Tree I.D. Trail

- 1. **Sumac** (*Rhus typhina*) Staghorn sumac branches are covered in velvet-like hairs; the red fuzzy clusters are the trees' fruit. A lemonade-like drink can be made from the crushed fruit, and the fall foliage is a brilliant orange/red.
- 2. **Sassafras** (*Sassafras albidum*) While the seeds are valued by wildlife, the roots and root bark are used by humans for root beer, teas and gum. The green twigs are also aromatic. Leaves can have three separate shapes entire smooth margin, mitten with one 'thumb', and mitten with two opposite thumbs, often all on the same tree.
- 3. **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) Also known as 'soft maple', this tree is now the most common tree in Pennsylvania. The flowers and twigs are bright red in the spring, and its fruit ('samaras') mature before the leaves develop. The bark extract has been used to created ink and reddish-brown and black dyes.
- 4. **Hawthorn** (*Crataegus species*) A native species and excellent shelter for wildlife, the hawthorn is compact and hardy enough to be used as an ornamental species in crowded cities. Twigs sport long spines or thorns, forming an excellent defense against deer and other browsers.
- 5. **Apple** (*Malus domestica*) Native to Europe and western Asia, apples trees were brought to North America with the pioneers. An interesting species as each seedling is a genetic unknown, despite its parentage. The population of apple trees within the park is legacy of past orchards. Although the orchards may have been Red Delicious, Macintosh, or other numerous varieties, the subsequent seedling and fruit will be unknown due to unpredictable pollination.
- 6. **Grey Dogwood** (*Cornus racemosa*)– species on right. This tree flowers in the spring and offers wildlife an abundance of fruit in the fall. Creates a thicket of branches; a wonderful habitat for birds and other wildlife.
- 7. **Black Willow** (*Salix nigra*) Contains Salacylic Acid, which is used in aspirin as a pain reliever. The twigs are pliable enough to be used in weaving baskets. Black willow is found along stream banks and flood plans. Its extensive root system is valuable in keeping soil banks in place and slowing stream bank erosion during heavy rains and snow melts.
- 8. **Eastern Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*)— The state tree of Pennsylvania, the hemlock produces very small cones in comparison to the tree size. At one time, the bark was used for its tannin in leather production. It is a very shade tolerant, slow growing species.
- 9. **Yellow Birch** (*Beula alleghaniensis*) The yellow birch gives off a distinctive wintergreen aroma when the leaves or twigs are crushed. The tell-tale peeling bark is useful as tinder. Only use the bark already on the ground; do not peel the bark from the tree. Its forced removal will strip away the tree's natural protection from insects and disease.
- 10. **Ironwood or Eastern Hophornbeam** (*Ostra virginiana*) The wood is true to its name, being extraordinarily tough. A smaller, slow-growing tree, ironwood is used for sturdy tool handles and wooden mallets. Wildlife enjoy the nutlets and foliage.

- 11. **Witchhazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*) Bright yellow flowers will make an appearance in mid-to late fall, with pollination by owlet moths. Witch Hazel prefers rich, moist soils and produces seed pods nearly one year after flowering. The pods explode with some force, scattering seeds up to 20-30 feet away. Extract from the bark is used as an astringent, eye-wash, and other topical medications for skin conditions.
- 12. **Bitternut Hickory** (*Carya cordiformis*)— The most common hickory found in this region, the bitternut hickory's fruit develops a tell-tale yellow husk that eventually splits into 4 wings, freeing the nut inside. Wildlife, especially squirrels, consume the bitter tasting nuts, although not as a first choice.
- 13. **Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*) One of the tallest deciduous trees and noted for its smooth silver bark, the beech tree is native to North America. The beech nuts are valuable food for local wildlife, and the harvested lumber is widely utilized for flooring, furniture, and other household items.
- 14. **Tuliptree** (*Liriodendron tulipfera*) –A member of the magnolia family, this fast growing tree sports very showy flowers high up in the crown in the spring. Its straight trunk makes it valuable as a telephone pole or other straight support. In pioneer times, the trunks were hollowed out and used as 'dug out' canoes.
- 15. **Basswood** (*Tilia Americana*) Will often sprout roots at the base of the tree along the surface of the soil, basswood is a softwood valued for woodworking and carving. The flowers can be a producer of nectar with which to make honey. The inner bark can also be utilized for weaving material or creating rope. A wonderful shade tree.
- 16. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) The white ash can quickly grow to a significant size (in full sunlight) with a very straight trunk. Its compound leaves are opposite each other. The strong, shock-resistant wood is used for baseball bats, oars and paddles, and tool handles.
- 17. **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) One of the larger deciduous trees, the acorns of the red oak are valuable to wildlife in its habitat, falling in August October. The bright fall foliage and shade in the summer make it a valuable ornamental tree, in addition to its demand for quality lumber. The tannin within the tree has historically been used to tan animal skins and also causes the colors seen in the fall season, in addition to being a protectant of the tree from bacteria and fungi.
- 18. **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) A striking golden tree in the fall, sugar ('hard') maple is used for fine furniture, flooring, and also in the creation of string instruments. This tree is well-known for its early spring tapping for maple syrup, sugar, and candy.
- 19. **Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*) Cherries are not tolerant of shaded conditions, They are often first in an area, fast growing, and also one of the first to die out. Black cherry is native to this area and its twigs have a noticeable cyanide aroma. The wood is very valuable for fine furniture; it is marketed worldwide.
- 20. Elm (*Ulmus americana*)— Found mainly in moist soils and floodplains. The dense wood is mainly used for construction lumber and pallets; however, Dutch Elm disease has caused the population to severely decline. This fungus is spread tree-to-tree by elm bark beetles.

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