

# WILDFLOWERS OF BLUHM WOODS



**Mayapple** Two deeply divided umbrellas-like leaves hide the white, waxy flower of 6-9 petals, which grows from their crotch. An edible green fruit will appear first in



**Sweet Cicely** A tall, leafy plant with small umbels of white flowers. Its root and leaves are aromatic, smelling like anise. In fall its small blackish seed pods cling to clothing.



**Waterleaf** Large deeply cut spotted leaves appear early in the spring, but produce lavender blossoms on a separate stalk later in May or June. The three separate species may be identified best by referral to a guide.

Special thanks to Phyliss Benn, Marion Schoonaert and Mary Jo Pflum for the compilation of this brochure. Wildflower sketches furnished by the USDA.



Bluhm woods is a special place that is a beautiful, unspoiled example of Indiana's mature beech-maple forest. Pockets of transitory wetlands and understory species of shrubs lend variety and habitat for frogs, toads, butterflies and a great variety of birds. Both year-round residents and migrants who require undisturbed nesting habitat are attracted to these woods.

Stroll at your leisure and enjoy the sights and sounds of solitude at any time of the year. Thanks to the generosity of the late Gayle and Lucille Bluhm, whose contributions have added so much to the LaPorte County Parks systems.

*Pause at the numbered markers listed below and seek out the flowers usually seen near each location. But don't overlook others that may not be listed here. Check the detailed listing of the individual flower for ID information and blooming times.*

**#1** Stop as you enter the Woods in early spring to look for Common blue Violets, early blooming Toothwort, Spring Beauty, Prairie Trillium and other favorites.

**#2** Rest on the bench while you look for very early blooming Bloodroot, Spicebush and nearby Trout Lilies.

**#3** It's worth a detour behind the bench to seek the patch of delicate Hepatica, both White and Yellow Trout Lilies, and later, an upclose view of the showpiece flower, Trillium Grandiflorum (Great White Trillium).

**#4** As you return to the paved path, watch for Dutchman's Breeches and Squirrel Corn, more species of Violets, and the tiny Harbinger of Spring... Watch, too, for clusters of Anemone and more Trilliums.

**#5** Be alert for more surprises along the path: early leaves of Wild Leek, look on the west side for the shy Nodding Trillium and farther along some Wild Ginger. Return in June to see the Leek in bloom.

**#6** By the end of April, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Phlox, and Wild Geranium, and May Apples will be in bloom. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to see Baneberry and Sweet Cecily in the woods. Return later to see Waterleaf in blossom.

**Potawatomi Audubon Society**

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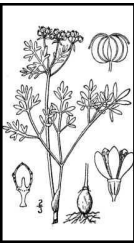


**LaPorte  
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**Visit Bluhm Woods at  
3855 County Road 1100 West**



**Harbinger of Spring** Tiniest and earliest of Bluhm Woods flowers, it's less than 10" tall. White petals and red-brown anthers gave it the nickname of "Salt and Pepper". Look along the path edges-March to mid-April.



**Bloodroot** Among the first to bloom in late March or early April. Its 8 to 10 petaled, pure white blossoms are protected by tightly curled leaves, which open only after flowering.



**Hepatica** Petal-like sepals may vary from white to pink, blue and lavender and in number from 6 to 10 on this early blossom. Fuzzy stems and leaves shield the bud until it blossoms. A sister species has lobed, rather than pointed, leaves. March to mid-April



**Spring Beauty** Pink or white petals with darker veins pair of smooth linear leaves on stem. Less than 12" tall, but spectacular in large patches. April



**Spice Bush** Clusters of tiny bright yellow flowers appear before the leaves of this shrub that grows up to 15 feet. Twigs are fragrant when bruised. March to mid-April.



**Cut-leaved Toothwort** Low-growing white flower cluster with deeply cut-paired leaves, divided into 3 leaflets. Blooms through April.



**False Rue Anemone** Delicate 5-petaled white blossom; leaflets in 3's and deeply lobed. Early flowering and long-lasting.. Common in woods.



**Trout Lilies** Bluhm Woods hosts both the western White and more easterly Yellow species of Trout Lilies. Oval leaves and nodding single flower. They require 7 years to develop a bloom. April



**Violets** Because the violet family is large and blooms at different times, a simple description is difficult. All have 5 petals. Lower petals veined, side petals often bearded, lower petal with spur or sac. Violets seen at Bluhm as the season progresses:  
**Early blooming**  
 \* **Common Blue** Widespread  
 \* **Smooth Yellow**  
 \* **Arrow-leaved** Note leaf shape  
**Late April, May**  
 \* **Canada** Lavender under petals  
 \* **Downy yellow** Bearded center  
 \* **Pale** Branched leaves, white flower



**Wild Leek** 2 or 3 broad, smooth onion-scented leaves disappear before an umbel of white blossoms rises in late June or July. The entire plant and bulb are edible.



**Blue Phlox** Five pale blue or violet petals radiate from the tip of a sticky stem with sparse, opposite leaves. Late April to May.

**Trillium family.** All trilliums have leaves in a single whorl of three and a large, solitary flower.



**Prairie Trillium** Maroon, stalk less flowers with erect petals, drooping sepals. March and April.



**Great White Trillium** Large white flowers turning pink as they fade. Look for spectacular displays in clumps in late April and early May.



**Nodding Trillium** Long flower stalk bends downward, so white flower nods beneath the leaves. Late April in moist woods.



**Dutchman's Breeches** Delicate spray of white, waxy, yellow-tipped flowers drooping in a spray from an arched stem. Flower has 2 inflated spurs that hang like pantaloons upside down. Foliage is dissected in a fernlike manner. Mid-April



**Squirrel Corn** Like Dutchman's Breeches, but flowers more heart-shaped and fragrant. Root resembles yellow corn. Blooms somewhat later.



**Jack-in-the-Pulpit** the name refers to the flower's central spike, resembling a preacher standing in an old-fashioned church pulpit protected by a green or purplish brown spathe curving over him. Three lobed leaves rise 2-3 feet on a separate stem. Late April.



**Wild Ginger** Look for a blossom beneath the large, heart-shaped leaves with hairy stalks. Nestled at ground level where 2 leaves converge, the 3-pointed red-brown calyx is difficult to find and see. Late April.



**Wild Geranium** Five rose-colored petals on branched stalk of irregularly and deeply cleft leaves. Common in woods. April to May.



**True Solomon's Seal** This area is home to four species of Solomon Seal. The *true* seal has a series of paired yellow flowers suspended below its stem.



**White Baneberry** Because its shiny white fruits resemble the china eyes once used in dolls, this plant is easy to ID in the fall. In May, tiny white flowers form a dense cluster on the tall stalk with sharply toothed leaflets.