

**1. Wax Myrtle or So. Bayberry, *Myrica cerifera***

Leaves can be used in cooking like bay leaves. Small blue berries have a waxy coat that was used by early settlers to make candles.

**2. Turkey Oak, *Quercus laevis***

Usually 20-30' in height. Leaves deeply divided into 3, or 5, rarely 7 lobes, spreading and tapering from the base; and average about 5 in. long as well as wide. They are characteristically thick and rigid, heavily veined, bright yellow-green and lustrous above, paler and somewhat downy on the undersurface. Member of red oak family. Turkeys like to roost in this tree.

**3. Fringe Tree, *Chionanthus virginicus***

(on right, no ID sign posted)

Small deciduous tree is also known as 'Old-Man's-Beard'. A good yard tree. Usually the tree does not exceed 30 ft. in height with a trunk diameter of 8 in. Flowers appear about the same time as new leaves and form clusters of narrow creamy white pendulant petals about an inch in length.

**4. Deer Moss, *Cladonia perforata***

Also called Reindeer Lichen, a lichen that forms pillow-like colonies of dense, branching groundcover. It rarely reaches more than 7 in. in height. Has no leaves. Spongy and rubbery when moist, but becomes dry and brittle in times of little rain and will crunch if stepped on. Slow to recover after a burn.

**5. Catbrier, *Smilax spp.***

Thorny native vine common throughout Florida. It is one of about a dozen *Smilax* species found in the state. Underground tuber considered edible raw.

**6. Florida Anise, *Illicium floridana***

Olive green leaves and reddish-purple, starry, 2 in. flowers. Often found on downhill slopes near stream. The small, somewhat showy, maroon flowers appear in spring and are followed in late summer to fall by star-shaped, many-seeded pods which cling to the stems. Gives off a distinctive "licorice – like" odor when bruised or crushed.

**7. Black Gum (Tupelo), *Nyssa sylvatica***

Often called 'sour gum', A close relative, the Water Tupelo, resembles it but grows in shallow ponds and the edges of swamps. Leaves are simple, 2-4" long, entire, often broader near the apex, shiny and dark green in color. In the fall the leaves turn a most brilliant red. The bark on younger trees is furrowed between flat ridges, and gradually develops into quadrangular blocks that are dense, hard and gray or darker. The greenish flowers on long slender stems appear in early spring when the leaves are about 1/3 grown. They are usually of 2 kinds, the male in many-flowered heads and the female in two to several-flowered clusters on different trees. The fruit a drupe is dark blue, fleshy, two-thirds of an inch long, containing a single hard-shelled seed, and is borne on long stems, 2-3 in a cluster.

**8. Sweetbay, *Magnolia virginiana***

It is cousin to So. Magnolia but blooms are smaller. Back of leaves show silver.

**9. Fox Club Moss, *Lycopodium alopecurides***

Bright green and creeps along wet ground. Has both prostrate and erect stems with ciliate leaf margins on sterile leaves. Grows in wet, sandy soils like those found in pine savannahs.

**10. Switchcane, *Arundinaria gigantea***

A woody grass (bamboo) 2-12 ft tall. Foliage on stems two years and older is on side branches. Leaves 3-8 in long and 0.3-1.5 in wide.

Vegetative reproduction is rapid and extensive, by large fast-growing rhizomes, and the species formerly occupied large areas (canebrakes) in the floodplains of southeastern rivers.

**11. Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia***

Evergreen shrub, can reach up to 20 ft. in height. Leaves are alternate, shiny and entire. Flowers have are up to 1 in. pink sometimes white, in showy clusters. Often near stream or water.

**12. Witch Alder, *Fothergilla gardenii***

In witch-hazel family, Hamamelidaceae, along with *Hamamelis* (witch-hazel) and *Liquidambar* (sweetgum). Its alternate deciduous leaves are about 1-3 in. long and may have shallow lobes or teeth along their margins, especially in the upper 2/3 of the leaf blade. The young leaves and stems are densely covered with star-shaped hairs. In spring produces white bottle-brush-like flower spikes at the tips of its branches before its leaves expand. After flowering the carpels begin to swell within the floral tube and short, beaked capsules are produced. The elongate, dark, shiny seeds are produced 2 per capsule.

**13. Wild Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*.**

The tree flowers in the spring. Its flower spikes are 4-6" long and droopy; the flowers small and white. Fruit matures in early summer, is edible, with dark-purple flesh. The bark is gray-black and broken by interlacing furrows, flakes off on old trees exposing an inner bark that is reddish-brown. The wood is excellent for working, but few trees large enough for lumber occur in FL.

**14. Native Blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum***

Usually 6-12' high and wide, deciduous shrub with numerous upright stems and twiggy branches forming a rounded, compact outline. Reddish-green spring leaves turn blue-green in summer and red, yellow, orange and purple in fall. White or pink, bell-shaped flowers in drooping clusters are followed by edible, blue fruit. These plants are very important to wildlife as berries are relished by birds and small mammals; the twigs and foliage are eaten by deer and rabbits.

**15. Sparkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum***

Usually around 8-10 ft. tall, can get up to 30 ft tall. Leaves are leathery, oval to nearly circular and 1-2 in. long. Sparkleberry blooms in late spring, with the fruit maturing in late summer. Small white flowers are bell shaped, fragrant, and also a nectar source for butterflies. The berries are shiny black, remaining on trees throughout winter providing a food source for birds & wildlife. Produces abundant masses of showy white flowers, then masses of equally attractive shiny black berries. The twisted contorted form and exfoliating reddish bark is striking.

**16. Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida***

Leaves are simple, opposite, deciduous, dark dull green above, and paler beneath. They are 1-4 in. long, elliptic, acute tips, bases broadly wedge shaped, with margins entire but with frequent wavy appearance. Flowers are minute, yellow, in the center of 4 large white or pale cream colored bracts that appear in spring, and next spring's flower buds are conspicuous during winter as ¼ in. mushroom shaped, gray, on stalks.

**17. American Plum, *Prunus americana***

A native plum. Jelly and preserves can be made from fruit. Has a profusion of white fragrant flowers in the spring. The leaves are alternate, oval, pointed, sharply toothed (often doubly toothed) along the margin, thick and firm, 1.5-4 in. long by 1-2 in. wide, narrowed or rounded at the base, prominently veined.

**18. Gallberry, *Ilex glabra***

Female plants have berry-like, black drupes that occur from September to May of the following year. These 6- 8 ft. tall plants are especially valuable to birds for their persistent fruits and branch structures. Flowers appear in May, and the staminate and pistillate flowers occur on separate plants. The female flowers are solitary, and the male flowers are borne on a stalk consisting of 3 or more flowers; both have creamy white petals. Leaves can be used to make tea. In landscaping, it is used for foundation plantings and seaside plantings. The seeds are a source of food for many animals.

**19. American Holly, *Ilex opaca***

Leaves simple, alternate, oval, thick and leathery, 1-4 in. long, armed with spiny teeth. The flowers are small, whitish and inconspicuous; the male and female flowers are usually borne on separate trees. Berries ripen to red late in the fall and persist on the branches over the winter.

**20. Devilwood, *Osmanthus americanus***

Called Devilwood because its wood is so "devilishly hard" to split. Another common name is Wild Olive, as it is closely related to the commercial olive tree. Leaves simple, elliptical in shape with entire margins, look similar to Bays, but are opposite each other in arrangement on the twig, with 2 leaves at each node, different from the other alternate-leaved Bays. Flowers are tiny and white with a lovely fragrance. The fruits of Devilwood are small, green turning to black, olive-like berries on a short stalk.

**21. Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana***

Leaves are alternate, oval, entire, 3-6 in. long, dark green and shining above, paler beneath. Small flowers, which appear in May, are yellowish, somewhat bell-shaped, the two kinds occurring on separate trees; the male in clusters of 2-3, the female solitary. They are visited by many insects. The edible fruit is a pulpy, round, orange-colored berry, 1.5 in. or more in diameter and containing several flattened, hard, smooth seeds; strongly astringent while green, but often quite sweet and delicious when thoroughly ripe.

**22. Post Oak, *Quercus stellata***

Leaves appear "cross-like", usually 4-7" long and nearly as broad, deeply 5-lobed with broad rounded divisions, the lobes broadest at the ends. Wood often used for fence posts.

## GULF COAST COUNCIL Boy Scouts of America

### SPANISH TRAIL SCOUT RESERVATION

#### 23. Mockernut Hickory, *Carya alba*

Leaves large, composed of 5-9 obovate to oblong, pointed leaflets which turn a beautiful yellow in the fall. The wood is heavy, hard, tough and strong; widely used for tool handles and fuel.

#### 24. Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandifolia*

Can grow to 90 feet. Evergreen hardwood best known for its 6-8" board blooms. Leaves thick and waxy. Cone-shaped seed pods to 5" in length.

#### 25. Chapman Oak, *Quercus chapmanii*

Florida specimens rarely grow beyond shrub height in the dry, sandy scrub ecosystem they inhabit. Leaves narrow, unlobed, about 3.5" long, silvery green with short, hairy petioles. The knobby, warty cups of Chapman acorns cover almost one half of the fruit. Acorns occur singly or in pairs.

#### 26. Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica*

The leaves are narrowly oblong, thick in texture, from 1-5" in length and up to 1.5" in width, smooth on the edges, pale bluish green above, and gray and woolly beneath. The leaves should help to distinguish the tree from all other oaks. The leaves drop off in the autumn. Usually not over 15 to 20 ft. in height by 6 in. in diameter.

#### 27. Saw Palmetto, *Serenoa repens*

This low, clumping, bushy palm has large, fan-shaped leaves and multiple trunks which creep along the ground, creating a dense ground cover. Three-foot-long flower stalks appear in spring, covered with small, yellow-white, fragrant flowers, the source of a commercial high-grade honey. The flowers are followed by small, yellow berries which turn black, ripening August through October, an important food source for many mammals and birds.

#### 28. Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Simple, alternate, star-shaped leaf, with its 5-7 points or lobes, is 5-7" across and very aromatic. In the fall its coloring is brilliant, ranging from pale yellow through orange and red to a deep bronze. The flowers are of 2 kinds on the same tree, unfolding with the leaves. The fruit measures 1 in. or more in diameter, is made up of many capsules with projecting spines, and frequently hangs on the tree by its long swinging stem late into winter.

#### 29. Water Oak, *Quercus nigra*

Leaves variable in shape, mostly oblong, broader near the point, and narrower at the base, wedge-shaped., usually 3-lobed at the outer end, usually 2-6" long and 1-4" wide; they remain green for some time and gradually fall from tree during winter.

#### 30. Black Titi, *Cliftonia monophylla*

Found in wet/damp areas. Flowers are elongated clusters (racemes), borne at the ends of the branchlets. They appear in Feb-Mar, and are white or rose-colored. The fruit, a drupe, has 2-5 thin membranous wings, is ¼ inch long, and usually divided into 3 (sometimes 4) cells, each of which contains a round light-brown seed looking like buckwheat. Also sometimes referred to as the Buckwheat Tree.

#### 31. Slash Pine, *Pinus elliottii*

Needles 2-3, are 8-12" long, extend brush-like from branch. The trunk is straight, clears itself easily of branches, and is crowned with numerous small branches forming a round-topped head. Reddish brown bark divided into irregular scaly flaking plates. Cones are 3-6 in. long, brown, glossy or varnished; the thin scales are armed with fine prickles.

#### 32. Wild Grape, *Vitis rotundifolia*

High climbing, woody vine that grows 60-100 ft long in the wild. It has long-reaching, alternately arranged branches. A favorite food source for white-tailed deer. Other wildlife also eat the fruit, including black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, and possum. Songbirds such as cardinals, mockingbirds, robins, cedar waxwings, also consume the fruit and are essential to the dispersal of wild grape seeds.

#### 33. Winged (Shining) Sumac, *Rhus copallina*

Fall color display is frequently enjoyed along interstate highways, as the plant readily colonizes these and other disturbed sites. The tiny, greenish-yellow flowers, borne in compact, terminal panicles, are followed by showy red clusters of berries which persist into the winter and attract wildlife. Branches appear flattened (winged).

#### 34. Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*

Roots were used to brew a "black drink" which Indians drank before going into battle. Leaves can be double boiled and rinsed for a flavored tea. Deer like to eat fresh green stem tips. Female plants produce red berries.

#### 35. Pensacola Hawthorn, *Crataegus lacrimata*

Small tree with slender pendulous branches and dark checkered bark. White flowers in spring followed by small yellowish red fruits.

#### 36. Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcate*

Leaf lobes tipped with small spines. The leaves have a bell-shaped base (remember southern bells).

#### 37. Bear Grass, *Yucca filamentosa*

This evergreen can reach a height of 10 ft. Has basal leaves only that can reach 26 in. in length; each leaf is entire, stiff and sharp pointed, and the edges curl off in thin fibers. White flowers bloom in late spring and continue into early summer.

#### 38. Virginia Creeper (Woodbine), *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

This vine, can reach a height of 60 ft. Climbing on trees or other structures by means of branched tendrils with adhesive pads. Leaves are alternate, palmately divided with 5 leaflets about 5 in. long and toothed mostly beyond the middle. The fruit is very dark blue-black drupe.

#### 39. American Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*

Coarse, fuzzy, light green, deciduous leaves are combined with small, lavender-pink blossoms densely clustered in leaf axils from June through August. A profusion of very showy, 1/3 in. diameter, clustered berries follow, densely packed and encircling the woody stems. These shiny purple-blue fruits are quite attractive to.



### MARION C. LEACH NATURE TRAIL