

Braelinn Elementary Nature Trail

Guided Tour With Facts About Plants And Animals

Hello, I am Benjamin Hendricks from Boy Scout Troop 75, and this document was a part of my Eagle Scout Project of revamping the nature trail. This document tells you about the trees marked along the trail, as well as a few animals that are really common around Peachtree City. The first plant listed is a very important one to read about before hiking — poison ivy — which grows alongside the trail.

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Caution: Poison Ivy grows along the sides of this trail. Many people are allergic to Poison Ivy, so the best defense is to see it and avoid it.

Poison Ivy is a common native plant throughout the Eastern U.S. and grows in a multitude of environments, from shady forest floors to sunny open fields. It can vary somewhat in its appearance and growth habits (climbing vine, low-lying ground cover, ect.), but there are three traits that always appear- recognize them and you'll know to avoid it. To help you remember them, here are three simple sayings to keep in mind:

“Leaves of three, leave them be!” Poison Ivy leaves always appear in bunches of 3 leaflets. This saying is arguably the most repeated poison ivy advice, but can cause confusion since leaves of several other plants display a similar appearance (blackberries, raspberries, box elder, for example) and isn't enough to definitively identify the plant (especially in the winter, when there are no leaves). So move on to saying 2:

“Longer middle stem, don't touch them!” Take a closer look at the suspected “leaves of three.” Poison Ivy features a distinctive longer stem at the base of the middle leaflet. As a result, the middle leaflet extends farther out from the leaflet stem than the 2 side leaflets.

“Hairy vine, no friend of mine!” In the leafless season, you are most likely to encounter poison ivy on tree trunks, rock walls, or other structures where it can climb up as a vine. Poison Ivy vines feature numerous distinctive small tendrils, or hairs, that the plant uses to adhere to whatever it's climbing. Other climbing plants in the area have smooth vines, making the distinction easy.

Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

Also known as the Evergreen Magnolia or the Bull-bay, the Southern Magnolia is one of the most beautiful native trees. The Southern Magnolia are evergreens with straight trunks, conical crowns, and very fragrant, very large white flowers. The Southern Magnolia is 60-80 feet tall with a trunk that can be 2-3 feet wide. The Southern Magnolia's leaves are evergreens that are 5-8 inches long and 2-3 inches wide. The leaves are oblong or elliptical, thick and firm with edges slightly turned under. The leaves are shiny bright green above, pale and with rust-colored

hairs beneath, and they have stout leafstalks with rust-colored hairs. The Southern Magnolia's bark is dark gray, smooth, and becomes furrowed and scaly; and the twigs are covered with rust-colored hairs when young, but have ring scars at nodes and end with buds that are also covered with rust-colored hairs. The Southern Magnolia produces flowers that are 6-8 inches wide and are cup-shaped, they have 3 white sepals and 6 or more petals. The flowers are very fragrant and are solitary at the ends of twigs, and mature in late spring and summer. The Southern Magnolia also produces fruit that are 3-4 inches long; they are cone-like, oblong, pink to brown in color. The fruit is covered with rust-colored hairs and is composed of many separate short-pointed 2-seeded fruits that split open in the early fall. The Southern Magnolia grows best in moist soils of valleys and low uplands with various other hardwoods and range from eastern North Carolina to central Florida and west to eastern Texas to 400 feet above sea level. The Southern Magnolia is a popular ornamental and shade tree planted around the world in warm, temperate, and subtropical regions. Principal uses of the wood are furniture, boxes, cabinetwork, and doors. The dried leaves are used by florists in decorations.

Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*)

Also known as the Iron Oak, the Post Oak is a tree with dense, rounded crown and leaves distinctly looking like a Maltese cross, and can often be a shrub. It is 30-70 feet tall, with a trunk 1-2 feet wide. Its leaves are 3.5 inches long, 2-4 inches wide with 5- deep broad rounded lobes. The 2 middle lobes of the leaves are the largest, with short pointed base and rounded tip. The Post Oak has light gray bark with fissures splitting it into scaly ridges. The Post Oak's habitat is in sandy, gravelly, and rocky ridges. They also grow in moist loamy (ideal soil composition for most garden plants) soils of flood plains along streams, and are sometimes in pure stands. They grow in a range that includes southeast Massachusetts to central Florida to northwest Texas and to north to southeast Iowa. Wood for this tree is resistant to decay, so it is often used for railroad ties, siding, planks, construction timbers, and its namesake fence posts.

Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*)

Also known as the Spanish Oak or the Swamp Red Oak, the Southern Red Oak is a tree with rounded, open crown of large spreading branches and has twigs with rust-colored hairs. It is 50-80 feet tall and a trunk 1-2.5 feet wide. The Southern Red Oak has leaves that are 4-8 inches long and 2-6 inches wide. The leaves are deeply divided into long narrow end lobes and 1-3 shorter, mostly curved lobes on each side. The leaves have 1-3 bristle-tipped teeth, and are sometimes slightly triangular with a bell-shaped base and 3 broad lobes. The leaves are shiny green on top and have rust-colored or gray soft hairs beneath, and the leaves turn brown in the fall. The Southern Red Oak's bark is dark gray and becomes furrowed into broad ridges and plates. The Southern Red Oak produces acorns that are one half to five eighths inches long, elliptical or rounded, and the acorns are brown. One third or more of the acorns are enclosed by a cup tapering to a broad stalklike base. The acorns mature in the second year. The Southern Red Oak grows in dry, sandy loam and clay loam soils of uplands, and can also be found in forests. They live in these places in the range from Long Island and New Jersey to Northern Florida, to eastern Texas to south Missouri. The Southern red Oak gets its name from both its

range and leaf color during late summer and fall. It is also called the Spanish Oak because it was commonly found in the early Spanish colonies, but is different from all oaks native to Spain.

Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)

Also known as the Sorrel-tree or the Lily-of-the-valley-tree, the Sourwood is a tree with a cone-shaped or rounded crown of spreading branches. It has clusters of flowers giving it the Lily-of-the-valley name, and glossy foliage that turns red in the fall. The Sourwood is 50 feet tall and 1 foot wide. The Sourwood's leaves are 4-7 inches long and 1.5-2.5 inches wide, elliptical or lance-shaped, finely saw-toothed, and have sour tastes. The leaves are shiny yellow-green above, and paler and slightly hairy on the veins beneath, and the leaves turn red in the fall. The Sourwood's bark is brown or gray, thick, and fissured into narrow and scaly ridges. The twigs are light yellow-green, slender and hairless. The Sourwood produces flowers that hang down short-stalked on 1 side of slender axes, and the flowers have urn-shaped white corollas that are one-fourth of an inch long, and are slightly 5-lobed. The flowers grow in terminal drooping clusters that are 4 to 10 inches long, and they fully grow by midsummer. The Sourwood also produces fruit that are 3/8ths of an inch long, and narrowly egg-shaped capsules that are gray and covered with fine hairs. The fruit grow upright on curved stalks along drooping axes, they are 5-celled and split along 5 lines. The fruit bears many seeds and mature in the fall, while remaining attached into the winter. The Sourwood grows best in moist soils in valleys and uplands with oaks and pines in a range from southwest Pennsylvania and southeast Maryland, south to northwestern Florida, west in Louisiana, and north into southern Indiana at a height of around 5000 feet high or slightly higher in the southern Appalachians. The Sourwood is an attractive ornamental throughout the year, and the tree's name comes from the acidic taste of the foliage it produces.

Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)

Also known as the Cork Elm or the Wahoo, the Winged Elm is a tree with a short trunk and an open rounded crown, and is 40-80 feet tall and 1.5 feet wide. The leaves form in 2 rows and the leaves are 1.25-2.5 inches long. The leaves are elliptical and often slightly curved with sides unequal and are doubly saw-toothed. The leaves have a yellow midvein and many straight side veins. The leaves are thick and firm, and are dark green and hairless above with soft hairs beneath, while turning yellow in the fall. The Winged Elm's bark is light brown, thin, and irregularly furrowed. The twigs are brownish, slender, and often have 2 broad corky wings. The Winged Elm produces flowers that are 1/8ths of an inch wide, they are greenish in color, and clustered along twigs in early spring. The Winged Elm also produces fruit that is 3/8ths of an inch long, and elliptical reddish and flat 1-seeded keys called samaras. The fruit is hairy with narrow wings having 2 curved points at the tips, and the fruit matures in the early spring. The Winged Elm grows best in dry uplands including abandoned fields, in most valleys, and in hardwood forests. The range the tree grows in extends from southern Virginia south to central Florida west to central Texas and north to central Missouri, and at around 2000 feet above sea level. The common and Latin names for the tree was because of the distinctive broad corky wings present on some twigs, while Wahoo was the Creek Indian name for the tree.

Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*)

Also known as the Spotted Oak or the Possum Oak, the Water Oak is a tree with conical or rounded crown of slender branches and fine textured foliage of small leaves, and grows to be 50-100 feet tall and 1-2.5 feet wide. The Water Oak produces leaves that are 1.5-5 inches long and $\frac{3}{4}$ -2 inches wide, they are obovate or wedge-shaped and are broadest near rounded and slightly 3-lobed tips which are bristle-tipped. The leaves narrowed gradually to a long-pointed base; they have small lobes on each side sometimes. The leaves are dull blue-green above and paler with tufts of hairs along vein angles beneath, they turn yellow in late fall and fall off in wintertime. The Water Oak's bark is dark gray and smooth, and becomes blackish and furrowed into narrow scaly ridges. The Water Oak produces acorns that are $\frac{3}{8}$ ths- $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an inch long and they are broad but nearly rounded with shallow saucer-shaped cups. The acorns turn brown and mature in the second year. These acorns are an important food for white-tailed deer, eastern gray squirrel, raccoon, wild turkey, mallard, wood duck, and bobwhite quail. In winter, deer will browse the buds and young twigs. The tree is named the Water Oak, because it grows best in moist or wet soils of lowlands including flood plains, or bottomlands of streams and borders or swamps or ponds. They like the moist uplands and grow with Sweetgum often. They grow in a range including southern New Jersey, south to central Florida, west to eastern Texas, and north to southeastern Missouri, and at an average height of 1000 feet above sea level. The Water Oak is a rapidly growing shade tree for moist ground in the southeast, but is a short-lived tree.

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Also known as the Red Gum or the Sapgum, the Sweetgum is a large aromatic tree with straight trunks and conical crown that becomes round and spreading. The Sweetgum is 60-100 feet tall and 1.5-3 feet wide. The leaves of the Sweetgum are 3-6 inches long and wide, star-shaped or maplelike, and have 5 to 7 long-pointed finely saw-toothed lobes and 5 main veins from a notched base. The leaves have a resinous odor when crushed, and the leafstocks are slender and nearly as long as blades. The leaves are shiny dark green above and turn reddish in the fall. The Sweetgum's bark is gray and deeply furrowed into narrow scaly ridges, and the twigs are green to brown, stout, and often forming corky wings. The Sweetgum produces flowers that are tiny and grow in greenish ball-like clusters in spring, and the male flowers grow in several clusters along a stalk, while the female flowers grow in drooping clusters on the same tree. The Sweetgum produces fruit that is 1-1.25 inches wide; they grow on a long-stalked drooping brown ball composed of many individual fruits, each ending in 2 long curved prickly points. Each fruit has 1-2 long-winged seeds, the fruit matures in the fall and persists into the wintertime. The Sweetgum grows best in the moist soils of valleys and lower slopes, in mixed woodlands, and is often a pioneer after logging, clearing, and in old fields. The Sweetgum grows in a range from extreme southwest Connecticut, south to central Florida, west to eastern Texas, and north to southern Illinois, they also grow in a variety in eastern Mexico, and as high as 3000 feet in the southern Appalachians. The Sweetgum is an important timber tree, and is second in production only behind oaks among hardwoods. The Sweetgum is leading wood for furniture wood, cabinetwork, veneer, plywood, pulpwood, barrels, and boxes. The pioneers got a gum by

peeling the bark and scraping off the resinlike solid from the trunk of the tree, and the gum was used medicinally as well for chewing gum.

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*)

Also known as the Oldfield Pine or the North Carolina Pine, the Loblolly Pine is the principal commercial southern pine with a large resinous and fragrant tree with a rounded crown of spreading branches, and is 80-100 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. The Loblolly Pine has evergreen needles that are 5-9 inches long and form in bundles with 3 needles in them. The needles are stout, stiff, often twisted, and are green in color. The Loblolly Pine's bark is blackish-gray, thick, and deeply furrowed into scaly ridges exposing brown inner layers. The Loblolly Pine produces pine cones that are 3-5 inches long and are conical. The cones are dull brown, and are almost stalkless. They opened upon maturity but remained attached, the cone-scales raised, keeled with a short stout spine. The Loblolly Pine grows best in deep, poorly drained flood plains to well-drained slopes of rolling, hilly uplands, and form pure stands, often on abandoned farmland. The Loblolly Pine grows in a range from southern New Jersey, south to central Florida, west to eastern Texas, north to extreme southeastern Oklahoma, and grows from 1500-2000 feet above sea level. The Loblolly Pine is native to 15 southeastern states. They are among the fastest-growing southern pine trees and are extensively cultivated in forest plantations for pulpwood and lumber. One of the meanings of loblolly is "mud puddle" which is where these pins often grow. It is also called the Bull Pine because of its giant size, and Rosemary Pine from the fragrant resinous foliage.

Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Also known as the Tuliptree or the Tulip-poplar, the Yellow Poplar is one of the tallest and most beautiful eastern hardwoods, with a long, straight trunk, a narrow crown that spreads with age, and large showy flowers resembling tulips or lilies. The Yellow Poplar is 80-120 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide and can be much larger than this at times. The Yellow Poplar's leaves are 3-6 inches long and wide, they have blades of an unusual shape, with broad tip and base nearly straight like a square, and with 4 or sometimes 6 short-pointed paired lobes. The leaves are hairless and long-stalked; shiny dark green above, paler beneath, and turn yellow in the Fall. The Yellow-poplar's bark is dark gray and becomes thick and deeply furrowed, while the twigs are brown, stout, hairless, and have ring scars at the nodes (the point on a shoot where a leaf, flower or bud is attached). The Yellow-poplar has flowers that are 1.5-2 inches long and wide, they are cup-shaped with 6 rounded green petals that are orange at their base. The flowers are solitary and upright at the end of leafy twigs, and mature in the spring. The Yellow-poplar produces fruit that are 2.5-3 inches long, they are cone-like, and light brown in color. The fruit is composed of many overlapping 1 or 2 seeded nutlets that are 1-1.5 inches long and have a narrow wing. The fruit sheds from an upright axis in fall and the axis lasts through winter. The Yellow-poplar grows best in moist well-drained soils, especially in valleys and slopes, and often in pure stands. The Yellow-poplar grows in a range from extreme southern Ontario east to Vermont and Rhode Island, south to northern Florida, west to Louisiana, north to southern Michigan, to 1000 feet in north and 4500 feet in southern Appalachians. The Yellow-poplar was introduced to Europe from Virginia and grown on the Pacific Coast. They are tall trees with massive trunks that existed in the primeval forests but were cut for the valuable soft wood. The pioneers hollowed out a single log to make a long, lightweight canoe. Yellow-poplars are used for furniture and are one of the chief commercial hardwoods.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Also known as the Eastern Flowering Dogwood or just the Dogwood, the Flowering Dogwood is a lovely, small, flowering tree with a short trunk and a crown of spreading or nearly horizontal branches. The Flowering Dogwood is 30 feet tall and 8 inches wide. The Flowering Dogwood's leaves are opposite, and 2.5-5 inches long and 1.5-2.5 inches wide. The leaves are elliptical, and their edges are slightly wavy, appearing not toothed but have tiny teeth visible under a microscope lens. The leaves have 6-7 long curved veins on each side of midvein, and they are short-stalked. The leaves are green and nearly hairless above, and paler and covered with fine hairs beneath, they turn bright red above in the fall. The Flowering Dogwood's bark is dark reddish-brown, rough, and broken into small square plates, and the twigs are green and reddish, slender, and become hairless. The Flowering Dogwood produces flowers that are 3/8-5/8ths of an inch wide with 4 yellowish-green petals. Many of these tiny flowers are tightly crowded in a head 3/4ths of an inch wide, bordered by 4 large broadly elliptical white petal-like bracts (a modified and often scalelike leaf, usually located at the base of a flower, fruit, or a cluster of flowers or fruits), that are pink in some cultivated varieties that are 1.5-2 inches long. The flowers mature in early spring before the leaves grow back, and heads that are 3-4 inches across are commonly called flowers. The Flowering Dogwood also produces fruit that are 3/8-5/8ths of an inch long, they are berrylike, elliptical, and shiny red in color. Several fruits grow at the end of long stalks, and they have thin mealy bitter pulp. The fruits contain a stone which contains 1-2 seeds, and the fruit matures in the fall. The Flowering Dogwood grows best in both moist and dry soils of valleys and uplands in understory of hardwood forests and in old fields and along roadsides. The Flowering Dogwood grows in these habitats in a range from southern Ontario east to southwestern Maine, south to northern Florida, west to central Texas, north to central Michigan, and up to 4000 feet above sea level and almost 5000 feet above sea level in the Appalachians. The Flowering Dogwood is one of the most beautiful eastern North American trees with showy early spring flowers, red fruit, and scarlet fall foliage. The wood is extremely shock-resistant and useful for making weaving-shuttles. It is also made into spools, small pulleys, mallet heads, and jeweler's blocks. Native Americans used the bark and roots as a remedy for malaria and extracted a red dye from the roots.

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Also known as the Wild Cherry and the Rum Cherry, the Black Cherry is an aromatic tree with a tall trunk with an oblong crown, it is 80 feet tall and 2 feet wide. The Black Cherry has leaves that are 2-5 inches long and 1.25-2 inches wide, they are elliptical with 1-2 dark red glands at their base. The leaves are finely saw-toothed with curved or blunt teeth, the leaves are slightly thickened. They are shiny dark green above and light green and often hairy along the mid vein beneath, and they turn yellow or reddish in the fall. The Black Cherry's bark is dark gray, smooth with horizontal lines. The bark becomes irregularly fissured and scaly, exposing reddish-brown inner bark, bitter tasting and aromatic. The twigs are red-brown, slender and hairless. The Black Cherry produces flowers that are abundant, small, white. The flowers are 3/8ths of an inch wide, with 5 rounded white petals, many of the flowers can grow along spreading or drooping axis of 4-6 inches at the end of leafy twigs in late spring. The Black Cherry produces cherries that are 3/8ths of an inch wide, with a dark red turning blackish skin giving the tree its name. The

cherries are slightly bitter, juicy, edible pulp, they have an elliptical stone, and the cherries mature in late summer. The Black Cherry grows best in many sites except very wet or very dry soils, and sometimes in pure stands. The Black Cherry grows in a range from southern Quebec to Nova Scotia, south to central Florida, west to eastern Texas, and north to Minnesota, and varieties from central Texas west to Arizona and south to Mexico, and grows at 5000 feet above sea level in southern Appalachians and at 4500-7500 feet above sea level in the southwest. The Black Cherry is the largest, most widespread, and most important native cherry. The vulnerable wood is used particularly for furniture, paneling, handles, and some toys. Wild cherry syrup, a cough medicine, is obtained from the bark, and jelly and wine are prepared from the fruit. One of the first New World trees introduced into English gardens, it was recorded as early as 1629. There are as many as 5 geographical varieties that have been distinguished.

Bicolor Lespedeza (*Lespedeza bicolor*)

Also known as the Shrubby Bushclover, Shrub Lespedeza, the Bicolor Lespedeza is a plant with varying appearances. It can grow as tall as 9.8 feet, and often remains shorter in colder climates, and it is an erect shrub. The stems may be 1.2 inches wide, and the Bicolor Lespedeza grows from a thick root system. The leaves are made of 3 oval-shaped leaflets up to 2 inches long. The Bicolor Lespedeza produces flowers that are pink and purple, and have up to 15 growing in a cluster. There are some unopening flowers that self-pollinate. The Bicolor Lespedeza also produces fruit that is a flat legume pod nearly a centimeter long with one seed. The Bicolor Lespedeza was introduced in America in 1856 as an ornamental shrub, and was used for erosion control in the 1930s. The Bicolor Lespedeza can grow in many different habitats, even in disturbed areas, in a range from New York to northern Florida, to Nebraska and Texas to Ontario Canada. In some places it forms dense stands and can be an aggressive intruder.

Shining Sumac (*Rhus copallina*)

Also known as the Dwarf Sumac or the Winged Sumac, the Shining Sumac is a shrub or small tree with a short trunk and open crown of stout, spreading branches, and is 25 feet tall and 6 inches wide. The Shining Sumac's leaves are pinnately compound and are 12 inches long, and have a flat broad-winged axis, with 7-17 leaflets (27 in southeastern variety) each measuring 1-3.25 inches long. The leaves are lance-shaped and usually grow without teeth and slightly thickened. The leaves are shiny dark green and nearly hairless above, and paler, covered with fine hairs beneath, and they turn dark reddish-purple in the fall. The leaves are all stalkless. The Shining Sumac's bark is light brown or gray and scaly; and the twigs are brown, stout, slightly zigzag, covered with fine hairs, and have watery sap. The Shining Sumac produces flowers that are 1/8th of an inch wide with 5 greenish-white petals, and they grow in crowded spreading clusters to 3 inches wide with hairy branches. The male and female flowers grow on separate plants, and the flowers mature in the late summer. The Shining Sumac also produces fruit that are more than 1/8th of an inch wide. The fruit is 1-seeded and grows in crowded clusters. The fruit is rounded and slightly flattened, dark red in color, and covered with short sticky red hairs. The fruit matures in the fall and remains attached in the winter. The Shining Sumac grows best

in open uplands, valleys, edges of forests, grasslands, clearings, roadsides, and waste places; and they grow in a range from southern Ontario east to southwestern Maine, south to Florida, west to central Texas, and north to Wisconsin, and up to 4500 feet above sea level in the Southeast. The Shining Sumac is sometimes planted as ornamental for its shiny leaves and showy fruit. The fruit tastes sour, but can be nibbled or made into a drink like lemonade. Wildlife likes to eat the fruit, and deer also eat the twigs. The Shiny Sumac is easily noticed among other Sumacs due to the winged leaf axis and watery sap, and it often grows to form thickets.

Southern Blueberry (*Vaccinium formosum*)

Also known as the Highbush Blueberry, Southern Highbush Blueberry, and the Swamp Highbush Blueberry, the Southern Blueberry is a deciduous shrub that grows about 13-15 feet tall. The Southern Blueberry has leaves that are 1-3 inches long, and are oval shaped, and green. The Southern Blueberry produces flowers that bloom in a whitish-pink bell shape. The Southern Blueberry also produces blueberries that are dark blue, edible, and mature in late spring to summertime. The plant has green stems that turn into woody growth as the stems grow older. The Southern Blueberry grows best in marshes, wetlands, and loamy/sandy soils, prefers acidic soils and doesn't grow well in basic soils. The Southern Blueberry grows in a range in the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Washington DC, Maryland, Delaware, and New York.

Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*)

Also known as the Washington-thorn, the Washington Hawthorn is a scrub or small tree with a short trunk and a regular, rounded crown of upright branches, and is 30 feet tall and 1 foot wide. The Washington Hawthorn has leaves that are 1.5-2.5 inches long and 1-1.75 wide, are broad ovate (oval with broader end at base) to triangular or 3-lobed. The leaves are short-pointed at the tip, and are coarsely saw-toothed, and are nearly straight to slightly notched at the base. The leaves often have 5 shallow lobes, slightly hairy when young. The leaves are tinged in red and become shiny dark green above, paler beneath, and turn scarlet and orange in the fall. The bark is light brown, smooth, thin, and becomes scaly; the twigs are shiny brown with slender spines or "thorns". The Washington Hawthorn produces flowers that are over half an inch wide, have 5 white petals, 20 pale yellow stamens, and 3-5 styles. Many flowers grow in compact hairless clusters, and mature in late spring. The Washington Hawthorn also produces fruit that is ¼ of an inch wide, they are shiny red or scarlet, with ring scars from shed calyx (collective term for the sepals of a flower). The fruit has thin dry pulp, and 3-5 nutlets exposed at the ends; they mature in the fall and persist until spring. The Washington Hawthorn grows best in the moist soils of valleys, in a range from Virginia south to northern Florida, west to Arkansas, and north to southern Missouri, and is naturalized locally northeast to Massachusetts, and at an elevation of 2000 feet above sea level. The Washington Hawthorn is one of the showiest and desirable hawthorns for planting. Introduced to Pennsylvania in the early 1800s from Washington DC as a hedge plant and is why it's called the Washington Hawthorn. The Latin species name refers to the pearlike foliage.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Also known as the Scarlet Maple or the Swamp Maple, the Red Maple is a large tree with a narrow or rounded, compact crown, and is 60-90 feet tall and 2.5 feet wide. The Red Maple's leaves are opposite, 2.25 inches long and nearly as wide. The leaves are broadly ovate with 3 shallow short-pointed lobes and sometimes have 2 smaller lobes near the base. The leaves are irregularly and wavy saw-toothed, with 5 main veins from the base, and have long red or green leaf stalks. The leaves are dull green above and whitish and hairy beneath, they turn red, orange, and yellow in the fall. The Red Maple's bark is gray, thin, smooth, and becomes fissured into long thin scaly ridges; and the twigs are reddish, slender, and hairless. The Red Maple produces flowers that are 1/8ths of an inch long, they are reddish and crowded in nearly stalkless clusters along the twigs. The male and female flowers grow in separate clusters, they grow in late winter or very early spring before all the leaves grow. The Red Maple also produces fruit that are 3/4ths-1 inch long including a long wing, and have paired forking keys. The fruit is red and turns reddish-brown, they are 1-seeded and mature in spring. The Red Maple grows best in wet or moist soils of stream banks, valleys, swamps, and upland and sometimes on dry ridges and in mixed hardwood forests. The Red Maple grows in a range from extreme southeastern Manitoba east to eastern Newfoundland, south to southern Florida, west to eastern Texas and around 6000 feet above sea level. The Red Maple is a handsome shade tree, displaying reds in different seasons, giving the tree its name. The Pioneers made ink and cinnamon-brown and black dyes from a piece of a bark extract. It has the greatest north-south distribution of all tree species along the East Coast.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Also known as the Stave Oak, the White Oak is a classic eastern oak tree with widespread branches and a rounded crown. The trunk is irregularly divided into spreading, often horizontal, stout branches. The White Oak is 80-100 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide. The White Oak's leaves are 4-9 inches long and 2-4 inches wide, they are elliptical, they have 5-9 lobes, and are widest beyond the middle and tapering to the base. The leaves are hairless, bright green above and whitish or gray-green beneath; they turn red or brown in fall, and often remain attached in winter. The bark is light gray, shallowly fissured into long broad scaly plates or ridges, and is often loose. The White Oak produces acorns that are 3/8ths-1.25 inches long, they are egg-shaped, and about 1/4th of the acorn is enclosed by a shallow cup. The acorns become light gray, and have warty, finely hairy scales, and mature in the first year. The White Oak grows best in moist well-drained uplands and lowlands, often in pure stands. The White Oak grows in a range from southern Ontario and extreme southern Quebec east to Maine, south to northern Florida, west to eastern Texas, and north to east central Minnesota, at around 5500 feet above sea level and even higher in the southern Appalachians. The White Oak is the most important lumber tree of the white oak group as it has high-grade wood that is useful for all purposes. The tree's name comes from the color of its finished wood. It got the nickname "Stave Oak" because the wood is outstanding in making tight barrels for whiskey and other liquids. The colonists used the White Oak's wood for shipbuilding.

Southern Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

Also known as the Southern Bayberry, Candleberry, Bayberry Tree, or the Tallow Shrub, the Southern Wax Myrtle is a small tree or a tall shrub, that is 46 feet tall. The Southern Wax Myrtle is an evergreen tree, and has glandular leaves that are long and have a leathery texture with serrated edges, and contain aromatic compounds. The Southern Wax Myrtle produces flowers that grow with both male and female flowers that grow on separate plants. The female flowers develop into fruit which are globular and surrounded by a natural wax-like coating. The flowers form in the late winter to spring and bear fruit in late summer or fall. The fruit is food for many birds, and in the winter, so are the seeds. The roots possess root nodules and are fire-resistant for 3 seasons of fire before they die and don't regrow. The Southern Wax Myrtle can grow in wetlands, near rivers and streams, sand dunes, fields, hillsides, pine barrens, and in both coniferous and mixed-broadleaf forests, and can weather coastal storms, long droughts, and tropical high temperatures. The Southern Wax Myrtle grows in a range from Central America and southeast and south-central United States, and can be cultivated in the New York City area and the southern Ohio Valley. It also grows in Bermuda and the Caribbean.

Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

There is no other name for the Chinese Privet, but it is an introduced shrub or small tree with several trunks, dense, much-branched crown with compact foliage and abundant, and is 20 feet tall and 4 inches wide. The Chinese Privet has leaves that are deciduous or nearly evergreen, the leaves often form in 2 rows and are 1-2.5 inches long and .5-1 inch wide. The leaves are elliptical or ovate and they don't have teeth. The leaves are dull green above, light green and with wine hairs on midvein beneath. The Chinese Privet's bark is gray and smooth, while the twigs are light brown, slender, and covered with fine hairs. The Chinese Privet produces flowers that are 1/4ths of an inch long and wide, and the flowers are white and bell-shaped corolla of 4 short spreading lobes. The flowers are fragrant, and grow in terminal clusters of many flowers each, and the clusters are 1.5-4 inches long, they grow on short hairy branches. The flowers mature in late spring and early summer. The Chinese Privet also produces fruit that are 1/4th-5/16ths of an inch long, berrylike, elliptical or somewhat round, and black in color. The fruit have few seeds, and mature in early summer. The Chinese Privet grows best in woodlands, thickets, and waste places, they persist along fencerows and at old homesites. The Chinese Privet is native to China, and widely naturalized in the southeastern United States from Virginia to Georgia, Texas, and Oklahoma. The plant can be clipped into hedges of various shapes. The foliage is evergreen or nearly so southward and in mild winters. The fruit is considered poisonous.

Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Also known as the Gray Squirrel, the Eastern Gray Squirrel is a tree squirrel. The Gray Squirrel is native to North America where it is the most prodigious and ecologically essential natural forest regenerator. It was widely introduced around the world. The Gray Squirrel has gray fur but can also have brownish fur. It has a white underside, a large bushy tail, and in urban areas white and black Gray Squirrels exist as predation is lower. The head and body length is 9.1-11.8

inches long and the tail is 7.5-9.8 inches long, and the adult weight is around .9-1.3 pounds. There is no gender difference in size or coloration. The Eastern Gray Squirrel has 4 toes on the front feet with 5 on the back feet, and the hind foot-pad is often not visible on tracks. When the squirrel is running at speed the front paw tracks will be behind the hind paws tracks, and the bounding stride can be 2-3 feet long. The Gray Squirrel has 22 total teeth. The Eastern Gray Squirrels grow consistency throughout life, and are scatter-hoarders. The Eastern Gray Squirrel is one of the only mammals who can descend a tree head first, they turn their back claws backwards to hold onto the bark. The Eastern Gray Squirrel builds nests called dreys, which are made out of dry leaves and twigs, spherical, and usually insulated by moss, thistle-down, dried grass, and feathers. The Eastern Gray Squirrel doesn't hibernate through the winter. The Eastern Gray Squirrel can be found in mature dense woodlands, and in various locations around the world.

White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Also known as the Whitetail or Virginia Deer, the White-tailed Deer is a medium sized deer native to North America, Central America, and South America. The White-tailed Deer has been introduced to New Zealand, all the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean, and to Europe. The White-tailed Deer has a reddish-brown coat in the spring and summer, and is gray-brown in the fall and winter. The White-tailed Deer can be identified by the white underside of the tail, which it rises when alarmed to warn the predator that it has been detected. An indication of the deer's age is the length of the snout and fur color, with older deer tending to have longer snouts and grayer fur. White-tailed Deer have horizontally slitted pupils to give the deer better night vision, and better color vision during the day, which makes them process visual images much faster than we can, allowing them to detect motion in low-light conditions. The size of a White-tailed Deer can vary vastly, but North American male deer (called bucks) is around 150-300 pounds, and the female deer (called does) are around 88-198 pounds, but this varies at distance from the equator. Male regrow their antlers every year and 1 in 10,000 females also have antlers. The antlers are 3-25 inches wide and tall, the bucks shed their antlers between December and February, and they regrow in the late spring. The antlers are covered with a highly vascularized tissue known as velvet.

References Include:

National Audubon Society Field Guide To Trees Eastern Region

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