

Spring Wildflowers

As soon as the spring beauties start blooming in Sewanee's lawns, it's time to look for spring wildflowers. Shakerag Hollow is the best place on the Domain to find them. In March and April, and sometimes into May, the forest floor is covered with wildflowers of all kinds and colors. On warm sunny days, their pollinators are out, too, sipping up nectar and collecting pollen.

Hepatica is one of the first to bloom. Flowers vary from white to blue to purple, even sometimes pink. Yellow Trout Lily is another early bloomer.

We have three kinds of trilliums on the Sewanee Domain: Great White, Southern Red, and Little Sweet Betsy. That last one has dark green leaves mottled with lighter green.

One of the last spring wildflowers to bloom — and one of the most unusual — is Jack-in-the-Pulpit. Colors vary from yellowish green to purplish green.

As soon as the flowers start to fade in Shakerag Hollow, the pink lady-slippers start to bloom in the forests on top of the plateau. Lake Cheston is a good place to find them, Abbo's Alley, too.



Virginia Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*



Hepatica acutiloba



Great White Trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*



Southern Red Trillium, *Trillium sulcatum*



Little Sweet Betsy, *Trillium cuneatum*



Jack-in-the-Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*



Pink Lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*