



CORNELL  
BOTANIC  
GARDENS

Wildflower Explorations Tour



You have arrived at The Mundy Wildflower Garden at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.



Plants grow quickly in the spring! Walk down the path in late April and May. What do you see?

The path into the wildflower garden follows alongside Fall Creek. You may know Fall Creek better as the creek that creates the giant waterfall we know as Ithaca Falls!



The creek overflows into the garden every 10 years or so. The garden is a flood plain for the creek.



The flood waters carry mud, leaves, and branches dropping them in the wildflower garden. Is this good for the garden?



Yes, the flooding is good as it increases the soil fertility and makes the garden a rich habitat for wildflowers. The water drains away quickly so the plants are fine.





This woodland garden features plants that were growing in this area before the Europeans arrived. Plants from other countries are removed from the garden.





Stop at the "Garden Highlights" kiosk and look at the bloom board to learn the names of plants in bloom.

Who studied this flower? It is the first plant to flower in the garden.  
It is Skunk Cabbage.

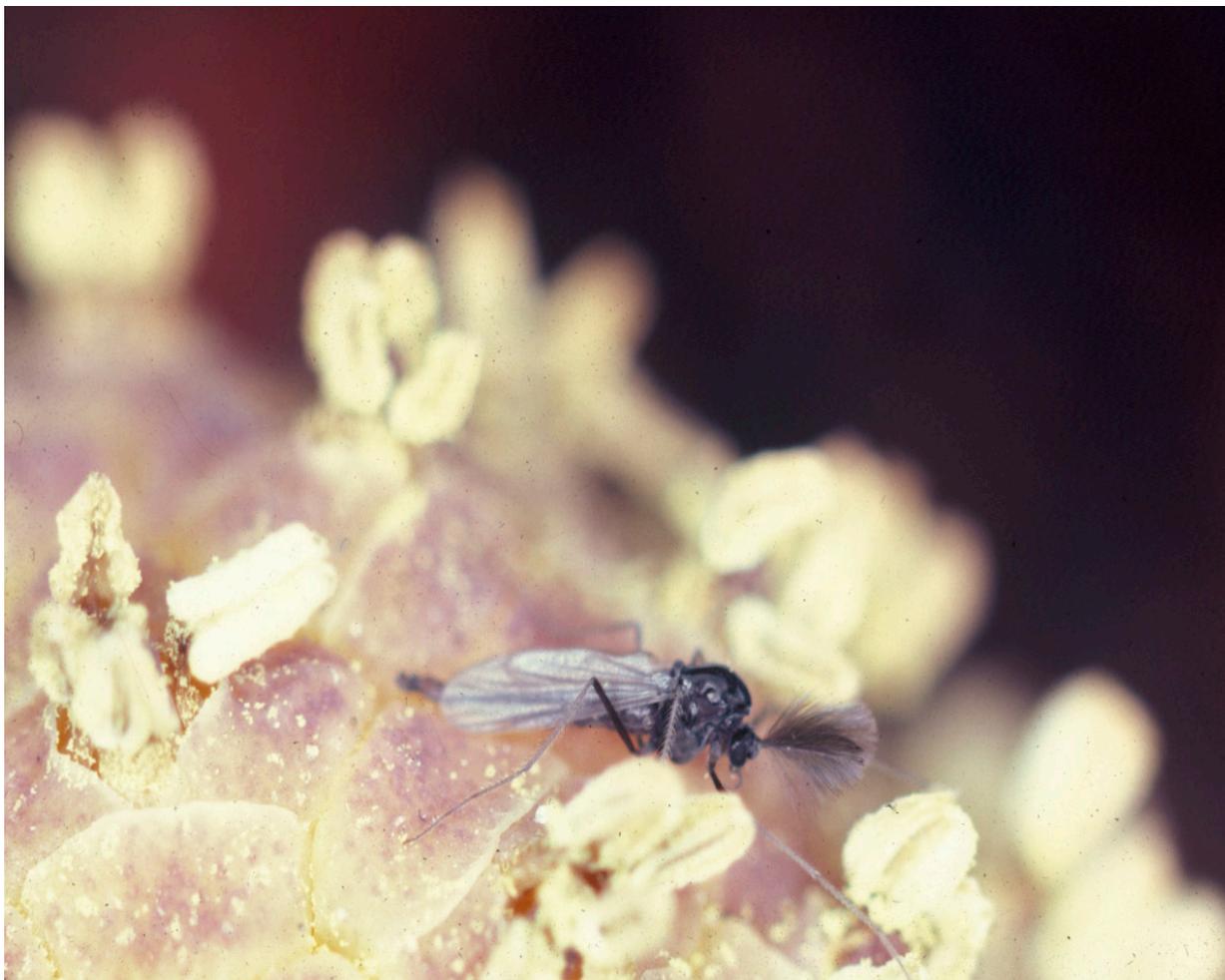


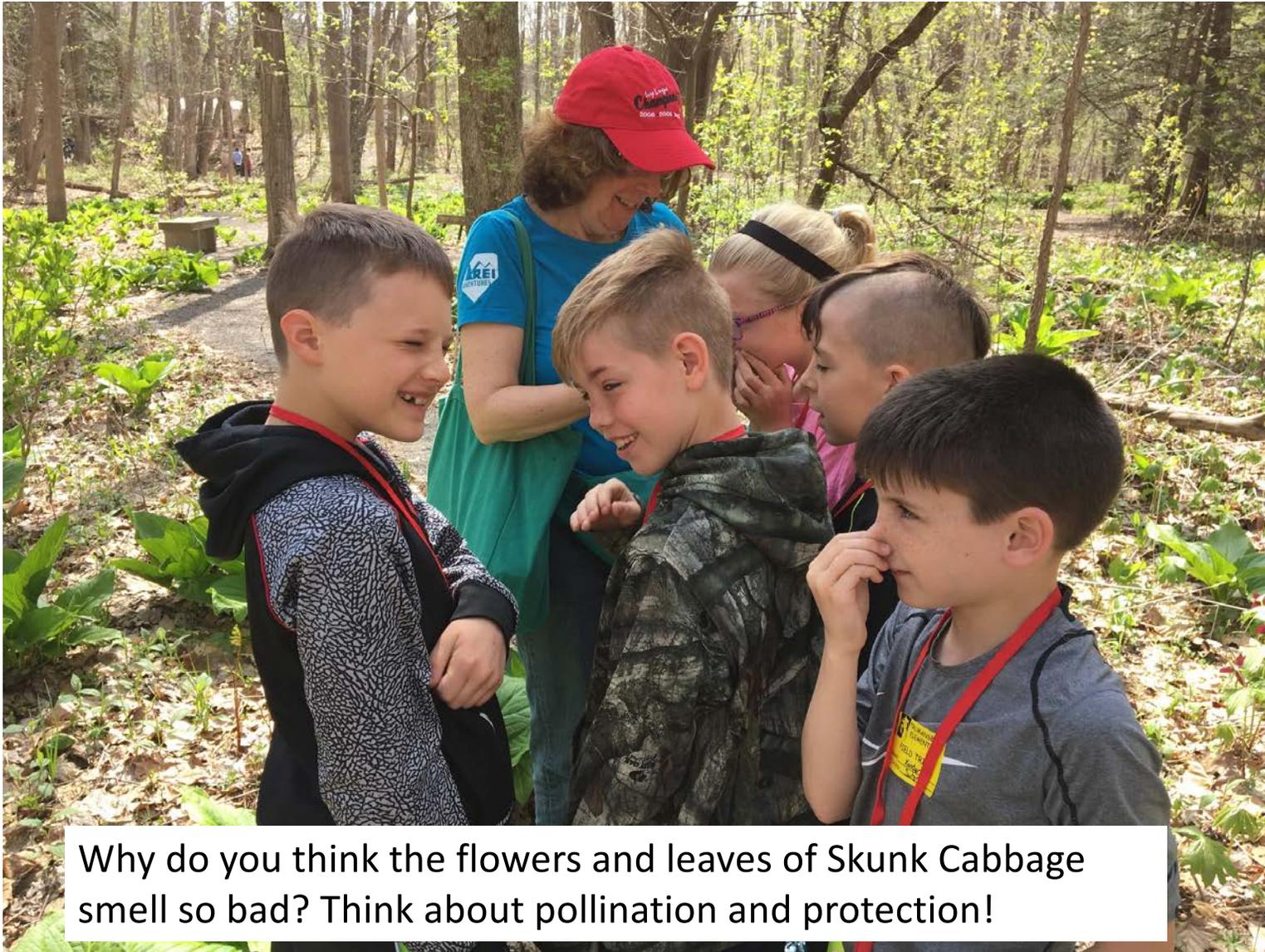


The picture on the left shows the underground parts of the Skunk Cabbage. This plant can use the food it stores underground to make heat that melts the snow around it.



Look inside the interesting flowers of Skunk Cabbage. Check out the enlarged version on the right. What part of the flower is the insect walking around?





Why do you think the flowers and leaves of Skunk Cabbage smell so bad? Think about pollination and protection!



The next native plant to flower is Hepatica. Who studied Sharp-Lobed Hepatica and wants to share about this flower?

What colors  
are Hepatica  
flowers?







Who would like to report on Red Trillium, our first trillium to bloom?



Look at this Red Trillium plant and what plant parts do you see that are in threes?



Why do Red  
Trillium smell so  
bad?

Think about what  
insects it might  
attract.





Who is knowledgeable about Bloodroot? What do you want to share?



Bloodroot has a single lobed-leaf that wraps around the flower. The leaf protects the flower when it first begins to grow.



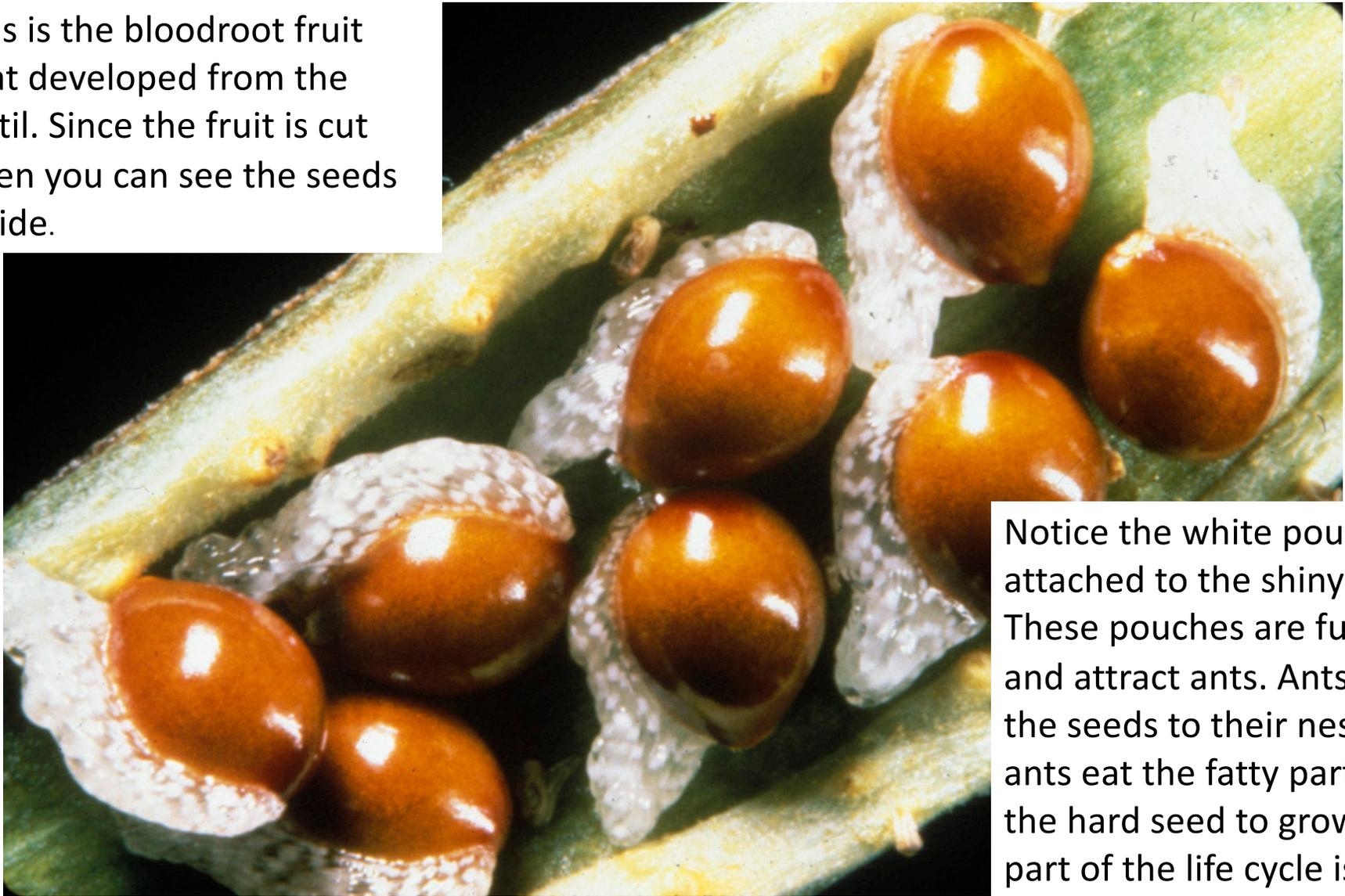
Can you see the yellow male parts of the flower?

Can you see the green part in the center.

What part of the flower is the green center?



This is the bloodroot fruit that developed from the pistil. Since the fruit is cut open you can see the seeds inside.



Notice the white pouches attached to the shiny seed. These pouches are full of fat and attract ants. Ants carry the seeds to their nests. The ants eat the fatty part leaving the hard seed to grow. What part of the life cycle is this?



Who studied this petite plant called Dutchman's Breeches?



Check out the pollinators on the unique flowers of Dutchman's Breeches.

Who studied this small delicate plant that only grows a few inches tall?

It is Spring Beauty.



Look closely at Spring Beauty flowers. Can you see the stamens—the male part that contains the pollen?  
What color is the pollen?



This plant is  
Trout Lily.  
Who studied  
Trout Lily and  
would like to  
share?



This plant has to have two leaves  
before it flowers.  
Why do you think it is called Trout Lily?



Check out this  
pollinator on  
Trout Lily.

What flower  
parts do you  
see?



Who studied our native Wild Ginger plant and can share what they learned with us?



You have to really look close to the ground to find the flowers of Wild Ginger. Why would a plant have their flowers at ground level?



The underground rhizomes of Wild Ginger smell like the ginger that we buy at the store.





Many of our woodland flowers, including Wild Ginger have seeds that are dispersed by ants. Can you see the fatty pouches that ants love to eat? Ants drag the whole seed back to their nests, eat the fatty part leaving the seed to grow in their fertile garbage pits.

Who recognizes this plant as the one they studied? It is Marsh Marigold growing in this wet area.



Look at the center of the Marsh Marigold flower. What do you see?



Who studied this  
showy flower  
named Virginia  
Bluebells?





Look closely at the spot where the bluebell flower is attached to plant.

Who made these holes in the  
Bluebell flower and why?



Anyone  
recognize this  
white flower?

Who can share  
facts about  
White Trillium?





Look closely. Why is it called Trillium? Tri means three—so what parts of this plant come in threes?

Some people mistakenly think we have a Pink Trillium but we don't. The petals of White Trillium turn pink as the flower gets older.



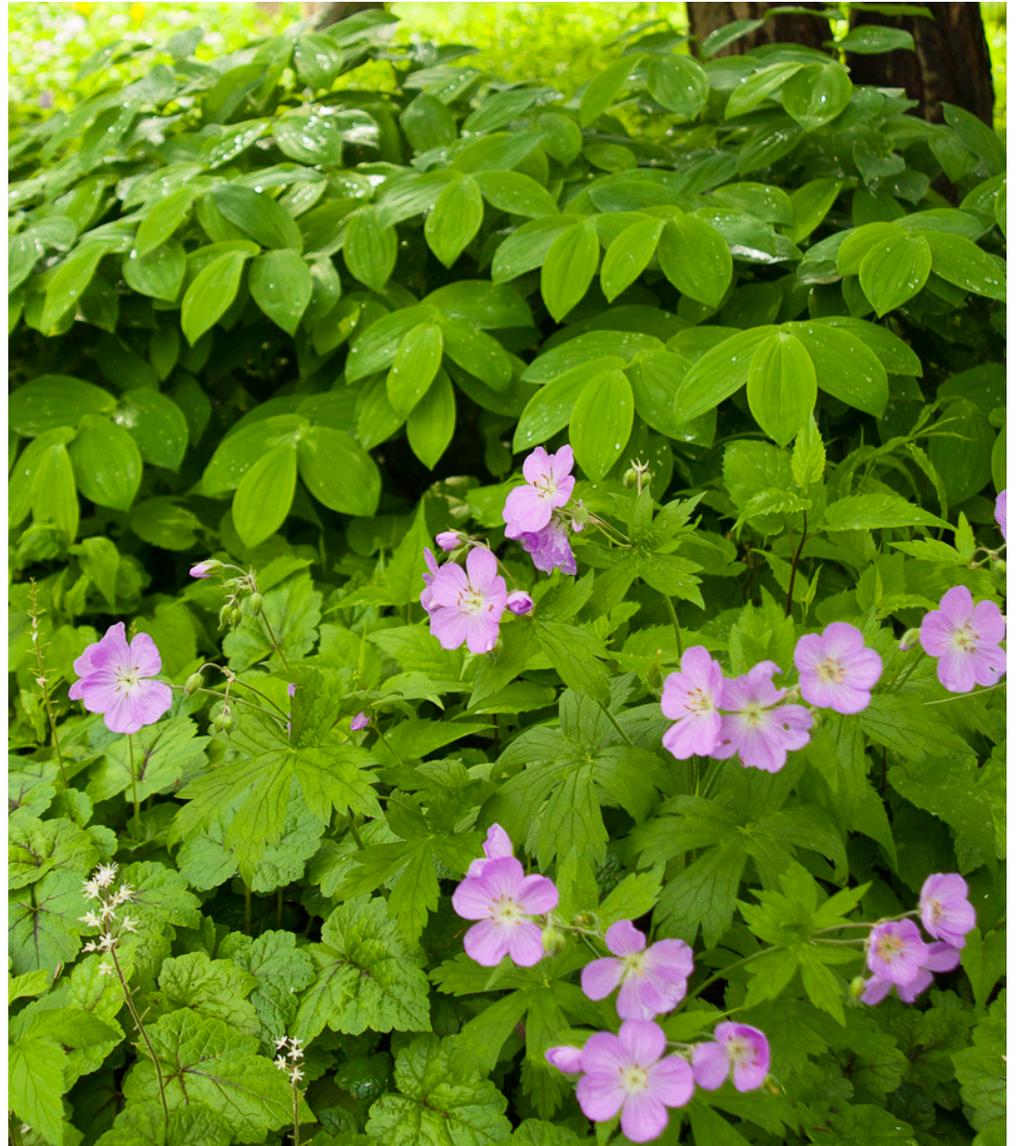
This plant is  
Golden Alexanders.  
Who studied this  
plant?



Look closely at the Golden Alexanders' blossoms. What you are looking at is hundreds of little flowers each with 5 curled petals.



This pink flower in the front of the picture is Wild Geranium. Who can tell us about this flower?





Count the petals on Wild Geranium. Often the number of sepals and petals are the same. Can you guess how many sepals it has?

This is a picture of the fruit of Wild Geranium. The seeds are at the bottom of the fruit. It has a cool slingshot method of dispersing its seeds.

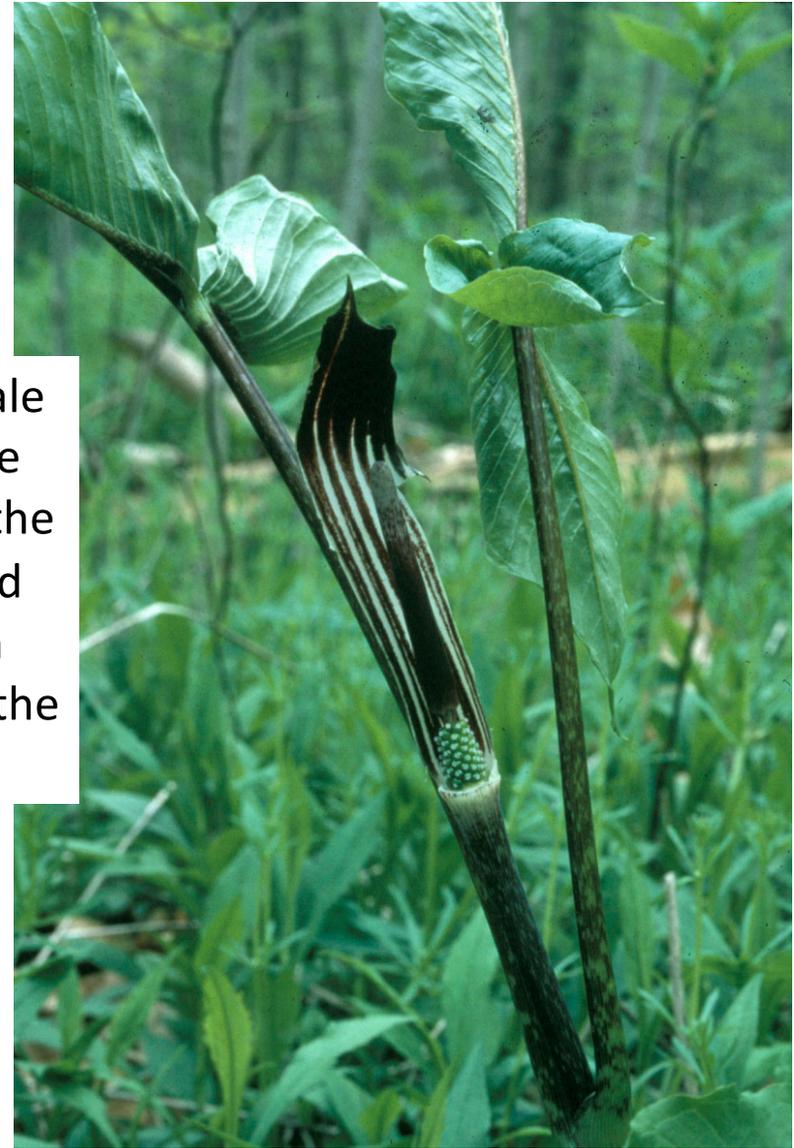




Who learned about the strange Jack-in-the-Pulpit flower?



Each plant has only male flowers or only female flowers depending on the amount of food stored underground. Which picture do you think is the female?



Anyone recognize this flower as the one they studied?

It is Mayapple.





You often find large patches of Mayapples as they spread rapidly by their underground rhizomes in addition to spreading by seed.





Why do you think they are named  
Mayapple?



This tall arching plant is Solomon's Seal. Who is ready to share about this plant?





What would an advantage of having your flowers face downward?



Thank you for visiting virtually and we hope you can visit the real Mundy Wildflower Garden sometime soon.





Or visit a natural area near where you live to look for our native wildflowers and share what you learned with others!



THANK YOU