

Botanical Club of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

2025 Spring Events

Finalized April 21, 2025

All times are event start (arrive by) times at the site.

Saturday April 26, 10am - 12pm: Spring Ephemerals in Cudahy Nature Preserve State Natural Area

Directions: Meet in the public parking lot at 501 E College Ave, Oak Creek, WI

Cudahy Nature Preserve is an old growth forest remnant and “an outstanding example of the hardwood forests that once covered most of Milwaukee County prior to European settlement.” We expect to see a diverse selection of spring ephemerals, emerging woodland forbs and graminoids, and excellent woodland tree and shrub structure.

Difficulty: Easy. Mostly flat terrain and trails are sufficiently wide. Trails are usually solid but may be muddy in places. Off-trail excursions may be of moderate difficulty.

Long pants, closed-toe shoes, long socks, and long-sleeve shirts recommended due to woody brush and to help prevent ticks. No restroom on-site, but nearby businesses are within a short drive.

No RSVP required, but please check your email inbox or the BCW Facebook page the morning of the event to verify no updates or cancellations have been posted.

Contact: Nick Coley, 414-559-4857 (calls preferred), or nicholas.j.coley@gmail.com

Thursday May 1, 6pm - 7:30pm: Spring Ephemerals & Natural History in Jacobus Park

Directions: Meet at the pavilion building behind the pond, by the “Jacobus Park” sign, along Honey Creek Parkway. Ample street parking is available. 6500 W Honey Creek Pkwy, Wauwatosa, WI

Jacobus Park and the nearby Honey Creek woodlands contain remnants of the Menomonee River Valley bluff and river terrace ecosystems, and together these sites constitute one of the most floristically diverse sites in Milwaukee County. We expect to see impressive displays of spring ephemerals, emerging woodland forbs and graminoids, and diverse trees and shrubs

across various habitat zones created by the site's river valley topography. Numerous locally-uncommon or state-listed plant species are present, including *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Dodecatheon meadia*, *Eurybia furcatus*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, *Lithospermum latifolium*, *Solidago caesia*, *Trillium* spp., *Euonymus atropurpureus*, *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Viburnum prunifolium*, and old-growth *Quercus* specimens of impressive size and form.

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate. Trails are well-maintained and mostly flat, but our route will include stairs up and down the ~50' bluffs. Trails are usually dry and well-compacted.

Long pants, closed-toe shoes, long socks, and long-sleeve shirts recommended due to woody brush and to help prevent ticks. Public restrooms might be open, otherwise local businesses are a few blocks away.

No RSVP required, but please check your email inbox or the BCW Facebook page the morning of the event to verify no updates or cancellations have been posted.

Contact: Nick Coley, 414-559-4857 (calls preferred), or nicholas.j.coley@gmail.com

Sunday May 11, 3pm - 5pm (optionally later): Spring Flora & Sedges at Genesee Oak Opening State Natural Area

Directions: (Note: mapping apps may not have the correct location, so double check the destination)

Meet in the gravel parking lot at the Genesee Oak Opening and Fen State Natural Area, on Hwy 59 (Genesee Rd) ½ mile southwest of the Hwy 83 intersection, and 2 miles northeast of North Prairie. The parking lot is at the end of a short unpaved access lane on the northwest side of Hwy 59. No sticker required.

From the WI DNR description: "Genesee Oak Opening is a classic bur oak opening on rolling, interlobate morainal topography, with open-grown, scattered young trees of moderate size. Numerous small, dry to dry-mesic prairies occur in scattered openings throughout the 15-acre savanna, filled with side-oats grama, big and little blue-stem, pasque flower, rough blazing-star, Indian grass, prairie dock, needle grass, prairie-smoke, and white camas. To the east is a fen with many uncommon plant species."

Difficulty: Moderate (entirely off-trail). Low portions of the site may be wet or marshy or muddy, so plan for wet feet.

Long pants, closed-toe shoes, long socks, and long-sleeve shirts are recommended due to woody brush and to help prevent ticks. Sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended. No restroom on-site but businesses are within a short drive.

RSVP recommended to nicholas.j.coley@gmail.com, but not required. Please check your email inbox or the BCW Facebook page the morning of the event to verify no updates or cancellations have been posted.

Contact: Nick Coley, 414-559-4857 (calls preferred), or nicholas.j.coley@gmail.com

Wednesday May 21, 6pm - 7:30pm: Spring Flora & Sedges at Honey Creek (Hart Park)

Directions: Park at the Hart Park main lot behind (south of) the football stadium. We will meet on the Oak Leaf Trail bridge over the Menomonee River, at the southwest corner of the parking lot.

The Honey Creek woodlands at the confluence with the Menomonee River contains a botanically rich floodplain, river terrace, and bluff ecosystem complex just upstream from Jacobus Park. Together these two sites are one of the most floristically diverse areas in Milwaukee County. We expect to see late-spring woodland and floodplain flowers, diverse sedges, and many trees and shrubs across multiple habitat zones. Numerous locally-uncommon or state-listed plant species are present here or at Jacobus Park, including *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Dodecatheon meadia*, *Eurybia furcata*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, *Lithospermum latifolium*, *Solidago caesia*, *Trillium* spp., *Euonymus atropurpureus*, *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Viburnum prunifolium*, and thorny *Gleditsia triacanthos*.

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate. Dirt trails may be muddy or wet in areas, and uphill/downhill hiking is required. Hiking shoes recommended. Some off-trail walking is expected in the floodplain areas, which are usually dry, but may be muddy depending on weather.

Long pants, closed-toe shoes, long socks, and long-sleeve shirts recommended due to woody brush and to help prevent ticks. Public restrooms might be open, otherwise local businesses are a few blocks away.

No RSVP required, but please check your email inbox or the BCW Facebook page the morning of the event to verify no updates or cancellations have been posted.

Contact: Nick Coley, 414-559-4857 (calls preferred), or nicholas.j.coley@gmail.com

Hold the Dates

Events will be confirmed with details in future announcements.

Tentative: Sunday June 15 (afternoon): Lulu Lake State Natural Area

Tentative: Saturday June 21 (morning): Milwaukee-area prairie (site TBD)

Tentative: Thursday June 26 (after work, evening): Biergarten Botany Meetup at Grant Park

Tentative: Sunday June 29 (morning/midday): Beulah Bog State Natural Area

Tentative: Saturday July 12 (afternoon): Dodge County Ledge Park