

**Theodore Roosevelt Island Nature/History Walk  
For Smithsonian Associates  
April 2022**

**With Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island***

**Selected Woody Plants of Theodore Roosevelt Island  
\* Indicates Non-Native Species.**

**Trees unless identified as shrubs or vines. Wildflowers follow.**

**Plant Species**

**Plant Family**

Alder, Smooth ( <i>Alnus serrulata</i> ) shrub	Birch ( <u>Betulaceae</u> )
Ash, Green ( <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> )	Olive ( <u>Oleaceae</u> )
Ash, White ( <i>Fraxinus americana</i> )	
Bald-Cypress ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> )	Cypress ( <u>Cupressaceae</u> )
Basswood, American (American Linden)	Linden ( <u>Tiliaceae</u> ) or Mallow ( <u>Malvaceae</u> )
Beech, American ( <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> )	Beech ( <u>Fagaceae</u> )
Birch, River ( <i>Betula nigra</i> )	Birch ( <u>Betulaceae</u> )
Black Locust ( <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> )	Pea or Legume ( <u>Fabaceae</u> )
Bladdernut ( <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> ) large shrub/ small tree	Bladdernut ( <u>Staphyleaceae</u> )
Boxelder ( <i>Acer negundo</i> )	Maple ( <u>Aceraceae</u> ) or Soapberry ( <u>Sapindaceae</u> )
Cherry, Black ( <i>Prunus serotina</i> )	Rose ( <u>Rosaceae</u> )
Coralberry ( <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i> ) *? shrub; original range unknown	Honeysuckle ( <u>Caprifoliaceae</u> )
Cottonwood, Eastern ( <i>Populus deltoides</i> )	Willow ( <u>Salicaceae</u> )
Crabapple, Flowering & Apple ( <i>Malus</i> )*	Rose ( <u>Rosaceae</u> )
Dogwood, Flowering ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )	Dogwood ( <u>Cornaceae</u> )
Elm, American ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )	Elm ( <u>Ulmaceae</u> )
Grape, Winter (Chicken Grape) vine ( <i>Vitis vulpina</i> )	Grape ( <u>Vitaceae</u> )
Hackberry, Northern ( <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> )	Elm Family or Hops ( <u>Cannabaceae</u> )
Hickory, Bitternut ( <i>Carya cordiformis</i> )	Walnut ( <u>Juglandaceae</u> )
Hickory, Mockernut ( <i>Carya tomentosa</i> )	
Hickory, Pignut ( <i>Carya glabra</i> )	
Holly, American ( <i>Ilex opaca</i> )	Holly ( <u>Aquifoliaceae</u> )
Hornbeam, American (Ironwood or Musclewood) ( <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> )	Birch ( <u>Betulaceae</u> )
Kentucky Coffee-Tree ( <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> ) Planted near the former Mason mansion site	Pea ( <u>Fabaceae</u> )
Maple, Norway ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )*	Maple ( <u>Aceraceae</u> ) or Soapberry ( <u>Sapindaceae</u> )
Maple, Red ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	
Maple, Silver ( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> )	
Maple, Sugar ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	
Maple, Ash-Leaved (See Boxelder)	
Mulberry, White ( <i>Morus alba</i> )*	Mulberry ( <u>Moraceae</u> )
Oak, Bartram's ( <i>Quercus x heterophylla</i> ) ( <i>Q. rubra</i> x <i>Q. phellos</i> )	Beech ( <u>Fagaceae</u> )

**Plant Species****Plant Family**

Oak, Black ( <i>Quercus velutina</i> )	Beech ( <u>Fagaceae</u> )
Oak, Northern Red or Red ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )	
Oak, Pin ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> )	
Oak, Shumard ( <i>Quercus shumardii</i> ) southeastern tree, not very common in VA, State rare—S-2—in Maryland; near Lock 7 of the C&O Canal.	
Oak, Southern Red or Spanish ( <i>Quercus falcata</i> )	
Oak, White ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )	
Oak, Willow ( <i>Quercus phellos</i> )	
Osage-Orange ( <i>Maclura pomifera</i> )	Mulberry ( <u>Moraceae</u> )
Pawpaw ( <i>Asimina triloba</i> ) small tree or shrub	Custard-Apple ( <u>Annonaceae</u> )
Porcelain-Berry ( <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> )* vine	Grape ( <u>Vitaceae</u> )
Redbud ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )	Pea or Legume ( <u>Fabaceae</u> )
Sassafras ( <i>Sassafras albidum</i> )	Laurel ( <u>Lauraceae</u> )
Spicebush ( <i>Lindera benzoin</i> ) shrub	
Sycamore, American ( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> )	Plane Tree ( <u>Platanaceae</u> )
Trumpet-Creeper ( <i>Campsis radicans</i> ) vine	Bignonia ( <u>Bignoniaceae</u> )
Tulip-Tree (Tulip Poplar) ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	Magnolia ( <u>Magnoliaceae</u> )
Viburnum, Arrowwood ( <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> ) shrub	Honeysuckle ( <u>Caprifoliaceae</u> ) or Moschatel ( <u>Adoxaceae</u> )
Viburnum, Blackhaw ( <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> ) shrub or small tree	
Virginia-Creeper ( <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> )	Grape ( <u>Vitaceae</u> )
Walnut, Black ( <i>Juglans nigra</i> )	Walnut ( <u>Juglandaceae</u> )
Willow, Black ( <i>Salix nigra</i> )	Willow ( <u>Salicaceae</u> )
Willow, Weeping ( <i>Salix babylonica</i> )*	
Witch-Hazel, Common ( <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> ) large shrub/ small tree	Witch-Hazel ( <u>Hamamelidaceae</u> )

**Wildflowers**

Cattail, Common ( <i>Typha latifolia</i> ) fruiting heads	Cattail Family ( <u>Typhaceae</u> )
Cattail, Narrow-Leaved ( <i>Typha angustifolia</i> )	
Cress, Smooth Rock ( <i>Arabis laevigata</i> or <i>Boechera</i> sp.)	Mustard ( <u>Brassicaceae</u> )
Cress, Spring ( <i>Cardamine bulbosa</i> )	
Cut-Leaved Toothwort ( <i>Cardamine concatenata</i> ; <i>Dentaria laciniata</i> )	
Dutchman's Breeches ( <i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> )	Bleeding Heart or Fumitory ( <u>Fumariaceae</u> )
Garlic Pennywort ( <i>Thlaspi alliaceum</i> ) *	Mustard ( <u>Brassicaceae</u> )
Garlic Mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> )* invasive	
Gill Over the Ground (Ground Ivy) <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> * Mint	( <u>Lamiaceae</u> )
Ginger, Wild ( <i>Asarum canadense</i> )	Birthwort ( <u>Aristolochiaceae</u> )
Lesser Celandine (Fig Buttercup) ( <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> ; <i>Ficaria verna</i> )* Very invasive	Buttercup ( <u>Ranunculaceae</u> )
Mayapple ( <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> )	Barberry ( <u>Berberidaceae</u> )

**Plant Species**Purple Dead-Nettle (*Lamium purpureum*)\*Ragwort, Golden (*Senecio aureus* or *Packera aurea*)Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadensis*) Bleeding Heart or Fumitory (Fumariaceae)Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) Purslane (Portulacaceae) or Montia (Montiaceae)Toad-shade or Sessile Trillium (*Trillium sessile*) Lily (Liliaceae) or Trillium (Trilliaceae)Trout-Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)Lily (Liliaceae)Violet, Common Blue (*Viola sororia*)Violet (Violaceae)Violet, Smooth Yellow (*Viola pensylvanica*; *V. pubescens*)Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)Borage (Boraginaceae)Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)White Avens (*Geum canadense*) LeavesRose (Rosaceae)Common Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)Horsetail Family (Equisetaceae)

**Invasive Plants\*:** Lesser Celandine (Fig Buttercup) (*Ranunculus ficaria*; *Ficaria verna*)\* Very invasive Buttercup (Ranunculaceae). Blooming now. Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), White Mulberry (*Morus alba*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Porcelain-Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Japanese Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*), Perilla or Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens*), Asian Honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*), Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*) & others.

**Excerpts from *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*:**

(Page 8) “In Theodore Roosevelt’s words, which are carved on a large stone tablet near his statue in the interior of his memorial island: ‘There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm.’ Those words are true, even when the ‘wilderness’ is a wild island in the midst of a world capital lying under the flight path of a metropolitan airport. Where wild beauty lives, the heart can too.”

(Page 213) “We all benefit when we come closer to nature, for our personal well-being and as inspired and educated stewards. Roosevelt wrote: ‘it is an incalculable added pleasure to any one’s sum of happiness if he or she grows to know, even slightly and imperfectly, how to read and enjoy the wonder-book of nature.’...”

When Roosevelt reflected on his days as a very young man in the badlands of the Dakota Territory, he declared: ‘Here the romance of my life began.’ May the romance of our lives begin

here today as we create deeper connections with the natural world. And may that romance deepen, as young Roosevelt's did, into an abiding passion for conservation."