









Spring WILDFLOWER SCAVENGER HUNT



Spring has arrived, and Arkansas is awash in the scent and color of beautiful wildflowers! Their role, however, is much larger than merely being pleasing to the eye; they provide crucial habitat for pollinators (including honey bees), beneficial insects, and wildlife. They also played an important role in the day to day lives of Native Americans and early settlers in Arkansas. Some plants and flowers had medicinal properties, some were used as food. They could be made into dyes for clothing. Knowing how to identify plants and their properties was essential to survival in the wild frontier.

Can YOU spot and identify some of these common spring wildflowers? Some will be easy to find, some a bit harder, just keep your eyes open for bright spots of color!

	<p><i>lamium purpureum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead Nettle • Purple Dead Nettle 	<p>Dead nettle is in the mint family, and is called “dead nettle” because of its apparent resemblance to stinging nettle, minus the sting. Important spring pollen source for bees.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p> <input type="text"/>
	<p><i>lamium amplexicaule</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henbit • Henbit Dead Nettle 	<p>Chickens love to eat henbit, thus its interesting name. It resembles dead nettle, but if you look closely, you’ll see many differences.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p> <input type="text"/>
	<p><i>houstonia pusilla</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Bluet • Least Bluet 	<p>These are tiny plants with tiny flowers! Colors can range from white to blue to violet and often create a carpet of blooms wherever they grow.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p> <input type="text"/>
	<p><i>viola bicolor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Pansy • Wild Pansy • Johnny Jump Up 	<p>Field pansies are an important early spring nectar source for bees. Caterpillars of fritillary butterflies will feed on the foliage.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p> <input type="text"/>
	<p><i>vicia saliva</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetch • Common Vetch • Poor Man’s Peas 	<p>Vetch is a member of the pea family. Flowers turn into pea-like pods at summer’s end. Grown to improve soil quality. Bees and other pollinators love its flowers.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p> <input type="text"/>

	<p><i>oxalis stricta</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Yellow Oxalis • Yellow Wood Sorrel 	<p>The clover-like leaves “sleep” at night by folding up their leaves. Native Americans & early settlers used sorrel in medicines, salves, food, and even in laundry stain removal.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p>	<input type="text"/>
	<p><i>taraxacum officinale</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dandelion • Blowball 	<p>Native Americans and early settlers relied on the dandelion for medicinal remedies and nutrition. Folklore holds that if one makes a wish before blowing a dandelion puff, the wish will come true.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p>	<input type="text"/>
	<p><i>trifolium repens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Clover • Dutch Clover 	<p>Loved by honey bees. Livestock and wildlife enjoy the tender leaves. In folklore, finding a four leaf clover brought one good luck.</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p>	<input type="text"/>
	<p><i>trifolium repens</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Clover • Dutch Clover 	<p>Chickweed vinegar prevented scurvy while at sea. Open flowers, it was thought, meant good weather. “If it should shut up, the traveller is to put on his greatcoat!”</p>	<p>FIELD NOTES:</p>	<input type="text"/>
	<p>A Wildflower Collection</p> <p>Notice how tiny some of the flowers are compared to a quarter!</p>	<p>Find a flower that isn't listed? Describe and draw it here, then visit www.wildflower.org for help with identification.</p>		

**Why do these plants have so many names?
GREAT QUESTION!**

- Plants and animals have both **scientific** and **common** names.
- **Common** names vary by region and country, and are influenced by folklore, color, characteristics, etc.
- **Scientific** names are used across the world and are always in Latin.