



# STILLMAN NATURE CENTER

COPYRIGHT 2011

33 WEST PENNY ROAD • SOUTH BARRINGTON • IL • 60010

847-428-OWLS (6957) • EMAIL STILLNC@WILDBLUE.NET • WWW.STILLMANNC.ORG

## WOODLAND WILDFLOWERS



**Bloodroot**

*Photo by Karen Lund*

The early blooming flowers that decorate the forest floor are welcome signs of spring. Many of these plants will sprout, mature, flower, and produce seeds during the period after the snow melts and before the trees fully leaf out.

In the summer, there is no leaf, no flower, and little sign that some of these plants ever existed. The energy the wildflowers have gathered from the spring sun will be stored in their roots and used next year to repeat their life cycle. If you are reading this in spring, most of the plants described below can be found just a few miles from your home. Besides at Stillman, these wildflowers are growing in healthy forests across the Great Lakes region and much of the northeastern U.S.

### **Bloodroot**

*(Sanguinaria canadensis)*

This native poppy's name comes from its red sap. It prefers growing in moist and shady woods. Bloodroot's gorgeous flower is 1.5 inches across and has from 8 to 15 petals. Unfortunately, the blossom is only visible for a few days in April. At first, the plant's distinctively lobed leaf is found clasping the flower stem. The leaves can grow to be 6 inches wide. Ants collect and help disperse bloodroot seeds through the forest.



**Bloodroot**

*istockphoto.com/nbritten*

### **Jack-in-the-Pulpit**

*(Arisaema triphyllum)*

This plant's blossom sports a striped green hood or "pulpit" that curls over "Jack," a club-shaped organ known as a spadix. It is at the base of the spadix where the tiny flowers, either male or female, are to be found. How can you tell male from female? Just count the leaves. If the plant has one three-parted leaf, it's a male. If it has two, it's a female.



**Jack-in-the-Pulpit**

*istockphoto.com/tacojim*

### **White Trillium**



### **White Trillium**

*(Trillium grandiflorum)*

As its name suggests, everything about this plant comes in threes. It has three broad leaves, three white petals, and a three-ribbed red berry. Its single white blossom can grow to 4 inches. Although other trilliums grow in the area, none will be confused with this, the largest and showiest member of the group.

# WILDFLOWERS *(Continued)*



Mayapple

©istockphoto.com/Kathryn8

## Mayapple *(Podophyllum peltatum)*

Looking like a cluster of stubby umbrellas, colonies of mayapple can be found growing in maple or oak woods. The flower, which appears in May, resembles an apple blossom. Mayapple's single, large, white, waxy flower is located at the fork of two leaves. The flower develops into an "apple" (a berry, actually) that looks like a small lemon. Although the yellow pulp in this fruit is edible, the seeds it contains are poisonous.

## Virginia Bluebell *(Mertensia virginica)*

In early May, as you proceed down the main trail at Stillman, you'll see our spectacular display of aptly-named bluebells. Stillman's moist shaded woodland provides the ideal setting for these azure perennials. If you are bit early, the buds will look pink, not blue. These spring flowers are visited by a variety of insects including bumblebees. The bees' mouthparts are long enough to reach the bottom of the trumpet-shaped "bells."



Virginia Bluebell

Photo by Jim Kaltsas

# About Stillman Nature Center

**Hours:** We are open to drop-in visitors on Sundays from 9:00AM - 4:00PM. Weekday programs available by appointment (see below).

**Bird Programs:** Besides visiting the birds of prey, you can attend one of our bird banding demonstrations which take place on the first Sunday morning of the month from April through October. Bird walks are also scheduled during the warmer months.

**Group Programs:** The Stillman Nature Center is available during the week, by reservation, to school classes and scout groups. You can visit the Center or we can bring our raptors to your meeting place. For more information about the group programs and fees, either call (847) 428-OWLS(6957), check our website: [stillmanncc.org](http://stillmanncc.org), or email us at: [stillnc@wildblue.net](mailto:stillnc@wildblue.net)

**Funding:** Unlike most nature centers, Stillman is not part of a village, park or forest preserve district. *Stillman is an independent nature center which is privately funded and receives no tax monies. We count on fundraising events and memberships to further our educational activities in the community.* A membership application can be found at our website and in every Stillman newsletter. Should you choose to support us, the raptors and our paid staff of one will appreciate your generosity.

