

**6. Mockernut hickory**, also called, white hickory, whiteheart hickory, hognut, and bullnut, is the most abundant of the



hickories. It is long lived, sometimes reaching the age of 500 years. A high percentage of the wood is used for products where strength,

hardness, and flexibility are needed. Mockernut is perfect for tool handles requiring high shock resistance. Other items include ladder rungs, athletic goods, agricultural implements, dowels, gymnasium apparatus, poles, shafts, well pumps, and furniture. Mockernuts are preferred most for wildlife, particularly squirrels, which eat green nuts. Black bears, foxes, rabbits, beavers, and white-footed mice feed on the nuts, and sometimes the bark. The white-tailed deer browse on foliage and twigs and also feed on nuts.

**7. Southern red oak**, also called Spanish oak, water oak, or red oak, is one



of the more common upland southern oaks. This medium-size tree is moderately fast growing on dry, sandy, or clay loams in mixed forests.

It is also often found growing as a street or lawn tree. The uses of red oak include almost everything that mankind has ever derived from trees-timber, food for man and animals, fuel, watershed protection, shade and beauty, tannin, and extractives.

**8. Boxelder** is one of the most widespread and best known of the maples. Its other



common names include ashleaf maple, boxelder maple, Manitoba

maple, California boxelder, and western boxelder. Best development of the species is in the bottom-land hardwood stands in the lower Ohio and Mississippi River valleys, although it is of limited commercial importance there. Its greatest value may be in shelterbelt and street plantings in the Great Plains and the West, where it is used because of its tolerance to drought and cold.

**9. Sweetgum**, also called redgum, sapgum, starleaf-gum, or bilsted, is a common bottom-land species of the



South where it grows biggest and is most abundant in the lower Mississippi Valley. This moderate to rapidly growing

tree often pioneers in old fields and logged areas in the uplands and Coastal Plain and may develop in a nearly pure stand. Sweetgum is one of the most important commercial hardwoods in the Southeast and the handsome hard wood is put to a great many uses, one of which is veneer for plywood. The small seeds are eaten by birds, squirrels, and chipmunks. It is sometimes used as a shade tree.

**10. Shumard oak** is one of the largest southern red oaks. Other common names are spotted oak, schneck oak, shumard



red oak, southern red oak, and swamp red oak. It is a lowland tree and grows scattered with other hardwoods on moist, well-drained soils associated with large and small

streams. It grows moderately fast and produces acorns every 2 to 4 years that are used by wildlife for food. The wood is superior to most red oaks, but it is mixed indiscriminately with other red oak lumber and used for the same products. This tree makes a handsome shade tree.

## Cossatot River State Park - Natural Area



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# Brushy Creek Trail Tree Identification Guide



Trees are the oldest and largest species on earth. They provide oxygen, remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, stabilize the soil, provide food, shelter, structural materials, and pulpwood. Even the tap-roots are used for pulpwood. The seeds of shortleaf pine are eaten by birds and small mammals. The canopies of shortleaf pine provide protection from the wind and cold for many animals. Stands of shortleaf pine scattered through hardwood forests are especially beneficial to wildlife.



Pictures courtesy of Carl Hunter, from *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Arkansas*.

## Cossatot River State Park - Natural Area

# Brushy Creek Trail



... meanders three quarters of a mile through mixed — southern forest cover, and offers a scenic view overlooking the Cossatot River/Brushy Creek union. The numbered trees in this Trail Guide correspond with numeric labels placed near matching species along the trail. The Trail Head is located 9 miles east of Vandervoort on the east side of Brushy Creek Recreation Area. It will end after you descend a flight of stairs into the parking lot. Please be careful and enjoy Arkansas's natural world.

**1. Shortleaf Pine** is one of the four most important commercial conifers in the southeastern United States.



Depending upon locale, the species is also called shortleaf yellow, southern yellow, oldfield, shortstraw, or Arkansas soft pine. Shortleaf Pine has the widest range of any southern pine. It grows in over 22 states, from New York to Florida and westward into Oklahoma. One of the

biggest specimens grows in Mississippi. It measures 41.5 inches in diameter and stands 138 feet tall. Shortleaf pine is primarily used for lumber,

## 2. American Holly



When the Pilgrims landed on the coast of what is now Massachusetts, the evergreen, prickly leaves and red berries of American holly reminded them of English holly, a symbol of Christmas for centuries in England and Europe. Since then American holly, also called white holly or Christmas holly, has been one of the most valuable and popular trees in the Eastern United States for its foliage and berries, used for Christmas decorations, and for ornamental plantings. The attractiveness of its foliage is American holly's principal value; however, the development of commercial holly orchards and the education of landowners in the value and harvesting of holly foliage have lessened the exploitation of wild hollies. Greatest use of the wood is for specialty items such as fancy cabinet inlays, small pieces of furniture, brush backs, handles, novelties, wood engravings, scroll work, woodcuts and carvings, and measuring scales and rules for scientific instruments; when dyed black to resemble ebony, it is used for piano keys, violin pegs, and fingerboards.

**3. Flowering dogwood** is one of America's most popular ornamental trees.



Known to most people simply as dogwood, it has other common names, including boxwood and cornel. The species name *florida* is Latin for flowering, but the showy petal-like bracts are not in fact flowers. The bright red fruit of this fast-growing short-lived tree are poisonous to humans but provide a great variety of wildlife with food. In fact, the most distinguishing quality of dogwood is its high calcium and fat content. Fruits have been recorded as food eaten by at least 36 species of birds, including ruffed grouse, bob-white quail, and wild turkey. Chipmunks, foxes, skunks, rabbits, deer, beaver, black bears, and squirrels, in addition to other mammals, also eat dogwood fruits.

**4. White oak** is an outstanding tree among all trees and is widespread across eastern North America. Its high-grade wood is useful for many things, an



important one being staves for barrels, hence the name stave oak. The acorns are an

important food for many kinds of wildlife including squirrels, blue jays, crows, red-headed woodpeckers, deer, turkey, quail, mice, chipmunks, ducks, and raccoons. White oaks can produce seeds prolifically, but good acorn crops are irregular and occur only every 4 to 10 years. Sometimes several years may pass without a crop. Individual trees 150 feet high, 96 inches in diameter, and 600 years old have been recorded.

**5. Eastern redcedar**, also called red juniper or savin, is a common coniferous species growing on a variety of sites throughout the eastern half of the United States. Although Eastern



redcedar is generally not considered to be an important commercial species, its wood is highly valued because of its beauty, durability, and workability. The number of trees and volume of Eastern redcedar are increasing throughout most of its range. It provides cedarwood oil for fragrance compounds, food and shelter for wildlife, and protective vegetation for fragile soils.