

Spring Ephemerals



Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) is one of the first flowers you'll see this spring, and one of the easiest to find! Within weeks of snow melting, the bright yellow, dandelion-like flowers appear, then form fluffy seed heads that blow away in the wind. A few weeks later, the large, flat leaves make an appearance before quickly withering at the first sign of summer's heat. Coltsfoot isn't native to Pennsylvania, but was introduced hundreds of years ago. You can find coltsfoot on recently disturbed soil, especially in rocky outcrops by roads.



Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*) is a beautiful, bright yellow flower with mottled green-brown leaves. You can often find them living in large patches alongside streams, including Spring Creek and Bald Eagle Creek in Centre County.



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) is a tiny white and pink striped flower that can be found in woods throughout the area. They are very common and prefer moist, deciduous forests and parks.



Lady's Slippers are a type of orchid found in Centre County. Several species live here, though the most common is Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium acaule*.) Though they can be found throughout the area, the best spot to find them locally is Black Moshannon State Park, where they are very common in old pine plantations, where hundreds of the pink flowers can be seen bobbing above the ground. Another, less common species is the Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*.)



Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*) is one of the most well-known spring ephemerals. The huge, three-petaled, deep red flowers are impossible to miss. These seem to be most common locally in moist pine and oak forests. Black Moshannon is a great spot to find these, too!