

Babcock-Hovey “OWL” Nature Trail Guide

Follow the Green Blaze Markers From just outside the Native American Culture Area (NAC) to each station. Watch out there is plenty of poison ivy!!

1. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) the New York State Tree. Sugar maple is best known for its bright fall foliage and for being the primary source of maple syrup.



HINT : The leaf on the Canadian Flag is a Maple Leaf.

BONUS : Notice the regeneration of the white pine seedling in this area? White pine can't regenerate by itself. Scouts had to compress the cones into the ground by walking on them.

2. Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) (This tree is on the western side of the main road). Very “showy” tree, usually found in a dense wooded area. Leaves have parallel veination.

3. Stream by Rifle (North side) First check out the animal footprint display; Secondly check out the stream for footprints, see the deer trail on the other side of the stream, deer routinely cross the stream in this area. Can you find birds (the orange shotgun variety that is)? They follow the meandering stream down from shotgun all the way to lakefront.

4. White Cedars (*Thuja occidentalis*) have fan-like branches and scaly leaves. The bark is red-brown, furrowed and peels in narrow, longitudinal strips. The cones are slender, yellow-green ripening brown. (South side of road by Rifle sign)

5. Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is one of the Northeast's most important lumber trees for furniture. The fruit, with “smelly” flesh, is eaten by chipmunks and squirrels. The wood is cinnamon red and the leaves are compound. The black walnut nutmeats are used as an ingredient in food, while the hard black walnut shell is used commercially in abrasive cleaning, cosmetics, and oil well drilling and water filtration. Black Walnut trees will slowly make the soil acidic and thus driving away other trees.

6. Black Willow (*Salix Nigra*) (Pond Loop) contains salicylic acid (aspirin can be derived from this) Taste it by chewing the new twigs, it's bitter! Indians used this chewing for medicinal purposes. The fruit is a small capsule which splits open when mature to release the numerous minute, down-covered seeds. The leaves turn a lemon yellow in the fall. It is typically found along streams and in swamps.

7. Cattails (*Typha latifolia*) (Pond Loop) indicate wet areas. The plant is edible at different times of the year. The seed heads can be used for holding material, when they are over mature.

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| <p>WILDLIFE ALERT - Look closely for signs of life around the pond. Commonly seen are Great Blue Heron, Midland Painted turtle and Black Water Snake. Look for feathers, footprints and snake skins.</p> |
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QUIZ ANSWER - Scotch Pine

WILDLIFE ALERT - (Old electric line right-of-way to old pump house). This open area creates an opening to the forest floor and creates excellent shelter for rodents. See if you can find any evidence.

15. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) is one of the most used trees for everyday purposes. The wood is white and quite dense. It is the timber of choice for production of baseball bats and tool handles. The wood is also favorable for furniture and flooring.



INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT - The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a green beetle native to Asia. It is highly destructive to ash trees. Since its accidental introduction in the 1990s, it has spread to 14 states and adjacent parts of Canada. It has killed at least 50 to 100 million ash trees so far and threatens to kill most of the 7.5 billion ash trees throughout North America. As of May 2013, the EAB has not been found in Camp Babcock-Hovey or Seneca County. To help stop the spread of EAB currently no firewood outside of Seneca County is allowed to be brought into Seneca County.

16. Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) make a sharp right off the road and you are in a grove of aspens. This is a fast growing pioneer species with very poor firewood characteristics.

17. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) shagbarks are easy to recognize because, as their name implies, they have shaggy bark. This characteristic is, however, only found on mature trees; young specimens have smooth bark. The shagbark hickory's nut is edible and has a very sweet taste.

18. Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) can serve as an excellent shelter for birds, even turkeys! Tea can be made to drink from the needles.

19. Red Oaks (*Quercus rubra*) is easy to recognize by its bark, which feature bark ridges that appear to have shiny stripes down the center. Red oaks commonly have darker bark, and lobed leaves that come to a point. The red oak is one of the most important oaks for timber production in North America. Quality red oak is of high value as lumber and veneer, defective logs are used as firewood.

20. White Oaks (*Quercus Alba*) often have lighter colored bark and leaves with rounded off lobes. Check out the base of the trees for acorns. Turkeys in particular love to eat the fallen acorn crop in the fall.

HINT – to remember the difference in Oaks. “The Redman used pointed arrows while the Whiteman used rounded bullets.” Red Oaks have pointed tips, while White Oaks have rounded tips.



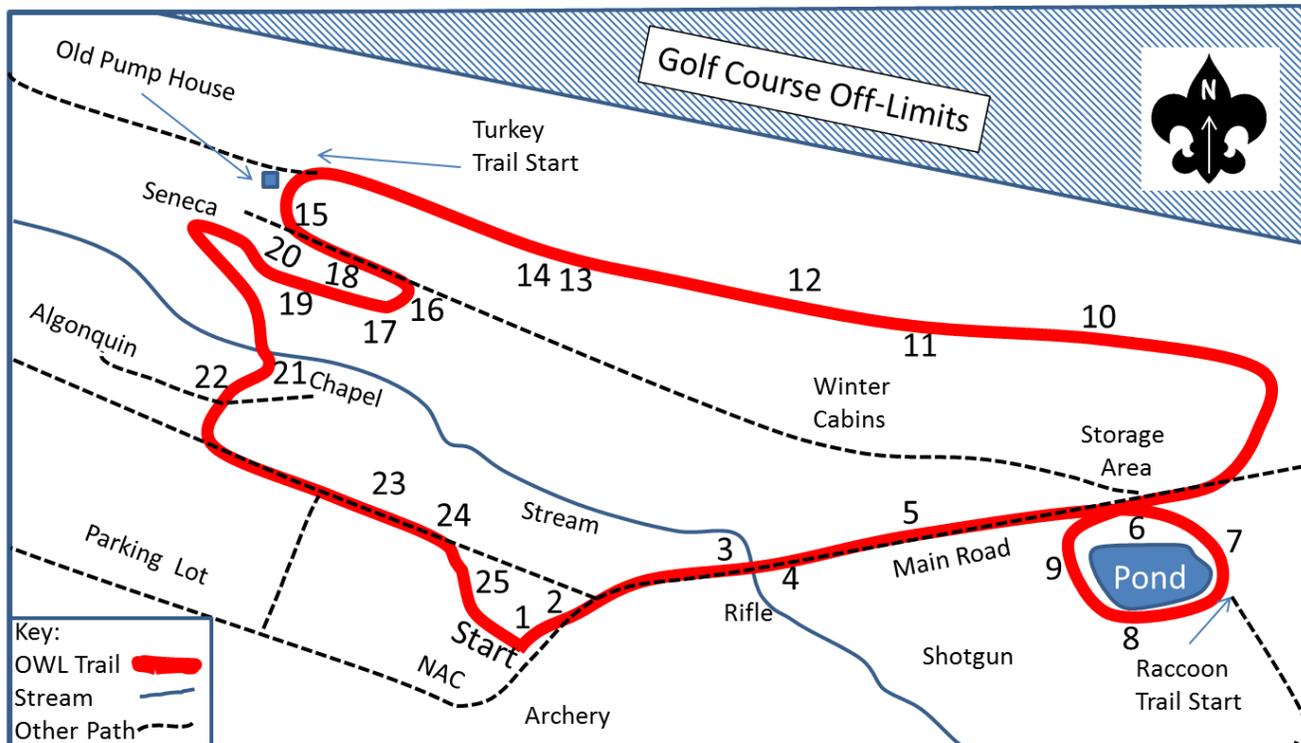
21. **Ferns** The camp has an abundance of ferns especially in the gorge areas.

22. **Eastern Hophornbeam, (*Ostrya virginiana*) (aka. Ironwood)**- heavy wood, bark shaggy, grows on dry soils, like the edges of our gorges. Look behind you and you will see **American Hornbeam, (*Carpinus caroliniana*) (aka. Musclewood)**, blue-grey muscle looking wood, likes moist rich soils near streams.

23. **Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)** Red pines don't like moist areas so you will usually only find them in drier areas. Red pine needles are 4 to 6 inches long and in bundles of two. The dark green needles are soft and flexible. When bent sharply they snap or break cleanly rather than just folding over as do the needles of other pines. The bark is thick and gray-brown at the base of the tree, but thin, flaky and bright red in the upper crown.

24. **Black Cherry (*Prinus serotina*)** (It is on the north side of the road). This hardwood is an excellent lumber species for furniture. A mature black cherry can easily be identified in a forest by its very broken, dark grey to black bark, which has the appearance of very thick, burnt cornflakes (an easy way to remember this is burnt cornflakes = black cherry). However, for about the first decade or so of its life, the bark resembles that of a birch, and is thin and striped.

25. **Mayapple (*Podophyllum pelatum*)** A type of wild flower. This and others should not be trampled or picked as the spring wild flowers are very fragile. Though the common name is Mayapple, it is the flower that appears in early May, not the "apple". The fruit or apple isn't produced until early summer.



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