Western Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*). Trillium are one of my favorite wildflowers that make an appearance in camp’s outback in the spring! These three-leaved beauties are quite showy when they bloom starting in mid-March. The flowers in the center start out white and with age the bloom changes shades and becomes pink and sometimes even purple! The veins on the Trillium are not normally this defined, but the pollen has lined them all!

Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*). This shrub has beautiful pink flowers which started blooming in early April. Each flower when pollinated will turn into an edible yellow or reddish raspberry like fruit! The fruits were eaten by all of the Northwest Coast peoples, and their ripening “is associated with the song of the Swainson’s Thrush, called ‘salmonberry bird’ in many languages”. (*Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*-Pojar & Mackinnon)
Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) These giant deciduous ferns started appearing in late March and early April. By the time they totally unfurl their fiddleheads some of these ferns can reach upwards of 6 feet around camp! This is the world’s most widespread species of fern!

Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) These elegant deciduous ferns are found in moist to wet forests, meadows, streambanks, and more around the Pacific Northwest. These ferns can be told from other PNW ferns by their diamond shaped outline (each fern frond tapers at the top and bottom). Many of the Northwest Coast peoples ate the fiddleheads (new growth) in the early spring by either baking them, boiling them, or eating them raw with grease.
Redwood Sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*)

This sweet forest plant is commonly found in moist forested areas in WA and Oregon. This incredible low lying plant folds its leaves in half at night and to protect itself from too much sun or hard rain! In the spring its flowers are small white to pale-pinkish sometimes with red stripes.
Palmate Coltsfoot (*Petasites palmatus*) – These stalky plants which are found in moist to wet areas produce flowers before leaves. The Quinault Indians would use the leaves to cover berries in steam-cooking pits.
Herb Robert or Robert Geranium (*Geranium robertianum*)-These beautiful pink to purple flowers which sometimes have white stripes are an annual with an unpleasant odor. This flower’s name is so old that no one really knows where it came from. There are many guesses, including that it was named after Robin Goodfellow also known as Robin Hood!
Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*)—These beautiful evergreen shrubs have a red stem and petite pink and white bell flowers in the spring time. In the early fall through early winter these flowers become sweet dark blue to almost black berries that at times remind me of blueberries (but harder to harvest!). Many Coastal peoples enjoyed these berries and would sometimes travel long distances to harvest them.
Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)—These dainty deciduous shrubs have a green stem and red berries. These berries were popular with the Northwest Coastal peoples who harvested them and ate them fresh, dried them like raisins, and many other ways. These sweet berries are also popular forest treats for the birds!
Red-Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) These beautiful shrubs started blooming in mid to late March, and the hummingbirds LOVE them! The flowers will turn in to dark blue to black round berries that though are edible are unappetizing.

*Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast WA, OR, BC, & AK* by Pojar & Mackinnon is a great resource guide for plants of the PNW. Many of the details in some of my descriptions were found in this book.