

14. **THE FOREST FLOOR:** People ask why we don't clean out the old stumps, poison ivy, and leaves. Woods, in the wild, are not neat. Groundcover provides erosion control as well as food for wildlife. The ivy with five leaves on each stem along this trail is NOT poison ivy; it is non-poisonous Virginia Creeper.



15. **DOGWOOD/IRONWOOD:** This dogwood was planted as an ornamental. Compare it to ones you see in forests as understory trees. (This one is much sturdier, for it gets maximum sunlight.) Plants vary widely in order to adapt to their surroundings. Behind you, along the forest's edge, is a large American Hornbeam (Ironwood or *Carpinus Caroliniana*)? Notice its strange bark which gives the tree its nickname of musclewood.

16. **MAPLE TREES:** Most of this woods is a beech-maple forest, although stately oaks and telephone pole straight tulip trees abound. The large tree row to your right consists of species of maple trees. Sugar maples, in particular, were tapped by pioneers for the sap, which was made into maple syrup. About 40 gallons of sap boiled down to one gallon of delicious "liquid gold."



17. **EVERGREEN ROW:** This row of evergreens was planted at least fifty years ago. These are fine examples of mature conifers, or cone-bearing plants. First in the row is the Blue Spruce, a fine ornamental native to Colorado. (*Picea pungens glauca* is the Latin name.) For a whiff of scent used in air fresheners and cleaners, crush a few needles and sniff. If ever you plant a tree at home, give consideration to where its roots and branches will be years down the road, so it won't have to be destroyed or destroy your dwelling.



8. **SASSAFRAS:** Above and on either side is a common tree, the sassafras. A fragrant tea can be made from its roots. This is one of the few plants with different kinds of leaves on the same tree. See if you can find all three shapes, two mitten like and one plain. Look on the ground if it is wintertime.

9. **THE FOREST EDGE:** The best place to look for large numbers of birds and animals is at the "edge habitats" between two communities, such as forest-field or meadow-areas. There are larger amounts of food for animals including grapes from vines overtaking small trees.



10. **THE ORCHARD:** The fruit trees here were originally a productive orchard. Now insects and birds get most of the crop. Many varieties of apple, cherry, crabapple and pear grow here. The apple trees have tangled, unkept-looking branches which appear to have thorns; locate one.



1. **HEMLOCK TREE:** One of the few evergreens native to Summit County, the Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) is also one of the most beautiful. It usually grows on rocky cliffs. Tea can be made from its needles and twigs. The lumber is made into railroad ties, but it is knotty and difficult to work. Note the feathery, flat needles with two delicate white stripes on the underside.

2. **WHITE PINE:** Economically, the most important conifer in North America is the White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*.) Widely harvested for its lumber, it is used in house construction. The dead branches at the bottom get shaded out; our ancestors used these for fire-starting. The white pine has needle bundles with five needles per bundle, just like the word w-h-i-t-e has five letters in it.

