

## Slides

### 1 – Native Woodland Wild Flowers

Presented by Hennepin County Master Gardeners

### 2 – class objectives

- Identification of over 30 native woodland wildflowers.

- Heights of plants

- Length of bloom times

- Colors

- Ideal soil conditions

### 3 – Native Woodland Wild Flowers

With a growing awareness of our environment there has come an increased interest in wildflowers to be enjoyed in a natural setting or planted in one's yard. Wildflowers grow in a variety of conditions.

A Yellow dog tooth is shown above and will be discussed in a subsequent slide.

### 4 – Defn of Terms

Native wild flowers are those that grew in this area before the arrival of Europeans to this country.

Exotic wild flowers are those that have been introduced from Europe or another area of the world.

### 5 – Exotic Non-Native – Queen Anne's Lace

### 6 – Exotic Non-Native – Purple Loosestrife

### 7 – Protected Native Woodland Wild Flowers (Showy Lady Slipper)

Some native wildflowers have been declared "protected" because of their rarity. The Showy Lady slipper (Orchid family) is our state flower. It likes a moist soil high in organic matter.

All of the Lady slippers are protected by law; and a person wishing to establish a clump in his own yard should purchase plants from a specialist in wildflowers.

Lady slippers are long-lived and slow to develop, requiring about 15 years from seed germination to flowering. Blooms in June-July.

### 8 – Yellow Lady Slipper

The Yellow Lady slipper is native in moist woods through out the state. The flowers vary greatly in size and there is also some variation of time of bloom .

The small flowered types are often grouped under the variety parviflorum, which has brownish-yellow sepals, while the large-flowered types are grouped under the variety pubescens and have purple-brown sepals.

Both bloom in M-June.

### 9 – Showy Orchid

The Showy Orchid is a native orchid that grows in moist, calcareous soil in open woods in southeastern Minnesota.

A well formed clump is a thing of beauty in early June when it comes into full bloom.

It is readily transplanted and makes a fine addition to any wildflower garden. It has a pleasing fragrance.

#### 10 – Yellow Dog Tooth

Adder's Tongue or Yellow Dog Tooth (Lily Family) is a native in southeastern and northeastern Minnesota, growing in rich soils in woods, bottomlands, and meadows.

This 6"-12" plant, comprised often of more leaves than flowers, goes dormant after flowering.

The wide, spotted leaves and yellow flowers distinguish the species from the next.

Also known as a Trout Lily.

#### 11 – Dog Tooth Violet

White Dog Tooth Violet grows in May and June in moist woods throughout most of the state.

It takes a number of years for the Dog Tooth Violet to bloom from seeds.

For the first few years each seedling will have but a single leaf.

The bulbs will gradually increase in size and produce flowers on plants that bear two leaves.

Some plants remain vegetative and produce single leaf indefinitely.

The flowers are white with a bluish/purplish blush. It does best in moist rich soil in sun or shade.

#### 12 – Woodland flowers in order of bloom time

Skunk Cabbage, one of the earliest, is often said to melt the snow with the energy of its arrival.

#### 13 – Skunk Cabbage

Skunk Cabbage produces fleshy, deep red flowers in late winter with leaves emerging as the flowers fade.

It grows from deep crowns with thick fleshy roots which make it somewhat difficult to transplant.

It grows in moist to wet soils, full sun/shade in wet woods or slow streams.

#### 14 – Seed pod of a skunk cabbage

This is the seed pod of the Skunk Cabbage.

#### 15 – Hepatica

The Hepatica (a member of the Buttercup family) is one of the earliest, often blooming before the snow is completely melted.

One-inch flowers may be white, pink or lavender.

The 3-lobed leaf supposedly resembles a liver, hence the genus name Hepatica and its herbal medicinal use in treating liver ailments.

#### 16 – Hepatica

This is a close up of the Hepatica flowers.

The ¾ -1 inch flowers are actually not flowers but 5-12 metal-like, furry sepals.

Foliage turns bronzy in the fall.

Hepatica Americana has round lobed flowers.

#### 17 – Blood Root

The common Blood Root (Poppy Family) is abundant in deciduous woods through out the state, often forming a white carpet in late April.

Since the foliage persists all seasons it can also be used as a ground cover under shrubs.

Blood Root prefers spring sun and summer shade.

#### 18 – Blood Root

Individual Flowers last only a few days, but in a cool Spring, the plants will be in bloom for several weeks.

#### 19 – Blood Root

The large leaves are quite attractive, and the fleshy rhizomes contain a red dye, hence the common name – Blood Root.

The leaves reach their full size as the flowers fade.

#### 20 – Dutchman's Breeches

Dutchman's Breeches (also in the Poppy Family) comes up early in the Spring, and after flowering and maturing, the foliage dies down to the ground.

The flowers resemble inverted pantaloons.

The 10-12 inch tall flower stalks are held above 10 inch leaves that disappear after flowering.

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#### 22 – Toothwort

Toothwort is a member of the Mustard Family, characterized by four petals and six stamens in each flower.

Most members of the mustard family are considered weeds, but this plant is quite attractive in early May when the plants are covered with small white flowers.

It likes moist soil and some shade and reaches a height of about 1 foot.

The 4-10 inch flower stems are held above a leaf whorl of five deeply lobed divided leaflets that go dormant after flowering.

#### 23 – Wild Ginger

Wild Ginger (Birthwort Family) Likes shade and often forms a carpet of large, heart shaped leaves.

#### 24 – Wild Ginger

The reddish flowers are produced early in the spring and are often hidden by leaves.

The 6 inch tall plants make a good ground cover for a shady spot.

#### 25 – Wild Ginger

Here is a close up of the Wild Ginger flower.

#### 26 – Jack in the Pulpit

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (arum Family) is a common woodland plant that grows best in deep shade and moist , humus-rich soil.

This plant may go dormant if soil dries out.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit is distinguished by its unique hooded flower, which looks like a green Calla Lily.

#### 27 – Jack in the Pulpit

Close up of the spathe (hood or pulpit) and spadix (Jack).

#### 28 – Jack in the Pulpit

It is attractive in bloom in late May and again in the Fall when it produces clusters of bright red berries on 2 foot tall plants.

The seed berries form at the base of the spadix.

I can be easily grown in a shady garden by planting the fleshy corms in the fall.

Another method is to plant the red berries in the fall (protecting these with chicken wire laid on the soil to discourage animals from disturbing them).

The first year, a single heart shaped leaf appears.

After several years of producing pairs of three-part leaves, the plant will produce the flower.

Take care not to mistake the three leaves for poison ivy.

#### 29 – Native Columbine

Our Native Columbine (Buttercup Family) is a favorite of many nature lovers.

The lush mounds of foliage rise from a thick tap root.

The sweet honey-like sap in the hollow spurs of the flowers has given the common but false name of “Honeysuckle” to this plant

### 30 – Native Columbine

It is most common in open woods and easily grown from seeds. Although individual plants may be short-lived, the self-sown seedlings replace the plants that die each year.

Plants grown up to two feet in height and the red-spurred flowers bloom in May and June.

### 31 – Rue Anemone

The foliage of the Rue Anemone (Buttercup Family) resembles that of the meadow rue.

The flowers are delicate and sway in the slightest breeze.

The plants go dormant by mid-Summer.

### 32 – Rue Anemone

The sepals are petal-like and range in number from five to ten.

The color varies from white to pinkish purple.

The six inch tall plants are commonly found in open woods and bloom in May and June.

### 33 – Bellwort or Merry Bells

The large flowered Bellwort or Merry Bells (Lily Family) is common in deciduous woods.

The yellow, bell shaped flowers that surround the stems at their bases are distinctive and bloom from April to June on 18 inch plants.

After flowering, leaves unfurl to a soft green cover, best suited to moist, well drained, humus-rich soil.

### 34 – Virginia Bluebell

The Virginia Bluebell (Borage Family) is native in southeastern Minnesota.

The typical flowers are blue with a reddish cast in the bud, blooming in May and June.

Isolated plants will breed true from seeds.

This species of Mertensia dies down after the seeds mature.

It is propagated from seeds or fleshy corms.

### 35 – False Lily-of-the-Valley

False Lily-of-the-Valley (Lily Family) grows 3-6 inches tall.

Leaves are pointed, usually only two on a stem.

This open ground cover is found in woods and woodland edges.

White Flowers are in upright clusters, not little bells like the cultivated Lily-of-the-Valley.

It blooms in Spring.

### 36 – Great Solomon's Seal

Great Solomon's Seal (Lily Family) grows 2-3 feet tall and can tolerate dry shade under mature trees.

Small white flowers hand from arching stems.

Later dark blue or black berries develop.

Usually found in wooded areas.

Blooms in late Spring and early Summer.

### 37 – Variegated Solomon's Seal

Variegated Solomon's Seal.

### 38 – False Solomon's Seal

False Solomon's Seal (Lily Family) has a cluster of 6 parted white flowers on the end of the arching stem.

Flowers are followed by berries which are first striped green and brown.

Berries turn red when ripe.

Found in open woods, prairies, and along roads throughout Minnesota.

Blooms in Spring and early Summer on plants 2.5 feet tall.

### 39 – Dwarf Cornel or Bunchberry

Dwarf Cornel or Bunchberry (Dogwood Family) shown here in flower is one of the dogwoods.

The flowers and fruits resemble the flower dogwood tree.

The basal whorl of leaves and the small flower cluster surrounded by four white bracts distinguish this dogwood from the shrubby species native to the area.

This plant is about six inches tall and must have an acid soil.

### 40 – Dwarf Cornel or Bunchberry

Shown here in fruit, the plant is just as attractive as it is in bloom.

The bright red fruits last throughout the season.

Plant this flower in cool, moist, humus-rich acid soil as it is intolerant of summer heat or drought.

### 41 – Showy Trillium

Showy Trillium (Lily Family) or wake robin is common throughout the eastern part of the state.

Also called White Trillium or large flowered Trillium, the 18 inch plant bears showy white flowers that change to pink.

It seems to prefer the heavier soils and thrives in moist but well drained sites.

It can usually be found in association with the Sugar Maple.

This species multiplies by underground bulbs and can be purchased from most nurseries that specialize in wild flowers.

#### 42 – Nodding Trillium

Nodding Trillium (Lily Family) is one of the most common species, being native throughout the state.

The small white flowers are often hidden by the large trifoliate leaves.

The triangular berries turn red in July.

Seedling may take 10 years to bloom!

#### 43 – Woodland Phlox

Woodland Phlox (Phlox Family) or Wild Blue Phlox is found in light to full shade in moist, open woods and on rock slopes in southern Minnesota, as far north as Pine County. Blooms appear in late May on one foot plants.

Although plants seldom form dense stands, they are quite showy.

Rabbits love to eat this phlox as well as our cultivated phlox.

#### 44 – Shooting Star

Shooting Star (Primrose Family) is commonly planted and makes a fine addition to the Spring wild flower garden.

Plant it in moist humus-rich soil in sun or shade.

Once established, it can tolerate dry and shady sites.

#### 45 – Shooting Star

Flowers are white to lavender and are produced on 18 inch stalks.

Shooting Stars are normally biennials or short-lived perennials.

They self-sow, thus, once established, they will continue to grow and bloom if conditions are favorable.

They like open woods and prairies.

#### 46 – May Apple

May Apple (Barberry Family) is an attractive wildflower, 1-1.5 feet tall, that forms a dense mat.

Its large, opposite leaves are palmate compound.

Then the leaves first emerge in the Spring, they resemble an opening umbrella.

They like rich, damp soils and are found in woods and pastures in the Spring.

#### 47 – May Apple

A large showy white flowers develops in the axel of the two opposite leaves.

Like the Wild Ginger, the flowers are usually covered by the leaves.

A fleshy fruit resembling an apple develops in mid-Summer.

The green apple as well as all other portions of the plant are POISONOUS.

#### 48 – Wild Geranium

The Wild Geranium (Geranium Family) is a common woodland plant throughout eastern Minnesota.

It has pale rosy-purple flowers.

It blooms in Spring and Summer and grows to 1-2 feet tall.

This and closely related species are often planted in a shaded perennial border.

Commonly called Cranesbills because its seed pods have a rigid tapered “beak”.

It likes moist, well-drained soils in the sun or shade of woods, thickets, and meadows.

#### 49 – Marsh Marigold or Cowslip

Few plants are more showy than the Marsh Marigold, also called Cowslip (Buttercup Family), a native of swamps and wetlands.

The large buttercup flowers and large heart-shaped leaves make this an easy plant to recognize.

#### 50 – Marsh Marigold or Cowslip

It grows 1-1.5 feet tall and is interesting in that its stems are hollow.

Although native in swamps, it can be grown in a flower border if the soil is kept moist.

Its five petal-like sepals bloom in May and June.

#### 51 – Star Flower

The Star Flower (Primrose Family) is characterized by the half inch white star-shaped flowers with seven petals and seven stamens rising from the center of a whorl of five to ten lance-like leaves.

This attractive wild flower is common in the light to deep shade of woods and along the edges of bogs.

It is often found growing among mosses, mostly in northern and central Minnesota.

It blooms in Spring.

#### 52 – Allegheny Foam Flower

Allegheny Foam Flower (Saxifrage Family) blooms in Spring with 6-10 inch high conical fuzzy white flowers.

This ground cover spreads with leafy runners when planted in moist, humus-rich, slightly acidic soil in partial to full shade.

On the left is a close up of the Allegheny Foam Flower.

53 – Maidenhair Fern

Maidenhair Fern prefers moist but not wet acidic soils in shade.

54 – Ostrich Fern

Likewise, Ostrich Fern prefers moist but not wet acidic soils in shade.

The fronds beautifully unfurl from coiled heads bundled tightly together.

55 – Summary

Native Woodland Wildflowers are a beautiful natural addition to a shady garden that will add beauty for years to come

56 – Questions

57 – Thank You