



Wandering the Woods with Matt

Eastern Calligrapher
(*Toxomerus germinatus*)

on round-lobed hepatica
(*Hepatica americana*)

Observed 04/24/2020

on a PHLT conservation
easement in Price Township.

Eastern Calligrapher (*Toxomerus germinatus*) on round-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) observed on a PHLT conservation easement in Price Township.

Spring is an exciting time of year to observe wildflowers that take advantage of the period of time when the weather is warm but trees have not yet leafed out, allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor. Spring ephemerals, as this group of wildflowers is known, compress their lifecycle into a few months: growing, budding, flowering, getting pollinated, producing fruit, and dispersing seeds. The diversity and ever-changing mix of wildflowers, at different stages of their accelerated lifecycles, that are present allows one to visit the same patch of woods repeatedly over the course of spring and see different wildflowers in bloom each time.

Hepatica is a pretty wildflower that I do not come across too often in the Pocono Region. I believe that this is our first record on any of the Pocono Heritage Land Trust properties.

Toxomerus is a large genus of hoverfly (syrphid flies) that are widespread, common, and harmless. Most are small, less than 1 cm long, but their abdomens are strikingly colored with beautiful patterns, hence the common name - calligrapher flies. You will find these flies in your backyard, collecting pollen from garden plants and weeds in your lawn.