



Wildflowers
of the

BH

**Bragdon Hill
Conservation Area**

There are crowds who trample a flower into the dust without
once thinking that they have one the sweetest thoughts
of God under their heels.

~Josiah Gilbert Holland~

Table of Contents

Page 4. Introduction.

Page 5. Blue-bead Lily

Page 7. Bunchberry

Page 9. Dwarf Ginseng

Page 11. Flowering Raspberry

Page 13. Foamflower

Page 15. Goldthread

Page 17. Indian Cucumber Root

Page 19. Indian Pipe

Page 21. Jack-in-the-pulpit

Page 23. Mayflower

Page 25. Pinesap

Page 27. Purple Trillium

Page 29. Spotted Wintergreen

Page 31 Resources & Credits

Bragdon Hill Conservation Area

Welcome to the Bragdon Hill Conservation Area, which is comprised of approximately 332 acres, and is located adjacent to the North Raymond Rd in Poland, Maine. It was established in 2011. The BHCA combines three principal land parcels which include ; the Poland Town forest that dates back to 1857, when it was used as a poor farm, and two parcels owned/given by the New England Forestry Foundation .

The Bragdon Hill Conservation Area has several walking trails. These trails are short to moderate in length and intensity, ideal for family use. Wildlife is abundant in this natural habitat. The hiker will traverse a stream, enjoy gentle slopes, see varied vegetation and flowers. The forest is comprised of pine, birch, ash, red oak and hemlock trees. The largest hemlock tree in Poland is located here adjacent to one of the trails. This tree is nearly 200 years old.

The Bragdon Hill Conservation area came about as the Poland select-board and comprehensive planning committee recognized the value and importance of setting aside lands for conserving open space and land preservation. In 2008 the Poland Conservation Commission was established to realize these ideals. Their mission statement was; to study the value of lands in Poland that may be important for outdoor recreation, the preservation of resources and wildlife habitat for timber harvesting, farming, scenic and historic value. Its goal was to implement stewardship and preservation of land, and to educate its citizens and future generations in its importance.

Many individuals have taken part in this journey and we wish to thank all of them and thus we ask you to enjoy the many things that you may see, smell or hear. We invite you to join us in our efforts through your donations. Remember, you travel at your own risk and due to the fragile nature of our trails, please remain on the trails and take nothing but pictures. The area is a carry in, carry out. No littering and no motorized vehicles are permitted. Also, please be respectful of neighbor's property and walk softly.

Blue-bead Lily

Clintonia borealis

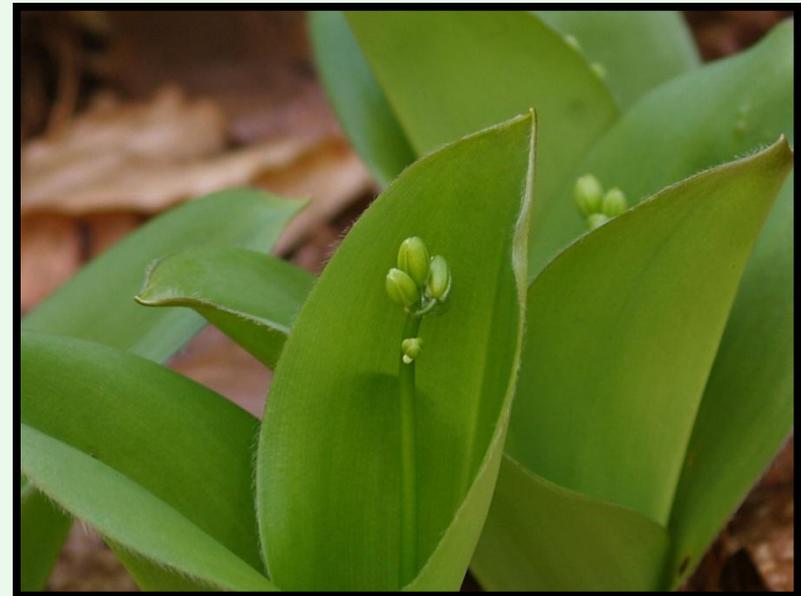


Blue-bead Lily

Common in rich moist acidic soils the Blue bead Lily will often grow in dense clusters, where the soil conditions are right. The plants grow to be 8" to 12" tall and produce a long, narrow stalk that bears a cluster of $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide yellow flowers. The blossoms resemble lemon-colored lilies in miniature form. Once the flowers are pollinated the small blue berries that give the plant its common name begin to form. The berries ripen to a deep blue in mid-July and are inedible. Blue-bead Lily can be found along the Hemlock Trail



Early stage of Blue-bead Berries



Blue-bead lily buds

Bunchberry

Cornus canadensis



Bunchberry

Bunchberry is actually a dwarf shrub of the dogwood family. It grows in moist woods usually under conifers and reaches 8" in height. The plant has 6 broadly oval leaves (non-flowering plants have 4) arranged in a whorl around a short stalk that bears a single flower head made up of 4 greenish white bracts, in the center is a cluster of greenish yellow flowers. The flowers bloom in late spring to early summer. Once pollinated the cluster of bright red berries that give the plant its common name develop. The berries ripen in mid to late summer. Bunchberry can be found along the Maple Trail.



Newly opened Bunchberry Blossom



Bunchberry foliage & fruit

Dwarf Ginseng

Panax trifolius



Dwarf Ginseng

Dwarf Ginseng is closely related to medicinal Ginseng. The plants grow between 3" to 8" high. The flowers, which bloom between April and June, are white and slowly change to a pale pink as they age. Once pollinated the plant begins produce small yellowish berries from July to August. Dwarf Ginseng was used for many different medicinal purposes by the Native Americans. Dwarf Ginseng can be found along the Hemlock Trail.



Dwarf Ginseng Foliage



Un-opened buds & Flowers

Flowering Raspberry

Rubus odoratus



Flowering Raspberry

Flowering raspberry is a member of the rose family. The plant can grow up to 6 feet in height. Flowering raspberry is often found along woodland edges and in low-lying thickets. The leaves are similar to wild raspberry leaves only larger (sometimes as large as 10 inches across). The flowers which bloom between the months of June and August, can be mistaken for swamp rose flowers. After blooming the plant produces large raspberry like fruit which are dry and tasteless. Flowering raspberry can be found along the Maple and White Pine trails.



Stems are thorn-less



Pollinated flowers and "hips"

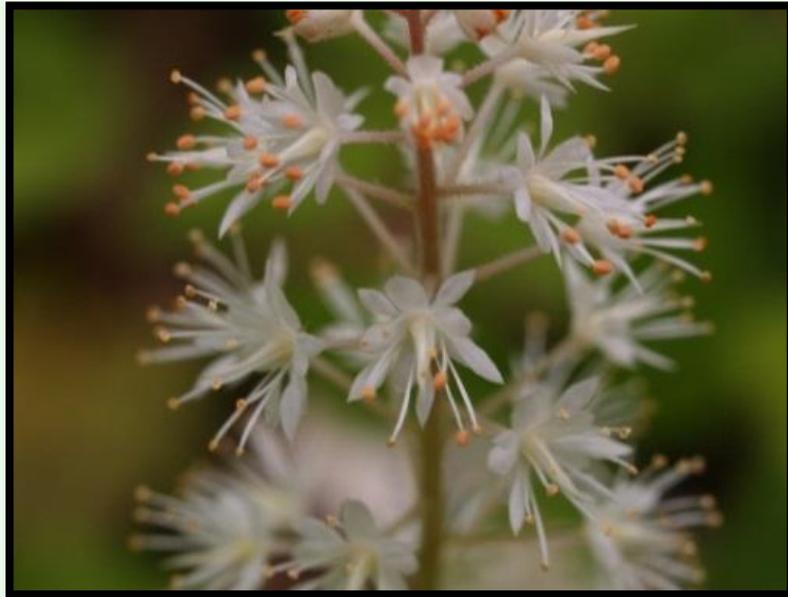
Foamflower

Tiarella cordifolia



Foamflower

Foamflower, one of two members of the Saxifrage family on our list is an early bloomer, usually blooming in late April - early May. The plant is covered with fine hairs and grows 6 to 12 inches in height. The leaves which look similar to grape leaves and turn a brownish color can be used to identify the plant in the early spring. The flowers which are small (less than 1/4" wide) grow in a cluster at the top of a stalk. The flowers range in color from white to a pinkish - orange. Foamflower prefers rich woodland soil that is moist. It can be found where spring run-off saturates the ground. Foamflower can be found along the Hemlock trail.



Flowers



Previous season's leaves

Goldthread

Coptis trifolia



Goldthread

Goldthread is another of the early wildflowers blooming in mid-April to early May. This small wildflower (usually less than 5 inches tall) is a member of the Buttercup family. The flowers are often hard to see, so the best way to find this plant is by looking for the foliage. Goldthread is often found on moss covered stumps in moist conifer woods. The roots have been used to make yellow dye by Native Americans and also are said to have anti-bacterial properties. Goldthread can be found along the Hemlock Trail



Goldthread foliage

Indian Cucumber Root

Medeola virginiana



Indian Cucumber Root

Indian cucumber root is a member of the Lily family which grows up to 2' tall. Indian cucumber root is common in transition forests where northern tree species grow alongside tree species from the south. It flowers between May and June. The flowers are greenish-yellow and measure ½" across and resemble larger lilies minus the petals. The plants themselves are easy to identify even when there are no flowers present because of the distinctive arrangement of the leaves. (See inset) Indian Cucumber Root can be found along the Hemlock trail.



Indian Cucumber Root fruit



Lower leaves of flowering plant

Indian Pipe

Monotropa uniflora



Indian Pipe

Indian pipe, sometimes called corpse flower is a myco-heterotroph, meaning it gets its nutrients from a symbiotic relationship with fungus in the soil. Indian pipe is unusual because it has no chlorophyll and produces no leaves so it cannot produce its own food. Indian pipe can be found growing in clumps or as a single flower. Indian pipe blooms between June and September. The flowers grow as high as 10 inches and are white and waxy. Once pollinated the flowers begin to turn upright and shed its petals revealing the seed case. The seed cases persist though winter and can give an indication of where to look for Indian pipe the next season. Indian pipe can be found along the Hemlock Trail.



Previous seasons seed cases



Developing seed cases

Jack-in-the-pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum



Jack-in-the-pulpit

Jack-in-the-pulpit is one of the most distinctive wildflower in our region. It would be very difficult to confuse it with anything else. The plants grow to as high as 3' and have compound leaves made up of 3 leaflets that taper to a sharp point. The flowers are a very unusual shape consisting of tubular vase-like structure that rises to a hood that encloses the spadix which is covered with the actual flowers. Once the flowers are pollinated the hood withers and the berries begin to form. The berries ripen in late summer to early fall becoming bright red. Jack-in-the-pulpit can be found along the Hemlock trail.



Jack-in-the-pulpit berries



Jack-in-the-pulpit foliage

Mayflower

Epigaea repens



Mayflower

Mayflower, also known as trailing arbutus is an evergreen creeping dwarf shrub. Mayflower rarely exceeds more than 2" in height. Mayflower prefers rocky or sandy soil conditions. The leaves are leathery to the touch and tend to be roughly the shape of a broad oval. The flowers which appear between the months of late March and early May are white to pinkish in color. This is one of the most fragrant of the early spring flowers. Mayflower can be found along the Hemlock Trail.



Pink variation



Mayflower buds

Pinesap

Monotropa hypopithys



Pinesap

Pinesap is a relative of Indian pipe, and shares many of the same characteristics. Pinesap is also a myco-heterotroph and has no chlorophyll or leaves. The flower stalks turn upright once they are pollinated and the seed cases form. Like Indian pipe, the seed cases persist through winter and are easy to spot poking through the leaf litter. One of the main differences between Indian pipe and Pinesap is that Pinesap produces multiple flowers per stalk, while Indian pipe only produces one. Flower color is another difference. Summer blooming flowers are yellow and fall blooming flowers tend to be reddish in color. Pinesap blooms between June and October. The flowers grow 4" to 15" tall. Pinesap can be found along the Hemlock Trail.



Pinesap seed cases



Pollinated flowers

Purple Trillium

Trillium erectum



Purple Trillium

Purple Trillium, also known as Wake-robins or Stinking Benjamin is a stunning member of the lily family. Purple Trillium is one of the first flowers to appear in the spring and the aroma of the flowers smells like rotten meat hence the name Stinking Benjamin. Purple Trillium grows to be 7-16" tall and is pollinated by flies. It can have white, yellow or green flowers. Purple Trillium can be found along the Hemlock trail.



Leaves and un-opened buds



Trillium seed pod

Spotted Wintergreen

Chimaphila maculata



Spotted Wintergreen

Spotted Wintergreen is an evergreen and a member of the shinleaf family. The plant grows to a height of 4-10 inches. The leaves are very distinctive and are helpful in identifying this plant. The leaves are narrowly oval, dark green and have a white stripe down the center. The flowers which bloom between the months of June and August are white. Once pollinated the seed pods form and the stems turn upright. Spotted wintergreen is an endangered species in Maine, so please tread carefully near this plant. Spotted wintergreen can be found along the Hemlock trail.



Spotted wintergreen foliage



Last years seed pods

Resources

For more information try these websites and books

WEBSITES

<http://gobotany.newenglandwild.org>

<http://www.newenglandwild.org>

<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org>

<http://www.ontariowildflowers.com>

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mnap>

CREDITS

Introduction by Patti McGillivary

Photos and text by Alan Audet

Special thanks to Lisa St. Hilaire of the Maine Natural Areas Program