

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Look for it now in southwest Ohio!

Spring 2022



Appendaged Waterleaf. Photo by Dave Woehr.

Appendaged Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*)

By Dave Woehr, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

With spring well underway, nature enthusiasts are treated to one of our most enchanting native wildflowers when they encounter the Appendaged Waterleaf in bloom. Waterleaf thrives in moist, deciduous woodlands that provide full to partial shade. When the plant first emerges from the soil each year the young seedling displays ground-level leaves that are green with gray streaking resembling water staining, hence the name “waterleaf.” As the plant grows, large, star-shaped leaves appear alternately along a hairy two-foot stem leading to a terminal geranium-like cluster of pastel lavender flowers unlike almost anything else in the woods. Each flower is roughly the size of a penny and sports five petals. Bees, flies, butterflies, and skippers pollinate the flowers. The plant then reproduces by reseeding itself.

[Hisey Park](#), located outside Waynesville at 5443 Middletown Rd., Corwin, OH 45068, is a wildflower hot spot! To learn more about the spring ephemerals you may see, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife’s [Spring Wildflowers of Ohio Field Guide](#) and check out their [weekly report](#) to see what is currently in bloom.