

Spring Hiking in Connecticut

By Jill Roberts • Photos by Jill Roberts



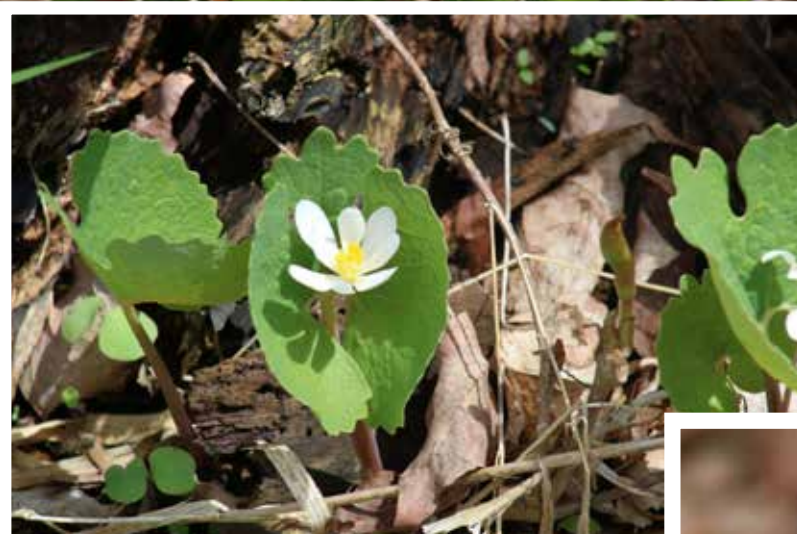
Hiking this time of year presents an ever-changing stage, as Mother Nature gives birth to the new. Each April, I look forward to the first signs of spring, like the fiddleheads that slowly emerge from the Earth, or the delicate early spring flowers that blossom to bask in the season's warm sun. As the temperatures continue to rise, so will the wildlife activity along hiking trails.

The best way to prevent unwanted encounters with wildlife, and keep sensitive vegetation unharmed, is to stay on the trails and keep pets on a leash. It is strongly advisable that if you're spending time in the woods that you become familiar with the wildlife native to the area. The Connecticut DEEP website (www.ct.gov/deep) offers information on the many types of wildlife native to Connecticut. Before you head out for a hike this April,

here are some things to consider:

April 27-May 28 is turkey hunting season in Connecticut. Many State properties offer both hunting and hiking activities, as well as private property that may adjoin public hiking trails. Hikers should take extra precaution and wear brightly colored clothing.

From April to October, both Timber Rattlesnakes and Northern Copperheads, Connecticut's two venomous snakes, emerge from their dens. Timber Rattlesnakes are isolated to the central and western parts of the State, while Northern Copperheads are found in the Lowland (trap rock) ridges, west of the Connecticut River, in Hartford, Middlesex and New Haven



Counties. If given a chance, a snake would prefer to retreat from humans. Therefore, if you encounter one, observe at a distance and back away slowly.

As an avid hiker, I'd like to learn more about the trails local to East Wallingford and share stories and tips in future publications. Anyone who would like to provide information on nearby hiking trails, or perhaps share some nature photography, please send me an email at jillroberts@bestversionmedia.com.

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