

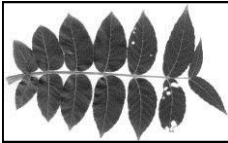
Buttermilk Bend Trail Trees & Shrubs

(Species are marked with yellow numbers)

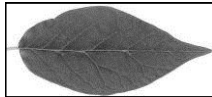
1. Incense Cedar. This large conifer is a common tree in Nevada County at the higher elevations, but not common along our river basin. It is easily recognized by the flat sprays of “leaves”, rather than obvious needles so typical of other conifers. The heavily furrowed bark is another distinctive feature.



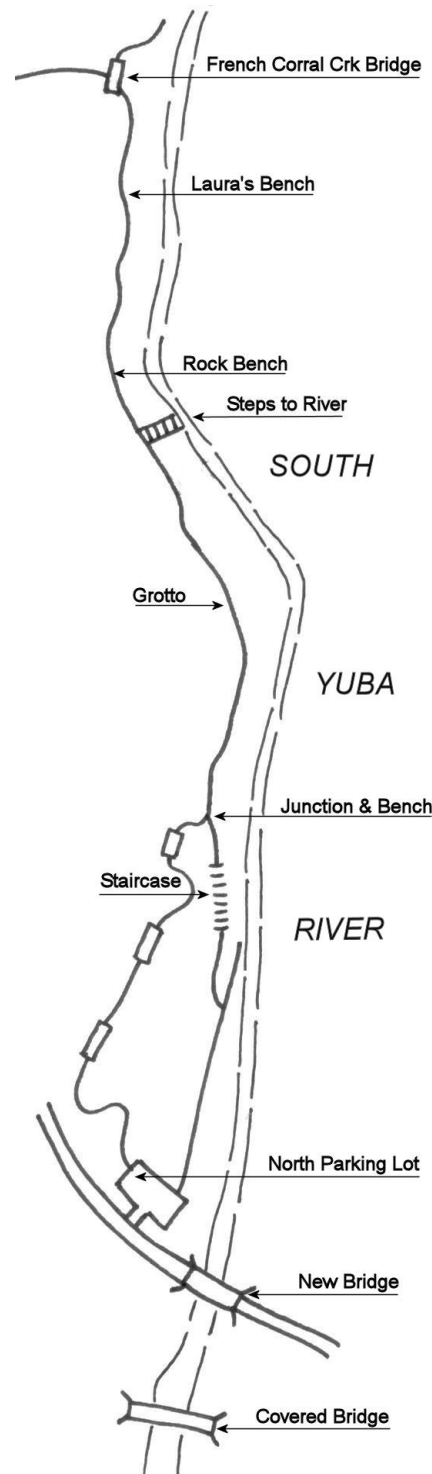
2. Northern California Black Walnut. This is the only native walnut tree in our region and is endangered. It is found in areas where Native Americans formerly had campsites. The leaves are large and are made up of 15-19 smaller leaflets. Besides being a beautiful shade tree, it produces a very edible nut.



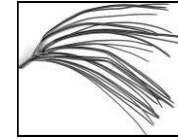
3. Osage Orange. This tree was brought West by settlers who came from the south central part of our country. In spite of its name it is not useful as an edible fruit tree. It does produce a very interesting grapefruit sized, bumpy-surfaced, green, shiny fruit in the late summer. This tree was utilized for the handles of hand tools and for making fence posts.



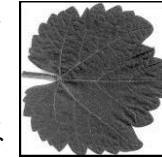
4. Elderberry. Widely known for the wine and jelly that can be made from its fruit; however, the deep blue berries are bitter and inedible before this processing. This was a useful tree to the native Maidu of this area, who had many uses for it, including the making of flutes from its older hollow branches.



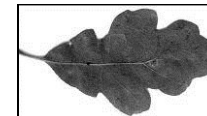
5. Gray Pine (formerly called Digger Pine). This is a rather scraggly-looking pine tree with very long needles. It is gray-green in color, hence the name. This tree conserves water by producing very few needles and conserves its energy in order to produce massive cones, which could be damaging to any heads that are in their pathway when dropping to the ground! The roots of this tree were useful for making baskets.



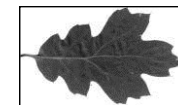
6. Wild grape. Native wild grapes are very common here where they can be seen climbing over branches of even our tallest trees. The tiny green clusters of grapes turn to purple in the autumn, while the leaves turn to various tones of pink before they fall. The fruit is too seedy for eating, but does make delicious jelly, if you can pick them before they are eaten by the wildlife.



7. Blue Oak. This is a small to medium sized, deciduous oak. It gets its name from its leaves which have a bluish cast in late summer. The tree does something very unique in that it will completely drop its leaves until the next year, if the temperatures remain at very high levels for extended periods. This makes it extremely drought tolerant. It is nature's way of conserving moisture and aids in its ability to survive. This tree is in great abundance in our park.

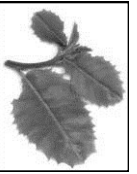


8. Black Oak. This deciduous oak likes a little thicker soil than the live oaks, so it is a little fussier about where it will grow in our park. It produces the largest leaves of any oak in our park or in our county. Though acorns, in general, were a staple food for the native peoples, as long as the bitter tannins were



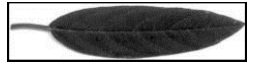
leached out of them, the black oak acorn was considered to be the tastiest and most preferred one.

9. Redberry. This small bush has inconspicuous flowers in early April and produces small inedible red berries later in the summer. It has very small holly-like leaves.

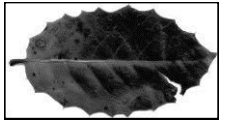


10. Himalayan Blackberry. We love the beautiful pink flowers and the fruit of this non-native bush. Unfortunately, it is an invasive species and it will push out our native plants. It is a member of the rose family.

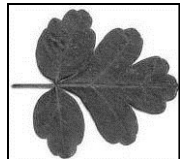
11. Coffeeberry. This is a medium to large bush with tough gray-green leaves. The flowers are inconspicuous but the fruit, which is deep purple, resembles coffee beans, hence its name. The birds love the berries of this bush.



12. Interior Live Oak. This evergreen oak is in great abundance here and throughout our county. Like the Canyon Live Oak, it can survive on thin soil. The leaves on both trees are also very thick and drought tolerant, making them ideal trees for this area, where temperatures can remain elevated for days at a time. Acorns are very different than the Canyon Live Oak, and are typically small, narrow, and conical in shape.



13. Squaw Bush. This small bush looks very much like poison oak and is a close relative to it, but it does not carry the same toxic chemicals. It was a useful plant for weaving baskets.



For more information visit the websites below.

South Yuba
River Park
Association

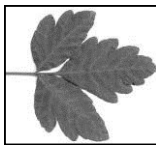


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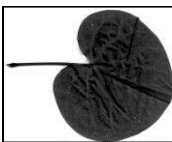


southubariverstatepark.org

14. Poison Oak. There is probably more poison oak in this park than any other plant. Be careful! Leaves of three, stay away from me! Poison oak is very variable in form; it can be a leafless twig, a fully-leaved large bush or a significantly large vine climbing a tree. Leaves can be dull, shiny, green, orange, red, or purplish in color. If you aren't sure, you shouldn't touch it. In spring it produces whitish flowers and in the summer it will have small white berries.



15. Western Redbud. This bush draws attention to itself year around. In spring it puts out a profusion of pinkish-purple flowers, followed by a display of dusty green round leaves, and climaxed by a profusion of rusty colored large pea pods which hang on the tree until the next spring. Native peoples used the dye produced from the bark of this tree to color their baskets.



16. Buckeye. This tree's closest relatives reside in Ohio, the "Buckeye State". Also related to the chestnut, this tree has very thin leaves, and so it has a rather different adaptation to dry habitats than other thick-leaved native trees. It produces its large palmate, compound leaves early in the season, but soon after it is pollinated, it yellows and drops its leaves before the prolonged heat of the summer. When it produces flowers in mid-April, this large bunch is really composed of multiple individual flowers. Only one of these individual flowers can be pollinated, followed by the development of a large chestnut-sized fruit, whose seed resembles a large eyeball, hence the name "buckeye". This fruit is poisonous; when cut open it was thrown into the water to stun fish, which were then easily



caught for the next meal. It is illegal for you to catch fish this way!

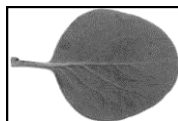
17. Toyon. This attractive, large bush was thought to be a type of holly when settlers moved into southern California...hence Hollywood was named when people saw this red-berried bush on the hillsides. It is quite prevalent along the trail here at South Yuba River. Long stems made good arrows for the native peoples and the berries of the bush were quite edible.



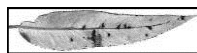
18. Common Snowberry. This small upright bush is a member of the honeysuckle family, and like honeysuckles, has leaves that are opposite each other on very slender branches. The flowers are inconspicuous and rarely seen, and the berries produced are small and snow white.



19. White Leaf Manzanita. This very large manzanita is often the size of a small tree and one of the largest manzanitas in the country. It has a distinctive red bark, and the limbs are very strong and difficult to cut. Manzanita translated from Spanish means "little apple"; it was very important to the native peoples, who used the berries or "little apples" for making a lemonade-type drink.



20. Pacific Willow. Like all of our native willows, this willow is a common species along rivers and streams, where it prefers wet soils. As its name suggests, it is native to the Pacific states. The leaves are long and pointed. In the spring this tree produces long hairy catkins at the ends of leafy twigs.



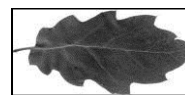
21. White Alder. This medium sized tree is riparian, meaning that it grows along waterways. So if you see an alder, you can't be very far from water! You will notice that this tree has little seed "cones", which seems odd for a deciduous tree.



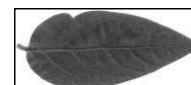
22. Canyon Live Oak. This oak is found along river canyons, typically preferring rocky abodes, but not in great abundance along the Buttermilk Bend Trail. The tree is evergreen, with leaves that are very light green on the underside and dark green on the topside. The leaves have both a spiny form and a smooth form. The acorn has a hairy golden cap that can leave a powdery gold dust in your hands.



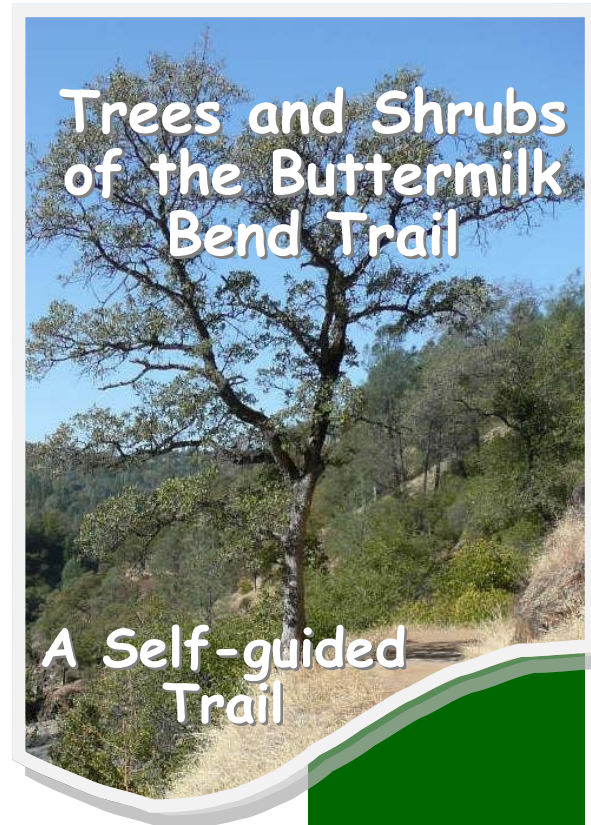
23. Oracle Oak. This tree is a hybrid cross between a black oak and an interior oak. It is produced when the pollen of the abundant interior oaks pollinate the infrequent black oaks along the trail. The leaves are smaller than those of the black oak, and lack their deep lobes. When the leaves drop in the fall, only about half of them drop because the interior oak parent tree is an evergreen and the black oak parent tree is deciduous.



24. Spicebush. This one is a slowpoke to leaf out and flower out but, when it does, you will know it was worth the wait. This bush is usually found around waterways where it enjoys the moist soil. The leaves are very similar to those of a rhododendron in shape, though often times larger; when crushed you will notice a spicy aroma, hence its name. The summer-blooming, large flowers are soft red and exotic looking.



Text by: Judy McAuliffe Design by: Steve Pauly



The South Yuba River State Park is part of a natural plant community called a Blue Oak Woodland. Here you can find, a multitude of trees and shrubs. The rainfall here is higher than in the central valley, which promotes greater variety and density in the plants and animals.

South Yuba River State Park
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