

Wild Sarsaparilla - *Aralia nudicaulis*, [page 3](#).

cc. Flowers in loose clusters not umbrella-shaped.

Early Saxifrage - *Saxifraga virginensis*, [page 22](#).

bbb. Leaves not toothed.

c. Petals shorter than the sepals.

Chickweed - *Stellaria media*, [page 25](#).

cc. Petals longer than the sepals.

d. Stems smooth - not hairy.

Mountain Sandwort - *Arenaria groenlandica*, [page 5](#).

dd. Stems hairy.

Field Chickweed - *Cerastium arvense*, [page 7](#).

aaaa. Petals normally 6.

b. Flowers drooping.

c. Flowers in pairs along a leafy stem.

Solomon's Seal - *Polygonatum biflorum*, [page 17](#).

cc. Flowers single at top of leafy stem.

False Oat - *Oakesia sessilifolia*, [page 16](#).

bb. Flowers not drooping.

c. Flowers in plume-like cluster at end of leafy stem.

False Spikenard - *Smilacina racemosa*, [page 23](#).

cc. Flowers fewer than (c), usually only 3 leaves on stem.

Three-leaved False Solomon's Seal - *Smilacina trifolia*, [page 24](#).

ccc. Flowers single at top of leafless stalk.

Goldthread - *Coptis trifolia*, [page 10](#).

aaaaa. Petals normally 7. (See note b)

b. Leaves in a whorl just below blossom.

Star Flower - *Trientalis americana*, [page 26](#).

bb. Leaves three-parted.

Goldthread - *Coptis trifolia*, [page 10](#).

BB. Flowers in a composite head.

Pussy toes - *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, [page 2](#).

AA. Shrubs or trees, woody stems

B. Leaves opposite, plainly toothed, 1 - 2.

a. Leaves cut into 5-11 leaflets.

Red-berried Elder - *Sambucus canadensis*, [page 21](#).

aa. Leaves not cut into leaflets.

Hobble Bush - *Viburnum alnifolium*, [page 29](#).

BB. Leaves alternate, toothed, 1 - 2.

a. Petals not united into tube, normally 5.

b. Flowers in thick cylindrical clusters.

Choke Cherry - *Prunus virginiana*, [page 18](#).

bb. Flowers in loose clusters.

c. Petals short, 1/4" - 1/3" long.

Chokeberry - *Pyrus arbutifolia*, a shrub, [page 19](#).

cc. Petals longer, 1/2" - 1".

Shadbush - *Amelanchier canadensis*, [page 1](#).

aa. Petals united into a tube, bell-shaped.

Low Sweet Blueberry - *Vaccinium pennsylvanicum*, [page 28](#).

BB. Leaves alternate, toothless.

a. Petals united into a tube, bell-shaped.

b. Leaves smooth on under side.

Bearberry - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, [page 4](#).

bb. Leaves having brown scales on under side.

Leather-leaf - *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, [page 8](#).

aa. Petals not united into a tube.

b. Under side of leaf covered with brown fuzz.

Labrador Tea - *Ledum groenlandicum*, [page 14](#).

bb. Under side of leaf smooth.

Mountain Holly - *Nemopanthus mucronata*, [page 41](#).

Flowers Pink (including shades of pink, red and purple).

A. Petals similar, flower regular in shape.

B. Stems woody, shrubs.

a. Low scraggly 6 - 22 inches high, in bogs.

Bog laurel - *Kalmia polifolia*, [page 31](#).

BB. Stems softer, not shrubs

a. 2 - 3 ft. high, in moist woods

Twisted Stalk - *Streptopus roseus*, [page 35](#).

AA. Petals dissimilar, flower irregular in shape

B. Stem, trailing vine-like seaside plant, flowers pink to purplish.

Beach Pea - *Lathyrus maritimus*, [page 32](#).

BB. Stem erect, not trailing.

a. Herb-like plants not shrubby.

b. Leaves at the base, usually two.

Lady's Slipper - *Cypripedium acaule*, [page 30](#).

bb. Leaves crowded at the top of stem, several.

Gay Wings - *Polygala paucifolia*, [page 33](#).

aa. Woody stemmed shrubs.

Rhodora - *Rhododendron canadense*, [page 34](#).

Flowers Blue

A. Petals similar, flower regular.

B. Petals normally 4.

Bluets - *Houstonia caerulea*, [page 13](#).

BB. Petals normally 6.

Blue-eyed Grass - *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, [page 47](#).

AA. Petals dissimilar, flower irregular and violet-shaped

Common Blue Violet - *Viola cucullata*, [page 48](#).

Flowers Yellow

A. Shrub, small, erect 1 - 4 ft. high.

Mt. Fly Honeysuckle - *Lonicera caerulea*, pale honey yellow blossoms, five-lobed, honeysuckle-like, in pairs, [page 39](#).

AA. Low herbs, flower not in a composite head, not shrubby.

B. Flowers regular (petals similar)

a. Petals normally 4.

b. Simple, non-branching stem, pods not pressed close to stem.

Yellow Rocket - *Barbarea vulgaris*, [page 36](#).

bb. Widely branched stem, pods pressed close to stem.

Wild Mustard - *Brassica nigra*, [page 37](#).

aa. Petals normally 5.

b. Root not bulbous, leaf divided into 5 leaflets.

Cinquefoil - *Potentilla canadensis*, [page 42](#).

bb. Root net bulbous, leaf divided into 3 leaflets.

Field Buttercup - *Ranunculus acris*, [page 43](#).

bbb. Root bulbous.

Bulbous Buttercup - *Ranunculus bulbosus*, [page 44](#).

aaa. Petals normally 6.

b. Leaves at the base, not whorled.

Clintonia - *Clintonia borealis*, [page 38](#).

bb. Leaves on the stem, not whorled

False Oat - *Oakesia sessilifolia*, [page 16](#).

bbb. Leaves on the stem, whorled.

Indian Cucumber - *Medeola virginiana*, [page 40](#).

BB. Flowers irregular, (petals dissimilar).

a. Blossom, a crowded spiral cluster.

Lousewort or Wood Betony - *Pedicularis canadensis*, [page 46](#).

AAA. Low herbs with flowers in dense composite head.

Common Dandelion - *Taraxicum officinale*, [page 45](#).

[<<< Previous](#)

[> Cover <](#)

[Next >>>](#)

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1d.htm>
09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

RARER SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF ACADIA

(Not listed in the following pages.)

Northern Jack-in-the-Pulpit. <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Late May
Wild Calla. <i>Calla palustris</i>	Early June
Skunk Cabbage. <i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Late April, early May.
Dog Tooth Violet or Trout Lily. <i>Erythronium americanum</i>	May
American False Hellebore. <i>Veratrum viride</i>	Early June
Salt-marsh Buttercup. <i>Ranunculus Cymbalaria</i>	Early June
American Wood Anemone. <i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	Early June
Columbine. <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	June
Baneberry. <i>Actaea alba</i>	Late May
American Rock Fumitory. <i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>	Late May
Dwarf Bishop's Cap. <i>Mitella nuda</i>	Late May
Herb Robert. <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	May-October
Blueberry Cornel. <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	May
False Crowberry. <i>Corema Conradii</i>	May
Bog Rosemary. <i>Andromeda glaucophylla</i>	May-June
Trailing Arbutus. <i>Epigaea repens</i>	Late April, May
Partridge Berry. <i>Mitchella repens</i> (Two-eye Berry)	May-June

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1e.htm>
09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

FLOWERS WHITE

SHAD-BUSH

April - May

Amelanchier canadensis - Rose family.

Found in swamps and moist soil.

Stem Sometimes 30' high.
Shrub or tree.

Leaves Oval, oblong,
elliptic, acute at the
apex, rounded, or
sometimes narrowed
at the base, finely
and sharply toothed
nearly all around,
seldom over 1" long.

Flower Densely white -
woolly when young,
often nearly or quite
glabrous when old, 5
petals, 5 sepals.

Fruit A sweet, edible
berry-like miniature
apple smaller than
peas and varying in
color from crimson
through magenta to
dark or black purple.



Throughout New England this plant is known by the common name Sugar Pear. It is frequently gathered to make jelly. As well as providing food for people, it is also food for many of the birds, especially the thrushes.

Other species of this vicinity and of similar aspect are A. laevis, A. oligocarpa, and A. oblongifolia.

FLOWERS WHITE

PUSSY-TOES or LADIES TOBACCO

Late May - Early June

Antennaria plantaginifolia - Composite family.

Perennial, found in dry fields, hillside pastures, and open woods in early spring.

Root Slender, fibrous.
Stem Downy or woolly;
the erect flowering
stems 6"-8" high;
leafy runners spread
in all directions.

Leaves Silky, woolly when
young, at length
green above and
silvery beneath;
those of the
flowering stems
alternate, small,
lance-shaped; the
basal leaves are
oval, rather large,
three ribbed, white
at first.

Flower-
heads White, small, silky-
haired, silvery
white, borne in
clusters at the
summit of the stem.
Blossom made up
of many tiny
florets.



Antennaria is named from the resemblance of the flower husk, after fruiting, to the antennae of certain insects.

The flowering heads differ in appearance. Some are small and

pointed (A; others larger and rather flat at the top (B). The smaller (A) which bear pistils only, are silvery white; the others are creamy white with brownish, orange-tipped stamens, which give a brownish color to the heads (B). After those heads have shed their pollen, which happens by early June, they droop, the stems wither, and a general collapse sets in. Their work is done. The others, the pointed pistillate heads, wax strong, the stems grow high, keeping level with the grass and their heads take on a tinge of color. By July the seeds are mature and the plant becomes lost in the surrounding foliage.

FLOWERS WHITE

WILD SARSAPARILLA

June

Aralia nudicaulis - Ginseng family

Perennial. Rich, shady, moist woods.

Root Long, horizontal, aromatic.

Stem Short, inconspicuous; this bears one leaf-stem and one flower-stem.

Flower stalk Bears from three to five, usually three umbrella-shaped clusters of greenish-white flowers.

Leaves Long-stalked, compounded of three divisions, each of which has five leaflets, oblong-oval, toothed, pointed.

Flowers Small, greenish white, borne in three to five umbrella-shaped clusters at the top of the flower-stem. Clusters two or more inches across. Five sepals joined into a tube. Five



petals, oblong,
strongly reflexed.
Five stamens,
alternate with the
petals, conspicuous.
Ovary two to five-
celled; styles two to
five.

Fruit Shining, dark-
purple berries in
clusters.

Pollinated by flies and bees.

The true plant stem hardly gets above the ground. The aromatic root is used as a substitute for the true sarsaparilla (Smilax officinalis of Mexico and South America). It is popular as a general remedy for various ailments.

FLOWERS WHITE

BEARBERRY

Early June

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - Heath family.

On exposed, rocky ledges usually. on mountain slopes.

Stem Somewhat shrubby,
hairy, rough
branches.

Leaves Thick, dark
evergreen, rounded
at the tip, narrowed
at the base, finely
veined, 1/2"-1"
long.

Flowers White, bell or vase-
shaped, 1/6" long in
terminal clusters.

Fruit Opaque, red, berry-
like, rather dry and
tasteless.



Largely restricted to mountain tops on Mt. Desert Island.

The scientific name means literally "a bear", "a berry".

FLOWERS WHITE

MOUNTAIN SANDWORT or STARWORT

June - September

Arenaria groenlandica - Pink family.

Found on dry rocks, usually on mountain tops.

- Rootstock Slender, densely tufted, smooth.
- Stem Slender, 2"-5" high.
- Leaves Slender, thread-like.
- Flowers 1/4"-1/2" broad, sepals oblong, petals notched at tip.
- Fruit Oblong pod.



This common resident of the Cadillac Mountain summit is a native of Greenland and Labrador and was probably carried down to New England on the last continental ice sheet, 25,000 years ago.

FLOWERS WHITE

SHEPHERD'S PURSE

May - September

Capsella Bursa-pastoris - Mustard family.

A common weed growing in fields, waste places and along roadsides.

- Root Deep, fibrous.
- Stem 6"-18" high, branching.
- Leaves Clustered in a rosette at the base

of the stem,
toothed, 2"-5" long;
stem leaves shorter,
clasping.

Flowers White, small, a
long series of
single blossoms at
the top of the
flowering stalk.
Four petals, four
sepals, six stamens.

Fruit Heart-shaped, or
purse-shaped pod.
Very variable in
fruit shape.



Shepherd's Purse is one of the hardy weeds that send up seedlings in the autumn. The seedlings withstand the cold winter and bloom in the early spring.

The long blooming period from May to September is due to the fact that all the blossoms grow from the side of the stem, hence the growing tip, which never bears a blossom, can grow on as long as climate will allow.

The Latin name is literally a "shepherd's little purse".

FLOWERS WHITE

FIELD CHICKWEED

Early June.

Cerastium arvense - Pink family.

One of the commonest weeds of field, meadow and lawn.

Root Tufted.

Stem Simple or sparingly
branched, usually
smooth.

Leaves Stem leaves 1/2"-1"
long, narrowly
lance-shaped.

Flower White, petals cleft
or notched, five

Fruit sepals, five petals.
 Pod, somewhat
 horn-shaped.



The scientific name "Cerastium" is from the Greek "horn", referring to the shape of the pod.

This plant might be confused with Stellaria media, page 25. The differences are:

Cerastium arvense - petals longer than the sepals.

Stellaria media - petals shorter than the sepals.

Another species found in this region is the Hairy Chickweed, C. vulgatum, which, true to its name, is very hairy throughout.

The little cares that fretted me
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds that play.

—Elizabeth Browning.

FLOWERS WHITE

LEATHER-LEAF

Late May - June

Chamaedaphne calyculata - Heath family.

Typical of bogs.

Stem Branching, 2'-4' high, shrub.

Leaves Oblong, thick, leathery, narrowed at the base, densely covered on both sides with minute round scurfy scales, at least when young, 1/2"-1-1/2" long, upper leaves gradually smaller, the upper-most reduced to floral bracts.

Flower Blossom 1/4" long, white, bell-like, in one-sided clusters.

Fruit Capsule depressed-globose, 1/6" in diameter, about twice as long as the ovate sepals.



The scientific name is from the Greek meaning "laurel on the ground".

Along the edges of Mt. Desert's many fresh water ponds grows this dainty blossomed heath, occasionally standing in the water.

FLOWERS WHITE

CREEPING SNOWBERRY

Late May - June

Chiogenes hispidula - Heath family.

Common in cool damp woods and peat bogs, frequent on hill-tops.

Root Slender, long.

Stem Creeping closely over rocky and mossy ground.

Leaves Stiff dark olive evergreen, tiny, broad, ovate, pointed; sparsely

covered with brownish hairs beneath; margin of leaves rolled backward. Wintergreen flavor. 1/6" to 1/2" long.

Flowers White, bell-shaped, four-cleft, solitary.

Fruit Shining china white, ovate, and about 1/4" long. Wintergreen flavor.



The name (Greek) means "snow-offspring"; it is appropriately dainty.

The Creeping Snowberry is found on Mt. Desert in very moist Sphagnum bogs.

FLOWERS WHITE

GOLDTHREAD

Late May - June

Coptis groenlandica - Buttercup family.

Peeping through the wet, mossy floor of the evergreen forest is the Goldthread.

Root Long, bright yellow-gold, bitter fibers.

Flower No leaves, slender,
Stalk wiry.

Leaves On stalks from the base of the plant. Three leaflets 1/2" to 1" long, 3/8" to 1/2" wide, oval, wedge-shaped, toothed, shiny, evergreen.

Flower White, many parted,



1/4"-1/2" wide.

Fruit Pods, pointed 4 to 8 seeded.

Named from the Greek "to cut", referring to the divided leaves. The golden root easily identifies this plant.

This root was used by the Indians for making a dye.

The dried root brewed as tea is also used for the treatment of mouth canker.

How lovely is the forest deep
As winding paths we stray,
Where mosses and the wild vines creep
Near streams where willows seem to weep.
Each turn we make, each ancient tree,
Each living thing a mystery,
I love a winding path to stray
That keeps me guessing all the way.

—Columbus Dispatch.

FLOWERS WHITE

DWARF CORNEL or BUNCHBERRY

Early June.

Cornus canadensis - Dogwood family.

Common in cool, moist woodlands.

Rootstock Slender, creeping,
rather woody.

Stem Flowering stems
scaly, 3"-9" high,
four-sided, and
grooved.

Leaves Upper leaves

crowded into an apparent whorl in sixes or fours, oval, entire, pointed, conspicuously veined, scale-like.

Flowers Small, greenish, surrounded by four large white ovate leaves 1/3"-3/4" tubular, minutely four-toothed. Four petals, oblong, spreading, greenish; four stamens.



Fruit A bunch of bright red, globular berry-like fruits, 1/4" in diameter.

The blossom is a copy of that of the Flowering Dogwood, having a similar, great white involucre whose four leaves look like four white petals, so that the blossom, which is rather unusual, looks like a single, large, white flower with a greenish center. This greenish center is really a bunch of tiny green tubular florets, each of which will in autumn produce a bright scarlet berry.

The berry, considered edible, has a rather dry, pulpy taste.

FLOWERS WHITE

Wild Strawberry

Late May.

Fragaria virginiana - Rose family.

Found in rough dry pasture lands and fields.

Root Slender, creeping.

Flower stalk Hairy, rising directly from running roots, 2" to 6" long.

Leaf Divided into three broad wedge-shaped hairy leaflets, 1" to 3" long.



Flower Wheel-shaped, 5 rounded petals, orange-yellow stamens, green cone-shaped center.

Berry Scarlet, ovoid, edible.

Scientific name from the Latin, fraga, meaning fragrant.

Whittier crystallized a well-remembered experience when he spoke of the "Barefoot Boy":

"With thy red lips; redder still
Kissed by strawberries on the hill."

FLOWERS WHITE

BLUETS or INNOCENCE

May - July

Houstonia caerulea - Madder family.

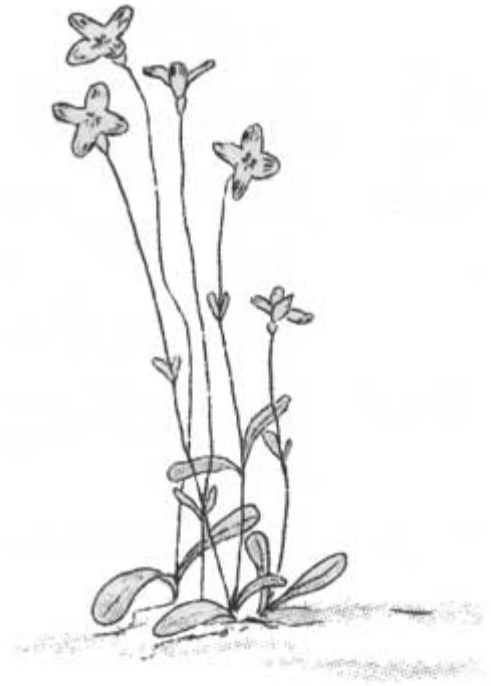
Growing in tufts in grassy places both moist and dry.

Root Small, slender.

Stem Smooth, slender, erect, 3" to 6" high and sparingly branched.

Leaves Oblong or spatulate, small, opposite, lower and basal 1/2" long, upper leaves shorter.

Flowers Small, pale blue, lilac or cream-white with yellow



eye, four sepals. Petals joined into a tube with four oval, pointed, spreading lobes that equal the slender tube in length. Four stamens variable in position. Ovary two-celled; style variable in length.

Fruit Capsule; seeds few.

Pollinated by flies, bees and butterflies.

Houstonia, named in honor of Doctor William Houston, an early English botanist.

The blossoms are set on the tip of the stem, where they nod in the bud, but are erect in bloom. In color they fade from sky-blue to white, but the yellow eye remains. The flowers are extremely sensitive to atmospheric conditions; at night and in rainy weather the blossoms bend down, to become erect again when sunshine appears.

FLOWERS WHITE

LABRADOR TEA

Late May - Early June

Ledum groenlandicum - Heath family.

Found in bogs and on rocky mountain slopes in moist situations.

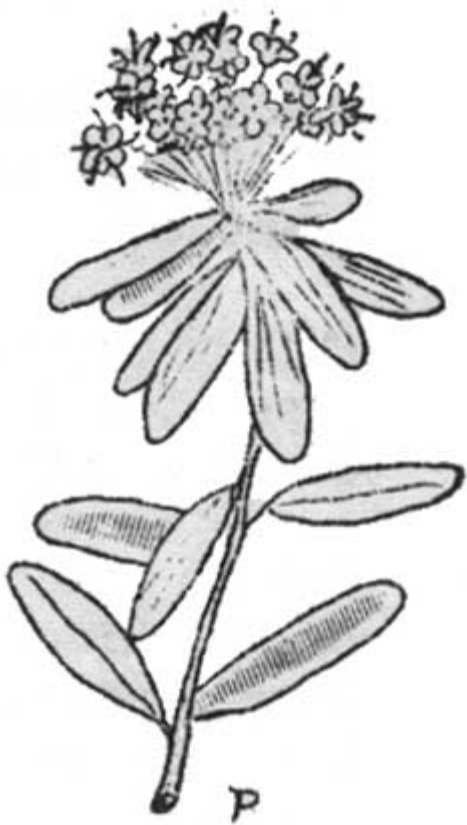
Stem Shrubby, 1' to 3-1/2' high, slender, light brown bark.

Leaves Small, evergreen, leathery, narrowly oblong, dark green

above, rusty-brown
woolly beneath,
margins curled back,
1" to 2" long.

Flower White, small, in
terminal clusters of
12 or more
blossoms, petals 5.

Fruit An ellipse-shaped
capsule 1/4" long.



The leaves of this plant are astringent and frequently used as a substitute for tea, hence the common name. When crushed the leaves give off a slight turpentine odor.

FLOWERS WHITE

CANADA MAYFLOWER

Late May - June

Maianthemum canadense.

Perennial. Open woods and roadsides.

Rootstock Slender

Stems Slender, usually
two-leaved,
sometimes with
but one, rarely
with three, 3 to 6
inches high, often
zigzag.

Leaves Broad oval,
clasping, parallel-
veined, shining;
fertile stem has



- two leaves, the sterile but one, 1"-3" long.
- Flowers Small, white, in a terminal, many-flowered cluster, slightly fragrant. Petals and sepals four, separate and spreading, four stamens inserted at base of petals.
- Fruit Small, globular berry, pale red, speckled.

The Canada Mayflower appears in open, sunny woodlands where the soil is thin and composed largely of leaf-mould, and gathers about the trunks of trees or upon the few inches of soil above rocks. These leaves have a certain likeness to those of Smilacina and of Solomon's Seal but are shorter, more rounded, and heart-shaped at base.

The fruit is a favorite food of the Grouse.

FLOWERS WHITE

TRUE SOLOMON'S SEAL

June

Polygonatum biflorum - Lily family.

Found in woods and thickets.

- Rootstock Thick and jointed.
- Stem Slender, leafy, unbranched, angular and

- curved, 8" to 3' in height.
- Leaves Toothless, oval, pointed or lance-shaped. Appear alternately, smooth above, paler and hairy beneath, 2" to 4" long, 1/2" to 2" wide.
- Flower White or yellowish green, bell shaped, usually in pairs; 6-lobed, 6 stamens, 1 pistil.
- Fruit Round, pulpy, blue-black berry.



This plant was formerly used in healing bruises, wounds, and skin eruptions particularly about the eyes. It has also been used in the manufacture of cosmetics. The berries are reputed to be poisonous.

The scientific name literally means "many knees", referring to the joint of the rootstock. The scar left where the stem breaks away from the rootstock is said to resemble King Solomon's Seal, hence the common name.

FLOWERS WHITE

CHOKE CHERRY

Early June

Prunus virginiana - Rose family

Grows in all types of soil in field, meadows and along roadsides. On Mt. Katahdin up to 4,000 feet altitude.

- Stem A tall shrub or tree, dark bark, smoky gray and smooth. Twigs have a prussic acid taste.
- Leaves Olive green, smooth, widest above the middle, 2" to 4" long.
- Flower White, in thick

cylindrical clusters,
petals rounded, at
the end of leafy
branches.

Fruit Purplish-black,
slightly bitter, berry-
like with a bony
stone.



This plant is often called the Bird Cherry, because such birds as the thrushes, vireos, and sparrows eat the fruit.

Make me a home in the forest,
Where its shadows linger deep—
Where truth shall know my spirit
And the pines their vigil keep.

—Harry T. Fee

FLOWERS WHITE

CHOKEBERRY

Early June.

Pyrus arbutifolia - Rose family.

Common in moist situations and in woods.

Stem A shrub 3' to 9'
high, slender,
dark brown
stems.

Leaves Elliptical, oval,
abruptly
pointed, finely
toothed, the
teeth
glandular-
tipped, deep
olive green

above, smooth
and densely
woolly
beneath, 1" to
3" long.



Flowers

White,
sometimes
magenta-
tinged, 1/2"
broad in
mostly
terminal
clusters.

Fruit

Berry-like, a
bright garnet
red, about 1/4"
thick;
astringent.

Also found on the mountains here is Pyrus melanocarpa, a lower shrub with very dark, almost black fruit.

The name Pyrus is the classical name of the common pear of cultivation, Pyrus communis, and the common apple, Pyrus malus.

The common name indicates the power of the berry to constrict the throats of those who eat it because of its astringent quality.

FLOWERS WHITE

DWARF RASPBERRY

May

Rubus triflorus - Rose family.

Found in meadows, fields and open woods.

Stem

Trailing, or
ascending, no
thorns, slightly
woody sometimes
branched, 6" - 18"
long.

Leaves

On stalks, divided
into three leaflets,
oval oblong-

shaped, 1-1/2"-3"
long, coarsely
toothed.

Flowers 1/3"-1/2" broad, 5"-
7" white, erect,
oblong petals.

Fruit Red-purple, about
1/2" long.



The name Rubus is close to the Roman "ruber" meaning red.

This plant is a relative of the common raspberry and blackberry, but unlike these has a rather strong acid taste, and consequently is not picked for eating.

THE OCEAN

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

—Lord Byron.

FLOWERS WHITE

RED-BERRIED ELDER

Early June

Sambucus racemosa - Honeysuckle family.

In rocky places, along roadsides.

Stem A shrub, 2' to 12' high, twigs and leaves commonly hairy; stems woody, the younger with reddish-brown pith.

Leaves Five to seven oval, pointed at apex, often narrowed at base, 2" to 5" long, toothed.

Flower Whitish, turning brown in drying, plume-like cluster terminating the branch.

Fruit Scarlet or red 1/6" to 1/4" in diameter, nutlets very minutely roughened.



Another species not so common here is Sambucus canadensis, which has broad flat flower clusters.

The berries of this plant are sometimes used to brew a wine.

FLOWERS WHITE

EARLY SAXIFRAGE

May

Saxifraga virginensis - Saxifrage family

Exposed rocks and hillsides in both moist and dry situations.

Root Slender, fibrous.

Stem 4"-12" high, naked, with sticky hairs.

Leaves Rather thick, oval or spatulate, toothed. Basal leaves clustered. 1"-3" long.

Flower White, small, clustered, spreading. Five petals. Five sepals. Ten stamens inserted with the petals. One pistil



with two styles.
Fruit Purplish-brown
pods, many-seeded;
seeds small.

Name from saxum, a rock, and frango, to break, referring to the habit of several species of growing upon rocks.

The roots of this plant grow down into the crevices and cracks in the rocks and assist in the process of weathering, which makes soil from rocks.

FLOWERS WHITE

FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL, WILD SPIKENARD

May - June

Smilacina racemosa - Lily family.

Perennial herb of moist woods and thickets.

- Rootstock** Thick, fleshy,
creeping.
- Stem** One to three feet
high, zigzag,
smooth, leafy,
usually curving,
somewhat angled,
nonbranching.
- Leaves** Many on stem,
alternate, oval,
pointed, strongly
ribbed, margins

Flowers entire, hairy, 3"-6" long, 1"-3" wide.

Flowers Small, white, fragrant, borne in plume at the tip, six parted, spreading segments oblong, six stamens inserted at base of petals, one pistil, ovary 3-celled, stigma three-grooved.

Fruit A bunch of pale-red berries, speckled with purple, abundant in the early autumn, aromatic in taste.



Pollinated by bees, flies and beetles.

Each tiny flower of the plume has six white sepals, six stamens, and a pistil. In midsummer a cluster of speckled, pale-red aromatic berries crowns the stem and invites the birds.

FLOWERS WHITE

Three-leaved False Solomon's Seal

Late May, Early June.

Smilacina trifolia - Lily family.

Found in bogs or wet woods.

Stem Slender, erect 2" to 15" high.

Leaves Two to four, usually three, from the base of the stem, 2" to 5" long,

- 1/2" to 2" wide.
- Flowers Small, white, in an upright cylindrical cluster.
- Berry Red, similar to Canada Mayflower.



Canada Mayflower is often confused with this species, the essential differences are:

<u>Maianthemum canadense</u>	<u>Smilacina trifolia</u>
4 sepals	6 sepals
Leaves heart-shaped at base.	Leaves not heart-shaped at base.

This plant grows in cold bogs from Labrador to New Jersey and westward to British Columbia.

FLOWERS WHITE

COMMON CHICKWEED

Early June

Stellaria media - Pink family.

In waste places, meadows and weeds.

Stem Annual, weak, tufted, much branched, 4" to 16" long, smooth except a line of hairs along stem and branches.

Leaves Lance-shaped to oval; 1/6" to 1-1/2" long, pointed, the lower with leaf stalks, the upper against the stem.

Flower 1/6" to 1/3" broad, in terminal leafy clusters solitary in the leaf axils; sepals oblong, mostly pointed, longer than the two-parted petals; stamens 2 to 10.

Fruit Capsule ovoid, longer than the calyx; seeds rough.



The chickweeds are reputedly good for birds especially the canary.

The scientific name of the plant is from "stella", meaning star and referring to the star-shaped flowers.

FLOWERS WHITE

STAR FLOWER

Late May - June

Trientalis americana - Primrose family.

The star flower seeks the cool moist shade of the evergreen forest.

Root Long, horizontal and slender.

Stem Simple, erect and

smooth, 3" to 9"
high.

Leaves A few alternate
scale-like leaves on
the lower stem and
a whorl of five to
ten pointed leaves
just below the
flowers. 1-1/2"-4:"
long, 1/3"-1-1/4"
wide. Lance-
shaped.

Flowers White, solitary,
star-shaped on
slender wiry
blossom stems.
Sepals seven-
parted, petals
seven-parted about
one-half inch
across. Seven
stamens, one pistil
and one stigma.



This graceful star of the woodland produces no nectar, and is a rare instance of floral parts appearing in sevens. Usually floral parts appear in fives, threes or multiples of these.

The name "Trientalis" means a third of a foot and refers to the usual height of the plant.

Go slowly; we have hurried for so long
That we have missed the flowing water's song;
Have passed by all these treasures that are free -
The tinted flower, the singing bird, the skillful bee.

—Hubbard.

FLOWERS WHITE

PAINTED TRILLIUM

May - June

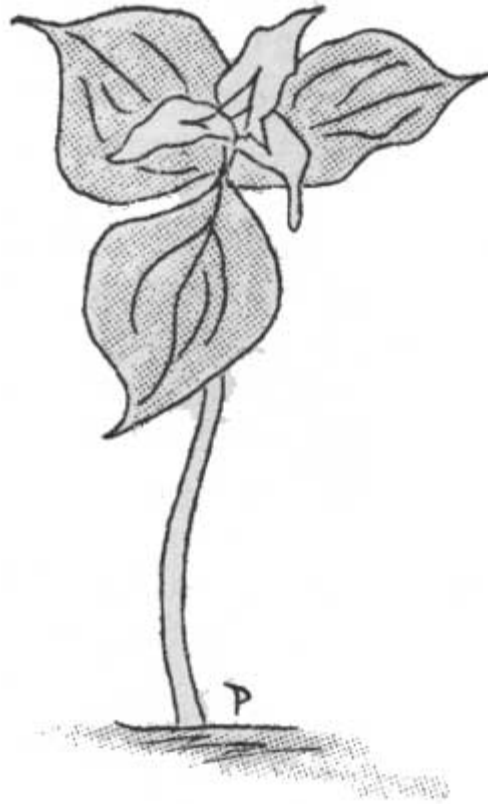
Trillium undulatum - Lily family.

In the shady damp woods dwells this commonest of the Mt. Desert trilliums.

Root Short, tuber-like.

Stem Stout, simple,

- reddish at base.
- Leaves A whorl of three at the top of the stem, broadly oval and pointed, 3"-8" long, 2"-5" wide.
- Flower White, marked with crimson V near center, three petals, wavy edged, three sepals, six stamens.
- Fruit Three-lobed or angled, dark scarlet, 3/4" long.



Common name for the beautiful coloring of the petals. "Trillium", meaning "three" since all the parts appear in threes.

This is the only Trillium common on Mt. Desert, the other, Trillium erectum, being very rare here, but common on the mainland.

This is one flower that should not be picked because picking means the destruction of the entire plant, leaves, stem and blossom.

FLOWERS WHITE

SWEET or LOW BLUEBERRY

Early June

Vaccinium pennsylvanicum - Heath family.

Open, exposed, rocky places.

- Stem Low branching shrubby, 6" to 2' high, green, warty branches and nearly or quite smooth throughout.
- Leaves Oblong or oblong-lance-shaped, green

and smooth on both sides, or slightly heavy on the veins beneath, sharply toothed, pointed at both ends, $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long, $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

Flowers Few in clusters, longer than the very short flower-stalk, oblong, bell-shaped, slightly constricted at the throat, $\frac{1}{6}$ " to $\frac{1}{5}$ " long, about $\frac{1}{7}$ " thick, white or pinkish.

Fruit Blue, very sweet, $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{5}{12}$ " in diameter.



The valuation of the wild blueberry crop reaches approximately millions of dollars annually. In blueberry districts the yearly shipment from one small town often brings in about ten or twenty thousand dollars.

Ordinary plants would die of poison or starvation in the very acid soil demanded by the blueberry.

FLOWERS WHITE

HOBBLE BUSH

May

Viburnum alnifolium - Honeysuckle family.

The Hobble Bush is common in cool, damp woods.

Stem Woody, shrub-like.

Leaves Heart-shaped, finely and irregularly toothed, veiny, light green, finely downy above when young, smooth when old, but very rusty-

downy beneath especially on the prominent veins, 4"-8" long, with rusty-hairy stems about 1" long; turning maroon red in late summer and the fall.

Flower Five rounded white or sometimes pinkish lobes, in large flat clusters; marginal flowers large and showy, sterile.

Fruit Bright scarlet or coral red, berry-like, tipped with the brown dot of the withered calyx, 1/3" long, in flat, struggling clusters, finally turning dull dark purple.

Bark Dull madder, purple or brown, smooth.



The branches often droop to the ground and take root, forming loops which may trip up a careless wayfarer; hence the common name.

Another species, Viburnum cassinoides, Withe-rod, blooms on mountain slopes later in June.

FLOWERS WHITE

MOUNTAIN HOLLY

Late May - Early June

Nemopanthus mucronata - Holly family.

In damp, cool woods on mountain slopes.

Stem Shrubby 1' to 10' high, bark ashen gray, on new stems, greenish.

Leaves Light green above, pale beneath, ellipse-shaped 1" to

2" long, very slender stemmed.

Flower White, inconspicuous, less than 1/4" across, in small clusters at the base of the leaves, on long slender stalk.

Fruit A dull berry-like fruit, light crimson red, 1/3" diameter. August - September.



This plant should not be confused with the mountain holly of New York State (Ilex monticola) which is frequently a tree 20' to 25' high and 6" to 8" in diameter.

The red fruit of Ilex verticillata (winterberry) is very similar to that of the mountain holly, except the fruit of the latter is on long slender stalks.

The Holly family is generally characterized by small inconspicuous flowers and the colorful fruit which makes one of our prettiest Christmas decorations.

FLOWERS WHITE

SWEET WHITE VIOLET

Early June

Viola blanda - Violet family

Swamps and moist lands.

Rootstock Very slender.

Leaves Small, light green, orbicular to kidney-shaped, heart-shaped with shallow sinus obtuse apex, crease, 1/2"-2-1/2" wide.

Flowers White, small, 3"-6" broad, slightly fragrant, sepals



lanceolate.

This is the smallest of the violets and also one of the earliest to bloom, a tiny creature of the spring nestling in a mossy or grassy bank. In the type the small white petals are broad and rounded, but the type varies into varieties; one with upper petals long, narrow, and somewhat recurved, often boarded and less distinctly veined; another with broader leaves, loving woods and thickets, the white blossoms beardless and veined. All are white, all stemless, and all most attractive and beautiful.

Other species found here are the lance-leaved *V. lanceolata* and *V. palleus*, similar to *V. blanda*.

<<< Previous

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1f.htm>

09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

FLOWERS PINK

LADY'S SLIPPER or MOCCASIN FLOWER

May - June

Cypripedium acaule - Orchid family.

One of the loveliest harbingers of spring in the shaded woodlands.

- Root Fleshy, fibrous.
- Stem Very short,
 inconspicuous.
- Flowering 6" to 12" high,
- Stalk one-flowered.
- Leaves Two, basal, 6" to
 8" long, 2" to 3"
 wide, thick,
 occasionally a
 smaller leaf on
 flower stalk.
- Flower Three sepals,
 three petals,
 stamens united
 into a column.
 Pink, blossom
 somewhat
 peanut-shaped.



The name "moccasin flower" is an excellent tribute to the American Indian who loved the same woodland haunts. The scientific name is literally Venus' Slipper.

The Orchid family is the most peculiar in the vegetable world in the structure of its flowers. It has three outer sepals and three inner petals of which one is peculiar in shape. This one is considered a petal although in the Lady's Slipper it is in the form of a pouch. Technically it is called the lip of the flower. This large lip is open with a narrow slit in the front, the edges of which are turned inward. This forms a trap easy to get into but hard to get out of. A bee enters this open door and once satisfied with nectar she looks for a way out. She finds a way but not the way she came in. At the top of the flower on either side of the column (a single organ formed by the stamens and petals united), she finds the passage out, just big enough to push through. In pushing out she brushes against the sticky pollen mass of the stamens and carries away some of it on her hairy sides. When she enters another flower, she deposits some of this pollen on the stigma of that flower, thus accomplishing cross-fertilization. Observers tell us that this contrivance is so elaborate that it often defeats its own end and the plants are propagated chiefly by the root.

FLOWERS PINK

BOG LAUREL

Late May - Early June

Kalmia polifolia - Heath family.

Generally in bogs or on shores of cold ponds.

Stem A spreading, scraggly shrub, 6"-20" high, with smooth ascending branches; branches distinctly 2-edged.

Leaves Small, narrowly elliptical, opposite; dark green above, whitish below, the edge rolled back, 1"-2-1/2" long.

Flowers Pink to magenta, in terminal clusters, about 1/2"-5/8" across.

Fruit Pod, smooth, oval.



Found from Labrador to Alaska, also in Greenland.

Honey made from the *Kalmia* has been found to be poisonous. The foliage also is very destructive to cattle and sheep because it contains a dangerous substance which, when eaten, is more dangerous than strychnine. The Indians were familiar with the poisonous nature of the leaves and from them made a drink with which they committed suicide. The leaves are also brewed illegally to make a drink like cheap liquor.

FLOWERS PINK

BEACH PEA

Late May - August

Lathyrus maritimus - Pea family.

Trailing over the loose gravelly sea beaches of the Island is the Beach Pea.

Stem Vine-like, trailing or climbing definitely angled.

Leaves Compound, divided into 6-10 leaflets, thick, rounded-oblong, 1" to 4" long.

Flowers Pinkish-purple, large, 1/2" to 1-1/4" long. Somewhat like Vetch in form. Five sepals, ten stamens. Pod, two-valved.

Fruit A two-valved pod, like garden pea.



Named after a similar plant of the bean family by the Greek botanist Theophrastus.

Often called Vetchling because of its resemblance to the field vetch.

The blossom also looks like cultivated sweet peas.

FLOWERS PINK

FRINGED POLYGALA or GAY-WINGS

June

Polygala paucifolia - Milkwort family.

Perennial. A delicate plant with very handsome rose-colored flowers, found in open woods, fields, and meadows of light sandy soils.

Rootstock Slender, twisted.

Stems 3"-6" high; upper part leafy, lower part bearing small oval, leafy scales; these stems rise from prostrate or subterranean shoots which bear concealed fertile flowers.

Leaves Four to five upon a stem, petioled, alternate, ovate, entire, 1" long, 1/2" - 7/8" wide.

Flowers Showy, rose-purple, irregular, one to three upon each stem. Three petals, the middle one keel-shaped and fringe-crested, the two side ones oblong, concave, and united to the keel the greater part of their length. Six stamens united into a tube. Ovary two-celled; style long and somewhat curved.

Fruit A small, flat, two-seeded pod; the seeds are appendaged with two or three awl-shaped lobes.



Pollinated by bees and bee-like flies. Nectar-bearing.

An old name composed of polus, much, and gala, milk, from a fancied property that increases this secretion.

The Polygala blossom is beautiful in form and color, but very puzzling in structure. This is due to the fact that the five sepals are neither symmetrical in shape nor alike in color. Three are greenish and of sepal like character, two drop their sepal look, become larger than the others and rose colored -- in short, group themselves with the petals.

FLOWERS PINK

RHODORA

Late May - early June.

Rhododendron canadense - Heath family.

"Rhodora! If the sages ask thee why
This charm is wasted on Earth and Sky
Tell them, dear, that if eyes were made for seeing
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Stem A shrub, 1'-4' high,
branches slender,
ascending or erect.

Fruit Oval, obtuse and
pointed at the apex,
narrowed at base,
entire dark green
and smooth, or
nearly so, above,
light green or pale
and dull and
slightly hairy, 1" to
2" long.

Flowers Expanding with or
before leaves, lower
lip divided into two
oblong obtuse
segments.

Fruit Capsule oblong.



One of Acadia's finest flower shows comes the last week in May or early June when Great Meadow is one expanse of color. It is there that Rhodora comes into all her glory and with characteristic New England pride shows her gorgeous colors. She is typically New England and found in no other National Park.

FLOWERS PINK

TWISTED STALK

Late May - June

Streptopus roseus - Lily family.

Found in cold moist woods.

- Root** Short, creeping, thick.
- Stem** Stout, short with bristly hairs, branching above.
- Leaves** Green on both sides, 2"-4-1/2" long, finely hairy, clasping the stem.
- Flower** Rose-purple, 1/4" to 3/8" long, six petals, six stamens, ovary three-celled.
- Fruit** Round cherry - red berry.



Scientific name from the Greek for twisted foot.

This plant is often confused with Solomon's Seal and False Spikenard. The main points of difference are:

Solomon's Seal - Flowers drooping from leaf axils, in a regular row.

False Spikenard - Flower a plume of small blossoms at the tip of the stem.

Twisted Stalk - Flowers, usually solitary, nodding from leaf axils not in a regular row.

<<< Previous

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1g.htm>
09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

FLOWERS YELLOW

FALSE OAT

May-June

Oakesia sessilifolia - Lily family.

An inconspicuous May blossom of the rich moist evergreen woods.

- Root Slender, creeping.
- Stem Leafy, 10"-12" high, curving above the middle and bearing one or two nearly terminal flowers.
- Leaves Alternate, oblong-pointed, rough-margined, parallel-veined. Not clasping the stem as in Bellwort. 1-1/2"-3" long.
- Flowers Pale yellow, lily or oat-like, drooping and often hidden by the leaves, 3/4" long, six parted.
- Fruit Capsule containing rounded seeds.



The common name, False Oat, indicates the resemblance of the flower to the drooping oat. The scientific name is in honor of William Oakes, an early New England botanist.

FLOWERS YELLOW

YELLOW ROCKET or WINTER CRESS

Early June.

Barbarea vulgaris - Mustard family.

A path of yellow in field, meadow, and waste places.

- Root Long, fibrous.
- Stem Erect, 1'-2' high, simple, smooth.
- Leaves Lower leaves 2"-5" long, toothed, lobed, the terminal divisions much larger than the lateral ones. Upper leaves sometimes clasping.
- Flower Bright yellow, four petals, six stamens, 1/3"-1/4" across.
- Fruit Pods, spreading, 1" long.



A similar appearing plant is Brassica nigra, page 37, a widely-branched species, hairy, never with clasping upper leaves.

This plant is one of the commonest spring weeds that bloom in fields, waste places, and along roadsides. In ancient times it was known as the herb of St. Barbara.

FLOWERS YELLOW

BLACK MUSTARD

Late May - Early June

Brassica nigra - Mustard family.

Another yellow weed of field, meadow and roadside.

Root Fibrous.

Stem Freely and widely branching, hairy.

Leaves Lower 2"-5" long, toothed, deeply lobed, terminal lobe large. Upper leaves lance-shaped and not clasping.

Flower Bright yellow, 1/4"-1/2" broad.

Fruit Pods, pressed against the stem, 1/2" - 3/4" long.



This plant bears the scientific name of the Cabbage.

A very common field weed.

FLOWERS YELLOW

CLINTONIA

Early June-July

Clintonia borealis - Lily family.

Along the borders of woodland streams in the cool moist shade of the evergreens grows the lily-like Clintonia.

Root Slender and deep.

Flower 6"-16" high, bearing

Stalk 2-6 flowers,
sheathed by basal
leaves.

Leaves 2-5 leaves, oblong
pointed, 4"-7" long,
dark glossy green.

Flower Yellow, slight green
tinge, 3/4" long,
nodding. Six petals,
six sepals, six
stamens, ovary 2-
celled.

Fruit Round blue berries
on upright stems.



Many plants bear the name of some well-known botanist or famous person. Clintonia is in honor of DeWitt Clinton, once Governor of New York and an ardent amateur botanist.

The blue berry of the Clintonia fruit is a rare case of pure blue color in nature. The purplish tinge usually found in blue colors is absent here.

SPRING AGAIN

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

—Solomon.

FLOWERS YELLOW

MOUNTAIN FLY HONEYSUCKLE

May - June

Lonicera caerulea var. villosa - Honeysuckle family.

Common on low ground and in bogs, also frequent on mountain slopes and summits.

Stem Erect, shrub-like.

Leaves Elliptical or oblong,
rarely slightly oval,
toothless, light
green above, paler
beneath,

conspicuously net-veined, 1"-2-1/2" long.

Flowers Pale honey yellow, five-lobed, honeysuckle-like, about 2/3" long, in pairs at base of leaves.

Fruit Ovaries unite and form a single cadet blue or gray-black berry, 1/5" in diameter, ovoid-spherical, with two eyes; edible.



This plant is a relative of the common honeysuckle of cultivation which is usually cross-fertilized by the larger long-tongued bees, moths, and butterflies, as well as the humming bird.

FLOWERS YELLOW

INDIAN CUCUMBER-ROOT

June

Medeola virginiana - Lily family.

Found in the cool, moist, shaded woodlands.

Root Fleshy, 1"-3" long.

Stem 1'-2-1/2' tall, bearing a lower whorl of leaves above the middle.

Leaves Of the lower whorl close to the stem, 2-1/2"-5" long, 1"-2" wide, pointed at the apex, narrowed at the base, 3-5 nerved and net-veined; leaves of the upper whorl 1"-2" long, 1/2"-1" wide.

Flower Yellow umbrella-



like cluster of 2-9
flowers, nodding,
appearing spidery.

Fruit Erect, dark purple
berry.

The crisp, juicy root tastes somewhat like cucumber and was
relished by the Indians, hence the common name.

FLOWERS YELLOW

YELLOW CINQUEFOIL or FIVE FINGERS

Early June

Potentilla canadensis - Rose family.

Abundant in dry fields, on hillsides and along roadways.

Roots Long slender
runners from a
leafy tuft, 3" to 2'
long.

Stem Long, smooth.

Leaves Five thin, coarsely-
toothed, finely
veined leaflets;
oblong in shape,
narrowed toward
base; lighter on
under side, 1/2" to
1" long.

Flowers Yellow, single
flower; 5 broad,
oval petals;
numerous stamens;



petals notched at
apex.

The name "Potentilla" is derived from potens, refers to the medicinal properties of some of this meaning powerful and group.

FLOWERS YELLOW

TALL BUTTERCUP

Early June.

Ranunculus acris - Crowfoot family.

One of the common buttercups of field and meadows.

Root Fibrous.

Leaves Hairy, branched
 and less hairy
 above, deep green,
 2'-3' high, hollow
 and stout.

Leaves 3-7 stemless
 divisions divided
 into linear
 segments, cut and
 slashed, only upper
 ones showing
 simple 3 parted
 figure, 1"-4" long.



Flowers 1" broad, 5 broad petals, overlapping, set on long stem, bright yellow, inner surface glossy, outer, dull and paler.

Naturalized from the old country.

Acrid juice, if stem carried in mouth, causes blisters to appear on the lips and tongue. Hence, it is sometimes called Blister Flower.

The scientific name is from the Latin, rana, meaning "a small frog", applied by Pliny because one of the Crowfoots grew where frogs were plentiful.

FLOWERS YELLOW

BULBOUS BUTTERCUP

May - August

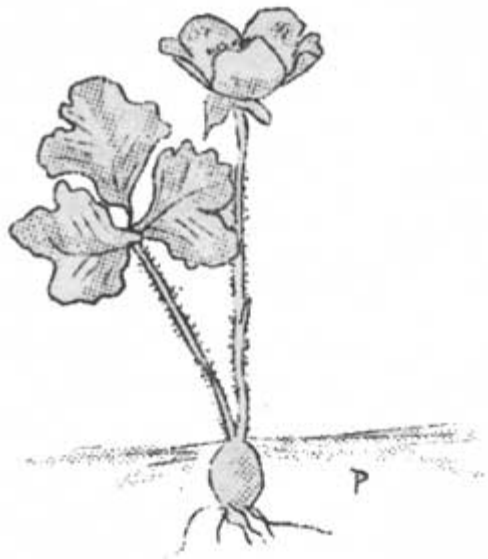
Ranunculus bulbosus - Buttercup family.

Open sunny fields and meadows are often dotted with the yellow cup of this plant.

Root Bulbous, thickened at base.

Stem Erect, hairy.

Leaves Deep green, three divided, decoratively cut, wedge shaped, 1-1/2" long, 1"-2" wide.



Flower Yellow, 1" across,
green sepals bent
downward, petals
roundish.

Over fifty species of insects visit the common buttercups.

The buttercups abound undisturbed in pastures and fields, for a very interesting reason. Certain relatives of Aconite and Larkspur have poisonous qualities, and the kinship is evident in the acrid, caustic juice of the buttercup. Because of this juice horses and cattle intentionally avoid the buttercups and leave them free to abound in any pasture land.

When dried as hay, the buttercup loses its acrid juice and makes good fodder.

FLOWERS YELLOW

COMMON DANDELION

Late May - September

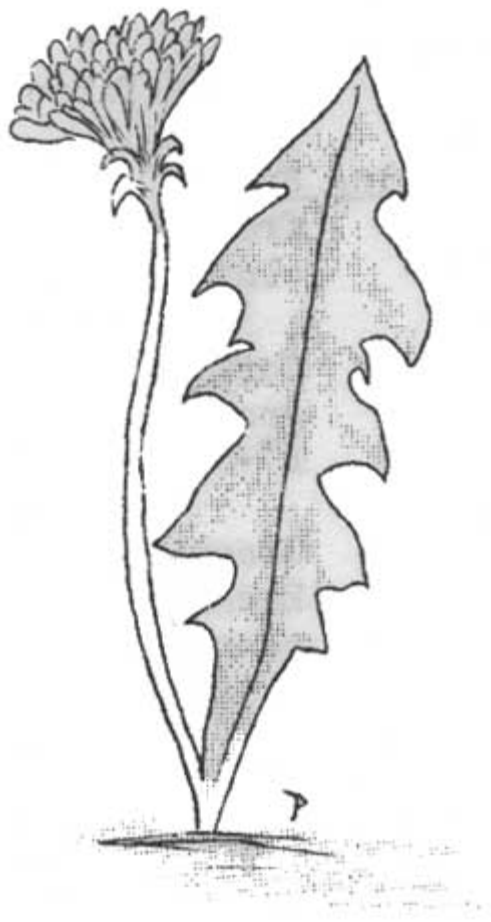
Taraxacum officinale - Composite family.

Found in fields and waste places.

- Root Thick, deep, 10"
long, bitter.
- Flower Erect, hollow,
Stalk milky.
- Leaves Oblong to spatulate,
acute, coarsely
toothed, 3"-10"
long, 1/2"-2-1/2"
wide.
- Flowers A head, golden
yellow, solitary, 1"-
2" across,

containing 100-150 tiny florets; sepals united into a tube, petals strap-shaped, stamens, 5.

Fruit Seeds ribbed, rough, soft, silky, hair-like projections at apex of each seed.



The dandelion blooms early and late in all kinds of soil.

The name Dandelion is said to be a corruption of the French "dent-de-lion", meaning lion's tooth and referring to the leaf outline which is said to resemble that of the lion's tooth.

"Dear common flower that grow'st beside the way
Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold."

—Lowell.

FLOWERS YELLOW

WOOD BETONY or LOUSEWORT

Late May - June

Pedicularis canadensis - Figwort family.

Usually found in meadows and along stream banks, occasionally in very open moist woods.

Root Tough, fibrous.

Flowering Several springing

- Stalks** from the center of a leaf cluster, 6"-18" high.
- Leaves** Soft, hairy, dull dark green and finely lobed, 3"-5" long and fern-like.
- Flowers** Greenish yellow and crimson. Each complete flower resembles the head of the walrus, even to the tusks.
- Fruit** A sword-shaped, flat capsule.



Looking straight down on the blossom one immediately notices the rip-saw symmetry. The name Pedicularis means louse and was applied by farmers who thought that when sheep ate the plant they developed lice. The plant belongs to a family of nearly 2,700 species, most of them yielding narcotic poisons.

<<< Previous

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1h.htm>
09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

FLOWERS BLUE

BLUE EYED GRASS

May - July

Sisyrinchium angustifolium - Iris family.

A common resident of sunny fields and meadows.

- Root Fibrous.
- Stem Two-edged, grass-like, slender, rigid, erect, rarely forking, about three to ten inches high.
- Leaves Usually all fastened at the base of the stem, rigid, rough-edged, shorter than the stem and grass-like, 3" to 10" long.
- Flowers Bluish to light violet, with yellow center, about one-half inch across. Six petals, 3-celled ovary.
- Fruit A capsule, large brown seeds.



Named for its obvious resemblance to grass.

The blossom opens to the sun for one day, then closes, never to open again.

FLOWERS BLUE

COMMON BLUE VIOLET

Late May - June

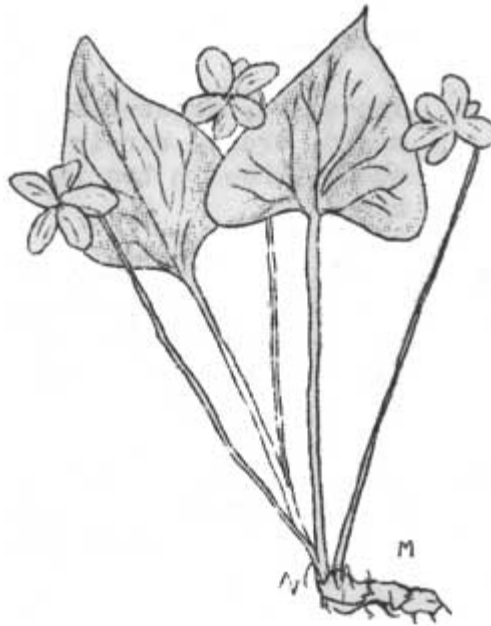
Viola cucullata - Violet family

Low grounds, fields and marshes.

Rootstock Short and thick.

Leaves Smooth, deep green, roundish, heart-shaped, wavy-edged, the sides rolled inward when young, blade 2" to 4" long, 1" to 2-1/2" wide.

Flowers Deep or pale violet-blue, sometimes striped blue and white; five sepals, extending into ears at base, five unequal petals, lower one spurred at base, lateral ones bearded. One petal, stigma bent.



Pollinated by bumblebees or self-fertilized.

It produces close to the ground on short stems, often hidden under the leaves, the merest apologies for flowers -- no petals, no nectar, half-closed. They look like flowers that have not developed, but within each are stamens and ovules. The home pollen fertilizes the pistil and soon the wretched little flower is changed to a plump, healthy capsule full of seeds. Those curious blossoms are produced throughout the entire summer.

<<< Previous

> Cover <

Next >>>

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1i.htm>

09-Jan-2006



ACADIA NATURE NOTES

Volume 5	Spring Number, 1939	Number 1
----------	---------------------	----------

INDEX OF COMMON NAMES

- [Beach Pea](#)
- [Bearberry](#)
- [Beefsteak Plant](#)
- [Black Mustard](#)
- [Blueberry, Dwarf](#)
- [Blueberry, High Bush or Tall](#)
- [Blueberry, Low-bush](#)
- [Blueberry, Sugar](#)
- [Blue-eyed Grass](#)
- [Bluets](#)
- [Bunchberry](#)
- [Buttercup, Bulbous](#)
- [Buttercup, Tall](#)
- [Canada Mayflower](#)
- [Chickweed](#)
- [Chokeberry](#)
- [Choke Cherry](#)
- [Cinquefoil](#)
- [Clintonia](#)
- [Dandelion](#)
- [Dwarf Cornel](#)
- [Elder, Red-berried](#)
- [Everlasting](#)
- [False Oat](#)
- [Field Chickweed](#)
- [Five-fingers](#)
- [Flowering Wintergreen](#)
- [Gay-Wings](#)
- [Goldthread](#)

[Hobble Bush](#)
[Houstonia](#)
[Indian Cucumber](#)
[June Berry](#)
[Labrador Tea](#)
[Lady's Slipper](#)
[Larger Mouse-ear Chickweed](#)
[Laurel, Bog](#)
[Laurel, Pale](#)
[Leatherleaf](#)
[Lousewort](#)
[May-cherry](#)
[Milk-wort](#)
[Moccasin Flower](#)
[Mountain Holly](#)
[Mountain Fly Honeysuckle](#)
[Oakesia](#)
[Pussy-toes](#)
[Raspberry, Wood](#)
[Rhodora](#)
[Sandwort, Mountain](#)
[Saxifrage, Early](#)
[Service-berry](#)
[Shadbush](#)
[Shadbush, Oblong-leaved](#)
[Shadbush, Smooth-leaved](#)
[Shepherd's Purse](#)
[Solomon's Seal](#)
[Snowberry, Creeping](#)
[Spikenard, False](#)
[Star Flower](#)
[Strawberry, Wild Virginia](#)
[Sugar Pear](#)
[Three-leaved False Solomon's Seal](#)
[Trillium, Painted](#)
[Twisted Stalk](#)
[Violet, Common Blue](#)
[Violet, Meadow](#)
[Violet, Sand](#)
[Violet, Sweet White](#)
[Wayfaring Tree](#)
[Wild Sarsaparilla](#)
[Winter Cress](#)
[Wood Betony](#)
[Yellow Rocket](#)

INDEX OF SCIENTIFIC NAMES

[Amelanchier canadensis](#)
[Amelanchier laevis](#)
[Amelanchier oblongifolia](#)
[Antennaria plantaginifolia](#)

[Aralia nudicaulis](#)
[Arctostaphylos uva-ursi](#)
[Arenaria greenlandica](#)
[Barbarea vulgaris](#)
[Brassica nigra](#)
[Capsella Bursa-pastoris](#)
[Cerastium arvense](#)
[Cerastium vulgatum](#)
[Chamaedaphne calyculata](#)
[Chiogenes hispidula](#)
[Clintonia borealis](#)
[Coptis trifolia](#)
[Cornus canadensis](#)
[Cypripedium acaule](#)
[Fragaria virginiana](#)
[Houstonia caerulea](#)
[Kalmia polifolia](#)
[Lathyrus maritimus](#)
[Ledum greenlandicum](#)
[Lonicera caerulea](#)
[Maianthemum canadense](#)
[Medeola virginiana](#)
[Nemopanthus mucronata](#)
[Oakesia sessilifolia](#)
[Pedicularis canadensis](#)
[Polygala paucifolia](#)
[Polygonatum biflorum](#)
[Potentilla canadensis](#)
[Prunus virginiana](#)
[Pyrus arbutifolia](#)
[Ranunculus acris](#)
[Ranunculus bulbosus](#)
[Rhododendron canadense](#)
[Rubus triflorus](#)
[Sambucus canadensis](#)
[Saxifraga virginensis](#)
[Sisyrinchium angustifolium](#)
[Smilacina racemosa](#)
[Smilacina trifolia](#)
[Stellaria media](#)
[Streptopus roseus](#)
[Taraxacum officinale](#)
[Trientalis americana](#)
[Trillium undulatum](#)
[Vaccinium corymbosum](#)
[Vaccinium pennsylvanicum](#)
[Viburnum alnifolium](#)
[Viola arenaria](#)
[Viola cucullata](#)
[Viola nephrophylla](#)
[Viola blanda](#)

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/notes/vol5-1j.htm>
09-Jan-2006

Acadia
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Notes



Beach Pea

SPRING NUMBER - 1939

EARLY WILDFLOWERS OF ACADIA



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
Bar Harbor, Maine

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George B. Dorr, Superintendent
B. L. Hadley, Assistant Superintendent
Maurice Sullivan, Park Naturalist, Editor

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Early Wildflowers of Acadia
by
John H. Pierce, Ranger-Naturalist

This issue is a continuation of "Nature Notes from Acadia" which last appeared as Volume IV, Number 1, January-February 1935. Note that the name has been changed to "Acadia Nature Notes".