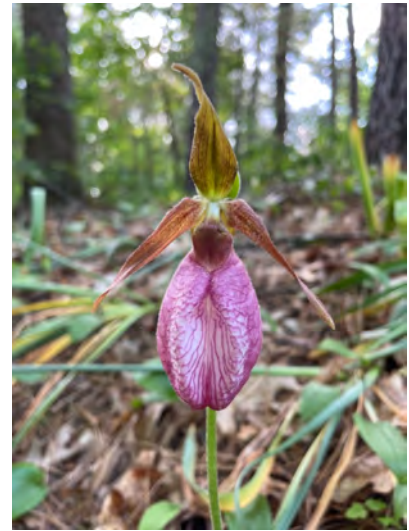


## Station 5: Lady's Slipper and Star Flower

The lady's slipper is the best known North American species of orchid. It can also be referred to as the moccasin flower. They blossom in a variety of colors and may grow for up to 10 years before producing a single showy flower, which hangs from the slender stem. Partly because of this, they are a protected species and must not be picked or disturbed. The most common color to see locally is the pink lady's slipper, although we do have the occasional yellow as well. The flowers can be found from late May through early June. You may have seen some of the distinct two-leafed plants as you entered the loop trail (or may upon exiting if you took it backwards).



Another native flower you may find at this station is the starflower, a much smaller white flower with a star-shaped array of petals. Similarly to blueberries, this groundcover thrives in acidic soils and therefore is often found under pines, where the decomposing needles lower the pH.



This station also contains several sarsaparilla plants, small leafy green shrubs which are easily mistaken for young saplings. These plants are sometimes used as a substitute for sassafras in the making of root beer or picked specifically for sarsaparilla soda.

