

## Guide for Sam Ristich Nature Trail

**Station 1.** Pipsissawa, blueberry, creeping juniper, young hickory, young wild blackcherry, spruce, beech (white galls on beech leaves), red maple, red oak, hemlock, white pine, cow wheat (parasitic plant), community moss (Polytrichum), wild sarsparilla. Big green dragonfly (Sept).

**Station 2.** Groundpine (*Lycopodium obscurum*), pipsissawa, blueberry, beech, white pine, hemlock, dead pine, bracken fern, burl (big tumor), white pine. Viceroy butterfly (Sept).

**Station 3.** Dead red oak, giant white pine, lichens on dead trees, bracken fern, spotted wood nymph butterfly (July), big black ichneumonid wasp (July), witch's broom on high bush blueberry.

**Station 4.** Big beech with script lichen (*Graphis scripta*), other lichens, triple red oak, bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*), erineum galls on beech leaves, wintergreen (*Gaultheria*), young witchhazel, star flower, cow wheat, hemlock, spider webs, velvet foot fungus on hemlock stump.

**Station 5.** Beech, pine borer holes and frass (good nesting habitat for brown creeper), sphagnum moss, giant red oaks, moosewood (striped maple), star flower, community moss. Dead beech w/pileated woodpecker holes.

**Station 6.** Giant red oak, wintergreen, fungus on beech, dead hemlock with pileated woodpecker holes.

**Station 7.** Dead oak with leather fungus (*Stereum*), small spruce, burl on beech, blueberries, flicker nest hole in dead oak, lichens, moss, purple polypore, turkeytail polypore, two spot beetle.

**Station 8.** Wintergreen, beech drops (parasitic plant on roots of beech), shiny club moss. On dead birch east of the trail were the following fungi: red rim polypore (*Fomes pinicola*), horse's hoof polypore (*Fomes fomentarius*), purple tooth polypore (*Trichaptum bifforme*), black needle fungus—parasite on cap of purple tooth polypore, birch polypore (*Polyporus betulinus*), stiptic fungus (*Panellus stipticus*), broad gill fungus (*Collybia platyphylla*), horned jelly fungus (*Calocera cornea*), slime molds—yellow hairy net (*Arcyria nutans*), pale chocolate tub (*Comatricha* sp.), rare tiny black nail fungus (*Phleogenia* sp.), red oak acorn, oak bark with red algae in furrows (*Trentepohlia* sp.).

**Station 9.** Shiny club moss, spruce (10 feet off trail), with spiny spruce gall on twigs, wintergreen, hugging beech oak with red algae in furrows, fungi on dead wood, bleeding mycena (*Mycena haematopus*), big ants, star flower.

**Station 10.** Large dead hemlock on ground with many species of moss: curled moss (*Dicranum* sp.), island moss (*Ulota* sp.), fern moss (*Hypnum* sp.), community moss (*Polytrichum* sp.). Six species of lichen: nail lichen (*Cladonia coniocraea*), British soldier (*Cladonia cristatella*), golf tee lichen (*Cladonia pyxidata*), yellow green foliose lichen

(*Parmelia caperata*). Grey wood frog, rare small blue gilled fungi, also condominiums for insects, salamanders, millipedes, spiders.

**Station 11.** Lichens on bark, brown sheet polypore (*Poria* sp.), dead hemlock giant oak with red algae in grooves, boulder covered by two mosses (*Dicranum* sp., *Catharina* sp.). Oak branches with leather fungus (*Stereum* sp.), brown tooth fungus (*Hydnochaete* sp.), spider webs.

**Station 12.** Live hemlock w/pileated woodpecker holes, hophornbeam trees (east of trail before station marker), mosses (*Dicranum* sp.), pincushion (*Leucobryum glaucum*), wavy *Catherinea*. Red oak with red algae in grooves, big 4:1 oak, lichens on bark--*Cladonia sulcata*, *Parmelia caperata*, small black dot lichen. Liverwort *Frullania* sp.

**Station 13.** Dead hemlock west of station w/pileated holes, giant hemlock, gradruple oak, 14-15 Lady Slipper's leaves, pincushion moss, thin leaf sedge, rare tiny lavender fungus, varnished polypore fungus, *Hepatica* plants, slime mold *Ceratiomyxa* sp. (Oct). 25' east—down hemlock w/varnished polypore *Ganoderma tsugae*, false chanterelle *Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*. Hemlock with turkeytail polypore growing after broken.

**Station 14.** Wind flower, *Hepatica*, oat grass, hophornbeam with polypore

bracket, young shagbark hickory, leaves lady slipper.

**Station 15.** Twin hickory, *Ostrya* (hophornbeam), young hickory, white ash, hemlock with pileated woodpecker holes.

**Station 16.** Wind flower, giant twin red oak, giant hickory, fungi on hemlock, styptic *Panus*, conifer jelly southwest of trail. Ash (branches into two).

**Addendum.** Edge of ballfield—west—Staghorn sumac grove has female (pistillate) bushes that produce fruit and male (staminate) bushes that do not produce fruit. Why? Note the milky sap when you cut twigs. Some people may get a rash from the hairs.

You can also find the pouch gall on the leaves. Resembles a small white fuzzy ping-pong ball. Formed by aphids that use the pouch as a condominium. Aphids fly to moss for the winter.

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Version 5: May 9, 2011  
Changeable list of items at or near each station from 2002-2011. For more information about Dr. Sam Ristich see <http://www.samristich.com>

How many can you find within 50 feet of the station?