

The Observations of John Larkin - May 1996

Some of the wildflowers we are trying to save for posterity that are presently blooming
April 10 to May 10, 1996

Achillea millefolium, **Yarrow** - Perennial herb to 2' lacy foliage white flowers in flat clusters.

Aletris lutea, **Colic-root** - Perennial herb to 2', leaves thin, 4-8" long, 1/2" yellow, thin flowers (about 20) on stalk. Lake Ramsey Road. Wet sites.

Aleurites fordii, **Tung Oil Tree** (Introduced) - Resembles our Catalpa trees in leaf and flower, but has a deep pink center. Attractive in rows. Tung Oil was once a thriving industry in our area.

Allium arenicola. **Wild Onion** - Compact clusters of small, white to pink flowers on 12" scapes (leafless stems). Grow from small bulbs.

Aphanostephus skirrobasis, **Lazy Daisy** - Annual to 20", 3/4" flowers that resemble Daisy Fleabane. but not as many rays (petals).

Baptisia leucophaea, **Nodding Indigo** - Perennial herb to 18" tall, leaflets in threes, 1" pea shaped yellow flowers in drooping clusters.

Dichromena colorata, **White-topped Sedge** - Lily-looking white bracts surround the tiny flowers. Moist pinelands & marshes.

Eriocaulon decangulare, **Hard-heads** - Basal rosette of thin, grass-like leaves, with bare flower stalks to 2' tall, topped by button-like dense offwhite flowers. Grows in acid pinelands, bogs, and pond margins (and Ramsey Road).

Helenium amarum, **BitterWeed** - Winter annual or biennial herb to 2' tall with many 3/4" all yellow flowers. blooms for months.

Kalmia latifolia, **Mountain Laurel** - Gets to be large evergreen shrub. Growing along Pusepetappa Creek in Washington Parish. Best time to see in bloom is mid to late April.

Lobelia appendiculata. **Pale Lobelia** - About 18" tall, on erect stem with pale blue, 3/8" flowers along stem, lower lip has typical, Lobelia three lobes.

Lonicera sempervirens, **Coral Honeysuckle** (3)

L. japonica, **Japanese Honeysuckle** - Sweet smelling flowers, but very invasive. Imported

Mitchella repens, **Partridge Berry** - Groundcover, twin leaves, twin flowers, & twin berries.

Oenothera speciosa, **Showy evening Primrose** (3).

Phlox divaricata. *P. pilosa* are still blooming (2).

Physostegia virginiana, **Obedient Plant** - Perennial to 3', pinkish flowers on spike.

Prunella vulgaris, **Self-heal** - Perennial in clumps to 18" tall. 1/2" white & lavender flowers in compact cylinders. Closely follows *Salvia lyrata* in bloom.

Rosa Carolina - Low growing, spreading, many 1 1/2-2" delicate pink, single flowers, followed by bright red hips, which the birds love.

Rudbeckia fulgida, **Bracted Cone-flower**; *R. amplexicaulis* and *R. hirta*, **Black-eyed Susan** are all in bloom.

Scutellaria integrifolia, **Rough Skullcap** - Perennial herb to 12", 3/4" lavender-blue flowers on spikes. I have about 50 plants from the one I got from Mary Ellen Armitage.

Sarracenia alata, **Yellow pitcher plant** – Unusual insect catching plants, with yellow, upside down flowers and hollow, 2' leaves. Wet sites.

Spigelia marilandica, **Indian Pink** - Perennial herb to 2', red, tubular flowers open with a yellow five pointed star in center. Interesting.

Tradescantra virginia, **Spiderwort** - Perennial herb, 1' tall, blue, pink or white flowers with grass-like leaves. (2)

Verbena rigida, **Stiff Verbena** - Low growing perennial with deep purple flowers, doing great. (2)