

Heuchera richardsonii

PRAIRIE ALUM ROOT RICHARDSON'S ALUMROOT (Saxifrage Family)

in the **Peacock Prairie** at the **James Woodworth Prairie Preserve**



This native perennial plant consists of a rosette of basal leaves. The mature leaves are about 3-5" across, palmately lobed, and orbicular or slightly cordate in shape. Their margins are coarsely serrate or dentate, often with straight white hairs along the major veins on the underside of each leaf. The petioles are longer than the leaves. They have straight white hairs that are quite long and conspicuous. From the center of the rosette emerge several flowering stems that are 2-4' (61-122 cm) tall. These stems are without leaves and have straight white hairs like the petioles. Each stem terminates in a narrow panicle of green flowers. Sometimes the flowers have reddish tints when exposed to the sun. Each flower is about 1/8" long, consisting of a bottle-shaped calyx that is divided into 5 lobes. There are 5 inconspicuous petals within the calyx, while 5 stamens with orange anthers are exerted beyond the calyx. At the Peacock/Woodworth Prairie, blooms about the 3rd week of May through the 2nd week of June.

Text from http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pr_alumrootx.htm Photos by Frank Mayfield at **black sweater art, inc.**