



Curious about a tree or plant that didn't get mentioned? Grab a leaf or take a picture and bring it to the Visitor Assistance Center and we will try to identify it for you. Just watch out for poison ivy. "Leaves of three, let them be!"

For Safety's Sake:



1.5 Mile Loop Trail (roundtrip)

- Begin behind the Visitor Center on the Big Bridge. Access the Falls Lake Trail down the steps (white blazes).
- Look and stop for the Plant I.D. signs.
- When you come to the post with the blue dot on it (after # 6), take a left on to that trail (blue blazes).
- Cross the road and stay on the Blue Dot Trail.
- Take a left back onto the Falls Lake Trail (white blazes) when you come to that intersection (after #11).
- Follow the white blazes across the dam road, through a field, and back up to the Visitor Center.

- Please Observe posted closure times. If your vehicle is left inside the area after hours, it may be locked in for the night.
- After hours parking is available in the lot on Falls of Neuse Road, and in the Tailrace Fishing Area lot.
- During hunting season (Oct-Feb), be sure to wear brightly colored clothing.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Please, foot traffic only on the natural surface trails.

Falls Lake Dam and Visitor Assistance Center

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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

I.D. That Tree! and other plants

Have you ever walked through the woods and thought, "I wish I knew what the name of that tree was?" Well, here is your chance to find out! This **short self-guided tour** will not only name the trees for you, but will also help you I.D. them for future knowledge! What's more fun than an educational walk through the woods? Grab this brochure and start a learning adventure!



Plant I.D. Quiz

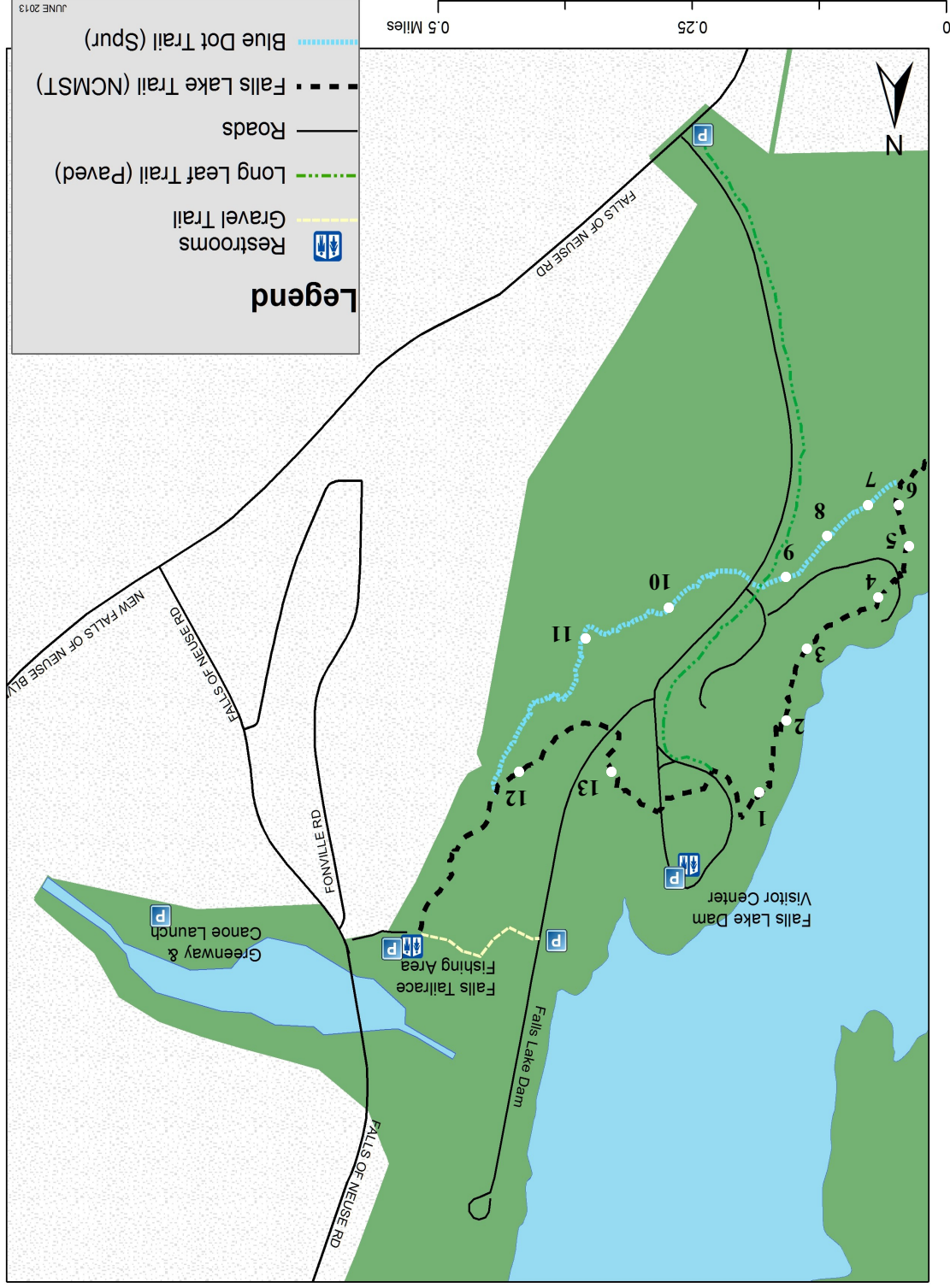
Walk the trail; I.D. the trees and plants; then, take this quiz to see what you learned!

Across

- Leaf looks like a cat face
- White bud and long needles
- An invasive plant that looks like tiny bamboo
- New sprouts are fiddle-shaped
- Produces a toxin called Juglone
- “Leaves of three, let them be”
- Has red leaf stems in summer

Down

- Shaggy bark and round-lobed leaves
- Trunk twists and turns in different directions
- Has spiky leaves
- Teardrop-shaped leaves
- Branch scars that look like eyes
- Heart-shaped leaves
- Star-shaped leaves



Please take a moment to read the **safety message** on the bottom right column of this page.

-For your convenience, the columns are numbered from left to right in order that you may be able to fold the page in half.

Stop 1— The shape of the **Sourwood** tree is odd to say the least. It doesn't just grow straight up like most trees, it twists and turns in different directions. The bark is dark brown and soft and the leaves are long and bright green. It was named Sourwood because of its sour tasting leaves. Did you know that the leaves of this tree can be used to make tea?



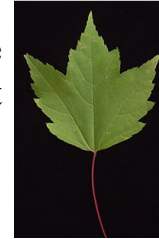
Stop 2—The leaves of this tree are unmistakable. They are shaped like stars! The **Sweet Gum** tree is most identifiable by its leaves and gum balls. The gum balls are round spiky balls that carry seeds inside them. The seeds are a great food source for birds and squirrels. Did you know that a sweet gum ball is sharp enough to puncture a car tire?



Stop 3— The **American Holly** tree, with its spiky leaves and bright red berries, is a common sight during the holiday season. This tree is evergreen, meaning it stays green all year long. Its spiky green leaves are a great determining factor in ID'ing this tree. Did you know that Romans used to give holly as a gift to represent good will?



Stop 4— The **Red Maple** is a tree that always has some form of red coloring during every season. Red buds during the winter, red flowers in the spring, red leaf stems in the summer, and the leaves turn red in the fall. Did you know that the largest Red Maple tree in the United States is in Great Smokey Mountain National park? It is 141 feet tall and a little over 7 feet in diameter.



Stop 5— This tree grows straight and tall. It has white/tan bark and very noticeable leaves. The **Tulip Poplar** gets its name from the shape of its leaves. The leaves appear to be shaped like tulips, however many people believe they look more like cat faces. Did you know that on average, at 120 feet, the Tulip Poplar, is the tallest hardwood in North America?



Stop 6—The **Flowering Dogwood** is a fairly small tree with very distinctive bark and leaves. The bark looks like cobblestones and the leaves form a tear drop shape with veins curving up towards the point. Did you know that the Flowering Dogwood's bloom is North Carolina's state flower?



Stop 7— The **Redbud** is a tree that is widely used for landscaping. It is a short tree with heart-shaped leaves, and in the spring when it blooms, it becomes completely covered in bright pink flowers. Did you know that the Redbud's flowers are high in Vitamin C and some people put them in their salads and pancakes?



Stop 8— The **White Oak** is distinguishable from other oaks in this region by its shaggy bark and round lobed leaves. The White Oak is widely used as a decorative tree along sidewalks and roadways. Did you know that White Oak's wood is used to make wine and whiskey barrels because of its ability to hold liquids?



Stop 9— The **Longleaf Pine** has two features that separate it from other pines: needle length and bud color. The Longleaf Pine has the longest needles of any pine. The needles are between 7-18 in. and the buds are bright white. Did you know that Longleaf Pines are resistant to fire in most of their growth stages, and that they need fire to burn away shady trees so they can grow in the sun?



Stop 10— The **Christmas Fern** has 20-40 leaflets attached to each stem. It is called the Christmas Fern because some parts of the plant stay green all year, and therefore can be used for Christmas decorations. This dry stream bed is perfect for Christmas ferns because they prefer moist shady soils. Did you know that new sprouts from the Christmas fern are called fiddleheads because the ends of the sprouts form a spiral which looks like the end of a fiddle?



Stop 11— Do you ever get the feeling you are being watched? Well, with the **American Beech** tree you just might be. Scars left by branches that have fallen off give the appearance of eyes. The trunk is light gray and smooth and the leaves are oval and have a saw-toothed edge. Did you know that the beechnuts from this trees can be used as a coffee substitute?



Stop 12— Look around you on the ground, what do you see? In the summer, surrounding you will be a lush bed of bright green grass. If you are out in the winter, you will see the brown remains of this annual plant. **Japanese Stilt Grass** is

12 cont.— an invasive plant that has spread all over the east coast and can adapt to almost any environment. It has thin long pointy leaves and gives the appearance of tiny bamboo. Did you know that stilt grass got transported to the United States because Japan used to use stilt grass as a packing material for porcelain?



Stop 13— This tree produces large 1.5-2 inch round black walnuts with bright green husks. The **Black Walnut** tree has 15-23 thin oval-shaped leaflets per stem. The leaves are smooth on top and slightly fuzzy underneath and the bark is deeply furrowed with a criss-cross pattern. Did you know that this tree produces a toxin called Juglone that kills or inhibits the growth of plants surrounding it?

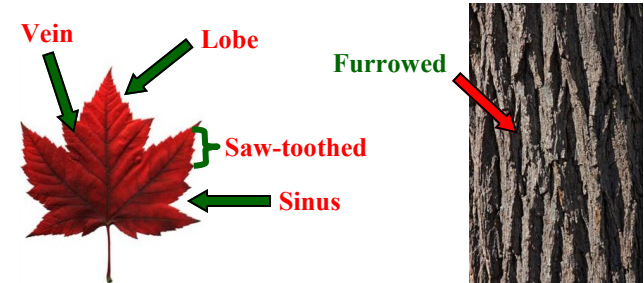


Phew! The ID'ing is over! Now, you can enjoy a nice restful walk through the woods back to the Visitor's Assistance Center. Make sure to complete the crossword puzzle to see what you learned!

Safety: Something to watch out for on the trail— Don't Touch! Ever heard the phrase, "Leaves of three, let them be?" **Poison Ivy** comes in many growth shapes. It can be a thick fuzzy vine on a tree, a bunch of tiny sprouts, or a bush. About 75% of the U.S. population is allergic to poison ivy, so be careful what you touch. Did you know that the allergic reaction doesn't come from the plant itself, but from the oil it produces?



Tree Vocabulary



Thank you for walking one of our nature trails. We hope you had a good time and learned something new. Have a great day!

