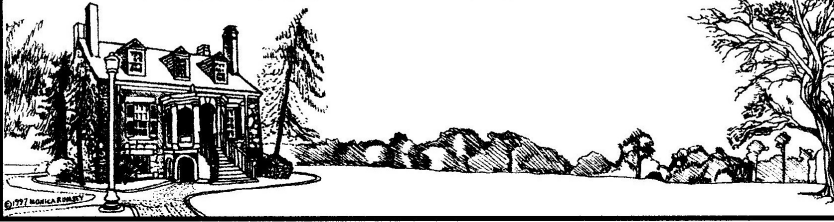


FRIENDS OF FOREST HILL PARK



April 2017 Issue

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Residents of Forest Hill Park

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

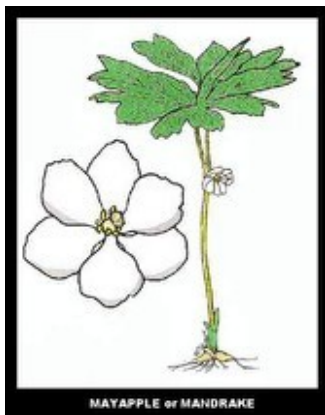
The woodland plant known as the mayapple is not an apple and blooms before May in our area. Another common name “umbrella plant” is a less used but is a more accurate description. You can see this for yourself now in Forest Hill Park and other wooded parks in Richmond. The leaves unfurl just like an umbrella does when opened.

Mayapple spreads by rhizomes (underground stems that send out roots and shoots), forming colonies that may actually be one individual plant. These plants are unique in that they usually have only one leaf on the stalk. Occasionally the plant will send up a stalk with two leaves; this one is a fertile leaf which will flower and fruit.

The leaves, stems, roots, and flowers are poisonous, but were used by Native Americans and are still used in some herbal remedies today. (The taste must be pretty bad since deer don't often browse these plants!) Within the last few years there has been an effort to produce chemotherapeutic drugs from the toxic chemicals this plant produces.

So who uses this plant? Bees collect pollen and possibly get some nectar. The small fruit is edible when fully ripe and can be used for jams and jellies, however there is little fruit to be had in the small colonies that exist here today. Let's leave that for the box turtles; they like the fruit!

Suzette Lyon



Mayapple or Mandrake



Mayapple foliage is shaped like umbrellas.



Pretty spring blooms are poisonous.

April 22nd is Earth Day and Friends of Forest Hill Park will be in the park that day removing invasive plants that are choking out our native plants, shrubs and trees. Bring gloves and clippers and join us from 9:00—noon for a few minutes or the whole time in the 3800 block of Forest Hill Avenue near the old Stone Pyramid. Bottled water and snacks will be provided. Come be a Friend of Forest Hill Park.

HELP MAKE FOREST HILL PARK ONE OF RICHMOND'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HISTORIC PARKS.



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CORPORATE \$50.
(Receive a FFHP Window Sticker, T-Shirt and Booklet) (Shirt Size: S M L XL)

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Please mail this form with your check (made out to FFHP) to:
FFHP Treasurer / PO Box 13161 / Richmond, VA 23225

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Friends of Forest Hill Park is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
All Contributions to FFHP are Tax Deductible.

<http://www.friendsofforesthillpark.org/membership> provides an electronic option for dues payment using Paypal. Please consider becoming a Friend of Forest Hill Park.