



Finding an earthstar on a woods walk is special.

PHOTO BY BRIAN STOKES

FLORA
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piners; perhaps we'll take a closer look at these in a future Flora story.

Beneath Tony's giant trees we delighted in finding numerous surprises on the forest floor. What Brian now calls the "love of his life" were countless specimens of the three-lobed, evergreen liverleaf, *Hepatica (Anemone) americana*. A good population of hepaticas calls for a return visit from mid-February through early March to see clusters of nickel-size, clear-blue flowers. With this year's warm winter sunshine, however, expect to see flowers sooner.

Also note that finding a sizable population of hepaticas indicates the site will likely reward the woods walker with a diversity of wildflowers during the spring.

For me, as much fun as getting lost was the unexpected find of several earthstars scattered along the creek slopes. Being on uncertain footing with my fungi identifications, I will simply describe earthstars as a type of puffball mushroom. The fine specimens we found, captured by Brian's camera, were hardened, ebony-colored star shapes from which the puffball portion had discharged its spores and disintegrated sometime in the fall. Most of the earthstars were barely

visible scattered in the leaf litter, but two on a mossy rock surface were easy to spot and simply spectacular!

I hope you are taking weekly woods walks, enjoying the beauty of trees in the winter and discovering other botanical surprises along the way. Search for your own "secret forest" in which to get lost, knowing that if you succeed, you won't be lost for long. And take care to have a friend or two accompany you!

Email Ken Moore at flora@carborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at [The Annotated Flora \(carborocitizen.com/flora\)](http://TheAnnotatedFlora.carborocitizen.com/flora).



Picketing the Dairy Bar, 1963

Birmingham? Memphis? Greensboro? No, this is Chapel Hill. Newcomers to Carrboro/Chapel Hill might be surprised to learn that our communities were riven by racism through the tumultuous '60s. From the Roland Giduz Collection at UNC's Wilson Library comes this 1963 image of protesters picketing the Long Meadow Dairy Bar on what is now Franklin Street's hip and trendy west end. Truth to tell, the summer before the indefatigable newsman shot this image with his trusty 4x5 Speed Graphic, I worked here as a "soda jerk" and was shamefully naïve of the Dairy Bar's segregationist policy (blacks were served at the ice cream counter but couldn't sit down in the dining room). But all that would soon change; by the following autumn, the Dairy Bar had changed its policy and I, a freshe at UNC, was out in the streets protesting too. Photo-historians will recognize this building, directly across the street from Chapel Hill Tire, as the former location of the legendary Pyewacket restaurant.

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BY JOCK LAUTERER



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