

# Plant ID : Florence Sylvia Woodland Trail

Directions & Trail Info: Located in North Falmouth off Millstone Street, the Florence Sylvia Woodland is a 9.3 acre parcel recently acquired by The 300 Committee in Spring 2020. From MA28A exit on Curley Blvd, from there turn down Millstone St. There is a small parking area at the trailhead located at 9 Millstone Street, be sure to look for the T3C sign at the parking area.

Plant ID Walk Info: Once you've parked you'll head up the trail where each species included in the ID walk will be marked with an orange pin flag. Each pin flag is labelled with a common name and a number corresponding to the information provided on this sheet. The walk is an out-and-back route of the trail, a map of pin flag locations will be provided.

(Identifiable characteristics paraphrased from Kershner, B., & Tufts, C. (2008). *National Wildlife Federation field guide to trees of North America*. New York: Sterling Pub.)



---

## Stop #1

Common Name: Red Maple

Scientific Name: *Acer rubrum*

Identifiable Characteristics: Medium-sized tree, very common and widespread across Eastern and Central North America. Many of its features, especially its leaves, are quite variable in form. At maturity it often attains a height of around 50-85 ft. Its flowers, petioles, twigs and seeds are all red to varying degrees. Among these features, however, it is best known for its brilliant deep scarlet foliage in autumn. Leaves are 2 ½-5" long, usually longer than they are wide, with 3 or 5 shallowly divided pointed lobes (most often only 3 are apparent, with the remaining two appearing barely more pronounced than teeth). The leaves have coarsely toothed margins, are dull green above, whitish and slightly hairy beneath.



---

## Stop #2

Common Name: Highbush Blueberry

Scientific Name: *Vaccinium corymbosum*

Identifiable Characteristics: Deciduous, perennial shrubs, that can reach heights of 8-15" (though you typically won't find them at such heights). Glossy leaves that are green or bluish green from spring through summer. In fall, the leaves turn red or take on some reddish hints. Leaves are alternate, simple, narrow to broadly elliptic or ovate, 3.8-8.2 cm long, pubescent at least on the veins beneath, slightly waxy above, the edges smooth and ciliate to toothed. Flowers 8-10 in a cluster, 6-12 mm long, urn-shaped, white, with 5 petals. Fruits berries are 5-12 mm wide, blue to blue-black, many-seeded, and glaucous (chalky looking).





---

## Stop #3

Common Name: Eastern White Pine

Scientific Name: *Pinus strobus*

Identifiable Characteristics: Large evergreen tree with broad crown of distinct tiers of few, widely spaced branches. Develops towering, massive trunk, buttressed at the base; old trees can have a small, high crown. Tip: this is the only 5-needle pine native to the East, and it has a distinctive long narrow cone. Needles are 2 ½-5" long, 5 to a bundle; soft, fine, and flexible; they are blue-green above and whitish beneath. Cones are 4-8" long brown, often whitened at the end by resin, scales are thin and lack prickles.



---

## Stop #4

Common Name: White Oak (aka Eastern White Oak)

Scientific Name: *Quercus alba*

Identifiable Characteristics: Medium-sized tree with deciduous, simple leaves. Easily distinguished by its loose, shaggy, scaly, gray to whitish bark. Leaves are 5-9" long, widest at the middle, with 7 or 9 rounded lobes that are deeply divided almost to the midvein. Leaves are dull to somewhat shiny, bright green above; pale green or whitish beneath. Autumn color light pink, deep red, violet purple. Acorns are  $\frac{3}{4}$  -1" long.



---

## Stop #5

Common Name: Red Oak (aka Northern Red Oak)

Scientific Name: *Quercus rubra*

Identifiable Characteristics: Medium-sized to large tree with deciduous, simple leaves. Bark is smooth, light gray, with furrows running the length of the trunk, between dark gray-brown, rough ridges (Black Oaks lack long furrows). Older trees have very rough, black bark with long plates and deep fissures. The leaf is 4-9" long, symmetrical, with 7-11 lobes the depth of the lobe at the middle of the leaf is consistently less than halfway to the midvein, and each lobe ends in bristle-tipped teeth. Leaves are dull dark green above and dull light green beneath with tuft of hair in vein angles. Autumn color deep red, orange, brown. Terminal bud mostly hairless. Acorns are  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long.





---

## Stop #6

Common Name: American Wintergreen

Scientific Name: *Gaultheria procumbens*

Identifiable Characteristics: Wintergreen is a shrub or sub-shrub, a low plant, growing from slender, creeping underground stems that form small colonies of plants. Leaves are usually clustered towards the tips of the branches, have a strong minty fragrance, are simple, arranged alternately, are oval to elliptical, 1-2" long, with a short stalk. The upper surface is medium to dark green and very shiny, dull light green beneath, very fine teeth widely spaced around the edges, with a spine-like hair at the tip of each tooth. The leaf blade has one main vein running from the base towards the tip. As the plant's common name implies, Wintergreen leaves are evergreen, persisting through winter. They sometimes turn reddish or burgundy as the weather turns colder. Fruits, when present, are bright red and edible with a slight mint taste.



---

## Stop #7

Common Name: Wild Sarsaparilla

Scientific Name: *Aralia nudicaulis* L.

Identifiable Characteristics: Wildflower that produces globe-shaped clusters of greenish-white flowers in spring, and reaches a height of 8-20". Leaves are finely toothed, pinnately compound, the leaf is twice divided; it is divided into three parts and further divided into five leaflets, leaflets each 2-5" long and narrowly oval with a pointed tip, edges are finely toothed. Leaflets are bronze in spring, green in summer, and yellow or red in the fall. In spring, the plant produces three white flower clusters (spherical umbels) on a leafless stalk arising directly from the base of the plant. The leaf stem and flowering stem are hairless and arise from an aromatic root system consisting of fibrous secondary roots and a long horizontal rhizome that run about two inches below the soil. Fruits are dark blue-purple berries.





---

## Stop #8

Common Name: Sassafras

Scientific Name: *Sassafras albidum*

Identifiable Characteristics: Small to medium-sized shrubby tree with deciduous simple leaves. On larger trees the bark is deeply furrowed. Leaves are 3-6" long and 2-4" wide bright green with untoothed margins. They have 3 distinct leaf shapes that can all be found on the same plant- unlobed, mitten-shaped (2 lobes), or trident-shaped (3 lobes)- and are fragrant when crushed.



---

## Stop #9

Common Name: Poison Ivy

Scientific Name: *Toxicodendron radicans*

Identifiable Characteristics: Vines with compound leaves. Each leaf is composed of three 2-5" long leaflets. In each set of leaflets, the middle leaflet has a longer stem than the two side leaflets. The leaves of poison ivy may be shiny or dull and the leaf margins may be toothed or wavy, or have no teeth at all. The leaves may be hairy, or have no hairs at all. Its appearance can vary greatly, but in all cases it has compound leaves that consist of three leaflets. The leaflets are green during the growing season and turning scarlet red in fall. The leaves are arranged in an alternate pattern on the stem. As a rule of thumb for avoiding poison ivy, "leaves of three, let it be". Some people are highly allergic to Urushiol (the oily organic compound in poison ivy) often resulting in painful dermatitis, and some have no reaction at all. It is best however to avoid contact with this plant.



---

## Stop #10

Common Name: Pitch Pine

Scientific Name: *Pinus rigida*

Identifiable Characteristics: Small to medium-sized evergreen tree; ragged and dwarfed in pine barrens and harsh sites on cliffs and high ridges. Needles are 3-5" long, 3 to a bundle, twisted, stiff but not prickly, and yellow green. Twigs grayish-green when new, becoming orange-brown; older branches brown, flaky, and resinous. Cones are 1 ½-3" long, light brown, broadly ovoid to rounded when open, in clusters of 2 or 3. Cone scales are thick, tipped with a curved ⅛" prickly that is soon shed.





---

## Stop #11

Common Name: Summersweet (aka Sweet Pepper Bush)

Scientific Name: *Clethra alnifolia*

Identifiable Characteristics: A rounded, suckering, densely-branched, deciduous shrub that typically grows to 3-6' (less frequently to 8') tall and is noted for producing a mid to late summer bloom of sweetly fragrant white flowers which appear in narrow, upright panicles (racemes to 2-6" long). Flowers give way to dark brown seed capsules (1/8" diameter) which may persist into winter. Mature stems have scaly, dark gray to brown black bark. Serrate, obovate to oblong, glossy dark green leaves (to 3-4" long) turn variable but generally attractive shades of yellow to golden brown in fall. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies and bees.



---

## Stop #12

Common Name: Princess Pine (aka Rare Clubmoss)

Scientific Name: *Dendrolycopodium obscurum*

Identifiable Characteristics: While it's known for the superficial resemblance of its sporophyte to various conifers, its above-ground parts are rarely more than 6" tall. Its main stem is actually a subterranean, creeping rhizome, which grows about 2.4" below ground. Several aerial shoots branch off of the rhizome, which also branch dichotomously several times, giving *L. obscurum* its distinctive appearance. Fertile shoots possess sessile strobili, borne at the tops of their main axes and sometimes at the tips of dominant lateral branches. The leaves are microphylls, each containing only a single vein and measuring less than 0.4" long.





