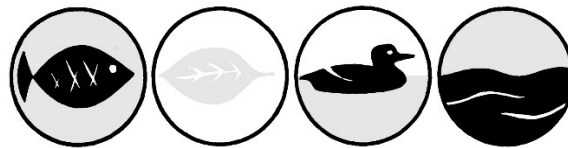


N.I.C.C.



May 2016 Newsletter

May Apple



For those of you who haven't walked our trails at N.I.C.C., this is a good time to put your walking shoes on and hit the trails. May Apples are abundant in the woods every year at this time.

Description Single, fragrant white flower concealed beneath huge, deeply divided leaves. The leaves, roots, seeds and unripe fruit of this plant are poisonous.

Habit: native perennial herb; erect stems; spreads by rhizome to form large colonies.

Height: 1-2 ft (30-60 cm)

Leaf: one or two per stem, opposite, stalked, rubbery, deeply palmately divided; to 12 in (30 cm) diameter.

Flower: white, nodding, 1-3 in (2.5-7.5 cm) wide; with 6-9 waxy petals; on thin stalk from fork in stem, held below leaves.

Fruit: large berry, green turning yellow (rarely orange or maroon), to .2 in (5.5 mm) across.

Flower April to June.

Flower March - April (in south); May (in north)

Habitat Mixed deciduous forest, fields, moist road banks, river banks; 150-2600 ft (50-800 m).

Range Native to eastern North America, from Quebec to Florida, west to Texas, northeast to Nebraska, Minnesota and Ontario; sometimes cultivated as an ornamental.

Discussion Also known as indian apple, hog apple, wild mandrake, mandrake. Endangered in Florida. After the fruit ripens in early to mid-summer, the plant goes dormant.

Comments May apple colonizes by rhizomes, forming dense mats in damp, open places.

Exposure Preference Partial shade.

Native Distribution Quebec & s. Ontario to Florida, w. to Minnesota, e. Nebraska, e. Kansas & e. Texas

Site Preference Moist, deciduous woods; shady meadows

Warning Leaves, seeds, and especially the roots (which are used medicinally) are poisonous to humans and animals if ingested in high quantities. Sensitivity to a toxin varies with a person's age, weight, physical condition, and individual susceptibility. Children are most vulnerable because of their curiosity and small size. Toxicity can vary in a plant according to season, the plant's different parts, and its stage of growth; and plants can absorb toxic substances, such as herbicides, pesticides, and pollutants from the water, air, and soil.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 7 Adopt-A-Highway-----10 am
May 9 Board/General/Elections-----7 pm
June 11 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY MAY 7, 2016

This is our 15th year to volunteer for Adopt-A-Highway in Lake County. We have been assigned the stretch of road between Rts 59 and 83 on Grass Lake Road. Come on out and join us to see who collects the most unusual item. All volunteers are asked to meet at 10 am at Triangle Sports & Marine just west of Rt. 83.

Spring cleanup at the club grounds will follow after the highway cleanup. With winter weather behind us, the grounds at NICC need a good facelift to clear fallen branches, leaves and trimming of dead branches on several trees. Lunch will be served to all the volunteers. This is a perfect time to give some of your yearly 5 hours of time to the club. We understand some members are unable to help with the cleanup of both the highway and club grounds. Come on out and meet some of our dedicated members.

ELECTIONS.

Elections will be held on **May 9** at the combined Board/General meeting at 7 pm.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR 2016-17 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



FLEXible people NEVER get bent out of SHApe