

Woodend Plant Life through the Seasons

Introduction

Scope & Purpose

- The objective of this reference is to help staff and visitors identify some of the trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that adorn the lovely grounds of the Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend Nature Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, Maryland.
- It is certainly not a complete flora or inventory, but is a continuing project in that direction. Plant subjects include both planted and naturalized specimens, both native and introduced species, with invasives so indicated. (Plants in the Blair Native Plant Garden are not included because they are clearly labeled and documented elsewhere.)
- This guide is visually based. Photos are intended to illustrate the overall form of the plant in its particular location, as well as some of its distinctive features.

Organization

- The four notebooks are divided up by season, to gather together images that reflect what one might see on a ramble at a particular time of year. But remember that there is variation year to year in plant life cycles, as illustrated by the dates each photo was captured. There is a master index (all plants photographed so far, and in which seasons) in the appendix.
- The pages are sequenced alphabetically by each plant's primary common name. The Table of Contents at the beginning of each volume lists them in this order. (Apologies to botanists for this unscholarly approach.)
- The primary common names used here are those most typical in current local usage (see references in the appendix), with some alternatives noted. Scientific names are current as of summer 2011 per the United States Department of Agriculture database (<http://plants.usda.gov>), with some former and alternate classifications noted.
- Location information on photo page headings refers only to the particular plant specimen(s) whose photos appear on that page. Often you will find more examples of that species in other spots throughout the grounds.
- For finding particular plant locations, the map in the appendix may be helpful. Cardinal directions are relative to the house (e.g., "northeast lawn" is diagonally out from the northeast corner of the house; "lower east lawn" is down the hill toward the main entrance).
- The plant descriptions are intended to be very brief and very basic – focusing on family, natural distribution, habitat, whether native or cultivated, whether woody or herbaceous, size and/or growth habit, wildlife value, and any significance at Woodend. For more information, please see the references in the appendix.