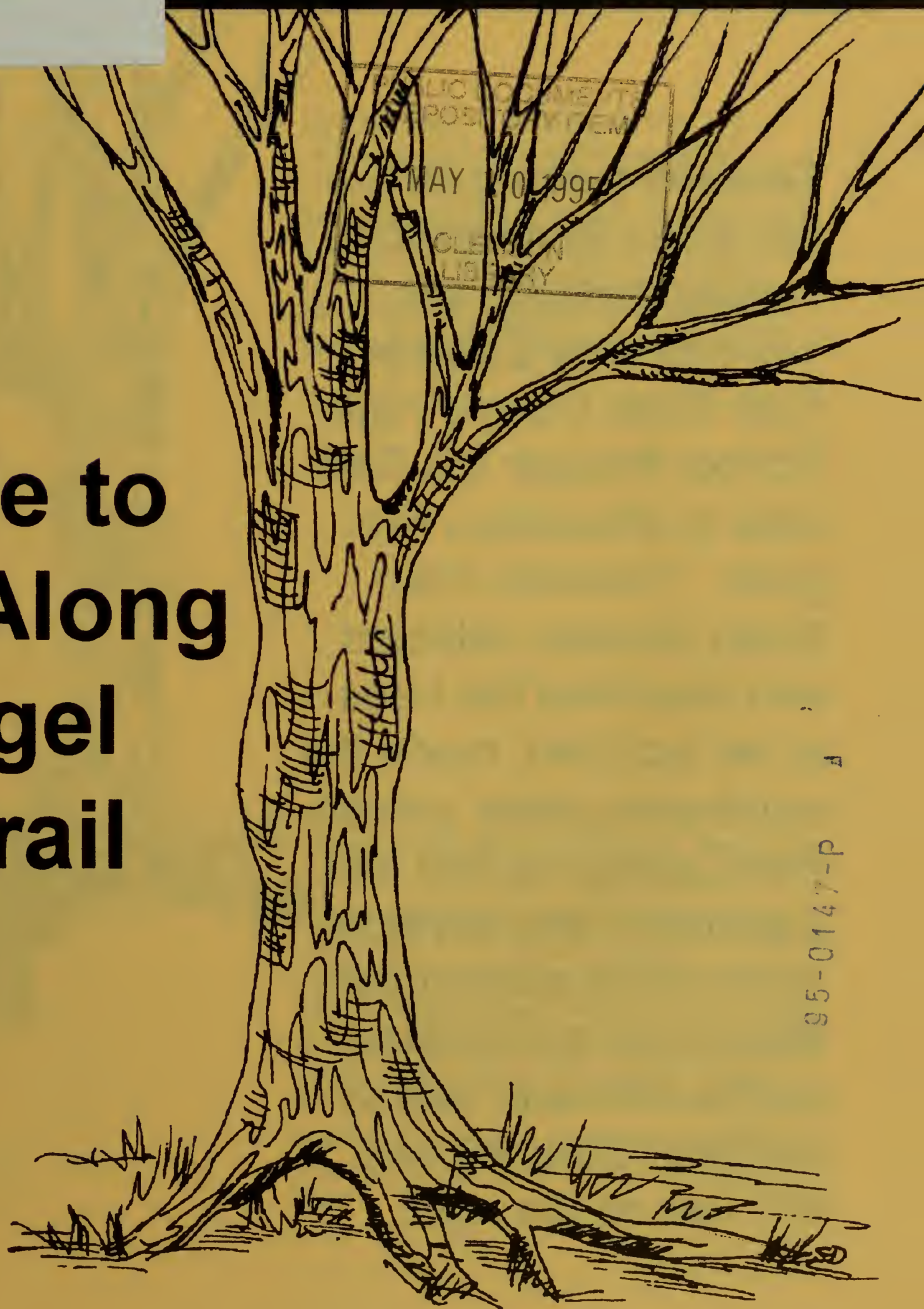


Big South Fork

I 29.9/2: B 48/2

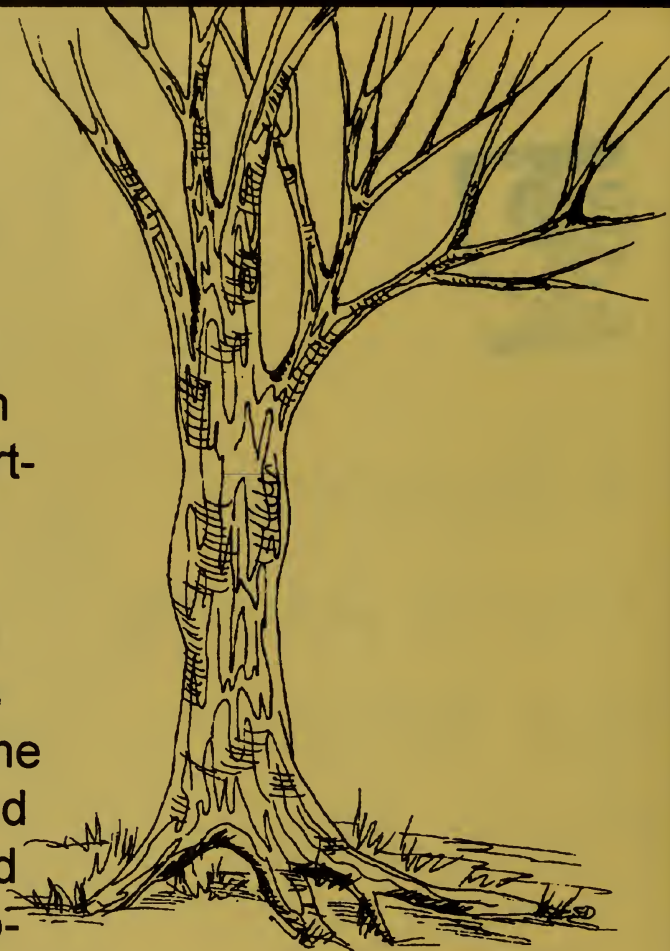


A Guide to Trees Along the Angel Falls Trail



95-0147-P

This self-guiding trail has been developed in conjunction with the 1991 Biology Classes from Scott County High School through the Partners-In-Education Program. Students from those classes selected and identified the trees to be included, made the numbered posts, placed them along the trail and assisted in the development of this guide book. Most trees are located on the left hand side of the trail. Trees #5 and #27 are on the right.





- 1 Red Mulberry - The Mulberry tree has reddish-purple fruits which are edible. Leaves can be either deeply lobed or entire with coarse marginal teeth. The leaves are hairy below and turn yellow in the fall. Leaves are used as food for silkworms. Mulberry trees were grown in the historic colony of Rugby, TN for this purpose.

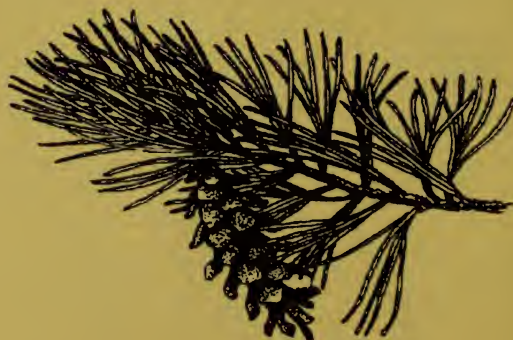


- 2 Virginia Pine - The needles of this tree grow in groups of two and are twisted. The bark is dark brown and scaly. This tree grows in abandoned fields where it invades shrubs and brush. It is a pioneer species in forest succession and creates a habitat for the more desirable trees. Virginia pine is used for pulp and firewood. The tree is located to the right of the post. The stump in front of you was an old Virginia Pine that died and was cut down. This species is an upland tree and usually does not grow along the river.

- 3 Eastern Hemlock - This conifer grows in moist, cool and shady ravines. It has flat needles with two white bands underneath, small oblong cones that are 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long, and scaly dark purplish brown bark. These trees are quite majestic and are often used for their ornamental beauty.



- 4 Eastern White Pine - Slender, soft, blue-green needles in clusters of five are characteristic of this pine. Cones are 4-5 inches in length. The bark is fissured and dark grey-brown in color on mature trees. The White Pines that grow in the Scott State Forest and Bandy Creek area are genetically ozone resistant which make them valuable to Resource Managers and Foresters.





- 5 Umbrella Magnolia - Found on the right of the trail. This is a deciduous magnolia that loses its leaves each fall. The leaves are 12 - 20 inches long and taper to an acute base. Winter buds are purple, smooth and shiny. Bark is light grey and may be smooth or warty. The large flowers bloom in April-May and are creamy white with a unpleasant odor.



- 6 Yellow Poplar - This member of the magnolia family has leaves with a tulip-like outline. Blooms from this tree are yellow green with orange at the base of each petal and are seen in the spring after the leaves develop. The wood from the Tulip Poplar is used for furniture and construction. These trees are resistant to insect pests and disease.



- 7 American Sycamore - Look for this tree in areas that are wet, along rivers and bottom-lands. The bark on older trees makes it easy to identify being white with scaly brown plates which fall off. Leaves are large, 4-7 inches across and are similar to a maple leaf with a palmate pattern to the leaf and 3 to 5 lobes. The leaf is shiny above and hairy along the veins below. These trees often have large trunks which easily succumb to heart rot.

- 8 White Oak - This is a very versatile tree highly valued for its wood. White oak can be used for shingles, baskets and furniture. The leaves on this tree are 5" to 9" long and have 7 to 9 bluntly pointed lobes. The acorns are 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long and are oblong. One quarter of the nut is enclosed in a bowl-like cup or cap. These acorns are highly prized as food for the wild turkey, deer and boar that live in the Big South Fork. The tree's bark is light grey which is often broken into vertically aligned blocks or plates with deep fissures in-between. Tree leaves turn a deep red in the autumn.



- 9 American Holly - During the Christmas season this tree's green leaves and red berries make it a popular ornamental decoration. Leaves of this tree are leathery, shiny and have spiny edges. The tree stays green year-round. Male and female trees are found separately and only the female tree has berries. Female trees were dug up extensively throughout the area and moved out of the forest. People transplanting them in their yards for ornamental use found that they didn't bear fruit later. This of course was because no male tree was nearby. Many male trees remain in the forest today, but trees with berries are difficult to find. The berries provide many birds with food during the winter.





- 10** American Beech - Often the tree is called the paper dollar tree because the leaves when held and rustled sounds like a new crisp dollar bill. The leaves on this tree are oval with slightly in-curved teeth along the margin that are barely noticeable. The bark is light blue-grey and thin. The nut from this tree is edible. It is found inside of a 1/2" to 3/4" bur covered sheath and is triangular in shape. Buds on this tree are dark brown, long and pointed and look rather like a miniature cigar! Smaller trees in the winter months can easily be recognized by their old dead leaves which are reddish-brown in color and will remain on the tree for several months after other trees leaves have fallen.



- 11** Rosebay Rhododendron - This woody shrub loves the cool, moist ravines and will form impenetrable thickets in these areas. It has leathery, oblong leaves that are 4" to 12" long. Flower clusters appear in the late spring or early summer. Flowers are white with a hint of light pink and quite showy.

- 12 Red Maple - Sometimes this tree is referred to as a "swamp maple" because it likes to grow along streams and wet locations, but it has been found in drier sites as well. Leaves are 2" to 6" in diameter and are palmate in pattern. Each leaf has 3 to 5 lobes and has jagged or serrated edges. Often the leaves have reddish stems. Seeds are found growing in winged pairs and mature in the late spring. The bark is dark grey and rough on older trees.



- 13 American Hornbeam - This tree has numerous common names such as: ironwood, muscle wood and bluebeech. The tree's trunk makes it easy to identify even in the winter. It looks like muscles in our arms or legs. The leaves of this tree are simple, oval and have double-toothed leaf margins. It is a small understory tree of poor value for timber, but the convoluted trunks and roots of this tree have been made by pioneers into mauls for splitting wood.



- 14 Yellow Buckeye - The Buckeye is a tree with a compound leaf in a palmate pattern and has 5 elliptical leaflets. The terminal buds are large and non-resinous. Flower clusters are yellowish-white in color and are found blooming in early spring. Nuts from this tree are found encased in a mostly smooth, fleshy, shell. The Buckeye nut is often carried in people's pockets for luck. This tree is usually found in bottomland areas. Buckeye nuts are toxic, please **do not** eat them.





- 15 River Birch - Commonly seen along stream banks and in moist places, the tree can be identified by its salmon-pink colored bark with papery scales. Leaves are ovate with double-toothed leaf margins. It is the only birch which has its fruit develop in the late spring. Fruit are catkins that are about 3/4" long. Many birches are used for decorative purposes due to their beautiful bark.



- 16 Sweetgum - Leaves from this tree resemble a 5 to 7 pointed star. They turn multiple colors in the fall from orange to purple. Fruit from the tree are found as spiny balls and may hang from the tree even into winter. Bark on branches can develop corky projections which look like wings. The leaves have a spicy aroma when crushed. The sweetgum sap or resin could be chewed as a gum, but watch your dental work! This "gum" has been known to cement teeth together.

- 17 Black Oak - Black oak trees have lustrous, dark green leaves above and are coppery yellow below. They are somewhat hairy below. Leaves may have 5 to 7 lobes with pointed tufts at the tips. Acorns are 1/2" to 3/4" long and light red-brown in color. Acorns are enclosed 1/3 to 1/4 of the way by a deep bowl-like cup or cap. Leaves turn dull red or dark orange in the fall. The bark from this tree is black and has deep vertical furrows.



- B Sugar Maple - This tree is called the "sugar tree" because of the maple syrup and sugar made from its sap in the late winter or early spring. Leaves are 3" to 5" across and found in opposite arrangement. They are in a palmate pattern with 3 to 5 blunt pointed lobes. Leaves turn lovely shades of yellow, red, scarlet and orange during the fall.





- 19 Box Elder - Does this tree's leaves look like poison ivy to you? The leaves are compound with 3 to 7 leaflets in each leaf and although they resemble poison ivy leaflets, this tree is not poisonous. The bark of small branches and stems is green. This a favorite food for beaver along the river. Older trunks of trees are light brown with fissures.



- 20 Big-Leaf Magnolia - This tree has huge leaves just like its name implies. Leaves are 20" to 30" long. At the base of each leaf are two "ear lobes" which are similar to your own ear lobes. In April or May creamy white flowers bloom on this tree that can be up to 12 inches in size. When these leaves fall to the ground in autumn it looks like paper litter scattered all over the forest floor.

- 21** Flowering Dogwood - This is a small tree that grows underneath the main canopy of larger trees. It has simple leaves that are oval in shape with smooth leaf margins. Leaves are from 2" to 5" in length. The leaf arrangement on the branch is opposite. This tree is a colorful addition to many yards. During the spring, this tree is easy to find because it has large white flowers. The flower petals are not petals at all but bracts, which are actually leaves. In the autumn, the tree's leaves turn red and are among the first tree leaves to turn color. Bright red berries appear where flowers were in the spring. These berries provide a delightful food source to birds and squirrels in the winter months.



- 22** Mountain Laurel - Also called "mountain ivy", this woody shrub is quite plentiful within the park. This is an evergreen shrub which produces beautiful white to light pink flowers in the late spring. It has small oval leaves that are 1" to 1 1/2" in length.





- 23** Sassafras - The leaves from this tree come in different shapes; some are oval, some have lobes on them that look like a right-handed or left-handed mitten and still other leaves have three lobes. A wonderful spicy aroma can be detected when the leaves are crushed. Tea can be made from the root bark of this tree. Have you ever had sassafras tea? The leaves are used in Cajun cooking to thicken creole. Twigs of this tree are bright green. In September, blue-black berries may be found on the trees.



- 24** Bitternut Hickory - One of the more common hickories found in the area. The nuts from this tree are very bitter and even squirrels dislike them. Leaves are compound with 7 to 9 oblong leaflets. Each leaflet is 3"-5" long. The terminal buds on the branches are sulphur yellow in color. The bark is smooth in younger trees, but becomes slightly furrowed when older. The nuts are about 1" long and are encased within a husk that splits away in sections. The husk will be bright green at first and turn brown with age. If the husk is scratched when green it will be somewhat aromatic.

- 25 Witch-Hazel - This is a peculiar shrub. It flowers in the autumn! The flowers are bright yellow with 1/2" to 3/4" long, narrow, twisted petals. Capsules form where flowers were present and split open the year after flowering occurs. Leaves are 2"-4" long, oval and have an oblique base. This tree is a favorite for those who are "water diviners". Witch-hazel twigs are preferred for their water finding art. Witch-hazel has also been used medicinally in a rubbing lotion that is extracted from small branches and bark.



- 26 White Ash - Wooden baseball bats are usually constructed from this tree's wood. White ash trees are large (up to 100 feet in height) and have long straight trunks. Leaves are 8"-12" long and are compound with 5 to 9 leaflets. Bud scars left on branches from leaves are U-shaped. The bark is ashy grey and will be furrowed on older trees. Fruits are samaras or winged seeds that are 1" to 2" long and 1/4" wide.





- 27** Shagbark Hickory - As its name implies, the bark of this hickory is shaggy, giving it an untidy appearance. The nuts are 1"-2 1/2" in diameter and are a treat for those who take the time to crack their shells. Squirrels help to distribute these trees throughout the forest when hiding the nuts for their winter food supply. Leaves from the tree are compound with 5 to 7 ovate leaflets and are 10" to 14" in length.



- 28** Black Locust - Fragrant, white, pea-like flowers bloom on this locust in early May. Leaves are compound with 7 to 19 oval leaflets and are 8"-14" long. Bark on older trees are deeply furrowed. The trunks of this tree make excellent fence posts. The black locust tree is planted extensively in areas where strip mine reclamation is necessary. This tree species improves soil through the nitrogen fixing bacteria nodules found on its roots. Once the Black Locust has revitalized the soil other tree and plant species can be reintroduced into reclaimed areas. This has occurred at Anderson Branch Mine site along the Angel Falls Trail (located across from sign post #19).



- 29** Striped Maple - This small understory tree loves cool moist places. Leaves of the tree are 3 lobed and 4"-6" in length with finely toothed leaf margins. The bark on young trees and bright green branches are striped with vertical white lines giving the tree its name.

**National River and Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

- 30** Chestnut Oak - Chestnut oak or rock oak is a medium sized tree 50 to 70 feet in height which can grow on poor, dry and rocky uplands. On older trees, its bark is deeply furrowed and is nearly black in color. Its leaves are 4" -8" in length and elliptical in shape with rounded teeth along the leaf margin. The acorns are 1"-1 1/2" long and very shiny. The acorn cap is thin with scales and it covers about 1/3 to 1/2 of the nut.



Help the National Park Service conserve resources by recycling this brochure. Please, after you have enjoyed the trail, place your guide back into the rack so that others may also enjoy the hike.

Printed on recycled paper

