

Key to Common Trees of Zoar State Forest

This key will help you identify some of the trees on this State Forest. Always start with # 1, and choose the better of the two statements. Follow the directions to other numbers, reading both choices carefully each time. When you get to the name of a tree, stop, and you'll have the name of the tree. Check the book or the photo cards to see if you are right.

- 1) Tree has leaves – go to 2 OR
- 1) Tree has needles – go to 3

- 2) Leaves are opposite each other on the stem – go to 4 OR
- 2) Leaves alternate with each other along the stem – go to 6

- 3) Needles less than ½ inch long, or scale-like – **Eastern redcedar** OR
- 3) Needles longer than ½ inch – go to 5

- 4) Leaves oval, with smooth edges; bark looks like little blocks – **Flowering dogwood** OR
- 4) Leaves lobed, with ragged edges; bark gray, smooth when young, rough later – **Red maple**

- 5) Needles short and twisted, in bundles of 2; cones small – **Virginia pine** OR
- 5) Needles long and straight, in bundles of 3; cones medium-sized – **Loblolly pine**

- 6) Leaves compound (having more than one part) – a **Hickory** species OR
- 6) Leaves simple (having only one part) – go to 7

- 7) Leaves thick, with sharp spines; bark smooth and gray – **American holly** OR
- 7) Leaves not spiny, although they may have pointed tips – go to 8

- 8) Leaves have lobes, either rounded or pointed – go to 9 OR
- 8) Leaves have no lobes, but may have toothed edges – go to 12

- 9) Leaves 5-pointed (star-like); prickly balls may hang on tree – **Sweetgum** OR
- 9) Leaves not star-like; no prickly balls – go to 10

- 10) Leaves have rounded lobes, with no points or bristles; bark shaggy – **White oak** OR
- 10) Leaves have pointed or bristle-tipped lobes - go to 11

- 11) Leaves have 4 to 8 lobes; the two end lobes are even with each other – **Yellow-poplar** OR
- 11) Leaves have tiny bristles at the tips of each lobe– a **Red oak** species

- 12) Leaves with smooth edges – **Black gum** OR
- 12) Leaves with teeth along the edges – go to 13

- 13) Leaves with 1 tooth at the end of each vein; bark smooth and gray -- **American beech** OR
- 13) Leaves with many tiny teeth along the edges; bark rough and dark -- **Black cherry**