



Guide to the  
NATIVE PLANTS  
of  
BROOKSIDE  
WANDER

*A Riparian Buffer Project conceived  
and executed in partnership with the*



**Catskill Streams  
Buffer Initiative**

*At the Root of Streamside Protection*

## What is the Brookside Wander?

Brookside Wander is a protected environment designated as a streamside buffer. Planted with native vegetation in order to stabilize the stream banks and provide down-stream benefits, this little ½-acre stabilizing preserve packs a punch against erosion and flooding. The health and stability of Catskill region waterways has a direct impact on water quality downstream. When upstream flow is filtered then midstream flooding is mitigated, and downstream water is cleaner. Join us on our Guided Nature walk to learn more about this very special place.

**The Brookside Wander** *is the product of a partnership between the Emerson Resort & Spa and the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI), with funding from the Department of Environmental Protection, and its partners, the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension. We are working together to add another layer of protection to waterways in the Ashokan Watershed.*

**Arrowwood Viburnum, a  
species of Viburnum**

**Also known as: Southern  
Arrowwood, Oughish Arrowwood**

**Botanical name: Viburnum  
Dentatum**



Arrowwood

Native Americans used the young stems to  
make arrow shafts.

## **Black Chokeberry, a species of Aronia**

**Also known as: Mound Chokeberry, Black-Berried Aronia**

**Botanical name: Aronia**



These berries can be found in wine, jam, syrup, juice, tea, salsa, beer, ice cream, gummies and tinctures. The name "chokeberry" comes from the fruit's astringency that makes one's mouth pucker.

## **Common Buttonbush, a species of Buttonbush**

**Also known as: Buckbrush, Honey-bells, Button-Willow, Button-Ball**

**Botanical name: Cephalanthus Occidentalis**



Named for its flowers' resemblance to buttons, this plant's leaves can be toxic to livestock, but its round flowers are an important source of nectar for pollinating bees and butterflies.



## American Witch-Hazel, a species of Witch-Hazels

Also known as: Witch Hazel, Striped Alder, Tobacco-Wood, Spotted Alder

Botanical name: *Hamamelis Virginiana*



Many people know witch hazel as the source for a common skin tonic, but did you know this plant can propel its seeds up to 30'? Its twigs are also valued by dowsers to locate water and underground minerals.

**Common Winterberry, a  
species of Holly**

**Also known as: Black Alder,  
Winterberry Holly, Fever Bush,  
Coralberry**

**Botanical name: Ilex Verticillata**



The fruits are red berries which often persist on the branches long into the winter, giving the plant its English name.

## White Meadowsweet, a species of Spirea

Also known as: Pale Bridewort, Meadowsweet, Narrowleaf Meadowsweet, Pipestem

Botanical name: *Spiraea Alba*



The inner bark of Meadowsweet was used as an aspirin substitute by early settlers. Ojibwa women drank a tea of leaves and flowers to ease childbirth.



## Staghorn Sumac, a species of Sumacs

Also known as: Red Sumac, Hairy Sumac, Vinegar Tree, Velvet Sumac

Botanical name: *Rhus Typhina*



Some beekeepers use dried sumac bobs as a source of fuel for their smokers.

The fruit of sumacs can be collected, soaked and washed in cold water, strained, sweetened and made into a pink "lemonade".

**Hazel Alder, a species of Alder**

**Also known as: Tag Alder,  
Smooth Alder, Common Alder,  
Brookside Alder**

**Botanical name: Alnus Serrulata**

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A tea made from the bark is said to work as a treatment for diarrhea, coughs, toothaches, sore mouth, and the pain of birth.

## Red Osier Dogwood, a species of Dogwoods

Also known as: Red Twig Dogwood, Creek Dogwood, Red Willow, Red-Rood.

Botanical name: *Cornus Sericea*



The Ojibwe used red-osier dogwood bark as a dye by taking the inner bark and mixing it with other plants or minerals.

**Nannyberry, a species of  
Viburnum**

**Also known as: Wild Raisin  
Viburnum, Sweet Viburnum, Viorne  
Flexible, Sheepberry, Blackhaw**

**Botanical name: Viburnum Lentago**



The berries of this plant attract birds and pollinators. Fun fact: Apparently the name Nannyberry comes from the blossoms smelling like a wet goat!



## **Common Ninebark, a species of Ninebarks**

**Also known as: Ninebark, Eastern  
Ninebark, Atlantic Ninebark,  
Diabolo Ninebark**

**Botanical name: Physocarpus  
Opulifolius**



The bark of this plant peels off in thin papery strips, resembling the number nine in shape, exposing brown inner bark which is the origin of the common name.



## American Elder, a species of Elderberries

Also known as: Common Elderberry, American Black Elderberry, Canada Elderberry

Botanical name: **Sambucus Canadensis**



Uses include making whistles! Peel off the bark, then remove the inner pith from the twigs of this plant to make whistles.

## **Northern Spicebush, a species of Laurel**

**Also known as: Wild Allspice, Benjamin Bush, Hairy Spicebush, Common Spicebush**

**Botanical name: Lindera Benzoin**



The leaves and stems of this plant are very aromatic when crushed, with a spicy, citrusy smell.

## White Oak, a species of Oaks

Also known as: **Stave Oak,**  
**Eastern White Oak**

Botanical name: **Quercus Alba**



**White oak trees** get their name from the white-ish color of the undersides of their leaves, distinguishing them from other **oaks**.

## River Birch, a species of Birch

Also known as: Black Birch,  
Swamp Birch, Water Birch

Botanical name: *Betula Nigra*



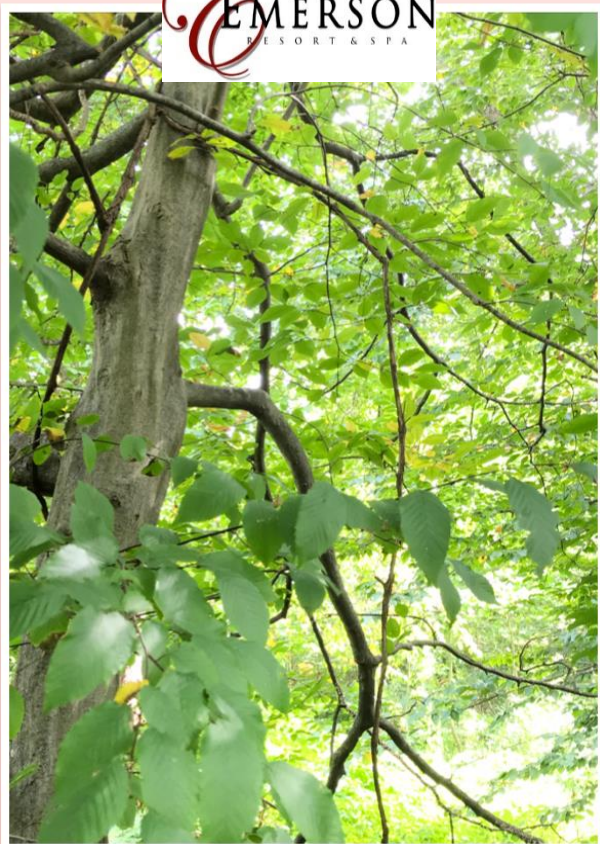
Native Americans used the boiled sap as a sweetener similar to maple syrup, and the inner bark as a survival food.



## Ironwood, a species of *Carpinus*

Also known as: American  
Hornbeam, Blue-Beech

Botanical name: *Carpinus*  
*Caroliniana*



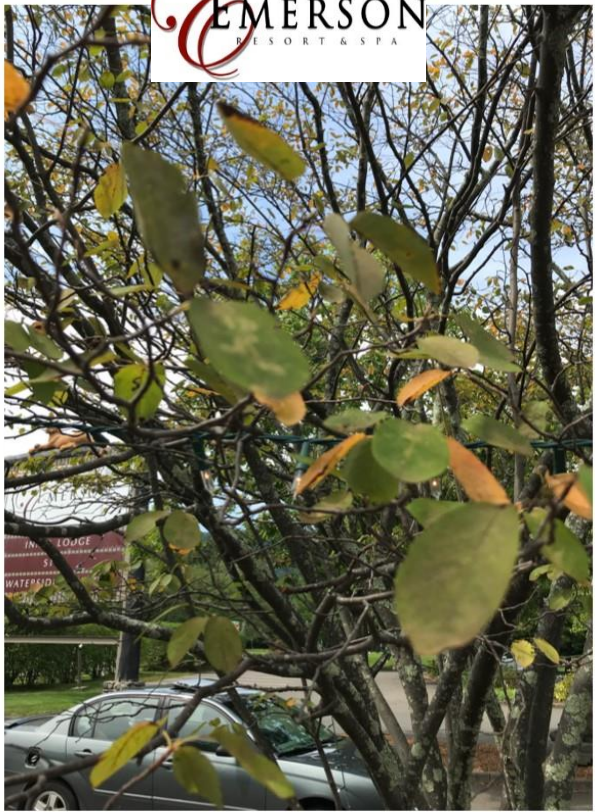
Its name comes from the heavy, dense heart-wood the tree produces. The wood is one of the heaviest in the world. Unlike other types of wood, ironwood does not float because of its high density.



**Canadian Serviceberry, a species of Serviceberries**

**Also known as: Shadblow Serviceberry, Thicket Serviceberry, Chuckleberry, Juneberry**

**Botanical name: Amelanchier Canadensis**



Fruit is harvested for pies and jams. One version of the Native American food pemmican was flavored by serviceberry fruits in combination with minced dried meat and fat.

## **American Sycamore, a species of Plane Trees**

**Also known as: Buttonwood,  
American Plane Tree, London  
Plane, Occidental Plane**

**Botanical name: Platanus  
Occidentalis**



The sycamore made up a large part of the forests of Greenland and Arctic America during the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods.