

# NATIVE TREE TOUR



**LAURELWOOD ARBORETUM** contains many tree species that were here before the colonists' arrival, species that are identified as 'native.' Stewardship of our natural heritage is vital to maintaining biodiversity on our planet Earth, and native trees play an essential role.

Native trees support water conservation, increase plant and animal diversity, help cool the environment, save energy, sequester carbon, and provide enjoyable landscapes for human wellness and relaxation. Learning about and caring for our native trees helps sustain them—and us.



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brown. Acorns are enclosed within shallow cups. Provides good cover and nesting sites for a wide variety of birds and mammals.

8. **Mockernut Hickory** (*Carya tomentosa*). Tall with a straight slender trunk. Bark gray with interlacing ridges. Compound leaves, usually with 7 leaflets, are aromatic when crushed. Leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Nuts are round or pear shaped. Sides split when mature. Seeds are a favorite food of wildlife.

9. **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*). Most easily distinguished by its leaves with rounded lobes. Bark is pale ashy gray in strips or blocks and acorns have shallow cups. Acorns are a prime food for many forms of wildlife. Acorns mature in one year. Autumn color dull yellow-bronze, sometimes orange or red. It is also an important source of timber in North America.

10. **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*). Aptly named, as its flowers, petioles, twigs and samaras are all red to varying degrees. Leaves are opposite. One of the earliest trees to bloom (March). Fall foliage is brilliant deep scarlet.

11. **Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*). Small to large tree with alternate simple leaves. Leaves are narrowly elliptic, pointed at tip and base with finely toothed margins. Fall color yellow to orange red. Bark is smooth and shiny with transverse markings (lenticels) when young; becomes dark and scaly at maturity. Extremely valuable in supplying food for birds and Lepidoptera.

12. **American Holly** (*Ilex opaca*) Evergreen. Generally upright with lower branches close to the ground. Alternate leaves are leathery with several sharp spines at edge. It is dioecious, having separate male and female plants; only female plants produce the characteristic red berries. Fruit is eaten by many species of wild birds. Dense foliage protects birds from predators and storms.

13. **Pin Oak** (*Quercus palustris*). Pin oak can be easily recognized by its unusual branching pattern. The upper branches ascend, the side branches project horizontally, and the lower branches droop downward. Leaves are deeply lobed, divided nearly to mid-vein; each lobe ends in a bristle-tipped tooth. Fall color is scarlet, brown. Acorns are small with flat cups.

14. **Sassafras** (*Sassafras albidum*). Stout, contorted trunk, or multi-stemmed with horizontal branches. Leaves are alternate and can be unlobed, 2-lobed, or 3-lobed, all on the same tree. Excellent fall color, bright yellow to red. Bark has a spicy fragrance when crushed or cut.

15. **American Hornbeam** (*Carpinus caroliniana*). So named for its hard, whitish wood. The trunk and limbs have a muscular appearance, so tree is also known as musclewood or ironwood. Leaves are oval and double-toothed, coming to an abruptly pointed tip. Fall color is yellow to reddish. Distinctive fruit clusters are present from late spring to fall.

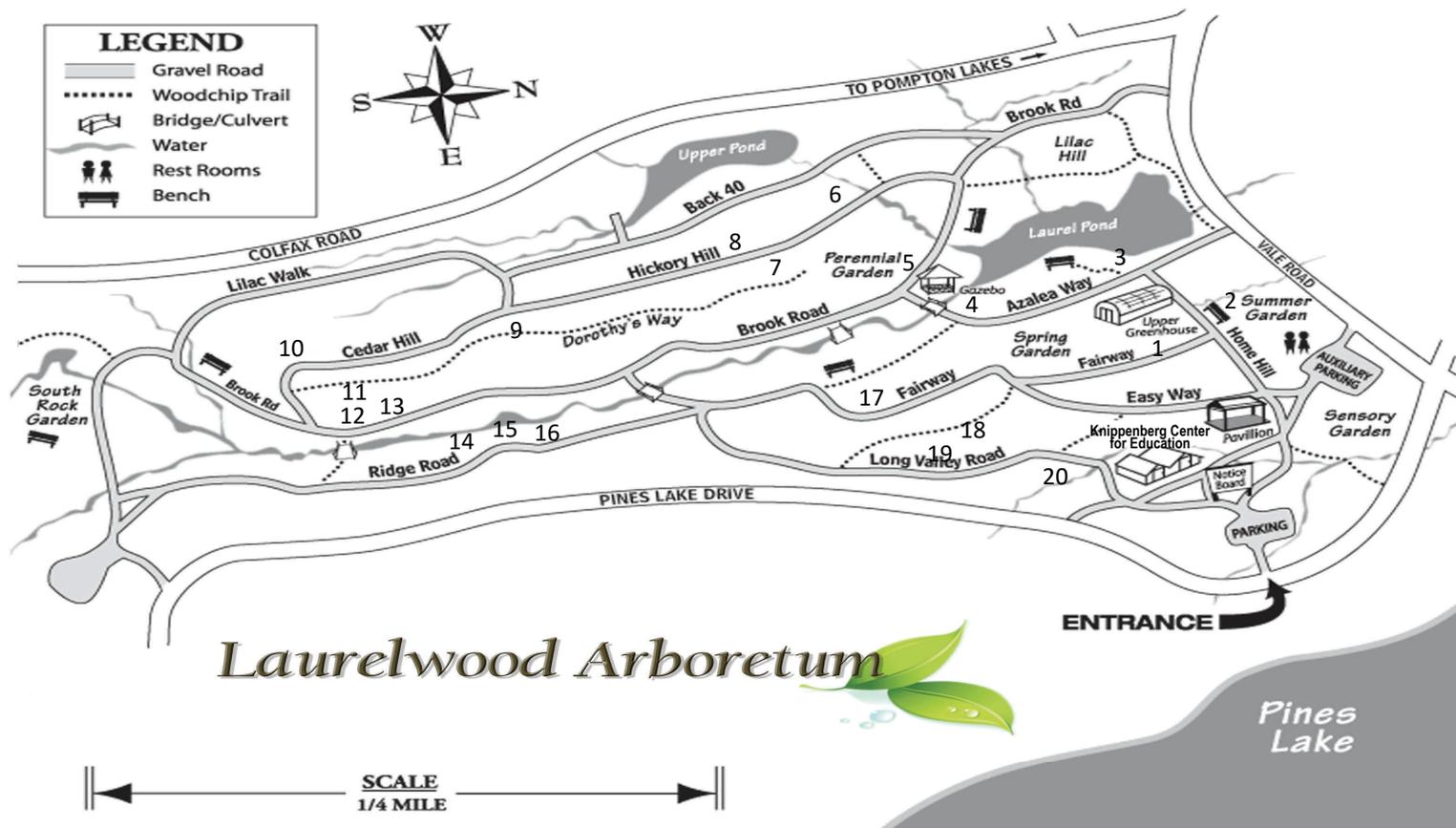
16. **Eastern Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*). Softly pyramidal, needled evergreen. Very short needles grow in two opposite rows with two white lines beneath. Cones are very small and hang from end of twig. Provides valuable wildlife food and winter shelter.

17. **Sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Conical when young, becoming rounded with age. Easily recognized by aromatic, star-shaped leaves and spiny seed balls. Spectacular fall color: yellow, orange, scarlet, and purple.

18. **River Birch** (*Betula nigra*). Distinctive peeling bark of varying colors: light reddish brown, pinkish to cinnamon-colored. Often multi-trunked. Leaves are alternate, ovate, and coarsely double-toothed. May be planted for erosion control.

19. **American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*). A large forest tree with smooth, pale gray bark. Alternate leaves are distinctly toothed. Fall color is golden yellow. A tendency to retain pale straw-colored leaves makes it easily recognizable in winter. Winter buds are glossy, slender, and sharply pointed. Beech nuts are utilized as food by many species of forest wildlife.

20. **Witch-hazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*). Multi-stemmed or single short trunk with long, forking branches. Bark is gray-brown, thin and smooth. Leaves have an asymmetrical base. Thread-like yellow flowers appear in late autumn or early winter after leaves have fallen. Seed capsules mature the following season, then, burst open, ejecting seeds a considerable distance. The inner bark has astringent properties.



## TREE DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*). This is an understory tree. In early spring the leafless branches support many large showy flowers that are actually petal-like bracts surrounding true flowers. Leaves are opposite and develop after the flowers, turning bright red in fall. Scarlet fruits last into winter and are a source of food for birds and mammals.

2. **Eastern Redcedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*). Aromatic evergreen with spike-like crown and slender horizontal branches. Redcedars bear both scale-like and sharp, needle-like leaves on the same plant. Blueberry-like cones are important bird food.

3. **Black Oak** (*Quercus velutina*). Bark dark grayish, broken into irregular blocks. Large, dark green leaves with broad lobes. Fall color dull red-orange, brown. Acorns are enclosed within a deep cup and mature in fall after two growing seasons.

4. **Chestnut Oak** (*Quercus montana*). The leaves with rounded lobes and the deep vertically furrowed bark are characteristic. Autumn color dull yellow, orange, rusty brown. Acorns are among the largest of the oaks and separate from the caps when mature. Bark is rich in tannin content and was used to tan leather.

5. **Sweetbay Magnolia** (*Magnolia virginiana*). All parts of the tree are aromatic, hence the name Sweetbay. Small

to medium in size, often multi-stemmed. Creamy white, lemon-scented flowers appear June through September and are followed by red seeds that are eaten by wildlife.

6. **Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*). Evergreen. Tall, often over 100'. Branches widely spaced and layered. Slender needles are in bundles of 5. Long, narrow cones hang down. One of the most important lumber trees in the east.

7. **Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*). The red oak is New Jersey's state tree. Bark dark gray with broad ridges and shallow furrows. Leaves are symmetrical, widest at the middle, with bristle-tipped teeth at the end of each lobe. Autumn color deep red, orange,