Rockwoods Reservation - Trail Among the Trees

November 18, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	**FAMILY** [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	**COMMON NAME**
☐	*Acer negundo* (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC1]	Boxelder
☐	*Acer saccharum* (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Sugar Maple
☐	*Adiantum pedatum* (ay-dee-ANT-um)	Pteridaceae [CC6]	Northern Maidenhair Fern
☐	*Aesculus glabra* (ESS-kyoo-luss)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Ohio Buckeye
☐	*Asimina triloba* (uh-SIM-in-uh)	Annonaceae [CC5]	Pawpaw
☐	*Asplenium platyneuron* (uh-SPLEE-nee-um)	Aspleniaceae [CC4]	Ebony Spleenwort
☐	*Auricularia auricula* (awr-rick-yoo-LAR-ee-uh)	Auriculariaceae [fungus]	Wood Ear
☐	*Campanulastrum* [Campanula] *americanum* (kam-PAN-yoo-luh)	Campanulaceae [CC4]	Tall Bellflower
☐	*Carya cordiformis* (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Bitternut Hickory
☐	*Carya texana* (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Black Hickory
☐	*Carya tomentosa* (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Mockernut Hickory
☐	*Cirsium discolor* (SR-see-um)	Asteraceae (Cardueae tribe) [CC3]	Field Thistle
☐	*Cornus florida* (syn. *Benthamidia florida*) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood
☐	*Corydalis flavula* (kor-RID-uh-liss)	Papaveraceae (Fumarioideae subfam) [CC3]	Pale Corydalis / Yellow Fumewort
☐	*Frangula caroliniana* (FRANG-goo-luh)	Rhamnaceae [CC6]	Carolina Buckthorn / Indian Cherry
☐	*Fraxinus quadrangulata* (FRACK-sin-us)	Oleaceae [CC8]	Blue Ash
☐	*Fraxinus smallii* (FRACK-sin-us)	Oleaceae [CC3]	Sullivan's Ash [yes! our own Father Sullivan!] (a type of White Ash with, among other differences, brown buds instead of the typical black ones)
☐	*Geum canadense* (JEE-um)	Rosaceae [CC2]	White Avens
☐	*Hericium erinaceus* (hr-RISS-ee-um)	Hericiaceae [fungus]	Lion's Mane Mushroom
☐	*Heuchera richardsonii* (HYOO-kr-ah)	Saxifragaceae [CC6]	Prairie Alumroot
☐	*Lindera benzoin* (lin-DEER-uh)	Lauraceae [CC5]	Spicebush
☐	*Liriodendron tulipifera* (leer-ee-o-DEN-dron)	Magnoliaceae [CC7]	Tulip Tree
☐	*Nectria* spp. (NECK-tree-uh)	Nectriaceae [fungus]	Nectria Canker
☐	*Parmotrema* (cup + perforation) (par-mo-TREE-muh)	Parmeliaceae	Ruffle Lichen / Eyelash Lichen
☐	*Pellaea atropurpurea* (pell-EE-uh)	Pteridaceae [CC7]	Purple Cliffbrake
☐	*Perilla frutescens* (pr-ILL-uh)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [introduced]	Perilla
☐	*Phlox divaricata* (FLOCKS)	Polemoniaceae [CC4]	Woodland Phlox
☐	*Platanus occidentalis* (PLATT-tuh-nuss)	Platanaceae [CC3]	Sycamore

☐	*Polystichum acrosticoides* (po-LISS-tick-um)	Dryopteridaceae [CC5]	Christmas Fern
☐	*Pseudanomodon attenuatus* (sood-ANN-o-MO-don)	Anomodontaceae [moss]	Tree Skirt Moss
☐	*Quercus acutissima* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [intro]	Sawtooth Oak
☐	*Quercus alba* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	White Oak
☐	*Quercus bicolor* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC7]	Swamp White Oak
☐	*Quercus muehlenbergii* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC5]	Chinkapin Oak
☐	*Quercus phellos* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC7]	Willow Oak
☐	*Quercus rubra* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC5]	Northern Red Oak
☐	*Quercus shumardii* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC5]	Shumard Oak
☐	*Quercus shumardii* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC5]	Shumard Oak
☐	*Rhus aromatica* (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Sumac
☐	*Ribes missouriense* (RY-beez)	Grossulariaceae [CC3]	Missouri Gooseberry
☐	*Rudbeckia laciniata* (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Cutleaf Coneflower / Goldenglow
☐	*Rudbeckia triloba* (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC3]	Brown-Eyed Susan
☐	*Sassafras albidum* (SASS-uh-frass)	Lauraceae [CC2]	Sassafras
☐	*Sceptridium dissectum* (skep-TRIDD-ee-um)	Ophioglossaceae [CC5]	Grape Fern
☐	*Senna marilandica* (SENN-uh)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC4]	Maryland Senna
☐	*Sideroxylon lanuginosum* (SY-dr-o-ZY-lun)	Sapotaceae [CC5]	Gum Bumelia
☐	*Smilax tamnoides* [*S.hispida*] (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae [CC3]	Bristly Greenbrier
☐	*Solidago drummondii* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC8]	Cliff Goldenrod
☐	*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	Calico Aster
☐	*Tremella mesenterica* (tre-MELL-uh)	Tremellaceae [fungus]	Witches' Butter
☐	*Vaccinium pallidum* (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC4]	Lowbush Blueberry
☐	*Viburnum prunifolium* (vy-BURR-num)	Adoxaceae [CC4]	Blackhaw
☐	*Viburnum rufidulum* (vy-BURR-num)	Adoxaceae [CC4]	Rusty Blackhaw
☐	*Yucca filamentosa* (YUCK-uh)	Asparagaceae (Agavoideae subfam) [introduced]	Adam's Needle and Thread

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED:

We had a strange start. It had been raining all morning but had stopped only an hour or so before we arrived. As we entered the park, there was a sign warning us that there was "Archery Hunting in Progress". Ugh. When we got together we all put on something brightly colored. John said that he had considered wearing his antler hat. (Everybody laughed) While the 9 of us were trying to decide which trail to take, Gisella mentioned that a tree had fallen on the "Trail Among the Trees" and that the BRIDGE IS OUT. David was speculating about the mud conditions on the different trails, so it's likely that he too told us that the BRIDGE IS OUT. When we reached the "Trail Among the Trees", there was a red tape stretched across the entrance with a sign that read something like: "Trail Closed. BRIDGE IS OUT. A quarter-mile later we reached the bridge. And guess what?

Fortunately we figured-out a way to bypass the bridge by climbing the steep hill next to us and rejoining the trail after it looped back across the creek again. The wet leaves on the hill were quite deep, making the bypass a rather adventurous experience. But we made it up safely, rested a while, talked about cheese (of all things), and then resumed our journey to learn new things.

NECTRIA:
It's rather thrilling when one word is able to open-up our eyes and change our whole way of seeing something. Today that one word was "*Nectria*". John showed us a tree trunk that had a scar where a branch had been. He said the tree had "self-pruned". Well, that's not a big deal. It's common for trees to self-prune when their lower branches get shaded by their upper branches. But when we looked more closely at the scar, we could see that it was shaped like a target with multiple rings around the wound. The tree had been in a battle with the *Nectria* fungus. The *Nectria* had attacked the tree, infecting its nutritious cambium layer. In response the tree had compartmentalized the fungus by building a "wall" around it. But the *Nectria* fungus jumped the wall and reinfected the tree. The tree responded by compartmentalizing the fungus with a longer wall. But the *Nectria* escaped that too. By counting the number of concentric walls or rings, we could determine how many years this battle went on. Later we found other trees with *Nectria* battle scars. Now that this is on our radar, we'll never look at tree trunks the same way again.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- VIBURNUMS: We were lucky to find both of our Viburnums along the trail: "Blackhaw" (*Viburnum prunifolium*) and "Rusty Blackhaw" (*Viburnum rufidulum*). We were able to compare their leaves ("Rusty" had shinier leaves) and buds ("Rusty" had rust-colored felt on its buds). Actually St. Louis has a 3rd Viburnum called "Downy Arrowwood" (*Viburnum rafinesqueanum*), but it seems that we never encounter it.
- SENNA's BUTTERFLY: When we found the Maryland Senna plant (*Senna marilandica*), John told us that it's a host for the "Cloudless Sulphur Butterfly". The plant is even in the butterfly's species epithet: *Phoebis sennae*. He explained that the butterfly's 2nd brood usually doesn't survive in St. Louis because of winter, but with global warming that may be changing.
- WALKING COMEDY: We weren't even as far as the closed bridge yet when Steve asked John if he ever gets involved in the "Monarda / Beebalm / Bergamot" fights. John quipped: "Sure, I've been thrown out of many Botany Bars because of it." A couple of seconds later, Steve replied: "Well, you're mama's a Monarda!" (Everybody laughed, impressed by their quick-witted exchange.)
- LION'S MANE: Evidently it was Gisela who first saw it up in a distant tree. HD was excited by the possibility and rushed across the woods to check it out. Yes, it was a Lion's Mane Mushroom! Kathy Thiele interlocked her fingers, and HD stepped into them as a foothold. With a little more climbing HD reached the prized delicacy and cut it down from its perch. It was a large, heavy one! And beautiful! It looked like a cluster of gleaming white stalactites – or narrow icicles. HD was excited to take it home and cook it.
- FALLEN LEAVES: At this time of year the newly-fallen leaves lay flat and are easy to identify. Dave picked-up a Sawtooth Oak leaf (*Quercus acutissima*), which is not native but still interesting to find. There were plenty of oak leaves with bristle-tipped lobes, but not all of them were Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). John showed us how the lobes of *Quercus rubra* leaves tend to **get narrower** towards their tip, while the lobes of Shumard Oak leaves (*Quercus shumardii*) tend to **get wider** towards their tip (Mr. Shumard was a big fellow – and hairy too). It's a subtle difference that takes practice to see. But with countless wet leaves so flat and clear carpeting our path, we had a good opportunity to practice.
- 4 EASY BUDS: Of the many terminal buds we examined, the 4 easiest-to-identify were (in order of easiness):
  - Paw Paw (because they're naked and feel like paintbrushes)
  - Bitternut Hickory (because they're naked [like the related pecan] but have a yellowish-brown color)
  - Rusty Blackhaw (because the buds [and leaf petioles] are covered with a rust-colored felt)
  - Black Hickory (because the buds have tiny yellow dots on them)

PARTICIPANTS:
There were 9 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):
Gisela Baner, Steve Bizub, Wayne Clark, HD Key, Michael Laschober, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, Kathy Thiele, and George Van Brunt.