Lesser celandine
Ranunculus ficaria

Habitat:
- Shade tolerant, commonly near water, low forested floodplains, damp meadows, open woods

Ecological Impacts:
- Its tubers shoot up and form leaves in the late winter and it spreads to create dense patches that block sunlight for other native plants like spring ephemerals

Plant at a Glance:

1. Leaf: basal rosette, heart or kidney-shaped, vary in size, dark green, lower leaves are opposite
2. Flower: symmetrical, 8 yellow petals, star shaped, grow on single stalks that rise above leaves
3. Fruit: dry fruit, globose in shape

Timing:
- Blooms March - May
- Seed germination in late May through early June

Management:
- Small infestations: hand pull or dig up - removing the root systems, bulbets and tubers at the stem bases to prevent regrowth. Dispose of in bags.
- Large infestations: Use a nonionic surfactant if found near water to decrease harm to plants and amphibians (follow label directions when applying any herbicide)

Native Alternative:
Marsh marigold, Caltha palustris
- Blooms April to mid June
- Habitat: wet woodlands, swamps, marshes
- Benefits and Uses: grows in large clumps and blooms early in spring, bringing color to the garden or natural landscape.
- Growing tips: does best in moist conditions with full or partial sun and muddy soil. Tolerates shallow standing water in spring.


Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve
BHWP P.O. Box 685, New Hope, PA 18938 (215) 862-2924 www.bhwp.org