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TIDBIT! During spring, in the moist upstate woods, the halberd-leaved violet (*Viola hastata*) catches our eye along the forest floor, with its five yellow petals. The origin of its name is quite colorful too. Unlike most violets, its leaves are spear shaped. In fact, it is named for the weapon called the halberd, which was used by the Swiss Army in medieval times, and is the ceremonial weapon of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican. The weapon looks a bit scary, but this dainty flower is a joy to encounter on park trails in the upstate.

