

FLORA
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Return in mid-May to June to catch it in flower.

You could confuse the white-striped leaves of rattlesnake plantain, *Goodyera pubescens*, with the spotted wintergreen if you did not make note that *Goodyera*'s striped leaves remain as a rosette flat on the ground, not along a short upright stem as on *Chimaphila*. Return in June to July to see this terrestrial orchid in flower.

Locally there are three similar evergreen plants called wild ginger or heartleaf. Don't fret about which species of *Hexastylis* you are seeing. All three have distinctively heart-shaped leaves and show varying degrees of light and dark variegation. Return in early mid-spring to discover the leathery flowers hidden beneath the leaf litter.

You'll find partridge berry, *Mitchella repens*, either as a few sparse prostrate opposite leafy stems or as vigorous mats scattered throughout deciduous and piney forests. The red berries resulting from two joined flowers may still be present in the winter. Return in May to find white flowers.

The fifth commonly encountered evergreen wildflower, three-lobed leaved *Hepatica*, was featured in Flora last week.

So there you have it, your guide to identifying our five common evergreen wildflowers. Make certain you don't confuse them with the very common crane-fly orchid, *Tipularia discolor* (see Flora, "Locate now for later viewing"). Crane-fly orchid leaves are now soaking up the winter sun, but these leaves are not evergreen; they die down during summer months.

Now you should invite your friends to join you on another winter woods walk.

Email Ken Moore at flora@carrborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at *The Annotated Flora* (carrborocitizen.com/flora).



Striped leaves of *Goodyera* form a rosette on the ground. PHOTO BY DAVE OTTO



Partridge berry sometimes forms green carpets on the ground. PHOTO BY BETSY GREEN MOYER



Heart-shaped leaves of wild ginger are unmistakable. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE



Deciduous-in-summer leaves of crane-fly orchid absorb sun in the winter. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

SHELTON
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Slade and Mayor Mark Chilton voting in favor of rezoning, and Dan Coleman, Jacquie Gist and Michelle Johnson dissenting.

Gist said she felt the project did not fit with the character of Carrboro.

"Because we as a community have built this capital and have built something that people want to come in and profit from, which is their right, we have a say in what that's going to look like," she said.

"I'm not against all development. I'm not against a development there. I'm against a development that in no way in God's green earth looks anything at all like what's surrounding it."

Lavelle said she felt the project fit well with the town's Vision 2020 and its emphasis to grow downtown.

"This is part of that effort to maintain our tax rate, to have people living downtown, spending money downtown," she said, adding that she felt the project "is pretty much everything that I would be looking for in a development like this."

A number of residents spoke against the project, citing concerns about traffic and the project's effects on the character of the neighborhood.

"I think [the developer] is trying to put something that maybe doesn't fit with Carrboro into Carrboro," said Arne Gray, who owns several properties adjacent to the site and lives on one of them. "He's done a wonderful job of trying to make it fit ... but I'm not sure it really fits."

Eliza DuBose said she couldn't believe the project was even being considered.

"I don't think this street can take any more traffic than it already even has," she said, adding that while she agrees with concepts of high-density projects, she didn't believe Shelton Station was worth it "for all the problems this is going to cause on already-dangerous streets."

Others said they supported the project, noting its focus on affordable housing, sustainable features and a potential increase to the commercial tax base.

"I think the benefits are pretty clear in the short term – jobs, construction ... and in the long term an increase to the tax base," said David Arneson. "I think this project is one thoughtful, appropriate step forward for growth and development in Carrboro."



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