



LANDSCAPE GUIDE



Bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*

Introduction

The community plan of River Bluffs has been designed with a commitment to land conservation and stewardship of natural resources.

River Bluffs doesn't mandate landscape 'style' or require specific plants, but you can contribute to the natural beauty of the community by letting nature inform your landscaping decisions. River Bluffs is different from other planned communities in the area. Preservation of tree canopy and the higher elevation river setting create a sense of place that can be enhanced with your plant selections. The River Bluffs team has learned through experience what landscape options work given the topography, soils and wildlife considerations. Hurricanes are a fact of life for the entire area, so storm resiliency is important. Cold snaps are common, so freeze-tolerance is a factor in plant selection as well. River Bluffs soils are generally sandy, well-draining, and acidic, with pockets of clay. Deer are regular (and ravenous) visitors, along with plenty of birds and butterflies.

The plant suggestions that follow are intended as guidance for your landscaping decisions. **Prior to any landscape and site work, please review the Architectural Review documents for any pertinent requirements.**

Thank you!
- the River Bluffs team



fall foliage of American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*

Suggested Plants

Organization of information is based on plant structure and use in the landscape. Most plants in the following lists are considered *relatively* deer- and storm-resilient, unless otherwise noted. **Blue text** = prefers more moisture than others. ★ symbol = River Bluffs native.

Native = native to the lower Cape Fear region, “a plant that occurs naturally in the place where it evolved.” (*Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center*) **introduced** = “not native to continent on which now found.” “A species that has been intentionally or inadvertently brought into a region or area.” (*NRCS, US EPA*). Additional information about other common native species and landscaping resources is located at the end of this document.



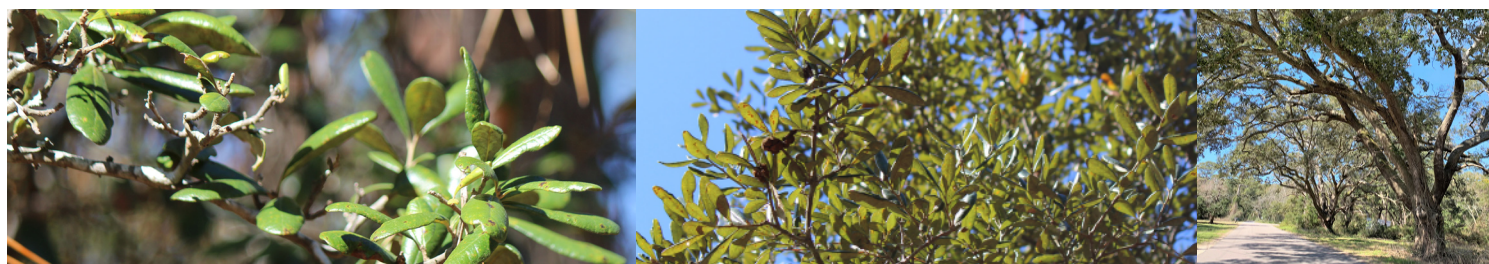
RIVER
BLUFFS®

First, a River Bluffs favorite...



Quercus virginiana / SOUTHERN LIVE OAK ★

The sculptural spreading canopy of Southern Live Oak is one of the southeast’s most iconic and majestic images. The entrance to River Bluffs features a canopy road lined with Live Oaks. This tough, adaptable tree can live several centuries, providing shade, shelter, and beauty for humans and wildlife. It is notable for outstanding hurricane resilience and early quick growth, as well as tolerance of a variety of growing conditions. Although considered ‘evergreen,’ Live Oaks drop old leaves in early spring, making way for new growth with hardly a break in density. Give this tree plenty of space and sunlight. Please see [Architectural Guidelines](#) for more information about required trees.



Large Trees (generally > 30' height)

Locate overhead & buried utilities prior to digging. Plant at least 20' away from your house, and avoid proximity to buried or overhead utilities. Root zones can extend far beyond the canopy! Consider eventual shade. Thoughtful placement (or conservation) of deciduous trees in particular can reduce your winter heating and summer cooling costs.

Acer rubrum / RED MAPLE ★

sun, fast-growing, deciduous, **native** - found in floodplains / riverine forests, bottomlands, upland woods - although more often seen in wetter places, this is an adaptable large shade tree with fantastic fall color. *Not quite as storm-resilient as others in this list.*



Betula nigra / RIVER BIRCH

sun, fast-growing, deciduous, **native** - found in floodplains / riverine forests bottomlands, attractive flaking bark and clear yellow fall color, often sold with multiple trunks, sways in the breeze.



Diospyros virginiana / AMERICAN PERSIMMON ★

sun, fast-growing, deciduous, **native** - found in a variety of habitats, drought-tolerant, separate female/male plants, females produce fruit, best eaten after experiencing cold weather. fabulous purplish fall color.



Fagus grandifolia / AMERICAN BEECH ★

sun, fast-growing, deciduous, **native** - sandy uplands, and in some areas close to coast, drought-tolerant, smooth pale bark, beech nuts and clear yellow leaves in fall.



Ilex opaca / AMERICAN HOLLY ★

sun, slower-growing, evergreen, **native** - sandy uplands, and in some areas close to coast, separate female/male plants, females produce classic red berries desirable to many birds. with stunning white mottled bark.



Large Trees (generally > 30' height)

Liriodendron tulipifera / TULIP POPLAR ★

sun, fast-growing, deciduous, **native** - floodplains / riverine forests, bottomlands, upland woods - although more often seen in wetter places, this is an adaptable large shade tree with fantastic fall color. *Not quite as storm-resilient as others in this list.*



Liquidambar styraciflua / SWEETGUM ★

sun, fast-growing, deciduous, **native** - floodplains / riverine forests, bottomlands, upland woods - adaptable large shade tree with fantastic fall color. Seeds & insects in the 'gumballs' attractive to birds. *Often sheds limbs in higher winds.*



Juniperus virginiana / EASTERN RED CEDAR ★

sun, fast-growing, evergreen, **native** - mostly an upland species, drought-tolerant, fragrant needle leaves, abundant gray-green fruit attractive to many birds, a good but very large screening tree.



Magnolia grandiflora / SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

sun, slower-growing, evergreen, almost **native** - floodplains / riverine forests, bottomlands, magnificent wide/dense canopy, early summer flowers, large fruit in fall that is particularly attractive to squirrels.



Nyssa sylvatica / BLACKGUM ★

sun, faster-growing, deciduous, **native** - found in a variety of habitats, drought-tolerant, interesting horizontal branching, lustrous green canopy with red/orange fall color.



Quercus alba / WHITE OAK

sun, faster-growing, deciduous, **native** - dry upland species, interesting shreddy bark, produces acorns each growing season. (similar to *Q. stellata*, POST OAK, a slightly smaller, similar species found in River Bluffs.)



In addition to the trees starred above, other tree species in the River Bluffs area include:



Carya tomentosa /
MOCKERNUT HICKORY



Juglans nigra / BLACK WALNUT



Persea palustris /
SWAMPBAY



Pinus taeda /
LOBLOLLY PINE



Pinus palustris /
LONGLEAF PINE



Platanus occidentalis / SYCAMORE



Prunus serotina / BLACK CHERRY



Quercus hemisphaerica /
DARLINGTON OAK



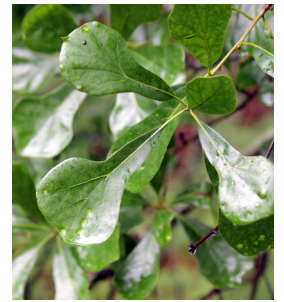
Quercus falcata /
SOUTHERN
RED OAK



Quercus laevis /
TURKEY OAK



Quercus michauxii /
SWAMP CHESTNUT
OAK



Quercus nigra /
WATER OAK



Quercus stellata /
POST OAK



Salix caroliniana /
CAROLINA WILLOW,
(*S. nigra*, BLACK WILLOW
is similar, but taller, with
whitish under leaves)



Sassafras albidum /
SASSAFRAS



Taxodium distichum / BALD CYPRESS

Flowering/Ornamental Trees (generally < 30' height)

Acer palmatum / JAPANESE MAPLE

sun, deciduous, **introduced** - many cultivars and variety in shape, size, and color - some can become large trees. often sculptural.



Aesculus pavia / RED BUCKEYE

sun, deciduous, **native** - tall open native shrub, red spikes of spring flowers attract hummingbirds, compound leaves early to drop in fall, interesting but toxic nuts occasionally eaten by squirrels



Amelanchier canadensis / SHADBLOW SERVICEBERRY

sun/part-shade, deciduous, **native** - small tree/large shrub, fragrant white flower clusters appear before leaves in early spring, clear yellow fall color.



Cornus florida / FLOWERING DOGWOOD ★

part-shade, deciduous, **native** - **North Carolina's state tree!** Wide canopy understory tree, white flowers bracts in spring, dark red fall leaf color, clusters of red drupes in late fall, and interesting square-blocked bark.



Hamamelis virginiana / AMERICAN WITCHHAZEL ★

sun/part-shade, deciduous, **native** - small, spreading large shrub/small tree, delicate yellow flowers on bare branches in winter. yellow/orange fall color. *Look for this growing wild along Spring Creek area under the Beech trees.*



Lagerstroemia indica / CRAPE MYRTLE

sun, deciduous, **introduced** - many cultivars of varying size and flower color - small shrub to large tree. Sculptural shape and interesting smooth bark, Flashy flower clusters in summer, orange fall color - a common sight in Southeast landscapes.



Magnolia 'Betty' / HYBRID MAGNOLIA

sun, deciduous, **introduced** - multi-trunked large shrub/small tree with large white/pale pink flowers followed by bright green leaves. More frost-tolerant than other small hybrid magnolias. Good patio plant.



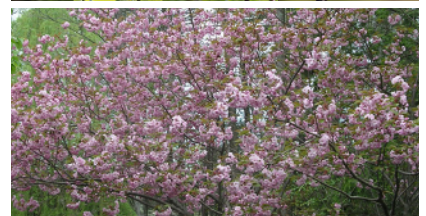
Magnolia virginiana / SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA

sun, almost-evergreen, **native** - multi-trunked small tree with open crown, fragrant leaves and white fragrant flowers in summer, followed by interesting red-berried fruit in fall. very deer-resistant, great patio tree.



Prunus serrulata / JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY

sun, deciduous, **introduced** - very wide-canopied tree with shiny bark, white/pale pink flowers in early spring, dark red fall color. Not particularly long-lived, but deer resistant.



Screening Plants, evergreens roughly 6'-15' height

Camellia sasanqua / SASANQUA CAMELLIA

sun / part shade, evergreen, **introduced** - many cultivars with different flower colors, dense habit with small dark green leaves, more deer-resistant than other Camellias.



Ilex x attenuata / HYBRID HOLLY

cultivars - E. Palatka Foster's, Savannah Holly.

sun, evergreen, **hybrid of 2 NC native species**. Conical screening tree. (allow 10 ft. width) BIRD MAGNET!



Ilex vomitoria / YAUPON HOLLY ★

sun/shade, evergreen, **native** - cultivars of varying size. Typically a multi-trunked small tree, females produce red berries in winter, BIRD MAGNET!



Illicium floridanum / FLORIDA ANISE

part shade/shade, evergreen, **native further south** - tall shrub with large aromatic leaves, crimson flowers in winter. (leaves / fruit are toxic to wildlife.) Good screening plant for **moist shade**.



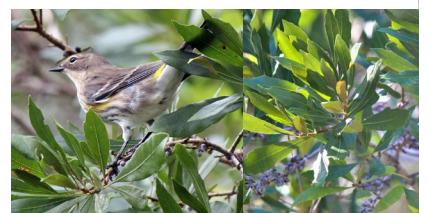
Illicium parviflorum / SMALL ANISE

sun, evergreen, **native further south** - dense shrub with upward-pointing aromatic leaves. (leaves / fruit are toxic to wildlife.) more cold-hardy than Florida Anise.



Morella cerifera / WAX MYRTLE ★

sun/shade, evergreen, **native** - multi-trunked, wide small tree with dense fragrant foliage, fantastic screen. **Can get quite large**. Smaller cultivars like 'Don's Dwarf' (10' ht/wide) better for smaller spaces. BIRD MAGNET!



Osmanthus spp. & cultivars / OSMANTHUS, TEA OLIVE

sun/shade, evergreen, **introduced** - large dense shrubs with leathery foliage, fragrant white flowers in fall or spring (depending on sp./cv.), common screening plants. Bloom at left is *Osmanthus (Cartrema) americana* / WILD OLIVE, a **native species** - a good option, if available.)



Podocarpus macrophyllus / SOUTHERN YEW

sun/part-shade, evergreen, **introduced** - Not a yew! Tall, dense-to-ground narrow tree with narrow leaves, common narrow-space screening shrub, eventually gets to 8' or so



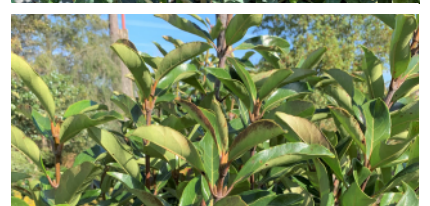
Ternstroemia gymnanthera / FALSE CLEYERA

sun/shade, evergreen, **introduced** - tall but not very wide, several cultivars, bronze-ish new foliage, glossy leaves



Viburnum awabuki 'Chindo' / CHINDO VIBURNUM

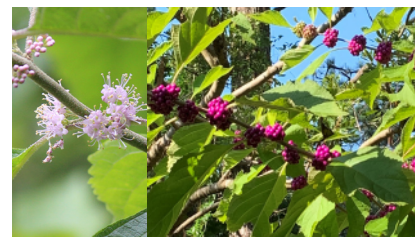
sun/shade, evergreen, **introduced** - very large shrub/small tree, dense leathery foliage makes a wide green wall, globes of white flowers in late spring, very common screening plant



Shrubs (generally 2'-10' height)

Callicarpa americana / AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY ★

sun/shade, deciduous, **native** - tall & wide, bright green leaves, pale pink flower clusters in spring, bright purple berries in fall. **BIRD MAGNET**.



Calycanthus floridus / CAROLINA ALLSPICE

sun/part-shade, deciduous, **native** - medium height, spreading, dense bright green foliage, fragrant crimson flowers in spring, Also called SWEET BETSY.



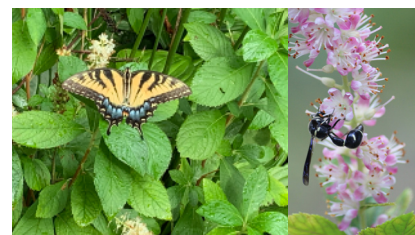
Cephalotaxus harringtonia / PLUM YEW

Also not a true yew! part/full shade, evergreen, **introduced** - coniferus shrub, horizontal and vertical cultivars available.



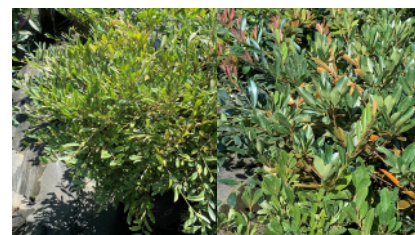
Clethra alnifolia / SUMMERSWEET ★

sun/part-shade, deciduous, **native** - medium height, white to pale pink fragrant flower spires in summer, yellow fall color. **BUTTERFLY MAGNET**.



Distylium spp./var. / DISTYLIUM

sun/part-shade, evergreen, **introduced**- a few cultivars of varying height, becoming a common foundation shrub.



Fothergilla gardenii / WITCH ALDER, DWF. FOTHERGILLA

sun/part-shade, deciduous, **native** - low height, white flower spikes appear before bluish leaves, lovely yellow fall color.



Gardenia jasminoides / GARDENIA varieties

sun/part-shade, evergreen, **introduced** - medium height (unless 'Prostrata', dwarf cultivar), bright glossy foliage and fragrant white flowers in spring.



Hydrangea macrophylla, *H. paniculata* / HYDRANGEA species

part-shade, deciduous, **introduced** - medium height (unless dwarf cultivars), bright foliage and clusters of blue/pink/white flowers in spring.

H. quercifolia / OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA, a **SE native**, is more deer-resistant, with amazing fall color.



Shrubs (generally 2'-10' height)

Ilex cornuta / CHINESE HOLLY

sun, evergreen, **introduced** - low/medium/tall height depending on cultivar, 'Burford' & 'Dwarf Burford' are huge, and better as screening plants. 'Carissa' is a common foundation shrub.



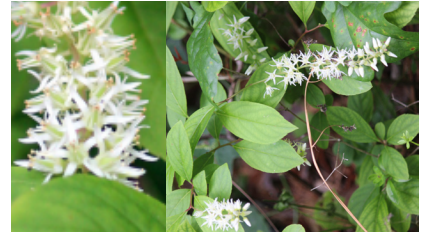
Ilex glabra / INKBERRY HOLLY

sun/shade, evergreen, **native** - medium/tall height, glossy dark green foliage, black berries in winter if female plant, good native for foundations & low screening.



Itea virginica / VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE

part-shade, deciduous, **native** - medium height, spreading, fragrant white to pale pink flower spikes in spring, yellow fall color. **BUTTERFLY MAGNET.**



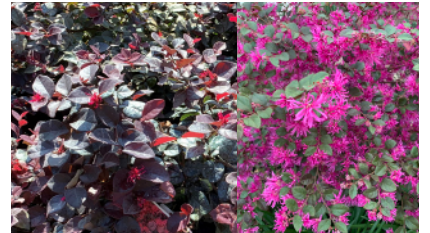
Linnea x grandiflora / GLOSSY ABELIA

sun/part-shade, mostly evergreen, **introduced** - several cultivars of varying height, small green and/or red leaves on arching branches, small white/pink flowers in spring, common foundation shrub.



Loropetalum chinensis / LOROPETALUM

sun/part-shade, evergreen, **introduced** - low/medium/tall height depending on cultivar, green/purple foliage, coated in fuschia flowers in spring. Very common landscape plant.



Rosmarinus officinalis / ROSEMARY

sun, evergreen, **introduced** - low height, spreading, culinary woody perennial, fragrant linear leaves, pale blue flowers in summer.



Sabal minor / DWARF PALMETTO ★

sun / shade, evergreen, **native** - robust, wide, can get tall, but slow-growing, **THIS IS THE ONLY PALM NATIVE TO THIS AREA.** You can see this plant in its native environment near the marina along the footbridge, and planted at Davis Square near the mail building.



Viburnum dentatum / ARROWWOOD

part-shade/shade, deciduous, **native** - medium/tall height, dark green leaves, flat clusters of white flowers in early spring, followed by blue drupes.



Vines, Grasses & grass-likes, & Ferns

FLOWERING VINES

Bignonia capreolata / CROSSVINE ★

part sun/shade, evergreen, **native**, clinging, HUMMINGBIRD FAVORITE



Gelsemium sempervirens / CAROLINA JESSAMINE ★

sun/shade, evergreen, **native**, twining, yellow tubular flowers early spring, TOXIC.



Lonicera sempervirens / CORAL HONEYSUCKLE ★

sun/shade, deciduous, **native**, twining, very robust woody vine, delicate clusters of red tubular flowers early spring, often flowers sporadically later in season, HUMMINGBIRD FAVORITE



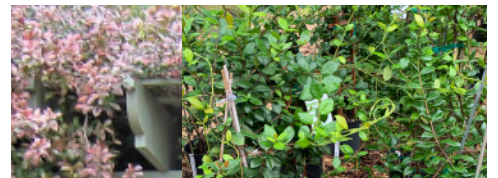
Passiflora incarnata / MAYPOP, PASSION VINE

sun/shade, deciduous, **native**, moderately deer-resistant compared to the others, climbs via tendrils or crawls along ground, host & nectar plant for LOTS OF BUTTERFLIES.



Trachelospermum jasminoides / CONFEDERATE JASMINE

sun/shade, evergreen, with some purple in fall, **introduced**, twining, very robust woody vine, very fragrant white flowers in spring.



SUN GRASSES + GRASS-LIKES (* introduced)

**Lomandra longifolia* / BREEZEGRASS evergreen, med

Muhlenbergia capillaris / MUHLY GRASS med

Panicum virgatum / PANIC GRASS tall

Schizachyrium scoparium / LITTLE BLUESTEM med

Sorghastrum nutans / INDIANGRASS med/tall



SOD

Centipede or Empire Zoysia is required in any lawn areas per Architectural Guidelines.

SHADE GRASSES/GRASS-LIKES

Chasmanthium latifolium / WOOD OATS deciduous, med

**Liriope muscari* cultivars / BIG BLUE LILYTURF, evergreen, shade/sun, low, slightly less deer-resistant!

**Ophiopogon japonicum* cultivars / LILYTURF shade/sun, low



A FEW FERNS (many more are also deer-resistant)

Asplenium platyneuron / EBONY SPLEENWORT

**Cyrtomium falcatum* / HOLLY FERN

Dryopteris x australis / DIXIE WOOD FERN

**Dryopteris erythrosora* / AUTUMN FERN

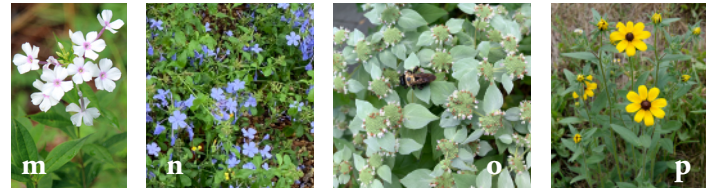
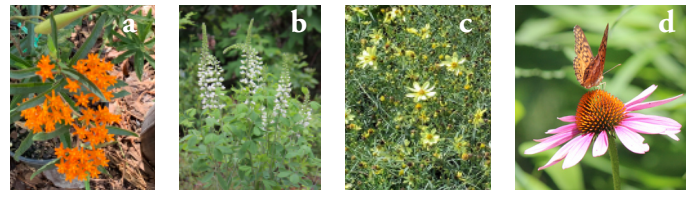
Osmundstrum cinnamomeum / CINNAMON FERN

Polystichum acrostichoides / CHRISTMAS FERN



SUN / PART-SHADE PERENNIALS (* - introduced)

- a *Asclepias tuberosa* / BUTTERFLYWEED low
- b *Baptisia* spp. / FALSE INDIGO med
- c *Coreopsis lanceolata* / LANCELEAF TICKSEED low
- d *Echinacea purpurea* / PURPLE CONEFLOWER (piedmont) low
- e *Eupatorium dubium* / COASTAL JOE-PYEWEED med/tall
- f *Gaillardia pulchella* / FIREWHEEL low
- g *Gaura lindheimeri* / WHIRLING BUTTERFLIES (texas)
- h *Helianthus angustifolius*, *H. simulans* /
NARROWLEAF SUNFLOWERS tall/med
- i *Hibiscus moscheutos* / CRIMSON-EYED ROSEMALLOW tall
- j **Lantana* camera cultivars / LANTANA low/med
- k *Monarda punctata* / SPOTTED HORSEMINT tall
- l *Penstemon laevigatus* / EASTERN BEARDTONGUE low
- m *Phlox* spp. / PHLOX low/med/tall
- n **Plumbago auriculata* / CAPE PLUMBAGO
- o *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* / SLENDER MTN. MINT med
- p *Rudbeckia hirta* / COASTAL BLACK-EYED SUSAN low
- q **Rudbeckia fulgida* / ORANGE CONEFLOWER (piedmont) low
- r *Salvia* spp. / SAGE low/med/tall (native var. avail.)
- s *Solidago* spp. / GOLDENROD med/tall
- t *Stokesia laevis* / STOKES ASTER low
- u *Symphotrichum* spp. / ASTERS low/med/tall
- v *Verbena (Glandularia) canadensis* / ROSE VERVAIN low
- w *Vernonia noveboracensis* / NY IRONWEED tall



SHADE PERENNIALS

- 1 *Aquilegia canadensis* / EASTERN COLUMBINE low
- 2 *Arisaema triphyllum* / JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT low
- 3 **Aspidistra eliator* / CAST IRON PLANT med
- 4 *Chrysogonum virginianum* / GREEN-AND-GOLD low
- 5 *Eurybia divaricata* / WHITE WOOD ASTER low
- 6 *Hexastylis arifolia* / LITTLE BROWN JUG low
- 7 **Helleborus orientalis* / LENTEN ROSE low
- 8 *Mitchella repens* / PARTRIDGEBERRY very low
- 9 *Podophyllum peltatum* / MAYAPPLE low
- 10 *Achillea borealis* / AMERICAN YARROW med



low (flat - ~18" ht.)
med (~18" - 36" ht.)
tall (>36" ht.)



Azaleas and other deer magnets

Some favorite landscape plants, both native and exotic, are also attractive deer forage. Flower buds and new foliage are particularly vulnerable. If you'd still like to tempt the deer fates, consider planting them closer to your house, in areas where it is easier to protect them. (* - introduced)

**Aucuba japonica* / AUCUBA

Euonymus japonicus* / EUONYMUS (many cultivars) - **invasive

**Hemerocallis sp.* / DAYLILIES (many cultivars)

**Hosta sp.* / HOSTA (many cultivars)

**Fatsia japonica* / FATSIA

**Pittosporum tobira* / PITTOSPORUM

**Raphiolepis spp./cultivars* / INDIAN HAWTHORN

Rhododendron spp./cultivars / AZALEAS! - some **native**, some **introduced**

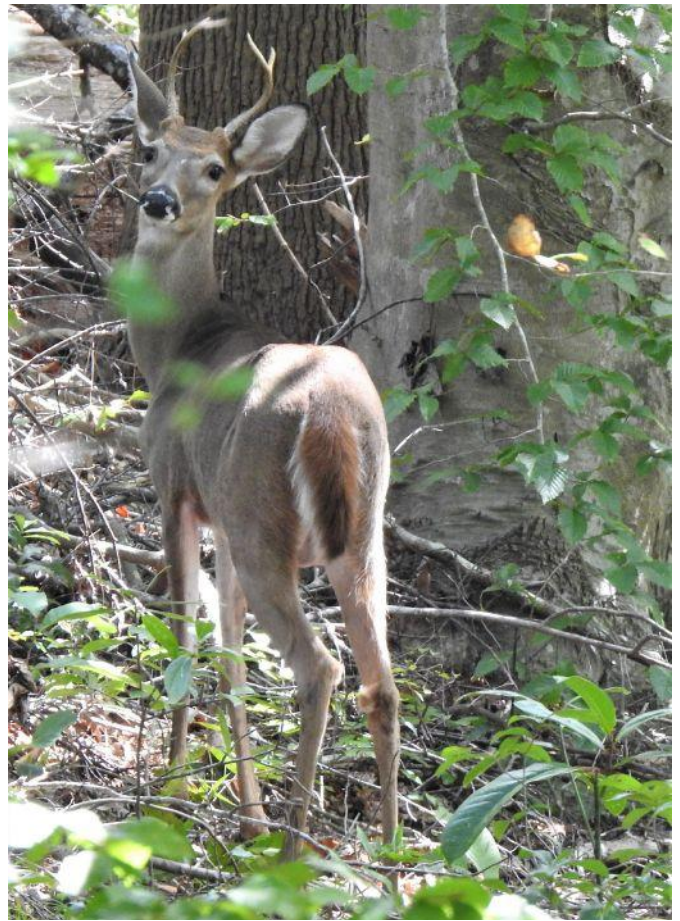
Thuja occidentalis / ARBORVITAE (native further north)

Vaccinium spp. / BLUEBERRIES & relatives - **native**

Many open space areas in River Bluffs host blueberry and huckleberry relatives - all are native to the area. They still may be worth a try, **or leave them in place if they are already on your site.**



River Bluffs paw paw patch. Natural understory below the beech, oaks, holly, and sweetgum.



Above: White-tailed deer buck, exploring the ravine.

Below: Turkey track, Anole on fall beech branch.



Sense of place

To preserve the unique character of River Bluffs, **planting of these species is discouraged:**

**Butia capitata* / PINDO OR JELLY PALM

**Chamaerops humilis* / MEDITERRANEAN FAN PALM

**Cryptomeria var.* / CRYPTOMERIA

* *x Hesperotropis leylandii* / LEYLAND CYPRESS

Sabal palmetto / CABBAGE OR SABAL PALM
(this is the tall palm that most associate with 'beach', it is native further south, in **coastal locations.**)

Field guide to a few River Bluffs plants

River Bluffs covers approximately 313 acres, with roughly 3,300 linear feet along Lower Cape Fear River. Most of this shoreline is 'high bluff', and at its highest point, the bank is about 35' above mean high water, with steep (~66%) slopes. The Lower Cape Fear River is considered a 'blackwater' river, with tannin-stained water that is the result of leaching organic matter. With its unique topography and river adjacency, the land is classified as a CAMA 'wetland resource protection area', which means it is subject to a higher standard of care and stewardship.

River Bluffs contains a variety of plant communities as described by the Carolina Vegetation Survey and North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. These species associations, based on soil type, topography, and location, each contribute to River Bluff's character and unique sense of place. Soils range from very well-draining sands and marine sediments to poorly-draining areas with clays and organics. Dry oak / pine forest with a scattering of hickory and understory layers of dogwood, horsesugar, and various blueberry relatives is most representative. Lower pockets and stream drainages support tulip poplar, red maple, bald cypress, sycamore and sweetgum and a variety of ferns, sedges, and grasses. Human occupation has also played a role in shaping River Bluff's character. In some areas, one can find relic plantings from old homesites (azalea, camellia, the daffodil bulbs etc.), as well as evidence of logging for longleaf pine.

Bald cypress / *Taxodium distichum*. This particular tree is an armature for a variety of other species.



Two epiphytes on an upper branch. Resurrection fern / *Pleopeltis polypodioides*, is named for its ability to quickly re-green itself following drought. Spanish moss / *Tillandsia usneoides*, is actually a flowering plant, not a moss!



Swamp rose / *Rosa palustris*, finds opportunity in the buttressed trunk of bald cypress in late spring.



Fall seedhead of wild rice / *Zizania aquatica*.



Pickerelweed / *Pontederia cordata*, flowering in spring, has colonized some driftwood along the river bank.



Coastal spider lily / *Hymenocallis crassifolia*, blooming at the waterline in early spring.

Field guide to a few River Bluffs plants



Muscadine grape / *Muscadinia rotundifolia* summer fruit.



Crossvine / *Bignonia capreolata* bloom in early spring.



Female yaupon holly / *Ilex vomitoria*, a feast for birds. Used ceremonially by Native Americans. A caffeine-rich tea can be brewed from dried leaves.



Blueberries and their relatives are well represented in River Bluffs. Clockwise from left, Black highbush blueberry / *Vaccinium fuscatum*, farkleberry / *Vaccinium arboreum* in bloom, and creeping blueberry / *Vaccinium crassifolium*.



Dwarf paw-paw / *Asimina parviflora*, American witchhazel / *Hamamelis virginicana*, Horsesugar / *Symplocos tinctoria*, and little brown jug / *Hexastylis arifolia*, under the beech trees.



Early successional communities of grasses and perennials stabilize soils and provide pollinator habitat.



Partridgeberry / *Mitchella repens*, among leaves under oaks and pines.



Jack-in-the-pulpit / *Arisaema triphyllum*, blooms under its leaves near the cemetery.



Horsesugar, sometimes called sweetleaf / *Symplocos tinctoria*, blooms before new leaves appear. This almost-evergreen is a common understory shrub in River Bluffs.

Prohibited plants

“Invasive exotic plants are non-native species that can establish quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems.” (excerpted *Natural Resource Conservation Service*). Listed here are some species considered ‘Rank 1 Severe’ & ‘Rank 2 Significant’ threats (*NC Native Plant Society*) which are still unfortunately used in lower Cape Fear landscapes. Many remain available in commercial nurseries and are used by local landscapers. However,

River Bluffs now prohibits the planting of these species.

1 *Albizia julibrissis* / MIMOSA



2 *Berberis thunbergii* / JAPANESE BARBERRY



3 *Cortaderia selloana* / PAMPAS GRASS

4 *Eleagnus* spp. / AUTUMN, RUSSIAN, THORNY OLIVE

5 *Euonymus fortunei* / WINTER CREEPER

6 *Hedera helix* / ENGLISH IVY



7 *Ligustrum sinense* / CHINESE PRIVET

Other members of this genus are invasive as well, but this one is the most aggressive.

8 *Lonicera japonica* / JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

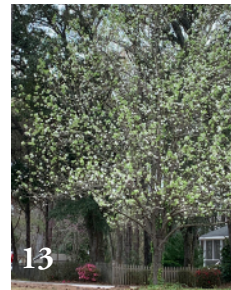


9 *Melia azederach* / CHINABERRY

10 *Miscanthus sinensis* / CHINESE SILVERGRASS

11 *Nandina domestica* / NANDINA

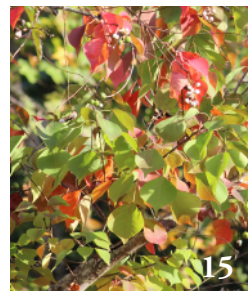
12 *Paulownia tomentosa* / PRINCESS TREE



13 *Pyrus calleryana* / BRADFORD PEAR

14 *Rosa multiflora* / MULTIFLORA ROSE

15 *Sapium sebiferum* / TALLOW TREE, POPCORN TREE



16 *Vinca major*, *V. minor* / PERIWINKLE

17 *Wisteria floribunda* / JAPANESE WISTERIA (shown) & *Wisteria sinensis* / CHINESE WISTERIA, not shown
Plant *W. frutescens* ‘Amethyst Falls’ instead!

For more information, please see:

https://ncwildflower.org/plant_galleries/invasives_

RESOURCES

New Hanover County Cooperative Extension & Arboretum

A good place to learn more about plants that are most often seen in local gardens. Soil-testing, plant clinics, plant sales, and a variety of specialty gardens, plus online lists and resources. Free and open to the public.

<https://arboretum.nhcgov.com/>

6206 Oleander Drive, Wilmington, NC 28403

SOURCES

Books

Native Plants of the Southeast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Best 460 Species for the Garden, by Larry Mellichamp, photos by Will Stuart, Timber Press, 2014

Bringing Nature Home, by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2007 (general info, p. 147 for *Quercus* note)

Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, by Albert E. Radford and C. Ritchie Bell, University of North Carolina Press, 2010

The Natural Gardens of North Carolina, by B.W. Wells, Chapel Hill Books, 2002

Gardening With Native Plants of the South, by Sally Wasowski + Andy Wasowski, Taylor Publishing, 1994

Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses, by James Miller + Karl V. Miller, University of Georgia Press, 1999

Websites

Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States, by Alan S. Weakley, UNC Herbarium, North Carolina Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, <http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/flora.htm>

North Carolina State University, Going Native, <https://projects.ncsu.edu/goingnative/>

North Carolina Native Plant Society, Invasive Species, https://ncwildflower.org/plant_galleries/invasives_list

Invasive Plants, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Plants Database, <https://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=37>

PLANTS Database: USDA PLANTS Welcome to the PLANTS Database | USDA PLANTS, plants.usda.gov/java/.

PHOTO CREDITS

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“Melia azederach, Chinaberry” by Cheryl McCormick, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

“Multiflora rose, flowers in April” by James H Miller, USDA Forest Service

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