

## JORALEMON PARK (WEST), Ravina NY - *Late April*

Ruth Brooks

Joralemon Park has been called the richest wildflower site in the entire state. About 15 miles south of Albany, Joralemon is limestone rich and loaded with many spring beauties.

For directions

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Joralemon+Park+Disc+Golf+Course/@42.4730397,-73.8668924,17z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x89ddc2b8aeca9bc7:0xcaa577df3d273dbe!8m2!3d42.4734196!4d-73.8675039>

The west side of Joralemon Park has a small parking area with many paths used by disc golfers (frisbee golf) and four wheelers. As soon as you step into the woods you notice the tiny blooms poking out of the leaf litter. The leaves of Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*) seem to be every where and the golden nodding blooms easily draw your eye.



The second small bloom that seems to be everywhere on either side of the path is Spring-Beauty. But this species has leaf blades that are long and narrow, rather than what we are used to seeing on *Clintonia caroliniana*, which has leaf blades that are broad-oblongate. This is Virginia Spring-beauty (*Clintonia virginica*).



Tucked in with the other ephemerals are several blooms. With very deeply lobed, serrated leaves, it's the Cut-leaved Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenate*).



The lacy cut leaves of Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) look even more fragile than the multiple 'bloomer like' blooms hanging from the flower stalk. It is easily distinguished from its close relative Squirrel-corn (*Dicentra canadensis*) because the spurs are more pointed and spread apart than in Squirrel-corn.



Both of the Hepaticas are also in bloom on the west side of the park. Blunt-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) has a variety of flower colors from white to dark purple.



Sharp-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*) has bloomed earlier and is not as common as the Blunt-lobed Hepatica.



Near the limestone ledges there are several early blooms. Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) seems cloaked in the large distinctive leaf.



Another lime-loving plant likes to grow right on the cliffs, Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). *Aquilegia* comes from the latin *aquila*, meaning eagle, for the talon-like shape of the nectar spurs on the flower.





Another little flower that loves blooming right on the cliffs is Early Saxifrage (*Micranthes virginiensis*). The red leaves don't look happy, but you can still see the leaf margins with delicate scalloping.



Who could miss the sweet Little Bluet (*Houstonia caerulea*) blooming in the new grass and pine needles.

