

Farmington Spur Trail

November 6, 2023

	BOTANICAL NAME (with etymology & genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME (with comments we heard)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Acer rubrum</i> (= red) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Red Maple (of the 3 varieties of <i>Acer rubrum</i> , 2 live in St. Louis [var. <i>rubrum</i> and var. <i>trilobum</i> – the “Trident Maple”])
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Andropogon gyrans</i> (man + beard + revolving) (an-dro-PO-gon)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC3]	Elliott’s Bluestem / Bird-of-Paradise Grass (Note: the real “Bird of Paradise” isn’t a grass, but more closely related to ginger, turmeric, and bananas)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i> (man + beard) (an-dro-PO-gon)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC2]	Broomsedge (easy to confuse with Little Bluestem)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i> (without spleen + flat veins) (uh-SPLLEE-nee-um)	Aspleniaceae [CC4]	Ebony Spleenwort (cheerful little fellow; fertile fronds stand upright but die off during winter; sterile fronds are evergreen and lie on ground during winter)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (barberry + somebody’s name) (BR-br-iss)	Berberidaceae [intro]	Japanese Barberry (spiny shrub / Alan warned that they can be invasive / didn’t notice if the red berries were still there)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Carex glaucoidea</i> (sedge + glaucous) (CARE-x)	Cyperaceae [CC4]	Blue Sedge (leaves have a bluish color)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> (gaping flower + wide leaf) (kazz-MAN-thee-um)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC4]	River Oats (we were focused on one plant we found on one side of the trail, but then everybody laughed to find hundreds of them on the other side of the trail)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cornus florida</i> (also <i>Benthamidia florida</i>) (horn [referring to hardness of wood] + flowering) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood (there were no newbies in our group, so nobody bothered to tell the “How can you tell a Dogwood?” joke)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cunila origanoides</i> (= like oregano) (KOO-nil-lah)	Lamiaceae [CC6]	Dittany (too warm for frost flowers / indicator [along with blueberries and White Oak] of acid soil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> (= divine + pear) (dee-OSS-pr-us)	Ebenaceae [CC3]	Persimmon Tree (dioecious / we found at least 3 trees that were full of sweet fruit / leaves entire / bark blocky / hard wood for golf club heads and pool cues)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> (= olive + chaste + umbel inflorescence) (el-ee-AG-nus)	Elaeagnaceae [intro]	Autumn Olive (silvery scales on leaf underside)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (= good name + winged) (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [intro]	Burning Bush / Winged Euonymus (although sometimes wingless / leaf underside hairless, whereas our native species has hair on leaf underside)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Frangula caroliniana</i> (= brittle) (FRANG-goo-luh)	Rhamnaceae [CC6]	Carolina Buckthorn (thornless / leaves are simple, waxy, dark green, elliptic, toothless, entire)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ilex opaca</i> (holly + dull [maybe because the European holly has shinier leaves]) (EYE-lex)	Aquifoliaceae [CC7]	American Holly (we found more than one; Kathy B. suggested that they were probably planted)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Muhlenbergia sobolifera</i> (Gotthilf Muhlenberg + sprout-bearing) (myoo-len-BRR-jee-uh)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Rock Muhly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Panicum capillare</i> (= millet + hair-like) (PANN-i-kum)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC0]	Witchgrass (inflorescence like tiny magic sparkles from a witch’s wand). John likes <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> [Pink Muhly] even better. If you add an “S” to witchgrass, you’ll get Switchgrass, a larger <i>Panicum</i> species, and one of the 3 iconic tallgrass prairie grasses)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pinus echinata</i> (= pine tree + hedgehog) (PY-nuss)	Pinaceae [CC5]	Shortleaf Pine (countless saplings lined part of the trail not far from their very tall Shortleaf Pine mother)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Polystichum acrosticoides</i> (many rows + tip with rows) (po-LISS-tick-um)	Dryopteridaceae [CC5]	Christmas Fern (still green at Christmas)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (= fern + eagle [image in sliced root]) (tr-RIDD-ee-um)	Dennstaedtiaceae [CC4]	Bracken Fern / Eagle Fern (triangular-shaped fronds, 2-3x pinnate / sori covered by rolled leaf margins / deciduous / rhizomatous / linked to stomach cancer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pycnanthemum pilosum</i> (dense flowers + hairy) (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC5]	Hairy Mountainmint (St. Louis has 3 species of mountainmint. <i>P. pilosum</i> is similar to <i>P. virginianum</i> , but <i>P. pilosum</i> has stems which are densely hairy all over, whereas <i>P. virginianum</i> stems are hairy only on the angles) wide leaves = wide flavor
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> (dense flowers + narrow leaves) (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Narrowleaf Mountainmint (narrow leaves = narrow flavor)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> (pear + somebody's name) (PY-rus)	Rosaceae [intro]	Callery Pear (Bradford Pear is a special cultivar of Callery Pear. Bradford Pear is bred to be sterile, thornless, and relatively resistant to pests.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quercus alba</i> (oak + white) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (white group) [CC4]	White Oak (leaves usually with 7 rounded lobes and sinuses – sometimes deep, sometimes shallow / leaves turn deep red and mostly fall from older trees while often remaining on younger ones / bark light gray that tends to form overlapping scales a little over halfway up the trunk / buds 3mm, reddish-brown, blunt tip / acid soil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quercus coccinea</i> (= oak + scarlet) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC5]	Scarlet Oak (leaf: smaller, hairless, with 7 lobes [each with several bristle-tipped teeth], deep sinuses, turns bright scarlet / buds = snow-on-the-mountain) /
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i> (oak + roofing tile [wood use]) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC3]	Shingle Oak (leaf: shaped more like a buckthorn than an oak, with no lobes and no teeth / leaves marcescent (stay on tree throughout winter) /
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quercus marilandica</i> (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC4]	Blackjack Oak (leaf: tough, leathery, has a narrow base that flares up to a wide leaf-top with 3 lobes / bark: cracked into black rectangular plates with narrow orange fissures / lives in poor, thin, dry, rocky soils)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quercus stellata</i> (= star-shaped [hairs on leaf underside]) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (white group) [CC4]	Post Oak (leaf: leathery, undersides densely short-hairy with star-shaped tufts / 3 terminal lobes form cross with 90° angles / branching looks Halloweenish / lives in dry areas)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rhus copallinum</i> (sumac + gummy resin) (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC2]	Winged Sumac (rachis has wings, but leaflets are toothless / compare with our <i>Rhus glabra</i> which has a wingless rachis, but has toothed leaflets. So you either get teeth or wings, but not both.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> (blackberry + purple hair) / (ROO-bus)	Rosaceae [intro]	Wineberry (an Asian species of raspberry / will root at tips)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sassafras albidum</i> (sassafras + white) (SASS-uh-frass)	Lauraceae [CC2]	Sassafras (has green twigs, even in winter / scratch to enjoy Juicyfruit Gum or Fruit Loops fragrance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (split chaff [lemma] + broomlike) (shih-ZACK-ree-um)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC5]	Little Bluestem
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tridens flavus</i> (3-toothed + yellow) (TRY-denz)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC1]	Purpletop Tridens / Greasegrass (we couldn't feel any greasiness so late in the season)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ulmus alata</i> (= elm + winged) (UL-muss)	Ulmaceae [CC4]	Winged Elm (we saw quite a few with <i>very</i> conspicuous wings / base of leaf not as asymmetrical as other elms / terminal leaf is larger than lateral leaves)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ulmus rubra</i> (elm + red) (UL-muss)	Ulmaceae [CC5]	Slippery Elm / Red Elm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> (blueberry + treelike) (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC6]	Farkleberry (of our 3 St. Louis blueberries [<i>V. arboreum</i> , <i>V. staminium</i> , and <i>V. pallidum</i>], this is the tallest and has the most OPEN leaf venation)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i> (blueberry + pale) (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC4]	Lowbush Blueberry (of our 3 St. Louis blueberries [<i>V. arboreum</i> , <i>V. staminium</i> , and <i>V. pallidum</i>], this is the shortest and has a MEDIUM leaf venation, being less open than Farkleberry, but less tightly closed than Deerberry)

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

Ants: We found a stream of tiny ants crossing the trail, with a much, *much* larger queen repeatedly changing directions, seemingly undecided which way to go.

Ted later sent James Trager (our ant expert) the information. James was able to identify the ants and explain what was happening. James wrote:

*"The ants belong to one of our two army ant species, **Neivamyrmex nigrescens**. In warmer months, they do this **colony relocation behavior** before dawn for about two weeks out of every month. This time of year, the emigrations become morning affairs when it's warm enough, then cease altogether when it gets reliably cold."*

Done with the ants, we changed directions and headed back to the cars. John Oliver wondered aloud how many ants we had seen. John Bales immediately answered "5,720". Everybody laughed.

Insects: We were so lucky to have Ted with us to help open our eyes to the insects all around us – even in November! From our native Shortleaf Pine, he showed us a **Longhorn Beetle** larva inside a dead branch, frass from **Pine Web Moths** on the green needles, and a colorful **Assassin Bug** under the bark. From a single mound of coyote scat on the trail, he showed us no less than 6 different species of insects (including **Broad-Headed Bugs**, **Earth-Boring Beetles**, and a **Dung Beetle**). We also saw the handiwork of a **Twig Pruner Beetle** (which is different from a Twig Girdler Beetle). We saw a **March Fly** (Love Bug), a **Wolf Spider**, a **Buckeye Butterfly**, an ailing **European Hornet**, a **Splendid Tiger Beetle**, and a big, black **Bess Bug** (that Steve identified as a 1967 Volkswagen – everybody laughed).

Grasses: We were lucky to have Alan Brant with us to help sort out the many grasses we found. There was one spot that was especially beautiful in the sunlight, with the white remnants of Little Bluestem, Broomsedge, and Bird-of-Paradise Grass all competing for our attention.

Ringneck Snake: Steve found a tiny black Ringneck Snake with a truth-in-advertising red ring around its neck. John O. explained that its underside is also red. When the snake feels threatened, it can lift itself up and display its red underside. But our snake was just worm-sized and seemed content to let Steve hold him.

Tree Stump: When we were off to the side of the trail examining a plant, Steve B. stood on a tree stump and offered to give a “stump speech”. Everybody laughed. But a speech given on a tree stump is probably the actual source of the term “stump speech”. Politicians were said to have repeated verbatim the same speech over and over at different train stops.