

A Close-Up Photo Study of a Mature Forest: Part 2

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[Part 1](#) of this series took a close look at mushroom species found in mature woodlands—at or approaching an old growth forest. This edition is a photo essay of the plants in the same habitat, many dependent upon specific soil microbes for survival. Since [plant poaching](#) is a problem and some of the species herein would not survive transplantation anyway, suffice to say that these pictures were taken at or near undisclosed parks and protected natural areas in Northern Virginia. Close-ups provide detailed individuality that majestic panoramas lose. For continuity, figure numbers resume where they last left off.

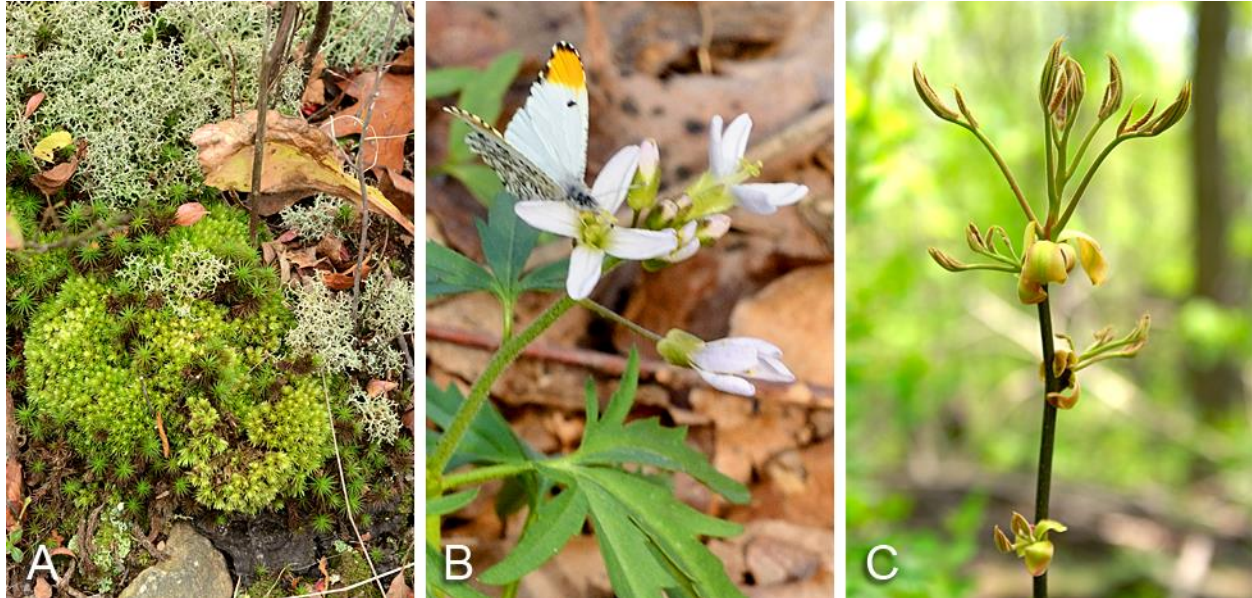


Figure 5. (A) Mixed mosses and lichens on an exposed, rocky prominence, (B) falcate orangetip butterfly (*Anthocharis midea*) pollinating cut-leaf toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), and (C) hickory (*Carya* species) with leaves emerging in spring.



Figure 6. (A) Crane fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), (B) showy orchid (*Orchis spectabilis*), and (C) pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). More on orchids is in ["Understanding Orchids" \(June, August 2018\)](#).

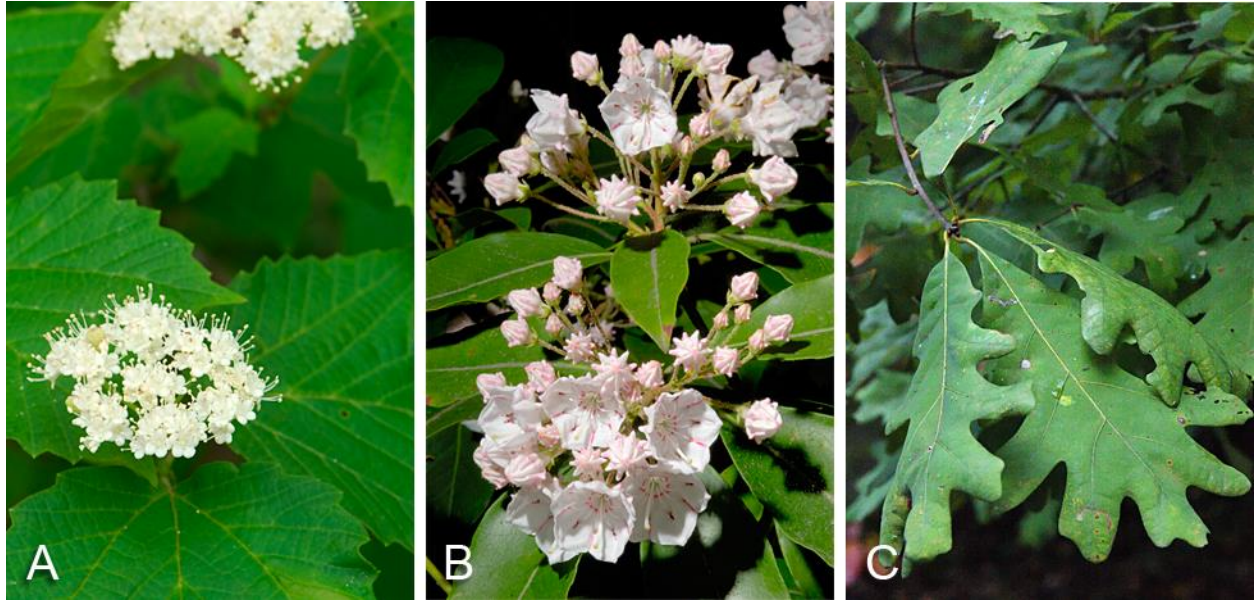


Figure 7. (A) Maple leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), (B) mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and (C) white oak (*Quercus alba*).



Figure 8. (A) False beechnuts (*Monotropa hypopithys*) and (B) pinxterbloom azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*).

A Note about Mature Forests

As when photographing the mushrooms in [Part 1](#), all the plant images seen here were captured along trails. These images prove that cool things can be found while respecting the land without venturing off pathways and stomping and compacting soil, tracking in invasive plant seeds, or causing other disturbances to the woodlands. Older growth forests straddle between being fragile and resistant. Treat the land right and be rewarded by the fantastic organisms and biodiversity that Mother Nature has to offer. Visiting natural areas respectfully is a bargain investment in the environment with short term dividends paying in the coming years while your children and grandchildren enjoy the decades of compound interest! Everyone wins in the end! Some tips towards healthy land stewardship are in ["Simple Steps to Help the Environment"](#) ([October 2023](#)).

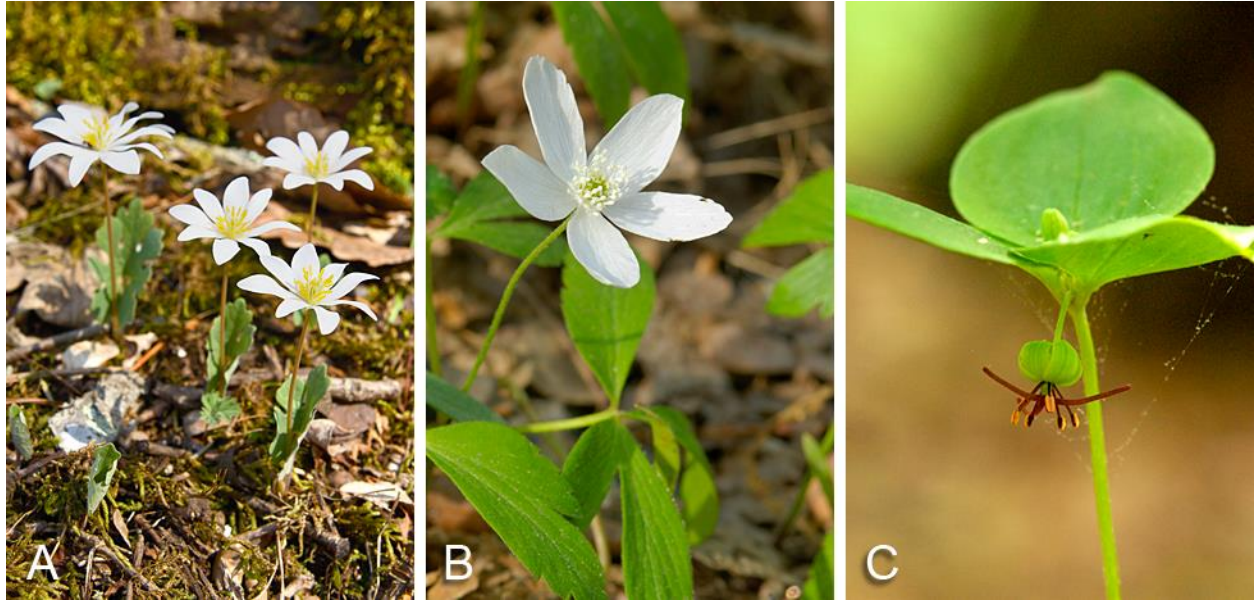


Figure 9. (A) Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), (B) wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*), and (C) Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*).

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