

What's In Bloom?

AT ADKINS ARBORETUM IN MAY



Vaccinium stamineum (vak-SIN-ee-um stam-in-EE-um) deerberry—The white, bell-shaped flowers of deerberry differ from the urn-shaped flowers of its relative, the blueberry. The deciduous leaves are egg-shaped, and distinctively whitish beneath. White-tailed deer eat the leaves, twigs and berries, which contributes to the common name of this plant. It is common along the Upland path.



Euonymus americanus (yew-ON-ih-mus a-mer-i-CAN-us) hearts-a-bustin', strawberry bush—The stems are evergreen. In the spring, small clusters of waxy cream colored flowers appear held tightly against the dark green leaves. It prefers well-drained, humus rich soil on the acid side, in dappled shade. Found along Blockston branch and many other paths.



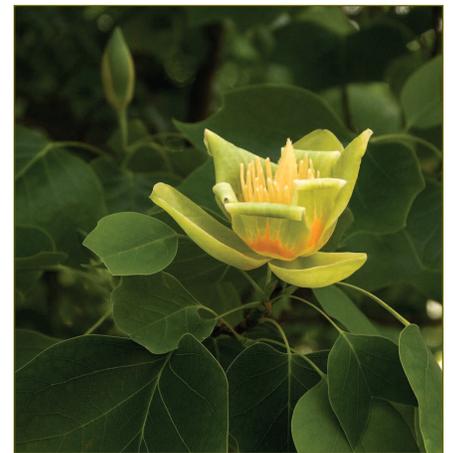
Kalmia latifolia (KAL-mee-a lat-ih-FO-lee-a) mountain laurel—This large shrub with a gnarly trunk and glossy dark evergreen leaves blooms from late May to early June at the Arboretum. Clusters of white to pink-rose blooms with dark pink markings are held above the branches. Mountain laurel is long lived —on large plants 100 growth rings have been reported. It is prevalent along Tuckahoe Creekside path.



Rhododendron periclymenoides (roh-doh-DEN-dron payr-i-cly-men-OY-deez) pinxter bloom azalea—The cotton candy pink to white flowers of this deciduous shrub open in mid spring as the foliage is expanding. The blossoms, which can be slightly fragrant, measure 1- 1 1/2" across and they are held in clusters of 5-16 flowers. The stamens are more than twice the length of the petals. You can find this native azalea along the Upland and Tuckahoe Creekside paths.



Prunus serotina (PROO-nuhs sayr-oh-TEE-nah) black cherry—Long, hanging clusters of small, white, 5-petaled flowers ornament the black cherry in spring. Many pollinators are attracted to the flowers and when the purple fruits mature birds and other animals will feast on them. Cherries grow around the meadow edges and in the upland forests.



Liriodendron tulipifera (leer-ee-oh-DEN-dron tu-li-PIF-er-a) tulip tree—All throughout the Arboretum's woodland, the straight trunks of the tulip trees reach for the sky. The tulip shaped flowers that measure 2-3 inches across are usually borne on the upper branches of the tree and therefore rarely seen unless they fall to the ground. The petals are yellow-green and the inside of the flower is orange. The tulip shaped leaf is the Arboretum's logo.

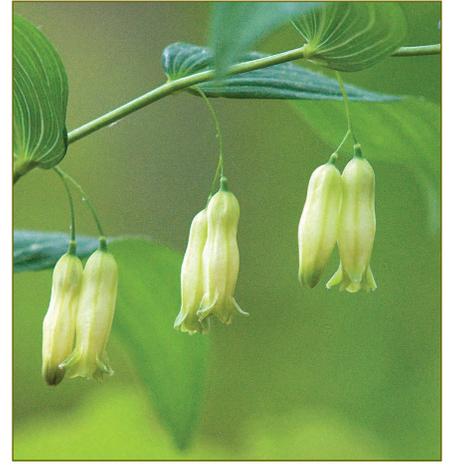
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Cypripedium acaule (sip-rih-PEED-ee-um ah-CALL-eh) pink lady's slipper—The mature plants usually have two large, deeply ribbed dark green leaves at ground level and foot high stalks with one or two stately flowers at the end. The lip of the slipper-shaped flower is an inch or two in size and is split to accommodate big bumblebees. Look for lady's slippers in the acidic soils under the pines along the Tuckahoe Valley path and along the Upland Path.



Geranium maculatum (jer-AY-nee-um mak-yew-LAY-tum) cranesbill—The wild geranium has distinctive 1 1/2 inch lavender-pink, saucer shaped, upward facing flowers with yellow pistils and large, lobed leaves. It blooms for 6-7 weeks and is considered semi-evergreen. The flowers attract butterflies. Found along the Tuckahoe Creekside path.



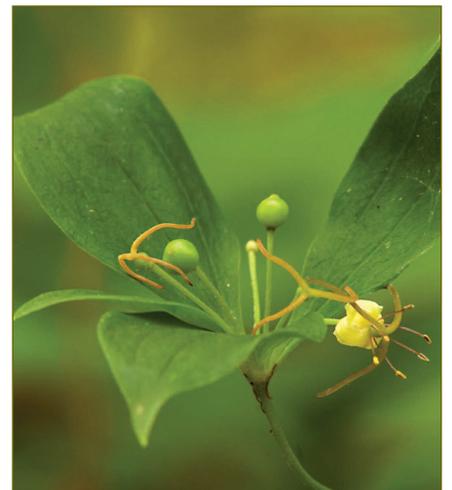
Polygonatum biflorum (po-li-go-NAH-tum by-FLOR-um) Solomon's seal—Along the Arboretum's paths clumps of graceful stems are poking through the soil. These arching stems of Solomon's seal have alternate leaves and pairs of bell-shaped flowers drooping from each leaf axil. Solomon's seal grows about 1 to 2 feet tall. The name comes from an impression in the root that resembles King Solomon's wax seal.



Smilacina racemosa (smy-la-SEEN-ah ray-se-MO-sa) false Solomon's seal—This plant grows about 1-3' tall and has plumes of fluffy creamy white, scented flowers in the spring. The cluster of flowers is located at the tip of the plant as opposed to true Solomon's seal where the flowers appear at each leaf junction. The leaves are bright green, with deep veins. It is common along Tuckahoe Creekside.



Arisaema triphyllum (air-iss-EE-mah try-FY-lum) Jack-in-the-pulpit—Three to five leaflets emerge in spring and form a canopy over the hooded flower. This is followed by bright red-orange clusters of berries that attract wood thrush and turkey. The "pulpit" structure is called a spathe and is 3-4 inches high. Prefers low, moist areas along Blockston Branch and Tuckahoe Valley paths.



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. Very small yellow-green flowers with recurved petals hang from the smaller top set of leaves. The cucumber part of the name is from the taste of the root, not the purple fruits. Found along the Blockston Branch path.