EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences

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FINAL REPORT FOR WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND

GRANT - #08-011W

Grant Title: Distribution of Brochures and Installation of Plaques

for Gardens Demonstrating Illinois-adapted Native Plants

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Nancy Coutant and Janice Coons

217-581-6609 and 217-581-6243

Biological Sciences Department, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920

Grantee Representative: Robert Chesnut, 217-581-8453

The overall goal of this project was to increase the awareness by citizens of Illinois of the benefits of using native plants in landscaping to increase their usage by gardens. To achieve this overall goal two objectives were proposed.

The first objective was to "print and distribute color brochures" for the prairie and the woodland gardens that we have developed at Eastern Illinois University. We had 990 color brochures for the prairie garden printed and 660 color brochures printed for the woodland garden, and have started to distribute them. The brochures are available in the office of the Department of Biological Sciences and at the reference desk in Booth Library on Eastern's campus. We also purchased a weather proof box for each garden that will soon be installed at the gardens. Therefore, the brochures will be available at both garden sites. Due to the high cost of printing color brochures we will place black and white copies of the brochures in the weather proof boxes. Also, this fall we will be placing the brochures on our website, www.eiu.edu/~n_plants. Having the brochures available on the website will enable interested parties to print copies. A color copy of each brochure is included with the report.

The second objective of this grant was to "produce and install permanent plaques" containing information about the natural area represented by each garden and to offer information about using native plants in landscaping. The plaques were produced, attached to boulders, and installed in the gardens. The report includes two pictures of each plaque, after being installed in the gardens.

EIU PRAIRIE GARDEN
Dedicated to John Ebinger
(Emeritus Botany Professor)

EIU PRAIRIE GARDEN
Dedicated to John Ebinger
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This garden was created to demonstrate
the beauty and diversity of species
native to Illinois prairies for use as a resource
to gardeners and students of all ages. As prairie
species, these plants will do best in sunny areas.
Being natives, they require minimal care
and are environmentally friendly.
For more information about individual species,
a brochure is available at the office or
website of the Biological Sciences Department
at Eastern Illinois University.
2008
Nancy Coutant
Janice Coons

EIU WOODLAND GARDEN
Dedicated to Wesley Whiteside
(Emeritus Botany Professor)
This garden was created to demonstrate
the beauty and diversity of species
native to Illinois woodlands for use as a resource
to gardeners and students of all ages. As woodland
species, these plants will do best in shady areas.
Being natives, they require minimal care and are
environmentally friendly. For more information
about individual species, a brochure is available
at the office or website of the Biological Sciences
Department at Eastern Illinois University.
2008
Janice Coons
Nancy Coutant

EIU WOODLAND GARDEN

Acknowledgments

Funding

- Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Richard Smith/Botany Department Incentive Fund
- Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research
- Biological Sciences Department at Eastern Illinois University

Assisstance with Site Preparation, Planting and Maintenance

- Jon Collins, Justin Perry and the EIU Grounds Department
- Jason Cunningham, Sean Jones, April McDonnell and numerous other EIU students

Assistance with Brochure

- Gabe Grant
- Sarah (Westfall) Haley

Brochure Photography

- Nancy Coutant
- Janice Coons

EIU Prairie Garden

DEDICATED TO DR. JOHN EBINGER

Project Development and Coordination

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www.eiu.edu/~n_plants

Introduction

Natural areas in Illinois contain diverse habitats including prairies, woodlands and wetlands that provide food and homes for a wide range of animals. The EIU Prairie Garden contains plant species found in prairies that provide a continuous succession of expansive blooms throughout the growing season. To fully appreciate the prairie, one must visit every two to three weeks from April through October. The flower show starts as early as late April with plants such as the prairie violet, star grass, early blooming mints and prairie ragwort. The blooms of the coneflowers, blazing stars and prairie coreopsis take over during the summer months. Fall brings the blooms of the grasses such as big bluestem, prairie dropseed and Indian grass, along with the flowers of the asters, goldenrods, gentians and sunflowers.

Prairie plants can provide unique specimens for any garden situation, and many of the prairie plants included in this garden are well suited for use as landscape plants. Once established, prairie and other native plants need little care, may attract butterflies or hummingbirds, and are available for many microclimates in your garden. Individuals, state and federal agencies, businesses, and organizations are becoming aware of the benefits of native plants, and are using more native plants, including ones from prairies, in landscaping. Due to this increased demand for native plants, the number of plant nurseries that specialize in native plants or that include a portion of native plants with their typical stock is increasing. For more information on landscaping with native plants and sources of native plant materials visit our website at www.eiu.edu/~n_plants. Never remove native plants from protected natural areas.

This brochure contains pictures and information for forty of the over one hundred prairie plant species that are growing in the garden. This garden was started in the summer of 2005 using plants rather than seeds with additional plants added in r years.

We hope that you enjoy your visit and that you will come often.

White Wild Indigo
(Baptisia alba) - Fabaceae
This plant grows 36-48 inches. Its white flowers bloom from June to August. A blue dye can be made from its leaves and fruits.

Wild Bergamot
(Monarda fistulosa) - Lamiaceae
This plant grows 24-48 inches.
It blooms lavender from July to September. The dried leaves can be used as a tea. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Wild Petunia
(Ruellia humilis) - Acanthaceae
This plant grows 6-12 inches. It blooms from June to August with lavender flowers. It can be used as a groundcover.

Wild Quinine
(Parthenium integrifolium) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 24-36 inches. Its white flowers bloom from June to September. It is used in fresh or dried flower arrangements.

Wild Strawberry
(Fragaria virginiana) - Rosaceae
This plant grows 3-6 inches. Its white flowers bloom from April to June. Its fruits are edible, and it can be used as a groundcover.

Smooth Aster
(Aster laevis) - Asteraceae
This plant grows to 24-48 inches and blooms from September to October with lavender flowers that have a yellow center. It is used for fresh flower arrangements and attracts butterflies.

Stiff Goldenrod
(Oligoneuron rigidum) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 12-60 inches. The flowers are yellow and bloom from July to October. Goldenrod does NOT cause hay fever or allergies because it is pollinated by insects and not by the wind. Butterflies and other insects are attracted to this plant.

Swamp Milkweed
(Asclepias incarnata) -Asclepiadaceae
This plant grows 36-60 inches. It blooms pink from June to September. It attracts butterflies and it can grow in moist soil.

Switch Grass
(Panicum virgatum) - Poaceae
This plant grows 36-60 inches. It blooms from June to September and has a reddish purple tint to it. It is being researched for biofuel production.

Tall Coreopsis
(Coreopsis tripteris) - Asteraceae
This plant grows to be 72 inches. The flowers are yellow and bloom from July to September. It attracts birds that feed on the plant's seed.

Dedication

The EIU Prairie Garden is dedicated to Dr. John Ebinger, an emeritus professor of the Botany Department at Eastern Illinois University. Dr. Ebinger will forever be remembered for his exuberant teaching style and for his extreme enthusiasm for the study of plants. He transferred this enthusiasm for plants to many students during his thirty-two years of teaching botany classes and mentoring student research projects. Dr. Ebinger always included field trips to Illinois natural areas for students in his classes or for those doing research projects with him. Several of Dr. Ebinger's students became professional botanists, and all of his students gained an appreciation for the native flora. Although retired from teaching, Dr. Ebinger continues to be active with research projects. In appreciation for all that he has contributed and continues to contribute to the field of botany, we dedicate the EIU Prairie Garden to him. C+, John!

Dr. Ebinger in a Prairie

Big Bluestem
(*Andropogon gerardii*) - Poaceae
This plant grows 48-84 inches. It blooms from August to September and has a bronze/red color in the fall and winter. It attracts birds and is used in dried arrangements.

Black-Eyed Susan
(*Rudbeckia hirta*) - Asteraceae
This plant can reach 12-36 inches. The flower heads are yellow with black centers and bloom from May to October. Many homeowners use this plant in their gardens.

Blue Flag Iris
(*Iris shrevei*) - Iridaceae
This plant grows 24-36 inches. It blooms blue-violet from May to July. It should not be eaten as it is mildly toxic.

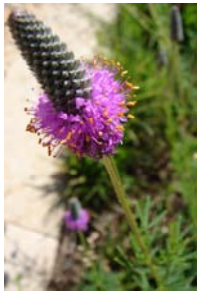
Butterfly Milkweed
(*Asclepias tuberosa*) - Asclepiadaceae
This plant grows 12-36 inches. It has an orange bloom from June to September. It attracts many butterflies.

Common Ironweed
(Vernonia fasciculata) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 48–72 inches. Its flowers are purple and it blooms from July to September. It is used for fresh arrangements and it attracts butterflies.

Prairie Ragwort
(Senecio plattensis) - Asteraceae
This plant grows to 12-36 inches. It blooms yellow in early spring. This plant heavily reseeds in a garden setting.

Prairie Violet
(Viola pedatifida) - Violaceae
This plant grows to 4-8 inches. The flowers are violet and it blooms from April to June. It can be used in rock gardens.

Purple Prairie Clover
(Dalea purpurea) - Fabaceae
This plant grows 12-24 inches. It blooms purple in mid-summer. It is a slender plant with fine-cut foliage that is topped with purple flower spikes that display showy yellow anthers.



Rattlesnake Master
(Eryngium yuccifolium) - Apiaceae
This plant grows 36-48 inches. It blooms greenish white from June to August. It is used in rock gardens and for cut and dried flower arrangements. It has unique foliage.

Side-Oats Grama
(Bouteloua curtipendula) - Poaceae
This plant grows 24-48 inches. It blooms from July to October. It spreads at a very slow rate.

Obedient Plant
(Physostegia virginiana) - Lamiaceae
This plant grows 24-60 inches. It blooms pink from August to October. This plant grows in an erect fashion. When the flowers are moved they stay obediently in place, hence the common name.

Pale Purple Coneflower
(*Echinacea pallida*) – Asteraceae
This plant grows 2 to 3 feet and blooms June to July. The flowers are pale purple and are useful as cut flowers. It is one of the plants that is used to make the herbal supplement called "Echinacea".

Prairie Cord Grass
(Spartina pectinata) - Poaceae
This grass grows 36-84 inches, and blooms from July to August in wet conditions. It has dark green glossy leaves and is salt tolerant.

Prairie Dock
(Silphium terebinthinaceum) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 48-96 inches. The flowers are yellow and bloom from August to September. Its seeds are a food source for chickadees, sparrows and finches.

Prairie Dropseed
(Sporobolus heterolepis) - Poaceae
This plant grows 24-36 inches and blooms from August to September. Prairie dropseed is unique among grasses in producing a pleasant aromatic scent from the flowering heads.

Compass Plant
(Silphium laciniatum) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 12-120 inches. The flowers are yellow and bloom from June to September. It attracts birds and butterflies. Its leaves orient north and south, so they act as a "compass".

Culver's Root
(Veronicastrum virginicum) - Scrophulariaceae
This plant grows 24-72 inches. Its white flowers bloom from July to August. It is used in bouquets and attracts butterflies.

Cup Plant
(Silphium perfoliatum) - Asteraceae
This plant grows to 96 inches and has yellow flowers from July to October. The leaves form a "cup" around the stem that holds water. Birds and insects will drink from the "cup".

Foxglove Beardstongue
(Penstemon digitalis) - Scrophulariaceae
This plant grows 24-36 inches. Its white flowers bloom from June to July. It is used in rock gardens and bouquets, plus it attracts hummingbirds.

Gray-Headed Coneflower
(Ratibida pinnata) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 36-48 inches. It blooms June to July with yellow flowers. Songbirds eat the seeds and its flowers attract butterflies.

Harebell or Bellflower
(Campanula rotundifolia) - Campanulaceae
This plant grows to be 12-24 inches and blooms from June to October. The bloom color is blue, and it is effective for borders in a garden.

Indian Grass
(Sorghastrum nutans) - Poaceae
This grass grows 48-108 inches and blooms from August to September. It has an attractive seed head.

Jerusalem Artichoke
(Helianthus tuberosus) - Asteraceae
This plant grows very vigorously to 120 inches. The flowers are yellow, and the plant blooms from August to October. The tubers can be eaten raw or cooked. This plant is very aggressive in a garden setting.

Large Flowered Beardstongue
(Penstemon grandiflorus) - Scrophulariaceae
This plant grows to 24-36 inches. The bloom color is lavender and it blooms from May to June. This plant is great for bouquets and rock gardens. It also attracts hummingbirds.

Leadplant
(Amorpha canescens) - Fabaceae
This shrub grows to 24-36 inches. It blooms purple from June to August. It is cultivated because of its beautiful floral display and gray foliage and stems.

Little Bluestem
(Schizachyrium scoparium) - Poaceae
This plant grows to 24-36 inches. This grass is tan/light brown in the summer and changes to burgundy/red in the fall. It supplies winter interest if not cut back in late fall.

Marsh Blazing Star
(Liatris spicata) - Asteraceae
This plant grows 24-48 inches. It blooms a purple color from July to August. It is used by florists in bouquets. It also attracts birds and butterflies.

Michigan Lily
(Lilium michiganense) - Liliaceae
This plant can grow 72-80 inches. It has orange-red flowers that bloom from July to August. Its unique, large flowers make it a spectacular garden plant.

New Jersey Tea
(Ceanothus americanus) - Rhamnaceae
This plant grows 18-36 inches. Its white flowers bloom from June to August. The leaves can be used to brew a tea.

Nodding Wild Onion
(Allium cernuum) - Liliaceae
This plant grows to 12-24 inches and blooms from July to August. The bloom is pink and the flowers are used for fresh arrangements.

Acknowledgments

Funding

- Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Richard Smith/Botany Department Incentive Fund
- Biological Sciences Department at Eastern Illinois University

Assistance with Site Preparation, Planting and Maintenance

- Jon Collins, Justin Perry and the EIU Grounds Department
- Numerous EIU students

Assistance with Brochure

- Gabe Grant
- Vanessa Sole

Brochure Photography

- Janice Coons
- Nancy Coutant

Donation of Plant Materials

- Possibility Place Nursery
- Wesley Whiteside

EIU Woodland Garden

Dedicated to Dr. Wesley Whiteside

Project Development and Coordination

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Introduction

Before European settlement , in the early 1800's, around 40% of Illinois was woodland. Present in east central Illinois was a type of temperate deciduous forest. Temperate deciduous forest are named for the dominant, upper canopy trees (the tallest trees) that are present. Oak sand hickories dominated the Illinois forests. Besides the upper canopy, the structure of most temperate deciduous forests includes three other layers including a secondary canopy of shorter trees such as Ohio buckeye, redbud, dogwoods and paw paw; then a layer of shrubs such as wild hydrangea, Juneberry, buttonbush; and a fourth layer composed of herbaceous species. Several members of the herbaceous layer are spring ephemerals such as toothwort, spring beauty and white dog-tooth violet. These plants emerge early in spring, quickly flower, set seed and in a few weeks all that remains is the underground portion of the plant . Other members of the herbaceous layer such as wild ginger, Solomon's seal and various violets bloom in the spring, but their leaves persist until frost. Other members of the herbaceous layer such as woodland asters and woodland goldenrods bloom in the summer or fall. Most of the plants in the herbaceous layer are perennial and reappear each year.

In the EIU Woodland Garden the secondary canopy trees, the shrubs and most of the herbaceous plants were added. The garden was started in the spring of 2006, and plants continue to be added. Most species in the brochure are members of the herbaceous layer, but a few woody species are included. The best time to visit this garden is in the spring (April – May) when many of the herbaceous wildflowers are in full bloom..

Most plant species that form an oak-hickory forest are well suited for use as landscape plants and many of the tree and shrub species can be purchased at retail plant nurseries. The herbaceous members are not as readily available, but many can be purchased from native plant nurseries. For information about where to purchase native plants and for more information about using native plants to landscape, visit our website at www.eiu.edu/~n_plants.

Because the plants included in the EIU Woodland Garden are native to central Illinois or similar areas they thrive with the temperature and moisture extremes found in the area. They are also resistant to many of the pests and diseases that damage more traditional landscape plants that often are not native. In general, native plants are environmentally friendly because they require less watering, little or no fertilizers and pesticides, and they support other types of wildlife such as birds and butterflies. The native woodland plants also work well with traditional shade plants and can make a unique contribution to your landscape.

NEVER REMOVE WILDFLOWERS FROM A NATURAL AREA FOR YOUR GARDEN – PURCHASE THEM FROM A PLANT NURSERY.

Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana) - Verbenaceae*
Beautyberry grows 3-8 feet. Although its blooms attract butterflies, its main attraction for gardeners is its spectacular show of lavender to purple berries in the fall. It is native to states south of Illinois, but grows well in Illinois.

Juneberry
(*Amelanchier arborea*) - Rosaceae
This shrub or small tree grows to 15-30 feet. Its white flowers open March to May. Various types of wildlife are attracted by its fruits. It has beautiful yellow to red fall foliage.

Oak-Leaved Hydrangea
(*Hydrangea quercifolia*) - Hydrangeaceae
This shrub reaches 6 feet, and offers four season appeal. It blooms late June to July, and its oak-like leaves turn red to orange in fall. In winter, its cinnamon bark provides interest. Winter protection may be needed.

Ohio Buckeye
(Aesculus glabra)- Hippocastanaceae
This plant is a secondary canopy tree that may reach 40 feet. It is one of the first trees to leaf out in spring. It has large compound leaves and large clusters of attractive yellow-green flowers in the spring. It has an interesting fruit that contains a seed that is called a "buckeye", and is carried for good luck.

Sweetshrub or Carolina Allspice
(*Calycanthus floridus*) - Calycanthaceae
The flowers and leaves of this shrub release a spicy fragrance. It grows 6-8 feet, and flowers May. The fall foliage is yellow. The dried fruits remain on the plant into winter.

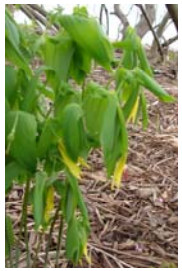
White Turtlehead
(Chelone glabra) - Scrophulariaceae
This plant grows 1-5 feet. It blooms from July to October. The flowers are whitish to yellow-green. Pioneers used the leaves as a treatment for jaundice, constipation and internal parasites.

Wild Geranium
(Geranium maculatum) - Geraniaceae
The plant blooms from mid-April to late May. The flowers have 5 petals and are rose-purple . It is distributed throughout the state.

Wild Ginger
(Asarum canadense) - Aristolochiaceae
Wild ginger blooms from April to May with maroon flowers. It makes a nice ground cover for shady areas. Pioneers used the rhizomes as a substitute for Jamaica ginger. In early medicine, this plant was highly regarded as a treatment for whooping cough, fevers, chest complaints, heart palpatations, and digestive stomach upset.

Woolly Blue Violet
(*Viola sororia*) - Violaceae
This plant grows to 8 inches, and is very hairy. It blooms March to May, and may spread from rhizomes or seed. It is commonly found in moist woods and roadsides.

Yellow Bellwort
(Uvularia grandiflora) - Liliaceae
This plant grows to 20 inches and has yellow blooms from mid-April to mid-May. The starchy roots of this plant may be cooked and eaten.



Dedication

The EIU Woodland Garden is dedicated to Dr. Wesley Whiteside, who is an emeritus botany professor of Eastern Illinois University where he taught for 27 years. He taught numerous classes such as general botany, local flora, plant taxonomy, plant morphology, and mycology. He enthusiastically shared his wealth of plant knowledge with students while maintaining kind and caring concern for them. While teaching, he also created a 5 acre botanical garden at his home, starting in 1963, which he continues to maintain and expand. This garden includes aquatic plants, cacti, insectivorous plants, woodland and prairie species. Many of the species found in the garden are native to east-central United States, but numerous specimens are from other parts of the world and rarely can be found growing in (C)entral Illinois. Wes, also, is active in breeding daylilies. His cultivar 'Charleston Autumn Moonlight' is being considered for commercial release. Students and faculty use plants from his garden for their teaching and research. He also opens his garden to the community for annual events including "The Garden Ramble" and "Artists Day in the Garden". His generous donation of plants and gardening knowledge has helped many individuals landscape their own gardens. Many of the plants used to establish the EIU Woodland Garden came from Wes's garden(s). He is loved and admired by students and gardeners. Due to his significant contributions to EIU and beyond, we dedicate the EIU Woodland Garden to him.

Dr. Whiteside by a Bed of "Charleston Autumn Moonlight"

American Bellflower
(Campanulastrum americanum) - Campanulaceae
This plant grows 3-6 feet. It blooms blue from June till frost, and needs a moist, shady area to thrive.

Bloodroot
(*Sanguinaria canadensis)* - Papaveraceae
This plant grows 2-8 inches. It blooms from March to May. The flowers are 1-2 inches wide, and are white with golden centers. This flower opens in full sun and closes at night. The red juice from stem was used by Indians as a dye for baskets, clothing and war paint.

Bluebells
(Mertensia virginica) - Boraginaceae
Bluebells bloom from late March to late May with flowers that are trumpet shaped with five petals. The buds are pink, but open to a porcelain blue flower.

Blue Star
(*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) - Apocynaceae
Blue Star grows to 3 feet. Numerous star shaped, light blue flowers appear in May. The flowers are arranged at the top of the stems. The leaves turn an attractive pale yellow in the fall, and it has an interesting elongated seed pod.

Bottlebrush Grass
(*Elymus hystrix*) - Poaceae
This plant grows 2-5 feet. It blooms in July to August. The inflorescence produces a seed head that resembles a bottlebrush. This grass is one of the few with ornamental appeal that grows well in the shade.

Trillium
(Trillium recurvatum) - Liliaceae
This trillium blooms from late March to late May with maroon flowers. The leaves are in a whorl of 3 just beneath the flower. This plant is distributed throughout the state.

Violet Wood Sorrel
(Oxalis violacea) - Oxalidaceae
This plant blooms mid-April to late June. The flower changes from white to purple. The sour leaves, if used sparingly, can be added to salads. Consuming too many leaves can lead to kidney failure.

Virginia Waterleaf
(Hydrophyllum virginianum) - Hydrophyllaceae
This plant blooms from May to July. The flowers are white to lavender and form a tight cluster. In early pioneer practice, this plant was listed as an astringent.

Doll's Eyes
(*Actaea pachypoda*) - Ranunculaceae
Doll's eyes grows to 2 feet, and each plant has one creamy white cluster of f lowers. The plant flowers from April to June. Each flower develops into a white berry with a black dot at one end, which somewhat resemble the eyes that were used at one time in dolls. Therefore, the common name of Doll's Eyes. The berries are very poisonous.

White Dog– Tooth Violet
(*Erythronium albium)* - Liliaceae
This plant grows 4-12 inches. It blooms white from April to June. Each plant has only two leaves. lif the flower and two leaves are picked, the plant will die.

Solomon's Seal
(Polygonatum commutatum) - Liliaceae
This plant has an arching stem that grows to 3 feet . The yellow flowers appear from May until mid-June. It produces blue-black berries about the size of a pea. Its starchy rhizomes may be used to make bread.

Spiderwort
(Tradescantia virginiana) - Commelinaceae
This plant blooms from late April to early June and its flowers are pink, blue, purple or white. This plant is common in the southern 2/3 of the state.

Spring Beauty
(Claytonia virginica) - Portulacaceae
Spring beauty grows 2-10 inches. The flowers change from pink to white. It blooms from March to June. The corms may be boiled, salted and eaten. Young leaves are rich in vitamins A and C and can be used in salads.

Three-Leaved Stonecrop
(Sedum ternatum) - Crassulaceae
This plant is a low growing succulent that grows to 6 inches. It has white flowers that bloom in May. It works well as a ground cover. It is one of the few native succulents that grows well in the shade.

Toothwort
(Dentaria laciniata) - Brassicaceae
This plant blooms from early March to May. The flower has 4 white petals that take on a pinkish color as they mature. Pioneers gathered tubers to use for seasoning in soups, stew, and meats. Eaten raw it has the flavor of a radish to which it is related.

Celandine Poppy
(*Stylophorum diphyllum)* - Papaveraceae
This plant blooms yellow from mid-April to May. It can be found mostly in the southern ¼ of the state. It spreads by reseeding itself.

Columbine
(Aquilegia canadensis) - Ranunculaceae
This plant grows 1-4 feet. It blooms from April to June with a red and yellow flower. This plant is distributed throughout the state, and it attracts hummingbirds.

Christmas Fern
(*Polystichum acrostichoides*) - Dryopteridaceae
The fronds of this fern are 1-2 feet long. It is an evergreen fern that is fairly abundant in moist oak-hickory woods. Christmas fern is a popular ornamental for shady areas.

Cream Violet
(Viola striata) - Violaceae
It can grow to 10 inches and blooms from May to June. The flowers may be white or cream color with purple lines in the throat. It is an effective groundcover.

Dutchman's Breeches
(Dicentra cucullaria) - Fumariaceae
This plant grows 4-12 inches. It blooms from late March to early May. The flowers are white and have an unique shape. It contains an alkaloid poisonous to cattle.

Dwarf Larkspur
(Delphinium tricorne) - Ranunculaceae
This plant grows 12-18 inches. The flowers may be violet, blue or white. It blooms from mid-April to May. This plant is a very attractive wildflower that will attract hummingbirds.

Fragile Fern
(*Cystopteris protrusa*) - Dryopteridaceae
Fragile fern is small with fronds that are 4–10 inches long. It grows in areas of light shade with moist soil. The fragile fern is thought by many to be the most common fern in Illinois.

Green Dragon
(Arisaema dracontium) - Araceae
This plant has one leaf that is 1-2 feet. The flowers are tiny and on a fleshy spadix that is surrounded by a spathe with a long projection. It flowers May to June. The plant produces an attractive cluster of bright red fruits in the fall. It is related to Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

Indian Pink
(Spigelia marilandica) - Loganiaceae
This wildflower is very attractive and grows 1-2 feet. It blooms from May to June. The flower is trumpet shaped with red on the outside and yellow on the inside.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit
(Arisaema triphyllum) - Araceae
This plant is becoming increasingly rare in the wild, and blooms from April to May. Indians used this plant for many medical purposes, such as to treat sore eyes, snakebites, ringworm, stomach gas, and asthma. It produces a bright red cluster of fruits in the fall.

Maidenhair Fern
(*Adiantum pedatum*) - Pteridaceae
This fern is beautiful and delicate Looking. It grows about one foot. The stem-like structure of each frond is shinny and dark brown. The maidenhair fern is fairly common in moist woods of Illinois.

Mayapple
(Podophyllum peltatum) - Berberidaceae
This plant grows 18 inches and blooms white from late March to mid-May. The ripe fruit may be made into jam, but the unripe fruit and the rest of the plant is very poisonous. Some Indian tribes used it as a treatment for snake bites.

Phlox
(Phlox divaricata) - Polemoniaceae
Its clusters of blue, violet and sometimes white flowers bloom mid-April to early June. It grows to 8 inches. Its leaves were used in early medicine to make tea and were used to treat eczema.

Sea Oats
(Chasmanthium latifolium) - Poaceae
This plant grows 3-4 feet. It blooms July to October, and is one of the showiest of the woodland grasses. Its attractive seed heads flutter in the wind and are excellent for use in dry flower arrangements.

Shooting Star
(Dodecatheon meadia) - Primulaceae
This plant blooms from mid-April to early June. The flowers have 5 petals and change from white to pink to lavender in color. The plant produces an attractive dried fruit cluster.