

What's In Bloom?

AT ADKINS ARBORETUM IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



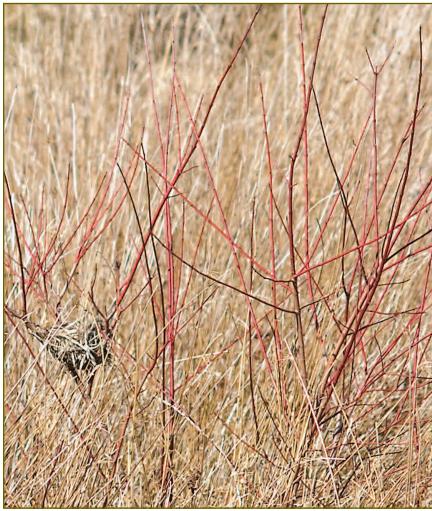
Betula nigra (BET-u-la NIE-grah) river birch—River birch has one of the most distinctive barks of all trees. Spectacular in the winter, the cinnamon-colored bark flakes in shades of tan and pink. This tree grows along streams and uplands. Birch Allee path has many river birches of all sizes.



Liquidambar styraciflua (lik-wid-AM-ber-steer-rah-SIF-lew-ah) sweetgum—Distinctive for its star shaped leaves that turn a lovely fall red, yellow or purple; and for its gumballs suspended by a long stalk. The gumballs open to reveal up to 50 winged seeds that are devoured by birds and small mammals. Common in young forests.



Juniperus virginiana (jew-NIP-er-us virgin-ee-A-nah) Eastern red cedar—The trunks have beautiful peeling red bark contrasting with the blue-green to purple-brown needles. Females produce blue berries in fall which are eaten by wildlife. Birds find shelter, roost, feed and nest extensively in this evergreen. It is common in old fields.



Cornus sericea (KOR-nus seh-REE-see-ah) red twig dogwood—Distinctive for its bright red stems and purple leaves in the fall. Brilliant stems provide spectacular winter color, especially in the snow. A spreading shrub with metallic blue to white fruit in the fall. Found along the wetlands. Indians used stems for basket weaving, medicines and dyes.



Hibiscus moscheutos (hih-BIS-kus moh-SHOO-tohs) swamp rose mallow—Hibiscus is an herbaceous plant that has huge showy pink or white flowers in late summer. Its seed capsules persist through winter providing an attractive winter feature. The pods are also used in dried arrangements. Find these plants along wetland edges and in roadside ditches.



Verbena hastata (ver-BEE-nah hos-TAH-tah) blue vervain—A bright blue-flowered perennial of wet meadows and prairies. In winter the strongly vertical flower spikes resembling a candelabrum persist holding the dry seed capsules and adding elegance to the landscape. Look for the candelabras in the marsh.

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Carpinus caroliniana (kar-PINE-us kare-o-lin-ee-A-nah) ironwood, hornbeam or blue birch—The grey bark has a distinctively muscular appearance. It develops clustered fruit on 6" long red-brown stems. The small seeds are eaten by forest rodents and occasionally by birds. It prefers moist or wet soils bordering streams and swamps. It is common along Blockston Branch.



Liriodendron tulipifera (leer-ee-o-DEN-dron tu-lip-if-ER-ah) tulip tree—Tulip tree has a tall straight trunk with a slight taper and without many limbs, terminating in a small rounded crown. The bark is thick, grey and broken by light colored wide fissures. In fall it has pointed tan cones holding many winged seeds. Look for tall tulip trees along Blockston Branch.



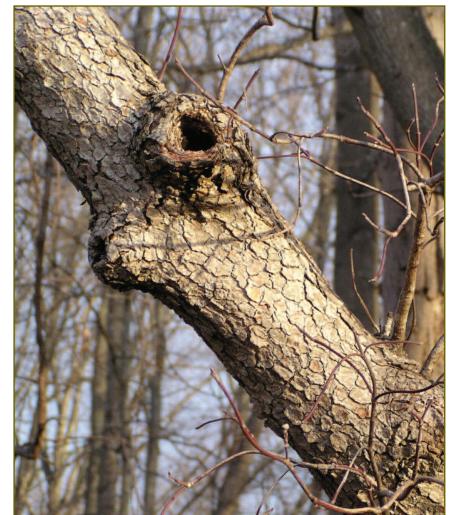
Quercus velutina (KWER-cus vel-ew-TEE-nah) black oak—Black oak bark is very dark gray to black, rough and broken into short blocky fissures with distinctive orange-yellow inner bark. Acorns mature at end of second season, are 1/2 to 1 inch long, enclosed for 1/2 their length by the cap and are light brown and more rounded than white oak acorns. Found along the Upland Path.



Quercus alba (KWER-cus AL-bah) white oak—The trunks are light grey, broken with narrow fissures, shaggy in appearance. Short stalked acorns mature in 1 season, about 1" long, ovoid, shiny chestnut brown at maturity, enclosed for 1/4 of its length by the cap and are an important food source for forest mammals and birds. Found along the Upland Path.



Mitchella repens (mit-CHEL-ah REE-pens) partridge berry—Red berries often peek out from the rounded leaves of this ground-hugging plant. Found growing in acidic soils under pine trees as well as hardwoods. Partridge berry refers to the bird that loves the fruit; though many other ground foraging birds share in the bounty. Common along the Tuckahoe Valley path.



Cornus florida (KOR-nus FLOR-i-dah) flowering dogwood—The short trunk has thick irregular squarish thick plates of bark red-brown to grey in color. The shiny red, oval fruits are held in small clusters. Indians used the bark to ward off fever; the inner bark made to make a tooth powder; and the twig bark and iron sulfate to make black ink. Common along the Upland Path.