

## Hickory Hollow Nature Trail

Numbered Features along the Trail

1. **Scarlet Oak** (*Quercus coccinea*) 4' ahead and to the left. This scarlet oak was blown down by Hurricane Isabel in 2003. Notice how the bacteria, insects and fungi are breaking down the wood for recycling the nutrients.
2. **Virginia Pine** (*Pinus virginiana*) 3' to the left. Hardy pine used for pulpwood. Two short needles in each cluster.
3. **Old Sawmill Site** About 100' from trail is a sawdust pile left from lumbering operation here in the early 1960s.
4. **Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) 3' ahead. Red flowers in February. Also known as Swamp Maple, as it tolerates wet soils.
5. **American Hornbeam** (*Carpinus caroliniana*) 2' ahead. Short trunk fluted like muscles. Sometimes called ironwood because of the toughness of its wood.
6. **Ground Cedar** (*Lycopodium obscurum*) The cedar-like green plant covering the ground is in the club-moss family.
7. **Southern Red Oak** (*Quercus falcata*) 5' to the right. Sometimes called Spanish Oak. Tapering wedge-shaped leaved. Acorns small in shallow scaly cups.
8. **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus Florida*) 2' ahead and to the left. Familiar white 4 petals in spring. Produces red fruit for wildlife in the fall.
9. **Loblolly Pine** (*Pinus taeda*) Principal commercial southern pine.
10. **Tulip Poplar** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) 4' to the left. One of the tallest and most beautiful eastern hardwoods. Squarish leaves distinctive. Greenish yellow flowers high in trees resemble tulips.
11. **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*) Best known oak, it has leaves with rounded lobes. Its large, pointed acorns were eaten by Native Americans

12. **Black Oak** (*Quercus velutina*) Common tree with dark bark and spiny leaves. Its bark was formerly a source of tannin, medicine, and a yellow dye for cloth.

13. **Persimmon** (*Diospyros virginiana*) 5' ahead and to the left. Notice the deeply blocked bark. Produces a small, round orange fruit that hangs on the tree after frost. Name comes from Algonquin word, pasimenan, which means "dried fruit" for the way the Native Americans used this native sweet.

14. **Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) Large tree with dark bark. Large rounded acorns in shallow cups. Used in flooring, furniture, railroad cross-ties, and fence-posts.

15. **Borrow Pit** During timbering operations, dirt was "borrowed" from some locations to fill in low spots in the logging road. Christmas fern, *Adiantum*, adorns the left rim of the pit. Easy to remember, as its leaflets look like little Christmas stockings. It is green year round and used for decorating at Christmas.

16. **Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*) 3' ahead. Sharp, needle-like scales. Produces aromatic wood used for fence-posts, cedar chests, cabinets, and carvings. Red heartwood is resistant to rot and termites.

17. **Mockernut Hickory** (*Carya tomentosa*) A medium to tall tree whose fragrant leaves are matted woolly on the underside.

18. **Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*) 4' ahead. Largest wild cherry, with cracked and scaling bark. Clusters of small white flowers produce tart black fruit that is relished by birds. Black growth on old trees is called blackknot and is caused by a fungus.

19. **Sweet Gum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) 2' ahead. Tall straight tree with corky ridges on the branches. Star shaped leaves look like maple leaves, but are alternate, not opposite. Fruit is a spiky "gum ball." Wood used for cabinets, plywood, pulpwood, and boxes.

20. **Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*) 3' to the right. A shade tree that grows to a larger trunk diameter than any other native hardwood. Bark on mature tree mottled with brown, green, and white.

Not #. **American Chestnut** (*Castanea dentata*) on Ridge Trail, on right, near end. Infrequent on Coastal Plain, this formerly abundant, important forest canopy tree now occurs only as root sprouts due to blight. Efforts to preserve can be observed.

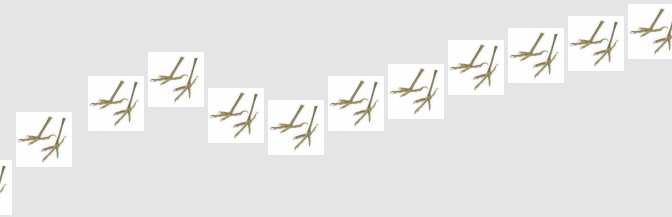
**REMEMBER THAT THESE SITES HAVE Sensitive NATURAL HABITATS THAT NEED TO BE PROTECTED.**

So please:

- Stay on designated paths
- Remove nothing from the area
- Keep pets on a leash and scoop the poop
- Carry in—carry out



Please note that most sites do not provide drinking



**Join the members of Northern Neck Audubon on our monthly bird walks!**

They are a great way to learn about local flora and fauna and to meet fellow nature lovers.

Check our website for more information.

[www.northernneckaudubon.org](http://www.northernneckaudubon.org)

## HICKORY HOLLOW NATURE PRESERVE



**NORTHERN  
NECK  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**



P.O. Box 991  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482



**Hickory Hollow Nature Preserve** is 254 acres of woodland trails, ravines, and swampy marsh-

land situated immediately behind Lancaster High School off the Regina Road. In 1971, county forester Henry Bashore created a system of trails through the preserve, making it accessible to anyone seeking a pleasant hike or picnic.

In 2000, the Northern Neck Audubon Society was able to buy this property and set it aside permanently for the enjoyment of the citizens of and visitors to the Northern Neck. NNAS applied to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation for a matching grant to buy the property from the county, and then launched a fundraising campaign for the matching funds.

There are plants in Hickory Hollow, such as the Lady Slipper pictured here, that exist nowhere



else in the state of Virginia. Why these plants exist here but nowhere else except the Blue Ridge Mountains has yet to be explained, but the question has caught the attention of The College of William and Mary (among others) and has been the subject of several doctoral theses and research papers.



## HICKORY HOLLOW NATURE PRESERVE

<b>White Blazed Loop Trail</b>	<b>1.6 mile</b>	
<b>Blue Ridge Trail</b>	<b>.5 mile</b>	
<b>Henry Bashore Educ. Trail</b>	<b>.3 mile</b>	
<b>Ann Messick Trail</b>	<b>.2 mile</b>	
<b>Red Overlook Trail</b>	<b>.8 mile</b>	
<b>Aqua Short Loop</b>	<b>.4 mile</b>	
<b>Purple Trail</b>	<b>.1 mile</b>	
<b>Great Mill Swamp Trail RT</b>	<b>.6 mile</b>	
<b>Tom Teeples Trail</b>	<b>.5 mile</b>	
<b>Red-Green Trail</b>	<b>.1 mile</b>	

