Shenk's Ferry

Artwork by Alana Hunter

Directions to Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve

From Lancaster:
Take New Danville Pike to Conestoga, veer left onto River Corner Road at the post office. After 1.3 miles you will come to River Road. Go straight across River Road to Shenk's Ferry Road. Turn left at Green Hill Road. Follow this road through the tunnel and bear left 200 feet past the tunnel. The trailhead is located next to Grubb Run.

From York, Wrightsville and Columbia:
Take Route 30 east to Route 441 south. Route 441 south becomes River Road at Washington Borough. Follow River Road all the way to the Safe Harbor Power Plant entrance. Continue on River Road and take the second right-hand turn, 2 miles after the plant entrance, onto Shenk's Ferry Road. Turn left at Green Hill Road. Follow this road through the tunnel and bear left 200 feet past the tunnel. The trailhead is located next to Grubb Run.

Approaching from the south:
From Route 372 (southern end of the Holtwood Environmental Preserve) take River Road north on the Lancaster County side. At the intersection of Route 324, turn left and travel over the Pequea Creek, and make an immediate right after the bridge onto River Road. Continue 2 miles and turn left onto Shenk's Ferry Road. (Note: PPL directional signs). Turn left at Green Hill Road. Follow this road through the tunnel and bear left 200 feet past the tunnel.
The trailhead is located next to Grubb Run.

Holtwood Environmental
Preserve Office
9 New Village Road
Holtwood, PA 17532
www.pplpreserves.com

3M 2-04

Shenk's Ferry WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

PPL Holtwood, LLC

Shenk's Ferry WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

Shenk's Ferry is one of the most impressive wildflower sanctuaries in the eastern United States, and PPL takes pride in preserving the wooded glen in southern Lancaster County as part of its Holtwood Environmental Preserve.

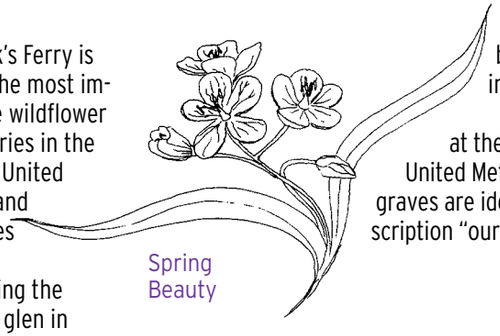
The 50-acre sanctuary is best known for its extensive variety of spring woodland flowers. It supports more than 70 species that bloom from mid-March until the end of May and another 60 species of flowers that bloom in summer and fall. Some common varieties include Dutchman's breeches, wild geranium, wild ginger, Virginia bluebells, mayapple, trillium and spring beauty.

In addition to its abundant natural resources, Shenk's Ferry is rich in pre-colonial and colonial history.

Native Americans lived in villages scattered throughout Lancaster County in the 1300s and 1400s, occupying a community of three or four lodges at Shenk's Ferry. The ravine provided protection from extreme weather and the neighboring Susquehanna tribe.

Later, European colonists came to Shenk's Ferry and established a charcoal briquette plant, an iron ore mine and a dynamite factory. Well known locally, the dynamite factory exploded on June 9, 1906, killing 11 men and leveling all of the buildings and surrounding woods.

The victims were buried at the nearby Colemanville United Methodist Church. Their graves are identified with the inscription "our boys."

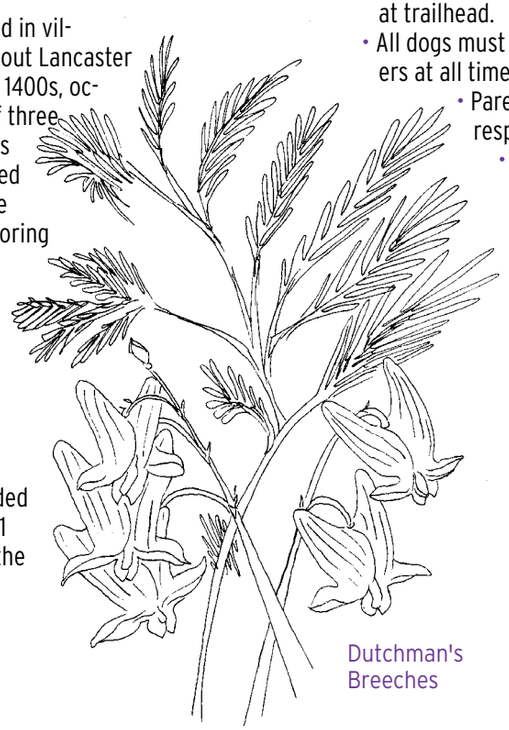


Spring Beauty

Please help PPL to preserve this unique botanical area by observing the following rules:

- Stay on the trails. Do not walk on the plants.
- Do not dig up or remove any plants, seeds or fruit.
- Place trash in the receptacle provided at the trailhead.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Horseback riding and mountain bikes are not allowed.
- Shooting of firearms is permitted only during hunting seasons.
- Return all unwanted literature to brochure box at trailhead.
- All dogs must be leashed and controlled by their owners at all times.
- Parents - Please teach your children to respect this natural area.
- Photographers - First, do not harm! No photograph is worth destroying beauty.

This is a fragile site, and PPL is concerned with preserving all the species of wildflowers. Littering, target shooting, removal of any parts of plants and dirt bike riding can damage the wildflowers. These are all illegal acts, subject to prosecution. If you witness any of these activities, please report them to the Environmental Preserve Office.



Dutchman's Breeches

Partial Listing of Wildflowers Found at the Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve

* Occurs in other color variations

	PEAK BLOOMING PERIOD
RED FLOWERS	
Columbine	April
Golden Saxifrage (very tiny)	April
Wood Betony (Lousewort)	May
WHITE FLOWERS	
Aniseroot	April
Bloodroot	March - April
Broad-leaved Waterleaf	April
Chickweeds (several varieties)	March
Cleavers	April
Dutchman's Breeches	April
Dwarf Ginseng	April
Early Saxifrage	April
False Solomon's Seal	May
Garlic Mustard	April
Hepatica*	April
Lyre-leaved Rock Cress	April
Mayapple	May
Miterwort (Bishop's Cap)	April
Pennsylvania Bitter Cress	April
Queen Anne's Lace	June
Rue Anemone	April
Shepherd's Purse	May
Smooth Rock Cress	May
Spring Cress	April
Squirrel Corn	April
Sweet Cicely	April
Trillium (Erect)*	April
Virginia Waterleaf*	May
White Violet	April
Whitlow Grass	April
Wild Stonecrop	May
Wild Strawberry	May
Wood Anemone	April
Yarrow	May
GREEN FLOWERS	
Alumroot	April
Blue Cohosh	April
Clearweed	July
False Nettle	July
Great Solomon's Seal	May
Green Violet	May
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	April
Skunk Cabbage	March
Stinging Nettle	June
True Solomon's Seal	May
Wood Nettle	June
PINK FLOWERS	
Bouncing Bet	July
Cut-leaved Toothwort	April
Robin's Plantain (Fleabane)	May
Spring Beauty*	April
Wild Bergamot	June
Wild Geranium*	April
YELLOW FLOWERS	
Black-eyed Susan	June
Black Mustard	May
Celandine	May
Cinquefoils (several varieties)	May
Colt's Foot	April
Common Mullein	June
Common Winter Cress	April
Dandelion	March
False Hellebore	May
Golden Ragwort	April
Indian Strawberry	May
Jerusalem Artichoke	August
Kidney-leaved Buttercup	April
Pale Touch-me-not (Jewelweed)	July
Puttyroot	May
Small-flowered Leaf Cup	June
Smooth Yellow Violet	April
Spicebush	April
Trout Lily*	April
Yellow Corydalis	April
BROWN FLOWERS	
Wild Ginger	April
ORANGE FLOWERS	
Day Lily	June
Spotted Touch-me-not (Jewelweed)	July
BLUE OR PURPLE FLOWERS	
Corn Salad	April
Dead Nettle	April
Field Pansy	April
Gill-over-the-ground (Ground Ivy)	April
Grape Hyacinth	April
Heal All	May
Henbit*	April
Quaker Ladies (Bluets)	April
Pennywort	April
Speedwells (several varieties)	April
Venus' Looking Glass	May
Violets* (several varieties)	April
Virginia Bluebells*	April
Wild Blue Phlox	April