

Be a Backyard Naturalist at The Woodlands!

(Still under Construction)

Tree Hunt:

1. Evergreen or Deciduous - Some trees and shrubs lose all of their leaves in the winter. These are Deciduous [dee-SID-you-us]. Others lose some leaves all year but always have some living leaves even in the middle of the winter. These are called Evergreen. *There are also some trees that keep some leaves in the winter, but the leaves are dead, brown and crumbly. So, they are not Evergreen trees.*

- A. Can you find some evergreens?
- B. Can you find some deciduous trees that still have leaves on the branches in the winter?

2. Different kinds of Evergreen trees - Evergreens are either broad-leaf or conifers. Broadleaf evergreens have wide, flat leaves. Conifers have needles or scaly leaves produce cones.

- A. Can you find any broadleaf trees around here? HINT: look for waxy, dark green leaves with sharp points (careful !) and maybe some pretty red berries (but don't eat them...they don't taste good). That is probably the American Holly tree that is popular at Christmas time.



American Holly

Scientific Name: **Ilex opaca**

- B. Most narrow-leaved evergreens are conifers, which means that they have cones. The cones vary a lot. Some cones are big and some are small and some may even look more like a berry. Can you find some cones?
3. Evergreens that are conifers are also found as two main types. Some have thin, round "needles" or thin flat leaves. The needle trees are Pine, Fir or Spruce trees. The thin flat leaves are on Other evergreens have "scaly" leaves, like cedar trees..
 - A. Find the trees with needles and identify what they are by counting the number of needles in each group and by looking at the twigs and the shape of the tree. If there are 2 or more needles in a group, they are from

a Pine tree. If each needle is by itself, it is a Spruce or Fir tree.

1. Pitch Pines have 3 needles in a group and the needles are a little twisted. These trees are sometime crooked and the twigs are brown.



Pitch Pine

Scientific Name: *Pinus rigida*

2. Short Leaf Pine trees (Scientific Name: *Pinus echinata*) have needle groups with 2 or 3 needles on the same tree & the needles are usually a little shorter than Pitch Pine needles. The trees are usually straighter than Pitch Pines and the twigs are whitish. The cones are a bit heavier than Pitch Pine cones.



Branches, needles and cones of Pitch Pine (on the left) and Short Leaf Pine (right).

3. Can you find some trees that have needles
4. Can you find a tall evergreen tree with scaly leaves and tiny cones? It is probably an Atlantic White Cedar tree. The cones on this tree start out looking like bluish-green berries, but turn brown as they get older. *Chamaecyparis thyoides* is the Scientific Name. Can you say that?



A. Atlantic White Cedar leaves, twig and unripe cones.

5. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter. We identify them mostly by the shape of their leaves and what kind of seeds they have.
 - A. Some deciduous tree leaves have lobes, and some don't. Can you find the Weeping Willows around here with long narrow

leaves with no lobes? (Hint...look near our pond. Willows like to live near water.)

- B. Deciduous trees with lobes -
The lobes are either round or pointed and some of the lobes have a sharp point!

TO BE CONTINUED—STILL
WORKING ON THIS PAGE!!!

C.