

Creation Care Meditation Tree Guide



Station 1 – Tulip Tree Located directly behind the sign for the path in the Memorial Grove, the tree is named for its tulip-like Spring flowers. Also, the shape of the leaf, tulip-like in profile.



Station 2 -Yellow Poplar Nearing Matthew's Maze on the left, locate another tulip tree, also called Yellow Poplar in the timber trade.



Station 3 – Japanese Tree Lilac, (near the pavilion), this is not native. The spring flowers are like the common garden lilac



Station 4 – has many interesting species. Note the huge **double-trucked red mulberries** growing in our neighbor's yard, providing shade here. This horticultural variety has simple leaves; most mulberry leaves are mitten shaped.



The **hackberry** is an important tree for feeding caterpillars of both moths and butterflies.



Around the corner to the right of the path is one of our most colorful native trees, the **Red Maple**.



Station 5 – Red Bud Opposite and uphill are two young Red Bud trees. Beautiful native small trees with heart-shaped leaves and flowering right on the stems, trunks and limbs of the tree. These have flower buds waiting for spring.



Station 6 – located on your right, the famed **Sugar Maple**, source of maple sugar. It has a distinctive leaf.



Station 7 – across the entrance drive and follow the mowed grass path (no gravel on this side), there is a compass arrow pointing north. Behind it is a row of evergreen **White Pine**. Stop and examine the needles, in bundles of five, different from other pines.



Follow the pines down and around to a stone bench and two new trees. The **River Birch** has a distinctive shaggy bark. All the leaves before now have been simple leaves that grow from a stem and expand into a blade. Hickories have a compound leaf--the blade is subdivided into several leaflets.



Behind the bench, **Paw Paw**.



Station 8 – The native **Gray Birch** with its distinctive black marks, “chevrons” around each branch.



A few more steps and to the right of the path, an important native oak, the **Northern Red Oak**.



And another on the right is the **Shagbark Hickory**, too young yet to be shaggy.



As you approach and cross the dam, there are several **Sycamores** (no photo). These will also grow to be very big trees. Their leaves are bat-shaped.

Station 9 – Here you'll see another River Birch and opposite it a **Bald Cypress**, so called because it loses its needles in winter. It is cone-bearing, like a pine.



Continue uphill. On both sides of the path (where it becomes gravel again) stand evergreen **Southern Magnolia**.



Station 10 – a few steps downhill you'll find two redbud trees and a **Flowering Dogwood**, Virginia's state flower.



Station 11 – at the bottom of the hill is a native perennial flower bed containing a native, **Sweet Gum**, colorful in fall with star-shaped leaves.



Follow the path uphill toward the Memorial Grove, and on the right a small tree protected from deer by a wire cage. It is a memorial planting of an **American Chestnut**.



Station 12 has no trees, as the area is full of limestone rock and shale.



Continue to the path entrance. We hope you will come again.

