

**1 Winged Sumac or Shiny Sumac (*Rhus copallina*)**

Deciduous in our area, fern-like foliage, flowers in the summer, red foliage in the fall. Grows from 3 to 25 feet, depending on conditions.



★ **Note the stand of Pinebarren Goldenrod (*Solidago fistulosa*)**

Herbaceous perennial, 2 to 6 feet tall. Appears each spring and grows vigorously through summer. Most easily identified in the fall when they are topped with plume-like clusters of golden yellow flowers that arch over. Often unfairly blamed for causing hay fever; the pollen probably causing these allergies is mainly produced by wind-pollinated ragweed (*Ambrosia spp.*), which blooms at the same time.



*Not marked with a posted number since this is a seasonal plant.*

**2 Salt Bush or Groundsel Tree or Sea Myrtle (*Baccharis halimifolia*)**

Evergreen shrub or small tree, white cottony fruit carries seed in the fall, very showy, attracts butterflies, 5 to 20 feet tall, 5 to 12 foot spread.



**3 Wild Azalea (*Rhododendron sp.*)**

Deciduous shrub that reaches 10 to 15 feet. Slowly forms clumps by sending up suckers from underground runners. Leaves are alternate, simple, 1" to 4" in length. Leaves are dull green above with wooly hairs below. Elliptic and pointed leaves are covered in white hairs and grow in whorls at the branch tips. Fragrant tubular flowers open in early to mid-spring.



**4 Sweet-Bay or Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)**

Slender tree with alternate, simple leaves and a smooth grey trunk. Leaves are silvery underneath. Commonly 40 to 60 feet tall, but can reach 75 feet. Large fragrant blossoms in the spring, small fruits turn bright red in fall.



**5 Titi or Leatherwood or Summer Titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*)**

Semi-evergreen shrub or tree. Bears numerous, long, showy subterminal racemes, has alternate, obovate leaves. Blooms later than *Cliftonia monophylla* (Black Titi).



**6 Possum Haw or Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*)**

Small, deciduous tree or 8 to 10 foot shrub with pale gray twiggy horizontal branches. Leaves are glossy, oval, toothed, alternate, 2" to 3" in length. Leaves remain dark green through autumn and finally turn yellow. Small white flowers appear March to May followed by small berries that become orange-red when ripe in early fall. Fruit persists through winter; after exposure to freezing then thawing, becomes attractive to many birds and mammals. Listed as threatened by Florida Fish and Game Commission in 1994.



**7 Muscadine or Wild Grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*)**

Deciduous, vigorous vine with simple, unbranched tendrils can grow 30 to 50 feet or longer, covering large areas or climbing to tree tops. Blooms in spring. Produces 8 to 30 clusters of shiny black grapes, which are edible but acidic.



Follow the trail past the barn, and turn right onto Community Way. Continue walking to the intersection at Greenway Trail where there are two notable native trees. *On the left:*

**26 Yellow Poplar or Tulip Tree or Tulip-Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)**

One of the largest trees of the eastern forest, ordinarily 70 to 100 feet, but can reach 100 to 200 feet, topped by a broad, spreading, oblong crown. Leaves are large, simple, alternate, deciduous, and shaped like a tulip. Leaves are 4" to 6" long and 2" to 3" wide; dark, lustrous green above and paler below. Large showy flowers are cup-shaped with yellow to light green petals and bright orange rounded bases in spring. Flowers are followed by brown, scaly cone-shaped fruit. Attractive foliage in the fall. Bark is dark green on young stems, becoming gray with small white patches; later, brown and furrowed.



*Turn right onto Greenway Trail and from the bridge, note the*

**27 Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)**

Deciduous tree with alternate, lanceolate leaves that have a sour taste. Noted for showy urn-shaped flowers borne in compact flat sprays in spring, early summer and dramatic red leaf color in fall.



*Continue back to the College, south along Greenway Trail, passing the oyster curing area, the compost/mulch/recycle area and the native wildflower meadow. On the east side of Building A, the Native Plant Demonstration Garden is under construction.*

**Credits:** Thanks to Julie Terrell, Director, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) & South Walton Center, NWFSC; Sarah Schindele, Grant Coordinator, CBA; William "Buddy" Arrant, Facilities Maintenance Specialist, NWFSC; Sheila Dunning, Okaloosa County Extension Agent, University of Florida; Tara Sikes, NW Florida State College Graphics Department; Mike Goodchild, Director, Walton County Cooperative Extension; Eddie Powell, Horticulture Agent, Walton County Cooperative Extension; Brooke Saari, Marine Science Agent, Walton County Cooperative Extension; and Walton County Master Gardeners.

**Photos courtesy of:** Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants, Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa ([www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu)); Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida ([plants.ifas.ufl.edu](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu)); and Emily Ellis, Walton County Master Naturalist.

# Self-Guided Tour of Native Plant Trail

at the

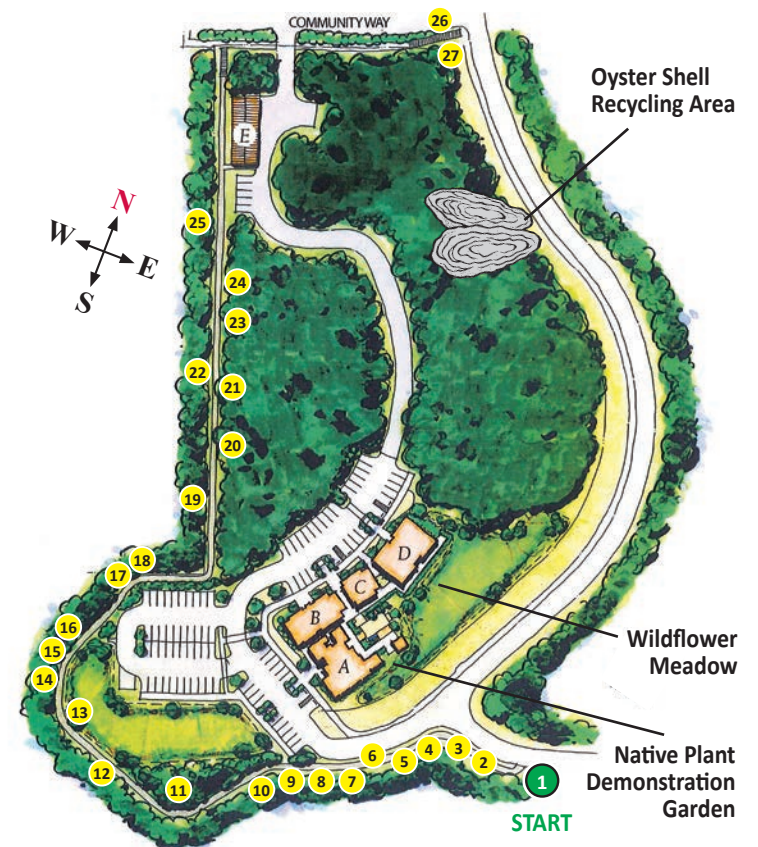


## NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE South Walton Center

Welcome to the Native Plant Trail, marked in 2011 through the cooperative efforts of the Walton County Master Gardeners, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, and Northwest Florida State College. This trail guide was developed to familiarize residents, visitors and students with some of the most common native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that thrive in this small ecosystem in South Walton County.

Visit the trail throughout the year to enjoy the seasonal changes in native plants. Please stay on the trail to avoid degrading habitat.

As you follow the trail from the east, proceeding west, and looping around to the north, you will see multiple specimens of many of the plants listed.



Start-up funding for the project is from the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, Walton County Master Gardeners and Northwest Florida State College. As work progresses, business and individual contributions of dollars, garden supplies, plants and labor will be welcome.

Checks may be made out to the **NWFSC Foundation** (501.C.3) and **earmarked for the "South Walton Center Demonstration Garden & Trail (SWCDG&T)."**

They may be mailed to or dropped off at: **NWFSC, 109 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459.** Or donations can be made online by going to **[www.nwfscfoundation.org](http://www.nwfscfoundation.org)** and clicking on the donations button – be sure to specify **SWCDG&T!**

For native plants found in Walton County visit **[www.fnps.org/pages/plants/plants\\_by\\_county.hp?county=WALTON](http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/plants_by_county.hp?county=WALTON)**

For additional information on plants in Florida visit **[edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu).**

**SOUTH WALTON CENTER**

109 GREENWAY TRAIL (OFF HWY. 331 SOUTH) • SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL 32459  
(850) 267-2888 • FAX (850) 267-8315



**8 Fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*)**

Evergreen, large shrub or small tree, 3 to 19 feet tall, 2 to 5 foot spread, arching branches. In spring, white to pinkish urn-shaped flowers similar to blueberry; shiny, green, oval leaves with thickened margins.



**9 Black Titi (*pronounced tie-tie*) or Spring Titi or Buckwheat Tree (*Cliftonia monophylla*)**

Large shrub or small tree with elliptic, evergreen leaves. Showy white fragrant flowers in the spring, 10 to 30 feet tall, 6 to 15 foot spread. Produces buckwheat- like fruit. Blooms earlier than *Cyrilla racemiflora* (Summer Titi).



**10 Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)**

Medium to large deciduous tree, very showy red flowers late winter to early spring, 30 to 70 feet tall, 20 to 40 foot spread, foliage can be red to yellowish in late fall.



**11 Titi or Leatherwood or Summer Titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*)**

Also marked as #5 on the Trail Guide. Summer titi is one of many plants which is capable of growing in a variety of conditions. Notice how the difference in moisture and light conditions has affected these two specimens of titi (#5 & #11).

**12 Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)**

Low, evergreen, fan shaped, shrub-like palm with “saw” teeth along the leaf stalk, generally 3 to 6 feet tall. March to July has large clusters of spikes of non-showy flowers; October-February has fleshy golden-green drupes, ripening to black.



**13 Note the pond area**  
which will be developed in the future.

**14 Seasonal Wetland plants**

Area currently under development with planned additions of pitcher plants (*Sarracenia spp.*), iris (*Iris spp.*), and others.

**15 Shiny Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*)**

Evergreen much-branched shrub, 6” to 40” tall with small, alternate glossy green leaves. Pinkish-white urn-shaped flowers in spring borne in clusters of 2 to 8, small edible blueberries in late spring.



**16 Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)**

Erect to leaning deciduous tree. Attractive to butterflies, 25 to 60 feet tall and 20 to 40 foot spread. Occurs in moist to wet areas. Alternate, lance -shaped, finely toothed leaves.



**17 St. Andrew’s Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*)**

Low evergreen shrub from 1 to 3 feet. Leaves are opposite, narrow, widest toward the middle. Yellow flowers have 4 petals instead of 5 as in other *Hypericum* species. Blooms spring through fall. Bark is exfoliating and reddish. The *Hypericum perforatum* species is often used as an herbal treatment for depression and other ailments.



**18 Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)**

Evergreen shrub or small tree typically forms multiple stems or dense shrubby clumps, can become 20 to 25 feet tall. Leaves are small, simple, leathery dark green; alternate, oval shaped, with saw-teeth on edges. Tiny white flowers on the leaf axils in spring. Female has small red berries in fall and winter. Female and Male specimens present along the trail.



**19 Gallberry (*Ilex glabra*)**

Medium size evergreen shrub with an upright habit and multiple trunks. Reaches a mature height of 4 to 8 feet. Leaves are alternate, narrowly oval, shiny and dark green on top, and duller on the underside. Tiny creamy white flowers are inconspicuous in spring followed by green berries that turn black as they ripen. Foliage can have a plum cast in fall.



**20 Rusty Lyonia or Rusty Staggerbush (*Lyonia ferruginea*)**

Large evergreen shrub or small tree with arching branches. In spring, white to pinkish urn shaped flowers similar to blueberry, rusty color on new leaves.



**21 Wild Olive or Devilwood (*Osmanthus americanus*)**

Evergreen tree or large shrub with opposite glossy leaves, small white flowers in mid-spring, blue fruit attractive to birds. Bark is smooth with warty lenticels. “Devilwood” refers to the toughness of the wood. Grows in dry to moist habitats along dunes and in maritime forest.



**22 Greenbriar or Catbriar (*Smilax spp.*)**

Deciduous vine with simple, alternate leaves variably shaped depending on species. Tendril-bearing with aggressive tendencies.



**23 Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotii* var. *elliottii*)**

Medium to large evergreen conifer that reaches 80 to 115 feet tall. Crown is characterized by a round top and “brooms” of needles at the ends of the branches. The needles, 5” to 11” long, are borne in sheathed fascicles of 2 or three, spirally arranged. Dark brown woody cones, 5” to 8” long.



**24 Long-leaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*)**

Medium to large evergreen conifer that reaches 80 to 100 feet tall. Crown is characterized by basketball-shaped tufts of needles at the ends of stout twigs. Tall straight trunk; seedlings resemble tall clumps of fine grass. Needles, 8” to 18” long, are borne in sheathed fascicles of 3. Dull gray brown cones are 6” to 10” long.



**25 Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)**

Evergreen tree with attractive rounded form. Grayish-green, simple narrow leaves which are aromatic when crushed. The tree sends up multiple trunks that can grow 20 to 30 feet and will eventually form suckers. Female has small gray berries in summer.



★ Depending on the season, a variety of wildflowers can be seen in addition to plants marked as part of the trail, including:

- (Savannah) Meadow Beauty — (*Rhexia alifanus*)  
Blooms spring through summer
- Dense Blazing Star — (*Liatris spicata*)  
Flowers from summer to fall
- Flat-topped Goldenrod — (*Euthamia minor*) (not pictured)  
Flowers summer/fall
- Slender Flat-topped Goldenrod — (*Euthamia caroliniana*)  
Flowers summer/fall
- Bush Goldenrod or Woody Goldenrod — (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*)  
Flowers summer/fall



Continued on the back page.



At the end of the trail, you will see CBA’s Oyster Shell Recycling Program in action. Pick up a brochure here which describes the program and the work of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA).