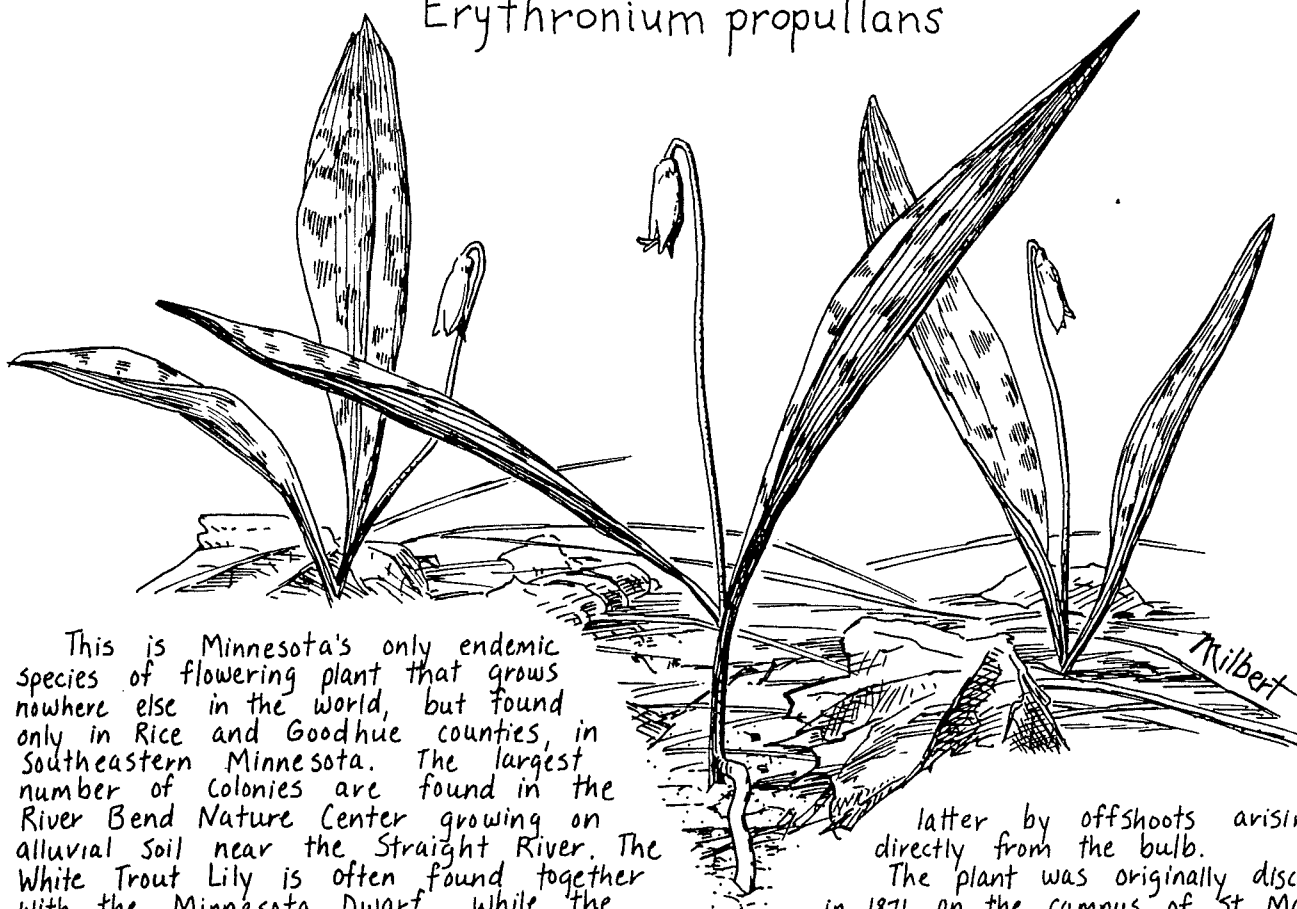


River Bend Naturalists Notebook

Presented by: RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER, Faribault, MN 55021

MINNESOTA DWARF TROUT LILY

Erythronium propullans



This is Minnesota's only endemic species of flowering plant that grows nowhere else in the world, but found only in Rice and Goodhue counties, in Southeastern Minnesota. The largest number of colonies are found in the River Bend Nature Center growing on alluvial soil near the Straight River. The White Trout Lily is often found together with the Minnesota Dwarf, while the yellow does not grow in the same part of the State.

The most distinctive features of the Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily are (1) its small pinkish flowers about $\frac{5}{16}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch long compared to the whitish longer flower of the White Trout Lily, and (2) an offshoot which appears on the stem above the bulb in the Minnesota Dwarf, an offshoot lacking in the White, but which is replaced in the

latter by offshoots arising directly from the bulb.

The plant was originally discovered in 1871 on the campus of St. Mary's Hall in Faribault by Mrs. B. Hedges, Botany teacher. Miss Darlington, principal at St. Mary's sent the specimen to Dr. Asa Gray, botanist at Harvard University. Dr. Gray identified and first named the plant.

The earliest flower bloom for this area is April 10th, the latest May 3rd, with the ten year average April 22nd.

— text by Orwin A. Rustad