

# Whispering Pine Trail

November 13, 2023

	<b>BOTANICAL NAME</b> (with etymology & genus pronunciation)	<b>FAMILY</b> [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	<b>COMMON NAME</b> (with comments we heard)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Acer rubrum</i></a> (= red) (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Red Maple (buds somewhat rounded with multiple scales, often several in a cluster / twigs without unpleasant odor / trunk bark not scaly / 2 varieties in St. Louis [var. <i>rubrum</i> and var. <i>trilobum</i> – the “Trident Maple”])
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Alnus serrulata</i></a> (alder + small teeth) (ALL-nus)	Betulaceae [CC7]	Alder (we found a small cone-like fruit leftover from summer, and green male catkins getting ready for spring)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Andropogon gyrans</i></a> (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"/>	<a href="#"><i>Antemaria parlinii</i></a> (insect antennae + somebody’s name) (an-tin-AYR-ee-uh)	Asteracea (Gnaphalieae tribe) CC5	Parlin’s Pussytoes (leaf: underside whitish with dense wool / has 3 or 5 veins, whereas <i>A.neglecta</i> has narrower leaves with only 1 vein / plant dioecious / the stamens of flowers on male plants stick up like insect antennae / “pussytoes” because flowers look like cat toes / habitat dry, rocky, shaded / )
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Asplenium platyneuron</i></a> (without spleen [medicinal for aiding spleen] + flat veins) (uh-SPLLEE-nee-um)	Aspleniaceae [CC4]	Ebony Spleenwort (cheerful little fern; fertile fronds stand upright but die off during winter; sterile fronds are evergreen and lie on ground during winter)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Baptisia bracteata</i></a> (to dip [as in dyeing] + with bracts) (bap-TIZZ-ee-uh)	Fabaceae [CC7]	Cream Wild Indigo (even in the plant’s dried-up state, a little bract could still be found at the base of the seedpod’s pedicel, living-up to its “bracteata” name; the similar-looking leaf stipules could also be found)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Betula nigra</i></a> (birch + black) (BET-choo-luh)	Betulaceae [CC4]	River Birch (no terminal buds / lateral buds have hook at tip / bark on mature trees peel into thin sheets / leaves somewhat triangular with both small teeth and shallow lobes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Carpinus caroliniana</i></a> (car-PY-nus)	Betulaceae [CC6]	Musclewood Tree (habitat: shaded areas with moist soils / trunk ribbed like muscles / leaf: looks corrugated with prominent veins / male and female catkins appear in spring with leaves)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Carya ovata</i></a> (nut tree + egg-shaped) (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC4]	Shagbark Hickory (usually 5 leaflets with the terminal 3 leaflets much larger than the basal pair / mature trees have shaggy bark / monoecious with long-stalked male catkins and female flowers in short terminal spikes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Carya texana</i></a> (= nut tree + Texas) (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Black Hickory (found on top of ridge; has gold speckles on its buds)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Carya tomentosa</i></a> (= nut tree + short woolly hairs [on leaf underside]) (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Mockernut Hickory (leaflets: 7, underside and rachis densely orangish-brown hairy / terminal buds large, tan, hairy / “mocking” because of the big hard shell with small nutmeat inside of it / very long-lived / straight-growing / crushed leaves smell like orange rind)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cercis canadensis</i></a> (= weaver’s shuttle [shape of seedpot]) (SIR-sis)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae sbfam) [CC3]	Redbud (seedpods grow from trunk and main branches [cauliflory] as does chocolate [from the mallow family] / each leaf has 2 pulvini for movement, one on each end of the petiole)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i></a> (gaping flower + wide leaf) (kazz-MAN-thee-um)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC4]	River Oats (fish on a stringer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cornus florida</i></a> (also <i>Benthamidia florida</i> ) (horn [referring to hardness of wood] + flowering) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood / twig tips bend upward / buds have 2 scales, like praying hands)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Corvulus americana</i></a> (Latin for hazel tree) (KOR-ill-luss)	Betulaceae [CC4]	Hazelnut (we found some long green male catkins hanging on the shrub getting ready for spring, but it was still too early to find any small red female flowers at the end of the twigs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Cunila origanoides</i></a> (= mint + 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"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i></a> (person’s name + dotted lobes) (den-STEE-tee-uh)	Dennstaedtiaceae [CC10]	Hay-Scented Fern (deciduous / acid soil / one of the first to die back in the fall / Kathy Bildner observed that it doesn’t much smell like hay any time of year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dichanthelium boscii</i></a> (divide in two + flower [because it flowers in both spring and fall] + somebody’s name) (dy-kan-THEE-lee-um)	Poaceae [CC5]	Bosc’s Panic Grass (St. Louis has at least 11 different <i>Dichanthelium</i> grasses – we weren’t absolutely sure which one we had)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dichanthelium commutatum</i></a> var <i>ashei</i> (dy-kan-THEE-lee-um)	Poaceae [CC7]	Variable Panicgrass
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Diphasiastrum tristachyum</i></a> (Diphasia + resembling poorly + 3-branched) (dy-FAZ-ee-ASS-strum)	Lycopodiaceae [CC10]	Ground Cedar / Deep-Rooted Clubmoss / Hawn State Park might be the only place in Missouri where this ancient plant is found / note: clubmosses are not mosses /
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i></a> (= oak + fern + Carthusian monks) (dry-OPP-tr-us) [but a more etymologically meaningful pronunciation would be “dry-o-TAYR-us”]	Dryopteridaceae [CC10]	Spinulose Wood Fern (“spinulose” = having small spines) / this is the fern that has such a quirky identifying feature: first find the basal pinna (leaflet) on the rachis, then find the lower basal pinnule (sub-leaflet) on that pinna. It should be longer than the adjacent pinnule above it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Dryopteris marginalis</i></a> (= oak + fern + margins [where sori are located]) (dry-OPP-tr-us) [but a more etymologically meaningful pronunciation would be “dry-o-TAYR-us”]	Dryopteridaceae [CC7]	Marginal Shield Fern (evergreen, as is the Christmas Fern)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Hypericum hypericoides</i></a> (above + picture + resembles a hypericum?) (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC8]	St. Andrew’s Cross (small green narrow elliptical leaves / trickier to identify without their iconic flower petals)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Lespedeza capitata</i></a> (person’s name + head [of flowers]) (less-peh-DEE-zuh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC6]	Round-Headed Bush-Clover (all dried-up, but still noticeable with dense seedheads)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Mitchella repens</i></a> (somebody’s name + creeping) (mit-CHELL-uh)	Rubiaceae [CC7]	Partridgeberry (we found its dark green, opposite, shiny, evergreen leaves and its red berries. The berries are special because it takes 2 flowers to produce 1 berry. John suggested that we find the 2 corresponding dimples on the berry)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Muhlenbergia</i></a> spp. (= Gotthilf Muhlenberg, Pennsylvania botanist and clergyman) (myoo-len-BERG-ee-uh)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC mixed 0-10]	Muhly Grasses (we have about 10 different species in St. Louis; not sure which Muhly Grass we saw)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Ostrya virginiana</i></a> (= scale [scaly inflorescence]) (o-STRY-yuh)	Betulaceae [CC4]	Hop Hornbeam (hop-like fruit still on tree, new male catkins forming, shredded bark on older trees, often marcescent [retains leaves throughout winter] – although the first tree we found was leafless)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Pinus echinata</i></a> (= pine tree + hedgehog) (PY-nuss)	Pinaceae [CC5]	Shortleaf Pine (people always comment about its beautiful bark)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Platanus occidentalis</i></a> (PLATT-tuh-nuss)	Platanaceae [CC3]	Sycamore (brown bark famously exfoliates in irregular pieces to reveal a white inner bark / can be used to locate where streams are from a distance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Polypodium virginianum</i></a> (= many feet) (poly-PO-dee-um)	Polypodiaceae [CC9]	Rock Polypody / Common Polypody (evergreen / simple pinnae look like they’ve melted a bit around the margins)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i></a> (many rows + resembling <i>Acrostichum</i> , the Elk-Horn Fern, which also has its sori densely packed on pinna underside) (po-LISS-tick-um)	Dryopteridaceae [CC5]	Christmas Fern (so-named because it’s still green at Christmas, except for the fertile tips of fronds which are dried up and brown)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Pteridium aquilinum</i></a> (= 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"/>	<a href="#"><i>Quercus alba</i></a> (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"/>	<a href="#"><i>Quercus shumardii</i></a> (oak + somebody’s name) (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae (red group) [CC5]	Shumard Oak (found in lowland areas / among the largest oaks / leaves hairless except for tufts of hair in underside vein axils / lobes get wider towards lobe tip / buds straw-colored)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i></a> (= rose tree + oak leaf) (roe-doe-DENN-drun)	Ericaceae [CC8]	Early Azalea (all Azaleas are Rhododendrons, but not all Rhododendrons are Azaleas; George explained that Azaleas have 5 stamen, while the other Rhododendrons have 10 stamen / John mentioned that this species has a pleasant fragrance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Rhus aromatica</i></a> (= fragrant) (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Sumac (narrow male catkins have a pinecone design on them – which will help identify them in spring when their yellow flowers will look like spicebush flowers / this St. Louis species is shorter, flowers before leafing, has a leaf that’s more pointed, and has a stronger fragrance)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i></a> (= to split + chaff [lemma] + broomlike) (shih-ZACK-ree-um)	Poaceae (Panicoidae subfamily) [CC5]	Little Bluestem (dense mounds of coppery stems with luminous seedheads)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u><i>Smilax glauca</i></u> (= glaucous) (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae [CC4]	Cat Greenbrier (underside of leaf is much paler than the upper side – even somewhat glaucous)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u><i>Solidago hispida</i></u> (to make whole + bristly hairy) (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Hairy Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u><i>Sphagnum</i></u> (SFAGG-num)	Sphagnaceae [no CC for Bryophytes]	Sphagnum Moss / Peat Moss (we found quite a bit of this thick, woolly moss that is famous for its water-holding capacity / note: although they’re commonly lumped together, there are some 380 species of sphagnum in the world)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u><i>Symphyotrichum turbinellum</i></u> (together + hair + resembling a small inverted cone) (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Turbinate Aster / Prairie Aster (John noted that the common name “Prairie Aster” is particularly useless)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u><i>Ulmus alata</i></u> (= elm + winged) (UL-muss)	Ulmaceae [CC4]	Winged Elm (conspicuous wings on branches / base of leaf more symmetrical than other elms / terminal leaf is larger than lateral leaves / leaves double-serrated / )
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u><i>Vaccinium arboreum</i></u> (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"/>	<u><i>Vaccinium pallidum</i></u> (blueberry + pale) (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC4]	Lowbush Blueberry (little wiry plant with green stems / 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:

FERNS: We set out to find ferns, and we found at least 7 of them! (Ebony Spleenwort, Hay-Scented Fern, Spinulose Wood Fern, Marginal Shield Fern, Common Polypody, Christmas Fern, and the Bracken Fern)

John made the point that because some ferns are evergreen and some are deciduous, we have a winter identification tool that isn’t available to us during the summer.

BETULACS: St. Louis has 5 members of the Betulaceae (Birch Family). We found all 5 of them in this park!

*Alnus serrulata* (Alder), *Betula nigra* (River Birch), *Carpinus caroliniana* (Musclewood), *Corylus americana* (Hazelnut), and *Ostrya virginiana* (Hop Hornbeam).

HISTORY: Hawn State Park is named after Helen Hawn, the enlightened schoolteacher who donated the land.

Pickle Creek is named after Mister Pickle! He maintained the Plank Road used to move material to St. Genevieve’s port. St. Genevieve is older than St. Louis!

INSECTS: Cathy found a Walking Stick (which Ted and Rich confirmed). Steve had a Walking Stick joke, but I only caught the punchline and was too embarrassed to ask him to repeat the whole joke – which are never funny the second time around. Ted found a frumpy-looking “Fiery Skipper” Butterfly (*Hylephila phyleus*).

HIGHLIGHTS: There were lots of them, but finding the Partridgeberry plant on our off-trail side-trip at the end was the perfect ending to this beautiful-weather adventure in Hawn State Park.