

Wildflower Walk

Location: Bi Meadows, Skyline Drive Mile Post 51

Date: September 21, 2015

Elevation: 3,548 feet

Trip Leader: Butch Kelly, Michael Belcher

Weather: Sunny, a few clouds, low 70s, breezy

No. in Attendance: 2

- | Blooming | Plants Observed |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. <u>Maleberry (vaccinium) a type of blueberry</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2. <u>White asters</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3. <u>Queen Anne's Lace</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. <u>Goldenrod</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5. <u>Oxeye Daisy</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6. <u>Silverrod (Only type of white goldenrod)</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7. <u>Nodding Lady Tresses-white flowered orchid</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. <u>Hawthorne Tree in red fruit</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. <u>Gray Birch Tree (Only known spot in Va.)</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. <u>Basil Mint Flowers gone to seed</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. <u>Common Milkweed in seed.</u> <small>No sign of catipillars eating on leaves</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. <u>Rose plants in Fruit</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. <u>Blackberry bushes</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 14. <u>Yarrow</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. <u>Sphagnum moss</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. <u>Leathery Grapefern (rare plant)</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 17. <u>Thistle sp.?? maybe Canada</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. <u>Hayscented Fern</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. <u>Flypoison plant in seed</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. <u>Virginia Pine</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 21. <u>Lance- or grass-leafed Goldenrod</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 22. <u>Red Clover</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. <u>Black Locust trees</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. <u>Red Maple trees</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 25. <u>White Snake Root</u> |

- | Blooming | Plants Observed |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 26. <u>Ragwort</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 27. <u>Privet bushes in berry</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 32. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 33. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 36. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 38. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 39. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 40. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 41. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 42. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 43. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 44. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 45. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 46. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 47. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 48. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 49. <u></u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 50. <u></u> |

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Driving Directions: From Roanoke to Big Meadows. 2 hours, 27 minutes. 141 miles via I-81 North

Follow I-81 N to Weyers Cave. Take exit 235 from I-81 N

Follow VA-276 N and US-33 E/Spotswood Trail to Skyline Dr in Robertson

Follow road signs to Big Meadows

Blooming	Plants Observed	Blooming	Plants Observed
<input type="checkbox"/>	51. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	61. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	52. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	62. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	53. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	63. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	54. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	64. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	55. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	65. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	56. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	66. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	57. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	67. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	58. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	68. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	59. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	69. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	60. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	70. _____

Notes:

Big Meadows is aptly named since it's the largest open area in the entire park. The meadows location directly across from the Big Meadows Visitor's Center makes it easily accessible. The large grassy plain makes a fresh change from the forest landscape. The meadows host numerous sparrows with chipping, field and song sparrows all being numerous and easy to spot. Other residents of the meadow include eastern bluebird, indigo bunting, eastern towhee and American goldfinch. The clear open view of the sky makes raptor watching easy. Look for turkey and black vultures, red-tailed hawk and American kestrel. During migration large numbers of broad-winged hawks and the occasional bald or golden eagle can augment these species. Big Meadows is incredible for the butterfly enthusiast. The acres of blooming wildflowers support a wide assortment of species including eastern tiger, black, pipevine and spicebush swallowtails, great spangled and variegated fritillaries, silver spotted skipper, common wood-nymph, orange sulphur and American copper. Dragonflies are less numerous although black saddlebags can often be seen skimming across the meadow.

The area is maintained with controlled burns.