

Badger Hut Trail

Nature Guide

Thank you for joining us on the
Badger Hut Nature Trail.
Trees are marked with signs with numbers
that corresponds with numbers on guide
We hope you enjoy your walk.

Prepared for you by

The Potosi Township
Historical Society

Pictures from the National Arbor Day Foundation booklet.

Horse Chestnut
Aesculus hippocastanum

The palmately compound leaf has 5-7 leaflets, which are 4-10 inches long. The creamy white flowers are marked with red or yellow color. The tree grows 50-80 feet tall with a rounded crown. The tree is planted for shade in parks and along streets. The large nuts have shiny husks which are attractive but bitter and inedible. The seeds have been used in tonics to stop horses from coughing. Seeds made into a paste will repel insects.

Horsechestnut
Aesculus hippocastanum



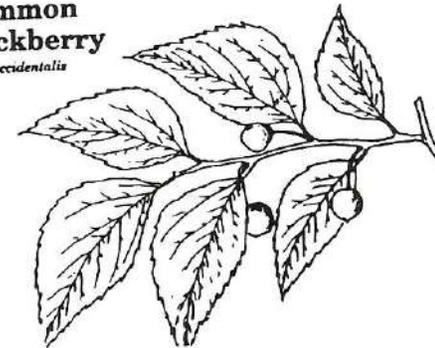
Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

This tree is a relative of the elm and can be identified by its gray to brown bark. The bark is warty and stands up like the hackles on a fish, thus the name. It usually grows 30-40 feet tall with a diameter of 1-2 feet.

The fruit is dark red to purple, it is eaten by wildlife especially robins and mockingbirds.

The wood may be used for furniture or fencing. It is planted for shade and used in shelter belts.

**Common
Hackberry**
Celtis occidentalis

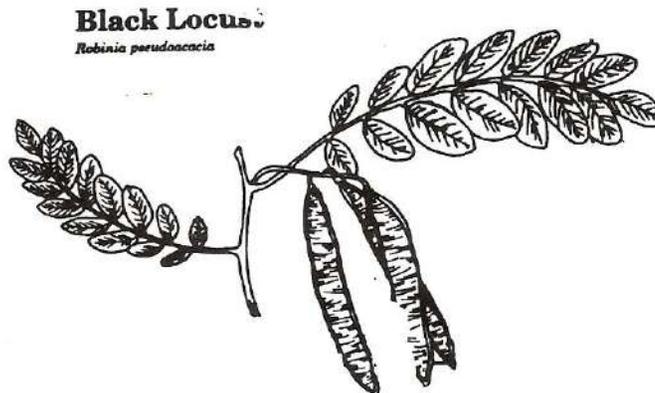


Black Locust
Robinia pseudoacacia

The Black locust has pinnately compound leaves 8-14 inches long. It has a pair of short thorns at the base of each leaf.

The flowers are creamy white and fragrant. They produce brown to black seed pods that are flat. In good soil the tree can reach a height of 50 feet and have a diameter of 2-4 feet.

The wood is resistant to rotting and often used for making fence posts. It is valued for ornamental street plantings and it makes a good soil binder in stabilizing eroded soil.

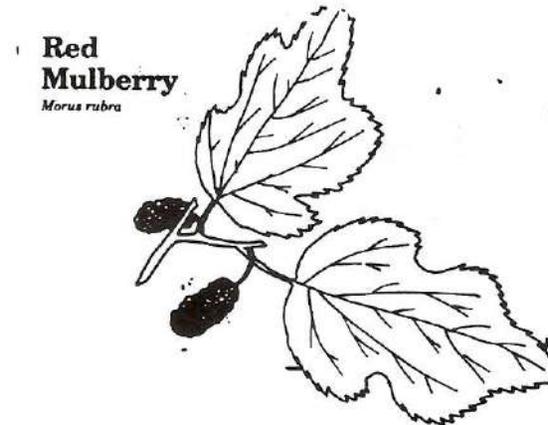


Red Mulberry
Morus rubra

The Mulberry produces delicious fruit for humans and wildlife. It is used to make jelly and jams.

The leaves and twigs yield a milky juice. They are 3-5 inches long and 2-3 inches wide. Some of them have 3-5 lobes and quite distinctive. In the fall, they turn bright yellow.

The tree grows 50-70 feet tall.

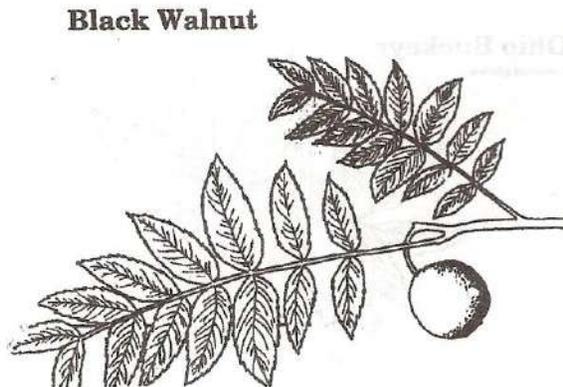


Black Walnut
Juglans nigra

The Black Walnut has a compound leaf made up of 15 or more leaflets that are finely toothed and ending in a long point. The leaves are smooth above, but hairy below.

The tree is prized for lumber. The fine grained wood is used for gunstocks, furniture, and cabinets. The round nut is surrounded by a thick husk, which the early pioneers crushed and used for a dye. The hard shell is tough to crack, but its kernel is well worth the effort.

The tree produces an acid that inhibits the growth of other trees. It grows 80 to 100 feet tall.



American Basswood (Linden)
Tilia americana

The tree has large heart-shaped leaves 5-6 inches long, and 3-4 inches across. On the old trees the bark is ridged and furrowed. The trees grow 60-80 feet tall with 2-3 foot diameter.

It is valued most as a shade and ornamental tree. It produces flowers that has nectar which gives a special flavor to honey.

The wood is fine-grained and used in making all types of wooden-ware. It is used in cabinets and toys.

In June, on warm nights the air is full of its sweet smelling perfume.



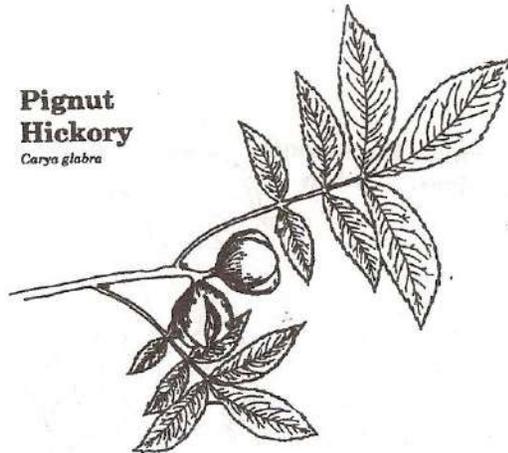
Pignut Hickory
Carya glabra

The compound leaves of this tree are 6-12 inches long, with 5-7 lanceolate-shape leaflets.

Nuts are unusually bitter with a thin husk. They are scarcely edible.

The tree grows 50-70 feet tall and has a 2-3 foot diameter. It grows best on hillsides and ridges.

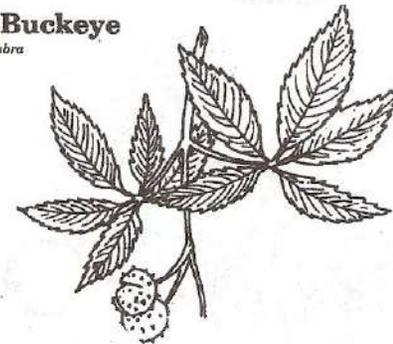
The hickory wood is prized for fuel for outdoor cooking and in smoking meats. It is used for tool handles, wherever tough light wood is needed. It also makes a great ornamental tree.



Ohio Buckeye
Aesculus glabra

This palmately compound leaf has 5 leaflets. The leaves and twigs have an unpleasant odor when bruised. The seeds are enclosed in a leathery capsule and are inedible. The seeds are a polished dark chestnut brown with a large lighter spot. The flowers produce nectar that is poisonous to bees. Crushed fruit and branches have been used to kill fish for foot, but this is illegal today. The seeds, young twigs, and leaves are toxic to livestock. The tree grows 20-40 feet tall.

Ohio Buckeye
Aesculus glabra



Eastern Redcedar
(Juniper)
Juniperus virginiana

The leaves of the juniper are dark green, blue-green, or purple-green, sharp, awl-shaped and scale-like on the same plant.

The fruits are a purplish berry. The wood is red in color. It has a definite odor from the oil in its bark. This odor acts as a natural insect repellent. Because of this trait, it is used for chests, closet lining, fence posts, and shingles. It is also used to make pencils.

The tree can reach a height of 60 feet. It is found along roadsides, fields and hedge rows.



White Ash
Fraxinus Americana

This tree produces compound leaves that are 8-12 inches long. They usually have 7 oval leaflets.

It has gray bark with diamond-shaped ridges. It grows 60-90 feet tall, and 3 foot in diameter.

Baseball bats were made of this wood, because of its fine-grained elastic wood. It is also used for other types of sporting goods.



Lichens and Mosses

Lichens are a special organism. It is not one, but two organisms living together in a special relationship called symbiosis. Both organisms benefit, with each doing a certain job. The Algae provide the food, because it contains chlorophyll and can photosynthesize. The Fungi supplies the water and minerals and anchors the organism to the substrate. They are often indicators of air quality. Lichens do not grow in polluted air.

Look around you at the giant rocks. They are covered with lichens and moss. The moss is able to grow after the lichens make enough soil for them to take hold. The trees are also covered with lichens and moss. We are in a very clean environment.

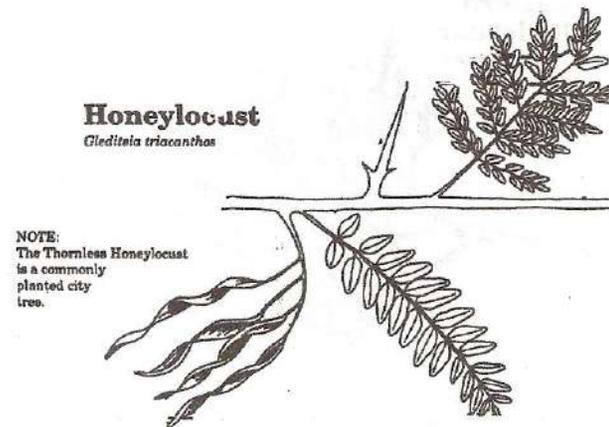
Honey locust *Gleditsia triacanthos*

A pinnately compound leaf that is 7-8 inches long, falls from the drooping branches.

The flowers are greenish-white. The pods are darker green, flat, twisted, and 7-18 inches long. They contain a sweet sticky pulp, with hard seeds that are often fed to cattle.

Branches have spines 2-3 inches long that can puncture a tire. If the spines scratch or puncture the skin, it is very painful.

The wood is used for fence posts, railroad ties and other construction material.



White Oak
Quercus alba

The white oak is the best known of all the oaks. In open spaces the tree develops as a broad, symmetrical crown and is truly a beautiful tree. The leaves, in fall are red. The tree needs rich soil, it grows very slowly. It is long-lived, relatively disease and insect resistant.

The acorns are eaten by the Native Americans. They are also eaten by many animals. In early England oak forests were highly valued for fattening swine. It is prized for its lumber, being used for furniture, boats, and barrels.



Slippery Elm
Ulmus rubra

The bark of a slippery elm is brown and deeply furrowed. The twigs are hairy. The height is 40-60 feet. The leaves are sand-paper rough above and hairy beneath. The twigs are rough-hairy, and the buds are red-hairy.

The slippery inner bark of twigs was once chewed on for relief of a sore throat, and ground into flour for the prevention of scurvy. The wood is coarse and hard. It makes good fence posts. Rabbits, deer and porcupines eat the twigs.



Eastern Hophornbeam (Ironwood)
Ostrya virginiana

This tree has very distinctive bark. It is brown and scaly. It grows 20-40 feet tall and is a member of the Birch family.

It produces hop-like fruits, which hang in compact clusters.

The wood is very tough. It is used to make tool handles, mallets, and fence posts. It also makes good fuel.



Eastern White Pine
Pinus strobus

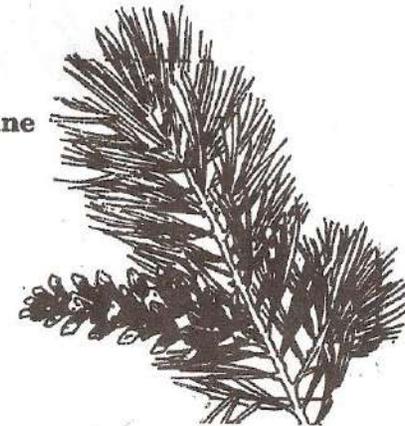
This tree can be easily identified by the 5 needles in a bundle. The needles are 3-5 inches long and are soft and flexible.

The cones are 4-8 inches long and are curved.

The tree reaches a height of 75-100 feet, with a 2-4 foot diameter. The crown is the shape of a pyramid. It grows best in moist sandy soil.

It is a prized tree for lumber.

**Eastern
White Pine**
Pinus strobus

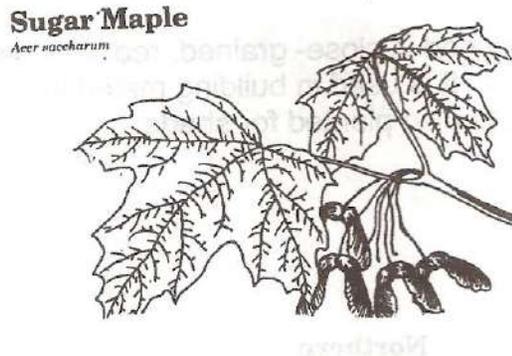


Sugar Maple
Acer saccharum

The Sugar Maple is a fine shade and ornamental tree. The leaves have 5 straight-sided lobes with teeth that are large and few in number. They turn yellow, orange, or scarlet in the fall. They are a thing of beauty on the hillsides.

They are also important for the delicious syrup and maple sugar that their sap yields. The wood is excellent for furniture, cabinet-work, and wood turning.

The tree grows from 75 to 100 feet tall.



Rock Elm
Ulmus thomasii

The Rock Elm has leaves that are 3-6 inches long, are elliptical to oblong with around apex. The tree grows 60-80 feet tall, and has a diameter of 1-3 feet. It has an oval crown.

It grows best on the limestone hills.

The wood is coarse, hard and heavy. It is used for making fence posts.



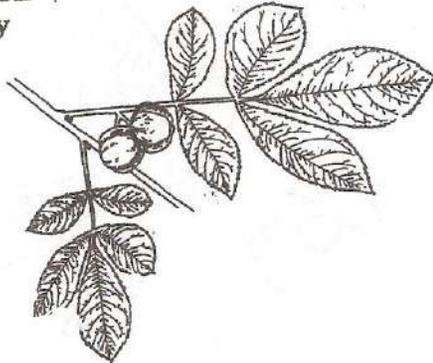
Shagbark Hickory
Carya ovata

The Shagbark Hickory has gray bark with long loose scales. The leaves are compound with 5 or 7 broad toothed leaflets. It can reach a height of 80 feet. They are well shaped trees with straight trunks and heavy limbs.

The nuts are covered in a thick husk, but the shell is thin and the meat is sweet and much desired in cookies and cakes.

The wood is prized as fuel for outdoor cooking and smoking meats. It is used for tool handles and articles which call for the tough, light wood.

**Shagbark
Hickory**
Carya ovata



Northern Red Oak
Quercus rubra

This tree has deciduous leaves, that are 5-8 inches long, and 4-5 inches wide. They have pointed lobes. In the fall, they turn a lovely red color, giving the hills a splash of color.

The acorns are large and oblong-ovoid. They are fine food for wildlife especially squirrels and chipmunks.

The bark is dark brown to black and is deeply furrowed.

The tree grows 50-125 feet tall with a rounded crown. It is one of the tallest oak trees.

The wood is close-grained, reddish-brown in color. It is used in building material, flooring and is also planted for shade.

**Northern
Red Oak**
Quercus rubra

