

**CHESIE TRAIL
FLAGGED MAR. 22ND 2021
AND YES, FLAG 23 IS MISSING
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, UPPER JAMES RIVER
CHAPTER**

ID# 1 *Lindera benzoin* **Spice Bush** (Native). Both male and female shrubs have yellow flowers in the early spring. The female flower has one white pistil. The male flower has multiple yellow anthers so it seems like the flowers are brighter. Only the females will have small green fruits (wherever their flowers were pollinated). These will grow to about 1/2 inch long, turn red, then black, and be relished by many birds! Host plant to the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly. Broken twigs smell spicy. NOTE: This bush is female the un-flagged bush 6-8' to the left is a male.



ID# 2 *Celtis occidentalis* **Hackberry** (Native tree) Likes moist condition but it is tough and used in many urban areas. Note funky bark; its small fruits are loved by birds.



ID# 3 *Acer negundo* **Boxelder maple** (Native tree) Looks like both an ash and elderberry. New growth is green. Likes moist areas. Note the stems are opposite (Maple, Ash, Dogwood). About 290 species of moth and butterflies will use this tree to lay their eggs. The caterpillars become good baby bird food.



ID# 4 *Ligustrum* **several species Privet** (non-Native) **On State Invasive plant list**. Look down the slope. It is evergreen, fragrant white flowers which turn to prolific dark berries. That is why it is spreading all over the place. Berries are carbohydrates (sugar) when birds need protein.



ID# 5 *Packera aurea* **Golden ragwort** (Native). Small yellow flowers that turn to white fluffs like dandelions. Evergreen foliage, fairly deer-resistant. Likes moist conditions, full sun to light shade. Bees and flies are pollinators.



ID# 6

***Polymnia canadensis* Small Flowered Leaf Cup** (Native) Small yellow flowers in summer. Grows along woodland edges. Has a funky smell when pulled out.



ID# 7

***Sanguinaria canadensis* Bloodroot** (Native). The seed pod will turn reddish after about 2 weeks, and then it will pop and spread its seeds. Like many seeds, these have elaiosomes (fleshy appendages that are rich in fatty acids and diglycerides), which are attractive to ants. The ants gather the seeds and carry them to their nests, where the elaiosomes are eaten and the seeds discarded.



ID# 8

***Cardamine concatenata* Toothwort** (Native) owes its name to the tooth-like projections on its underground stems (rhizomes). Member of the mustard family. The flower provides nectar for honeybees and bumblebees.



ID# 9

***Euonymus fortunei* Creeping Euonymous** (Non-native). **On state invasive list.** An evergreen ground cover that climbs and strangles trees. Prolific orange “berries” Cultivars may have variegated foliage.



ID#10

***Hesperis matronalis* Dames Rocket** (Non-Native) **On State Invasive List.** It crowds out early native flowers needed by emerging native pollinators. Lovely fragrant white to lavender flowers with *lots of seeds*. Looks similar to summer phlox. Dame’s rocket flowers have four-petals; DAME is four letters. Phlox is five letters and it has five petals.



ID#11 *Osmorhiza claytonii* **Sweet Cicely** (Native)—"sweet" because its foliage and root smell like licorice. A tall plant with leaves divided into threes, hairy stems, and flat clusters of small white flowers.



ID#12 *Alliaria petiolate* **Garlic Mustard** (Non-native) **On state invasives list.** It is allelopathic meaning its roots have a chemical that inhibits growth of other plants. Small white flowers, prolific seeder. Before it goes to seed, people use the leaves to make a tangy salad or pesto.



ID#13 *Thuja occidentalis* **Arbovitae or White Cedar** (Native). "Arbovitae," means "tree of life," because Native Americans reportedly used the tree for medicinal purposes. Not common because deer love them. Evergreen; grows 50' LOOK up on cliff terraces.



ID#14 *Ailanthus altissima* **Tree-of-Heaven** (non-Native) **On state invasive list.** This tree is allelopathic, chemically inhibiting plants around it. You often see it along highways. A prolific seeder (female has flowers). At least it is helping to hold up the bank. Looks a bit like walnut but trunk is paler and the crushed leaves have unpleasant odor.



ID#14	<p><i>Toxicodendron radicans</i> Poison Ivy (Native). Three almond-shaped leaflets, somewhat shiny, sometimes toothed. New leaves have a purplish tone and later range from light to dark green to orange in Fall. Will grow into a vine eventually but can get quite tall as a little treelet. The berries are enjoyed by birds. Many people get an itchy rash from the compound <i>urushiol</i> in leaves. NOTE: This vine is growing on #14 Tree of Heaven and numerous places up the cliff face.</p> <div data-bbox="246 461 943 779" style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  </div>
ID#15	<p><i>Heuchera americana</i> Alum root (Native) Look up on cliff. Flower panicles emerge in the spring on leafless stalks above the foliage. The individual tiny flowers are bell-shaped with extended stamens and are greenish or creamy with a pinkish tint. Good early bee plant. Plant contains tannins so somewhat deer resistant. Highly modified cultivars have no wildlife benefit.</p> <div data-bbox="205 1100 583 1362" style="text-align: center;">  </div>
ID#16	<p><i>Eurybia divaricata</i> White wood aster (Native). Similar to <i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i> Heart-leaved Aster. Both have lower leaves that are heart-shaped - they don't differentiate much until they're taller. Both flower in late summer just when bees really need nectar and are quite common on the forest floor. White wood asters flower on black stems. Heart-leaved aster flowers are a bit purple. Deer resistant. White wood aster on left and Heart-leaved on right.</p> <div data-bbox="194 1739 879 2155" style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
ID#17	<p><i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> Smooth Hydrangea (Native). Shrub w/ broad oval leaves with pointed tips. Likes loamy, well-drained soil. This is the plant that the common 'Annabelle' hydrangea was developed from. Unfortunately, 'Annabelle' has sterile florets so produces no nectar. Not deer resistant, so is present mostly on steep slopes.</p> <div data-bbox="189 2443 658 2804" style="text-align: center;">  </div>
ID#18	<p><i>Pellaea atropurpurea</i> Cliff-brake fern (Native) Likes crevices in limestone. The leathery leaves and the wiry stem resist desiccation. LOOK to right of flag and up a bit.</p>



ID#19 ***Lonicera fragrantissima* Sweet Breath-of-Spring** (Non-Native) **On state invasives list.** Up on the cliff Chinese honeysuckle with fragrant white flowers. I see this now more and more out in the county. NOTE: Not in flower now but the cliff terrace has many of these bushes.



ID#20 ***Boechera canadensis* Sicklepod/Rock cress** (Native) The flowers are minimal but the seed pods are a cool sickle shape.



ID#21 ***Smilax vine* Greenbrier family** (Native). Many species – some thorny. Flowers visited by bees and flies for nectar and pollen. Host plant for the Curve-lined Owlet moth (that is, the moth will lay its eggs only on *Smilax* vines). Birds and even bears enjoy their berries.



ID#22 ***Asplenium rhizophyllum* Walking fern** (Native) In distance on mossy rock look for lighter green, narrow leaves hugging the moss. So named due to its spreading by tip rooting thus “walking” across the ground surface.



ID#24 ***Asimina triloba* Paw Paw Tree colony** (Native) Also known as American Custard Apple. Produces maroon flowers that become green banana flavored fruits in late summer. Fly pollinated. Host plant to the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly. Trees often are flat or two dimensional.



ID#25

***Aquilegia canadensis* Wild Columbine** (Native). LOOK up about 4' on to the cliff face. Three leaflets with rounded lobes. Will have lovely orange and yellow bell-shaped flowers. Hummingbirds are attracted to this color combination. Its seed pods "pop," and so it spreads well.



ID#26

Claytonia virginica* or *caroliniana (leaves longer and narrower than *virginica*) **Spring Beauty** (Native) One of the earliest spring flowers so it is important for many species of native bees and flies.



ID#27

***Mertensia Virginia* Bluebells** (Native) Grows fast. The flowers start off pink and gradually to light blue as they mature. Leaves are wide and soft. Bees, especially female Bumblebees that fly in early spring, will often be seen visiting the flowers. Only the largest bees have the ability to push their way up the tube. The significant pollinators are butterflies and moths. Spreads readily by seed.



ID#28

***Polystichum acrostichoides* Christmas Fern** (Native) Leaves less divided. It is one of our few evergreen ferns. Fairly deer resistant and good for stabilizing slopes. Stalk is scaly (not smooth and shiny). Leaves often lie flat in winter. Note toe of stocking along stalk. Leaf (or pinna) is stocking shaped. LOOK back 10-15' behind the young paw paw treelets.



ID#29

***Equisetum hyemale* Horsetail/Scouring Rush** (Native) The evergreen stems are particularly noticeable in winter and can provide significant interest to the landscape. Stems have a high silica content and were used by early Americans for polishing pots and pans. Moist areas. *Equisetum* is the single surviving genus of a class of primitive vascular plants that dates back to the mid-Devonian period (350 + million years ago). Today, the equisetums are categorized as fern allies in large part because they, like the ferns, are non-flowering, seedless plants which reproduce by spores.



ID#30

***Elymus hystrix* Eastern Bottlebrush grass (Native)**
Perennial grass that grows 3-4' and does well in part-shade and moist areas.

