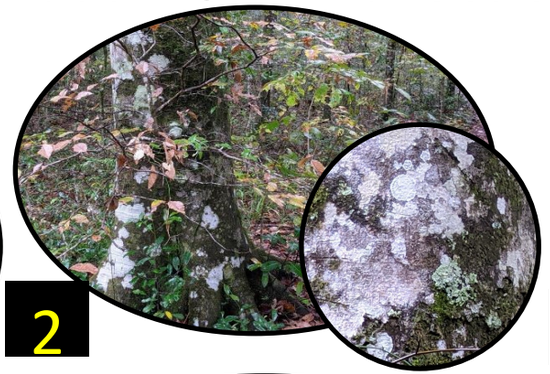
SCAVENGER HUNT ON THE SALLY WARD TRAIL

FOCUS:

THE FOREST IS MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS TREES

1. Traverse the Sally Ward Trail (Blue Blazes) to 250 yards past the Sally Ward Bridge.
2. Seek out the exact **6** trees pictured in the top three and bottom three ovals. They are in order as you walk the trail. They are 10 feet or less from the path. Please do not leave the trail.
3. Take a photo of each with your camera.
4. The items in the center circles and oval are extra challenges and are interspersed along the route in no particular order. They are harder to find. They are within view of the trail.
5. See the reverse side for more information and **clues**.



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The forest is a living organism. Trees are the dominant feature. They provide food harnessed from the sun's energy; shelter within its leaves, wood, bark, and roots; along with a space cleaned and filtered by both their parts and the rain they help to generate. The countless other organisms that depend upon the trees return the favor by supplying recycled nutrients, protecting the natural balance, and enhancing water absorption.

The old growth forest is usually home to many large trees. They provide an extensive canopy which prevents light from reaching the forest floor. As a result there is not a thick undergrowth.

See if you can spot the center scene. It is about 250 paces from the Sally Ward Bridge. Look for the large uprooted tree in the distance and the greenery resulting from the opening in the canopy.

1

The distinctive trunk of this old magnolia tree supports an ecosystem of moss and resurrection fern.

Their surfaces trap dust, minerals, and toxins from the air.

2

The smooth bark of a beech tree is home to both crustose (crusty) and foliose (leafy) lichens

Lichens are a union between a fungus and either an alga or bacterium.

3

There is a cavity at the base of a magnolia tree. It provides shelter for insects, reptiles, and other animals.

The cavity high in a dead red maple was created by a woodpecker.

An understory tree, the American holly has smooth gray bark with distinctive pointy-edged leaves.

A leaf miner has found shelter and food wedged inside the holly leaf.

The dead, Y-shaped loblolly pine is riddled with tentacle-like, fungal filaments slowly turning its innards to "wood soup".

The sugars from the "soup" feed the fungus and allow it to form reproductive bracket fungi.

The diamond-embossed bark of the pignut hickory (along with hickory nuts scattered about) help to identify this forest giant.

Hickory nuts are just one of many fruits and seeds that power the life of the forest organism.

4

The stalwart bald cypress has brown to gray stringy bark. The tree filters pollutants, and provides food and nesting sites.

Vines wrestle their way to the light at the peak of the bald cypress tree.

5

Red Maple trees like to grow where it is wet. They often have smooth bark covered with lichens.

Baton Rouge lichen is red. Lichens absorb chemicals which can indicate air quality.

6