

Wildflower Walk

Location: Falls Ridge Preserve

Date: June 5, 2021

Elevation: _____

Trip Leader: Butch Kelly and Jordan Metzgar

Weather: Sunny and Warm, in the 80s

No. in Attendance: 14

- | Blooming | Plants Observed |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Marginal woodfern <i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Intermediate woodfern <i>Dryopteris intermedia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Bulblet bladder fern <i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Christmas fern <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Scouring rush <i>Equisetum hymenale</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Silvery spleenwort <i>Deparia acrostichoides</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Wall rue <i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Northern maidenhair <i>Adiantum pedatum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Rattlesnake fern <i>Botrychium virginianum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Purple cliff brake <i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Marginal/Walking fern <i>Asplenium rhizophyllum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Ebony spleenwort <i>Asplenium platyneuron</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Tall blue lettuce <i>Lactuca biennis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Aniseroot <i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Clustered black snakeroot <i>Sanicula odorata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Wild hydrangea <i>Hydrangea arborescent</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Honewort <i>Cryptotaenia canadensis</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 18. Red clover* <i>Trifolium pratense</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 19. White clover* <i>Trifolium repens</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Yellow crownbeard <i>Verbesina occidentalis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. Dogbane <i>Apocynum sp.</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 22. Multiflora rose* <i>Rosa multiflora</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. Virginia creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. Daisy fleabane <i>Erigeron annuus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. Robin's plantain <i>Erigeron pulchellus</i> |

- | Blooming | Plants Observed |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. Heartleaf foamflower <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. Sharp-lobed hepatica <i>Hepatica acutifolia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Large-flowered bellwort <i>Uvularia grandiflora</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29. Skullcap <i>Scutellaria sp.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30. Goatsbeard <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31. Wild ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 32. Back cohosh <i>Actaea racemosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 33. Poison ivy <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 34. Bloodroot <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 35. Dodder <i>Cuscuta sp.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 36. Rattlesnake root <i>Prenanthes purpurea</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 37. Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 38. Wild yam <i>Dioscorea villosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 39. Fairybells/Yellow mandarin <i>Disporum lanuginosum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 40. Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 41. Agrimony <i>Agrimonia sp.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 42. Miterwort <i>Mitella diphylla</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 43. Tall thimbleweed <i>Anemone virginiana</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 44. Jack-in-the-pulpit <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 45. Burdock* <i>Arctium sp.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 46. Wild columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 47. Wood nettle <i>Laportea canadensis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 48. Woodland stonecrop <i>Sedum ternatum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 49. Cream violet <i>Viola striata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 50. Tall meadow-rue <i>Thalictrum pubescent</i> |

Wildflower Walk

Driving Directions: From Roanoke – Take I-81 S until Exit 128 (Ironto). Turn right onto Route 603/North Fork Road. Continue on the winding road for 7 miles until reaching a red bridge on the left. Take a left turn onto Falls Ridge Road and cross the bridge and train tracks. Once over the tracks, turn left onto a gravel road. Cross over a stream and keep left at the fork. Park on the side of the road by the preserve entrance sign. The trail will begin across the field.

Blooming	Plants Observed	Blooming	Plants Observed
<input type="checkbox"/>	51. Canadian moonseed <i>Menispermum canadense</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61. Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	52. Solomon's seal <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	62. Maple-leaved viburnum
<input type="checkbox"/>	53. False Solomon's seal <i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	63. Hearts a-bustin' <i>Euonymus americanus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	54. Ash-leaved maple/box elder <i>Acer negundo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	64. Bladdernut <i>Staphylea trifolia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	55. Sugar maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	65. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	56. Eastern redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	66. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	57. Basswood <i>Tilia americana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	67. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	58. Ohio buckeye <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	68. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	59. Tulip Poplar tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	69. _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	60. Alternate-leaved dogwood <i>Cornus alternifo-</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	70. _____

Notes:

Falls Ridge Preserve is located in the North Fork Roanoke River Valley close to Blacksburg, VA. This small preserve is held by The Nature Conservancy and protects a spring-fed travertine waterfall.

Travertine describes limestone created by the build-up of spring water with high mineral concentrations. Over thousands of years the rocks grow in size, calcifying plants and other organic materials in the process. This waterfall was formed by the process, and has an interesting array of bulbous rocks at each cascade. It is clearly evident where moss and plants have calcified because there are many shades of green streaks in the rocks. The total height of the cascades is roughly 50-60 feet high and the upper cascades are particularly delightful. You can also add some mileage by taking the Chamberlain Trail loop along the ridges above the valley. On the way back be sure to check out the caves at the base of the limestone cliffs, another feature of travertine formations.

Heavy foot traffic and use during the 2020-2021 pandemic has created unauthorized paths that has severely degraded the preserve, leading to plant damage and erosion.