

Event: Bicycle Collecting  
Educational Session: City Work  
Date: May 15, 2008  
Time: 7pm Service Center

Volunteer Project: Bicycle Collection  
Location: CoffmanPark  
Date: May 17, 2008

May is a special month for me. It was one of my granny's favorite and I remember her enthusiasm over warmer temperatures and blooming flowers. May was the month we'd start visiting the farm.

I think I've written about the farm before. It was my third home (my granny's being my second) and not really a farm at all. It was just a house away from everything. It is where I learned to swim and spent most summer weekends with family. It had pots of multiple colored impatiens, a swing on the front porch (where I'd sit with granny), and serenity. I can easily recall the peaceful feelings and if I close my eyes I can hear the sound of the wind through the two huge white pines that frame the house. There was also a flowering dogwood next to the front porch and I vividly recall my grandma's voice saying how pretty it was. The dogwood is still there, blooming right now.

Granny passed away several years ago, but I carry her love of spring blooming flowers with me. A walk through a Dublin wood lot often conjures thoughts of her. Trillium, Violets, Bloodroot, Cut-leaf toothwort, Spring Beauties, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Wild Geranium, Trout Lily, and Dutchman's Britches are just a few you'll find starting in March.

Yes, there are even Dogwoods. Although the Flowering Dogwood tree prefers deep, fertile and acidic soils, it can still be found in Central Ohio. Brandon Park is a great place to see them. Flowering Dogwoods produce a beautiful four-petal white flower and the fruit is a brilliant red. The wood is very strong and was once used to make an assortment of tools and even tennis racket handles. Native Americans used the tree for many things including ailments such as digestive problems, fevers, cuts and sores. They also utilized the stems for dental health. Some tribes were known for their white teeth. When chewed, the stem ends split into a toothbrush like material. The tree is also special to wildlife. Many small mammals and birds consume the fruit. The berry is particularly favored by Eastern Bluebirds.

Flowering dogwoods are not the only kind of dogwood in central Ohio. Pale Dogwood, Silky Dogwood and Red Osier Dogwood are also native to our area. Of course, like my Granny's tree, there are many ornamentals that can be planted around our homes. Just remember their soil preferences.

I hope you are continuing to enjoy the show of spring blooming flowers in our parks. I've seen and heard migrating birds, baby Killdeer, Humming birds and a Baltimore Oriole building a nest at Kiwana's Park on the river.

All my best,  
Mime