

A WHEN and WHERE to LOOK GUIDE to SPRING WILDFLOWERS of OXLEY NATURE CENTER



This guide is for you to use. Whether or not you know the names of any wildflowers , this guide will help you to identify several of the most common, or most interesting, flowers of this area. Included are descriptions, drawings, dates when they are found in bloom, and the best locations for finding them here in the Nature Center.

If you have any questions or comments please let us know, that's why we're here.

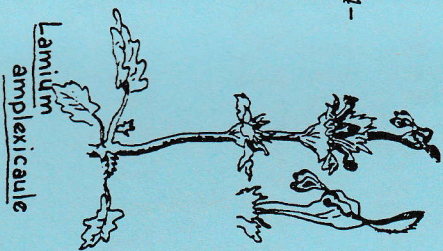
Text: Terri Bruner

Art: Byron Ball

HENBIT

blooms: Feb. 24-
throughout
summer

found: near
Interpretive
Bldg., along
road and
trail edges



Feeling the square stem of Henbit will let you know it's a member of the Mint family. The plant is usually 4-12 inches high with beautiful purple flowers. Look at the flower very closely for the dark purple nectar guides.

SHEPHERD'S PURSE

This member of the Mustard family has tiny white flowers (1 1/2 in. wide), even though it may grow 1 foot high. The triangular pod, supposedly resembling a medieval shepherd's purse, can be used as a pepper-like seasoning when dried.

blooms: Feb. 24-
throughout
summer

found: near
Interpretive
Bldg., along
road and
trail edges



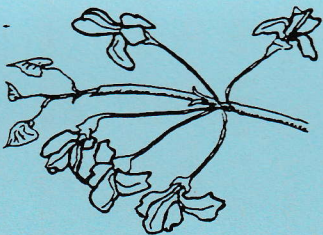
found: near
Interpretive
Bldg., along
road and
trail edges

Capsella
bursa-pastoris

RED BUD

blooms: mid-
March to early
May

found: along
entrance road
to Nature Cen-
ter, East edge
of Coal Creek
near marsh,
and throughout
the park



Cercis
canadensis

This small tree, the state tree of Oklahoma, is a member of the Legume family. Its abundant purplish-pink flowers appear before the heart-shaped leaves do. The flowers are very good to eat as is, or toss them into a salad to add color and variety.

DOGTUOTH VIOLET OR TROUT LILY

blooms: last
week of March,
only

found: North
Woods Loop, on the
the loop east of
where the trail
connects to it
(only place it's
found in the N.C.)



This member of the Lily family grows to about 6 in. height, but when it blooms it covers the forest floor by the hundreds. The drooping white flowers and brown mottled leaves make it a spectacular sight.

Erythronium
albidum

WILD PLUM

blooms: March
21--early May

found: Blue
Heron Trail
along Lake
Sherry, and in
the North
Woods

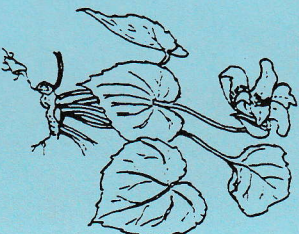


Prunus
americana

BLUE VIOLET

blooms: last
week of March--
May

found: Green
Dragon and Red
Fox Trails



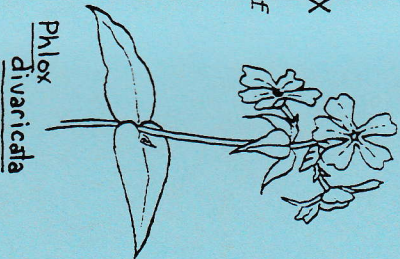
Viola
papilionacea

The 3/4 in. wide, violet flowers usually stand about 5 in. high. Notice the lower petal is longer and is spurred (tube-like). The heart-shaped leaves are high in vitamin C and can be made into a tea.

WILD BLUE PHLOX

blooms: last of March to early June

found: North Woods and Red Fox trails

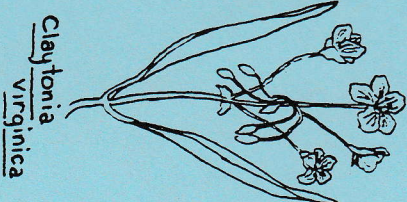


The phlox stands erect, about 6-15 in. high. Its flowers are 3/4 to 1 1/4 in. wide, having five blue petals. You may also find the white variety on Red Fox trail.

SPRING BEAUTY

blooms: end of March to May

found: open fields, roadsides

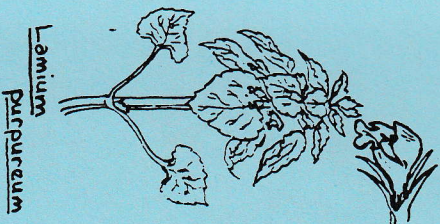


Often considered the harbinger of Spring, this small pinkish flower often covers lawns, standing 3-8 in. high. The flowers are small, only 1/2 - 3/4 in. wide, but notice the dark pink veins.

PURPLE DEAD NETTLE

blooms: end of March to summer

found: Blue Heron trail, directly southeast of shelter



Another member of the Mint family, this plant is similar in appearance to henbit, but note the difference in the leaves. Its flowers are also purple.

A member of the Aster family, this flower grows from 1 to 3 ft. tall. Over 100 white rays surround the yellow central disk of the 1/2 to 1 in. flower heads.



FLEABANE DAISY

blooms: Mid-April through summer

found: widely scattered along trails, open areas

COMMON WOOD SORREL

blooms: mid-April through summer

found: North and West side of marsh, service road to shelter



Also known as sheep sour, the leaves are good to eat and have a sour, green apple, taste. The yellow flowers are 1/2 in. wide and usually 3-5 in. high. Look also for the violet flowers of Oxalis violacea.

PEPPERGRASS

blooms: Mid-April through summer

found: around Interpretive Bldg., edges of trails and roads

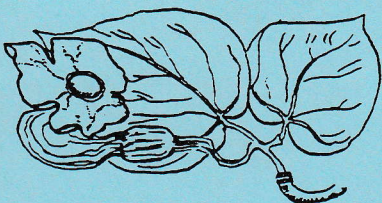


The tiny white flowers are very similar to those of Shepherd's Purse. The easiest way to differentiate them is by the pods. Peppergrass pods are round and can also be used as a pepper-like seasoning.

DUTCHMAN'S PIPE

blooms: Mid-April through mid-May

found: on Blue Heron trail on the edge of Lake Sherry, just South of the observation blind



Aristolochia
durior

This twining vine has large, soft, heart-shaped leaves. The flowers are purplish-brown, 2 in. long, and look like a Dutch pipe. It's easiest to spot the leaves first and then look for the flowers, sometimes hidden by the leaves.

PRAIRIE LARKSPUR

blooms: May-July

found: open fields, esp. Lake Sherry and Southeast of Lake Yahola

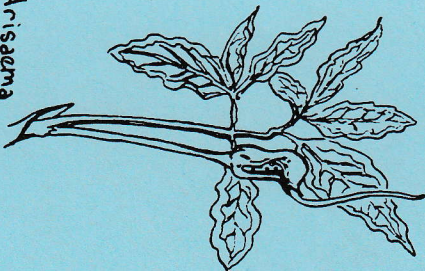


Delphinium
virgescens

GREEN DRAGON

blooms: end of April - May

found: Red Fox trail, North Woods trail, and Green Dragon trail (esp. between the meadow and shelter)



Arisaema
dracontium

SMALL BINDWEED

blooms: May-throughout summer

found: East of Interpretive Bldg., roadsides



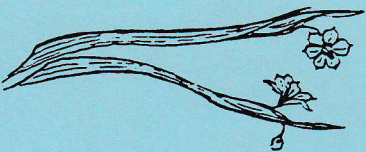
Convolvus
arvensis

A twining vine, Small Bindweed is a member of the Morning Glory family. The white, funnel-shaped flowers are 1-1 1/2 in. wide.

BLUE-EYED GRASS

blooms: end of April - June

found: open, grassy areas



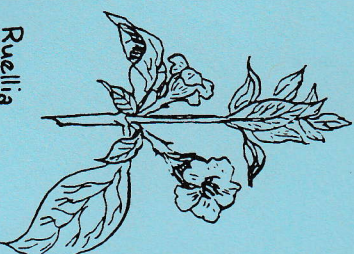
Sisyrinchium
campestre

A member of the Iris family, this wildflower reaches a height of 6-18 in. Look for six blue-violet petals with a yellow center.

SMOOTH RUELLIA

blooms: May-July

found: in wooded, shady areas on North Woods and Green Dragon trails



Ruellia
streperus

Also called wild Petunia, Ruellia is a tall flower, standing 1-3 ft. high. Each plant will have several long (2 in.), funnel-shaped, purple flowers.

FLOATING
PRIMROSE WILLOW

blooms: mid-May
through August

found: Blackbird
Marsh and Coal
Creek



Jussiaea
repens

This is a floating
plant whose leaves
can cover large areas
of water. It has a
bright yellow, five-
petaled flower, about
1-1½ in. wide. Later
in the summer the
leaves can almost be
completely consumed
by caterpillars.

A member of the Blue-
bell family, this tall
slender plant stands
1-2 ft. high. It has
violet flowers, 1/2-
3/4 in. wide, growing
along the upper stem.
The common and scien-
tific names (*specularius*=
pertains to mirrors)
probably refer to the
shiny seeds.



Specularia
perfoliata

VENUS'
LOOKING-GLASS

blooms: mid-May
throughout
summer

found: Green
Dragon trail,
meadow trail

TRUMPET CREEPER

blooms: end of
May throughout
summer

found: everywhere
especially along
the edges of
woods



Campsis
radicans

This woody vine is
characterized by
clusters of trumpet-
shaped, orange-red
flowers, about 2½ in.
long. A favorite of
the ruby-throated
hummingbird, the bird's
beak is adapted to
reach in to the
abundant nectar supply.