

Glassberg Conservation Area

December 30, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Acer negundo</i> (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC1]	Boxelder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Aesculus glabra</i> (ESS-kyoo-luss)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Ohio Buckeye
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (am-uh-LAN-kee-er)	Rosaceae [CC6]	Serviceberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i> (ay-PLECK-trum)	Orchidaceae [CC8]	Adam and Eve Orchid / Putty Root Orchid
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asplenium rhizophyllum</i> (uh-SPLEE-nee-um)	Aspleniaceae [CC7]	Walking Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Auricularia auricula</i> () (awr-rick-yoo-LAR-ee-uh)	Auriculariaceae [fungus]	Wood Ear
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Carya cordiformis</i> (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Bitternut Hickory
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Celtis laevigata</i> (SELL-tiss)	Cannabaceae / Rosales [CC4]	Sugarberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (SELL-tiss)	Cannabaceae / Rosales [CC3]	Hackberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (SR-siss)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC3]	Redbud
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cirsium discolor</i> (SR-see-um)	Asteraceae (Cardueae tribe) [CC3]	Field Thistle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cladonia subtenuis</i> (= branch + under + thin) (klay-DOE-nee-uh)	Cladoniaceae (a moss-like family of lichens; lichens are placed in the fungi kingdom)	Reindeer Lichen. A lichen is a composite organism made up of a photosynthesizer [such as algae] living in a mutualistic relationship with fungi.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cornus florida</i> (syn. <i>Benthamidia florida</i>) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Burning Bush / Winged Euonymus /
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [CC5]	Wahoo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Wintercreeper
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Frangula caroliniana</i> (FRANG-goo-luh)	Rhamnaceae [CC6]	Carolina Buckthorn / Indian Cherry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> (FRACK-sin-us)	Oleaceae [CC8]	Blue Ash
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Fraxinus smallii</i> (FRACK-sin-us)	Oleaceae [CC3]	Sullivan's Ash [yes! our own Fr Sullivan!] (a type of White Ash with, among other differences, brown buds instead of the typical black ones)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> (gleh-DITT-see-uh)	Fabaceae [CC2]	Honey Locust
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (lo-NISS-r-uh)	Caprifoliaceae [introduced]	Vine Honeysuckle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (lo-NISS-r-uh)	Caprifoliaceae [introduced]	Bush Honeysuckle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Micranthes pennsylvanica</i> (my-KRANN-theez)	Saxifragaceae [CC10]	Swamp Saxifrage
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> (o-STRY-yuh)	Betulaceae [CC4]	Hop Hornbeam
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i> (pell-EE-uh)	Pteridaceae [CC7]	Purple Cliffbrake
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> (po-LISS-tick-um)	Dryopteridaceae [CC5]	Christmas Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	Bur Oak

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i> (ruh-TIBB-i-duh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Gray-Headed Coneflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rhus aromatica</i> (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Sumac
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> (RO-zuh)	Rosaceae [introduced]	Multiflora Rose
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sassafras albidum</i> (SASS-uh-frass)	Lauraceae [CC2]	Sassafras
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Schizophyllum commune</i> () (skits-o-FILL-um)	Schizophyllaceae [Basidiomycota] [fungus]	Split-Gill Mushroom
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i> (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC6]	Compass Plant

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: We met in the parking lot and walked to the Scenic Overlook – but we took a strange path to get there. Instead of walking there straightaway, we began walking the long 3-mile loop clockwise. But when we were able to see Buder Lake in the distance and realized that we weren’t even halfway around the loop, we cut through the woods to the lake. From there we took the paved trail to the Scenic Overlook.

WEAKLEY’S FLORA:

John often speaks admiringly of “Weakley’s Flora”. Here is its [WEBSITE](#) so that we can become familiar with it ourselves. John referenced it today when talking about Dogwood (*Cornus*) trees. If we type “*Cornus*” into the search window, we see that Weakley uses the genus names “*Benthamidia*” and “*Swida*” instead of *Cornus*. By clicking on either genus name, then clicking on a green button, we gain access to its key.

WOOD HARDNESS:

John often differentiates between “hard” and “soft” maples. The hard ones (Sugar Maple and Black Maple) have hard and sharply-pointed winter buds. The soft ones (Red Maple, Silver Maple, Boxelder) have softer, more rounded winter buds. The words “hard” and “soft” are subjective. But it’s possible to quantify the hardness of wood using the “Janka Hardness Test”. Woodworkers (especially the flooring industry) rely on this test. For the “Janka Hardness Test” a metal ball (7/16” diameter) is pushed into wood. The amount of force that is needed to push the ball halfway into the wood becomes its Janka rating (measured in pound-force [*lbf*]).

Below is a list of trees (mostly native, a few planted) that we can easily find in the St. Louis area. They are ranked by the hardness of their wood (from hardest to softest):

Boxwood	2840	White Oak	1360	Boxelder	720
Persimmon	2300	White Ash	1320	Silver Maple	700
Flr. Dogwood	2150	Amer. Beech	1300	Shortleaf Pine	690
Osage Orange	2040	Red Oak	1290	Sassafras	630
Hickory/Pecan	1820	Ailanthus	1282	Catalpa	550
Black Locust	1700	Black Walnut	1010	Tulip Tree	540
Red Mulberry	1680	Red Maple	950	E.Cottonwood	430
Bradford Pear	1660	Black Cherry	950	Black Willow	430
Hornbeam	1630	Redcedar	900	Basswood	410
Hard Maple	1450	Hackberry	880	White Pine	380
Kent Coffeetree	1390	Sycamore	770	Paulownia	300

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- Kathy Bildner took some useful photos and shares them on our group’s [GOOGLE DRIVE](#). (Ask George if you wish to contribute photos too.)
- We found quite a few branches on the wet ground wrapped with Wood Ear Mushrooms. HD mentioned that she uses them in soup and has some in her refrigerator. [HERE](#) is an article about cooking with them.
- We found 3 species of *Euonymus*. We can use the [EUONYMUS KEY](#) from Weakley’s Website to sort them out.

- We were lucky to have naturalist John Christensen join us today. He found a trace fossil with petrified worm holes, various galls, and other hidden surprises that some of us might have otherwise walked by without noticing.
- Here's the quote by Henry David Thoreau on the plaque that we visited near the Scenic Overlook:
"I came to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

PARTICIPANTS:

There were 18 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Gisela Baner, Renee Benage, Kathy Bildner, Tom Buescher, Jerry Castillon, John Christensen, Wayne Clark, June Jeffries, HD Key, Michael Laschober, John Oliver, David Schilling, David Steinmeyer, Kathy Thiele, George Van Brunt, Elaine & Matt Wolshock, and Laura Yates.