

CALUMET BOTANICAL HERITAGE

Robb Telfer, Keller Science Action Center, The Field Museum, Chicago IL

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One of the Calumet Region's most unique qualities is its high biodiversity, which perseveres despite being one of the most heavily industrialized and populated places on Earth. Calumet is the meeting place of three major North American biomes: the boreal forests from the North, the tallgrass prairie from the West, and the broadleaf forests from the East. The sandy soils here are ancient dunes deposited by the movement of Lakes Chicago and Algonquin (precursors of Lake Michigan) over thousands of years. There are many rare plants in the Calumet, which contribute to the diversity that this guide celebrates as the region's one-of-a-kind botanical heritage.

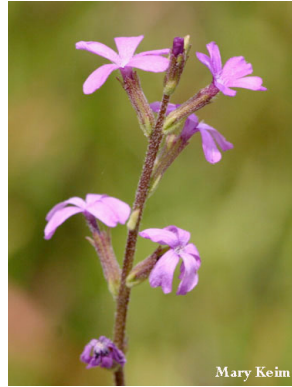
RARE CALUMET SPECIES



FT Mead's Milkweed
Asclepias meadii



SE Little Grapefern
Botrychium simplex



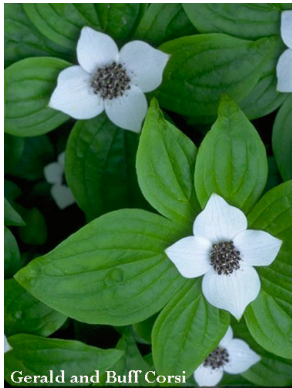
ST/SE Blue Hearts
Buchnera americana



SE Little Prickly Sedge
Carex echinata



FT Pitcher's Thistle
Cirsium pitcheri



SE Bunchberry
Cornus canadensis



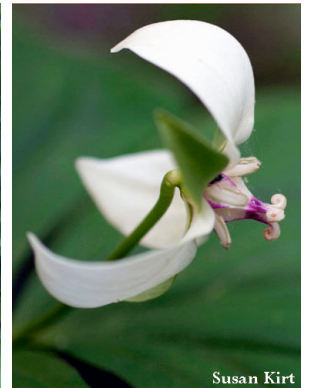
ST/SR Spoon-Leaved Sundew
Drosera intermedia



ST/SE Jack Pine
Pinus banksiana

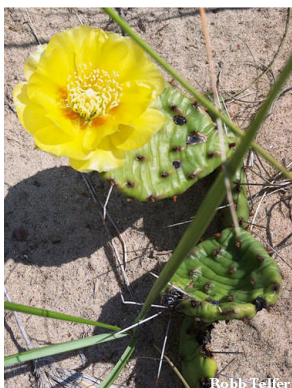


SE Orange Fringed Orchid
Platanthera ciliaris



SE Nodding Trillium
Trillium cernuum

OTHER IMPORTANT CALUMET SPECIES



Eastern Prickly Pear
Opuntia humifusa
Calumet's only cactus



Black Oak
Quercus velutina
Keystone species



Showy Goldenrod
Solidago speciosa



Sky Blue Aster
Symphyotrichum oolentangiense



Banded Trinity
Thysania americana
Calumet's only endemic

Important late season nectar sources

FT – Federally threatened

SE – State endangered in IL and/or IN

ST/SE – State threatened in IL and State endangered in IN

ST/SR – State threatened in IL and State rare in IN