

Match Native Plant Photos & Clues

City Wilds Festival 2010

By Jean DeHorn

Jean DeHorn and Kathy Greenholdt of the North Park Village Nature Center (IL) Chapter created a game for their chapter booth at City Wilds Festival for 2010. Kathy did the physical work of turning it into a usable form for our new velcro display board. It consists of a colorful laminated sheet of native wildflower photos with their names, Latin and common, and a clue. The photos of the plants have been cut off and are scrambled to the left of the game board. The player tries to match the correct photo to the plant named and/or described in the clue. They attached velcro to the backs of the plant photos, and people placed them next to the descriptions on the exhibit board. It was particularly rewarding to see entire families work on the game together. They had prizes – plants from members' gardens – to give one to each player.

See sample game handout (page 2) and sample exhibit board (page 3) which follows.



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Photo	Common Name(s)	Scientific Name	Clue
?	Wild Columbine Rock Bells	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	This flower can be pollinated only by creatures with long tongues, such as hummingbirds, moths, and butterflies.
?	Virginia Bluebells Oysterleaf	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	This "ephemeral" disappears after it has finished blooming but reappears every spring.
?	Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Roots of this plant can be found in capsule and tincture forms at your local pharmacy. It is thought to enhance the immune system.
?	Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Its scientific name indicates that its foliage resembles yucca leaves.
?	Butterfly Milkweed Pleurisy Root	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	The brightly colored flowers of this plant are often surrounded by butterflies, bees, and other insects.
?	Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	The common name for this plant suggests its resemblance to a common kitchen utensil.
?	Obedient Plant False Dragonhead	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	The flowers are so obedient that they will remain in a new position when rotated around the stem.

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Can you match each plant's photo with its description?
Write the correct numbers in the white circles below.



Common Name(s)	Scientific Name	Clue
<input type="radio"/> Wild Columbine or Rock Bells	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	This flower can be pollinated only by creatures with long tongues, such as hummingbirds, moths, and butterflies.
<input type="radio"/> Virginia Bluebells or Oysterleaf	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	This "ephemeral" disappears after it has finished blooming but reappears every spring.
<input type="radio"/> Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Roots of this plant can be found in capsule and tincture forms at your local pharmacy. It is thought to enhance the immune system.
<input type="radio"/> Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Its scientific name indicates that its foliage resembles yucca leaves.
<input type="radio"/> Butterfly Milkweed or Pleurisy Root	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	The brightly colored flowers of this plant are often surrounded by butterflies, bees, and other insects.
<input type="radio"/> Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	The common name for this plant suggests its resemblance to a common kitchen utensil.
<input type="radio"/> Obedient Plant or False Dragonhead	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	The flowers are so obedient that they will remain in a new position when rotated around the stem.

Learn more about native plants and the Wild Ones organization.

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