



Bloodroot



Cardinal



Hepatica



Goldenrod

# BASSETT TRACE NATURE TRAIL

Nature trail map and key reference  
to shrubs, trees, and flowers

Self-guided tour

## FLOWERS

**Cup plant** (*Silphium perfoliatum*). Tall plant with yellow flowers blooming July–September. Called cup plant because the leaves envelop the square stem, forming a “cup” around it.

**Golden ragwort** (*Senecio aureus*). Golden-yellow, daisylike flowers grow 12–30 inches tall. Blooms April–July, mainly in bottomlands.

**Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Solitary white flower with a golden orange center blooms from March to early April. The red juice from the roots was used as a dye and in insect repellent. The Latin sanguinari means “bleeding.”

**Hepatica** (*Hepatica Americana*). White flowers (sometimes pinkish or lavender) are produced on hairy stalks. Blooms in February or early March in somewhat dry areas.

**Bittercress** (*Cardamine*). Found alongside streams, bittercress has small white flowers with four petals in a cluster atop the stem. Blooms in March to early June. Rare in Tidewater Virginia.

**Lizard's tail** (*Saururus cernuus*). Showy white flowers on a tall spike. Their drooping tip resembles a lizard's tail. Inhabits swampy areas and shallow water. Blooms June–September.

**Bluets** (*Houstonia caerulea*). Delicate pale blue flowers are borne on a low-growing plant. Often found in patches on grassy slopes and fields and sometimes lawns. Blooms April–June.

**Pussytoes** (*Antennaria dioica*). Mat-forming, spoon-shaped leaves. Fuzzy white to pale pink flowers. Blooms in May. Flower heads are clustered together resembling a cat's paw.

**Wild ginger** (*Asarum canadense*). Purple-brown flower is borne at ground level underneath heart-shaped leaves. Usually evergreen. Blooms April–May. Grows in rich woodland soil.

**Cardinal** (*Lobelia cardinalis*). Brilliant red flowers on spikes are loved by hummingbirds and gardeners. One of the brightest red wildflowers. Grows in damp sites near streams and ponds. Blooms July–September.

**Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*). White flowers are reminiscent of snapdragon flowers to some, of turtles' heads to others. Blooms July–September on low ground or stream banks.

**Partridge berry** (*Mitchella repens*). Evergreen creeper with white-veined, oval, shiny green leaves. White fragrant flowers in pairs in June–July. Red berries in the fall make this a standout plant in dry woods.

**Jack-in-the-pulpit** (*Arisaema triphyllum*). Known for its distinctive greenish-yellow hooded leaf that encloses the pulpit, or flower, which is green, white, or purple. It grows on the base of the stalk. Blooms in April–June. Distinctive shiny red berries appear in the late summer and fall.

**Goldenrod** (*Solidago flexicaulis*). Familiar golden yellow fall bloomer, this variety is sometimes called “zigzag goldenrod” because its stem zigzags. Normally found in clearings in dry to slightly moist soil.

**Pink lady's slipper** (*Cypripedium acaule*). A distinctive terrestrial orchid. One distinctive pink, slipperlike flower is borne on a leafless stalk in April–May. Leaves of dark green appear in pairs. Grows in moist to dry woods and swamps.



Because of the ephemeral nature of wildflowers, many species may not be listed here, and some listed may not be seen.

For those wishing to learn more about wildflowers, excellent sources are The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers and Wildflowers of Tidewater Virginia by Oscar W. Gupton and Fred C. Swope.

Colonial Williamsburg  
Resorts

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA





Northern red oak



Sycamore



Swamp white oak



American elm

## TREES AND SHRUBS

In order as tagged on trail starting at Providence Hall Guesthouses

- 1. Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*).** Purple flowers in May before leaves appear. Bright yellow fall color; fruits described as banana-cantaloupe tasting ripen in the fall. Loved by many forest denizens.
- 2. Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*).** Fairly long needles, three per cluster (fascicle). Cones 3–6 inches long and conic-oblong. Very important to the timber industry as well as providing turpentine.
- 3. Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).** Bluish-green, needle-like leaves; bluish-gray fruits are eaten by opossums and more than 50 species of birds. Wood is aromatic, durable, and lightweight. Used for furniture and fence posts. The oil is used in perfumes and flavorings.
- 4. Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*).** Arching 4– to 6-foot-tall shrub. Medium green leaves with white, wooly underside. Yellow fall color, beautiful purple berries are borne in clusters along stems in fall and early winter.
- 5. Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*).** Shiny, dark green foliage, turning to yellow in fall. White flowers in May are followed by small fruits starting red, turning to black; much loved by birds. Used in jams and jellies. Unlike the smooth bark of the sour cherry and other ornamental species, the bark of this tree is scaly when mature.
- 6. Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).** Bright green, starlike leaves smell like turpentine when crushed. Fall color ranges from dull red to rich burgundy. Round, bristly fruit is useful in crafts and as tinder. Lumber used in furniture, toys, and boats. Hardened clumps of sap are chewed by some people. Birds (including wild turkeys), chipmunks, and squirrels eat the seeds.
- 7. Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*).** Dark, thick bark typically broken into small, squarish blocks. Egg-shaped, smooth leaves; yellowish flowers in May–June. Bright orange, astringent fruits are best eaten after a frost. Nearly all woodland inhabitants eat persimmons.

- 8. American holly (*Ilex opaca*).** Prickly, glossy green leaves, bright red fruits. Also known as the Christmas holly. Fruits are loved by numerous songbirds, particularly finches.
- 9. Bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*).** Small multistemmed tree or evergreen shrub with small, medium green, aromatic foliage. Blue-gray berries in clusters along the stems are used in candles and soap. Fruits are eaten by many species of birds.
- 10. Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*).** Impressive tree growing in low areas is easily identified by its exfoliating bark. The wood is used for furniture, cabinets, and barrels. Native Americans used this tree for their dugouts, including one reported to be 65 feet long and to have weighed 900 pounds. Cavities often shelter wood ducks, raccoons, and opossums.
- 11. Pinxter-flower azalea (*Rhododendron nudiflorum*).** A deciduous azalea found throughout the Tidewater in dry or moist woods or swamps. Flowers bloom in June and July and may be reddish or white to purple.
- 12. Raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*).** Bristly canes are similar to wild roses or blackberry. Leaves medium green, white underside. Bright red fruits are of little value to humans but are loved by wildlife.
- 13. American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).** Tall tree with smooth gray bark. Egg-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves turn dull yellow in fall. Triangular-shaped seeds, eaten by many species of birds, are held in a bristly outer case.
- 14. Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*).** Sticky pear-shaped fruits drop in October–November. Leaves in groups of 7–17. Colonists used the half-ripe fruits to prepare yellow-brown stain. A dark brown stain obtained from the husks and inner bark was used to dye uniforms. In spring, the sap was boiled down to make syrup. Crushed fruits were used as a poison to aid in the harvest of fish; the bark is still used in pharmaceuticals.

**15. American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*).** Small tree with distinctive muscular-appearing dark gray bark. Flower in April. Charcoal made from this tree was formerly used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

**16. Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*).** Bottomland tree. Leaves have four to six pairs of large rounded teeth. Unlike other oak species, acorns have long stalks. Dull yellow fall color.

**17. American elm (*Ulmus americana*).** Very large tree, once common but becoming increasingly rare owing to disease. Dark green leaves are slightly egg-shaped and lightly toothed on the edges. Bright yellow fall color. Seeds eaten by most mammals and birds.

**18. White oak (*Quercus alba*).** Deeply lobed leaves; fall color varies from russet to rich wine red. Majestic, long-lived tree valuable to the lumber industry.

**19. Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*).** Leaf vein usually reddish, undersides of leaves are whitish. Bark has light vertical stripes giving the appearance of having been ironed. Wood is more porous than that of other oak species.

**20. Umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*).** Large, glossy green leaves radiate from the ends of the branches. Usually found in low-lying areas. Unpleasantly scented flowers bloom from late May to early June.

**21. Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*).** Twigs sticky and hairy when young, later becoming smooth. Beautiful clusters of white-to-deep-pink flowers in early June. The wood is used to make briar tobacco pipes and in other crafts. The leaves are eaten in small amounts by deer, but they are poisonous in large quantities.

**22. Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).** One of the first deciduous trees to germinate in a pine forest. This long-lived tree is often the largest in the forest. Distinctive tulip-shaped yellow-to-orange flowers in May. Golden yellow foliage in fall.

**23. Stewartia (*Stewartia ovata*).** Small tree rarely found in this area. White camellia-like flowers bloom in late June. The bark is grayish and resembles sycamore or crape myrtle.

**24. Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*).** Dark green summer foliage, fragrant white flowers resembling lily of the valley in June or July. Brilliant scarlet fall foliage. Branches often drooping. Wood is occasionally used in paneling, tool handles, and crafts. Sourwood honey is highly prized.

**25. Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*).** Heart-shaped leaves seem to dance in the summer breeze. Pink clusters of flowers appear before the leaves in May, followed by seedpods that sometimes persist until late winter. Yellow fall color.





# BASSETT TRACE NATURE TRAIL MAP

WORKED UP AN APPETITE AFTER YOUR WALK? COME SATISFY YOUR HUNGER AT THE GREEN COURSE CLUBHOUSE GRILL.