

St. Louis Zoo

December 22, 2025

What? No Species List? Nope. We usually don't make species lists for our winter hikes because most plants are dormant. Trying to determine the species of a dormant plant from its dried-up remains is not always reliable. It serves little purpose to create unreliable species lists. So, we'll just give an overview of things that happened on our walk today.

NOTES

What a privilege it is to walk the hallowed grounds of our St. Louis Zoo! We started in the Insectarium and ended at the wonderful "River's Edge". Today's not a day to be out in a cold field trying to identify dormant plants. A few days before Christmas, coming here was a joyful choice.

LOOKING FOR PLANTS AT A ZOO?

Yes, it's in our blood. And since every plant has been planted by the Zoo's horticulture department, we found some interesting ones, such as Hardy Orange (*Citrus trifoliata*) and Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*). But in recent years the Zoo's enlightened Horticulture Department (led by Bridget Whittaker) has been focused on planting natives. We found good evidence that this trend has been successful.

PARTICIPANTS:

There were 13 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order): April Anderson, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Tom & Eileen Buescher, Tina Cheung with Keith Woodyard, Wayne Clark, Michael Laschober, Burt Noll, John Oliver, George Van Brunt, and Chris Wallach.