

Botany -- Spring 2021 -- BIO 111

Tom Tynning, BCC Instructor

Roberta Hayes, BCC student

Spring Flower Field Trips

Berkshire Community College —and— Springside Park

Two Pittsfield locations

Berkshire Community College

1350 West Street

Pittsfield Massachusetts 01201

<https://www.berkshirecc.edu>

<https://www.berkshirecc.edu/about-bcc/campus-services/green-team/>

<http://blogs.berkshirecc.edu/bccgreenteam/>

42.4595 degrees N, 73.3155 degrees W.

Springside Park

874 North Street

Pittsfield Massachusetts 01201

<https://www.springsidepark.org/>

<https://www.springsidepark.org/park-history>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Springside_Park

42 degrees 28'17" N, 73 degrees 14'40" W.

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Introduction

Springside Park in Pittsfield Massachusetts is sort of a gem in the rough, and, like similar parks in our area it is well-used and well-appreciated, yet perhaps needing a few more volunteers or some city funding to spruce it up. Still, I find it to be a park I have a special affiliation with. It reminds me of other places around town like Pittsfield State Forest, which also is a little bit scruffy around the edges and certainly needs a good bit of maintenance here and there.

Springside Park is a special place in its own right, yet to me more memorable since a good friend introduced me to the park years ago. Jennifer Coppola, who I am sad to say is no longer with us, lived across North Street from Springside. Our short walks there helped me get through challenges associated with cancer. Before Jennifer showed the park to me, I somehow had never noticed it before. It was encouraging to have a walking buddy to get me back out into nature. Although Jen has been gone since late 2015, amidst her own health issues she started me on a road I may not have found on my own.

While living through health challenges, my other “go to” --in addition to Springside-- for “easy” walks ... soon became Berkshire Community College. There is nothing quite like walking down a trail for a few hundred feet, and turning into a dense Hemlock forest to enjoy its delightful cool shade in the middle of July.



The Wetlands Trail is just a few steps from the college’s north parking lot and is well worth a visit. It is less traveled than trail areas upland (closer to the bluebird nest box meadow) –such as the John Lambert Trail– and, it *is* a bit of a watery adventure. It was the perfect antidote to lengthy radiation six summers ago when I really needed it.

Roaming around Springside Park on a very different sort of day in early April 2021, I was scouting out to figure out where our B.C.C. Botany class might be going for a little field trip. I was especially looking forward to the upcoming event. We all had to “learn science” with “remote learning”, and even though our teacher made it as fun as he possibly could, it was going to be a *lot* more fun when we all got together. Our first real field trip, and our only one with almost all of us there; the plan was to visit Springside Park and look for flowers in the forest. (I was exploring on a rainy windy day beforehand. I only got a few flower pictures that blustery day...) Yet, on subsequent April visits ... with our whole Botany class ... Tom Tynning took us around all these beautiful spots in Springside! The park was gloriously filled with spring ephemeral flowers! I had no idea that Springside had so much to offer in this department! As much as I already liked the park, I previously had no idea it boasted such an array of native flowers.

So, even though some of our local parks are a tad untidy and kind of beat up, as Tom T. remarked to our Botany class that day, I imagine maybe it is for a lot of the right reasons. It is good to see how much people actually use the parks and forests we are lucky to have in Berkshire County. Maybe yet another silver lining to the tough times of this pandemic we are still all living through is that our local parks and lands have more folks out and about and exploring.

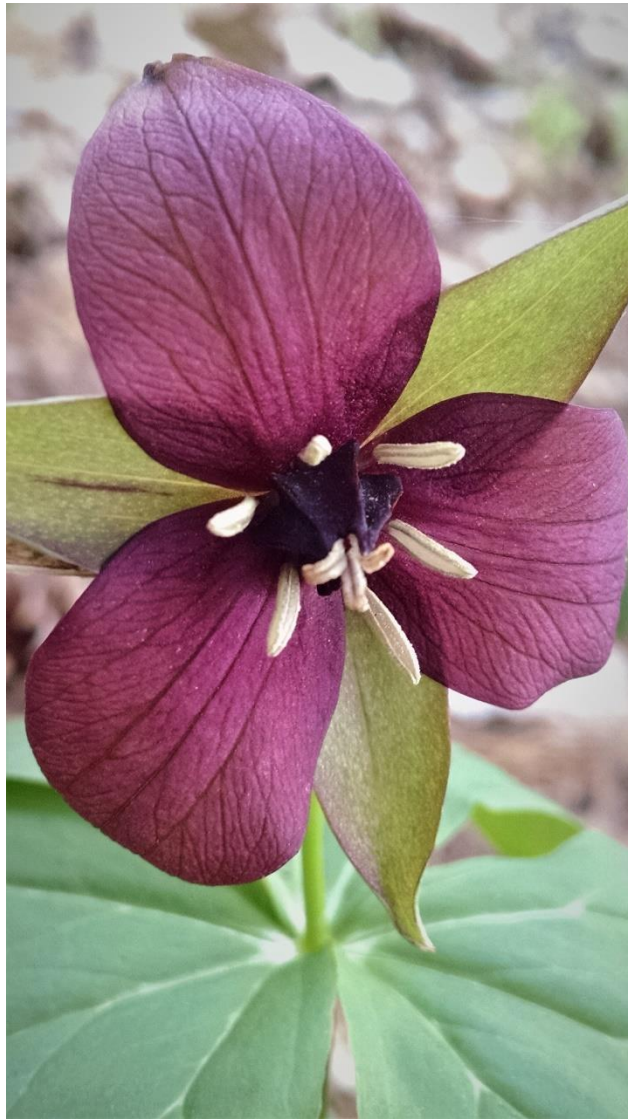
The photographs here are primarily from Springside Park, on some 39 degree days not very long ago. It is 84 degrees today in mid-May, and about all one might find now in those spots is a bit of lovely foliage. Most of these flowers have gone; new leaves on trees have shaded areas which were brilliantly flooded with sunshine only weeks ago. Since April, fellow students and myself have shared photographs. I have attempted to get plant identifications in order. (Corrections and suggestions are very welcome.) About 40% of photographs are (mostly) native flowers blooming right here on the Berkshire Community College campus, some of which are marked now so they can survive, to encourage the colonies of flowers to grow larger. One of the largest colonies our Botany class saw at Springside Park was the (yellow) Trout Lily. Tom T. said it could be decades and decades old! I found this fascinating! Native flowers here at the B.C.C. campus will also hopefully expand in to newly cleared areas on campus, via pollinators and direct seeding, as the process continues to keep weeding out the non-native invasive plants.

Roberta Hayes

May 21 2021

Photographs – Plant Identifications

Native New England spring flowers. Some may be “naturalized” species, rather than “native”, some are unknown (listed as “unk.”). Latin names listed when possible, Common names listed most often.



Spring 2021 flowers and foliage from:

Springside Park – most photos with Botany class / Tom Tying – specifically to identify spring flowers.
and

Berkshire Community College – habitat areas, forest edges, forest, BCC Nature Trails (several visits).

(Except for one photograph courtesy of Bill Cullina, an image of the same Ginger species which does grow in an approximately 8' x 8' colony, within Springside Park.)

Cranesbill Geranium flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Geranium maculatum*)



Forest (or Early Meadow) Rue flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (found in forest)

(aka *Thalictrum dioicum*)



Violet flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (purple) (aka *Viola odorata* and *Viola riviniana*)



Violet flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (Yellow Wood Violet) (aka *Viola biflora*)



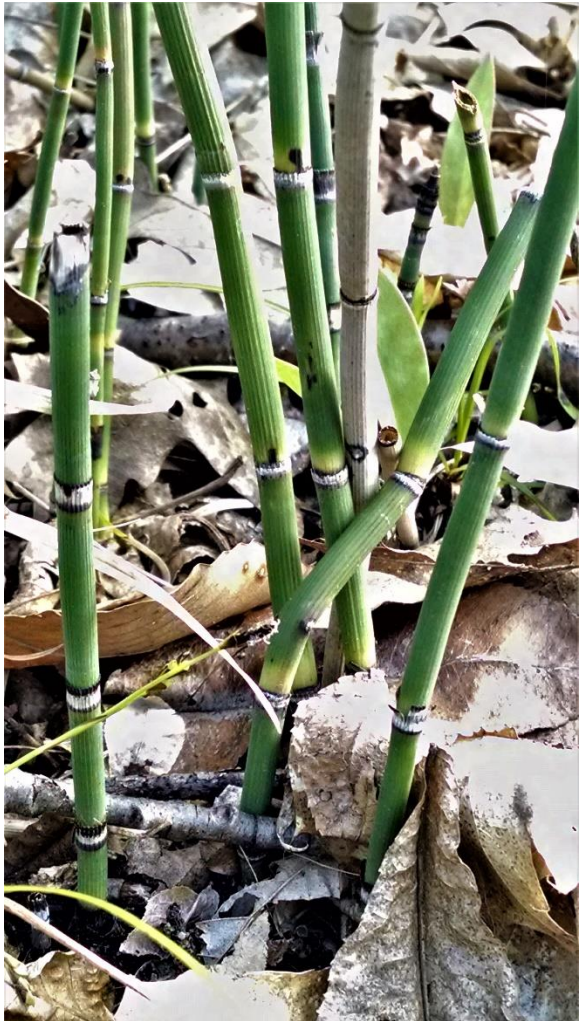
Marsh Marigold flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Caltha palustris*)



Just foliage

Three different species --- Horsetail, Club Moss (?), Liverwort

(aka Equisetum, Sphagnum centrale (?), Hepatica nobilis)



American Ginger / Canadian Ginger flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage

(aka *Asarum canadense*) (Photo Credit thank you to Bill Cullina)



Trillium flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Trillium erectum*, Wake Robin Trillium)



Potentilla flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Potentilla tridentata* or *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*)



Bloodroot flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Sanguinaria canadensis*)

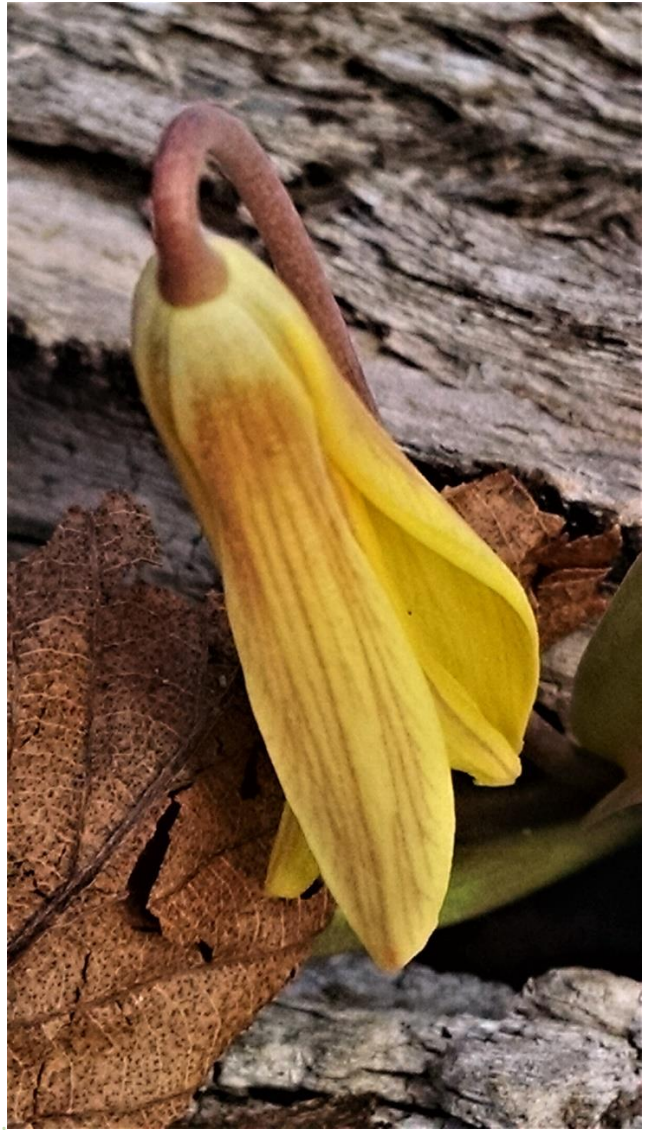
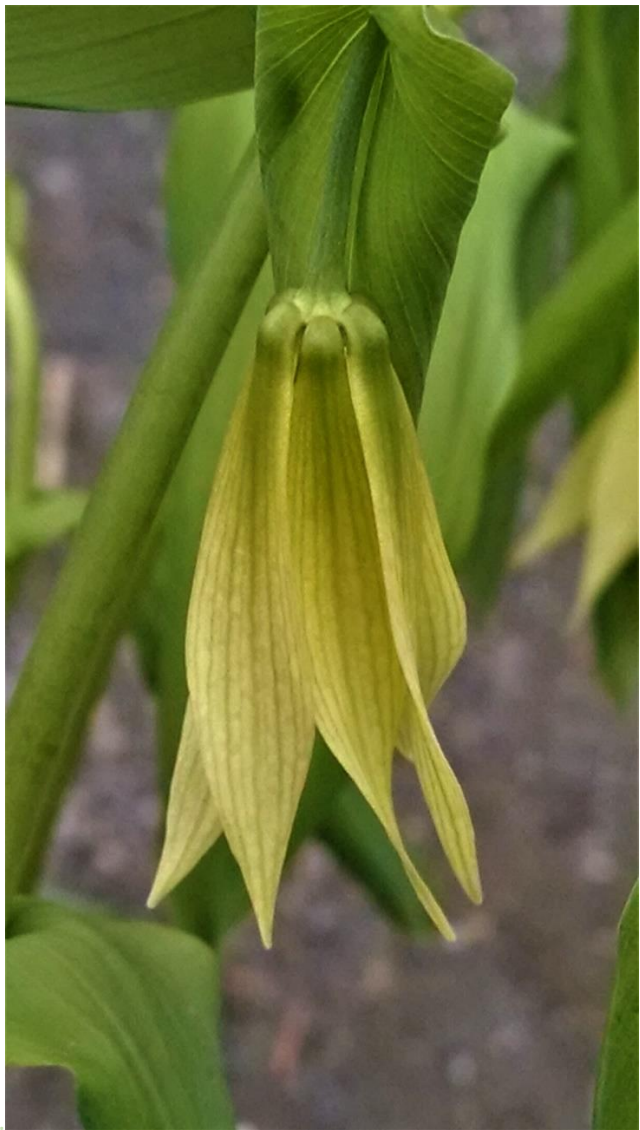


Bloodroot flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (continued from above)

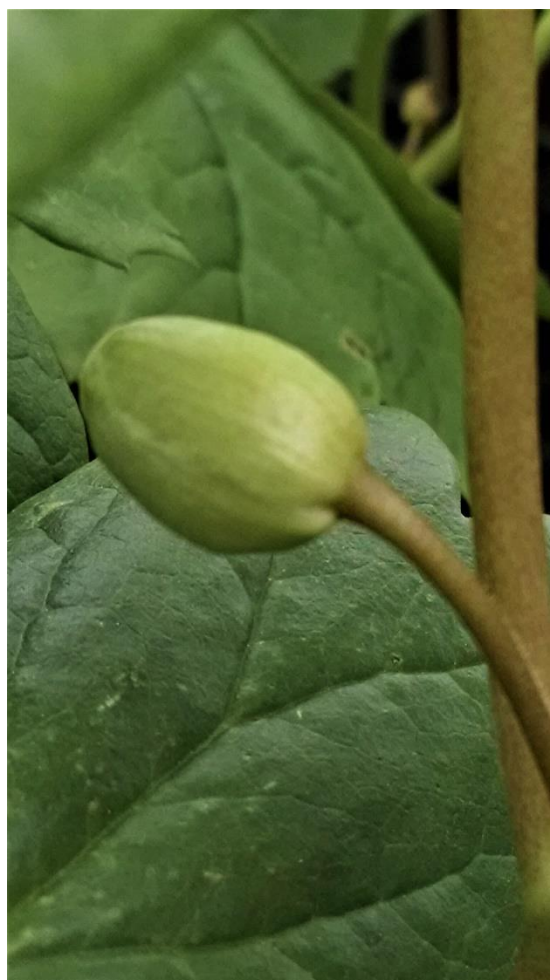
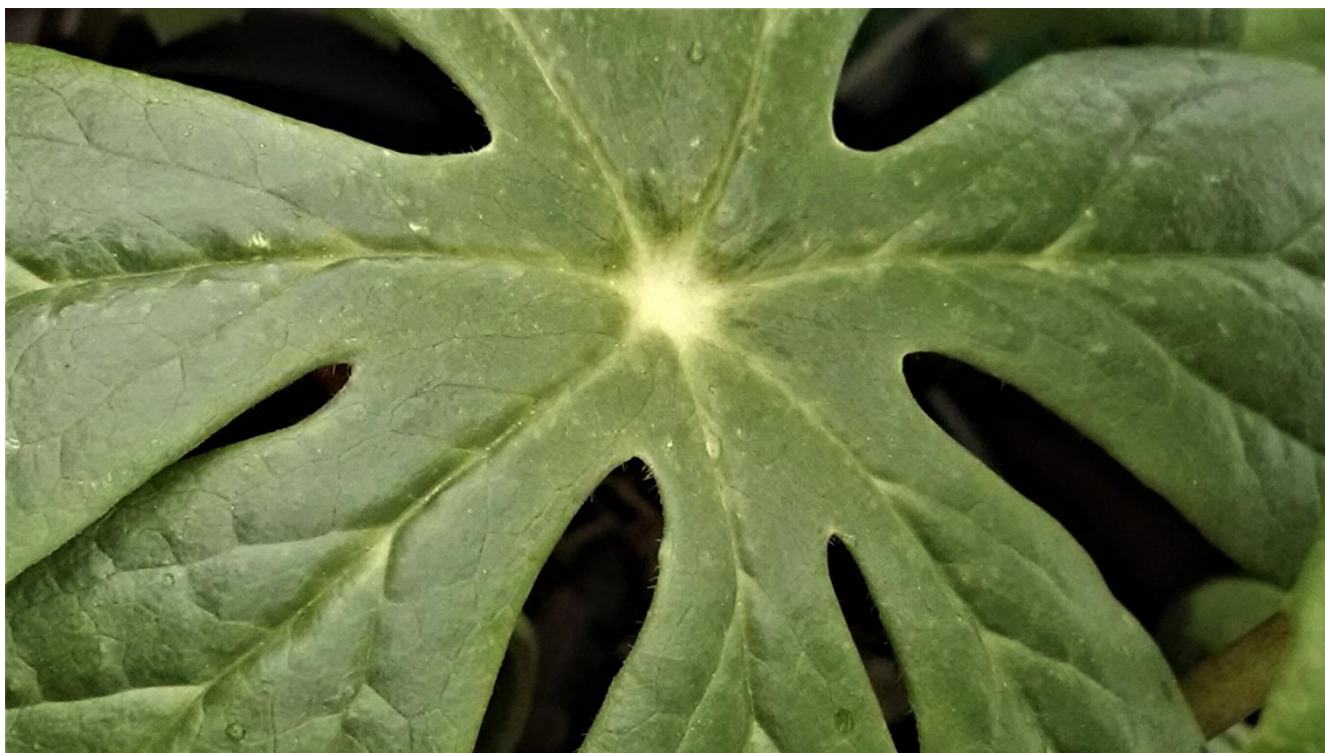
(top: two different leaves, maybe just sun and shade on two different days / two locations)



Trout Lily flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage- in shade & sun (aka *Erythronium americanum*)



Mayapple flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Podophyllum peltatum* L.)



“Mystery plant” flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka Oat / Avena family??)

Might be Perfoliate Bellwort (aka *Uvularia perfoliate*)



“Mystery plant” flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (Berry family??) (Photo Credit thank you to John Murphy)



Iris, (may be) Blue flag, or (may be) Yellow flag -- flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka -Iris spp. unk.)



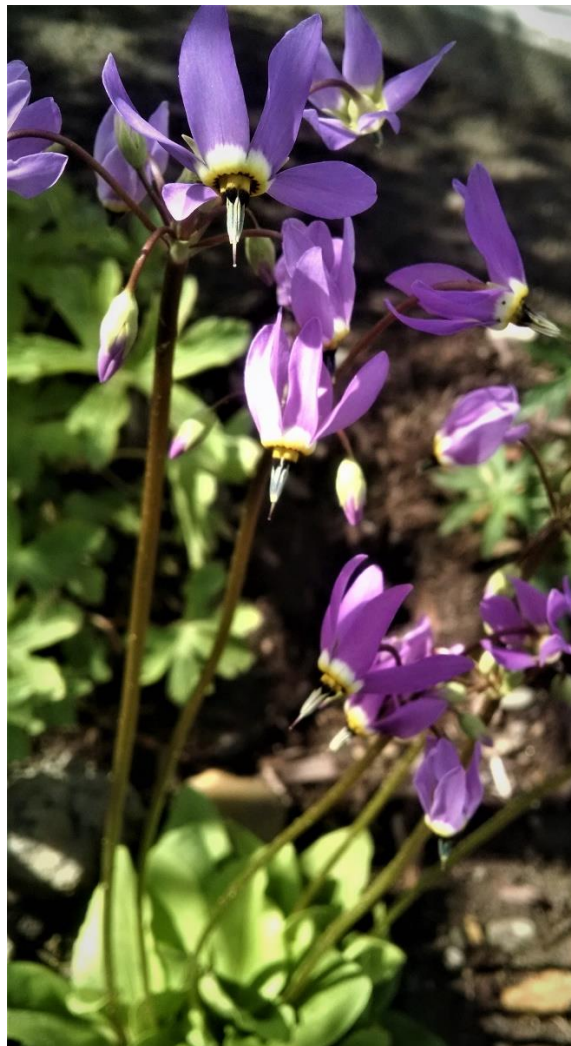
“Mystery plant” flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka -unknown- or Mustard family??)



“Mystery plant” flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (Lamium / Dead Nettle, or Aster family??)



Broad-leaved Shooting Star flowers or buds or seed-heads, and foliage (aka *Dodecatheon hendersonii*)



Contact Information to request further photographs and/or learn more

Information, research, and photographs compiled by:

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Environmental Science

Thank you to B.C.C. Faculty, Staff, and fellow students:

**Thank you to Spring 2021 Botany Class at B.C.C., and
thank you to teacher Tom Tying -- for yet another great field trip
which inspired more trips to find more native plants.**

Thank you also to

**Matt Brinton -- for helping clear new areas by removing invasive plants,
and his photography,**

John Murphy -- for sharing his photographs from Botany class trip,

and

**Christian Tenczar -- for technical help to make these native plant photographs eventually part
of the B.C.C. Green Team Blog.**
