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Contributed by Janet Mackey

## A Watched Garden

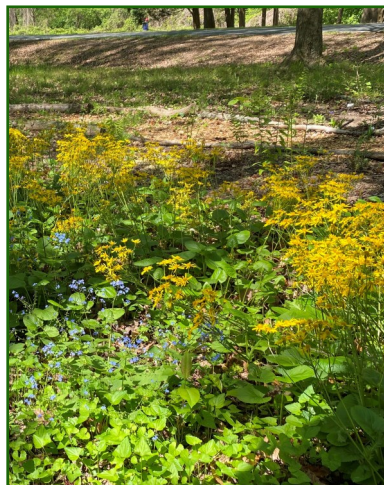
I love walking around my Woodland Garden in spring and admiring the many little treasures emerging. This garden fronts our road, and during this Stay-at-Home season I've had many people strolling by as they take their daily constitucionals. One friendly neighbor of mine would alert me to his presence on the road by calling out his warning, "A watched garden ..."

Ah, but how wrong he was! Unlike the pot of water that indeed will *not* boil while being watched by the impatient cook, a garden offers many treats *while* one anticipates blossoms. Although my friend seemed to be of the opinion that it was flowers that make the garden, I have a different standard. Anything green emerging from a garden bed in dry shade (as long as it's not an invasive weed) earns my admiration. These plants survived the heat and drought of last August and September as well as browsing by deer and rabbits through fall and winter and yet they return! I'm always happy to rediscover plants in the spring.

I am happy to report that with the arrival of spring, my watched garden has, indeed, flowered.



Lady fern



Golden groundsel



Tiarella