

What's In Bloom?

AT ADKINS ARBORETUM IN JUNE



Cornus racemosa (KOR-nus RAY-seh-moh-sah) grey dogwood—This shrub dogwood features smooth gray bark and small gray green leaves. Creamy flowers are born on short stalks that develop red color as fruits turn white in late summer. Grows along the Arboretum marsh edge. Ripe fruits are quickly eaten by birds.



Iris versicolor (EYE-riss VUR-si-cul-ler) blue-flag iris—The “blue flags” are the blue-violet flowers with yellow veins that emerge from wide, arching blue-green spiked foliage in late spring. Blue flags need moist to wet conditions in sun or part sun. In shallow water it can grow to 3 feet. They can be seen in the Arboretum’s wetlands.



Sambucus canadensis (sam-BOO-kus kan-ah-DEN-sis) elderberry—A deciduous shrub usually 12-15 feet tall. Look for creamy white flower clusters up to 8 inches across that are very showy against the rounded crown of arching branches. These flowers ripen into dark berries in September and are another favorite of birds. Found around the wetlands.



Viburnum dentatum (vy-BUR-num den-TAY-tum) arrowwood viburnum—This shrub’s beautiful white flowers, held in a cluster contrast nicely with its dark green, toothed leaves. Later, flowers give way to blue-black fruits, attractive to birds and wildlife. The common name comes from the branches used by Native Americans for making arrows. Abundant in the floodplain of Blockston Branch.



Rubus species (ROO-bus) blackberry—The familiar brambles that produce such a nice summer treat are abundant. The white flowers are a wonderful source of nectar for bees and other pollinators. Most of the tall blackberries are Asian in origin but the trailing blackberries are native. Common along the paths around the North and South Meadows.



Scutellaria serrata (scoo-teh-LAYR-ee-ah ser-AH-tah) Showy skullcap—The square stem indicates it is in the mint family. The calyx that protects the developing seed gives it the look of a silk skull cap which cracks open like a coin purse. Look for the blue violet flowers along Tuckahoe Creekside walk.

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Hieracium venosum (hy-RAY-see-um vay-NO-sum) rattlesnake weed—You can spot rattlesnake weed, a member of the aster family, in dry, open woodlands. Look for dark green, purple-veined leaves hugging the ground with small yellow flowers that bloom in early summer on stalks. Wind-borne seed spreads rapidly. Found on the Upland trail.



Houstonia caerulea (hyus-TOHN-ee-ah se-RU-lee-ah) bluets—Also known as Quaker ladies, these small blue flowers with yellow centers look delicate but feel comfortable in the big spaces of open woods and fields. Only two to six inches tall, bluets prefer acid soil. The Arboretum's ladies are found on the Upland trail in large moss patches.



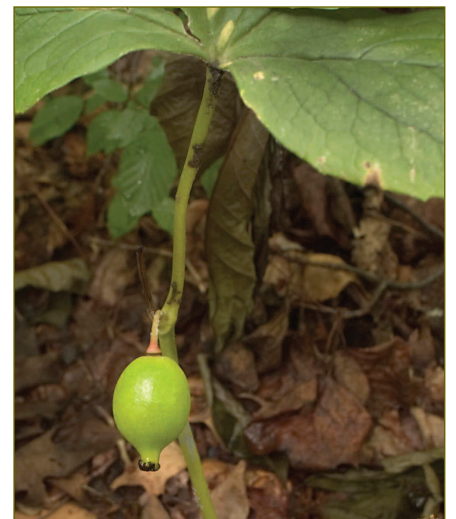
Medeola virginiana (med-ee-OH-la vir-jin-ee-AY-nah) Indian cucumber root—Two stacked sets of whorled leaves help make this a distinctive plant. Small yellow-green flowers with recurved petals hang from the smaller top set. The cucumber name is from the taste of the root, not the purple fruits. Found along the Blockston Branch path.



Mitchella repens (mit-CHEL-ah REE-pens) partridge berry—Close to the ground on a bed of dark green small rounded leaves, you may spy the small white flowers of the partridge berry. This groundcover uses two fused flowers to produce one fruit. Ants love the flowers. You will see this plant along the Tuckahoe Valley and Creekside paths.



Osmunda cinnamomea (oz-MUN-da sin-a-MOHN-ee-a) cinnamon fern—At home in wet conditions, this fern has a cinnamon-colored fertile stalk, surrounded by bright green fronds. It can grow to be five feet high! The Cinnamon's fiddleheads are food for deer and the fuzz is used by birds as a nesting material. Found along the stream edges.



Podophyllum peltatum (poh-doh-FILL-um pel-TAH-tum) may apple—If a blossom gets pollinated, a yellow fruit will result. The ripe fruit is relished by box turtles and other animals. All parts of the plant are very poisonous and even the fruit contains small levels of poison. Research for derivatives to kill cancer tumors is hopeful. Common throughout the Arboretum's woods.