



Vine Maple

Acer circinatum

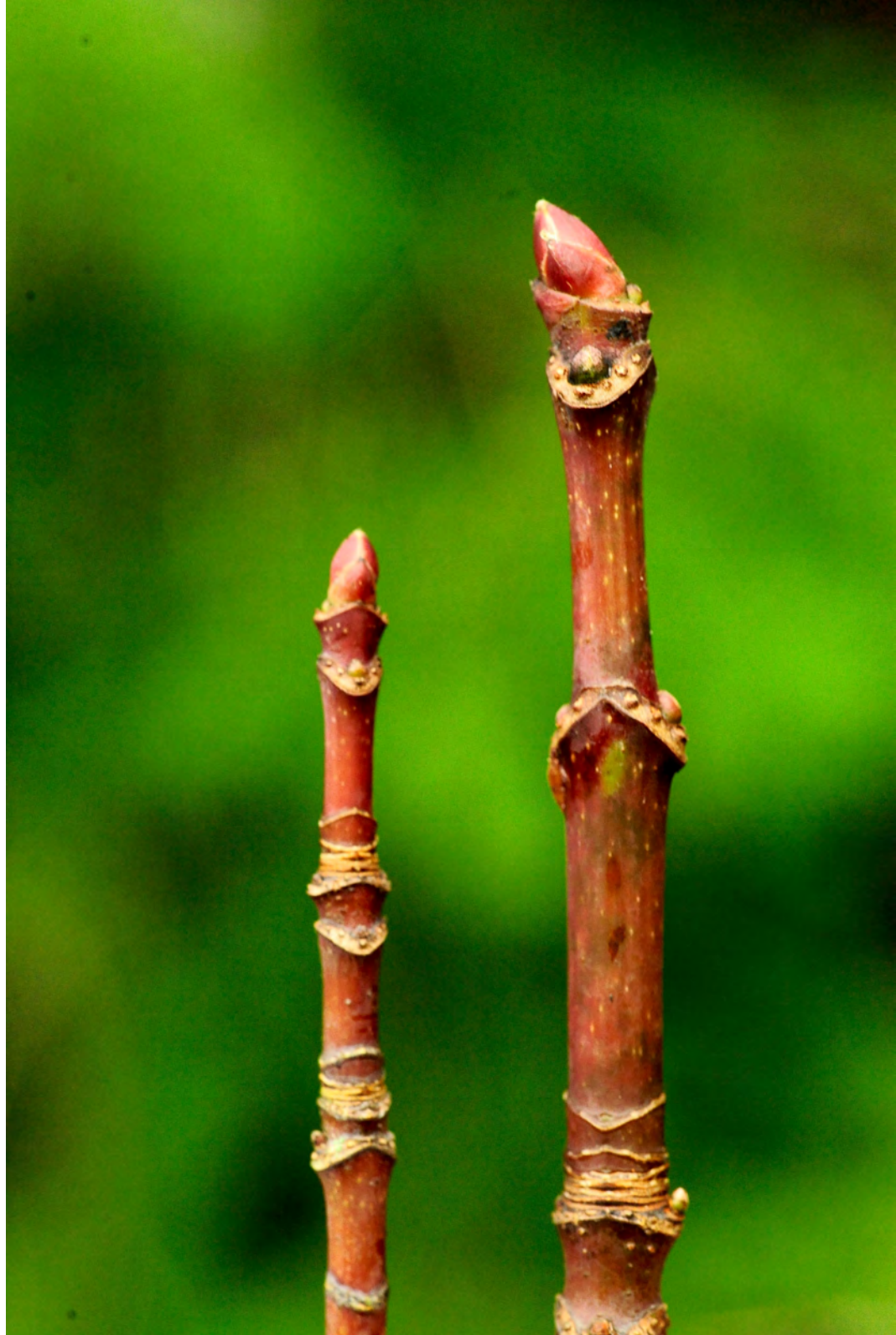
Maple Family (*Aceraceae*)

General Description: Shrub to small tree 20 to 30ft tall; rounded crown with a twisted, irregular trunk. Sometimes vine maple will crawl along the ground if the canopy is too crowded.

Key Characteristics: Bark on twigs is shiny, pink, sometimes lime green on one side. Lenticels are small and pale but numerous. Buds are oppositely arranged, terminal buds are longer. Terminal buds typically appear in pairs.

Confused With: Bigleaf Maple, note the small, more equally sized buds, as opposed to Bigleaf Maple's underdeveloped lateral buds and prominent terminal bud.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Bigleaf Maple

Acer macrophyllum

Maple Family (*Aceraceae*)

General Description: One of the most common deciduous trees in our region. It can reach heights up to 100ft tall with a broadly spreading crown up to 50ft across.

Key Characteristics: Trunk and older bark is light brown or grey, new growth is shiny and smooth. Numerous pale lenticels. Highly visible bud-scale scars. Leaf buds are oppositely arranged and 1/2” long, with overlapping burgundy bud scales. Leaf scars are V-shaped and meet in an upward curve around stem.

Confused With: Oregon ash. Note bright green color of young maple twigs.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Red Alder

Alnus rubra

Birch Family (*Betulaceae*)

General Description: Reaches heights of 50-120 ft. The crown is conical and the trunk quite straight, although red alders often have two leading branches.

Key Characteristics: Smooth silvery grey bark when mature, trunks sometimes covered with white patches of lichens. Young bark reddish green. Leaf buds alternately arranged and 5/8" long. Leaf scars kidney shaped with dip on top. Three bundle scars, center raised and compound.

Confused With: Alder catkins are in clusters while hazel catkins are singular.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Serviceberry

Amelanchier alnifolia

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Small tree or shrub, 20 to 40 ft; often has multiple trunks and grows in thickets.

Key Characteristics: Leaf scars are narrow, buds are on spur shoots or directly attached to the stem; sharp and slender, buds often curve around stem. Several loose outer bud scales are lightly hairy. Remnant fruits are dried, black, and apple shaped.

Confused With: Indian plum, crabapple, and bitter cherry, all *Rosaceae*. Note leaf-scar shape, twig color, and bud shape.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Pacific Dogwood

Cornus nuttallii

Dogwood Family (*Cornaceae*)

General Description: Twig ends tend to curve upwards; smooth grey bark; new growth is dull grey, red, or green and is covered with pubescence; has a tendency to retain previous year's leaves.

Key Characteristics: Thin, curved twigs with long internodes in whorls of three or four; pumpkin-like buds with two half and full scales; three bundle scars within a narrow V-shape; green, red, or purple leaf scars; full scales are soft and hairy with white tips.

Confused With: Vine Maple or red-osier dogwood.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Red-Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Dogwood Family (*Cornaceae*)

General Description: Thicket-forming shrub or small tree, with vigorous young growth characterized by 3-5 ft vertical twigs. Riparian.

Key Characteristics: Opposite buds and twigs, young winter twigs are often scintillating scarlet. Remnant fruits and flowers appear as flat-topped clusters at the top of stems. Bud is slender and pointed, often flayed into two tips, resembling a crab claw.

Confused With: Vine maple or black twinberry; note significantly different bud shapes and sizes, as well as striking scarlet stem color.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Western Hazel

Corylus cornuta

Birch Family (*Betulaceae*)

General Description: A large shrub, sometimes seen as a small tree. Bark is gray-brown to light brown.

Key Characteristics: Alternate buds, long oval covered in brown-red hairs; triangular leaf scars with 3 bundle scars; terminal bud usually droops downward. Greenish to tan male catkins, grow in singles or pairs.

Confused With: Juvenile easily confused for thimbleberry. However, hazel is branched with rounder buds and more pubescence. Non-native hazels have larger, bright yellow catkins which grow in clusters of 3 or more.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Cascara Sagrada

Frangula purshiana

Buckthorn Family (*Rhamnaceae*)

General Description: Small to medium-sized tree to 30ft tall. The crown is oval.

Key Characteristics: Young bark is burgundy sometimes partially lime-green. Alternately arranged leaf buds are naked, resembling reddish-brown pairs of angel wings. Buds are folded, velvety and deeply veined. Leaves will remain deep green throughout the winter.

Confused With: Red alder, but note the alder cones and catkins versus cascara fruits. Up close, note the distinctive naked cascara buds.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Oregon Ash

Fraxinus latifolia

Olive Family (*Oleaceae*)

General Description: fast growing tree, reaching up to 100ft tall. Narrow to rounded spreading crown, commonly found growing in groves.

Key Characteristics: Brown or gray furrowed bark, with red or olive green stubby twigs. Raised, tan, vertical lenticels. Opposite brown, prominent buds, 1/4 inch long by 1/4 inch wide. Buds surrounded by horse shoe or shield shaped bud scar with visible bundle scars.

Confused With: Bigleaf maple or red alder because of silhouette, but distinguished by branching pattern and lack of catkins, as well as color and bud shape.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Ocean Spray

Holodiscus discolor

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Large erect shrub growing up to 15ft. Found in thickets along stream banks and wet areas as well as exposed upland areas.

Key Characteristics: Alternate arrangement, buds on new growth are pointed & extremely small about 2 to 3 mm.

Confused With: Spirea, but note different twig color of spirea. It is more tawny compared with ocean spray's dull brown.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Black Twinberry

Lonicera involucrata

Honeysuckle Family (*Caprifoliaceae*)

General Description: Small to medium sized shrub, growing up to 8ft tall. Found in lowland marsh areas, along stream banks, and most hillsides.

Key Characteristics: Opposite arrangement, lateral buds up to 1/4" long. Buds are thin & oval, buds scales on terminal bud are thin, and outer ones peel away.

Confused With: Mock-orange, as the bud arrangement and growth habit are similar. However the two occupy entirely different habitats; mock-orange is found in drier sites.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Western Crabapple

Malus fusca

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Small tree with multiple trunks, up to 30ft tall with a rounded crown.

Key Characteristics: Red-brown bark fissured. Slender stiff limbs with spur-like thorns and small, red lenticels on younger twigs. Alternate, egg shaped buds 3/8 - 1/4 inch long, with terminal bud longer than lateral buds. Narrowly crescent shaped leaf scars with three bundle scars. Small remnant fruit present on some.

Confused With: Black hawthorn but western crabapple has blunt spurs as opposed to stout thorns, and different bud shape.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Indian Plum

Oemleria cerasiformis

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Shrubs 5 to 15 ft. First native plant to flower, often in February. Found in moist to dry areas, open woodlands and along steam-banks, rivers, and wetlands.

Key Characteristics: Alternate arrangement, buds are bright green in early winter, developing a rosy hue in late winter.

Confused With: Red-flowering currant, but note the prominent pale lenticels shiny bark on new growth.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Lewis' mock-orange

Philadelphus lewisii

Hydrangea Family (*Hydrangeaceae*)

General Description: Tall, multi-stemmed shrub 5 to 15 ft. Found in thickets, woods, forest edges, exposed dry rocky soils, marine bluffs and prairies.

Key Characteristics: Opposite, minuscule buds; triangular “dog face” leaf scar; terminal bud is tiny, narrow and pointed. Bark is dull brown to gray and shreds when older.

Confused With: If young and shorter than 3ft. mock-orange can be confused with snowberry. Also confused with twinberry, which grows in a wetter habitat than mock-orange.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Pacific Ninebark

Physocarpus capitatus

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Multi-stemmed, grows from a central base. Branches cascade down to form a fountain shape, up to 13ft tall. Found in wet lowland areas.

Key Characteristics: Alternate, egg-shaped, appressed buds; prominent “mustache” leaf scars; reddish, peeling bark. Often clusters of dried flowers hang from branches.

Confused With: Possibly confused with hardhack which is shorter, more erect and has smaller buds.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Black Cottonwood

Populus balsamifera

Willow Family (*Salicaceae*)

General Description: Large deciduous tree, 160-200 ft. tall with a diameter of 3-6 ft. Grows near creeks, rivers, lakes and moist areas.

Key Characteristics: Twigs of this tree droop down from larger branches and curve like spurs at the ends. Alternately arranged leaf buds, 1/4"-1/3" long, conical in shape. Small, roundly triangular leaf scars contain 3 bundle scars—the center one is larger.

Confused With: Quaking aspen, when comparing the two in youthful stages. Black cottonwood has much larger buds, and twigs have spur shoots.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Quaking Aspen

Populus tremuloides

Willow Family (*Salicaceae*)

General Description: Small to medium sized tree that reaches 40-60 ft tall; conical in shape; grows in groves; primarily a mountain species, but can also be found along wetland edges; slightly creamy colored trunk.

Key Characteristics: Alternating bud arrangement; egg-shaped buds with thick brown scales; three distinct bundle scars in kidney shaped leaf scars; younger twig bark is yellow-green to creamy; older twig bark is dark, thick, and warty; slender, contorted reddish branches during the first year; lenticels are small and elliptical.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Bitter Cherry

Prunus emarginata

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Small tree 35-45 ft, commonly forms thickets. Trunk size is rarely over 10" in diameter. The crown of the tree is narrow to pointed. Grows in moist, open woods, along streams, lakes; prefers full sun.

Key Characteristics: Alternately arranged buds, less than 1/4", and widest at the base. Leaf scars are raised, triangular, have 3 bundle scars.

Confused With: serviceberry and non-native *Prunus* spp. Lateral rings are a distinguishing feature for cherry; though it can be almost impossible to differentiate from non-native cherry trees.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Oregon White Oak

Quercus garryana

Beech Family (*Fagaceae*)

General Description: A distinctly recognizable tree, about 65ft tall, its dark silhouette on the open prairies is unmistakable. The tree usually has a rounded crown. Found most commonly in prairies with well-drained, rocky glacial till soils. Also found in riparian and wetland areas.

Key Characteristics: Bark is brown to gray, thin; thicker and more coarsely grooved with age. Twigs are stout and somewhat hairy with prominent lenticels. Alternate leaf buds, approximately 1/4"-1/2" long. Raised, kidney-shaped leaf scars. Terminal buds, longer than laterals, are twisted at the ends and multiple bud scales fold over each other like a pair of clasped hands.

Photo: Zachary Fleig



Red-flowering Currant

Ribes sanguineum

Currant/Gooseberry Family (*Grossulariaceae*)

General Description: Erect, bushy shrub, 3 to 10ft tall with no thorns. Found in dry or somewhat moist soils, wooded and open sites, often near the edge of woodlands.

Key Characteristics: Alternate, equal-sized buds; bright pink bud scales; reddish-orange new growth. Bark is gray-brown to reddish-brown and shreds somewhat, young twigs have light pubescence.

Confused With: Commonly confused with indian plum, which has prominent pale lenticels and smooth shiny bark on new growth.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Bald-Hip Rose

Rosa gymnocarpa

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: 3 to 6 ft. tall upright shrub growing individually or in small groups. Highly adaptable, but usually found in open woodland in partial shade. Thin bark, light green to burgundy on twigs, older bark tan to grayish.

Key Characteristics: Alternate arrangement; needle-like prickles more prominent at base; small pink buds; no sepals on the small oval, red to orange fruits.

Confused With: Other roses, see key characteristics. Also confused with salmonberry which has a more distinctly orange-colored stem.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Nootka Rose

Rosa nutkana

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Tall, erect shrub up to 8 feet, singly stalked or in small groups. Highly adaptable, usually upland, but can be found in habitats from dry to wet, open to wooded.

Key Characteristics: Alternate buds up to 1/4" long; more classically "thorn"-like prickles, without profusion of prickles at base (usually); sepals attached to 1/2" in diameter remnant fruit. Twig bark green to red, sometimes purplish, older stems sometimes grayish-tan.

Confused With: Other roses, see key characteristics.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Blackcap Raspberry

Rubus leucodermis

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: A perennial shrub, grows to 7 feet. Re-roots where canes touch the ground. Prefers full sun and moist soil. Found in fields and open or wooded hillsides, at low to moderate elevations. Found in disturbed areas and has a high fire tolerance.

Key Characteristics: Alternately arranged buds. Powdery white coating on canes rubs off when touched. White, arching canes with curved, flat thorns.

Confused With: Blackberry when fruiting. Note the difference in bark color.

Photo: Stephanie Lewis



Thimbleberry

Rubus parviflorus

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: A small, thicket-forming shrub, 3 to 10 feet. Bark is smooth, with inconspicuous lenticels. Twigs are dull tan, reddish when wet, and inner bark is rust-brown.

Key Characteristics: Alternately arranged buds, 1/4" long, narrowly oval with soft white hairs at the tips. Blackened, shriveled leaf stalk, messy leaf scar.

Confused With: Young salmonberry, can be confused with thimbleberry, but thimbleberry buds tend to be "plumper" and have more pubescence. Can be confused with young western hazel.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Salmonberry

Rubus spectabilis

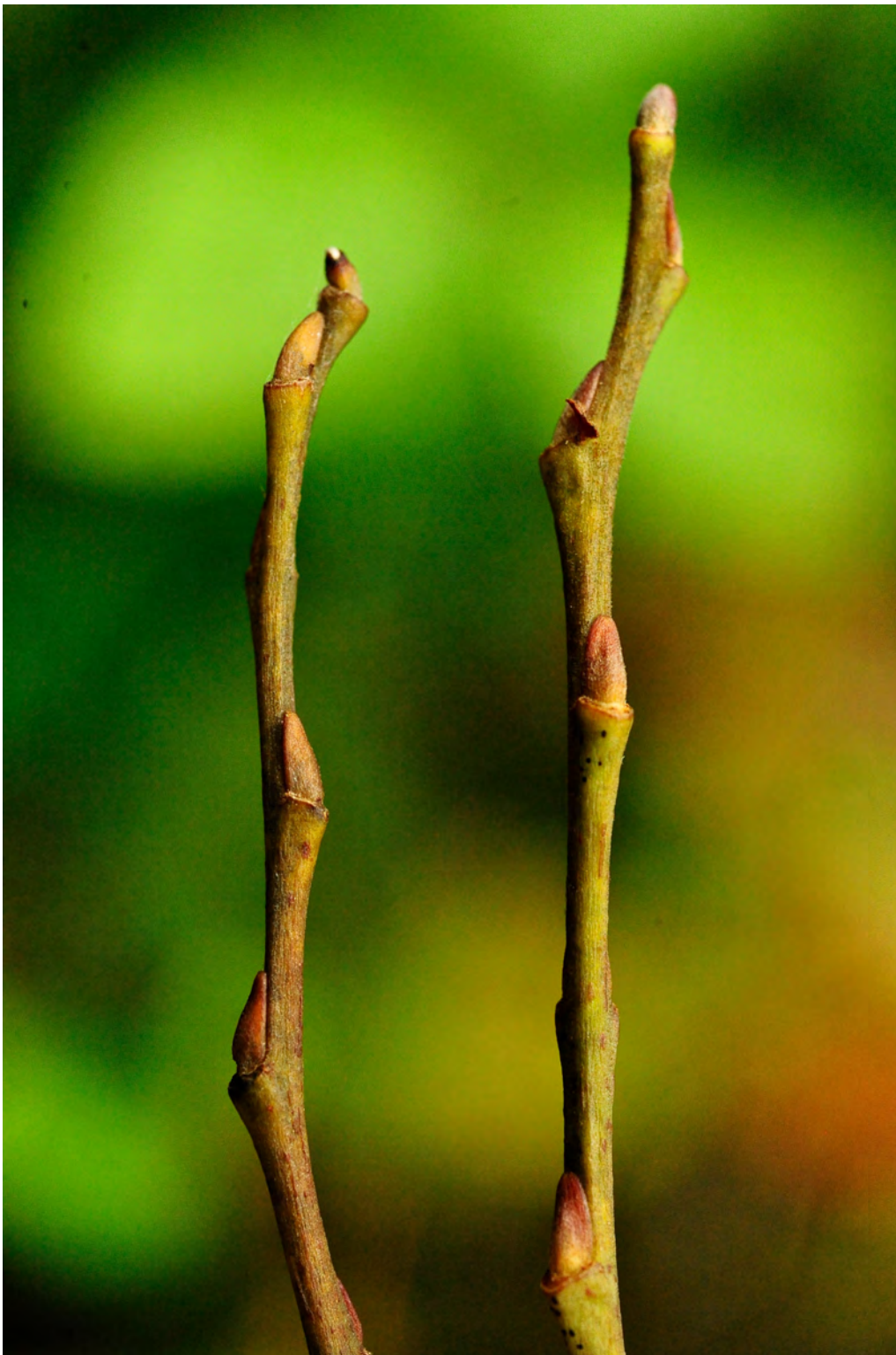
Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: Medium sized shrub, grows in thickets, up to 8ft tall. Bark is tan to gold, usually peeling. Prickles break off easily.

Key Characteristics: Alternate, pointed buds, shredded plant material below new buds; crescent-shaped leaf scar with three bundle scars; grows in a zig-zag pattern, changing directions at each node.

Confused With: Juvenile easily confused for thimbleberry. However, bark color and bud pubescence is different. Blackberry is also easily confused, but blackberry thorns are stiff in comparison and has different colored bark.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Willow

Salix spp.

Willow Family (*Salicaceae*)

General Description: Thrive in wetland environments. Depending on species grow as shrub or small tree.

Key Characteristics: Young bark has lime-green to golden-yellow appearance. Older bark becomes grey or brown and tends to peel. Young twigs are flexible and smooth. Insect galls are frequently found on willows. Alternately arranged leaf buds with a single scale. Buds are appressed with no true terminal bud.

Confused With: The easiest way to identify individual willow species is to key them out with catkins in the spring.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Red Elderberry

Sambucus racemosa

Honeysuckle Family (*Caprifoliaceae*)

General Description: Leggy shrub to 20ft. It is multi-stemmed and erect, with branches curving down at the ends, forming a fountain shape.

Key Characteristics: Oppositely arranged, swollen and egg-shaped, green to purple buds. Bark is greenish-brown/gray, with pronounced raised lenticels all along stem. Leaf scar is shield-shaped with 5 to 7 bundle scars.

Confused With: Commonly confused with Bigleaf Maple when tree is a sapling. Note differences in bark color, lenticels, and leaf buds.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Hardhack

Spiraea douglasii

Rose Family (*Rosaceae*)

General Description: A medium-sized shrub, erect and leggy. It grows in dense thickets up to 8ft high. It has few competitors and although it is a native, it can be very invasive in wetland areas.

Key Characteristics: Alternately arranged, small, oval shaped, and white haired buds. Dark brown bark. Cluster of dark brown dried seeds remains on tip of branch throughout winter.

Confused With: Commonly confused with Oceanspray, however the buds of Spirea have small white hairs.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

Honeysuckle Family (*Caprifoliaceae*)

General Description: Shrub that grows to 3-5 ft. Grows in dense thickets from full sun to full shade, dry slopes and wetland areas.

Key Characteristics: Twigs are thin and brittle, older bark is grey in color, and new growth is tawny or golden. 1/8" long light green leaf buds with brown tips are oppositely arranged. Thin and opaque scales cover the buds. Leaf scars are triangular, raised and contain 3 bundle scars. Remnant fruit is round and white turning brown as it rots.

Confused With: Mock-orange that is under 3ft tall.

Photo: Joe Bettis



Red Huckleberry

Vaccinium parvifolium

Heath Family (*Ericaceae*)

General Description: Shrub that grows to 10ft with a zig zag twig form. Habitat ranges from moist ravines to dry slopes, often growing from a nurse log.

Key Characteristics: Twigs have sharp squared ridges. New growth is lime-green and older growth is grayish brown with non-distinctive lenticels. Leaf buds are alternately arranged, ovoid with slightly curving tips that are appressed to the stem, they are rose colored which contrasts to the bright green stem.

Confused With: Easily confused with other *Vaccinium* spp. and Scot's broom.

Photo: Joe Bettis